



WEETING VILLAGE LIFE

March 2024
Edition 45

Weeting Castle Repairs

Whilst walking my dog around Weeting Castle grounds last month, I stopped to have a chat with one of the workmen, called Neil. He was very interested in learning about Weeting Hall and asked me where it had been sited. I told him about The Towers being the only sizeable portion left of it and learned later that he had driven along there after he had finished work that day.

The following morning I returned to the castle and took along a copy of December's edition of Weeting Village Life for Neil and his colleagues to look at. At the same time, the site manager for that day, Adrian, offered to give me a tour of the work site as long as I wore a hard hat. Thinking that I would be remaining at ground level and looking up, I was thrilled to be given the chance to climb up the ladders to all the floor levels. This gave me a superb view of the castle's structure that mostly isn't seen at close quarters, including a view through the garderobe window (see right) and Adrian showed me some of the various features that have come to light since the renovation began. This included two niches, one on each side of the main entrance to the private living area on the first floor and what is believed to be the 'stopping stone' that would have been the stone that 'stopped' the wooden beam used to secure the door to the main hall.



The work being undertaken includes repointing most of the walls with lime mortar which requires certain weather conditions to allow it to cure and therefore often slows down this type of work. However, they are also having to recreate some supporting posts in the undercroft that would have supported an arch before this collapses, using Norfolk chalk blocks which are very hard and long lasting, as well as rebuilding the fireplace in the living room above,

which had mostly fallen apart. For the repairs to the walls they are using flint from a quarry at Castle Acre, so it is all local material. I think the castle will be a lot more interesting to visit when these jobs are complete.

It is hoped that the scaffolding will be removed in the next few weeks, although ground level repairs to the low walls of the main hall will continue for a while longer.



Calling All Weeting Wombles!

A major litter pick will take place around the village on Saturday 16th March 2024 from 10am to midday.

All volunteers welcome - high visibility jackets, collection bags and picks will be provided.

Meet at the playing field car park.



Dogs on the Playing Field

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that some dog owners are regularly allowing their pets to run free around the playing field. Dog faeces are extremely anti-social as well as being a potential hazard and can cause Toxocariasis that can result in blindness.



Please note that dogs are **not** permitted, even on a leash and notices to this effect are in place on the field. There is a designated dog walking area outside the field fence with dog poo bins at each end.

So, please be a conscientious dog owner and follow the rules.

Editor's Note:

The next edition of Weeting Village Life will be published in June 2024.



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 17th May 2024**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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

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School Report



The Spring Term is always a special one, as we see the children across the school flourish as they apply their knowledge into practice and start to show real flair in their independent learning. There have been many whole school and class highlights that we are really proud of. We are building on the work that we started last term and have explored lots of different opportunities to enrich and extend children's learning beyond our curriculum.

In January, **Elm Class** participated in a Bikeability session and learnt a wide range of different cycling skills including how to:

- Keep a good and safe distance from other vehicles and bikes
- Check your bike is in working order
- Use and read hand signals as a cyclist to know what is going on around you as well as how to communicate with other road users.



Later in the session, the children transferred all this new learning and demonstrated how to cycle together in a large group safely around the playground, including weaving in and out of cones as if they were obstacles. They even learnt how to cycle with one hand and perform U-turns to pass from moving and stationary gaps.

In February we celebrated National Number Day. The children got into the spirit by wearing some amazing number t-shirts. There were lots of comparisons about who was wearing the most numbers and who had the largest number on them! It was wonderful to see how excited the children were as they solved a range of maths problems across the school.



Beech Class competed to find as many number bonds to 10 and 20 as they could in 1 minute. Most impressively, the children learnt how to begin a Fibonacci sequence, where you add the two previous numbers in the sequence to find the next one. We all began at 1, and several of our children far exceeded expectations!



Elm Class added up the total value of our number outfits and we came to a whopping total of 14,531! The children enjoyed times table battleships and Bingo, followed by the chance to create their own time table flower helpers. In the final maths challenge of the morning, Elm tested themselves, seeing how far they could go with the Fibonacci spirals.



The whole school was very privileged to meet and exercise with Sean Rose, a paralympic athlete. Sean put all the children through their paces, encouraging them to persevere and cheer their friends on. There were a lot of hot and sweaty looking children, and staff, after all those spotty dogs, star jumps, leg drives and press ups!



Sean met his match when he was challenged to a wheelchair race by Lillah. With huge cheering from the whole school, Lillah held her own and whizzed past Sean to be declared the fastest wheelchair racer in Weeting!

The whole school was hugely inspired by Sean's talk about his journey to become an international Winter Paralympian skier and water-skiing champion. I think all the children took Sean's story to heart, particularly the part about making the decision to be "sad" or "happy" after a serious skiing accident left him paralysed from the waist down. They all agreed that being positive and looking at what opportunities can come out of a difficult time is how they want to approach life. The children asked some very thoughtful and interesting questions about Sean's successes and what it is like to be in a wheelchair. Funds raised from this event are going to be used by the children to buy more resources for them to use at playtimes and lunchtimes, encouraging them to develop their physical skills and well-being further.

On a very wet, grey and miserable day in February, the children participated in Mental Health Day. Everyone had thought very carefully about their favourite colour and chosen some great outfits to celebrate their individuality!



The children explored the different ways that they can say and talk about how they feel. Some children started the day by reading the story 'Ruby's Worry'. We then discussed what a worry was and how we could manage worries, thinking about people who we can go to for help.



Other children wrote a letter of gratitude to a friend or family member, explaining how they had helped them when they had a worry or problem.

The children discovered how exercise and relaxation techniques can help to make them feel grounded and calm if they are feeling angry, upset or worried. Some classes took part in a mini yoga session.



Across all the classes, the children created a self-portrait, using different media and their favourite colours. The self-portraits celebrate their individuality and uniqueness.



Chestnut Class

This half term in Chestnut, we have been learning about 'Transport'. We explored the different transport that we have in our country and compared these to different types of transport from around the world. The children made their own boats and tested them to see if they were strong enough to carry cargo.

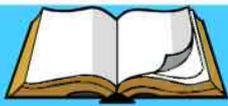


In Literacy, we read two transport related books; 'Mr. Gumpy's Outing' and 'Mr. Gumpy's Motor Car'. The children identified the characters in both stories and where each story is set. In 'Mr. Gumpy's Outing', we explored the order of which characters got onto the boat and where the characters were going. We also thought about who we would bring if we went on a boat. In 'Mr. Gumpy's Motor Car' we explored which characters joined Mr. Gumpy in his car and the effect the changing weather had on their journey. We then painted our own car versions of Mr. Gumpy's motor car.



In Maths, we learnt how to compare numbers using mathematical language such as 'more than' and 'fewer than'. The children have also been learning about the composition of numbers, using the part-part whole model. This model is key to them learning how to add and subtract.





School Report



The children have learnt about 2D shapes, using mathematical language to describe the features of squares, triangles, circles and rectangles. The children used lollipop sticks and straws to create different sized triangles and printing with cylinders to create circle paintings.



The children also had the amazing opportunity to have a lesson with an artist, Samuel Thomas. Samuel shared how he created his paintings and then got them to create their own versions of one of his paintings. The children learnt how to colour-mix and create reflective images.



Beech Class

This term in Beech Class we have been reading 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' by Beatrix Potter. While reading this text, we have been building up to writing instructions for Peter Rabbit to escape Mr McGregor's garden. In order to do this, we have learnt how to use imperative verbs to tell the reader what to do, time adverbials in order to sequence the instructions, and present tense.



In Maths, we have delved deep into addition and subtraction, looking at different methods to help us to solve calculations. The children have been using their knowledge of place value to draw tens and ones, exchanging when they needed to. We have also begun to explore column method to work out problems. The children have developed their confidence and can tackle word problems too.



