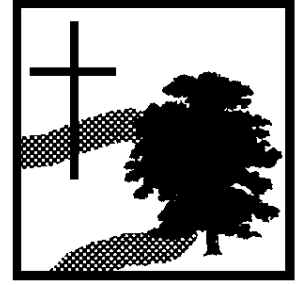


# PARISH NEWS



## *The Beane Valley Benefice*

[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

St Mary the Virgin Aston, St Andrew's Bramfield, St Mary the Virgin Stapleford,  
St Michael and All Angels Waterford, St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

**June 2024**

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The feast of Pentecost, which we celebrated this year on 19<sup>th</sup> May is one of most important festivals in the Christian calendar coming 50 days after Easter and 10 days after Ascension Day. Pentecost celebrates the day when the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples, with tongues of fire. When they spoke about God, the crowds of people who had come from many distant lands were able to understand the disciples as though they were speaking in each of the listeners own language.



Wouldn't it be wonderful to live in a world where everybody understood what the other was saying. No misunderstanding, no confusion over meaning, just straight talking, treating one another with respect and even more importantly everybody really listening to what is being said.

We often feel these days that the world is getting smaller. Travel is far easier than it used to be, although we know that emissions from cars and planes are adding to the problems of global warming. When I was a child (admittedly quite a long time ago now) the only people who went to Australia were those who were emigrating to start a new life - you rarely heard of anybody coming back! Today we travel all over the world, young people take gap years, other people are fortunate to go on round the world cruises and we briefly experience all sorts of different cultures. We might try to learn a few useful phrases in other languages but unless we can truly converse in another language, we risk misunderstanding what is really being said.



Even when we are speaking in our own mother tongue there are times when we don't understand what we are being told. When language is highly technical or scientific or philosophical it may not really make much sense to those of us who are less academically inclined. Theology perhaps falls into this category. Basically, theology relates to thinking and talking about God and studying the Bible. Theos comes from the Greek meaning God and logos meaning word. Of course, many learned scholars have studied the Bible and the human response to religion and there is much that we can read and learn. However, at its most basic, theology is about finding God in our everyday lives, putting God first and following the teaching of Jesus.

Jesus gave us a basic commandment by which we can all live "Love God and love your neighbour as yourself." The whole world is our neighbour regardless of language, culture, or class.

Listen to what people are saying and respect the different views they may have. Help those who need help and encourage and support those in need. Become a volunteer if you have a little free time and can afford to give it – you will probably make new friends in the process. Thank you to all those who already do so much for others but if you are wondering what you might do it is never too late to start. Ask around – you will soon find something to suit you.



Janet Bird



Revd Canon Jenny Gray



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
**DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS**

## **Beane Valley Benefice Services**

**June 2024**

**ALL are welcome**

**1pm Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June ORGAN CONCERT at  
St Michael and All Angels WATERFORD**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

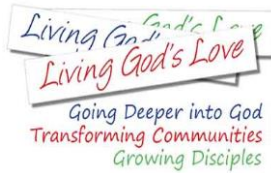
**10am Watton 'Church in the  
Pub' informal contemporary**

worship in George and Dragon  
Contact Sharon **07931 325288**

**11am Aston** Prayer and Praise

**11.15am Waterford** Holy Communion

**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise



**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

**10am Watton Benefice Service led by the BISHOP  
of HERTFORD, Rt Rev Dr Jane Mainwaring, with  
consecration of churchyard extension - all are  
welcome**

**11am Aston Family Service** – all are welcome

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June (Father's Day)**

**10am Watton 'Church in the Pub' informal  
contemporary worship in George and Dragon**

Contact Sharon **07931 325288**

**11am Aston** Holy Communion

**11.15am Waterford** Morning Prayer

**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 5pm Evensong in St Albans**

**Cathedral** to celebrate 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rev  
Jenny's ordination as a priest

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

**9.30am Watton** Holy  
Communion

**11.15am Bramfield** Holy  
Communion

**11.15am Stapleford** Holy Communion



**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

**9.30am Watton** Holy Communion

**11am Aston** Holy Communion

**11.15am Bramfield** Prayer and Praise

**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**10am Watton 'Church in the Pub' informal  
contemporary worship in George and Dragon**  
Contact Sharon **07931 325288**

