



# WEETING VILLAGE LIFE



June 2025  
Edition 50

Help Keep St. Mary's at the Heart of our Village

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Complete our survey

Have your say and help shape the future of St Mary's—take our quick survey today!

### Register your interest

Register your interest in joining our project group to help to repair and improve the building.

### How can you help?

No matter your skills or experience, there's a way you can make a difference! Contact us to learn how you can help.



### ST MARY'S: OUR CHURCH

St Mary's is a stunning medieval church, built from flint and ashlar, and one of Norfolk's round-tower churches. For centuries, it has been at the heart of our village, hosting weddings, baptisms, funerals, school visits, civic events, and celebrations. But our church now requires urgent repairs and improvements, including fixing the roof, nave ceiling, nave floor and drainage. We would also like to add new facilities to the church to make it more accessible. To keep St Mary's thriving for future generations, we're launching an exciting Restoration & Improvement Project—and we need your help!

To make this possible, we are forming a Project Group to lead the way. We're looking for passionate people to get involved—whether it's helping to develop the project, applying for grants and funding, organizing events, or spreading the word. All are welcome and invited. We're also running a community survey to understand how St Mary's can better serve you. Please take a moment to share your thoughts by scanning the QR code or picking up a paper copy. We are also holding a public event on July 25th at 7:00 PM in the church to reflect on and celebrate the past, present, and future of St. Mary's, and to discuss this project in more detail. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Survey



<https://forms.office.com/e/7EQXJr1Q9A?origin=iprLink>

For a paper copy of the survey contact: Alison Surridge - [alisonsurridge01@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonsurridge01@btinternet.com)

## St Mary's Survey

The QR Code in the bottom right corner of the adjacent flyer is a quick link to a short survey in question form regarding the past and present use of St Mary's Church, what role you feel the church plays within the community, what changes to the church you would like to see (e.g. a toilet, better heating etc) and the impact these would have on the use of the building.

The survey also asks whether you would like to be part of a project group, formed by congregants and community members, to help plan, run and fundraise towards the completion of the renovations. All in Weeting are invited regardless of your relationship with the church. You do not need to be a churchgoer or have any religious convictions, just an interest in a splendid historical building that is crying out for help.

We know that the Nave roof will need some serious work to prevent further plaster coming adrift, and, although the green netting now in place stops further accidents, it is only a temporary measure. Beneath the south wall there are drainage issues, the whole floor needs levelling and the lighting and heating require serious upgrading, to name just a few jobs. Repairs alone will cost several hundreds of thousands of pounds, so application to The National Lottery and The Norfolk Churches Trust will be needed.

If you have any interest in our beautiful church and would like to be part of this important project, please take a moment to share your thoughts by completing the survey and / or coming along to the public event to be held in the church on Sunday 27th July at 7pm.

To obtain an electronic copy of the survey, please scan the QR code with your mobile phone or contact Alison Surridge on [alisonsurridge01@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonsurridge01@btinternet.com) for a paper version. If you do not have any electronic devices, please ring Parish Councillor Peter Nordan on 01842 815638 and he will help you to obtain a paper version.



### Editor's Contact Details:

Sue Nairn  
Sixpenny Tithe  
Park View  
Weeting, IP27 0QD



01842 810212  
[wvl@btinternet.com](mailto:wvl@btinternet.com)



To book the Village Hall for meetings, parties or other social functions, contact Angie Page on 01842 814147



# School Report



The Summer Term is always a busy time for the children and staff. It is also a great time of the year where we see everyone's hard work come together and the children produce amazing, independent work.



On the 8th May, we joined the rest of the country in commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day. All the children made a magnificent effort with their red, white and blue outfits. The theme continued out onto the playground, with our street party. The area

was beautifully decorated with the fantastic red, white and blue bunting made by every child in the school. The weather was very kind to us and we all had a great street party lunch with the whole school celebrating together, with lots of laughter and smiles. Beech Class found it particularly hilarious that their bunting decided to have a dance on the line.



Our Reading Rockets Challenge has launched where children are encouraged to read for a certain amount of time over a 6 week period. We are keen that all of children continue to develop their fluency as well as broadening their range of authors and texts. Our first groups of bronze reading certificates have recently been awarded.



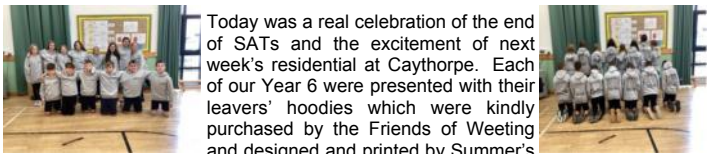
Our weekly gardening club has proved incredibly popular with the children. They have met for a lunch time session and have learnt how to plant, nurture and care for a variety of flowers, fruit and vegetables. They have certainly brightened up our school grounds and are very proud of their hard work!



The second DEMAT Together Art Exhibition takes place on 13th and 14th June 2025. Last year, we had a great selection of children's work and it was an exciting time for all the children and families involved. This year, we submitted so many examples of great artwork and were blown away when we were told that we had over 20 pieces accepted. Quite rightly, we had some very proud children who were presented with their invitations to the private viewing.



Our Year 6 children worked incredibly as they completed their Key Stage 2 SATs. It was great to see the children demonstrate their knowledge of Reading, Maths and Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and use all the test strategies that they have been taught. A huge well done to all of the children and a special thank you to Miss Woodison for all her teaching this year, including her weekly SATs club that ran from September.



Today was a real celebration of the end of SATs and the excitement of next week's residential at Caythorpe. Each of our Year 6 were presented with their leavers' hoodies which were kindly purchased by the Friends of Weeting and designed and printed by Summer's mum and dad. We wish all our leavers the best of luck in the next exciting part of the educational experiences.

## Acorn Class

This half term our topic has been animals and their babies. We have learnt the real names for baby animals, compared which adult and baby animals look the same and which look different. We now have some real-life caterpillars in class and are looking forward to watching them go through their stages of change and releasing them when they are ready! We discussed which animals we have as pets and how we look after them.



We learnt about farm animals and their babies and even got to meet a real sheep and her 2 lambs! We role played being farmers, driving a tractor, harvesting vegetables and collecting eggs.

We learnt different woodland animal names and where they live. We discussed that we could help protect the woodland by not littering, as this could make the animals sad and may hurt them. We explored different wild animals and the different habitats they live in. We learnt that some animals are endangered and some are even extinct. Finally, we learnt about animals that live in the Arctic and Antarctic, how they survive in such cold weather and how the melting ice is affecting the animals' habitat.



Our core text has been 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We have enjoyed reading this story as a class, acting it out and creating pictures of the characters.



In our Art Learning, we recreated a piece of artwork called 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' painted by Henri Rousseau. We used crinkle scissors to create long and short strips of paper and card for the grass, created different shades of blue paint for the sky and twisted tissue paper for the vines. We used colourful tissue paper to create the flowers and used pastels to create the tiger and finally positioned it in our tropical storm.

In Maths we looked at repeating patterns in stories, songs and artwork, then created our own artwork with repeating patterns such as dots, lines and waves. We continued looking at patterns, making large movements with ribbon wands, making lines, circles, zig zag and wavy patterns. We created ABAB patterns with natural resources, colours, and toys. We played subitising games with a 1-3 dice, listening out for sounds and subitised how many sounds we heard.



We have enjoyed getting into the garden more with the lovely sunshine, practising our throwing and catching skills with bean bags, small hoops, and different sized balls. The sand pit as always has been very popular, along with the water tray! We have enjoyed hunting for more mini beasts now the weather is warmer. We have been caring for our vegetables garden well, making sure they get plenty of sun and water! Our carrots, turnips, potatoes, onions, and strawberries are thriving! We were kindly donated some tomato plants so hope they do just as well!

## Chestnut Class

The children dived straight into their summer term learning and challenges. Their first independent challenge was to draw a picture of their favourite farm animal. The children then used their phonic knowledge to label the



In Literacy this term, we have been reading 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children have been developing their knowledge of adjectives and using these to describe the characters from the story. We described the troll and the goats. We thought about what each character looked like and the personality of each character. The children then created their own character descriptions using their phonic knowledge to write their sentences. The children have learnt different ways of retelling including using illustrations from the story and using props. We focused on using key story vocabulary such as 'first', 'next', 'after that' and 'finally' to sequence the story.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their subitising, counting and composition skills. We have had lots of challenges set by our maths friend Gerald the Giraffe. In these challenges we have had to help Gerald count the objects that he brought with him as Gerald finds counting a bit tricky! We explored the different strategies that we could use to ensure we have the correct amount and we are counting with one-to-one correspondence. The children explored placing objects in a line, counting along the line and moving the objects as we count them. We have also been learning to show the composition of numbers to 10. The children showed 6 using their fingers and representing 6 in different ways. We then used 2 different coloured counters to make our own patterns of 6. We explored how each of us made 6 and then represented 6 in a different way. In our shape, space and measure sessions the children focused on comparing shapes and developing their reasoning skills to identify which shape they thought was the odd one out. We have also been learning about rotating shapes and exploring if the shape remains the shapes if it has been rotated.