In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about electricity, particularly making circuits and investigating which materials are conductors and which are insulators. They are experts in testing the



equipment to isolate any faults and are now knowledgeable about how to be safe around electricity at school and at home.

Our focus in Geography this term has been the British Isles. We have found out facts about England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and looked at the human and physical features of each country. We have especially enjoyed using the atlas in order to look at relief maps of mountains and hills, identify rivers, and label capital cities. A highlight of our unit was comparing Norfolk to Cape Town in South Africa, and we all agreed that Table Mountain was accurately named.

One of our favourite subjects is Art, where we have been diligently studying portraits and self-portraits. We have looked at the works of Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Rembrandt and Picasso, learning how they each developed their own styles when creating self-portraits. Beech Class have all become skilled artists, developing their skills of colour-mixing, brushstrokes, and representation in order to tell the viewer more about themselves.



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In RE this term our focus has been on Islam and how Muslims show that Allah is compassionate. We have learnt some of the stories about Muhammad the prophet and how he cared for animals and other people. We discovered that he acts as a good example for Muslims to follow. We also found out that adult Muslims fast during Ramadan to help them remember about those less fortunate.

Elm

In English, the children have read two class texts to support and develop their writing skills. In 'Stig of the Dump' they designed and wrote letters to Stig once he had gone back to his own people and time. The children also explored how to write from the perspective of a character in the story called Barney to create a short narrative where he was in dialogue with Stig. They had to really think carefully about how to include the two thoughts, feelings and memories. In the second book, 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman, the children have written a set of instructions around how to clean your white elephant - an important character in the story. They had to think very carefully about how to set out their instruction, making sure that they included imperative verbs as well as prepositions and prepositional phrases.

In Maths, the children have been exploring all four operations and using them to solve one and two step number problems. Elm have now moved forward onto using times tables to solve multiplication problems as well as multiple step multiplication problems.

In Science, Elm have been learning about ecology. The children have learnt about food chains and how the natural cycle cannot function when one element is removed. They have learnt about dangerous elements to the environments such as pollution and that there are many different forms of pollution. Elm then explored and researched man-made pollution such as smog and plastics with things affecting the local area such as plastic bags and other plastic materials in ponds, lakes and rivers.

Elm have explored the seven different elements of art and applied them independently in their sketch of 'The fall of Icarus'. The children then moved onto using collage as they learnt about Matisse's cut outs which he described as 'painting with scissors'. From there, Elm designed and created their own final versions of 'Les Codomas' by Matisse. The children's final piece involved studying 'The Scream' by Munch. Elm learnt about contrasting colours, as well as straight and curved lines. The children learnt that these elements help with expressionism which allows them to distort the reality of a painting, allowing them to express more emotions around the person or object.

In RE, the children have been learning about Hinduism. The children learnt that Moksha is when the cycle of reincarnation is broken and your soul becomes one with God. To explore this concept Elm investigated travelling through Samara and reincarnation through the game snakes and ladders. Elm have learnt that Hindus believe the cycle of birth and death is called Samsara. The children investigated that Hindus believe their soul's progress is determined by the good and bad karma they collect as they live their lives. Elm learnt that Hindus believe that a bit like buying new clothes, when you leave this life, you 'buy' a new life and it is paid for with good karma (the good actions you have done in this life).

The Nest

In the Nest, we have had a fun, busy and exciting start to 2024 with lots of wonderful learning.

We have continued to love reading lots of different stories and looking at different books. We have visited the library several times and chosen books to take back to our classroom. One of our favourites this half term has been 'The Magic Pen' where the main character uses his special pen to write down the name of things he would like. These things then come to life. We also enjoyed 'The Bean Machine'. This story is about a boy who eats baked beans all day every day until he realises that he needs to make a machine to recycle the tin cans which are everywhere!



Our class story this term has been 'Whatever Next'. Baby Bear uses a cardboard box to travel to the moon. We enjoyed acting out the story and pretending to travel to the moon. We thought about special things and people who we would like to take with us if we were to have a picnic on the moon.

We completed a new topic 'Space'. We started our learning by thinking about Earth and continued our topic by finding out more about Space. We looked at different astronauts and the different planets in our solar system and found out more about stars and space exploration.

Cooking has always been one of our favourite sessions in the Nest. Our cooking so far has included making cheese and ham toasties where we used the microwave to melt our cheese. We made pasta salad where we practised our chopping skills and tried celery, sweet peppers and cucumber. We enjoyed rolling pastry to make sausage rolls. Last week, we made stained glass cookies. We used cutters to cut out a section of our cookie and put different coloured hard-boiled sweets in the gap. We baked our cookies and enjoyed looking at the different coloured patterns. When we held up our cookies, we could see through them!



In RE, we have been learning about salvation and how we can help others when they need it. We found out that Christians believe that it is important to "save" or "rescue" others just like Jesus did and that Christians pray to God for help for themselves and for other people.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about different ways to keep our bodies safe. We know that it is important to eat a balance diet which includes a variety of fruits and vegetables. We found out that it is important to get enough sleep, to exercise regularly and that we also need to look after our teeth which involves cleaning them twice a day for two minutes.

We have continued to think about and recognise our own feelings. We read 'Ruby's Worry' and used the ideas in the story to name some people we could ask for help if we had a worry. As always, we have been remembering and practising how to be good friends. We have played lots of games and completed lots of activities to help us with this idea.





School Report



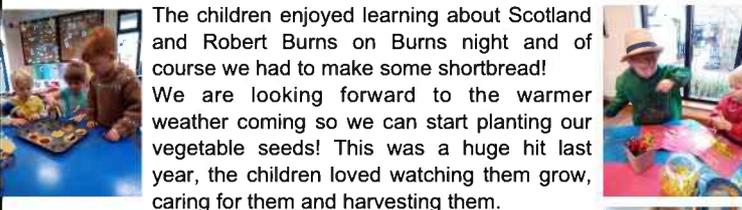
We started the year by welcoming some new children to preschool! They have settled in so well and we love having them with us.

This term we have celebrated Chinese New Year, the children loved finding out which animal they were in the Chinese zodiac and which order their animal came in in the race!



We celebrated Valentines Day with handmade cards, heart jam tarts and different crafts.

Pancake day was a huge hit! The children helped to make the batter and enjoyed preparing their own toppings; strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and chocolate sauce were the favourites!



The children enjoyed learning about Scotland and Robert Burns on Burns night and of course we had to make some shortbread!

We are looking forward to the warmer weather coming so we can start planting our vegetable seeds! This was a huge hit last year, the children loved watching them grow, caring for them and harvesting them.

Our popular family prize bingo event will be back this year at the village hall. Our date for this is Saturday 27th April. Look out for more details coming soon!

If you are looking for childcare for ages 2-4 and would like to be added to our waiting list please contact the preschool on 07927 690968.



We started the school year with our AGM, forming a new committee and welcoming a new chairman and vice chairman.

Our class bake sales are almost at an end, with one class left to go. These have been very competitive again this year, each class hoping to win the trophy! Currently Elm class are in the lead!

During the first term we held a spooky autumn painting activity which was well attended, with the children creating some lovely designs.

Our autumn fancy dress disco was a big hit, with some great costumes, great dancing and lots of fun!

We held our Festive Fete which consisted of a Santa's Grotto, tombola, guess how many presents in Santa's sack, name the hedgehog, a sweet tombola and design a Christmas jumper competition. By far our most popular and best seller was our Christmas lunch raffle! The winner won all the ingredients for their Christmas lunch including turkey, vegetables, crackers, drinks and dessert, all delivered to them a couple of days before Christmas!



