



WEETING VILLAGE LIFE



December 2019
Edition 29

Weeting In Bloom 2020



On a chilly, but luckily dry, Sunday in October, some members of the Parish Council, assisted by gardener, Ron Bloomfield, planted over 4000 spring bulbs on the wide grassy area along the main Brandon

Road near the junction with Peppers Close. This piece of ground, previously only sporting grass, should be a mass of daffodils, narcissi and crocus next year. Thanks to everyone for their help.



Mums and Toddlers Swing Together!

A new set of swings has been erected in the children's play area by the Village Hall. The wooden posts of the old set had rotted at the bottom and were unsafe. The Parish Council have decided, therefore, to replace them with metal framed swings made by Wicksteed, guaranteed for 25 years, but will last much longer.

Two of the seats are the standard bucket type for smaller children, but another consists of a dual arrangement so that a mum, or an older child, can sit opposite a toddler and have fun together.



Village Christmas Tree & Party Fun Evening



Some of you may have noticed that the Village Christmas Tree appeared on Parrot's Piece a few days ago. Members of the parish council, with the help of Westcotec and their trusty cherry picker, have decorated it with tree lights and the traditional star on top and festooned the gazebo with fairy lights. So, now we need you to help Santa to count down to the big SWITCH-ON! **This will be at 5.30pm on Saturday 7th December.**

Afterwards there will be the second evening of entertainment (the first evening is on Friday 6th December) of festive songs and fun at the Village Hall, themed with the Twelve Days of Christmas and organised by WASPs. Hot mince pies, sausage rolls, cakes, tea and coffee will be provided, but you can also bring your own nibbles if you wish. The WASPs have been practising hard to make this a super evening, so why not combine the two events? Doors open at 6.15pm, so you can just mosey round from Parrot's Piece to the hall.

WEETING ALL STAR PERFORMERS
INVITE YOU TO THEIR
TWELVE FUN DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PARTY
IN
WEETING VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER &
SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
DOORS OPEN AT 6.15pm START AT 7.00pm
ADULTS £4 / O.A.P & CHILDREN £3
LIMITED SPACE, SO PLEASE BOOK TICKETS BEFORE THE DAY - RING
CAROLE ON 01842 550919
BRING YOUR OWN DRINK, NIBBLES & VOICES
RAFFLE AND OTHER REFRESHMENTS
AT HALF TIME

VALENTINE'S QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 8th February
7.00 pm



Weeting Village Hall

£6 to Include Supper
Please bring you own plates, cutlery,
glasses drinks and nibbles

Valentine's raffle

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church Roof Fund

Calling all Quiz Lovers!

St Mary's Church is in desperate need of roof repairs following the lead theft recently.

Why not make up a team and bring your quiz knowledge to our Valentine event on Saturday February 8th and enjoy a fun evening which includes supper and a raffle?



Weeting Parish Council would like to thank all those who have helped us look after the welfare of the village during 2019 as well as all the advertisers who have supported this magazine.

We wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and all good wishes for 2020.

Editor's Contact Details:

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



School Report



Chestnut and Beech Classes: Big Soup Share

Chestnut Class at Weeting Primary School have taken part in the Royal Horticultural Society's "The Big Soup Share". After reading the story "Pumpkin Soup" the children used potatoes, carrots, pumpkins and butternut squash to create their own soup. The event provided the children with the opportunity to share their delicious soup with their families and Mr Rhodes! Everyone who attended were impressed with how delicious the soup was and several families asked for a copy of the recipe. Families very kindly made donations and the children will be using these to buy more plants for their garden



Beech class welcomed parents and carers to our Harvest Cooking Celebration. To bring our look at Harvest, Creation and Healthy Bodies units to a close, we cooked a variety of lovely foods, many of which were vegetable based. Before we began our week of cooking, a mysterious box arrived in Beech class. We discovered that 'The Baking Fairy' had delivered us an incredible range of cookery items! We are very grateful to our class fairy- Thank you so much for your generosity! We used many of the items throughout our week of cooking. The children made: Butternut and Sage soup, Courgette Muffins, Scones and had a slice of Chocolate and Orange Courgette Cake. The children worked so hard to make a range of delicious foods which were bravely tried by all! The soup was a tremendous success - warm, savoury and delicious.

Oak Class: Muckleburgh Military Collection Museum

Oak class visited the museum and were amazed at the vast display of military exhibits. There were lots of items from the World War One and World War Two collections including tanks, guns and vehicles from all around the world. There were vehicles on display in working conditions and others which are awaiting restoration.

The children had the opportunity to dress in army clothing in order to help them gain experience of what it felt like to be a soldier during World War One and World War Two. Reflecting on their visit the children commented:

Nicholas – "I have learnt new stuff on the vehicles used during WWII as I never pictured them in real life".

Robbie – "I learnt there are different types of tanks used in WWII and I enjoyed seeing the helmets and read about them with my friends."

Sophia – "It was fun and there was a lot to see and do. It was a really good museum and I would like to go back again."

Tilly – "I learnt about lots of new planes and this was useful to the topic we are learning this term on WWII. I saw different types of missiles, and real looking model people which frightened me as they looked serious."

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Day

Weeting Primary School were featured on ITV's Anglia News on Tuesday following their exciting Norfolk Wildlife Trust day. Our Reception pupils from Chestnut Class spoke very well on camera about their activities, and particularly what they had learned about hares in the local area. We were proud of their confidence and enthusiasm, and pleased they had all enjoyed their learning throughout the day.



Recycle With Michael

Weeting Primary School was named the winner of the The Salvation Army's county-wide competition to encourage recycling in schools, as part of its Recycle with Michael initiative to divert thousands of tonnes of textiles away from landfill.



1,629 pupils from nine schools in Suffolk took part in the initiative, collectively donating a phenomenal 1.75 tonnes of unwanted clothes and shoes - close to the equivalent weight of four grand pianos! However, it was Weeting Primary School which won the county competition, with 0.51 tonnes being collected by its pupils - the largest donation of goods (calculated as the highest ratio of weight to pupils) of all the schools that took part across the region.

The school received a very special visitor to present the trophy and certificate. The scheme's very own mascot Michael turned up to meet with pupils and hand the award to Weeting Primary School's Assistant Headteacher, Jacqui Hardie and the School Council.

Remembrance Assembly

This term Oak Class have been studying this World War Two and the events that led up to Armistice Day. They have been creating gas masks and researching key people from the



World War Two era. Every child in the school made a poppy which formed our Remembrance display.



The whole school joined to remember the fallen from both wars to the current day. Oak class performed the song "Peace is Flowing Like a River", World War Two poems and their own World War Two facts. Mrs Lloyd-Blackwell, and her son Toby, shared their World War Two artefacts, providing a poignant display to our assembly. All children and staff participated in a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to all members of the armed forces.



Weeting Primary School would like to thank Liam, from Year 6, for representing all our children and staff and laying our poppy wreath at the Remembrance Sunday Service.





School Report



Wow, what a term so far! In September we welcomed 160 new Year 7s, our biggest ever year group. All staff agree they have made an excellent start to the year. They are courteous, hard working and have already settled in well to Iceni life.