In our Primary Knowledge Curriculum theme the children explored the theme 'Animals and their Babies'. Throughout this, the children have been learning about the different types of animals. First the children explored the adult animals and then we discussed what each animals off-spring were called. We then moved on to learning about the different types of farm animals. The children explored that on a farm the farmers help to care for the animals. As a class we discussed what the farmer might do to care for



the animals. After this, we moved on to learning about woodland animals. We identified which animals lived in the woodlands and we learnt the names of each animal. Next, we explored where each of these animals lived. We identified that some of these animals live in trees and some animals live underground in burrows. The children learnt that the place an animal lives is called a 'habitat'. The children then used the clay and recreate their own



In Art this term the children have been learning about the artist Henri Rousseau. First, we explored examples of his art work including 'A Tiger in a Tropical Storm'. We used this piece to inspire us to create our own versions. In our first art session



the children used the crinkle cut scissors to create different types of long and short lines. The children used these skills later on to create their long wavy grass. Next, the children revisited that a tint is made by adding white to make the colour lighter and that a shade is made by adding black to make the colour darker. The children used their tints and shades to create the stormy sky inspired by Rousseau's artwork. Next, we focused on creating the trees and the long wavy grass in the jungle. The children used paint sticks, paint, pastels, felt and tissue paper to create their jungle scene - all of which look very realistic! Finally, the children used pastels and tissues paper to design the flowers and the tiger to finish their final pieces.



# School Report



Chestnut Class have had an exciting visit from Albert's sheep called Flossie and her two lambs. The children were very excited! We learnt about what care the lambs have and what it is like to live on a farm. We then got to stroke the lambs. Albert and his mum shared their knowledge of what happens to the sheep coat once it has been sheared. We learnt that this is used to turn into wool to make clothing!



## Beech Class

This term we have been delving into the Legends of King Arthur, finding out about the story of Merlin the Enchanter and how he rescued Arthur as a baby, knowing that he was destined to become King of England.

We have also been using our knowledge of history to produce persuasive writing about King John I. We have been trying to decide whether John was a good or bad king by looking at the facts and using them to support our arguments. For example, the children argued that John was a good king, because he tried to demonstrate that England was strong by fighting France to regain his lands. However, he did fail at this, which meant he needed to raise taxes. Beech Class have been working hard to organise their thoughts, arranging them into clear paragraphs so that the reader can make up their own minds after examining each argument clearly.



In Maths, we have been learning about length and height, learning how to use rulers and metre sticks to measure accurately. We have also been exploring the four operations and learning how to use addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to solve real life problems.



The children have been exploring how they can use equipment in the classroom to support their learning and also how to check their answers using the inverse calculation.



In Science this term we have been looking at plants, finding out the names of different parts of a plant and how they all contribute to its survival. We have explored seed dispersal and how different plants use different methods to spread their seeds as far as possible. We especially enjoyed finding out that some plants explode naturally to disperse their seed. We have also deepened our understanding of deciduous and evergreen trees.



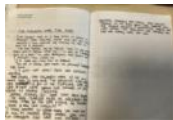
In Geography, we have been using the globe and our atlases to find out about the seven continents and five oceans. We found out that there is a large active volcano in Antarctica that has an underground lake of lava, and that it takes the only post office-the Penguin Post Office- six weeks to receive mail for the scientists and geographers staying in Antarctica. We have also learnt the difference between physical and human features, learning about natural features such as the Alps, as well as the impressive rice terraces of the Philippines.

In Art, we have been looking at Hogarth's painting of the Graham Family (1742) and finding out how artists used their paintings to give information about their subjects. We have painted parts of the painting in the style of Hogarth and also created art to show what modern day children are like.



## Elm Class

We started our English journey this term, we used our knowledge of paragraphs and writing dialogue to retell the story of 'The Hare and The Tortoise'. The children made great use of interesting vocabulary, particularly adjectives, prepositional phrases and similes to capture the reader's interest and build up the suspense of which animal was going to win. They certainly channelled the moral of the story - "Slow and steady wins the race" as they wrote their well-crafted fables! I have been impressed with the focus of all the children and their determination to produce writing that is of the highest quality and not only shows all of their new knowledge, but at the same time shows how confident they are in organising paragraphs and dialogue. In this piece of writing, the children have shown great flare and skill as they use description, and in some cases, included the use of tricolons, to hook the reader into their story and make them want to read on!



We then moved on to our biographical write up on the author Kate DiCamillo who wrote our class reader 'The Mysterious Adventures of Edward Tulane'. The children made good use of their biographical planners that they constructed last week to write an introductory paragraph, a paragraph on Kate's early life, how she became a writer and her recent successes. It has really been pleasing to see how the children's choice of vocabulary has grown and how confident and creative they have become in making imaginative and interesting choices. They are showing a real mastery of technical knowledge learnt in our grammar sessions, and their writing is well supported through the use of commas, subordinating clauses and tricolons. In usual Elm Class style, we are never satisfied with the information given, and as a class researched some well thought out questions such as "Which hospital was Kate born in?", "Does she have brothers and sisters?" and "How old was she when she first contracted chronic pneumonia?" For those of you who don't know, the answers are

as follows, "Kate wasn't born in a hospital, she was born at home", "Kate has one brother called Curt" and "She contracted chronic pneumonia in the first five months of her life".



In Maths this term, the children showed great resilience and perseverance as they explored the topic of 'time'. The children built on their knowledge of telling the time using the language 'o'clock', 'half past' and 'quarter to/past' and learnt how to tell the time using 'minutes to/past'. There was a real 'wow' moment as the children realised that the knowledge of the 5 times table helped them to identify 'to/past' in multiples of 5 and how to count on from a multiple to find how many minutes 'to/past' the time was.



In Science, this term the children became geologists, learning that this particular scientist studies rocks. They discovered that geologists study rocks to find out information about how the Earth was formed and has evolved over time. Thinking scientifically, the children took on the role of a geologist to sort and describe the features of a range of different rocks.



We then delved into this area of scientific exploration and learnt about the three different ways in which rocks are formed; sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic, making great use of our diagrammatic labelling knowledge to show the different processes.

We linked this new learning back to our previous learning, sorting our rock collection into these We returned to the rock collection once more to discover and classify which rocks are 'permeable' and 'impermeable'. The children carried out a scientific investigation, observing that when rocks were placed in water, if bubbles were released from the rock into the water it meant it was a 'permeable' rock.



In Art, the children were impressed at how much influence maths has on the work of an architect. They looked at a range of ancient and modern buildings and identified which had lines of symmetry and which ones were asymmetrical. The children revisited last week's learning about the Parthenon and looked at an architectural drawing showing what it looked like when it was first built. They were amazed to find examples of symmetry as well as horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines in this building.

The children then used their knowledge of the architectural term 'in the relief' to create their own relief tiles based on images from the Parthenon and the Sagrada Familia, designed by the Spanish architect Gaudi. They added layers of clay to create extra depth to the tile and clay tools to add detail to the features, bringing to life their designs of flowers and seascapes.



The children certainly drew inspiration from the Spanish architectural work of Gaudi as they chose bright and bold colour schemes.



## Oak Class

It's been a busy and exciting term - this is what the children have been getting up to in Oak class!

In English, we started exploring the text - Animal Farm by George Orwell. The book is full of ambitious ideas, and we explored them thoughtfully during our whole class reading sessions. We revisited our earlier work on Communism, Socialism and Democracy, before diving into how Orwell explored these through the story. We looked at the historical context - the Russian Revolution and the fall of Tsar Nicholas II - and discussed how Orwell used his story to comment on these events. In our writing lessons, we began by writing biographies of George Orwell, then built up to writing our own allegories. Along the way, we developed a range of writing skills, including using metaphors, exploring complex sentence structures, experimenting with different types of conjunctions, and showing character through vocabulary and "show, not tell" techniques.

In Maths, we have continued to deepen our understanding of place value and the four operations. We extended our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages, and regularly revisited our work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division to keep our methods sharp. We also explored shape and position, including coordinates, reflections, translations and rotations. Our investigation into ratio helped link together our work on fractions and decimals, and throughout the term we tackled lots of word problems to build our reasoning and problem-solving skills. We even managed to take some of our maths learning outside, completing an arithmetic trail to put all our learning into practice!



In History, we explored the tensions in Europe before 1914 and examined the causes of World War I. We looked at who was involved, where the war was fought, and how it differed from wars we had studied before - particularly in connection to our learning about the Industrial Revolution. We learned about life in the trenches, battles on land, sea, and in the air, and the experiences of those on the 'Home Front' in Britain.

Geography took us to the other side of the world as we studied New Zealand. We built on our previous learning about continents, Europe and Asia, and explored New Zealand's human and physical geography using maps to locate key settlements. We found out about its volcanic activity and geysers, linking to our earlier work on natural disasters. We learned that New Zealand was one of the last places to be settled by humans and investigated how the Māori arrived by canoe around 700 years ago. We studied their customs, language, and



# School Report



traditions – including the Haka – and looked at the impact of European colonisation and the diseases that followed, drawing comparisons with Australia. We finished off by exploring New Zealand’s climate, biomes and wildlife.