**11am Aston** Prayer and Praise

**11.15am Waterford** Holy Communion

**11.15am Stapleford** Prayer and Praise

**Watton 'Strawberry Teas' at the Rectory 3pm**  
**Bramfield Fete**

**You are welcome to attend a service in ANY church  
on any Sunday.** Activity bags or activities are  
provided for children

### **Midweek**

**NIGHT PRAYER Alternate WEDNESDAYS on ZOOM**

**5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**

Please contact Rev Angela

[clergy.angela@gmail.com](mailto:clergy.angela@gmail.com) for link

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 10am** Holy Communion

128 High St (Linda Tyler) followed by coffee and  
chat – please ring **Linda 01920 83046**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2.30pm**

**STAPLEFORD VILLAGE TEA**

**AFTERNOON in St Mary's Church**

all are welcome for tea, coffee,  
cake and chat.





**WEDNESDAYS 10am Morning Prayer Service in St Andrew's Bramfield**

short said service followed by coffee, chat and sometimes cake Time to catch up with the Ministry team.

**MONDAYS 2pm ASTON Bible Study Fellowship**

3 Long Ridge Aston with tea and biscuits (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays) Contact Pauline pauline.manley1966@gmail.com



**THANK YOU to all our Volunteers**

**TUESDAYS Waterford Church and Churchyard Working parties** Contact Churchwarden Malcolm Wandrag to help [m.t.wandrag@gmail.com](mailto:m.t.wandrag@gmail.com)

To help in Stapleford or Watton or Bramfield please contact the Churchwardens.

**ASTON Church** open Sundays 12 noon - 4pm and Wednesdays 10am – 5pm. Church and Churchyard Working parties first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon. Contact Churchwarden Sara [wardenstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:wardenstmarys@gmail.com)

**ASTON Church** open Sundays 12 noon - 4pm and Wednesdays 10am – 5pm. Church and Churchyard Working parties first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon. Contact Churchwarden Sara [wardenstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:wardenstmarys@gmail.com)



**Baptisms - we welcome**

**Otilie Aston** who was baptised in St Michael and all Angels Waterford on 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Matilda Abel Smith** who was baptised in St Andrew & St Mary Watton on 26<sup>th</sup> May



**RIP – we remember with love**

**Mr George Witherspoon** whose ashes were buried at St Andrew and Mary's Watton at Stone on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

**Mrs Dorothy Baverstock** whose ashes were buried at St Andrew and Mary's Watton at Stone on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**For bereavement support** contact the ministry team

**You can access online help with grief at**

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) [thebereavementjourney.org](http://thebereavementjourney.org)  
[cruse.org.uk](http://cruse.org.uk) [teardropgrief.co.uk](http://teardropgrief.co.uk) [ataloss.org](http://ataloss.org)

*'Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before; they are wherever we are.'*

(St John Chrysostom)

**Need someone to talk to?**

**YOUR MINISTRY TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU...**

Rev Jenny Gray: 01920 830035 email [jennygrayrectory@gmail.com](mailto:jennygrayrectory@gmail.com)

Revd Angela Lynas 01992 877188 email [clergy.angela@gmail.com](mailto:clergy.angela@gmail.com)

**Empathy Grave Tending**

Graves in all the benefice churchyards can be tended by the service which keeps graves tidy and cleans headstones, cuts grass

Contact Tony Pestell on 07546 117204 or [emptygts@outlook.com](mailto:emptygts@outlook.com).

For all enquiries about baptism, funerals, blessings, visits, confirmation or offers to help, please contact Revd Jenny by phone or email. Please note *Mondays* are my usual day off.



**NOTE for wedding bookings and administrative enquiries:**

Pauline Manley

[Pauline.manley1966@gmail.com](mailto:Pauline.manley1966@gmail.com)

**CHURCHES OPEN as listed for quiet prayer and visits:**

**WATERFORD St Michael and all Angels open DAILY 10am – 6pm** for more information Contact Church Warden Malcolm 01992 552531 [m.t.wandrag@gmail.com](mailto:m.t.wandrag@gmail.com)

