



WEETING VILLAGE LIFE



March 2021
Edition 33



Calling All Weeting Wombles!

Due to the pandemic we have been unable to arrange our usual group litter picking mornings and the amount of litter that has accumulated, particularly on the roads into the village from Hockwold and Methwold, is quite shocking.

John Reay, our village handyman, looks after the village centre, Melvyn Jones does a sterling job whilst out on his daily runs and a few other stalwarts cover what they can, when they can.

However, if you or you 'bubble' would like to volunteer to help keep Weeting clean and tidy, we can loan you all the equipment needed and provide you with the plastic sacks for the rubbish.

The Sanderson family have done just that recently and cleared along the Hockwold Road. Everyone in the family did their bit and, by the smiles on their faces, derived a great deal of satisfaction in doing so.



If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mike Nairn or Pauline Angus - contact details on page 9.

Play Equipment

At the last annual ROSPA inspection of the children's play equipment on the Jubilee Field, it was noted that some items needed elements of repair or replacement. The Parish Council obtained a grant that has enabled us to undertake some replacement with further repairs to follow.



Bench Restoration

In the December edition of Weeting Village Life, I reported a spate of vandalism in the village including the wilful damage to the wooden bench in front of the church.



I am very happy to report that John Maxim quickly responded and offered to repair it. As you can see in the photograph, he has made an excellent job of it and it was returned to its original site within a very short time. So a big thank you to John.

Thanks also to David Lister and Keith Webber who painted it and and reinstalled it securely.

Castle Moat

If you go down to the castle today you're in for a big surprise! No, not teddy bears having a picnic obviously, but a lot of water in the moat, making the castle look more a defensive structure than a manor house with a bit of bling for show!

When we had the very cold weather back in February, the water froze and looked quite dramatic. A few individuals had tried throwing stones onto the ice, but it was too thick to for them to break it.



Now that the weather is milder, the water table has obviously risen and the moat is even deeper. Compare the two photos.



Whilst this may seem attractive, please be careful as the water level is deeper than it looks and there is some algae along the edges that may not be very pleasant if anyone falls in. Dog walkers should try to keep their pets away from the edge too. Stay safe!

Editor's Contact Details:

Sue Nairn
Sixpenny Tithe
Park View
Weeting, IP27 0QD



01842 810212
wvl@btinternet.com



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!

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



School Report



The Spring Term proved very challenging for all our children, families and staff. We returned after the Christmas break and after only one day went into yet another lockdown. The school community has yet again shown how well it works together to provide our children with learning opportunities both at home and in school.

School remained open to children of key workers and alongside completing work set by their class teachers the children have come together to work on a number of projects which have seen our school remain a colourful and exciting learning space.

The children in school at Weeting this week have worked collaboratively to create some colourful artwork for our main reception area. They had to think of similes and adjectives linked to the colour of the paper strip before turning them into a rainbow. Some of their amazing ideas included "As red as a shiny strawberry", "Pink is like icing on a cake" and "As green as the newly mown grass".



As part of National Children's Mental Health Week, the children joined in with the theme of "Express Yourself". They listened to the story "The Dot" and tried Vashti's challenge. We made a mark and saw where it took us! These are our results. All very individual and all very unique! Just like us!



Chestnut Class

Chestnut Class have been very busy this term! We have become experts at using Zoom and have helped our grown-ups to become just as good as us at using it! Our online sessions have been brilliant in helping our parents (and our cats, dogs and younger siblings!) to learn how we use our phonics to read and write with. We are becoming fantastic readers and writers! Even though we haven't been in school we have still been able to have our class story times on line. Some of the children have been helping to make their own story videos to share as well!

This term the children have been learning about traditional tales and have enjoyed activities around favourites including "The Gingerbread Man", Goldilocks and the 3 Bears", "The 3 Billy Goats Gruff" and "The 3 Little Pigs".



We made the most of lockdown to enjoy the snow when it came and got creative – not just making snow families, but making giant ice sculptures and snow ice cream!



Beech Class

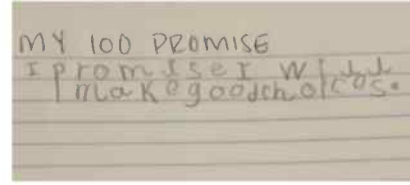
Even though most of us remained at home and continued to learn remotely, it did not stop us from investigating, experimenting and challenging ourselves! From writing descriptive stories about visiting magical lands, to using objects around the house to help us learn about multiplication and division, Beech Class could not be stopped!



We enjoyed the snow and took the opportunity to conduct some experiments with it!



We also read the book 'One Hundred Steps' by Captain Sir Tom Moore and absorbed his excellent advice. He told us that 'you can do and be anything you want', and so we set ourselves challenges to practise things we found difficult 100 times until we got them right!



Throughout the term we stayed in touch with each other and our teacher by having lessons daily on Zoom. We got to share our pets, our little brothers and sisters and favourite toys with each other as well as learning our sounds and improving our handwriting!

Elm Class

This term has definitely thrown up some new challenges, but I would like to say how proud I am of the commitment shown to their learning by the children of Elm class. As the term progressed, we settled into the routine of daily zoom teaching of Literacy and Maths, which has been a real improvement from the previous lockdown, as well as the daily communication via Class Dojo. We have been, and will continue to, cover topics on climate zones and the development of chocolate in a Developing World country which links in with our science topic on living things and their habitats.

Oak Class

Our remote learning has focused on Beowulf. The children have produced a range of work around this theme covering subjects from English to History. We have used Zoom sessions to review work and to provide the children with the opportunity to keep in touch with their friends.





School Report



This term has been different again for us all. For us at the pre-school we have been able to remain open.

In setting the children have been very busy; baking, playing games, working on pencil and scissor control along with celebrating Valentine's day and Chinese New Year.



For children staying at home the staff have been putting together weekly packets full of fantastic crafts and activities to keep them busy! We have loved seeing photos of the children having fun at home working on their packets.

We are looking forward to welcoming back the children home schooling in the near future.

We currently have spaces available for children aged 2, 3 and 4 years old. If you would like some more information, please call 07927 690968 to speak to a member of staff.



Those Were the Days!



It has been so long since we put on our last show, Sleeping Beauty in January 2020, and we haven't been able to rehearse anywhere together since. Virtual meetings are simply not the same as being on stage interacting with each other, so let me take you back to a time, far, far away when, in a puff of smoke and a sprinkling of fairy dust, Shoestring's cast and crew had so much fun playing and singing to an audience

Once upon a time there were 3 bears living in a forest in the year 2007 who were visited by Goldilocks. Their tale was bewitched by the indecisive queen of cackle, Wichway, played by Denise, one of our long-standing members. Denise's fondest memories of her time at Shoestring all relate to various performances of Peter Pan, especially in 2003 when she played the starring role and the hilarious moment when she fell out of a window on stage and had to be unceremoniously dragged off.



After many years of sleep along came Cinderella in 2015, (you thought I was going to say Sleeping Beauty then, didn't you?! Oh yes you did!). Leah played a fresh-faced Cinderella in her first performance with Shoestring, which is still one of her stand-out moments along with singing "Don't Stop Believing" with Buttons. Ahh, happy days!