The proceeds of our Festive Fete will be going towards new maths equipment and games for the children.

The Friends of Weeting gifted all the children a new book which was hand delivered to them. We also decorated the tables for the children's Christmas lunch.

Our Valentine's disco was another big hit. There were some very smart dressers and some great dancing again! Our single red roses were very popular with the children, it was very sweet watching them give the roses to each other.

Some of our upcoming events include a world book day event where some lucky families will find winning tickets amongst chocolate bars. Prizes have been kindly and generously donated by local businesses. Our following event will be an Easter scavenger hunt, in which children will need to find letters or clues for the chance to win an Easter treat!



Weeting Bowls Club

2024 marks a very special year in the history of the Bowls Club. On Monday 27 May we will be hosting a jubilee event to celebrate the opening of the club 50 years ago.

Weeting Bowls Club Golden Jubilee

We are delighted to extend an invitation to an **OPEN DAY** to celebrate the refurbishment of the green, and the installation of a new kitchen

The Open Day will take place on **MONDAY 27 MAY 2024** from 10.30am – 5.00pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME (Free of charge)

- Fun activities will be available for the inexperienced, and beginners who wish to "Have a go"
- Triples competition – £60 cash for winning team (Please contact Joanna Nordan, Club Captain; on jonordan@hotmail.com with names, if interested)
- The bar will be open from 11.30am onwards and food will be available to buy from 12.30pm
- Please note that **flat soled shoes** are an absolute necessity for admission to the green

Celebrating 50 years of bowling

Weeting Bowls Club, Lynn Road, Weeting, Suffolk, IP27 0QG. Tel: Jo Nordan, 01842 815638 (Capt) or Carol Newman, 01842 815089 (Secretary)

To date, work is continuing with restoration of the green, grounds and clubhouse in preparation for the coming season. Meanwhile, the social committee continue to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for its members where children are also welcomed under supervision. Please note that you do not need to be a member to attend social events in the first instance, although members do benefit from reduced prices at the bar and bookings for private functions.

Upcoming events as follows.

Sat 24 Feb	~ Pool competition, £5 entry – Cash prize
Sat 2 March	~ Karaoke
Fri 29 March	~ Bingo
Sat 30 March	~ 60's/70's/80's Disco (fancy dress optional)
	~ Easter raffle
Sun 31 March	~ Meat Raffle (lamb)
Sat 13 April	~ Bowlers pre-season welcome evening (for new and returning bowlers)
Sun 14 April	~ Green opens for bowls 12.00pm
	Opening hours
Tuesdays	7.00pm - 12.00pm
Fridays	5.00pm - 2.00am
Saturdays	8.00pm - late
Sundays	12pm - 12am

Mrs Joanna Nordan (Bowls Captain)

Walking on Air (Hockwold)

07596157826

D.T.Byrne MCFHP MAFHP

Foot Health Professional

Long nails, Corns, Callus, Hard skin, Cracked Heels and Fissures, Fungal Nails, Ingrowing Toe Nails (Home or Clinic visits available)



Diabetic Foot Care - Clinics or Home Visits

Unit 4, Harvey Adams Enterprise Centre
Wimbledon Avenue

Brandon
Suffolk
IP27 0NZ

Gift Vouchers Available

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ART FOR PLEASURE

We finished 2023 with members enjoying a sumptuous Christmas Lunch at Thetford Golf Course. However, as usual at our last meeting in Weeting Village Hall of 2023 we interrupted our painting to enjoy a buffet lunch of salads, quiches, sausage rolls, mince pies, cakes, etc, mostly made by our members. We also all produced a Christmas Card painted by ourselves so everyone went home with a card made by one of our fellow artists.

In January Phillipa Parker came and held a workshop in pastels. It is not a medium that most of us used very often but we all produced lovely pictures of hares. Since then many of the group have been working on a seascape in pastels. If you come to Weeting Village Hall's Easter fête you may see some of them.



We are hoping to continue having suggested subjects on our programme but we are all individuals and often we are all working on different subjects, in different mediums, so the resulting pictures can be so different.

If you have always wanted to try your hand at drawing or painting we meet every Thursday morning at Weeting Village Hall. New members are always welcome. Our name Art for Pleasure means exactly that – we meet for the pleasure of painting and the company of like minded friends.

Further details can be obtained from:-

Beryl Pountney, – Tel no. 01842 828750

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.



HAVE FUN!

GET FIT!

WHY NOT JOIN

METHWOLD

BADMINTON CLUB?

THIS FRIENDLY BADMINTON CLUB MEETS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL IN THE CENTRE OF METHWOLD FROM 7PM ONWARDS.

OUR SEASON RUNS FROM SEPTEMBER TO APRIL.

WHY NOT COME ALONG, MEET NEW FRIENDS AND ENJOY AN ACTIVE EVENING PLAYING BADMINTON.

WANT MORE DETAILS?

Contact Jeff Millard on

01842 827428

HOPE TO SEE YOU!



The Village Orchard

During 2022, Weeting Parish Council discussed the possibility of marking Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee by planting some trees on the green in front of the Bowls Club. This idea had been put forward by Councillor Tom Childerhouse and Norfolk County Council, who own that piece of land, gave us permission to use it. Later that year, our Norfolk County Councillor, Fabian Eagle, announced that he had been granted some funds that could go towards projects for the Jubilee in his parishes, including green projects, such as planting trees. Following a successful bid for funds, it was decided to purchase a selection of traditional varieties of apple trees and seven were planted in March 2023.

However, as you might have noticed driving through the village, there are now 27 fruit trees planted in front of the thatched row. This is part of a Breckland scheme to plant heritage orchards in the villages around the District to celebrate the King's coronation.

As a Parish Council, we were successful in a bid, so no cost to the parish, to plant different fruit trees for the benefit of the village and the environment. There are 18 apple trees, 3 pears, 3 plums, 1 damson, 1 cherry and a quince.

They are all different and are older varieties with a connection to the crown and Norfolk, such as, Norfolk, Apple Pie, Sandringham Apple, Norfolk Royal Russet, Bloody Ploughman's, and Norfolk Biffen.

The pears are older varieties such as Packham's Triumph and the plums include Groves Late Victoria and Blue Tit.

The quince, cherry and damson are there to provide a bit of variety. The names of some of these are intriguing such as Bloody Ploughman. This variety was first described in 1883 and is said to have been grown from a pip found in a bag belonging to a ploughman who was shot dead by the local gamekeeper after being caught scrumping apples. The pip was planted and nurtured by a fellow worker of the ploughman and that is how the resulting tree got its name.

The Norfolk Biffen (otherwise known as Norfolk Beefing) has been grown for over 300 years and used to be popular with Norwich bakers who cooked them in their bread ovens to sell to London fruiterers as a delicacy (see right). Sir Robert Walpole, the first British Prime Minister, who was born in Norfolk, had them sent to him in London from his estate at Houghton Hall and Charles Dickens mentioned them in several of his books including A Christmas Carol, Nicholas Nickleby and Martin Chuzzlewit. Norfolk Biffen apples are also used for cider making.



No unpaid carer in crisis

Help someone smile, become a Befriender

Join our volunteer team and help us provide companionship and support to unpaid carers in Norfolk.

Could you:

- Offer regular companionship to an unpaid carer feeling alone and isolated?
- Support an unpaid carer to access services in their community?
- Provide practical support such as dog walking, shopping or gardening?
- Offer an unpaid carer a break by supporting their loved one in their own home?



Please get in touch to see how you can help someone smile. Thank you.