**WATTON at STONE St Andrew & St Mary open DAILY 10am – 3pm** for more information Contact Church Wardens Ian and Helen

**ASTON St Mary open Wednesday and Sundays.** For visits contact Church Wardens Tim 01438 880519 Sara 01438 880750

**BRAMFIELD St Andrew's Church** For visits contact Church Wardens Dorothy 01992 582132 or Peggy 01992 550467

**STAPLEFORD St Mary** For other visits contact Peter 07870 681542, John 07773 392991 or Lesley Atterwill 07773 392992

**A huge 'thank you' to the churchwardens of all our churches for all the work they do**



## KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS .....

We are on Facebook

- St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone
- St Mary's Aston
- St Mary the Virgin Stapleford
- St Michael and all Angels Waterford

And you can also access an electronic version of the Parish News from any of the following websites:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7907/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7898/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7885/>

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7903/>

[www.watton-pc.org.uk/news/](http://www.watton-pc.org.uk/news/)

### PRAY for PEACE in ISRAEL and GAZA, UKRAINE and all areas of conflict



Lord God, though peace seems humanly impossible,

we continue to pray for an end to violence and bloodshed.

We pray your comfort for the fearful and broken – hearted.

Change the hearts of those set on revenge and destruction.

Give wisdom to world leaders as they respond to aggression.

Bless all who work for understanding, reconciliation and justice which alone bring lasting peace. Amen.

### Concern for our World: JUNE



#### This month we pray for:

Wisdom for voters where Nations are holding elections this year

Those who need help with debt or face dire financial challenges

Those who need to make greater effort to control or limit climate change

## TAC Tea Room



Memorial Hall,

Watton at Stone

**Tuesdays (TERM TIME only) 9am – 1pm**

**Fridays 2pm - 5pm**

A selection of homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, shortbread and scones to enjoy in our Tea Room or to take away.

We supply gift packs of shortbread and cream teas.

Cakes may also be ordered and delivered to your door.

If you are unable to pop into the Tea Room, please phone or text Sharon @ 07880 994321 to order any of our products for delivery.

**Card or cash are accepted.**

TAC Tea Room is enabling us to support the community. Please support us too!!



## Play Space



### Watton at Stone

**Tuesday mornings** Memorial Hall, High Street  
Parking available.

**Time: 9.20am – 12 noon**



**Age Range: Baby to 3 years**

**Cost: £3.00 per child, and £1.00 per sibling**

A lunch snack will be provided for the children.  
Singing time at 11.30am

Home-made cakes and refreshments available to purchase from TAC Tea Room.

Run by Take Away Church (TAC), in conjunction with the Parish church. Contact details:

Sharon @ 07931 325288



Come along and play, draw, paint, read, create, build, listen, sing, ride, eat and have fun!!!



## Rev Jen 10 Diocese of St Albans.

Since AD 679 the Church in England has been divided up into areas called dioceses, led by a bishop based in a cathedral. Previous bishops of St Albans include the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev Dr Robert Runcie.



1. St Alban's Diocese is named after Britain's first Christian martyr. St Alban was executed by the Romans for sheltering a priest. Pilgrims have visited his shrine (in the cathedral) for 1,700 years.
2. St Albans Cathedral was an Abbey Church dating back to Norman times. It was built using bricks from the Roman settlement of Verulamium.
3. The Diocese of St Albans covers the counties of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and the north part of the London Borough of Barnet. It includes large urban communities, like Luton and Bedford, traditional market towns and rural villages.
4. There are over 400 churches in our diocese – 'a Christian presence in every community.'
5. The diocese is divided into three Archdeaconries (Bedford, Hertford and St Albans) led by an Archdeacon. These are divided into 20 deaneries (groups of parishes).
6. Each deanery has a Rural (or Area) Dean and a Synod, chaired by an elected lay chair. Deanery representatives are elected to the Diocesan and National Synods.
7. The diocese has 37 Church of England schools, including 32 academies. Most of the schools are primary (including St Mary's Aston and Stapleford), six are secondary.
8. The Diocese of St Albans is relatively new – until 1877 it was part of the large Diocese of Rochester.
9. Rt Rev Dr Alan Smith is the tenth Bishop of St Albans, appointed in 2009. He wrote 'Saints & Pilgrims in the Diocese of St Albans' in 2013 and gave each church a copy.
10. The Diocesan Vision is Living God's Love – Going deeper into God, Making News Disciples, Transforming Communities. There is a special Living God's Love Prayer.