The other big news is...phase one of the work to replace the toilets is complete and the second phase is well under way. Additional teams of builders have started work on much needed refurbishment of some of our science labs. Pupils are also excited by the arrival of the first 100 lockers which will be made available shortly.

We were delighted by the turn out at Open Evening in October and I wanted to thank you for your support. Having our community behind us means a lot as we tackle the challenges and obstacles of the modern education system. With over 150 applications for Year 7 next year (plus pupils from Hockwold) next year is already shaping up well too.

We started the year with a real focus on mental health, we trained fifty staff in mental health first aid before the Academy re-opened in September, and the pupils have really got behind this. During a recent Mental Health Awareness day the pupils raised over £800 for the Young Minds charity.



Although we are proud of our academic performance we have also really focused on enhancing our "extra-curricular" offer and we now have more pupils than ever involved in a range of activities. In some cases, such as at our Mandarin club, we have adults and young people learning together. Our Combined Cadet Force are also now parading with up to 30 cadets on a Monday night



Although we are now full in Year 7 you can still join our waiting list, just get in touch with reception to find out more. We do also have a few spaces in Year 8 and Year 10.

Did you attend Iceni Academy / Methwold High School? We would love to hear from you if you did. You can sign up for the odd email (and to allow us to stay in touch) via our website at <http://icenimethwold.org.uk/the-old-icenian-association/>.

To finish I would just like to say Happy Christmas to everyone and to thank you for your support during 2019. It is appreciated and never taken for granted.

Stephen Plume

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!

Friends of Weeting School

Since the start of September term, the Friends of Weeting have been busy behind the scenes planning events to raise money for the Primary School. We organised an Autumn disco back in October where the children were able to dress up and compete for the 'Best Costume' and 'Best Dancer'. This raised a fantastic amount of £172.82.

We also held a Christmas Fete on Friday 22nd November which was a great success. We had a Hall full of stalls, games, refreshments and not forgetting our very own Santa's Grotto. The children of Oak class organised and manned a great selection of games too!



We were absolutely amazed at the amount of people who supported us, from the children to parents, stallholders, Santa himself, businesses of Weeting and Brandon and Hockwold Hall.



We raised an incredible £971.66 to go towards ICT equipment and new reading books for the children so a BIG thank you to everyone involved!

From all of us at Friends of Weeting School, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



ART FOR PLEASURE

The group have enjoyed another workshop this time in watercolour by Katie Millard. The subject was the wide-open beaches of the Norfolk coast. We learnt a lot of techniques to paint our county's beautiful skies.



We have also been busy creating Christmas cards which we hoped to sell at the Christmas Fair in Weeting Village Hall again this year. We hope we saw you there but, if not, we will be at the hall again for the Easter Fair when we hope you will come and speak to us and view some of our work. If you have always wanted to try your hand at painting or would like to take up an old hobby you would be most welcome on a Thursday morning 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Weeting Village Hall.

We also held our AGM recently when the group made plans for the coming year and everyone put forward suggestions for workshops and outings. Firstly we are looking forward to our Christmas lunch to add a cheerful end to this year's activities.

Further details can be obtained from:

Beryl Pountney, Club Secretary – Tel no. 01842 828750
Terry Kimpton, Club Chairman - Tel no. 01842 819732

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

WEETING ALL STAR PERFORMERS (W.A.S.P.s)

Well, here we all are getting ready for Christmas:- the trimmings are up, the puddings are made and just the cake to finish icing, or shall we just all go to Aldi's and let them do all the hard work? (Ha ha) - only kidding! But I must say that the year has gone by very quickly and I have found myself running out of time. So, what have the WASPs been up to? Earlier this year we had our pantomime and we said at one of our Summer meetings "let's get everything done for a Christmas Panto". Lots of ideas were thrown into the ring and I started to write the next panto. Our first rehearsal was held in the first week of September but it became quite clear soon after that, that there was not enough time to get everything ready – scenery, scripts, costumes and the cast learning their lines. The committee had a quick meeting and decided that to make it right it should be postponed until sometime in the new year and, after talking it over with the cast, it was decided to have the pantomime the second week of March. This time we will be having our version of "CINDERELLA".

So, we had the rehearsal time and dress rehearsal and show dates all booked for the rest of the year, with the show dates being Friday the 6th and Saturday the 7th of December. We think we have come up with a wonderful idea – David, our music maestro, suggested a party and so, with us all putting our heads together, this is exactly what we are doing.

Everybody is invited to come to our "TWELVE FUN DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PARTY". Please book your tickets early as there is only limited space, you can bring your own drink and nibbles. We will be singing lots of songs to do with the Twelve days of Christmas and we would like you to join in. Song sheets will be supplied and there will be lots of fun stuff. At half time we will be serving hot mince pies, cakes, tea and coffee and there will also be a raffle and a stall or two with Christmas gifts.



The cost will be £4.00 adults, £3.00 OAPs and children and we shall start the party at 7pm on both days, doors opening at 6.15pm.

So, come and join in the fun have a good sing-a-long, lots of laughter and food and drink.

If you can't make it, then have a very merry Christmas and New Year and we hope to see you in March for "Cinderella".

Carole



Hearing Dogs for Deaf People "A Good Time For A Good Cause."

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the Weeting Bowls Club, Lisa Jackson decided to organise another amazing charity event by flinging a 'Good Ol' Fashioned Knees Up' and inviting lots of wonderful people, who came from near, far and wide to join in.



Walter HD was quite put out, as he's usually the only Hearing Dog in the village; but we were blessed with the beautiful Golden Labrador Fudge, handsome black Cocker Spaniel Logan and sweet Tri-coloured Cocker Spaniel Elsa in training; all dogs behaved impeccably, which is more than can be said for the Humans!

We had a cuppa, a catch up, scones and all kinds of delicious homemade cakes donated by Anne Marie Taylor, baked by her own fair hand. Then we sang the afternoon away where

everyone joined in to their old time favourites.

The Bowls Club manageress, Sue Winget, pulled out all the stops, along with the urn, cups and saucers, allowing us to use the club space for free, which afforded the Hearing Dog charity an extra £30. Finley Jackson (13) donated an RAF collectors bear using it for a 'name the bear' competition and raising £53.71. Since learning about Hearing Dogs, his contributions and support has been amazing and we're all very proud of this kind and generous young man.



The £4 ticket price included afternoon tea and the chance to win a 24" TV, kindly donated by Hearing Dog recipient Veronica Colley (Hearing Dog Logan's HuMum). Thanks to the voice of reason, Sally Bracey, who stepped in at the last minute, manning the door, selling tickets and keeping us all in check. Also Elena Duke, who let no one pass without buying a raffle ticket, her constant support has been unwavering.

The entertainment was supplied in the form of Ev Clare, fresh up from London, who somehow got hold of a microphone and had us all crying with laughter, she was the star of the show.

And last but by no means least, a big thank you to everyone who came along to support and cheer for the wonderful Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Charity.

The grand total raised was £406.71. Every penny helps towards another £40,000 Hearing Dog partnership, which is a non-government funded charity that matches partnerships all over the country, including Northern Ireland. There are currently only 930 active Hearing Dog Partnerships, which isn't many considering there are around 11 million deaf people in the UK.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of all those that kindly donate, not only money, but their enthusiasm, time, kindness and endless support."