Jane Hawkins 07843 327485
volunteers@caringtogether.org
caringtogether.org/befriender





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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

WEETING ALL STAR PERFORMERS

Hi everybody, here we are already getting ready for Easter, (wow), which is just around the corner. I love Easter eggs and my Easter Craft Show will be on the 9th of MARCH - much earlier than usual, but that is because our Easter celebrations are very early this year. We have already got a full house of Crafters, so, if you have not been to any of the previous Craft Shows, come along. You will be so surprised at the talent of our local neighbours, such fine and clever work and so much to see, from beautiful pictures displayed by our own Art class to greeting cards, wonderful wooden figures all handmade, the list is very long, and I know I will forget some but believe me the work our neighbours have done is quite outstanding. We also have a tombola and raffle and in the kitchen Angie and her team will be serving hot dogs, bacon butties etc.



But to go back for a little while, I just want to say a very big thank you, to all the members of the Drama group - we always have such fun rehearsing for the shows and the one we performed for Christmas was no exception - "SANTA'S LOST HAT". We had done this some years before, but the intended pantomime script was not ready, so I revamped the old show. Of course, we had the usual mix-ups, but that's the WASPs! The members come to have fun and to make people laugh with their antics and the Lost Hat was no different. However, at least one member did NOT go on stage in the wrong outfit this time! It has

been done before and I am sure it will be done again, with me jumping up and down backstage, but our aim is to make people laugh. So, again, if you have not experienced one of the WASP shows, then get ready, for the next one. Last spring, we performed "Murder at the Manor" and as it was so well received, I have written a follow up for this year. This time it is called "Murder at the Grange" and some of the characters from the last show are returning, such as PC PLODD and PC WORLD. I am not sure what they will get up to, but it will be a hoot. The date for this extravaganza is Friday June 15th and Saturday 16th, with two performances on the Saturday, so put that date in your diary.

Also, add this date to your diary - SATURDAY 8th JUNE - when the WASPs will be putting on a one-off performance to celebrate the D-DAY LANDINGS. We will be singing all the old favourites of the war years, so bring your voices with you. Tea, coffee and cake will be served, and we hope to have some extra pieces from other groups. More information will be put on Facebook in the near future.

Moving on from our Christmas show we will have already run our first QUIZ night of the year, and I hope all that attended had a great evening. Just to put you in the picture, I run two Quiz Shows every year - one in the early Spring and another in the Autumn, so if you missed this one which was held in the village hall on the 17th of February then look out for posters in September for the date of the next. It is a fun night with questions and, hopefully, the right answers and at half time I feed everybody with a meal and then a raffle is drawn - all this is at a price of £6 per head. Much more information in the September edition.

Getting back to the WASPs Drama group. We have now started rehearsing for the "Murder at the Grange" show and the cast is doing very well!! Well, doing their usual thing, but as we all say it will be all right on the night???"Carole", (me), crossing fingers again as usual, but, as I said at the beginning, we do this to make people laugh and if we all go home after a rehearsal laughing then great.



WEST NORFOLK AVIATION SOCIETY

The regular meeting convened as usual at Mundford Bowls



Club where a near (if not actual) record attendance was recorded to hear a talk by Ian Brown (photo left) on Atomic Sculthorpe. Ian is the Curator of The RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre and as he explained fell into the roll purely because of his interest in the place having lived close by. This was a very interesting



presentation on the history of RAF Sculthorpe which is really a flag of convenience as in reality its all about the United States Air Force(USAF) and their operations predominantly in the late 1940's and early 50's when Sculthorpe was a base for B29 aircraft carrying the various models of Atomic Weapons, bombs to you and I, in defence against the Soviet Union under the appropriately named MAD (Mutally Assured Destruction) protocol. This is exactly what it says on the tin, you lob an Atomic Bomb at us and we will lob a bigger one back, ending as it were with a BIG BANG for everyone. Ian has made many interesting discoveries of the history around Sculthorpe inc the various unique installations such a turntables to align the aircraft more accurately with the loading trollies. Me thinks this is a good idea as I don't reckon you, or indeed Usain Bolt, could run fast enough to escape a blast if you dropped one when loading.....

Ian explained a number of myths about RAF Sculthorpe of which the 3 main ones were:

- Heated RunwayAbsolutely not
- Underground InstallationsNope
- Alternative Space Shuttle Landing Airfield....Again No, that was RAF Fairford

So thats put all that to bed then! But wait there was more.

Operation Jujitsu spy missions took place from Sculthorpe in the early 1950's when the RAF operated USAF B45 aircraft with RAF roundels but no registration numbers. The B45 was never on the inventory of the RAF, but it undertook manned spy missions over the USSR crewed by RAF crews, thus creating ultimate deniability using the argument, sic the RAF; not us 'gov' we don't operate those aircraft and sic USAF; not us 'gov' not our aircraft or crews. In the end the arguments weren't required as the missions were completed successfully! High risk nonetheless and approved by the then PM Winston Churchill as a way for us to get back in the good books of our US allies. The reason why Sculthorpe was chosen was because it was already home to the 91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing operating the B45 aircraft. A further operation was cancelled due to the risk and eventually manned flights over the USSR were cancelled when Gary Powers in a Lockheed U2 aircraft was shot down from 'very high indeed' by a Soviet missile, and amazingly survived to tell the tale,

For further information on Atomic Sculthorpe and Operation Jujitsu a visit to the RAF Sculthorpe Heritage Centre is recommended. On the other hand if you like the sound of our group why not come to the West Norfolk Aviation Society meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at Mundford Bowls Club where you will be guaranteed a warm welcome with tea, biscuits and light snacks provided by our hosts Val and Len and an aviation themed evening amongst like mind individuals. Can't say fairer than that!

Mark Burch

Spring is on its Way!

Is it my imagination, or have the snowdrops been in greater abundance this year? The village is beginning to look quite spring-like now with daffodils and crocuses breaking through our green spaces. Even the trees are budding and the willow near the school has a lovely haze of green over it.



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!

Village Hall Report

Well, here we are again, two months of the New Year gone already, time flies when you are busy like we have been.

First off, we have been updating things in the hall again, still dragging it into the 21st Century. This time we have replaced the two noisy heaters by the kitchen with two nice new ones – anything has got to be better than those two fan heaters which didn't really work very well. And although the weather has not been too bad, least ways not as bad as other areas in the British Isles, but we have had a few cold spells where the heaters have been needed.

We have also been looking into putting a brand new Fire Alarm in the hall, so by the time this report comes out, everything will be in place, including new signs by the fire exits, all as per instructions following an EICR report we had done for our Insurance Company, so those using the hall from now on should take note as to where the fire exits are, and where the fire alarm is situated. Instructions will be issued to all groups and clubs who use the hall on a regular basis.

By the time you read this the WASPS will have run their first quiz night of the year on February 17th – well done to the winners and thank you to all who came and supported us, and of course, a huge thank you to the organisers and their loyal helpers on the night. Following that there is a craft fayre on the 9th March, being held earlier this time in line with Easter.

The next big event will be the AGM to be held on Monday 13th May, starting at 7pm – everyone welcome to attend especially anyone interested in joining the committee – if you think you have something to offer then please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Then in June we have the WASPS show (see separate report) guaranteed to be as entertaining as it normally is – you know the WASPS they can't take anything too seriously and like a good laugh and a sing song. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of May.

We have had more vandalism, this time it's the notice board in the overflow car park, this was found on the floor – and as it is way too heavy to have been blown down, we were left wondering how it ended up on the floor – on looking at the two outside posts, as they were still upright in the ground it was clear that it had been knocked down with some considerable force. This was a convenient notice board for the hall and local groups to put notices up regarding up-and-coming events and was regularly updated.