You can find out more on [www.stalbansdiocese.org/about-us/](http://www.stalbansdiocese.org/about-us/)

### InTouch Age UK Hertfordshire

offer confidential, non-judgemental emotional and practical support on bereavement, physical & mental health issues, cancer, end of life, a partner with dementia or any other problem.

Call 01992 634964/630623 or email

[intouch@ageukherts.org.uk](mailto:intouch@ageukherts.org.uk) Web page [Age UK Hertfordshire | Our Services](http://Age UK Hertfordshire | Our Services)

### 'GOING DEEPER INTO GOD' in the BEANE VALLEY BENEFICE ZOOM BIBLE STUDY SPRING 2024

Questions Jesus asks... then and now

2pm TUESDAYS

- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> June *Who are my brothers and sisters?* (Matthew 12:46-51)
- Tues 11<sup>th</sup> June *Who do you say I am?* (Mark 8:27-38)

Each session stands alone – why not try one. Click the link on Monday or Tuesdays' Thought for the Day to join the 40 minute session.

Email Rev Jenny to receive this Weekly Newsletter and Thought for the Day

[jennygrayrectory@gmail.com](mailto:jennygrayrectory@gmail.com) You can unsubscribe at any time

**WATTON BOOK WORMS** Usually third Friday of the month at 7pm to share supper and thoughts on our book of month. All are welcome contact [peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk)



## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

### BRAMFIELD

#### WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

##### **Bramfield Carpet Bowls**

Meets Village Hall  
Monday eve 7.30pm to 9.30pm  
Enquiries Mike Jones  
01992 550182



##### **Exercise Dance Class**

Monday 1.15pm to 2.15pm  
£5.50 per person  
Contact Sofie Porter  
07761 768059

##### **Parish Council Meets Every other 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month**

Clerk Chris Underhill  
07714 711253

##### **Village Hall Committee Meets**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month 8pm  
Contact Cheryl Jackson  
01992 583958

##### **Bramfield Book Club**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Contact Louise  
01992 583173

[Gibbslouise83@gmail.com](mailto:Gibbslouise83@gmail.com)

[LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK And BRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE](#)

## STAPLEFORD & WATERFORD

### **Village Defibrillators**

As I am sure most of you will have seen, there are now defibrillators attached to the village halls in Stapleford and Waterford. They are connected to 'The Circuit' – the national defibrillator network, which provides the NHS ambulance services with vital information about defibrillators across the UK so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can be accessed quickly to help save lives. So, if you need it, call 999, give the address of the village hall (details

attached to the outside of the defibrillator case) and they will give you the code to open it.

The units are checked regularly, but should you notice any problems with it, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

Stapleford and Waterford Parish Council



WATERFORD VILLAGE HALL AGM

JUNE 20TH 2024 8pm START

**Everyone welcome.** Stay on afterwards and meet your neighbours over a glass of wine and nibbles. Meet the Committee, ask questions, join us, volunteer as a helper, or just listen and smile.

## Waterford Parish News

Once again, we were blessed with warm sunny weather for our village picnic...well for much of it! And the clouds and cool breeze that came over later in the afternoon did not spoil the enjoyment for the picnickers, as the warmth of the company and the great bonhomie kept everyone in good spirits! Talking of spirits, the bar did a roaring trade in beer and Pimms and Lloyd and his Ukes, and his wife Jess, kept us entertained with some classic pop and country songs. The children happily bounced on the bouncy castle until the climax of the afternoon, the Village Tug of War, where the High Road Team were narrowly beaten by the Rest of the Village. Judging from the clamour and the raucous laughter, it was greatly enjoyed by both team members and spectators alike.

All agreed that it was a great afternoon, coming together to meet up with friends and neighbours old and new, Waterford community at its best!

### **A date for your diary**

**Waterford Recreation Committee AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm in the village hall** - another chance to meet up with villagers, to hear what we, on the WRC, have been doing on your behalf and also to have a glass of wine and some tasty nibbles.

Hope to see you there!

## Helpers needed

Do you have a couple of hours to spare in each month or two? That is all the time you need to become secretary of the **Waterford Parochial Church Council**. The duties are light, consisting only of keeping track of the various documents that have to be submitted to the diocese, publishing the notices of the annual meetings, results of elections etc., maintaining the records and a few other minor matters. You don't even have to attend the quarterly meetings and take the minutes as we have this in hand.