One late summer's day in 2016 history repeated itself when Shoestring took part in Ferry Tales where groups of members dressed in the costume of different eras to tell the tale of important moments in the history of Brandon. One of them was Jill, the Landlady whose establishment drew in all sorts, some of whom would likely have been smugglers of goods being moved along the Little Ouse from Thetford to Ely. Having been involved in so much of the management of Shoestring and our show planning for so many years, Jill has many great memories but her proudest moments are when her scenery and props design prowess received so much audience praise and applause, enough to halt the show for a few moments, and when an unknown bearded man walked up to her and gave her a hug, then she remembered him as an 11 year old in pantomime, that was one of those "words cannot describe" moments.



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

In true fairy tale style one of the houses in Brandon is where the, soon to be, Lord Mayor of London, Simon Eyre, lived in the 1400s. Was his tale just like Dick Whittington's? In our imagination it could be. What did he find when he arrived in London? Were the streets infested with rats? And, was the King Rat our very own Matt? Well, yes it was in our 2017 pantomime! This was Matt's first panto in the role of a "baddie" and he has continued each year to be one of our more "robust" characters, although his favourite one is Robin Hood in which he played Friar Tuck, a goodie for a change, in a great costume with a bald head wig and a cushion tied round his middle to give him a belly!



Alongside Friar Tuck, deep in the forest we find our poor-man's benefactor, Robin Hood, played by Mia M in 2018. Being her first starring role, this used to be Mia's greatest achievement with Shoestring. Now, her proudest achievements are choreographing and being assistant director for our last performance. Not a bad achievement, from junior chorus to choreographer and assistant director in her 9 years with us and she's still only 18 years old!

With a puff of smoke, we are now transported to Aladdin's cave, where in 2019 Archie played Ping Pong, one half of the comedy double act of Sargent Ping and PC Pong. This is his favourite role so far and his first big role having been in the junior chorus for many years. Archie recalls the funny moment when one of the cast members got locked in the toilet whilst we were getting ready for a performance, the door just wouldn't open! So, in the end... it had to be kicked down for him to get out! You couldn't make it up, could you?! Sometimes there is just as much drama off-stage as there is on-stage!



Now the spinning of our yarns and the re-telling of our experiences are nearing the end as we meet Ashley, freshly awoken in 2020 after 100 years of sleep, our leading lady in Sleeping Beauty. Currently our youngest member with just 2 pantomimes and a shortened version of A Midsummer Night's Dream under her belt, she is, understandably, immensely proud of being cast in this starring role. Like so many of us she really enjoys the funny moments, especially the time when she scared Matt with the prop dummy of Wishee Washee in Aladdin! We also meet Mia the younger, (aka Mia B) in her first pantomime with Shoestring playing Billy in the comedy double act of Billy and Benny, her favourite moment was singing Ready to Rumble, which was great fun, she says it was really funny to learn but even better to perform in front of the audience!



For the finale to our reminiscences the star of the show for "over the top" extravagance has to be the Pantomime Dame, without whom no show would be the same. There have been so many over the years and the latest is drum roll, please the one and only, Andy! He had 5 costume changes in our last show and, to the amusement of everyone in the wings, he managed to get his Edna Extravaganza skirt hooked up on the side flats when trying to leave the stage! The icing on the cake was his spectacular tiered cake dress, expertly cobbled together by our costume ladies, Jill and Lynn, and I really do mean cobbled! There were lots of hula hoops, yards of strapping and gaffer tape and countless safety pins holding it together!

Amateur dramatics is so much more than simply putting on a performance for an audience; there is a lot of fun and laughter behind the scenes, loads of hard work to create the show and so much commitment, enthusiasm, friendship and teamwork to make it all come together. We are missing this so much, but we will be back to make many more new memories.

We hope you have enjoyed learning more about our group. If you are interested to join us, whether on-stage or back-stage, contact our Secretary, Jill Hopper on 07985 376465 or email shoestringsecretary@hotmail.com





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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ART FOR PLEASURE

Meeting as we used to do on a Thursday morning most of our members are retired and as such fall within the vulnerable group for Covid 19. We have tried to keep in touch by phone when we manage to find out how not only the person we are phoning is getting on but how the people they have spoken to are keeping. The network has worked well. How people back in history managed during pandemics without all our modern technology makes one wonder.

The ethos of the club has always been that of a social meeting of people with a mutual interest in art and helping each other achieve and improve our skills with pencils, or paintbrushes. Over the last year we have missed our Thursday mornings. We would have a programme suggesting a subject i.e. spring flowers; a snow scene; a famous landmark, which sometimes gave us inspiration. On occasions someone would bring some interesting items and set up a still life. Generally a few others would be challenged and would all arrange themselves around the display and sketch or just go ahead and paint the arrangement. Mostly members would bring their own work. At any one time there could be members working in various mediums, pastels, water-colour, acrylics, covering various subjects. During the morning discussions would take place when someone was struggling at a point with their work so a few others would suggest solutions like adding a shadow or how to mix the desired colour. Other times members would admire a piece of work and ask how a certain effect has been achieved. Thus we all helped or inspired each other to create our own masterpiece.

Two or three times a year we invited a professional artist to come and do a demonstration or workshop when we could use what we had learnt on our next piece of work. James Merriott who is one of the groups favourite visitors would give us a little talk and then demonstrate how he would go about painting the subject. Most of our members have our version of the picture – they always turn out slightly different as we all have our own way of working. However, we all agree that our work improves after a workshop.



We are now beginning to hope that life could get back to some kind of normal and it will not be too long before we can enjoy our Thursday mornings again. If you are looking forward to getting out again and would like to take up art as a hobby or renew an old interest you will be made very welcome.

As yet we have no actual date when Weeting Village Hall will re-open and lockdown will end for certain so until then keep safe.

Further details can be obtained from:-

Beryl Pountney, Club Secretary – Tel no. 01842 828750

Terry Kimpton, Club Chairman – Tel no. 01842 819732



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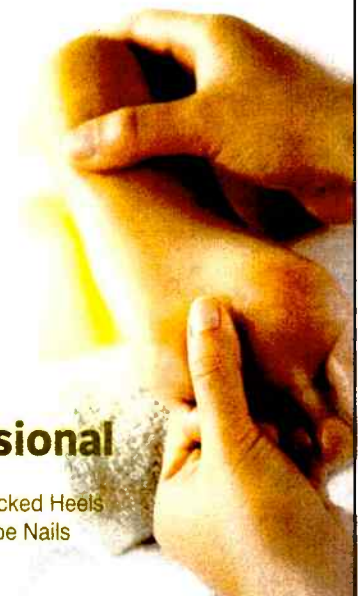
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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Fengate Art

Throughout my adult years I longed to teach art. There was something that appealed to me. Firstly, I had taken a number of academic courses in various "O" and "A" level subjects with a view, one day, of having sufficient subjects to support an application to study at university. A further seven years later I had a City and Guilds Teaching Certificate followed by a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honours, graduating at 65 years of age!

Invitations followed to become part of an Art Teaching team on the panel of Norfolk County Adult Tutors. Sadly, the Art Classes closed due to loss of support, leaving me with the opportunity to invite those left "high and dry" having bought their tools, and a number of them very ill, but enjoying the therapeutic value that comes with art. I sought approval from the co-ordinator of the classes and invited them home where they started working around the dining room table.

To my delight the numbers grew, but not as quickly as the enthusiasm, and I just loved it. There is no greater joy than sharing your knowledge that people have come to you for and seeing them leave "ten foot tall" with the progress they have achieved.

I have been teaching art for over twenty years now and watch them advance so quickly, not just with skills, but confidence in the knowledge that, whatever happens I can help them put the matter right!