In Science, we delved into the world of astronomy. We learned about the Big Bang and discovered that the universe is still expanding. We built on our previous understanding of gravity by looking at its role in our solar system and then explored the different types of planets. We investigated the phases of the Moon and the Sun’s role in this, before zooming out to look at our galactic neighbourhood, including the Milky Way, Andromeda and Laniakea. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from some scientists who talked to us about how the Big Bang theory can link with ideas around the Christian creation story. It was a very thoughtful session that made us all think about the universe that we are a part of.



This time of year is always a busy one for the Friends! Since the previous edition of the magazine, 3 more classes have raised money for their school trips by donating items of a specific colour into a hamper raffle and having a non-uniform day to match. Elm class raised £149, Beech raised £117 and Chestnut & The Nest raised £79. Acorn class are up next!! Will they be able to knock Elm off the top spot?!



Back in April, we held an Easter Family Bingo event at the village hall which was a great success. It was lovely to see so many people attend and as always, your support is much appreciated. Together we raised an incredible £926.29 for the primary school! We would like to say a big thank you to Angie for being our caller and to the following businesses and local families for their generous donations towards our raffle:



George’s Fish Bar, Weeting Londis, Weeting Rally, Shell’s Cakes, My Sisters Greenhouse, Stronger with Spencer, Joanna Mobile Beauty, Toe2Heal, S.J Fabricating, Boniface Engineering Ltd, Paul McCarthy, Peach Bower, Dynamix Mobile Disco, Ali’s Kebab, Mia Bella Hair, Travis Perkins, Chilterns, El Greco, Molyneux, UNDRDOG Fitness, Tesco, O.C.O Technology Ltd, Breckland Leisure Centre, Jumppin Jacks Funhouse, High Lodge, Church Farm, The Jolli Craft Shop, Thetford Garden Centre, Center Parcs, Jimmy’s Farm, Puddin, Cappadocia, Hockwold Hall, Shepherds Baa, Putt Putt, Painting Passions, Hythe Court Pool, Thetford Raj, Didlington’s Nursery, Costa, Faye Allum, Sara Newman and Sam Fitch.

We also organised an Easter Egg scavenger hunt on the school field. The children had to find the hidden answers in order to win a chocolate egg! This raised £90. Thank you to Tesco who kindly donated the eggs!



Towards the end of Spring term, the year 6 children were asked to choose a theme for their Leavers Disco, with Country & Western being the most popular vote! The Wild West will be coming to Weeting on Tuesday 15th July. We will be celebrating on the school field - weather depending, so please join in the party dances from your gardens between 5.45pm and 8.30pm.



Alongside a disco, the Friends purchased Leavers Hoodies for each child as a keepsake to remember their time at Primary school. These were given to the children on Friday 16th May during a celebration assembly to which parents were invited to attend. We would like to say thanks and give a special mention to Hyrum & Marcia Jolliffe from The Jolli Craft Shop, who kindly donated their time to design and print all of the hoodies for the

2nd year running. They looked amazing!

## Village Litter Pick

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took part in a litter pick around the village on Easter Saturday.

Altogether we collected about 25 sacks of rubbish as well as glass bottles (they went into the bottle banks), a lot of insulation material, rubber matting and various pieces of plastic car trimmings.



Much of the general rubbish consisted of “Take Away” cups, bags and food trays from McDonalds (why dump it in Weeting - we’re miles from the nearest one?!) and the usual array of empty crisp packets as well as beer, Red Bull and Coca Cola tins.

We always plan our litter picks and inform Breckland District Council when and where the bags will be left. Our thanks also go to Serco who dutifully collect it all on the following Tuesday.

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## Light Lunch Club

Hello everybody, Well the new Light Lunch Club has now been running for the last three months, and everybody who has come and joined have said just how much they have enjoyed their time with us.

This being our first venture into feeding over 30 people once a fortnight, and the volunteers who run it are well pleased to know that their efforts have been appreciated. When they first got together to try and think things out, they all wanted to have a club that people would enjoy coming to and this has been achieved, so much so that there is now a waiting list. As our chairman has said, we must keep to a standard and if we have too many members, she feels the standards she has instilled in us would drop. So we do have one rule and that is please let us know if you cannot come and then someone else will be able to take that place.

When the officer came from the Norfolk Standards Office, she was very pleased and gave us the top hygiene mark of a 5 which is a big feather in our hat and one which we want to continue.

During the winter period we served Soup and a roll for starters, then the main meal and dessert. Now that we have the lovely summer weather, we have made a change in our menu so different items are being tried to give everybody a change each fortnight, plus of course our quiz to test everyone’s brains which has been great fun.

Our date list for the next three months is as follows:

June 3rd, June 17th, July 1st, July 15th, July 29th, August 12th, August 26th.



## Crafty Natter Club



The crafty Natter club is up and running. We are now meeting every four weeks so as not to clash with the “light lunch club” Next meeting 10th June at 2 pm till 4. We have had three meetings so far with around twenty five people bringing lots of different crafty items. Knitting and crocheting are popular, with other items being card making, diamond art, embroidery and cross stitch. But we are happy for any craft, especially if you would like give instruction to others.



We now also have a breakout group learning to crochet with Theresa patiently showing how to make “granny squares.” These blankets are coming on beautifully. We have spare needles and wool as well as fabric swatches available if anyone wants to start a new project. One of our members has a connection to “The Warm Baby Project” where volunteers knit items for children when they are in hospital. The age range is 0 to 5years, and we have started to help with this by knitting Premature baby hats and mother and baby squares.



We would love to see new people even if you only want to come for a chat, Please feel free to join us, entrance fee is £3.00 which includes refreshments.

To celebrate the birthday of Beatrix Potter  
St Mary’s Church, Weeting are presenting a

## BOOK SALE

On Thursday 10 July from 1.00 - 6.00pm

Children’s Storytime

Make your own book mark in church

Make a mask at home competition

Large selection of adult second hand books

**RAFFLE PRIZES**  
To include a signed copy of *The Last Remains* by Ellie Griffiths

**REFRESHMENTS**

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT



## WASP's



The WASPs have been very busy all through the winter and spring season and getting everything ready for the VE Day show which we held on Saturday 3rd of May.

During the preceding weeks, we sang the songs, sometimes repeatedly, until we got it almost right, as David, our Musical



Director, was not happy with our efforts! All this I must say was great fun as, on most of our evening rehearsals, we laugh when we get it wrong!

Then of course the costumes had to be tried on, some of which we used last year for the D Day landings, but some of us had put on a little weight, so back to the sewing machine! Then the week before some of us met at the hall to put up the black backdrop and all the flags and bunting.

All the props, sound equipment and seating was put out the evening before and then all the chairs - fingers crossed for our audience to come and sit on. The programmes all put out, the raffle prizes put in place and at last we were ready.

It is a great thrill to watch as everything you have put together, the singers, actors, backstage staff, the front of house, the ladies in the kitchen, there with tea and coffee and lovely cakes for half time. Now everything is ready for the off, so curtains open now sing your heart out and fingers crossed all goes to plan.

The audience all joined in with their song books at the ready whilst the singers sang and we all had a very good time.

We thank everybody who came and supported us and showed that they will at least never forget the sacrifice those brave men and women gave for us.

So on to the next one. On June 27th and 28th we will be performing our next comedy this one is entitled "The Royal Garden Party". I hope you enjoy watching it as much as the cast have enjoyed doing it.

I am now scratching my head for some ideas to write the Christmas show - I am sure something will turn up.

Regards Carole

## Art For Pleasure

At our Thursday meetings we have a suggested program, but often we are all working on our own pictures, in our own preferred medium, be it acrylics; watercolour; pastels; etc. If we are struggling with a colour or perspective other members will suggest solutions. In this way we help and encourage each other.



Recently, however, we had a workshop with Phil Biggs. We all attempted the above picture in watercolour. It was a challenging subject trying to capture light and shadows. Phil showed us how he would approach this picture and the colours he would use. We all then tried to follow his instructions. He would walk round and help us individually before moving on to the next stage. By the end of the day we had all produced a "masterpiece", but, more importantly, we had all learned a lot.

If you came to the Easter Fair at Weeting Village Hall you may have seen some of our work. We are planning to have a stall at Feltwell Carnival on the afternoon of Saturday 21st June 2025 so come along and see our artwork and meet with some of our members.

Although we meet to draw or paint, we are a very social group enjoying a morning cuppa with a biscuit and sometimes cakes all for just £4 a morning. Some of us had painted before but quite a lot decided to take it up as a hobby or retiring. We are of mixed ability and work in all mediums, but mainly the essence of the group is in the title - the pleasure of painting and socialising with like-minded art lovers.

We meet every Thursday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm at Weeting Village Hall.