Karen Scott
Treasurer
Weeting Village Hall

St Mary's Church



Rector:

Joan Horan Tel: 01842 828034. revjhoran@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Tommy Saward Tel: 01842 813601 tommysaward@hotmail.com
Julianne Young julianneyoung0@gmail.com

Regular services are as follows:

Third Sunday of the month: Eucharist @ 11am

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21st March 2024

18th April 2024

16th May 2024

Angerstein Close	10.25 - 10.40 am
St Edmund Close	10.45 - 11.00 am
Saxon Place	11.05 - 11.15 am
Glebe Road	11.20 - 11.45 am
Rectory Lane	11.50 - 12.10 pm

N.B. Time changes and library no longer stops at All Saints.

Georgina Sims 07913 976786

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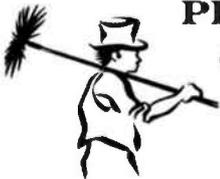
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WEETING SPEED RECORDER UPDATE

Time Period FROM	Time Period TO	Position (Direction facing)	Total Count of vehicles	Speed Limit mph	Vehicles within the speed limit	Speeding Violations
2023						
21 st October	18 th November	Peppers Close (E)	5548	30	4716	832
18 th November	16 th December	Park View (E)	36573	30	32535	4038
16 th December	13 th January 24	Lynn Road (S)	55482	40	51047	4435
2024						
13 th January 24	10 th February	South Park (N)	69581	30	61077	8504

Quarterly Summary

Total Vehicle Count from 21 st October to 13 th January 2024	167184
Vehicle Count within the speed limit	149375
Speeding Violations within the village	17809
Violators as a percentage of the total vehicle count	10.65%

?? Who's Who ??

Weeting Parish Councillors

CLlr Ian Childerhouse	07747 794867	ianchilderhouse@icloud.com
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 Peter Nordan	01842 815638	nordanp@hotmail.co.uk
CLlr Bernard Smith	07985 902188	bernardsmith7@btinternet.com
CLlr Carole Wilkins	01842 550919	carolewlkns@sky.com

Weeting Parish Clerk

Mrs Pauline Angus	07741 481956	clerk@weetingparishcouncil.org.uk
50 Brecklands, Mundford, Norfolk, IP26 5EG		

Breckland District Councillor

CLlr Sam Chapman-Allen	07771 966457	sam.chapman-allen@breckland.gov.uk
CLlr Robert Kybird	01842 753132	robert.kybird@breckland.gov.uk

Norfolk County Councillor

CLlr Fabian Eagle	07774 295510	fabian.eagle@norfolk.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

Mrs Elizabeth Truss	020 7219 7151	elizabeth.truss.mp@parliament.uk
House of Commons		website: http://www.elizabethtruss.com
SW1A 0AA		Twitter: https://twitter.com/trussliz

Constituency Office

01842 766155

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

CLUB	CONTACT	LOCATION	DAY AND TIME
Adult's & Children's Street Dancing	Micha 07841 474400	Village Hall	Wednesday 3:45 - 8:45
Art For Pleasure	Beryl Pountney 01842 828750	Village Hall	Thursday 10:30am – 12:30pm Thursday 10:30 - 3:30pm 3rd
Bingo	Angie Page 01842 814147	Village Hall	Tuesday Open at 6:30pm Eyes down at 7pm - 9pm
Brandon & District Classic Vehicle Club	John Maxim 01842 811032	The Ram, Brandon	2nd Monday 7.30pm
Brandon & District Camera Club	Denise Whiting 01842 862079	Baptist Church Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:30pm
Brandon & District Society of Model Engineering	Dave Moore 01842 811996	Brandon Council Offices	1st Wednesday 7:30pm
Brandon Day Centre	Michelle Jarrett 01842 819777	Warren Close, Brandon, IP27 0EE	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10am - 3.30pm
Brandon Speaker's Club	Gary Sander 01842 814679	The Ram, Brandon	2nd & 4th Wednesday 7:00-9:30pm
Carpet Bowls	Heather Woodhams 01842 815406	Village Hall	Friday 10 – 12 midday
Fit Camp	Naomi 07506 246786	Playing Field	Monday 6:15 - 7:15pm
Green Bowls	Jo Nordan 01842 815638 Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7pm-10pm, Friday 5pm–10pm Saturday 8pm-Late, Sunday 12pm-12am
Gun Club	Derick Spencer 07766 750153	Weeting Gun Club	Alternate Sunday January to October
HATS	Gary Sander 07754 727130	Hockwold Village Hall	Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 - 9:30pm (during rehearsal periods)
History Group	Julianne Young 01842 813581	Various - call to check location	Last Thursday 7:30pm
Hockwold Cricket Club	John Ruddick 07902 231235		
Outdoor Archery	Mike 07894 904090	Euston Park	Friday 6:00 – 10pm Sunday 12 midday – 4:00pm
Keep Fit	Dorothy Kent 01842 810378	Village Hall	Monday 10:00– 11am (except Bank Holidays)
Line Dance	Rita Thompson 01842 815550	Village Hall	Friday 2:00 - 4:pm
Methwold Badminton Club	Jeff Millard 01842 827428	St George's Hall, Methwold	Every Thursday between September & April 7.00pm
Methwold Theatre Club	01366 727526	The 21 Room St George's Complex Methwold	Tuesday 7:30pm
Model Car	Colin. 07876 330687	Village Hall	Alt. Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
Pool	Carol Newman 01842 815089	Bowls Club	Tuesday 7:00pm
St Mary's Church	Tommy Sward (Churchwarden) 01842 813601	St Mary's Church	See list of Service times
Shoestring Theatre Company	Jill Hopper, 07985 376465	IES Breckland School Crown Street, Brandon	Tuesday 7:00 - 10:00pm
Thetford Singers	Sue Nairn 01842 810212	Methodist Rooms Tanner Street Thetford	Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm
W.A.S.P.s	Carole Wilkins 01842 550919	Village Hall	Monday and Friday 6:00 - 8pm (during rehearsal periods)
Weeting Saxon FC	James Langley. 01842 811627		
Weeting Steam Rally	Kate Plant Rally Co-ordinator 07907 720312		Monday 7pm to 9pm Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Weeting Weenies	Marie Stebbins mariestebbins@hotmail.com	Village Hall	Wednesday 10:00 – 12 midday (school term time only)
West Norfolk Aviation Society	07706 030307	Mundford Bowls Club	1st Tuesday

WEETING PARISH COUNCIL – in the beginning.

The first Parish Council minutes we have are for December 1948 – *yes, that is 76 years ago, over three quarters of a century. I am becoming a rarer beast, one who lived through the second World War so perhaps can relate to this period (although I was very young at the time!)*

The minutes are a single typed page and do not tell us an awful lot. The main business was to elect a Chairman and this was Mr Jack Knight, Mr Salt being elected as Clerk. *There is sure to be someone in the village who remembers Mr Knight or Mr Salt.* Business appeared to be formalizing the format of the Parish Council, where they would meet, public access to meetings and the Council taking over the contract for the ONE light that was in the centre of the village.

Interestingly there was a scheme to build six new houses in the village, plans to be discussed and future meetings arranged to accommodate the Chairman who was also on the District Council. The first meeting lasted 50 minutes.

January's meeting (*printed in red, probably carbon copy which is challenging*) agreed that the Lighting and Watching Act 1883 be adopted (*I could not find a lot of information on this*) but it seemed to allow responsibility for the village light to be transferred from the Chair to the Council. The six new houses for Weeting had now been increased to ten and tenders were out. The Polish Camp at Weeting Hall had been taken over by the District Council and the condition of the road in front of the thatched Cottages had been discussed. (*There seems to have been quite a continental flavour to the proceedings because they go on to discuss the Swedish houses at the top of the Chase!*)

The meeting also considered the complaint that certain houses had been overlooked in the last refuse collection and the Clerk was writing to the Sanitary Inspector. Agreement was also reached to purchase a copy of Dumsday's Parish Council Handbook. (*8th and possibly last Edition, published in 1959*).