Each year we work our way through all kinds of media and this year we will study pastels when we re-open in September and follow on until next July. However, the first exercise, for those wishing to do so, will be, under tuition (if necessary), to make their own Christmas Cards that ultimately will be their own personal advert as they proudly send them to their friends. There is nothing mandatory about this exercise, but I am happy to say that they are very popular and many students can't believe that they are their own work, having had help with cards, envelopes, inserts, printing, etc., etc. we then follow on with a picture of their choice, encompassing still life, animals, flowers or perhaps something they have chosen. All this work with help along the way to give them the opportunity to build a portfolio of the highest standard ready for the Exhibition.

After Easter we turn our attention to July when I organise the Annual Exhibition in the Village on Rally Sunday, just for the students. This is always received with great excitement giving those that wish the opportunity to sell their work. Apart from the financial reward, technically anyone that has sold a picture(s) becomes Professional and the money is theirs to keep!

Teas, coffees and cakes are on offer to the public and, together with a good raffle, brings in extra money for a deserving charity, chosen by the students. This year it will be for the Stroke Unit at the West Suffolk Hospital. Then follows the summer holidays after a busy year before we start again in September 2022 for a complete year of water colour.

During the holidays, I send all the students a Balance Sheet of the Exhibition, together with a copy of the thank-you letter from the recipient. So, I do hope you will be able to support us all at the exhibition where you will be very welcome. Thank you.

Rosemary Jacob, B.A.Hons



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Secrets of "The Towers"



As many of you are probably aware, 'The Towers' on the corner of Cromwell and St Edmund roads was originally the stable block and coach house for Weeting Hall which was built by the 7th Earl of Mountrath, Charles Henry Coote, between 1756 and 1770.

The Hall was demolished in 1954, but The Towers were taken over by Breckland District Council and used as emergency accommodation, eventually falling into a sorry state. In 1990 they were restored and converted into flats as we see them today.

However, it was not all plain sailing for the builders. Whilst they were digging out the foundations for a new part of the building in the yard area, they came across several old foundations that presented them with a number of problems. Not least were the old surface water drains and soakaways from the old Hall. They are not as you might envisage small channels, but consist of three large chambers, each linked by a tunnel, with another long tunnel leading towards the site of the Hall, which has now been blocked. These tunnels are large enough for a man to walk along and the chambers are about the same size as an average sized garage.



The tall structure on top of the building was once a clock tower, complete with a bell that had been cast in 1787 for the Earl of Mountrath. When the refurbishment of The Towers was taking place in 1990, the bell was taken to the Breckland District Council depot in Thetford and there it remained, to all intent and purpose, forgotten, until it was decided that the depot should close. A chance remark saved the bell from being broken up and sold for scrap and it was returned to Weeting, where it remains in safe keeping. Perhaps some of our older residents may have heard it chime in the past.



Unfortunately, the clock mechanism was destroyed by a miscreant looking for scrap brass several years before the refurbishment, so the clock was never replaced. However, the face and hands are also in safe keeping within the village. Maybe one day we will have a clock erected in Weeting and they may be used again. It is believed that the counterweights, that would have had to be wound up regularly to drive the clock mechanism, were suspended over a pit below the bell tower and may still be resting at the bottom of it.

The weather cock also has quite a story to tell. The last family to live at Weeting Hall from 1897 onwards were Mr Thomas Skarratt Hall, his wife and sons. He died in 1903 but the rest of the family remained until 1917. Apparently, the boys used the weather cock for target practice from their bedroom window at the Hall and obviously scored a hit on a number of occasions!



Back in 1990, a Weeting resident by the name of Sid Money related this to Mike Nairn (now Parish Councillor Chairman) and, whilst the leadwork on the cupula of the bell tower was being replaced, the weather cock was lowered to the ground and the damage could be seen. It appears that this was never rectified before the cock was replaced, as can be seen in the recent photograph.



The most famous resident of The Towers must have been Marengo, the horse that bore Napoleon into his most celebrated battles, including his flight from Waterloo in 1815. Marengo was duly exiled and lived out his life in England as an undistinguished stud, owned by a Lieutenant-General Angerstein no less!

One last secret that has escaped detection apparently – until now. Take a look at the photo of the cupula which was taken from St Edmund Road. Can you see anything wrong? The answer can be found on page 16.



The Fengate Challenge



Snow certainly didn't stop play when it arrived in the village early in February. Mr Richard Parrott of Fengate Farm suggested the challenge for a "Best Snowman" competition for the children of Weeting, offering a prize to be awarded to the winning Junior and Senior entrants as chosen on the day.

The competition was announced on the Weeting Facebook pages and was quickly taken up by a significant number of children. Once completed, they had to send a photograph for the judging committee to decide the winners. This was a brilliant idea from Mr Parrott who also donated the prizes and, having seen the super snowmen that were created, the children obviously had a lot of fun taking part.



The two winners were Cooper (Junior) and Logan (Senior).

Here are some of the other entries. Well done everyone!



Gaynor's Walk for Cancer Charity Appeal

The pictures are of my daughter, Gaynor, walking for the Cancer Research UK Charity.

Just over a year ago, in January 2020, she was diagnosed with Cancer herself and she has battled with it ever since. She lost a kidney in July last year and is still receiving treatment that will go on for some time yet.

Our prayers are with her that she will come through it, but every day this month, my very brave daughter walks over 10,000 steps per day to raise money for the Cancer Charity.

So, if like me, you think she deserves all the help she can get, then contact the site below to make a donation.

Many thanks in advance - just knowing that somebody out there cares will give Gaynor the strength to reach her goal by the 31st of March 2021.

fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org

Gaynor's Walk all over Cancer Fund Raise Page (search for Gaynor Fisher as there are many people called Gaynor doing something similar). Donations can be made up to 31st May 2021.

Or ring me, Carole Wilkins on 01842 550919



In Memory of Maurice Burlingham

The family of Maurice Burlingham would like to express their sincere gratitude for all the donations received, to a total of £503.10, for the East Anglian Air Ambulance, following his death last October, aged 77 years.



The History of Weeting & Bromehill Fair

The Priory of Bromehill was granted a Royal Charter by King Henry III in 1222 to hold a fair on the translation day of St Thomas a Becket (July 7th). The first fair was held the following year. It was an ideal site, having direct access to the River Ouse where the priory canons operated the ferry crossing to Brandon. The river provided access to all parts of the kingdom by water. There was direct access to the port at Lynn and Peddars Way, Walsingham Way and the Harling Drove passed nearby, the latter leading to an important sheep market.

Fairs were of huge importance to the economy. The first fairs primarily traded sheep, cattle and, very importantly in this area, wool, most of which was exported to the Flemish and Italian cloth makers.

The opening of a fair was by proclamation and local traders had the right to trade first. Outsiders were allowed to start trading after paying a toll and any merchant found selling after closure of the fair was liable to forfeit double his takings to the Crown.

Bromehill, (or 'Becket's'), Fair became very popular. Up until 1331 the Prior had had control of the organisation and running of the fair. However, this caused friction between the Prior and the administration of Thetford as the mayor held the right to hold court at Bromehill Fair and felt that he should have a share of the profits! An agreement was reached and the Prior resigned control to the Thetford authorities in return for an annual payment of eighteen pence from the Fair's profits.