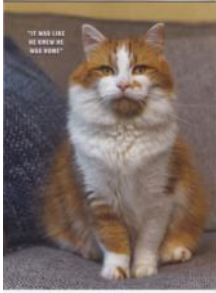
For more details phone Beryl Pountney 01842 828750

## BRECKLAND CATS PROTECTION

According to the RSPCA animal neglect is on the rise - last year there was a 25 percent increase in pet neglect reports.

A woman hoarding more than 50 cats refused help, so after a consult with the Environmental Health, a warrant was issued and police forced entry. Inside the house the conditions were appalling - an overwhelming stench of ammonia and filth, rooms packed with clutter and excrement covering nearly every surface. Litter trays were overflowing and pools of diarrhoea attracted swarms of flies. Some cats roamed free, while others were in filthy crates. Many suffered from untreated illnesses, including cat flu. The cats were rescued, received vital veterinary care and most have since found loving homes, though two sadly had to be put to sleep.

Then there is the story of Prince, rescued from cruelty. He is a 5 year old ginger and white cat, who was so thin that his ribs and spine could be seen and there was lots of fur missing. He was almost bald. The owners had shaved him with electric clippers as he had been shedding fur and they didn't want fur on their furniture and clothes. He was taken to a vet and poor Prince was very frightened. Although no evidence of disease was found, that could have caused his weight loss, but he was anaemic and his creatine and phosphorus levels were very low, signs that he had been starved. Fur provides protection and warmth and helps with communications, Without fur, cats risk sun damage and can't retain body heat and they spend long periods grooming their coats which eases stress. He was given anti-flea and worming medication and vaccinated and a meal plan prepared to help him reach a healthy weight. He showed signs of aggression around food - throwing himself at his cage door and trying to attack anyone who came between him and his food. He was given stress-relieving medication and this with a consistent feeding routine, helped Prince become more relaxed around mealtimes. Eventually Prince was healthy enough to find a loving new home.



For help or advice or if you need help with the cost of neutering, please call us on 01842 810018.

Rita Thompson,



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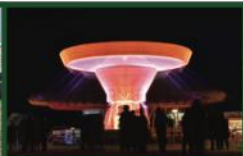
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## 5TH & 6TH JULY 2025 WEETING VILLAGE YARD SALES

**Weeting's annual village yard sales ...**

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Weeting

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025

8am till 2pm

## Fantastic Fundraising Event

On 4th March, (Shrove Tuesday), a pancake party was held in St Mary's, Weeting and the Rev'd Juanita Hawthorne had her head shaved to raise funds towards the ongoing maintenance costs for the church.

Over £900 was raised in sponsorship alone for the head shave and when the money from the pancake party was added in, the grand total reached over £1,000!

Juanita's hair was donated to the Little Princess Trust which provides free real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer or other conditions.



## Benefice Farewell

An emotional Eucharist service was held on Sunday 27th April (Passion Sunday) at St Mary's Church in Felthwell, when Mother Joan celebrated her last service with us in Grimshoe before her retirement. The Reverend Canon Joan Horan, to give her full title, had been our rector for 16 years and the congregation consisted of friends and colleagues who had got to know her over those years as well as family. A celebratory lunch followed.

As yet we do not have a replacement for Joan, but our Associate Priest, The Rev'd Juanita Hawthorne, will be undertaking the key functions within the Benefice.

Our grateful thanks go to Mother Joan for her guidance within the Benefice and the wider community over the past 16 years with her calm leadership and good humour and we wish her a long, happy and peaceful retirement.



## Certificate of Thanks Presentation

At the Village Annual Meeting on 15th May at the Village Hall, the Parish Council awarded Mother Joan with a certificate in recognition of her valuable services to the Parish along with the coveted lapel badge displaying the Weeting Village Sign.

Joan wrote to me later to say thank you and admitted that she was very touched to receive the certificate, which she intends to frame and we hope that she will wear the badge with fond memories.



# Village Hall Report

Well, here we are 5 months of the year already been and gone and we will have either a new committee or at least some new members. Our Annual General Meeting having taken place on 12th May.

As usual so much has been going on in the hall since Christmas, what with the Lunch Club going from strength to strength once a fortnight, Knit & Natter group restarted on a Tuesday, once a month - check poster in the hall for dates for when this is running

We had a very successful Craft Fayre in April, along with a great VE Day concert put on by the WASPS and guests - the Brandon Happy to Sing Choir, do hope some of you attended these events. And we are looking forward to the WASPs show at the end of June (see separate report from WASPs) and there will be a Fun Day Fayre in August - look out for posters and adverts near the time.

We are now fully insured again for another year and up to date with all the rules and regulations that have been imposed on us by the Insurance Company, who have made sure we are covered for every eventuality - electric safety, Fire Alarms, CCTV cameras installed. And now thanks to the generosity of the Lunch Club we have a Dish Washer installed to help with the dishes etc when we have special events on in the Hall.

Not a lot else for me to report on at this time, so hope you all have a good summer and don't forget if you need somewhere for a party, family gathering, etc please RING Angie Page, (our lettings officer), see her number on the Clubs Page under Bingo. If you want to join any of the groups or find out anything about them, like joining etc then again look at the Clubs page as all club details will be found there.

This just leaves me to say take care in the meantime, keep safe and well and hope to see you all at one of our events soon.

Friday 27th / Saturday 28th June: Comedy Show "The King's Garden Party"  
 Saturday 2nd August: Fun Day / Craft Show  
 Saturday 11th October: Quiz Night  
 Saturday 15th November: Christmas Craft Show

Karen Scott  
 Treasurer

## Spring Craft Show

The Spring Craft Show was held on April 12th which was unfortunate as many other local events were happening that weekend, despite my dates being published at the beginning of this year in order to make sure that I can have the use of the village hall. Some of the crafters that normally come to Weeting went to other places such as Santon Downham or Mildenhall and many customers went elsewhere too. However, I think that those who did come to us enjoyed the day and all the crafters have booked in for the rest of the season.

The talent that these crafters possess is wonderful and when I walk around the tables and see what they have made, from beautiful cable knitted jumpers and cardigans to stuffed toys, flower arranging, jams and pickles, cards, jewellery, the list is very long. Just come to the next one and see what I mean.

Fun Day / Craft Show - Saturday 2nd August  
 Christmas Craft Show - Saturday 15th November

Hopefully, with the dates now all fixed, we will avoid any further clashes and we will all be able to attend everyone else's events too, which makes a good day out.

## WEETING VILLAGE HALL SAXON PLACE

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**HERE ARE JUST SOME OF OUR REGULAR ACTIVITIES  
 THAT ARE GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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 WEETING WEENIES LINE DANCING  
 CARPET BOWLS DRAMA GROUP  
 LIGHT LUNCH CLUB**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE  
 CLUBS AND GROUPS SEE DETAILS IN THIS  
 MAGAZINE OR TO HIRE THE HALL, RING  
 ANGIE PAGE ON 01842 814147**

# St Mary's Church



### Associate Priest:

Juanita Hawthorne Tel: 01366 728545. revjuanita58@gmail.com

### Churchwarden:

Tommy Saward Tel: 01842 813601 tommysaward@hotmail.com

### Regular services are as follows:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month: Eucharist @ 11am



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## WEETING SPEED RECORDER UPDATE

Time Period FROM	Time Period TO	Position (Direction facing)	Total Count of vehicles	Speed Limit mph	Vehicles within the speed limit	Speeding Violations
<b>2025</b>						
8 <sup>th</sup> February	8 <sup>th</sup> March	South Park (N)	75269	30	65602	9667
8 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> April	Park View (W)	33992	30	31580	2412
5 <sup>th</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Lynn Road (N)	62217	40	41689	20528

### Quarterly Summary

Total Vehicle Count for the recorded period	<b>171473</b>
Vehicle Count within the speed limit	<b>138871</b>
Speeding Violations within the village	<b>32607</b>
Violators as a percentage of the total vehicle count	<b>19.01%</b>
4 vehicles were recorded at South Park (N) at the following speed	50 mph
51 vehicles were recorded at Park View (W) at the following speed	40 mph
4 vehicles were recorded at Lynn Road (N) at the following speed	85 mph



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# ?? Who's Who ??