February's minutes were somewhat concise, the condition of the road by the Thatched Cottages was with the Ministry of Works, the condition of the footpath from Weeting to Brandon with Norfolk County Council and the refuse collection had been carried out according to contract although it was noted the weight of receptables was too heavy for two men to lift (*the mind boggles!*).

March '49 we are back to red carbon and the minutes are very brief. There is mention of the waste land behind the Swedish Houses being used as a children's playground and enquiries as to whether a bus service could link up with the Brandon – Bury St Edmunds route. Approaches were to be made to the Rural District Council. There are a number of xxx alterations, but it was noted that Parish, RDC and County elections would take place in May and a further meeting was arranged for the end of March.

Late March and minutes much clearer – black carbon paper. The Ministry of Works had declined to repair the road to the Thatched Cottages due to lack of funding. *Not a lot changes.* Confirmation was noted that the question of the road by the Swedish Houses was being discussed with both Rural and County Councils. It was also agreed, having had details of the refuse collection dates that the area of collection should be discussed with Swaffham RDC as was an application for a 30-mile speed limit in the village. Accounts for payment were agreed: Eastern Electricity Board £2.17.0d (£2.85p) for the one streetlamp for November to March 1949 and £1.10.9d (just under £1.54p) for the purchase of a Parish Council Handbook. The Clerk then gave details of the forthcoming Parish and Rural District Elections – apparently there were 7 Parish and 2 Rural District Council seats available. The elections would take place at Weeting School. The Clerk said that he had no information concerning the County Council and he was asked to "bring this to their notice".

The meeting on May 3rd was the penultimate one prior to the elections. The 30-mph limit in the village had been approved and the bus service to Bury St Edmunds was to start shortly. Sanitary conditions at the old council houses were raised and the Chairman confirmed it was hoped a new sewage scheme would be considered, although he felt it would be some time coming. The Clerk confirmed he had a petty cash float of 10s (50p). The Clerk and Chairman were thanked for their work and the Chair in returned thanked members, confirming that attendance at meetings had been nearly 100%. The next meeting would be the Annual Meeting.

This took place on the 24th May with all new Parish councillors signing their declaration of acceptance. Queries continued to be raised about using the hut at Weeting Hall for social purposes and the Chairman confirming this was still with the RDC. Mrs Farrington was elected as Parish Council representative on the Norfolk County Nursing Association. The Chairman was also elected to serve on the "School Board of Management".

A further 20 houses were proposed for Weeting, 60% of which would be for agricultural and forestry workers and those with a connection with Weeting should highlight this on their application.

A complaint, it was agreed, should be lodged with the District Superintendent, Norwich Thorpe Station about the general inconvenience caused by the level crossing gates at Brandon Station. With regard to refuse collection, this was on the same day as Mundford and should remain so. It was also agreed that future meetings would take place quarterly, the next being August 16th 1949. *By the way, Mr Salt has now become Mr Malt!*

Ann E Morgan.

The Swedish Houses

In case anyone is wondering where the Swedish Houses were. They were Social Housing, situated approximately where De Warenne Close is now, with long back gardens and front gardens that opened directly onto the pavement beside the main road. They were constructed of wood and painted a dark green and, when I came to live in Weeting in 1978 they were numbered 1 to 4 Park View. After they were demolished, the house numbers in Park View were left unchanged and that is why the numbers now start with number 5. For some time afterwards it was quite amusing when people knocked on my door on the corner of Park View to ask for directions to one of them! (Photo of my daughter in our back garden with number 4 of the Swedish houses behind her.)



Weeting History

Several years ago there was a fairly active group called the Weeting History Group that met monthly, headed by Gerry and Alma Moore. The couple did a lot of research into Weeting's illustrious past and some of its residents and compiled several books and documents as well as a huge collection of photographs and villager's memories.

Unfortunately, the group is no longer active, although the collection still exists and is in good hands. However, lately there has been a surge of interest in the village's past history and Val Grass, who has lived in Weeting since a child, has set up a Facebook group called Weeting History. She has access to many photos, documents and memories of the village and would be pleased for people to join the group, either just to read the posts or to contribute their memories, photos, etc.

The Village Hall Drive

The Parish Council acknowledge that the driveway to the Village Hall is in a sorry state. Unfortunately, this is partly due to weathering and an increase in vehicles using the driveway for access.

The driveway belongs to the Parish Council and is therefore not a public road. A car parking area for users of the Village Hall and playing field is provided and is accessed near the entrance to the driveway, so vehicles should not be travelling all the way through.

The Parish Council have tried to be accommodating regarding this usage and have attempted to repair the worst of the potholes over the past few years. Ideally a full tarmac surface might improve the track, but we have asked for quotes for this and the cost would be prohibitive running into tens of thousands of pounds from the Village Precept – money we just don't have. We would therefore have to substantially increase the Precept to cover the cost and that would incur raising resident's Council Tax considerably.

However, we have now agreed to have the existing stone track ripped, regraded and then compact finished with a roller. This should cope with the potholes and create a hard surface, similar to the roadway between Castle Close and the Church.

We do not have a precise date for this work as yet, but as soon as we do we will inform the All Saints residents and users of the Village Hall and playing field because the driveway will have to be closed to all traffic whilst the work is being done.



Spring Gardening



Spring is an uplifting and hopeful time of year for gardeners as we watch the natural world burst into life. As I'm writing this article snowdrops are in full flower, with many more bulbs either in bud or showing good growth too. The forsythia in our front garden is about to flower any day too. Add in the bright colours of primroses and I can't help but feel that winter will very soon be behind us. The daylight lingering in early evening is another hopeful sign and I've been out in my own garden after work at 4pm instead of heading straight indoors.

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, many gardeners will be busy sowing seeds and preparing flower borders and vegetable patches. Once the soil is warm enough you can start planting potatoes and onions and sowing hardy vegetables, including broad beans, cabbages, carrots, radishes, lettuce, rocket and spinach. In the flower border, March and April are good months to plant perennials, sow hardy annuals like marigolds and plant summer-flowering bulbs like lilies and gladioli. As daffodils and other spring bulbs die back you can start dividing crowded clumps to help spread them out next year. Daffodil bulbs can rise to the soil surface, making them blind (fail to flower) so digging them a bit deeper will help them next year. Another reason for bulb blindness is cutting them back when they are green, let them die back naturally so all the energy goes back into the bulb for bigger and better flowers.

Rising temperatures and increased daylight will accelerate growth in beds and borders so keep on top of weeds with regular hoeing. Weeds outcompete garden plants for water and nutrients but if you have the space, you can always leave a patch of weeds for wildlife. Here's my other tasks for the next few months:

March:

- Plant early potatoes outside
- Top dress containers with slow release fertiliser and fresh compost.
- Keep an eye out for aphids and other garden pests and deal with accordingly.
- Plant up spring flowering bulbs such as Dahlia, Begonias and Cannas
- Protect newly emerging shoots from slugs and snails
- Sprinkle a general purpose fertiliser in borders around shrubs and perennials.
- Use a mower set on a high blade setting to give the lawn a trim, later in the month (as daylight increases) sow grass seed in any bare patches of the lawn.

April:

- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts using horticultural fleece
- Sow seeds of hardy annuals, herbs and wildflowers directly where they are to flower.
- Keep a ball of twine handy and tie in new growth of climbers particularly Clematis and Honeysuckle which grow rapidly
- Keep tender bedding plants frost free
- Prune Hydrangeas
- Sow sweet peas and other hardy annuals
- Sow under glass tender annuals and vegetables
- Make a note of any gaps in your spring planting to order any bulbs in the autumn for next year.