Interested? Please contact Malcolm:

[m.t.wandrag@gmail.com](mailto:m.t.wandrag@gmail.com) tel: 01992 552531

## WATTON AT STONE

### QUIZ NIGHT 27 April

**Congratulations** to 'The Clangers', alias Watton Bellringers, who won the Church Quiz on 27<sup>th</sup> April in Watton Memorial Hall. Well done to Quizmaster Ben (Back row) and helper Colin (who did the maths!), to Helen for organising it and Pam, Denise and helpers for the delicious ploughman's supper. **We raised £525 for Watton church. Next Quiz 19<sup>th</sup> October – A date for your diaries!**



## WATTON-AT-STONE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Open every Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 in the Nigel Poulton Community Hall. Loads of books to choose from including Children's books, plus various jigsaw puzzles. No charges or fees involved or borrowing time constraints. Come along and have a browse



**1st Watton at Stone Guides** spent a couple of nights looking at women in science and completing their Upcycling badge. Lots of outdoor activities planned for the new term so fingers crossed for some good weather.

## QUIZ NIGHT – Change of Date.....



The Quiz Night will now be held on Saturday **19 October** in the Memorial Hall rather than 26 October as previously advertised

## STRAWBERRY TEAS

Sunday 7 July

3pm to 5pm



**Strawberry Teas are back! Come and join us for a delicious strawberry cream tea and home made cakes in the Rectory garden. Save the date!!**

## ROYAL GARDEN PARTY



Alf D'Arcy, a resident of the village, was recently invited to Buckingham Palace for tea in recognition of his '50 years' service to football' award received from the Football Association.

Alf was described by former England Assistant Manager, Lawrie McMenemy, as the best centre-half not to turn professional.

He was one of the greatest amateur players of his generation and during a career spanning more than 20 years, he played over 300 games for Barnet, 379 games for Enfield and 149 games for Slough. He also captained the England amateur team earning 26 caps and travelled all over the world with Middlesex Wanderers.

He had offers to turn professional from clubs including Tottenham, Chelsea and Bristol City however the vast fortunes that top players receive today didn't exist in Alf's time and the prospect of earning £14 a week wasn't enough to entice him away from his business interests.

Alf was also involved in mentoring players back into the professional world when their football journey came to an end.

*Credit: Steve Cairns*



Are you interested in Bell Ringing or  
Just curious?



We ring at Watton and Little Munden on  
alternating Mondays from 7pm

All ages and abilities are always welcome  
email for more information and to join a  
practice session.

[bellringing111@gmail.com](mailto:bellringing111@gmail.com)



# Waterford Nature Notes



On 12th April, I came across a Hawthorn that was just in flower, quite early for this species, a few hundred metres away was another but all others were only just coming into leaf, these two are always ahead of any others. The two Horse Chestnuts by the War Memorial also exhibit this diversity in coming to life - the one nearer High Road always comes into leaf and then blooms a week ahead of the other. I could think of several possible explanations such as being in a sheltered spot, having better water or nutrient supply, a genetic mutation and others but there were reasons against any except genetics being the answer. I asked our daughter (erstwhile my Australian Correspondent, now my Tasmanian Correspondent, having moved to work at The University of Tasmania). A search of published papers suggested that

it's not understood very well but the most likely reasons are that individuals within a species can vary in their sensitivity to environmental cues, the cues they are sensitive to could vary within and among species. The level of genetic diversity among trees of the same species varies, as would the distribution of that genetic diversity. In general, it's best to not be too close to another individual that is a close relative, which, among other things, could result in a limited gene pool. If that's true for Hawthorns, and if things like pollination and dispersal are working the way they should (i.e. in ways under which that species evolved), then the two Hawthorns that are a few hundred metres away might be more closely related, hence more genetically similar than another two that are next to each other. It is also possible that there are interactions between the two chestnuts that can't be seen; perhaps chestnut 1's root system is taking all the soil nutrients so chestnut 2 won't have the resources to flower until chestnut 1 has stopped using them.

The first recorded sighting of a Swift in Hertfordshire was 15th April, I have yet to see one here, 11th May, not yet heard a Cuckoo and only seen a few Swallows and House Martins, all very late.