## **Weeting Parish Councillors**

Cllr Ian Childerhouse	07747 794867	<a href="mailto:i.childerhouse@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">i.childerhouse@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Tom Childerhouse (V Chair)	01842 811469	<a href="mailto:t.childerhouse@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">t.childerhouse@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Margaret Lister	01842 810467	<a href="mailto:m.lister@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">m.lister@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Mike Nairn (Chair)	01842 810212	<a href="mailto:m.nairn@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">m.nairn@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Sue Nairn	01842 810212	<a href="mailto:s.nairn@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">s.nairn@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Peter Nordan	01842 815638	<a href="mailto:p.nordan@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">p.nordan@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Rowena Read	07985 702940	<a href="mailto:r.read@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">r.read@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Bernard Smith	07985 902188	<a href="mailto:b.smith@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">b.smith@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Carole Wilkins	01842 550919	<a href="mailto:c.wilkins@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">c.wilkins@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>

## **Weeting Parish Clerk**

Mrs Pauline Angus	07741 481956	<a href="mailto:clerk@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk">clerk@weetingparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
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## **Breckland District Councillor**

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	07771 966457	<a href="mailto:sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk">sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk</a>
Cllr Robert Kybird	01842 753132	<a href="mailto:robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk">robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk</a>

## **Norfolk County Councillor**

Cllr Fabian Eagle	07774 295510	<a href="mailto:fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk">fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk</a>
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## **Member of Parliament**

Mr Terry Jermy	<a href="mailto:terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk">terry.jermy.mp@parliament.uk</a>
House of Commons	Facebook: Terry Jermy for South West Norfolk
London SW1A 0AA	Twitter: @cllrterryjermy
	Office: 020 7219 8254

# LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLUB	CONTACT	LOCATION	DAY AND TIME
Adult's & Children's Street Dancing	Micha 07841 474400	Village Hall	Wednesday 3:45 - 8:45
Art For Pleasure	Beryl Pountney 01842 828750	Village Hall	Thursday 10:30am – 12:30pm Thursday 10:30 - 3:30pm 3rd
Bingo	Angie Page 01842 814147	Village Hall	Tuesday Open at 6:30pm Eyes down at 7pm - 9pm
Brandon & District Classic Vehicle Club	John Maxim 07876 656070	The Ram, Brandon	2nd Monday 7.30pm
Brandon & District Camera Club	Denise Whiting 01842 862079	Baptist Church Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm
Brandon & District Society of Model Engineering	Dave Moore 01842 811996	Brandon Council Offices	1st Wednesday 7:30pm
Brandon Day Centre	Michelle Jarrett 01842 819777	Warren Close, Brandon, IP27 0EE	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10am - 3.30pm
Brandon Speaker's Club	Gary Sander 01842 814679	The Ram, Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesday 7:00-9:30pm
Breckland Lace Makers	Emily 07825 778356	Angerstein Close	Every other Tuesday 1.30 - 3.30pm
Carpet Bowls	Heather Woodhams 01842 815406	Village Hall	Friday 10 – 12 midday
Crafty Natter	Diane 07498 283150	Village Hall	Monthly on Tuesday 2pm - 4pm (dates listed at the Village Hall)
Friends of Brandon Station	John Maxim 07876 656070		
Green Bowls	Jo Nordan 01842 815638 Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7pm-10pm, Friday 5pm–10pm Saturday 8pm-Late, Sunday 12pm-12am
Gun Club	Derick Spencer 07766 750153	Weeting Gun Club	Alternate Sunday January to October
HATS	Gary Sander 07754 727130	Hockwold Village Hall	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 - 9:30pm (during rehearsal periods)
History Group	Julianne Young 01842 813581	Various - call to check location	Last Thursday 7:30pm
Hockwold Cricket Club	John Ruddick 07902 231235		
Outdoor Archery	Mike 07894 904090	Euston Park	Friday 6:00 – 10pm Sunday 12 midday – 4:00pm
Keep Fit	Dorothy Kent 01842 810378	Village Hall	Monday 10:00– 11am (except Bank Holidays)
Light Lunch Club	Carole Wilkins 07870 564182	Village Hall	Alternate Tuesdays 11am - 2pm
Line Dance	Rita Thompson 01842 815550	Village Hall	Friday 2:00 - 4:pm
Methwold Badminton Club	Jeff Millard 01842 827428	St George's Hall, Methwold	Every Thursday between September & April 7.00pm
Methwold Theatre Club	01366 727526	The 21 Room St George's Complex Methwold	Tuesday 7:30pm
Model Car	Colin. 07876 330687	Village Hall	Alt. Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
Pool	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7:00pm
St Mary's Church	Tommy Saward (Churchwarden) 01842 813601	St Mary's Church	See list of Service times
Shoestring Theatre Company	Jill Hopper, 07985 376465	IES Breckland School Crown Street, Brandon	Tuesday 7:00 - 10:00pm
Thetford Singers	Sue Nairn 01842 810212	Methodist Rooms Tanner Street Thetford	Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
W.A.S.P.s	Carole Wilkins 01842 550919	Village Hall	Monday and Friday 6:00 - 8pm (during rehearsal periods)
Weeting Saxon FC	James Langley. 01842 811627		
Weeting Steam Rally	Kate Plant Rally Co-ordinator 07907 720312		Monday 7pm to 9pm Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Weeting Weenies	Marie Stebbins mariestebbins@hotmail.com	Village Hall	Wednesday 10:00 – 12 midday (school term time only)
West Norfolk Aviation Society	07706 030307	Mundford Bowls Club	1st Tuesday

## Old Weeting Parish Council Notes - continued

Now where were we ... February '69 with interest rates at 8.25%.

The Public Meeting held on the 24th March started with a householder requesting "No through" signs for Hereward Way. Then a somewhat personal matter was raised, rats apparently due to the inmates of No 36 not having a refuse collection – the reason for this being given that they were Americans who were also causing a nuisance with their dogs overturning dustbins! A request was made for a letter to be sent to the Base Commander.

There followed a number of complaints about lighting and willow trees and the fact that since the path in Hereward Way had been resurfaced, Mr Ripley reported water flowing into his garden. **Then a little gem ... something I did not know about – there was a request for a letter to be sent from the Parish opposing the suggestion of a third London Airport being established locally**

The Parish Council meeting followed on with most initial items being about complaints regarding trees, parking on the footpath and something to do with Mr Parrott kindly agreeing for a ditch to be dug on his property. It was reported that there had been little progress with the four new bungalows due to the County Council's insistence they be one bedroomed units. At this point, the accounts were discussed – Mrs Rosemarie Jacob was the Clerk to the Parish Council at that time – Mrs Jacob's current salary was £10 and this was unanimously increased to £20 *but what this covered, per year, per meeting is not mentioned!*

At the subsequent RDC report, it was confirmed that the request for a 40-mph sign had been rejected by NCC on the basis of cost. Oh, and apparently no 12 Cromwell Road had an open sewer in their front garden – the wonderful Mr Knight agreed to deal with the problem.

At the Council Meeting held in June '69, Mr Knight was again elected as Chairman. With Matters arising, there again was follow up on a number of complaints, not the least that the open sewer at 12 Cromwell Road was still open. The good news was that RDC had gone out to tender for the four new bungalows but that the changeover of lighting to sodium would be £25 per unit so would only be done when a new lamp was required with priority given to the main road.

Considerable discussion then took place regarding the boundary of the playing field with the conclusion that if nothing had been heard from the County Council in two weeks, the Parish Council would go ahead and seed the land by September. Unfortunately, there had been a fatal accident in the village and considerable discussion ensued regarding safety measures – all being referred to the RDC as was the dangerous driving of the Ice Cream Van in Cromwell Road. In any other business, tempers did appear to get a little heated with one councillor being "informed from the Chair" but in the end they agreed they could go ahead a seek grant funding for the cost of the field. In September '69, it was agreed the "open sewer" in Cromwell Road was a stopcock.

Only one tender for the playing field work had been received, this being higher than NCC estimate so a second tender had to be found ... still hoping work would allow seeding in time

Agreement for a further four bungalows had been given by December and it was hoped to be able to move people from 3 bed houses which were under-occupied. Then *it has taken some time!* confirmation there would be a change from fortnightly collection to a weekly collection of refuse from 1970. A quotation for the clearance of the playing field of £1,195 (£17,106 now) was accepted.

1970 opened with the joint Parish and Parish Council meetings being held in March. At the former it was clarified the weekly refuse collection would start in April and again it was agreed at letter should be sent to the USA Base Commander concerning dustbins being left on the pavement in Cromwell Road and general untidiness of the area. There followed a number of complaints about street lighting, signage, the water pressure and an un-named member of the public who complained about the "atrocious building" partially completed near the shops. Mr Knight in his capacity (*still!*) as Chair said that there was a 3-year time limit for completion of the building and that the matter was causing concern.

At the following Council Meeting, it was agreed that most of the items from the Annual Meeting would be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting when the new Parish Council would hold its first meeting. However, it was reported that work on the Playing Field was going head and that the occupant of a bungalow in All Saints had been warned that he would have to move his stocks of timber! Unfortunately, the letting of the new bungalows had been a problem as the elderly people in the village were reluctant to move out of their existing homes.

Well, we are in June 1970, an era had ended ... the proposal that Mr Knight be re-elected was not seconded and Mr N Parrott was elected as Chair with Mr Holledge as Vice Chair. It would appear that Mr Knight did attend this meeting in his capacity of RD Councillor and reported that the churchyard clearance would start soon and the sewage works would be enlarged thus able to cope with 50% more population than currently living in Weeting. The weekly refuse collection had started. Mr Knight also advised that he has resigned as Chairman of the RDC Planning Committee. Mr Holledge then proposed that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr Knight for his work for the Parish Council over the last 23 years and this was unanimously carried.