Our very good friends Gary and Eve Osborne who own Ozzies Metaphysical shop in Brandon High Street donated a whole day, along with dog related merchandise all in aid of the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People charity and Eve's son, Aaron, gave up his Saturday to help out, fetching, carrying and serving. Along with Walter, volunteer Hearing Dog Belle was there with her human Lorna Hagan and there were loads of tombola prizes and decoupage dog bottles donated by local volunteer fundraiser and organiser Lisa Jackson with her son Finley.

Treasurer, ticket seller and all-rounder, Sally Bracey, has been a great support since joining the team earlier this year. Elena Duke braved the rain to help out once again, chatting to people and flying the flag for our wonderful dogs.

One lady who was trying to get by in her electric chair ended up staying for 2 hours chatting. She'd only popped out for a pint of milk! Another lady spent £18 on the tombola, trying to win a £1.25 sudoku book; you'll be pleased to know, she finally got the prize!

The fun and laughter brightened up that rainy Saturday and the sense of community was filled with friends old and new. Hardly anyone passed us by.

Councillor Roy Brame (vice chairman of Breckland council) and his lovely wife Karen arrived to present a generous £250 donation, which bought our total raised on the day to £424.20

Thank you all who came out for us, we can't wait to see you all again at the next event.



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

The West Norfolk Aviation Society

www.westnorfolkaviationsociety.org.uk



By kind permission of Mundford Bowls Club (Hosts Colin & Janet)

Such was the enthusiasm for WNAS member Bob K's talk last month that he was asked to deliver the sequel this month. After spending over 30 years as a pilot in the RAF it is no wonder there was so much more to tell.

Having qualified as a pilot he joined 3 Squadron at Coningsby in the 1960s and his responsibilities were extreme and varied. When stationed at Laabruich in Germany, a 3 minute mobilising time was often achieved in preparing his Canberra for a potential nuclear strike. Collaborating now, with old allies and some old enemies, combined exercises were important. Target practice in the Libyan desert won them prizes for accuracy; the Salmond Bombing Trophy being one.

Compared to the American Starfighter the Canberra was aging somewhat but it still excelled, beating the American and European teams by at least 20%.

Despite this, Bob's comrades were still in awe of the Starfighter's performance and, when offered a flight in one, foot already poised on the bottom rung of the boarding ladder, his excitement was suddenly extinguished by orders to return to the mess.

The testing of ejector seats was another practice vital to a well-trained squadron; here again the Martin Baker equipment was superior to that of the competition.

He was later invited to go to Oman and demonstrate to the Sultan's air force procedures for parachuting from aeroplanes. The preferred types were Islanders, Dorniers and his favourite: Buffalos. After a cancer scare he was ordered to return to England where he was invited to assist with the formation of Air Wales and a charter company at Ipswich, operating Dorniers. With this experience he was asked to return to help his mate, the Sultan, refine his air force. As if his life's adventure so far wasn't enough, Bob, having a musical bent, still felt the urge to express himself in other ways and formed a band with some of the locals. They called themselves 'Rashid goes to Nizwa'; 'The Duelling Banjos' being their signature tune. Bob now on a high and, having talked for nearly two hours, Jenny his wife, prompt and manager, cautiously coaxed him down to a safe landing.

Author: Nigel Tooth 9/11/2019

WEETING VILLAGE HALL

Hi all, well what a year we have had this year so far and a busy time has been had by all one way or another.

Well the Dance in August went off really well and so did the Quiz & Nibbles and the Race Afternoon, making much needed money to go towards repairs and refurbishments that are always needed to keep this lovely hall going.

We were having problems with the water, which has now been sorted, (fingers crossed), thanks to Peter Willison (our chairman) who has been in regular contact with Anglian Water and has had a plumber in to sort out the problems, Peter has also been in touch with the Calor Gas company to make sure that the heating is working properly this winter as we all remember the problems we had a few years ago when they were out of action.

The clubs that use the hall on a regular basis have been in full swing since the beginning of September, some clubs returning after their summer breaks, like Judo and the Weeting Weenies.

And by the time this report comes out we will have had our Annual Christmas Fayre, organised by Carole Wilkins, with some 32 tables being booked with a further 6 on the waiting list should any of them fail to turn up, and we will have had another dance featuring The Strollers, we do hope that all who turned up for these events enjoyed themselves



As with most things that we organise for the village hall, we find it is the same faces each time turning up to set up and put away at the end of the evening/day. We would like to remind all users of the hall that under the rules of hiring, it is expressly stated that you should put things back as you find them, in other words clean the table tops, wipe up any spillages and put the tables and chairs back where you found them. Repeatedly, Mrs Angie Page our head cleaner, goes in the hall after someone has used it only to find chairs put away in front of the emergency exit and the hall not as clean as the hirer found it. Rules and regulations as to the use of the hall are available on request.



We have many things in the pipeline for the New Year, so keep an eye on the notice boards and come and support your village hall and enjoy the fun things that the Village Hall Committee has worked hard to put on for your entertainment.

If you are new to this village and please come along and check the foyer notice board for all the things that are going on in this Village Hall on a regular basis for both young and old – and if there are any groups you wish to join, feel free to contact the clubs direct. Such as Judo, dance groups and the drama group, and for the older members of the community there is always keep fit, line dancing, carpet bowls and many more – come and join us.

(Editor's note - also see page 10 of this magazine)

We would like to wish everyone in our community a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

On behalf of Village Hall Committee
Karen Scott, Treasurer

Brandon Speakers Club



Scared of public speaking?
Scared of that up coming job interview?
Worried about talking in large groups?
Worried about sounding like an idiot?

Whether speaking to 1 or 1000

Brandon speakers club can help with those butterflies.
Come build your confidence, skills and make some friends
in the process

Come along to our meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
Function Room, The Ram hotel, High Street, Brandon, IP27 0AX
19.00 Start and 21.00 Finish Everyone Welcome!
Come and start making a change

Methwold Theatre Club

THE STAGE AWAITS YOU!

BE IT ON, OUT FRONT or BEHIND

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
COME JOIN THE FUN

ACTORS & PERFORMERS

The 21 Room
St. George's Hall Complex
High Street, Methwold, Norfolk IP26 4NT
Tel: 01366 727 526
www.methwoldtheatreclub.org.uk

WEEKLY MEETINGS
TUESDAYS: 7.30 PM
email: mtc@methwold.net

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Thetford Voices Sing Christmas Cheer

Thetford Voices is holding its Carolling Day this year on Friday 20th December.

We warmly invite young singers from across Breckland and beyond to take part in the workshop which is open at no charge to all enthusiastic 6 - 16year olds.

Meeting at 1pm in Thetford Grammar School, we rehearse carols and Christmas songs with a string band before an afternoon singing in residential homes across Thetford. The day ends with a concert in St Cuthbert's Church for families, friends and other guests.

And Friday's singers are also invited to sing at the Farmers' Market at Wyken Vineyard, Stanton on Saturday morning, 21st December - carols with cookies and hot chocolate.

Over a dozen years, Carolling Day has become a well-established part of the Christmas festivities. Many performers will be back again for 2019 but there is always a welcome for new singers. Do come and join us. For further information, times and enrolment forms, email thetfordvoices@gmail.com, telephone 01842 820060 or go to Thetford Singers' website (www.thetfordsingers.org.uk/thetford-voices)

Thetford Voices is the junior branch of Thetford Singers (charity no. 2691421). Carolling Day is supported by Thetford Grammar School, Coach Services of Thetford, Cynthia Della Hoy's Croxton Charity & The D'Oyly Carte Trust.