May:

- Watch out for late frosts!
- Earth up potatoes and promptly plant any still remaining
- When planting up hanging baskets use a good quality compost, an add some slow-release fertiliser and water retaining crystals.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft after they have flowered to encourage fresh new growth and more flowers.
- Start to closely inspect your plants for pests and diseases - early prevention is easier than curing an infestation.
- Harden off and plant out young vegetable and bedding plants.

Rachel Sobiechowski BSc(Hons)

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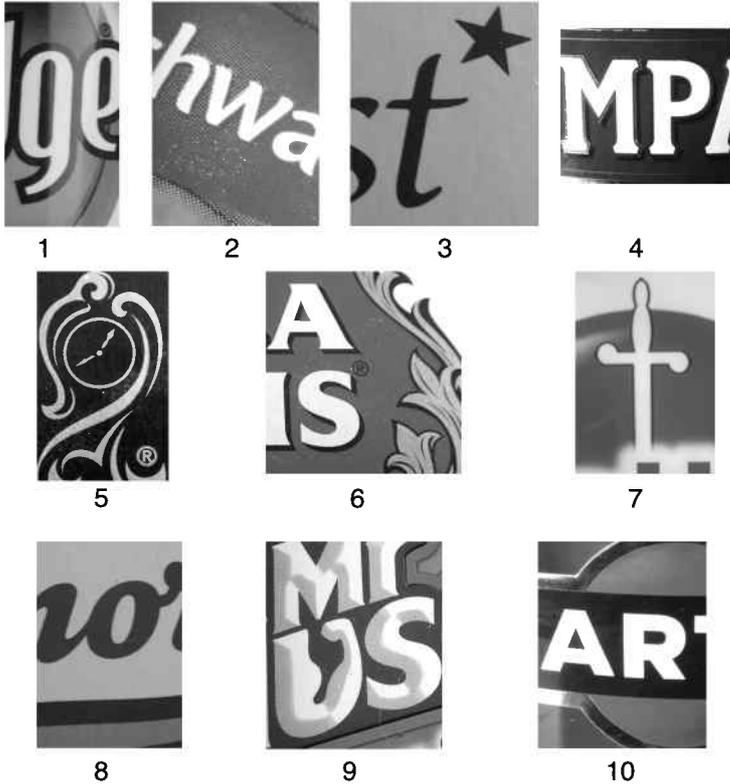
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Picture Puzzle

Below are 10 pictures of a portion of the label on items that will be in many food and drink cupboards. Can you identify them? Answers on page 14.



Walking in Norfolk



Walking in Norfolk <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walk routes, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) 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 website) 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 websites and get walking!
John Harris

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john@walkinginengland.co.uk

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Getting Older

As one gets older, things start to become more difficult to accomplish with ease. One such thing is taking a bath – getting in and out can be a right old pantomime! I have found getting in is not so bad because gravity will help you slide into the water easily; you still must lower yourself holding on tight to the sides of the bath and, with a bit of luck, all will be well. However, getting out again is a whole new ball game! I have found my arms were no longer capable of lifting me up and to get my legs working was well nigh on impossible because of the cramped space and, at that time, our bath did not have any grab rails with which I could heave myself up.

One day I was looking at bath accessories in a magazine and noticed an advertisement for grab handles with suction discs at each end that would attach to a smooth surface. I thought they would stick to the glassed tiles on our bathroom wall, so, with no more ado, I purchased two handles and stuck them to the 6x6 tiles round the bath, carefully placing them within easy reach. They worked well and bathing was once again a pleasure for me.

About six weeks later, I was reclining in the nice warm water, and I happened to notice that the tiles near the handles were not looking right and were slightly bulging out. I thought I must look at them tomorrow, but alas it was not to be. Grabbing hold of the handles and pulling hard I managed to almost assume the perpendicular when there was a pop and a crack and the handles came away from the wall, complete with the tiles they were stuck to and accompanied by about another fourteen tiles and lumps of pink plaster. I fell backwards into the bath with an almighty splash – it was like launching the Padstow lifeboat! The water went up the walls and flooded the bathroom and the next thing I knew I was lying back in what was left of the water with the tiles arranged on my belly and still holding the grab handles. I rubbed the back of my head as I had hit it on the wall and a moment later, I received another bang on the head – this time it was my wife's spider plant that I had pulled off a little shelf over the bath. The pot had broken tipping the soil all over my head and shoulders and into the remains of the water. What a mess! I was now dirtier than when I got into the bath in the first place! The spider plant floated on the surface of water like kelp seaweed.

After extracting myself from the mess I got into the shower and later, with the help of my wife, we cleaned the bathroom which looked more like an abandoned canal. It has all been repaired now and new handles have been bolted to the sides of the bath, so you would never know it had happened. It was a bit of luck that I had had installed a separate shower a while back. Needless to say, we do not have any plants in the bathroom. What an experience!

I also find when I am in the garden that I must have something to kneel on and something to help me get up – this is the fruits of getting old. But, hay ho, life is what you make it and mine is great!

John Holledge

"Within you is the best in you"

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Like all fledgling operations, the Virtual world of the WI is still finding its way and what works best for its members. **Virtually Norfolk** over the last year, has had speakers at all of its meetings, some challenging software problems – how do you break out into chat rooms etc etc, something that is vital if you are going to organise a quiz for example – and members getting to know each other.



Just before Christmas, we had another Craft Event involving producing a really "posh" Christmas Cracker. These events usually involve packs being sent out prior to the day so that those attending have all the bits and pieces they need. Our next foray into this area is a Floral Workshop for Easter. We are looking forward to subjects as diverse as "Watching the Detectives", "From Paper Kings to Hardware Barons" and "Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court".

With nationwide events such as the Summer Festival organised by our East Yorkshire Roses Colleagues to name but one VWI, to local get togethers it is an active group. We accept that some of our members are unable to drive for whatever reason or do not live locally but we try to be as inclusive as we can. However, for all other activities, you just need the right equipment and you can take part – especially that two day festival that takes place annually in August.

If you would like to sample what Virtually Norfolk has to offer, please contact Hazel on virtuallynorfolkwi@gmail.com who will be happy to give you all the details. Ann E Morgan

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Answers to Picture Puzzle on page 13

- 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.

Rector's Report

Alleluia. St Mary's is finally open again. It's been a long time coming and there is still much work to be done, however the nave ceiling has been netted to prevent injuries due to falling plaster and Dr David Carrington from restoration experts Skillingtons and our architect Dr Ruth Blackman were far more positive about the ceiling than we'd thought. possible We were sure that they would tell us that the whole nave ceiling would need replastering and whilst yes, there is restoration work to do they have reported any complete replacement of the nave plaster could wait until such time as the south aisle exterior roof needs replacing. As the roof is in sound condition this will not be necessary in the foreseeable future.



We have issues with the exterior drainage which will require work in order to minimise the issue with damp, especially on the north and south nave walls. The entire nave floor was removed in order to repair rotten joists and stabilise it on the south side. A temporary floor has been laid which means that the whole nave space can now be used. The Victorian pews are still stored with grateful thanks to Tom and David Childerhouse. The PCC is keen to keep this space more flexible in the future and has voted to petition the Diocesan Advisory Committee to allow us to keep the space open and flexible rather than returning

the pews. To this end we'll be inviting the head of the DAC Mr Geoffrey Hunter and Holly Robinson, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer to come and view the space and listen to our vision for the future use of the Church and hopefully support a petition to enable this vision to become a reality. This will require plans for a permanent floor, flush with the stone floor to be laid and of course will require further fund raising and grant money to bring this to fruition. However, the space is usable now. Meanwhile, thanks to Mike Nairn's eagle eye we have managed to acquire 63 second hand chairs that were surplus to requirement in a neighbouring village hall which will enable the church to now be available for funerals, baptisms and small weddings as well as Sunday worship. Weeting School is very excited about holding their Easter service in the Church for the first time in years on March 25th at 10.00am. It will be such a joy to welcome the children and their parents, family members and friends into the church building again after so long.