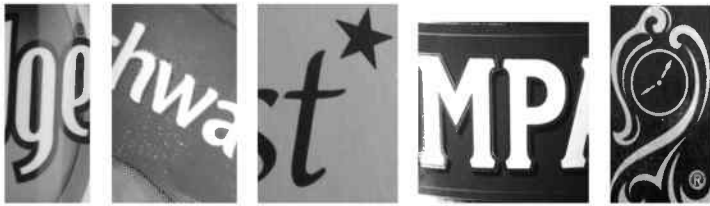
The merchants and people attending the Fair required food, beer and entertainment and almost anything could be bought. Medicinal 'quacks' dispensed their dubious cures and women of shady character would sell their favours. By the 17th century, many entertainments, such as bull and bear baiting and cockfighting were available and Fair followers, such as clowns, jugglers, tumblers and musicians, took their acts around the country from one fair to the next.

In the late 1840's, the Fair had been noted as being a hotbed of drunkenness, greed and debauchery, although, as this comment was made by a strict Victorian man of the cloth, he may have disapproved of the high spirits of the locals!

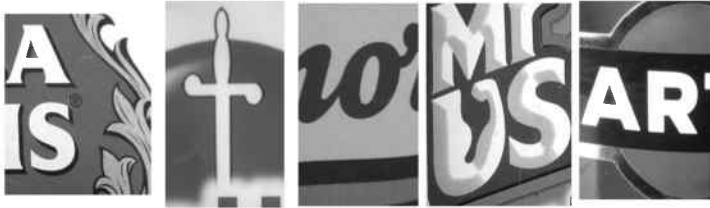
The Fair continued on the same site until 1871 on land that then belonged to the last of the Weeting squires, William Angerstein, who was also the local magistrate and he was concerned that the fair had become even more disreputable. He submitted a petition, signed by local landowners, in March 1872 calling for its closure under the terms of the Fairs Act of 1871. Thus, the fair was closed on 12th June 1872 after an unbroken history of 649 years.

Picture Puzzle

Below are 10 pictures of a portion of the label on items that will be in many kitchen cupboards. Can you identify them? Answers on page 16.



1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10



W.A.S.P.s

Hi everybody,

I am sitting in front of my computer and looking out of the window and it is the middle of February. The snow of last week has all gone and the sun is shining and spring is just around the corner; it is marvellous how nature carries on no matter what is going on in the world. We have all been going through a very tough time and looking forward to being able to get back to some sort of normality. As I look at my garden and see the snowdrops and crocuses, things are looking up and I have just spotted some daffodils in one corner. By the time this has come out in print in our own magazine, the Weeting Village magazine, things will have changed, I hope, for the better and that we will all be getting ready to venture out and the children back with their friends again in school.

By now a lot of our villagers will have had their jab. I must admit I could not wait and all the family have seen me having the jab in the Jubilee Hall in Mildenhall as I took photos as it was being done. I hope everybody will get a jab very soon, then we can all meet up and we, the WASPS, will be able to have rehearsals for our next show.

In the meantime, we have been having Zoom meetings and I have tried to vary the times with different things to do. So, over the last six months, we have read through some of our old pantomimes, which has caused a lot of laughs as we all read different parts. We have also had some quizzes and one that I did was a scavenger hunt and to see all of them all running about trying to find all sorts of items from different parts of the house was a hoot! I have something else up my sleeve for the next time we meet, so look out Waspies!

I wish you all well - stay safe, and God bless the NHS and our government who have faced an unprecedented time in office. It must have been like walking into a mine field - not always knowing what was next and all of you who have been through so much in lock down wondering will it ever be over.

So now as you read this in the middle of March my fingers are crossed that at last there are signs it is going away. When we can open up our lives again, please contact me and come and join us, your very local Drama group. We are a group who like to have fun and give our audience some good laughs along the way. We take children from the age of 7 years to older children, up to the age of 80 years, as at that time most of us will be in our second childhood! As the rest of WASPS will tell you I am at least in my third childhood, so let the sunshine in and have a laugh - it is good for everybody. Carole .



MOBILE LIBRARY

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, our mobile library service is suspended until further notice.

All items currently on loan will be automatically renewed and no further charges will be incurred until further notice.

Visit our Library Service Coronavirus Update page for further information on service closures and what you can still access from home.

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John said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) - one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the website and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Weeting Village Hall News

Hi All, hope you are keeping safe and well. So, what a year we are having so far - rain, snow, high winds and some lovely sunny, albeit very chilly, days. Sadly, the hall remains closed. Such a shame after all the hard work that has gone into the refurbishment of this lovely hall, all spruced up and no-one able to take advantage of the nice clean areas within and the new lighting, etc.

During the cleaning the 100 place setting dinner service that was locked away in a cupboard in an old storeroom is now in the committee room. This will enable people to use it once we are able to re-open, whenever that will be. At this moment we have no idea.

Many of the clubs that usually use the hall are finding it very difficult. They would love to come back, BUT, until the restrictions are lifted... We have been trying to keep in touch with them to see how they are coping and some have been finding other ways around the lockdown. The WASPS (see separate report) have been having Zoom meetings every couple of weeks, as have the Line Dancing group. Apparently, some of their members have been keeping active by dancing around their homes whenever a suitable line dance tune has come on the radio, or going out walking etc.

Quite a few villagers have now had their COVID injections, although some of us are still waiting!!! In the meantime, spring is on its way. I am sure many of you have spotted daffodils, snowdrops and other spring bulbs coming out in the gardens and around the village. My mother and I are itching to get back out in our garden again. We have such a lot of plans for doing things like moving plants around the place and bringing plants out of the greenhouse again.

I wish there was more news to tell you all, but rest assured, once we are able to re-open the hall again there will be a flood of happy, fun-filled information to pass on to everyone, so bear with us. Chin up everyone and keep safe and well.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee

Karen Scott, Treasurer

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Georgina Sims

Rector's Report

A bright spot on the horizon of these dark days of lockdown has been the spring like weather that followed the snow and miserable freeze of mid-February. The warmth and at least some sunlight has tempted me out into my garden to do some pruning and tidying ahead of 'proper' Spring. And I've been picking daffodils! This year they are early but welcome signs of new life after the unrelenting bleakness we've all endured for so long now. The vaccine rollout has given many a sense of new hope that enforced isolation from normal face to face human interaction – meeting, touching, sharing food and laughter with family and friends may be once more on the horizon – that life in its fullness will flourish once more.

The Christian message of Easter reflects this hope of life renewing. The tiny buds and green shoots, the daffodils opening out to reveal their yellow beauty as the days begin to lengthen and dark evenings give way to light are signs of new life, of the light of Christ's redeeming love leading us out of the darkness, bringing healing and restoration. Though so many have lost family members to this terrible pandemic there have been also local stories of great hope, of survival against the odds. Life is a gift for which we are thankful.

As the green shoots blossom and flourish we welcome the joy of Spring, the gradual 'unlocking' of all that keeps us apart and we pray that the impact of this devastating pandemic will lessen as the days warm and lengthen. As we enjoy the beauty of the natural world and the burgeoning of new life this Easter, let's also be thankful that we have a God who loves us so much that he sent his Son to transform, heal and restore humanity and all Creation and to hold out for all the promise of eternal life in all its fullness.