Over 60's Club

As mentioned in my last report, we were going to have a fish and chip lunch at our September meeting and I am pleased to say this went ahead with, once again, excellent food and service from our local fish shop, George's. We also had our mystery trip that month and took our coach full of members and friends to Walton-on-the-Naze, where we all had a lovely time.

In October the ladies who form the Breckland Handbell Ringers very kindly came along to play and explain to us all about handbell ringing. Several of us, (myself included), took up the offer to have a go at handbell ringing. We really enjoyed this, but I am sorry to say that what we played was not very recognisable and this made us all appreciate just how hard the art of bell ringing is. The ladies do not charge for their services but very kindly donate any monies received to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. We were only too happy to support this charity as they do such a great job.

We had a stall at the Weeting Village Hall on Sunday the 17th of November and were pleased people came along to support the local clubs.

Unfortunately, we have had to change the venue for our Christmas dinner, (due to events beyond our control), but, luckily, have been able to find another venue. We are all now looking forward to our Christmas dinner on the 12th of December at The Red Lion in Hockwold. I am pleased to say we are still attracting new members.

All that remains for me to say is I would like to wish all you readers, on behalf of Weeting Over 60's club, a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dorothy Young (Coffee)

A Christmas Fantasia!



Thetford Singers invite you to Step into Christmas with them and enjoy a Fantasia on Christmas Carols at Thetford Methodist Church. Rudolph will be putting in a musical appearance along with the more traditional Christmas protagonists like Jesus Christ (the Apple Tree) and Mary.

We are immensely pleased to welcome Baritone John Holland Avery back to Thetford for this performance and also to feature the Breckland Handbell Group with pieces from their repertoire.

Please come and join us for an evening of songs, carols, bells and congregational singing to get us all into the Christmas spirit on 13th December 2019 at 7.30pm in Thetford Methodist Church (doors open at 7pm) during their Christmas Tree Festival. Tickets are £8 from the Leaping Hare Box Office.

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In consideration of the darker and colder nights, our winter sessions will be held at the **Weeting Bowls Club on Fridays between 1.30 and 2.30pm**. They are free of charge and are organised by Breckland District Council.

We look forward to meeting you.

Lorraine Craven – Transitional Support Officer
Breckland Council



WEETING GUN CLUB COME AND JOIN US!

We are a friendly clay pigeon gun club looking for new members, we are of all abilities and ages, anyone is welcome.

We shoot on various Sunday afternoons throughout the year.

We have skeet, ABT DTL and other free moving traps to make each shoot different.

£35.00 for a year's membership & £7.00 for 25 clays.

Anyone new can shoot as a guest on their 1st visit and will get their 1st 25 clays ½ price.

Contact the below for more information/fixtures list.

Del (Chairman) on 07741 285278
James (Treasurer) on 01953 529579



Find us on Facebook
[@weetinggunclubbest1977](https://www.facebook.com/weetinggunclubbest1977)

Parish Council Notes

The Parish Council are pleased to welcome Sarah O'Donnell to the committee. Sarah was co-opted at the September council meeting and replaces Paul Smith who resigned in August prior to him moving away from Weeting.

At the moment, there are two planning applications that are of concern to the village: The first is that for the Crematorium. Contrary to some speculation, it is still "Live". It was due to go before the Breckland District Council Planning Committee on the 28th October but was withdrawn as further information and consultation was required. It is unlikely that it will be on the agenda for the December committee meeting.

With regard to Tavalera Development's application for 450 dwellings on land at Mill Farm, further information and consultation is needed before it can be put on the agenda. In the interim, Breckland District Council's draft Local Plan is likely to be adopted at the next meeting of the Full Council on the 28th November. This effectively sets the Council's Building Policy for the next twenty years or so. It also means that the Council has their Five Years Land Supply for building.

Some of you may have noticed that the toddlers' swing set on the Playing Field has been replaced recently. The feedback we have received so far would suggest that it is a "hit" and will be popular with mums and toddlers alike! Over the next few years we are going to have to replace all the wooden play equipment as the supports that are in the ground are likely to fail. We are monitoring the equipment regularly as it is examined every week by John Reay and has to undergo an annual inspection by ROSPA. We will replace each piece as it becomes necessary with Wicksteed benchmark equipment or similar as this has a lifespan of 50+ years.

For a while, the village was without a clothing bank. This was due to the fact that the contractors had been changed. John Reay assures me that this new bank is easier to put stuff in than the old one and it doesn't jam up so easily!

It was initially announced that the Christmas Tree lights would be switched on on the 30th November. However, it would have clashed with the events in Mundford, Brandon and other villages nearby. So, it has been decided that we will have our "Switch On" at 5:30pm on the 7th December instead. Santa will be in attendance and then, immediately afterwards, the doors will open at the Village Hall at 6.15pm for the Twelve Days of Christmas event which starts at 7pm!

Most will be aware that Bidwells hosted a presentation with regard to their plans for the land at New Lodge Farm which has existing planning for 54 dwellings. It is their intention to increase the number of dwellings to 74 with there being a mix of social, affordable and shared equity housing. Obviously, they will have to submit an application to Planning at some time in the New Year.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

?? Who's Who ??

Weeting Parish Councillors

Cllr Margaret Burlingham	01842 811177	-	Please contact Margaret for street lighting problems
Cllr Tom Childerhouse	01842 811469		tjchilderhouse@btconnect.com
Cllr Clodagh Drewry	01842 815073		clobagh-drewry@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Margaret Lister (V-Chair)	01842 810467		margaretlister11@gmail.com
Cllr Mike Nairn (Chair)	01842 810212		mike.nairn@btinternet.com
Cllr Sue Nairn	01842 810212		sue.nairn@btinternet.com
Cllr Sarah O'Donnell	01842 550603		sarah.odonnell28@gmail.com
Cllr Jeff Prosser	01842 812672		jeffrey_prosser@yahoo.com
Cllr Sandra Walmsley	01842 812672		sandrawalmsley@rocketmail.com

Weeting Parish Clerk

Mrs Pauline Angus	07392 004834		clerk@weetingparishcouncil.org.uk 50 Brecklands, Mundford, Norfolk, IP26 5EG
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Breckland District Councillor

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen	01953 688522		sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk
Cllr Robert Kybird	01842 753132		robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk

Norfolk County Councillor

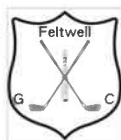
Cllr Fabian Eagle	07450 679838		fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

Mrs Elizabeth Truss	020 7219 3000		elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.com
House of Commons			
SW1A 0AA			

Club Spotlight

FELTWELL GOLF CLUB – A COURSE TO BE PROUD OF



New to Feltwell Golf Club

If you are new to golf and would like to take up a new sport – no matter what your age - or would like to come back to the game after a break, we can offer you a great deal and can cater for all standards of golfing expertise, whether you are a novice or an experienced player. We offer an all-round golfing experience with excellent facilities. If you want to join a Golf Club, look no further - we are currently offering a superb deal of 15 months membership for the price of 12 - an offer not to be missed. Call Jo Bates now, on 07855 821116, to find out more on these and other incentives we can offer you.