I want to thank all of you in this village who have been so generous in your support of St Mary's as we've struggled through this period of crisis. It's been so heartening to have so many messages of support for the church and to see so many of you enjoying some amazing fundraisers over the past couple of years. Thanks especially to Lisa, Max and others who organised the wonderful Elvis Night and Tea Dance in 2022, to Richard Parrott, Kate Plant, Helen Childerhouse and the Steam Rally Committee – it's great fun to be part of the Hub at the Steam Rally and we're looking forward to being involved again this year and to our PCC who continue to come up with creative fund raising ideas and for all who generously support them.

After Easter, when the weather is warmer the PCC and I will organise a big 'thank you' afternoon in the Church for the village, with tasty nibbles, bubbly and of course cake to celebrate the reopening and for you all to come and see what has been done as well as what still needs to happen to restore our lovely church building and bring it alive again. A 'rave in the nave' indeed! A time to dance and celebrate for us all.

I can't believe how warm it is this February. Whilst it's lovely not to be shivering through what is usually a really bleak month and to enjoy some beautiful displays or snowdrops and crocuses it's a bit weird to see the daffodils springing into bloom in the garden and along the roadsides. Easter will be early this year too – Easter Day will coincide with the start of Summer Time.

All this blossoming of new life around us is a wonderful reminder to us all that Easter is the season of new life. All the fresh new life we see is but a reflection of the redemption of all Creation in God through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. Out of the darkness comes light and life...the light and life of Christ which leads us from the darkness of our selfish human nature into the light of His redeeming love. He is indeed the Lord of love, through whose sacrifice we are healed and restored.

So as you celebrate the joy of Spring and the burgeoning of new life all around, also rejoice that we have a God who loves us so much that He sent His only Son to transform and redeem humanity and all Creation and hold out to all, the promise of life eternal.

I wish you all a blessed and Holy Easter.

Rev'd Canon Joan Horan
Rector St Mary's Weeting



The Angerstein Crypt

Whilst undertaking repairs to the nave floor, a glimpse of the vault of the Angerstein crypt was seen beneath the floorboards. It's exact position and entrance had been unknown until then, although it was believed to be partly underneath the organ. There are nine lead lined oak coffins in the crypt containing the bodies of various Angersteins or their wives. The earliest to be placed in the crypt was Amelia Angerstein in 1848, (wife of John and daughter in law of John Julius Angerstein) and the last was Georgina (née Poulton, married to George Henry E. Angerstein) who died in 1945. Her death was recorded in Wincanton in Somerset, so it must be assumed that her body was brought to Weeting for burial, although her husband is not in the crypt with her.



WEETING VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting

In the

WEETING VILLAGE HALL

**MONDAY 13TH MAY
STARTS AT 7.00PM PROMPT**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

ALL CLUBS AND GROUPS SHOULD HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE

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IF YOU WANT A SAY IN WHAT OR HOW THINGS ARE DONE/RUN IN THIS HALL THEN COME AND JOIN US

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Vivaldi's Gloria & Magnificat

In concert with the
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Saturday 30th March at 7.30pm
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Conductor: Chris Parsons

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Thetford Singers
1974 - 2024



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fantastic years

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Here is a wonderful opportunity to support our Golden Anniversary celebrations by joining our 50 for 50 campaign.

We are looking for local businesses or individuals who would like to sponsor us £50 to support our Spring and Summer celebration concerts 2024.

Our Spring concert will feature a professional orchestral ensemble in a Thetford Singers performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' and 'Magnificat'. Our aim is to provide high-quality concerts in Thetford and in so doing to support the positive mental health and well-being of our local community.

Our Summer concert will be a celebration of 50 fantastic years of singing and will include our junior section Thetford Voices and local schoolchildren.

Our sponsors will be listed in our Spring and Summer concert programme.

Sponsors will receive two complimentary tickets to either the Spring concert 2024 or the Summer concert 2024.

For further information please contact hilarylevan1@gmail.com secretary for Thetford Singers.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We are very appreciative of your support.

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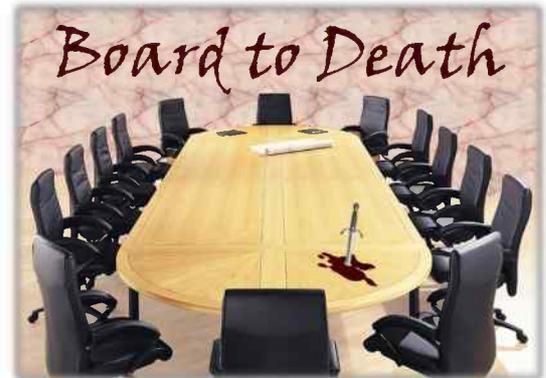
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We are currently open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

To find out more, call Michelle Jarrett, Day Centre Manager on **01842 819777**, email daycare@empanda.org.uk, or visit our website at empanda.org.uk/daycare.



A Dinner Theatre Murder Mystery

by
Ian McCutcheon



Published by *Lazy Bee Scripts*

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Curtains have closed on Shoestring's 2024 Pantomime 'Beauty and The Beast' to raving reviews from the public! Every night was full of cheers, boos and plenty of laughter. The cast were overwhelmed with love and support from family and friends, with many bouquets of flowers being passed around on the final night.

Every member of the team was outstanding from the start, our backstage crew volunteers were absolute delights, making every scene change seamless and snappy. Our costume department had outshone themselves with their fabulous designs that stunned our audiences at every show! The most notable costumes being the castle workers that were turned into furniture, Felicity the Teapot had a beautiful large hooped skirt that was so big, she had to lift it to one side to get around backstage areas! I'm prouder than ever of every member of this group, everyone has stepped up their game and shone like the stars they are.' – Leah Sanders, Writer and Director.

Callum Wing portrayed Sebastien, the candelabra, and went the extra mile for the role in perfecting his performance of Willkommen, a trilingual song from the musical Cabaret. Miley Mathers and Lexi-Mai Povey proved to be a perfect pair as they took on the duo role of Margot and Iris the featherdusters, the pair worked well together to create a fabulous dynamic for their characters that really showed



on the stage. Of course, the castle workers wouldn't have been complete without Riannah Thompson and Layla Hutt as Felicity the Teapot and Gabriel the dresser, both of which handled their more difficult costumes with grace whilst bringing their own personalities out in their characters.



Our lead roles took the stage by storm, Ashley Bell as Ruby, Caitlyn Watkins as The Beast and Mia McDonald as Jacques – the trio all worked well together on and off stage to create a fun and interactive storyline for the audience to cheer and boo along with. Also getting the audience's attention is another star in the making, Anastasia Egan-Welch, who – quite literally – stepped into the shoes of the comedy characters Boots with Leah Sanders as the sidekick pet, a dog called Cat. No Pantomime would be complete without the classic Panto Dame, once again played by Allison Foreman, Auntie Coddlepots had the audience in fits of laughter as she danced around the stage in a Kate Bush styled dress and had them laughing even more when her pink wig fell off during the last show!



Thank you to everyone involved in the show, and to everybody who came to support Shoestring Theatre's Pantomime! The summer show is already in the works, as is next year's Pantomime – so if you'd like to get involved please contact us on our Facebook page - shoestringtheatrebrandon.

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2024

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