## Village Speed Limit Changes

During the past few weeks, you cannot have failed to notice that the 30mph speed limit through the village has been extended towards Methwold, fresh white lines have been painted on some of the road towards Brandon and a few signs and posts renewed. However, as you drive towards Brandon, you may have noticed that they have not replaced the de-restriction sign when they have installed a white gate to one side of the road. This has confused several folk who have assumed that the 30mph speed limit continues through to where the speed limit signs are near the junction of Fengate Drove. Highways have been contacted regarding and we await their action.

A Speed Limit cannot be added, extended or removed without there being a specific Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) and even then, certain criteria have to be met. There has not been a TRO issued in respect of the road between Weeting and Brandon, (the C837), so the straight between the two remains at the National Speed Limit at present. In the meantime, the double white lines and cats eyes along the Weeting Bends should help to keep traffic to their own side of the road rather than driving through in the middle!

The Parish Council had pressed hard to have the 40mph speed limit reduced to 30mph throughout the village, but NCC Highways claimed that the area remaining at 40mph does not meet their criteria for it to be reduced. It would also require another TRO and this would cost them several thousand pounds!!

There are several posts with no signs on them as yet, so perhaps more work is still to come, but just what and when is unknown at present.

## The History of Cranwich Camp



The 32 acre area near Weeting called Cranwich Camp is now a biological Site of Special Scientific Interest, otherwise called an SSSI, and is a part of the Breckland Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. It is generally open to the public and is a favourite place for dog walkers as it is fenced and gated, therefore offering a safe place to allow the dogs to run free. It is now grassland with high entomological and botanical value, so the gate is padlocked at times and the area then used for grazing horses or long horned goats.

However, the land was used as a labour camp, one of four in the area between 1935 and 1939, the other three being at West Tofts, High Lodge and Weeting. They were erected by the Ministry of Labour to house the unemployed, particularly from northern England and designed to 'harden' those who had become unemployed as a result of industrial decline and to provide employment opportunities. The camps were purpose built and run in a military style and the inmates did not attend voluntarily. If they refused to attend, their dole money was stopped. The work consisted of manual labour such as road building, quarrying and forestry. *As a side note, I believe that the houses of South Park in Weeting were built by the labourers in the village at this time.*

Conditions were unpleasant and tough and there were tales of riots and mutiny. However, this social experiment came to an end with the outbreak of World War Two when the unemployment situation was alleviated and all these camps were reused for military purposes.

The site at Cranwich consisted of a range of Nissen huts and a parade ground with support structures such as roads and a sewage works to the north east. Rumour has it that one of the Camp Commandants was the recipient of the Victoria Cross that he had won during the First World War when he served in the Royal Norfolk Regiment.

Some of the Nissen huts were dismantled during the 1950's, but a few remained and were used as accommodation by the Territorial Army and Army Cadets when having organised camps there. Eventually, they fell into disuse and were dismantled and, today, very little can be seen apart from a few earthworks and the occasional bit of brick wall foundation. Before the area was fenced in, it was possible to drive a vehicle around the remaining roadways and during the 1980's and 1990's many parents took their teenage children who were learning to drive there in order to practice their reversing, 3-point-turns and emergency stops. (I know, - I was one of those parents!) However, even the roadways have disappeared now and it is impossible to see what the original layout was like from ground level.



Of course, Cranwich Camp was also used frequently in the BBC sitcom "Allo, Allo" as the setting for the French POW camp. The show used many locations around the area with Lynford Hall posing as the chateau occupied by the Germans and the courtyard there was transformed into the town square in Nouvion with Rene's Café. One memorable episode of this long running sitcom where Cranwich appears was called "Flight of Fancy" where the plan was to finally get the British airmen back to England in an antique airplane using the men of Nouvion's braces as a catapult!! Of course, the plan failed miserably and Herr Flick's staff car was flattened by a runaway steam roller that I believe may have belonged to a certain Weeting resident!!

Your advert could appear here.

Contact the Editor for details

## **Summer Gardening**

Summer is the season of flowers, whether it's beds of perennials, shrubs & roses, or bedding plants from hanging baskets and containers. Although you're still busy, don't forget to sit down and enjoy the fruits of your labours. Believe me, it's all too easy to spend the whole time pottering and not relaxing! We should be free from the risk of frost in June, although it is not unheard of to get a frost early in the month, so keep checking the weather and keep fleece to hand if any frosts are forecast.

In early summer the routine maintenance of feeding, watering and deadheading plants begins. Ensure any trees or shrubs planted in winter are not suffering during dry periods and give them a good soak if necessary. It's also time to think about the seasons ahead, and in preparation for winter colour sow hardy seeds including Sweet Williams, Wallflowers & Pansies. Once any birds have fledged the nest make the first trim of yew, and leafy hedges such as beech or privet.

Come mid-summer it's important to keep on top of weeding, feeding deadheading and watering. If you have a pond, keep it aerated, and the water level topped up. Remember to use de-chlorinator if using tap water. In dry weather, raise the height of your mower blades as grass will stay greener longer. If you water your lawn a depth of two inches of water is required on a weekly basis. To see how much water your lawn is receiving, place several straight sided containers (such as a tin can, mug etc) on the lawn while you are watering. Then use a ruler to measure the depth of the water in the container. I'm not a believer in watering the lawn (unless it's newly seeded or new turf) due to the amount of water required – even for my small lawn. It's not a bowling green, and any brown, dead patches will recover when it rains. Healthy lawns tend to recover quicker but if it doesn't re-grow, I'll simply re-seed a few patches in the autumn.

In late summer, pay attention to ericaceous plants grown in pots such as rhododendrons and azaleas. If the weather is dry, feed and water the plants, as the flower buds for next spring will be developing. It's also time to take semi-ripe cuttings of a wide range of hardy climbers, shrubs and trees. Semi-ripe cuttings are selected from healthy, undamaged stems from this season's growth. The base of the cutting should be firm whilst the tip is still flexible, take cuttings in the morning to avoid wilting. There are three main types of semi-ripe cuttings, however in this article I shall just detail the basic method. Simply use a sharp, clean tool and cut just below a leaf to leave a prepared cutting of 10-15cm (4-6") in length. Immediately put the cuttings into a plastic bag to reduce moisture loss. Remove the lowest leaves and soft tips from the cutting. Dip the cutting into hormone rooting powder, then insert the cuttings into suitable sized containers filled with seed compost. Water well and allow to drain before placing the container in a greenhouse, or cover with a clear plastic bag, and leave to root in a warm, light position out of direct sunlight. Rooting is quick in summer, however fungus and rots can cause severe losses. Regularly removing diseased material and ensuring good ventilation can help prevent any problems.

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc(Hons)  
P&R Garden Supplies, Fengate Drive, Weeting 01842 814800

## The Team Man's Lament

I arnt agin tractors. Not at all. They du git over some ground.  
No doubt we want more on 'em. But I du miss my hosses.

Yew carnt call a tractor good company.  
Will that hear ye come inter the yard an' let ye know thass pleased to see ye?  
That ha got lugs med o' steel  
But du they tahn backards to listen ter ivery wahd yew say to 'em?  
No fear they don't, not them.  
That earnt no good sayin' "Woosh" nor yit "Cubbear" to a tractor.  
That hearnt got a nice sorft nose like welvet what snubble up agin yer pocket  
For a napple or a bit o' sweet.

Why, a hoss is werry near a Christian that know Sunday from week-day.  
Go yew inter the yard a Sunday mornin' yew'll find 'em all layin' down.  
They know werry well thass Sunday.  
D'yew remember them two brown 'uns?  
Prince and Captain we named 'em.  
I was there when they were born, exactly a twelvemonth atwin 'em.  
I browt 'em up, I brook 'em in by the side o' thar old mawther.  
Ah, they wor a pair o' hosses, the best round here for miles.  
Lovely ringles all over thar coats, dapples our old man useter call 'em.  
Thar coats were loike a bit o' silk.  
Yewcarnt curry-comb a tractor nor yit you carnt coox it.  
If yew du that'll bahn yer hand or else freeze it.

Ah, tractors are all werry well they wholly git over some ground.  
No doubt we want more on 'em, but still thass a masterpiece  
How much I miss my hosses.

C.L.S

*Editor's note:*

This poem was originally printed in the Eastern Daily Press and the cutting was found in an old scrapbook. It is believed to be post World War Two, but could have been earlier. Who the author was is not known apart from their initials C.L.S., so my apologies for reproducing it here. My grandfather would have agreed with every word as he used horses on the farm where he worked.

The best way to read this is out loud and pronounce it as it is written.

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## TALES FROM OX (NOT OZ)!

It is what keeps me sane, well nearly. Those of you who know me are aware that I spend a lot of my time volunteering on the Oxburgh Estate, mainly in the house as a Visitor Host or Indoor Welcome Host. The National Trust were able to buy more land a couple of years ago and now have 200 acres which meant we have morphed from Oxburgh House, to Oxburgh Estate. It is these 200 acres that I have never been able to enjoy – at my advanced years I have a job to make it from the car park to the house and back. The current celebrations for the 80 anniversary of VE day have rather rubbed this in ...