St Mary's Porch

At present I am navigating the labyrinthine 'channels' of the C of E in order to move ahead with much needed repairs to the south porch ceiling of St Mary's Church. This will enable us to use this safely as the main entrance to the church once more. Once I have formal permission to go ahead with these repairs, we will be applying for grants in order to fund the work. As with most small rural churches, St Mary's has been hard hit financially during the pandemic so any repair and restoration work will be contingent on successful grant applications. When society is fully opened up – by June 21st if Boris' predictions are correct – then we look forward to planning afresh some of the community events we had hoped would follow on from last years successful Valentine Quiz in the village hall. It will be a great joy and delight to come together socially as a village community once more and I really look forward to the summer and the opportunities that will be on offer to emerge from lengthy 'hibernation'.

Church services

We're hoping to resume a more 'normal' Benefice rota of services after Easter which we'll advertise on Facebook. Midweek Zoom services will continue into the summer after 'live' Sunday service resume.

As we emerge blinking into the light, stay well, keep safe and may God Bless you all richly this Easter.

Joan Horan [Rector St Mary's Weeting]



St Mary's Church



Rector: Joan Horan
Churchwardens: Julianne Young
Tommy Saward

(Tel: 01842 828034)
(Tel: 01842 813581)
(Tel: 01842 813601)

Regular services are as follows:

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

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?? Who's Who ??

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Cllr Margaret Burlingham 01842 811177
Cllr Tom Childerhouse 01842 811469
Cllr Clodagh Drewry 01842 815073
Cllr Margaret Lister (V-Chair) 01842 810467
Cllr Mike Nairn (Chair) 01842 810212
Cllr Sue Nairn 01842 810212
Cllr Sarah O'Donnell 01842 550603
Cllr Bernard Smith 07985 902188

- Please contact Margaret for street lighting problems
tjchilderhouse@btconnect.com
clobagh-drewry@hotmail.co.uk
margaretlister11@gmail.com
mike.nairn@btinternet.com
sue.nairn@btinternet.com
sarah.odonnell28@gmail.com
bernardsmith7@btinternet.com

Weeting Parish Clerk

Mrs Pauline Angus 07392 004834

clerk@weetingparishcouncil.org.uk
50 Brecklands, Mundford, Norfolk, IP26 5EG

Breckland District Councillor

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen 01953 688522
Cllr Robert Kybird 01842 753132

sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk
robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk

Norfolk County Councillor

Cllr Fabian Eagle 07450 679838

fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Mrs Elizabeth Truss 020 7219 3000
House of Commons
SW1A 0AA

elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLUB	CONTACT	LOCATION	DAY AND TIME
Adult's & Children's Street Dancing	Micha 07841 474400	Village Hall	Monday 4.30 - 6.30pm. Wednesday 4.00 - 7.30pm. Thursday 6.00 - 9.15pm
Art For Pleasure	Beryl Pountney 01842 828750	Village Hall	Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm
Bingo	Angie Page 01842 814147	Village Hall	Tuesday Open at 6.30pm Eyes down at 7.00 - 9pm
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	Dave Moore 01842 811996	The Ram Brandon	1st Wednesday 7.30pm
Brandon Speaker's Club	Gary Sander 01842 814679	Function Room, The Ram Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesday 7.00-9.30pm
Carpet Bowls	Heather 01842 815406	Village Hall	Friday 10.00 – 12 midday
Children's Dodgeball	Sam 07944 531757	Village Hall	Monday 5.00 - 6pm
Feltwell Golf Club	Denise Whiting 01842 862079	Feltwell Golf Club	
Green Bowls	Sue Windget 01842 812094 Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Friday 6.00 – 10pm 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 Cricket Pavillion	Tuesday & Thursday 7.30 - 9.30pm (during rehearsal periods)
History Group	Julianne Young 01842 813581	Various - call to check location	Last Thursday 7.30pm
Indoor Archery	Mike 07894 904090	The Dome, Mildenhall	Saturday 12.30 - 3.30pm
Judo	Donna 07738 381970	Village Hall	Saturday 10 - 12midday All ages – novices welcome
Keep Fit	Dorothy Kent 01842 810378	Village Hall	Monday 10.00– 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	Rita Thompson 01842 815550	Village Hall	Friday 2.00 - 4.pm
Methwold Theatre Club	01366 727526	The 21 Room St George's Complex Methwold	Tuesday 7.30pm
Model Car	John Abbott 01366 385452	Village Hall	Alt. Wednesday 7.00 - 9pm
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
Shoestring Theatre Company	Jill Hopper. 07985 376465	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 - 8pm (during rehearsal periods)
Weeting Saxon Football	James Langley 01842 811627 James.langley1990@gmail.com		
Weeting Steam Rally	Wendy Young Rally Co-ordinator 01842 810317		Monday - Friday 9.30am - 2.30pm
Weeting Walkers		Meet at The Saxon pub car park	Tuesday 10am
Weeting Weenies	Marie Stubbins 07960 756455	Village Hall	Wednesday 10.00 – 12 midday (school term time only)

Spring Gardening 2021



As I write this article, England is still in full lockdown, the only difference for us this time is Garden Centres can be open as the government have recognised the significant benefits to health and well-being that gardening brings. Gardening has kept many of us busy during the past year, and since the weather improved in late February it seems that the trend for gardening shows no signs of stopping with demand across the whole of the country at an all-time high. Here at P&R Garden Supplies things are moving at a pace, in the past few weeks we've stocked up with a huge selection of plant stock including spring bedding, vegetables, shrubs, perennials, roses, alpines and climbers. Our plants are grown in the UK, and by shopping locally with us you are also supporting the UK horticulture industry. As the season changes more plant stock will be available including tender summer plants, and I just can't wait!

If you are new to gardening, or experienced early spring is without doubt the most exciting time to be a gardener, and for those of you just itching to get outside and tidy up after winter here are the best jobs to be getting on with now.

1) Soil Improving & Feeding: Without doubt the most common problem gardeners' face in our area is dry, poor sandy soil. Fortunately, sandy soils are easy to work and easy to improve. Simply spread three or four inches of home-made compost, or purchased soil improver over the surface of beds and borders, then either dig in or leave on the surface. A topping of bark not only keeps in moisture, but as it breaks down it continues to improve the soil. A few handfuls of your preferred fertiliser will add essential nutrients and trace elements that are missing from our soil. Your plants will reward you with masses of fruit & flowers.

2) Weeding, Weeding & more weeding! Keeping on top of the weeds now will really cut down your work for the rest of the season. If you are planning on using a weedkiller, why not opt for one of the new formulations that are Glyphosate free? These formulations have been developed for gardeners looking for a greener more natural approach to controlling their garden weeds but still want results. These non-toxic (to bees and other wildlife) formulations are non-selective and kill by contact action only.

3) Spring is an ideal time to fill any gaps in beds and borders (or create new beds) with shrubs, grasses and perennials. Give them a good soak before planting.

4) For a splash of colour plant Primula, polyanthus, or pansies – they are all hardy enough to be planted outside and a late frost will not harm them. If you do not have a greenhouse or frost-free area leave us to look after tender summer plants until May and the risk of frost has lessened.

5) Lawn Care: If you haven't already it's time to start cutting your lawn. Put the mower on a high cut for the first few cuts, gradually lowering the height as the grass re-grows more vigorously. Apply an 'all in one' lawn product such as SafeLawn, which is a chemical-free, Pet and Child friendly moss killer, weedkiller and lawn feed and re-seed any bare patches to rejuvenate a tired lawn.