Loyalty Cards

You don't have to be a member to play our course, we welcome all visitors and offer very competitive Green Fee rates as well as an opportunity to take advantage of lessons with our Pro, Jo Bates (PGA Professional). All Green Fee players are entitled to one of our Loyalty Cards, simply ask for a card when you come up to play – and for every 5 times you come to Feltwell Golf Club you get your 6 game absolutely **FREE**. Visiting us can be an all-round golfing experience; arrive at the club and buy a bucket of balls to practice on our Driving Range, or get some bunker and/or chipping and putting practice; then buy your round and play on our excellent course.

Golf is available 7 days a week: our new winter opening hours for the Bar and Restaurant will be from 10am until 4pm on Tuesday-Thursday; from 10am until 9pm on Friday and Saturday and 10am until 5pm on Sunday. Plenty of time to enjoy a drink, try our Ale of the Month and have a meal. Robert is taking bookings on 07376 182419 for meals, Afternoon Teas and Sunday Carveries, so don't miss out.

Visitors are always very welcome at **Feltwell Golf Club** – you don't have to **be** a member or even **come with** a member. Simply, enquire in the office, Pro Shop or the Bar, buy your ticket and enjoy a game of golf.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to be sure to keep up to date with what's going on here at Feltwell Golf Club.

Remember you are never too young or too old to start playing golf and we look forward to seeing you soon at Feltwell Golf Club

MOBILE LIBRARY



5th December 2019
2nd January 2020
30th January 2020
27th February 2020
26th March 2020

Angerstein Close	10.10 – 10.25
St Edmund Close	10.30 – 10.45
Saxon Place	10.50 – 11.00
All Saints	11.05 – 11.15
Glebe Road	11.20 – 11.45
Rectory Lane	11.50 – 12.10



Interested in photography, taking up a new hobby or want to revisit an old one why not come along to one of meetings, meet the members and find what is on our calendar for 2020. We meet on alternate Wednesdays at the Baptist Church Hall (behind the Chapel) on the High Street in Brandon. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the building and our

December meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th December when we will be holding a Jpeg Competition. A golden opportunity for you to see the standard of photography within the club.

Following the Christmas break we open again on Wednesday 8th January 2020 with a Studio Portrait evening. We have experienced members on hand to give advice on lighting, camera settings and answer any other questions you may have. They will also set the 'stage' for the models enabling us to take a variety of pictures during the evening, whether it's a close-up image or taken at a distance.

You don't need to spend a fortune on expensive cameras to start learning about photography, many phones, compact and bridge cameras take some really good images and these are well worth looking at, or if you are unsure come along to any of our meetings and speak to us. Learn how to best focus your camera and compose your pictures, we often have magazines available for you to browse through, giving ideas on how you can improve your talent or encourage you to take up a new hobby.

Everyone is welcome to join in and we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

Don't forget you can follow us on Facebook and keep up to date with what's going on.

Check out our website on www.brandonphotographicclub.co.uk

The Weeting Walkers

The Weeting Walkers meet every Tuesday morning, starting and finishing at the Saxon Pub, except those marked in **bold** which start and finish at Brandon Leisure Centre, Church Road, Brandon (B) or start earlier (W). Research has shown that walking is an excellent activity to improve your health, so why not join us and take the opportunity to enjoy some of the lesser seen areas of our countryside at the same time?

3rd December	9.30am (W)	4.3 miles
10th December	10am	5.8 miles
17th December	10am	5.1 miles
24th December	No Walk	
31st December	No Walk	
7th January	10am	4.7 miles
14th January	10am	4.6 miles
21st January	10am	3.5 miles
28th January	9.20am (W)	5.3 miles
4th February	10am	5.97 miles
11th February	10am	5.1 miles
18th February	10am	4.0 miles
25th February	10am	4.6 miles
3rd March	10am	4.7 miles
10th March	9.30am	4.3 miles

Our walks are organised as part of the **Ramblers** and are short but brisk. We encourage walkers to go at their own pace with a front and back marker. We do not stop during the walk, but there is a welcome stop for coffee or tea at the end. There is no need to book – just arrive in good time to hear the pre-walk introduction. You are welcome to come for a taster walk first to see you like it! A good pair of walking shoes and adequate outdoor clothing is all that is needed as, on occasions, it can be wet and muddy.

For further details of all the walks in Breckland (and throughout the UK) please go to the Ramblers website www.ramblers.org.uk

Rector's Report

"Hear the Angels"

I'm amazed how quickly this year has flown by. It seems like yesterday that we were celebrating last Christmas. My daughter's long-awaited wedding in June which was 'forever' in the planning seems now like a distant memory. The clocks have once more returned to wintertime and the nights are rapidly drawing in. Christmas lights twinkle in the darkness and the season is here once more.

We have an unexpected extra 'gift' this December as the country goes to the polls after a topsy-turvy year in politics. When musing at Remembrance time about how the people of this nation unified under the horrors of continuous enemy bombardment, privation and rationing on the Home Front, the contrast 80 years on seems stark. Hardship necessitated community spirit to flourish. Of course, people had their differences – the war years and their immediate aftermath were not some kind of community utopia, but people understood the priority of setting political and other differences aside knowing that they needed above all to reach out and help each other, to mend and make do. Parents found creative ways of enabling Christmas to come alive for youngsters despite a lack of material goods and even Christmas trees!

We live now in a nation dominated by 'virtual' community. People are far more isolated than in the 1940's and '50's. Loneliness especially among the elderly is recognized now as a national epidemic. Many more people are isolated and feel stigmatized by poverty, be they in low paid work or on benefits. Polarised, strident political voices for "Remain" or "Leave" sully both on-line and face to face conversations, with the press and social media actively fanning and promoting toxic social division and fear. I suspect that for most of us, Brexit, whether we are for or against, seems like a very long tunnel where the light has been slowly, painfully snuffed out. Even Parliament ground to a halt, paralysed by discord.

The words of one of our well-known Christmas carols rings true in these times.

O hush the noise ye men of strife and hear the angels sing.

Somehow, we need as a nation to find the time and space to reflect – to shut out the media cacophony and to reconnect with each other, to rebuild face to face community and trust. We DO need to hear the song of the angels and their message of peace and goodwill to all. In the prologue to St John's Gospel we hear words of comfort and hope:

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

Our Christmas decorations image this – thousands, millions of little twinkly lights on houses, in streets, piercing the midwinter gloom. They are symbolic of a deeper truth.

A child, born to a teenage mother amid the squalor of an outhouse into poverty *is* that light. He is none other than God with us. The song of the angels, *Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth* is a song of hope. It is our song too if we choose to listen.

We need the light that shines in the darkness, the light that brings hope and unifies us as a community of love now more than ever before. We need to find that stillness, that awe and wonder at something so much greater than ourselves – to 'listen to the angels'. No matter how the Gospel story is told – complete with angels and shepherds, stars and wise men - that Jesus was born, is historical fact. He *is the light that shines in the darkness*, bringing peace and goodwill to all people, offering hope in the darkness of our world's conflict, divisions and materialism. The Christmas story shows us a way forward towards reconciliation and transforming joy and remains Good News for all.