Well today for the first time I have been able to go around the estate as the powers that be very kindly arranged for a Wildlife Walk for volunteers and let me borrow the Tramper, an all-terrain mobility scooter that we have for our more challenged visitors. WELL, if you get the chance, do have a go because they are great fun and turn on a 6d. Our party of some ten or more went walking in the forest area with Tom, our Chief Ranger telling us all about the birch that kept self-seeding and the ash trees that even with his team's best efforts are suffering with ash dieback. It was a magical couple of hours, we saw and heard Chiffchaffs, a Red Kite, numerous Kestrels and heard Blackcaps and Wrens. We even saw a Hare! I had no problem keeping up once I got the hang of it because the Tramper will do up to 8 mph and brisk walking pace is around 4 mph and it takes to the verge and hills with glee, I think that it would climb Mount Everest given a chance. I had great fun and for that matter, so could you if you book her (The Tramper) on the website.

Oxburgh's share of visitors is holding up well and I am always fascinated by the number of foreign visits we get, even one family from the Netherlands who had a holiday home in Attleborough. We are used to Brits having holiday homes in Europe but I don't think I ever thought about them having them here. Talking of our friends, the Dutch, first thing we had last Saturday was a coach party of 40 visitors from the Netherlands. Now I always say I would not starve in France but my Dutch is severely limited ... it was interesting. This was followed by a large party of families from India. Now I can talk for England and am very nosy, so I always ask, when I catch an accent, where the visitor is from ... they usually say somewhere in the UK but I always press them, and I have established we have had visitors from as far away as New Zealand (a Beddingfield), to Thetford, via Russia and Nepal. I should of course say, that Oxburgh is the most gorgeous mediaeval family home, but I could be biased! If Sue likes this, more tales from Ox in the future.

Ann Morgan and Morse (Yorkiepop)

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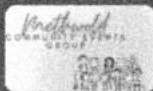
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# CLUB SPOTLIGHT



**WEETING**  
BOWLS CLUB

**Upcoming Social Events**

- Sat 7 June – Karaoke with DJ Baz 8.00pm
- Sun 8 June – Bingo & Meat Raffle 8.00pm
- Sun 22 June – BBQ, from midday
- July events to be confirmed

WHAT INTERESTS YOU?  
**SOCIAL EVENTS**  
LIVE MUSIC • BOWLS • DARTS • POOL

The mild Spring weather this year has provided excellent conditions for the work on the green to continue and the green is greatly improved, much to the delight of the bowlers. A new fence has been erected along the edge of the green to restrict access to bowlers, and more particularly to keep animals off the green.

The bowlers returned to the green on Sunday 6th April. A lovely sunny day, ideal for an Open Day, which provided ample opportunities for potential new bowlers to experience the game, alongside more experienced, regular bowlers. It was a lovely, relaxed atmosphere and great fun was had by all.

To date, the club pairs competition has begun, and singles championships will begin shortly. A number of friendly and league matches have also been played and roll ups for those who just wish to practice or play for fun take place on Friday evenings from 5.30pm until dusk.

Over the winter months pool teams have made the most of their new pool table, achieving well in local pool leagues. Additionally, the club now boasts a competition dart board for the newly established darts team. Anyone who is interested in playing bowls, pool or darts should come along and speak to a member of the bar staff who will be able to advise on who to go to for more information.

Work on the kitchen has finally been completed and once a new door has been fitted along the passageway to the smokers shed, the club will apply for a hygiene rating.

Social events continue to flourish with regular bingo, karaoke and live music evenings. The club is also well used for private parties, weddings and wakes. (For more information, please contact Kerri Hickman 07483863230)

Mrs Jo Nordan (Bowls Captain)

## Summer Opening Hours

Monday: Home Bowls matches, 6.00pm  
 Tuesday: Home Bowls & Pool matches, 6.00pm  
 Wednesday: Darts Matches, 7.00pm  
 Friday: Bowls Roll ups 5.30pm until dusk  
 Saturday: Social events 7.00pm  
 Sunday: Bowls & Social, 12.00 noon




"V for Victor" was the title of this month's talk; delivered by Ickburgh man, Barry Raphael, virtuoso on the subject of the V bombers and ex-crew member of 55 squadron; he was too modest to say whether or not he was captain. On a previous occasion he has briefed us about his time spent with the Valiant during the Suez crisis but on this occasion he presented to us a masterful account of his involvement with the Handley Page Victor, an aeroplane that has the distinction of being the longest serving military aircraft on record; over 50 years. Barry's account was so detailed that one could easily have believed that he might have had a hand in the design of the aircraft itself.

After 1947 the war ministry decided that future peacetime stability should depend on a nuclear deterrent. Adolph Hitler's regime, before this time, had been preoccupied with ground based missiles. For the best security it was decided that future tactics should involve the delivery of nuclear weapons by air. The Victor was chosen to be the best provider for this purpose and, the bombs would be either Skybolt or Blue Steel.

Frederick Handley Page had first found fame in 1911 with his legendary 'stick and string' Yellow Peril monoplane, characterised by a convex leading edge to the wings (re: 1965 film 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines'). Barry made a tongue in cheek comparison with this and the leading edge of the Victor wings: in this case, the curve was concave but, for a very good reason: They were described as 'crescent' and constructed in three separate sections each one having its own effect on the aerodynamics of the aircraft. Its development was an on-going scenario: the empennage, rear section, also came under scrutiny; the dihedral of the "T" tail plane was critical for optimum stability as was the design of the rudder; an extra bolt in a pintle overcame one problem. Barry explained that on-going modifications were always necessary to overcome the price that was being paid for the loss of the lives of many test pilots; in the 1950s this amounted to about one a week.

The assembly of the Victor began in 'Fred's Shed' at Radlett. This was deemed too small and construction was completed at Boscombe Down over 100miles away. For security reasons it was wrapped up and transported by road disguised as a boat. Details in the cock-pit design included the use of retractable instrument panels to optimise space and, a livery of white to minimise the glare from bomb blast. Flight tests included controlled loops and rolls. The aeroplane also proved its versatility when its presence was felt in the Falklands war as an aid to reconnaissance and refuelling. And, Barry explained that on one of the trials of his baby, the navigator, facing rearwards, gained the distinction of being the only person in the world to have broken the sound barrier flying backwards.

At the end of the evening the stand-in chairman, Commander Allen, thanked the Bowls Club executive committee for their hospitality, tendered apologies from absentees and recruited a first-time guest-member, Bob Archer, to provide next month's talk on the subject of '75 Years of Aviation at Mildenhall'. PS Nigel Tooth. Check out: [www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk](http://www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk)



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Thetford Singers is a registered charity no.269142

## Editor's Note:

The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published in September 2025.

If anyone would like to submit an advertisement, article, photo, etc for consideration to be included, the deadline for receipt by the Editor will be **Friday 15th August 2025**.

I look forward to hearing from you.



## Editor's note:

A list of the clubs and organisations in the village can be found in the centre pages of Weeting Village Life along with details of who to contact if you would like to make enquiries. Most of the clubs have room for more of you to come along, so have a look and see if anything takes your fancy!

# CLUB SPOTLIGHT




What's life without a little drama?

## OPENING NIGHT!

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## Would you like to join Methwold Theatre Club?

Have you ever thought about having a go at acting? Would you like to be part of our enthusiastic and friendly group? If so, come and join us. We meet most Tuesday evenings in Methwold. We are currently planning our activities and performances for the year. These include a Murder Mystery evening in March, and a play in November. You don't have to have to be Judi Dench or Colin Firth, but just want to have some fun! We can find parts for all ages [18+] and abilities. If you don't want to tread the boards, there are always backstage jobs to be done.

To find out more about us, find us on Facebook and send us a message or email [methwoldtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:methwoldtheatre@gmail.com)

## Calling All Clubs!

If your club would like to submit a report, advertise an event and / or include photographs in the next edition, please contact the editor (details on front page).

Similarly, if you wish to add your club to the list in the centre page, or change contact details, days, times, etc. please let the editor know.

### Editor's note:

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Ages 6-12



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WHY NOT JOIN**

## METHWOLD BADMINTON CLUB?

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HOPE TO SEE YOU!



# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## Air Rifle range

Well we have had our first two events for the year in March and April and they have been well attended with some 20 new members joining. Both children and adults have enjoyed both simple and more stretching targets and there's a great deal of laughter and the odd bit of jovial banter when some of our more experienced shooters miss a target. All great fun.

We have recently acquired some new targets and these will be available at our next events held on 28th June and 30th July and obviously going forwards from then. Some will challenge even the best of our members although I have a sneaky feeling the younger shots will master them pretty quickly.

As usual we will be at The Weeting Steam Rally with our range set up for a little local competition with something for both young shots and adults.

We plan to improve the range as our numbers grow and members feedback to date has been very encouraging. It's a real friendly bunch of adults and children alike enjoying a few hours of a great fun hitting some fairly difficult targets or just enjoying a plinking session.

We have two ranges, one out to 25m and the other out to 45m. There's a mix of paper, knockdown, clay, chalk disc, tin cans and some interesting snap cap targets fed into the old primer positions of 12g shot gun cartridges. Not easy to hit when it gets a little windy!