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc(Hons)
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Memories of a Weeting Childhood

by John Holledge

Once a fortnight my mother and father would take me to the Avenue Cinema at Brandon. I would ride on a child's seat that was bolted to my father's crossbar of his bicycle. It was always freezing cold and I would hold onto the handlebars, shivering all the way to the cinema. Mum and Dad would leave their bikes in Henman's little garage alongside their cycle shop and walk over the road to the cinema.

Sometimes there would be a western on as a main feature – "cowboys and indians". In the interval we would buy Kia-ora drinks and Smith's crisps with the little blue bags of salt inside. If you did not like salt on your crisps you could always chuck them at your mates and when you had eaten the crisps you could blow up your bag, wait till the US Cavalry came galloping onto the screen, then burst your bag when the shooting started. My god, it was like an artillery barrage! Mr Jack Coote, the cinema manager, would walk down the aisle and tell the kids to stop the noise, but this usually made it worse and things would be thrown at him, Maltesers were a favourite thing and they would try to hit the bald spot on his head. Sometimes the film would jam in the projector and would melt in the heat of the lamp. It looked like boiling syrup on the screen and would be followed by cheering and shouting and stamping of feet.

On the way home one night we were able to try out our new cycle dynamo lighting. It was very good, but you had to peddle much faster to keep it bright and it went out when you stopped (not good). If there had been a western film on the kids would pretend that they were cowboys and run home slapping their backside as if they were on horseback.

One evening, on a very frosty cold ride home, I had my first meeting with OLIVER CROMWELL at Brandon railway crossing. The gates were closed so Dad rode up to them and there stood this huge steam engine, dark and impressive. This was the new Britannia Class locomotive – what a machine. It was taking on water; this took quite a while. Its fire lit up the steam above the cab, it made a noise like a kettle boiling and you could feel the heat and I felt warm. All at once the safety valve lifted and steam blasted into the air with a deafening roar and my mother nearly jumped out of her skin. Having had its drink, with a toot and a whistle it took off into the night with a bit of wheel spinning and it rapidly disappeared. I have loved steam engines ever since.

Later on, Towler's ran a double decker bus to the cinema every Friday, picking up passengers at Methwold, Feltwell, Northwold and Hockwold, so when it got to Weeting it was standing room only. It was usually driven by Bidy Towler and his sister, Ada, was the conductress. Fare was 6d return. Ada would hold on to the platform safety handle to prevent us falling out the back as there could be as many as 65 people on board.

We used to make Acorn Guns, when acorns were available. In the autumn we would collect the acorns and fire them at suitable targets, i.e. your mates, and if they scored a hit it really hurt. The guns were made from elder bushes which are hollow inside, save for the pith in the middle which you had to push out with a stick. This made a tube that was the barrel of the gun. You had to make a plunger to fit the barrel tightly, rather like a bicycle pump, then select an acorn that also fitted tightly in the barrel and push it about halfway in with the plunger. Then withdraw the plunger and push another acorn just inside the barrel, refit the plunger and push the plunger hard, compressing the air which blew out the first acorn with considerable force. Insert another acorn to blow out the second one and so on. They really did hurt if you got hit (ouch)!

We also made bows and arrows and catapults. I had a jacket with a plastic Dan Dare badge on the pocket and one day, when we were having a mock battle, a stone from a catapult hit the badge, smashing it to bits, causing me to fall into stinging nettles.

I found a piece of steel tubing in the dump and thought it would make a good cannon barrel, so I brought it home and set to work. One end of the pipe was squeezed flat in my grandfather's big old vice, folded round and flattened again. Then I drilled a touch hole in it and fitted it to an old pram axle with a piece of wood underneath to fix it all together. The driving force was Carbide of Calcium which you could buy from bicycle stores. It was put in lamps and looked like coal granules and when wetted it would give off a smelly gas called acetylene which was highly inflammable and gave a very bright light when lit. I tipped about a teaspoon of carbide down the barrel, rammed it down with a broom handle and pushed in a potato, nice and tight, then tipped in a drop of water and took aim down the garden. We used to have quite a long garden with a chicken run and pigsty at the bottom. Our neighbour, who was digging his garden, asked "What are you doing, John?" "Testing my cannon", I replied. He laughed, but his laughter was short lived when I struck a match and lit the touch hole. A small flame ignited, but just burned slowly for a few moments and then disappeared down the touch hole. Next thing there was an almighty bang and smoke and flame came out. The cannon jumped in the air and the spud went down the garden, over the chicken run and pigsty and hit the neighbour's house, narrowly missing him. He dropped his spade and went into his house and later came round to see my father who forbade me to ever fire it again. Probably just as well!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Weeting Bowls Club



Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, the club has been closed for the most part since March last year so not much to report. However, we are hoping (Covid permitting) that we can re-open soon. We have our bowls fixtures planned to start on 25th May and hopefully this can go ahead.

We are very much hoping that we can go ahead with our VE Day celebrations that we should have had last year but we have planned for the end of May this year. Friday evening 28th May quiz night, Saturday 29th May a live band 'Toe the Line' (back by popular demand) and the celebrations will continue through Sunday and Monday 30th and 31st.

We are also planning to resume our monthly karaoke with Jerry and Eve. There are lots of other events that are still in the planning stages. Details to follow and we are hoping our usual Halloween, Christmas and New Year's Eve parties can go ahead.

We will also welcome new members and bowlers to our very friendly village club. You don't have to bowl to become a member. You can just come to events, socialise and make new friends in our well stocked bar.

Follow our Facebook page - Weeting Bowls Club events to keep up to date with what's coming up.

For more information contact
Sue Windget (secretary) 812094
suewindget@hotmail.com

We have all had a dreadful year since last March, but we sincerely hope we can all get back to normality this year and we look forward to greeting you all back in the club soon

The Committee
Weeting Bowls Club



Weeting Saxon Fc have officially obtained a grant of £1,156 from the Football Foundation towards replacing the existing goals to portable ones for the new season.

The pitch is in need of some repair during the off season and we still looking for help, funds and grants for this. We are still trying to fund raise at a distance but struggling with this during the pandemic. However, we have undertaken an online fundraising activity to raise some much-needed club funds, with more to come soon.

We have painted the home dressing room floor which has helped to keep it cleaner and to help to maintain the upkeep of what we have.

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.



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PARISH NOTES

It is hard to believe that it is over a year now since Weeting Parish Council was able to hold a meeting in the Village Hall. However, we have continued to function using ZOOM with each member and any member of the public able to access the meetings by computer from their own homes.

We have recently had two vacancies on the Council as Jeff Prosser and Sandra Walmsley have moved out of the Parish. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jeff and Sandra for the expertise and experience that they brought to the council. We thank them for their contribution to the community over the past twenty years or more.

We also welcome Bernard Smith to the council. He had previously served on the Parish Council.

Of note, there is an appeal pending with regards to the refusal of planning permission for the Crematorium submitted by Dignity Funerals on the North Western area of Mill Farm. (3PL/2019/0189/F). This is to be a Public Hearing.

In addition, there is also another application for the building of 125 Dwellings, also on Mill Farm submitted by Tavalera Developments. (3PL/2019/0678/O) This has yet to be heard and is undecided. The expectation is that it may go before the Planning Committee.

The third application of note is for the land to the east of Lynn Road (Lodge Farm). Currently there is Planning Permission for 54 Dwellings on the site, but another application has been submitted to increase the number of dwellings to 76 with a greater proportion of Social and Affordable Housing. (3PL/2020/0743/F). This also has yet to be heard and I understand it may be several months before it will go before the Planning Committee at Breckland District Council.