May the angels' song of peace and goodwill be with you all this Christmas.

Joan Horan [Rector]



St Mary's Church

Rector: Joan Horan (Tel: 01842 828034)
Churchwardens: Julianne Young (Tel: 01842 813581)
Tommy Saward (Tel: 01842 813601)

Regular services:

Second Sunday of the month: Service of the Word at 11am
Third Sunday of the month: Eucharist at 11am

Christmas services:

Posada / Christingle: Weeting School, December 16th 2pm
Midnight Mass & Eucharist: Christmas Eve 10.30pm - Weeting
Christmas Day: Felwell Church 10am

St Mary's, Weeting Roof Update

St Mary's Weeting PCC have submitted an application for permission from the Diocese to replace the lead which was stolen from the Lady Chapel roof in June with heavy duty felt. Permission has been granted subject to planning consent for change of materials from Breckland Council. We have been told that the Council has a considerable backlog of planning permissions to get through so despite the urgency to complete this work within the Diocesan timeline we are currently held up from proceeding by the Council which is most frustrating. The decision to replace the roof with felt was reached upon advice from the Diocesan architect. Replacing the roof with lead or another metal covering would be prohibitively expensive and well outside the financial resources of the parish. Though felt is regarded as a 'temporary' solution, it will protect the building very effectively over a number of years and will offer the PCC some breathing space to move ahead with other pressing repairs to the south porch and aisle.

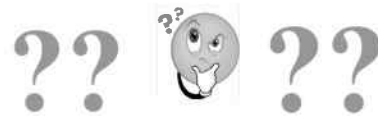
Funding repairs on this scale is not easy. Though the insurance will cover part of the cost of replacing the roof, it will not cover it all and we've had to make a decision as a PCC to try and cover this ourselves so as to focus on making grant applications for the more extensive and expensive south porch/aisle repairs.

To this end we're holding a Valentine's Quiz night in the Village Hall on Saturday February 8th starting at 7.00pm. Tickets are £6 per head to include supper. Please supply your own plates, cutlery, drinks and nibbles. There will be a Valentines Raffle with all sorts of goodies to be won for the romantic at heart.

St Mary's is our village church where all are welcome and where life's milestones are celebrated. Please gather your teams and come and enjoy a fun community evening and help 'raise the roof' for St Mary's.

Joan Horan [Rector]

VALENTINE'S
QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 8th February
7.00 pm



Weeting Village Hall
£6 to Include Supper
Please bring your own plates, cutlery,
glasses drinks and nibbles
Valentine's raffle

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church Roof Fund

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLUB	CONTACT	LOCATION	DAY AND TIME
Indoor Archery	Mike 07894 904090	The Dome, Mildenhall	Saturday 12.30 - 3.30pm
Art For Pleasure	Beryl Pountney 01842 828750	Village Hall	Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm
Beading	Christine Cornell 07740 863017	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00pm
Bingo	Angie Page 01842 814147	Village Hall	Tuesday Open at 6.30pm Eves down at 7.30pm
Brandon & District Classic Vehicle Club	John Maxim 01842 811032	The Ram Brandon	2nd Monday 7.30pm
Brandon & District Camera Club	Denise Whiting 01842 862079	Baptist Church Brandon	Alternate Wednesdays 7.30pm
Brandon & District Society of Model Engineering	Peter Ephithite 01842 813154	The Ram Brandon	1st Wednesday 7.30pm
British Legion	Doris O'Grady 01842 812323	Village Hall	3rd Wednesday 2.00 – 4.00pm
Carpet Bowls	Heather 01842 815406	Village Hall	Friday 9.45 – 12 midday
Darts	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Thursday 7.00pm
Funky Cat Children's Gym	Anita 07885 414344	Village Hall	Tuesday 10.00 - 12 midday (except for school holidays)
Green Bowls	Carol Newman (sec) 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Friday 6.00 – Late Sunday 12 midday – 4.00pm
Gun Club	Andy Goldsmith 01953 886501	Weeting Gun Club	Alternate Sunday January to October
HATS	Gary Sander 01842 814679	Hockwold Hall	Tuesday & Thursday 7.30pm
History Group	Robert Childerhouse 01842 811520	Various - call to check location	Last Thursday 7.30pm
Indoor Bowls	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Stoke Ferry	3rd Friday
Judo	Donna 07738 381970	Village Hall	Saturday 9.45 – 11.45am All ages – novices welcome
Keep Fit	Dorothy Kent 01842 810378	Village Hall	Monday 9.30 – 11am (except Bank Holidays)
Knit & Natter	Vivien Muir 01842 810003 Doris O'Grady 01842 812323	Village Hall	Last Monday of the month (or previous week if a Bank Holiday) 2.00 – 4.00pm
Line Dance	Vicky 01842 812877	Village Hall	Monday 7.00 - 9.00pm Friday 2.00 – 4.00pm
Methwold Area Children's Centre	Louise Ramsay 01842 815928	Old School House, Weeting	Monday - Friday 8.30am-4.30pm
Model Car	John Abbott 01366 385452	Village Hall	Alt. Wednesday 7.30 – 10.00pm
Over 60's	Jean Monk 01842 814553	Village Hall	1st Tuesday 2.00 – 4.00pm
Patchwork & Quilting	Christine Cornell 07740 863017	Bowls Club	2nd Monday 11.15 – 3.00pm (excluding December & January)
Pool	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7.00pm
St Mary's Church	Julianne Young (Churchwarden) 01842 813581	St Mary's Church	See list of Service times
Shoestrung Theatre Company	Natasha Morgan	IES Breckland School Crown Street, Brandon	Tuesday 7.00 - 10.00pm
Thetford Singers	Sue Naim 01842 810212	Methodist Rooms Tanner Street Thetford	Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
W.A.S.P.s	Carole Wilkins 01842 550919	Village Hall	Friday 6.00 - 8.00pm
Weeting Steam Rally	Wendy Young Rally Co-ordinator 01842 810317		Monday - Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm
Weeting Walkers	Keith & Linda Thomas 01760 756455	Meet at The Saxon pub car park	Tuesday 10.00am
Weeting Weenies	Wendy Lashley 01842 810381	Village Hall	Wednesday 10.00 – 12 midday (school term time only)
Weeting Football	Karl Smith 07539 468875 Sandy Smith 07951 741294	Weeting Playing Field	Contact Karl or Sandy for details

Winter Gardening

Once again, the dormant season is here. It's time to take stock of the year's successes and failures, and to get on with planning for the new gardening year. In frosty weather little can be done in the garden as the ground is too hard to dig or plant and the lawn should not be walked on. Yet, despite low temperatures and short daylight hours there are some useful tasks that can be done. If the weather is mild and the ground is not frozen it's a perfect time to plant bare root roses, trees and shrubs. It's also a great time to start any construction jobs that do not require cementing or painting, such as building or knocking down sheds, putting up a fence, making or repairing raised beds, laying out gravel paths or making a rock garden, whilst the soil is workable and all of the nearby plants are dormant.

If you have planted any trees or shrubs during the winter months, check that they haven't been lifted by frost. Once lifted, they can rock in the wind and their roots will be slower to get established. Re-firm the plants by pressing down on the surrounding soil with your feet. You may also need to stake any tall or exposed plants to prevent further wind rock.