We have publicised dates that we expect to hold shoots we do hope you'll join us for what is a great bit of fun and an excellent entry into the sport. Memberships for the Air Rifle club are just £10 per person with fees on the day (cash) at £10 per session for adults and £5 per session for under 14's.

## Clay Pigeon Shooting

This continues to be the main area of our friendly club and the new season has started in earnest with 8 events held to date. The club is growing in numbers all the time and we now have a regular group of guns turning up each Sunday afternoon for some testing sport. It's fair to say the weather has been on our side so far this year and we've wearing weather with skeet, DTL and most recently flush and sporting set ups held.

The 3-man flush event was great fun and had some excellent competition amongst the shooters with the winning margin of 2 clays and a spread of approx. 10 between first and last place from our 6 teams.

Last Sunday's handicap sporting set up saw some challenging targets for the field with a mix of crossers, teal and targets coming from behind the guns. Some good scores were seen throughout the field with our top gun achieving 24/25. I can say that he doesn't normally shoot this well and it wasn't long before it was pointed out by friendly banter of the other committee members that he had set the course!



# The Grand Canyon

John Holledge

When my son lived in Keystone Heights, we went on one of our regular visits. The day after we arrived, he told us to pack a carry-on bag as we were going to Las Vegas! We flew from Jacksonville to Pennsylvania and then took another flight to Las Vegas where we stayed at the Stratosphere Hotel. The next morning, we were picked up at about 6am and driven to the airport to get on a flight to The Grand Canyon where we transferred to a helicopter that took us down and along the canyon. What a ride that was! The heliport was about 10 miles from the canyon itself and we flew quite low, so couldn't see too far ahead, until, all at once, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen – The Grand Canyon!" The helicopter descended in and flew along for about 5 miles and then settled on a small landing stage where we got out and climbed down the rest of the way to the river below and boarded a boat. It was very quiet apart from the eagles shrieking. Our driver was a lovely Native American lady who told us about the canyon and then said she would have to greet The Great Spirit. I didn't know that some Native Americans worship the sun and as we rounded the bend the sun shone and she began to dance and sing whilst shaking 2 hand rattles. It was very moving and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Afterwards, we walked back to the landing strip and were taken back to the top.

What a wonderful, beautiful place, so different from Norfolk's flat terrain, – it is a huge chasm worn down over the years by the Colorado River that drains the surrounding land for hundreds of miles upstream of the Hoover Dam into Lake Mead which is 380 miles long and 10 miles wide in places. The sides of the canyon are almost vertical and one and a quarter mile deep in places. Looking over the edge would put the wind up anybody not used to it, especially at Toroweap overlook, a small outcrop of rock hanging over the edge. I dared myself to walk out onto it where the view was fantastic but beware of the little gusts of cold wind which give you a little push! It puts the fear of God into you as there is nothing to stop you falling - my heart skipped a few beats and there was a strange smell. The land is 4,552 feet above sea level and most of it is owned by various Native American tribes who live around the Mojave Desert. There is a glass walkway that goes out over the edge in a horseshoe shape so you can walk along it if you dare. You are given overshoes so that you do not scratch the 2-inch-thick toughened glass and beneath your feet is a 3,000foot drop into the Colorado River. My son tried to trick me by saying the glass was cracked – stupid boy!! To the Native Indians this is a sacred place and parts of it are roped off as they mark areas of burials that have been used for hundreds of years. The Native Americans are the only people allowed to live there and were originally the Havasupai tribe, called "People of the blue green water", although some other tribes have now been allowed such as the Hopi, Navajo and Paiute. I watched a medicine man do a rain dance – it was hot, hot, hot (40 degrees) and when he had finished, I said to him it hadn't rained yet. He replied, "Of course, it has somewhere!"

Our next stop was the restaurant to have lunch and sat at some outside tables where we were watched by the biggest crows I have ever seen. It wasn't long before we realised why the crows were so large though – the food was so awful that we left most of it on the plates and, as we got up, the crows swooped down and ate it. They were chased away by a waiter in full native dress, but they didn't go far, alighting on a nearby fence to wait for more leftovers. We returned to the airport and flew back to Las Vegas and the hotel, got washed and changed and went to find some edible food. Later we had a tour of Las Vegas and then retired to bed.



# Special Recognition Award

At the Weeting Parish Council meeting on April 17th, Chairman, Mike Nairn was given a Special Recognition Award for his long and appreciated public service by the current Breckland District Council Chairman, Keith Gilbert.

Councillor Nairn has been involved in public service in many ways: 6 years in the British Army, 30 years in Norfolk Police and, after retirement, he had worked with Mid Suffolk County Council, Brandon Citizen's Advice Bureau, Weeting Parish Council and Breckland District Council. During his final year with BDC, he was Chairman and had the honour of being involved with events marking the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, her death, the Proclamation of Accession of Charles III as King and the Coronation. He was also the instigator and editor of Weeting Words, which was the original publication before Weeting Village Life.

Presentation of the award, originally planned some time ago, was delayed due to Councillor Nairn's health issues earlier in the year and the secret had to be kept by his wife, Sue, for almost 6 months. However, it was successfully kept under wraps and he admitted that it was a huge surprise to him. He was not expecting to get anything like it and was very happy to receive the recognition. Along with the certificate, he received a lapel badge in the unique shape of the area of Breckland District Council.



# Fly Tipping

Recently, there have been several instances of fly tipping in the area. The rubbish dumped has ranged from garden rubbish, house clearances and, latterly, the contents of a fast-food business of some description. In the latest case, means of identifying the origin of the rubbish were found and, no doubt, someone will be receiving a visit from a Council Officer and may be on the wrong end of a four figure fine. It is probable that they believed that the person they had contracted to dispose of their rubbish had all the appropriate licenses and certificates to allow them to dispose of the rubbish legally at an official disposal site.

Should you decide to have a clear out of your loft, garden, shed or garage and you have a load of stuff to get rid of, it is your responsibility to make sure that it is disposed of legally. If you hand it over to a "man with a van" who just happens to be passing by, you must make sure that they have the licenses and certificates to dispose of it legally. Ask to see them. Take a photo of them and make a note of the vehicle number. Should they not produce them, or not even have them, and they fly-tip your rubbish and it is traced to you, you are liable and may well be fined as well as being out of pocket, having paid the perpetrator to relieve you of the items in the first place.

If you see fly tipping in action, please make note of as much detail as possible, such as the vehicle number and description, or if you come across dumped items, take photographs, note the location, using "What Three Words" if possible as this pinpoints it exactly and report it on the Breckland District Council website, sending your photos as well. Once reported, it will be collected by Serco and examined for any evidence that may help to identify its origin. ([www.breckland/reportit](http://www.breckland/reportit))

The new rules for re-cycling your unwanted items at the centre in Thetford are very simple and are explained on page 18 of this magazine. So, be responsible and help to Keep Weeting Tidy!



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Touch You with My Hands, But I Will Feel You  
In My Heart Forever



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To find out more about Brandon Day Centre and the services we offer, why not get in touch.

Michelle Jarrett  
Brandon Day Centre  
Warren Close, Brandon IP27 0EE  
Tel: 01842 819777  
Email: [daycare@empanda.org.uk](mailto:daycare@empanda.org.uk)



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## Gift Vouchers Available

## New Rules for Recycling

From Monday 18th November, anyone wishing to take items to a recycling centre within Norfolk must book a day and time slot for their visit.

Although this may seem rather an inconvenience, it really is very straight forward and will prevent having to queue at busy times. There are 16 bookable slots for every 15 minute period during their working hours and staff will be available to assist you if you need help. You can also book up to a week in advance. You can either book on-line if you have a computer or call a designated number to make your booking as follows:

### Booking on-line:

- Type in Norfolk County Council
- Choose Rubbish, recycling & planning
- Choose Rubbish & recycling – this will take you to a list of where all the recycling centres are and, also, how you can dispose of various types of waste, including hazardous, DIY and large items such as freestanding, fixed and fitted furniture.
- Click on the recycling centre of your choice and whether you are bringing household or business / trade waste.
- Click on the day of your choice within the next seven days on the calendar on screen. This will then show you how many free time slots there are available every 15 minutes throughout that chosen day.
- Choose the time slot you want, add your car registration number and select "BOOK"
- An email will be sent back to you confirming your booking.

### Booking by telephone:

Call 0344 800 8020

Weeting Parish Council urges everyone to comply with this new regime and please remember that fly-tipping is an offence and fines can be very hefty if you are caught in the act, or the rubbish can be traced back to you.

**A word of caution** – if someone knocks on your door and offers to take away your DIY rubbish for a fee, make sure they are a bona fide company with a permit to take it away and dispose of it correctly. Not so long ago, a Weeting resident paid someone a significant fee, when they offered to take away his DIY rubbish, only to see, to his profound embarrassment, that this material had been found dumped in the forest off fire ride 23, photographed by dog walkers and the photos placed on the Weeting Facebook page!

# BRANDON

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