With regard to Brandon Railway Station, you may have read that the building has been listed and that has stopped any demolition. With regard to the sidings, Norfolk County Council who are the Planning Authority, are reviewing the Planning and Permitted Development with Network Rail and Greater Anglia.

Some of you will be aware that the bench by the Churchyard was vandalised and was in need of repair or replacement. We would like to thank John Maxim for carrying out the repairs to the bench and Keith Webber & David Lister for reinstalling it by the Church.

Finally, we would like to thank the individuals and households who have ventured out during lockdown for their daily exercise and collected litter from the verges and hedgerows around our village. Unfortunately, much as we would like to organise a team of volunteers to join a morning litter pick, due to the current COVID regulations we cannot. When we are allowed to, we will do so once again.

Mike Nairn - Chairman

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Weeting Steam Engine Rally
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Fri 16th, Sat 17th &
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WEETING STEAM ENGINE RALLY & COUNTRY SHOW

**FRIDAY 16, SATURDAY 17 &
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(Subject to COVID-19 review)

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Our large trade area has a vast array of stalls, we also have a craft tent and a food hall, along with many other things to see and do.

Our three day show will be held on Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July 2021. Gates open 10am and close 5pm.

We hope you're all keeping safe and well.

Since the announcement of the lockdown roadmap, our telephones and email have become a hotline!

We fully understand your anticipation for getting back out and about to rallies, catching up with friends and being able to resume some sort of normal service.

We are hoping for our Rally to go ahead this year, the current Government Covid-19 Response paper, outlines the steps out of lockdown. There is potential for all restrictions to be lifted, at the earliest 21 June 2021.

Our committee will be keeping an eye on the easing of lockdown, government advice and guidelines and will be considering our options very carefully as to being able to put on a show for you all to attend safely.

We will not be sending out 2021 entry forms, the majority of exhibitors and traders from our cancelled 2020 Rally have already been rolled over to this year. If we do go ahead, the numbers will be looked at and decisions made if further entries will be an option.

We will keep you up to date on any news, as soon as we can.

Best wishes from us all.

Weeting and the Charles Burrell Connection

The Weeting Steam Rally is one of the largest of its kind in the country and also has a unique local connection. Although there were several renowned manufacturers of steam engines, Charles Burrell & Sons operated from the St Nicholas works on Minstergate and St Nicholas Street in Thetford, some of which still survives today as the Burrell Museum.

Joseph Burrell, a master smith, established a small forge in 1770 for the manufacture and repair of agricultural implements and by 1801 was advertising "Chaff Engines, Drill Rolls and Drill Machines", - items of agricultural equipment, - from his foundry on Kings Street. Threshing machines were also for sale by 1805 when Joseph's brothers, James and William, joined the firm. After the death of Joseph, James and William, the business was inherited by Charles Burrell, James' third child, in 1836 when he was just 19 years old.

The company built their first steam engine in 1848. This was a portable engine, but they gradually moved into self-moving agricultural machines and later engines specifically built for road transport. They began building ploughing engines as early as 1860 when steam ploughing was in its infancy and had produced 142 of these by 1914. Production of road rollers commenced in 1891 and, in total, the company built 384 in a variety of sizes, ranging from 6 ton to 14 ton. Steam wagons went into production in 1911 and 120 of these were built by 1928.

Burrell gradually increased their output throughout the early 20th century with 1913 being their most successful year when they completed 104 engines in 12 months. They had ceased producing portable engines in 1908 and focused on construction of traction engines for agricultural use and engines for travelling showmen.

During the First World War many engineering companies' production was turned over to the construction of munitions. Burrell was no exception, although they still managed to continue producing engines despite the war effort.

After the Great War, sales declined and the company experienced some difficult years. Not only did they suffer from the depressed economic situation, but they also had increased competition from other manufacturers. The depression led to the cancellation of many orders and there was also a glut of secondhand engines that had been produced for war use that were being sold cheaply to showmen and haulage contractors, two of the company's key markets.

The advent of the internal combustion engine becoming a cheaper alternative to steam was the final straw and on 4th June 1928 the company closed its doors at Thetford for good. In the 1890's the Burrell works had employed over 350 men, including a number of indentured apprentices and were the largest employer within Thetford. The employees generally enjoyed tolerable working surroundings and were not subjected to the unrelenting demands for greater productivity and efficiency that was commonly found in other highly industrialised companies.

The age of steam may long be past, but the nostalgia associated with it is still very much alive. The Weeting Rally still draws huge crowds eager to revel in the magnificence of these machines and the enigmatic smell of steam and smoke!



Burrell engine "Century", built in 1877, owner Mr Richard Parrott, Weeting

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St Nics does Elvis and Neil Diamond!

New spectacular tribute
show for 2021



**Saturday 13
November 2021**
7pm-midnight

Dear Friends and Hospice supporters,

As you all know, due to Covid-19, we have had to cancel our April 2020 and April 2021 St Nic's Does Elvis and Neil Diamond events. We have secured a new date of Saturday, 13th November 2021.

We have decided to keep the event at the Masonic Centre in Bury St Edmunds, and we have also booked Roffs Caterers. The Masonic Hall gives us a special discounted price on the hall hire and bar, and any profit they do make is distributed to their chosen charities both local and national, which is a benefit to us all.

Fisher Stevens, our Elvis and Neil Diamond, is looking forward to coming again to Bury St Edmunds and we are looking forward to seeing him and his amazing show again.

We will, of course, be having our usual auction, heads and tails game and raffle to help us raise funds for St Nicholas Hospice Care. Now, more than ever, the Hospice is relying on funds raised by the community, and events such as this make a huge difference. I'd like to thank you for your support.

We will, of course, keep you updated with any changes. If you would like to have updates regarding the event, please reply to me with your approval to receive these emails by email or telephone.

John Maxim - Hospice Ambassador Fund Raiser and Event Organiser

Mob: 07876 656070 Email: johnmaxim@hotmail.co.uk

If you have any questions regarding your ticket, please contact John Maxim or Lizzie Cross at the Hospice on

Mob: 07458 305292 Email: lizzie.cross@stnh.org.uk

Secrets of "The Towers"

The photograph of The Towers was taken from St Edmund Road. According to the weather vane, I was standing with my back to the North and looking South, with West to my right and East to my left.

Whoever last handled the weather vane misaligned it by about 150 degrees when they replaced it.



Just a Reminder

The problem we had a while back with dog mess around the village seems to have improved considerably, but just occasionally there is the odd mishap.

Please make sure you take a plastic poop bag or two when you take your dog out, pick up their mess and put it in one of the many red bins available. The dog walk and castle areas are favourite places for this and please remember that dogs are not allowed on the playing field or children's play area.

Thank you for keeping the village clean.

Animal Warden Services
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**Dog fouling is not only unpleasant
its also against the law!**

**Although we recognise that most
owners are responsible and clean
up, we are calling on everyone to
join our fight against irresponsible
dog owners.**

**Please report anyone failing to
clean up on
01362 858500**

The 3 top excuses...

No 1. "I didn't see my dog foul"

Saying you didn't see your dog foul is the oldest excuse in the book and, unfortunately for you, will not work.

No 2. "I forgot to bring a poop scoop with me"

You are responsible for your dogs actions and this excuse will not get you out of a ticket.

No 3. "I was going to pick it up on the way home"

Take it with you now. If you don't want to take it home, bag it and bin it. You will be liable if you leave it behind.