If the surface of water features or a pond has frozen solid, and particularly if it contains fish, break the ice with care. If the ice is very thick, use a little boiling water rather than a hammer, to avoid shock waves which can kill pond life beneath.

The long winter evenings provide plenty of time to browse through seed catalogues and plan new projects in the garden. Late January to early February, or as early as possible, is an ideal time to buy seeds otherwise they may be too late for their proper sowing or planting date.

Year-round gardening has many rewards on health and well-being. As most people tend to stay longer indoors in winter months, gardening is a good excuse to get outside and be active. Winter gardening can also provide emotional benefits by adding attractive or dramatic evergreens, winter flowers, scented plants, berries, and attractive barks to the garden pleasing the senses and helping to lift a dreary mood. Plants with fragrance are best appreciated when planted by doorways or entrances in regular use, and flowers can be cut and brought inside. Winter gardening can also be cost effective as growing herbs and vegetables can save on grocery bills. Harvesting home-grown nutrient rich vegetables during the winter months can help ward off sickness, improve the immune system and keep the body running at optimum level. There is no question that the benefits of winter gardening are vast.

In January, we'll have new stock arriving at the shop, like seed potatoes and Primroses full of colour ushering in the beginning of a new gardening year that is full of promise.

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc (hons)

P&R Garden Supplies, Fengate Drive, Weeting 01842 814800

www.p-rgardensupplies.co.uk



P&R Garden Supplies A Traditional Plant Based Garden Centre

We'd like to wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for all your custom throughout the year, we look forward to meeting all of your gardening needs in 2020!

Paul & Rachel.

Visit our Family Run Garden Centre for quality garden products, friendly helpful service & expert gardening advice!

*Shrubs *Perennials *Herbs *Alpines *Roses
*Hanging Baskets *Ornamental Pots *Compost *Seeds
*Garden Chemicals *Garden Sundries *Tools
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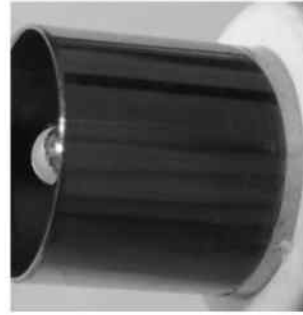
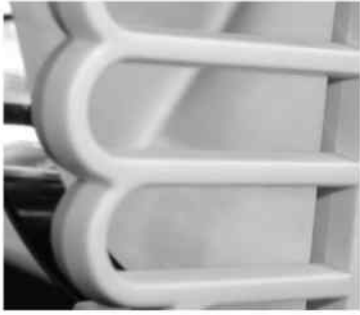
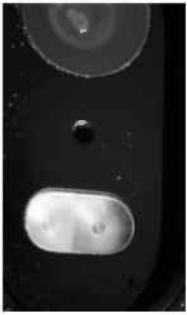
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WE WISH EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Puzzle Page

A varied 10 objects from around the home – inside and out. Several may appear on many items.
Can you identify what they are? Answers on page 14.



1

2

3

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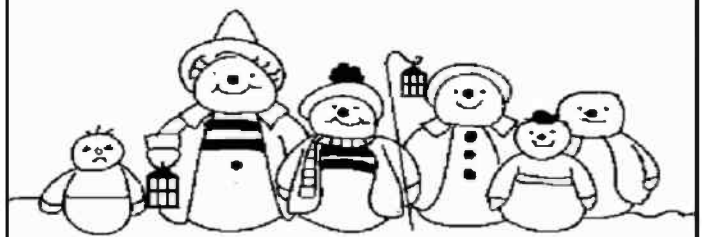
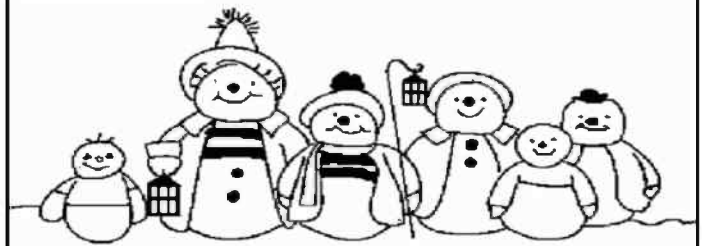
Find these words in the puzzle.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| chimney | St. Nicholas |
| Vixen | Donder |
| Blitzen | Comet |
| Cupid | Dasher |
| Dancer | reindeer |
| sleigh | Prancer |
| Happy Christmas | |



The Night Before Christmas
Word Search

Spot the Difference



Editor's Note:



The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published at the beginning of **March 2020**. 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 14th February 2020**
I look forward to hearing from you.

Animals That Went to War

Animals have played an important part during military conflict throughout history, some of them in rather surprising ways. Many of them, in more recent times, have received recognition for their bravery in the form of The Dickin Medal.

Maria Dickin CBE, founder of the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), became aware of the incredible bravery displayed by animals on active service and the Home Front during World War 2 and instituted the medal in 1943. Recognised as the animal equivalent to the Victoria Cross, it is a large, bronze medallion bearing the words "For Gallantry" and "We Also Serve" all within a laurel wreath. The ribbon is striped green, dark brown and sky blue representing water, earth and air to symbolise the naval, land and air forces and can be awarded to any deserving animal that displays outstanding acts of bravery or devotion to duty in any theatre of war throughout the world.

During the past 75 years it has been awarded 71 times to 34 dogs, 4 horses, 1 cat and 32 pigeons plus one Honorary award to Warrior, dubbed 'the horse the Germans could not kill'.

Warrior arrived on the Western Front on 11th August 1914 with General Jack Seely (who later became Lord Mottistone) and remained on the front line throughout the war. They saw action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Warrior was dug out of the mud of Passchendaele and twice trapped under the burning beams of his stables. Many times he charged towards the enemy, only to witness the men and his fellow cavalry horses cut down by gunfire and shells.

According to records, Warrior displayed gallantry above and beyond the call of duty. He was an inspiration to the soldiers as they faced their greatest fears in the battle against bayonets, bullets, gas and tanks. Despite sustaining several injuries, Warrior survived and returned home to the Isle of Wight in 1918, where he lived with the Seely family until his death aged 33.

Horses, Mules and Donkeys

Whether pulling chariots, transporting equipment, ammunition or carrying people into battle, the horse has seen more action in wars than any other animal. In fact, the earliest equine training manual dates back to 1350 BC!

By the outbreak of World War 1, advances in military technology meant that conditions on the front were as dangerous for horses as for humans and in just one day during the Battle of Verdun in France in 1916, some 7,000 horses were killed, including almost 100 that died after being struck by a French naval gun blast. Horses were also more susceptible to the elements and thousands succumbed to exhaustion, disease and poison gas attacks. Mules were found to have tremendous stamina in extreme climates and over the most difficult terrain, serving courageously in the freezing mud on the Western Front and later at Monte Cassino in World War 2. Equally they toiled unflinchingly in the oppressive heat of Burma, Eritrea and Tunisia. Many injured animals might have been lost without the efforts of units such as Britain's Royal Army Veterinary Corps, which treated more than 2.5 million injured horses during World War 1. Of these, 75% were successfully returned to service. Nevertheless, it is estimated that in total during

the 1914 – 1918 conflict, 10 million soldiers and 8 million military horses, mules and donkeys died.