**Further information can be found at:
www.animalwardenservices.co.uk**

Editor's Note:



The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published **June 2021**. 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 28th May 2021**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

- 1 - Pledge polish. 2 - Schwartz seasonings.
- 3 - Tesco Finest. 4 - Campari.
- 5 - After Eight mints. 6 - Stella Artois lager.
- 7 - Dettol antiseptic (various). 8 - Knorr seasonings.
- 9 - Mr Muscle (various). 10 - Martini.

Answers to Picture Puzzle on page 8

The History of the Census

On Sunday 21st March 2021, everyone in England and Wales had to complete a census form giving details of who we are, when we were born, where we were living on that day, our occupation, or past occupation if retired, our educational qualifications, gender, religion etc. Some people may have found this intrusive, but the information will not be available to general public scrutiny for 100 years, by which the vast majority of us will be long gone!

So, why do we have a census and what have past censuses told us? Well, if you are interested in family history research, which is a very popular pastime, they can tell us an enormous amount of fascinating information about our ancestors; where they lived, their ages and occupations, family members and dynamics and help us to trace the family tree reasonably accurately to the early 19 century. Beyond that we usually have to rely on Parish records which are not always so easy to follow with confidence.

The point of the census though is to not just know how many people live here, but enable statisticians to determine trends that may help in the planning of future population needs.

John Rickman (22nd August 1771 – 11th August 1840) was an English government official and statistician and is credited with drafting the first bill which became the 1800 Census Act. He was instrumental in carrying out the first four 10 yearly censuses of Great Britain between 1801 and 1831, including not only a population count, but also the collection and analysis of parish register returns.

1801

Rickman conducted the first census on 10th March 1801 which revealed a population of 8.87 million across the UK. However, it was estimated that there were also half a million military personnel, seamen and convicts who had not been included, taking the total to approximately 9.4 million. (In 2020 the population stood at 67.26 million)

1811

The second census took place on 27th May 1811 and revealed the population had increased to 10.1 million.

1821

The census on 28th May 1821 was the first to measure the age of the population in five and ten year age groups. This revealed that almost half were under 20 years of age compared with about a quarter today. The age band analysis was important for a number of reasons, but partly because of the growing demand for accurate life tables from Friendly Societies at the time. These were local associations or clubs created to provide mutual financial support to their members. At the end of the 19th century, Friendly Societies provided most insurance, benefits and pensions for millions of people in the UK.

1831

This census, undertaken on 30th May 1831, was the first to include industrial classifications of agriculture, manufacturing or making machinery, retail trade or handicraft, merchants, bankers, miners, fishermen, etc.

John Rickman died in 1840 and Thomas Henry Lister became the first Registrar General.

1841

Census field teams took the census instead of overseers of the poor and other leading members of each parish as before. Some 35,000 enumerators, (all men), armed with pencils delivered a separate form to each household, recording almost 16 million individuals in England and Wales. People completed the forms themselves – a real challenge for some because, at this time, many people could not read or write. This meant that someone literate would have to complete the forms for them and this may have introduced anomalies with the spelling of names. For example, in my own family, the name Hollington had previously been reduced to Ollington, presumably because they omitted to pronounce their 'H's'!

Statisticians discovered that the most popular occupation listed in this census was 'Domestic Servant', but there were also almost a quarter of a million working in cotton manufacture, 571 fork makers, 74 leech bleeders and 5 ice dealers! This was also the first census to be translated into Welsh.

1851

This time the census asked for exact age, marital status, relationship to the head of the household and each person's birthplace. It also asked for declaration of any infirmities, e.g. blind or deaf-and-dumb, and second occupations.

William Farr, a government statistician, used data to classify people by occupation and age and determined the influence of employment on health. He concluded that "miners die in undue proportions, tailors die in considerable numbers at younger ages (25-45) and that 'The Poor Law' apparently affords inadequate relief to the worn-out workman."

1861

For the first time the census in Scotland was conducted under separate legislation by the newly created Registered General for Scotland.

1871

This time it was asked whether a person was unemployed. In addition to the blind or deaf-and-dumb categories, it also added 'lunatic' or 'imbecile'. Enumerators were paid one guinea (£1.05p today) to count 400 people, but got more if they walked more than 5 miles or counted an extra 100 people.

1881

The Register General commented on the question as whether any lunatics or idiots lived in the household saying, "It is against human nature to expect a mother to admit her young child to be an idiot, however much she may fear this to be true. To acknowledge the fact is to abandon all hope." However, enquiries into infirmities only stopped after 1911.

1891

For the first time, female census takers were employed and a question about the number of rooms in each household added in response to fears of overcrowding in industrial cities. The census in Wales also asked about those who spoke the Welsh language, but analysis found that many babies under the age of 1 year were recorded as able to speak it!

1901

This census recorded that a good measure of the population was in work. About 80% men and 33% women regarded themselves as being 'occupied'. Respecting the political correctness of the day, the term 'idiot' was replaced with 'feeble minded'!

The total population of England and Wales had now reached 32,526,075.

1911

For the first time the householder's schedule remained the master entry for the 1911 census and therefore researchers and genealogists now accessing records online are able to view their ancestor's handwriting. Separate questions about occupation and industry were introduced and a special enquiry into marriage and fertility was carried out at the same time in an attempt to shed light on why the birth rate had been falling since the 1870's.

1921

This census, undertaken on 19th June 1921, is eagerly awaited by everyone doing family history research and should be released in early 2022. It consists of 28,000 bound volumes of original household returns, giving details on approximately 38 million individuals.

Beyond this point in the history of the census, little will be established until the 1951 census becomes available. The 1931 census returns, including schedules, enumeration books and plans were destroyed in a fire in Hayes, Middlesex, where the census was being stored, in December 1932. No census was undertaken in 1941 due to World War II and, although a National Register was taken in 1939, it gave limited population information.

For anyone who is interested in tracing their family tree, there are many websites available, although some of the most popular are:

www.findmypast.co.uk

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.family-tree.co.uk

www.freebmd.org.uk



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Funerals

Talking about funerals in previous generations has been in hushed and sombre voices. It's a subject that we do not discuss around dinner parties or at the school gates. It's not discussed until you need a funeral and often at that point it is a rushed and painful experience. Many reading this article will have their own story to tell, you have either attended or had to make arrangements for a loved one.

Some of us get ahead and pay for a funeral plan – the fear of HUGE funeral bills can be a real and present worry for anyone edging towards elderly – you start to worry about it.

Do our children, family or friends even know what are wishes might be for the future ??

Somehow we discuss births, mortgages, new jobs, weddings, college and university, etc etc – all these landmark moments in our lives – but – we never get around to discussing our funeral.

WHY ?

- We don't know how to begin the discussion ...
- Worried that funerals are so expensive we sweep the whole idea under the carpet ...
- Fractured families – any conversation may cause family arguments ...
- Fear ...
- I won't need a funeral for ages ...
- It's not going to happen to me ...
- I don't like funeral directors ...
- I don't like all that black ...
- It has not crossed my mind – until now!
- It's all written in my will ... often the will is not found before arrangements have been made!

We at Turner Funerals want to offer you the opportunity to get the conversation out of the dark. We hope to offer a fresh and lighter approach to the whole subject.

It is not necessary anymore to always have a traditional funeral. Decorum and Integrity are still the most important requisites for any arrangement but there are new and alternative approaches.

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