Elephants

Elephants regularly participated in military campaigns in ancient times, most famously during the Carthaginian general Hannibal's legendary trek over the Alps in 218 BC. According to Greek and Roman chroniclers, these giant creatures had one fatal flaw that enemy armies exploited as a countermeasure – the sound of a squealing pig could give even the largest trained elephant a debilitating fright!

Camels

Camels have long taken part in combat operations, most notably in the Middle East and North Africa during both World Wars. Arabian camels (dromedaries - one hump) have been domesticated for about 3,500 years and have long been valued as pack animals as they can carry large loads for up to 25 miles a day. They store up to 80 pounds of fat in their hump which they can break down into water and energy when sustenance is not available, enabling them to travel up to 100 miles across the desert without water.

Camels rarely sweat, even in desert temperatures that reach 49 degrees Celcius (120 Fahrenheit) and in winter, even desert plants may hold enough moisture to allow a camel to live without water for several weeks. When they do reach water, however, they soak it up like a sponge and a very thirsty camel can drink 30 gallons in only 13 minutes! Other adaptations help them thrive in desert conditions. Their nostrils close to keep sand at bay and they have bushy eyebrows and two rows of long eyelashes to protect their eyes. Large, tough lips enable them to pick at dry and thorny desert vegetation and big, thick footpads help them navigate the rough rocky terrain and shifting desert sands.



Camels also took part in an improbable experiment in the Southwest United States in the mid nineteenth century. The U.S. Army faced the difficult task of hauling supplies across newly acquired lands where the arid and inhospitable terrain proved too harsh for traditional beasts of burden, such as horses and mules. Thus, the U.S. Camel Corps was formed composed of 60 plus camels that were purchased and shipped to America in the 1850's. At first all went well on numerous surveying missions, the camels impressing their military handlers with their strength and ability to survive on little food and water. However, trouble soon arose when the dromedaries' irritable and stubborn dispositions started spooking the other army animals. Shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the Camel Corps was discontinued – some of the camels fell into the hands of private citizens, but some escaped into the wild and travelled as far as Canada, where residents reported seeing feral camels until the 1930's!

Pigeons

The use of homing pigeons as military messengers dates back to the ancient Greeks and Persians, but it wasn't until the late 19th and early 20th centuries that birds were used in large scale intelligence efforts. During both World Wars, the United States and United Kingdom assembled special pigeon service units comprising tens of thousands of birds. They were considered so important to the British war effort during World War 1 that the army issued orders aimed at protecting them. Intentionally killing or hurting a homing pigeon could result in a six months jail sentence. More than 16,000 homing pigeons were parachuted into Europe during World War 2, including Gustav who flew more than 150 miles back to England on D-Day to deliver the first official word of the Normandy landings.

Dogs

The dog's innate qualities of intelligence and devotion have been valued and used by forces in conflicts. Among their many duties these faithful animals ran messages, laid telegraph wires, detected mines, dug out bomb victims and acted as guard or patrol dogs. Many have battled on despite horrific wounds and in terrifying circumstances to the limit of their endurance, showing indomitable courage and supreme loyalty to their handlers.



Glow-worms

One of the most unlikely non-human contributions to World War 1 was made by the European glow-worm which emits light by bioluminescence. Whilst huddled in dank, dark trenches, enlisted men and officers alike collected these incandescent insects in jars by the thousands. These lanterns allowed soldiers to examine intelligence reports, study battle maps or simply read comforting letters from home. A study undertaken in 2010 proved that just 10 glow-worms can provide the same amount of illumination as a modern-day street-lamp.

Garden Slugs

Believe it or not, the lowly garden slug was used to protect the American soldiers during World War 1. In June 1918, slugs were taken to the battlefields during the final 5 months of the war because they could detect mustard gas long before humans could. Slugs are able to detect 1 particle of gas per 10-12,000,000 particles of air, which is three times greater than a human.

When they came into contact with the gas, the slugs visibly compressed their bodies and closed their breathing pores, giving early warning to the soldiers to don their gas masks, thereby saving many lives. The slugs themselves survived the gas attacks without a problem.


Mascots

Cats, dogs, birds, monkeys and fox cubs have also been used as pets or mascots.



- 1 - Mobile phone camera. 2 - Potato masher. 3 - Power switch.
- 4 - TV aerial connector. 5 - LED light bulb.
- 6 - Double button toilet flush. 7 - Office paper hole punch.
- 8 - Food / drink can pull ring. 9 - Remembrance Poppy stalk.
- 10 - A screw thread

Answers to Picture Puzzle on page 12



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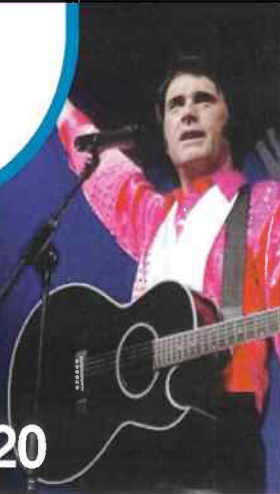
A big THANK YOU to all of our girls from Weeting and surrounding areas who took part in Girls' Night Out 2019. Early figures show around £200,000 has been raised, so "well done" to all those involved.

The event next year will be held on 12th September 2020, so make a note in your diaries and remember we also need marshalls.

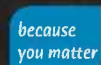
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St Nicholas Hospice Care



St Nicholas Hospice Care believes everyone matters in life and death. The support they receive from people across West Suffolk and Thetford enables them to equip the community, provide care and to strive for something better for people living with dying, death and grief.

The Hospice, which provides care from its hospice site in Hardwick Lane, Bury St Edmunds, cares for people in their own homes and runs support groups in community venues, celebrates its 35th anniversary this year.

The charity's Open House session at the Thetford Methodist Church, Tanner Street, every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm, brings hospice care into the community, offering additional support for those coping with bereavement. The free session offers a friendly environment where people can drop in for tea or coffee, with hospice staff and volunteers always on hand to greet visitors and answer any questions.

Hospice Neighbours, the charity's volunteer-led service which started in 2010, aims to help those with life-shortening and life-limiting illness and their families by providing companionship and support with the little jobs that can become overwhelming when you are ill.

The charity, which relies on the help of more than 700 volunteers, needs to raise more than £11,000 each and every day to help ensure people have the very best experiences at the end of their lives. To do this they rely on the fundraising efforts of the community who hold hundreds of charity events over the year – everything from cake sales, fashion shows and raffles to sponsored bike rides, walks, runs and even skydives.

Nicky's way is the charity's six-week bereavement support programme for children and young people. In small groups of no more than six, Nicky's Way sessions give youngsters the chance to share their worries, fears, hopes and feelings and ask questions alongside others in the same situation. The groups are run by staff and trained volunteers from the hospice's Family Support Team and are open to any youngster, living in West Suffolk or Thetford who has been bereaved, whether connected to the hospice or not.

With ten shops across West Suffolk and Thetford including Brandon, the charity is also always on the lookout for donations. The Brandon shop is located at 2-4 London Road and is open Monday – Saturday, 9am – 5pm.

You can find out more about the hospice, the services it provides, fundraising events, how to volunteer for the charity and more on their website www.stnicholashospicecare.org.uk

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