One of the first Cuckoos in Hertfordshire this year was recorded at Symondshyde Farm near Lemsford. As a Scout in the mid 1960's, we camped there at Easter and Whitsun, catching the train from Hornsey to Hatfield then carrying our tents and gear on Trek Carts to the farm along country lanes and footpaths. This period continued the development of my earlier interest in, and knowledge of, natural history including recognition of birds' nests and eggs. We collected eggs - how awful it now seems that we did even though we took only one from any nest. I am fairly sure that collecting birds' eggs was a legitimate subject for the Scout Collector's badge. I destroyed my collection before the advent of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which created offences of possessing eggs unless proven to have been collected prior to 1982, collecting wild plants or planting plants in the wild, possessing certain items, etc. I also gave up my Badger skull (to Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust) that I had found while out walking one day. It was this Act that caused the end of Nature Tables in schools, even a disused bird's nest cannot be held without a licence.

I have been keeping an eye on the Peregrines that have nested on St Alban's Cathedral:

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/peregrine-live-cam>

The first egg was laid on 30th March. I have commented before upon my library that includes outdated books, my earliest publication (1940's) records the Peregrine as laying from late April into May. In the early days of incubating the eggs, the female (in this species it is she that takes the primary role, other species vary) spent long periods remaining still but, as the eggs developed, she became more active in turning the eggs to ensure even warmth. Incubating birds develop a 'brood patch', the breast and abdomen lose feathers while blood supply increases to provide additional warmth, in most species it is only the female that develops this patch. The female Peregrine will perform most of the incubation, being relieved at intervals by the male so that she can hunt and feed. Behaviours in nesting and incubating differ in other species.



While delivering Parish News to a house in Sacombe Road, I saw a Wren fly into the porch then leave carrying the shell of a hatched egg, I watched for a few minutes (if the owners saw me, they probably thought I was contemplating burglary), I saw the mate fly in with food, the nest was just above head height but the Wrens seemed unperturbed by the passage of humans.

## News from Watton at Stone Primary and Nursery School

*A successful, highly praised, well-resourced school in the heart of the village with One Form Entry (one class per year group) for Pre-school, Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6*

**“Our school community will:**

**INSPIRE a love of learning so children reach their full potential.**

**ENCOURAGE understanding and acceptance of themselves and others.**

**NURTURE emotional wellbeing and build resilience.”**

Everyone came back rested and refreshed after the Easter break. But since then, it has been non-stop for the children of Watton at Stone!

On the first day back, Grint class (year 5) had a wonderful surprise! Back in the autumn term, each child had written a letter to Rupert Grint (the actor who plays Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter films, and who originates from Watton at Stone). A large package was received which included a Harry Potter writing quill for each child in the class, plus a letter in which he had answered all of the children’s questions! It was a very exciting moment for all.

Our school choir made us proud performing at the Hertford and Ware Music Association performance of “Along Came Man” at Sele School.

Year 4 had a fun and educational trip to the Hindu temple, Bhaktivedate Manor. As well as learning all about the Hindu faith and experiencing a service in the Hindu temple, the children also had the opportunity to ride in an ox-driven cart, feed the cows, and dress up in traditional Indian clothes, as well as enjoy the delicious food (vegetarian curry). They all behaved exceptionally well and were consistently respectful and courteous.

Years 5&6 took part in a Goconstruct KNEX challenge where they were challenged to build a bulldozer.

Thanks to Sam and Alison Pearman of Watkins Farm who have kindly offered to host the school for outside learning opportunities in Geography, DT & Science. Exciting reports to come, so watch this space!

Year 1 visited Sele School for an Infant Agility session, then later the same week, they spent the day at Mountfitchet Castle in Stansted where they travelled back in time over 900 years to witness life in a medieval Motte & Bailey castle.

The week of 13<sup>th</sup> May was KS2 SATS week. Congratulations to all the Year 6 children who have worked so hard, and to the staff and parents who have supported them.

The week of 20<sup>th</sup> May was mental health awareness week, and also Walk to School week when children were challenged to try to travel actively to school each day (walking/cycling/scooting/park and stride).

By the time you read this, the year 4 and Year 5 classes will have experienced an outdoor learning day at Woodhall Estate, and Year 4 will be preparing for their residential trip to Hudnall Park. And Year 6 will also be getting ready for their PGL trip to Caythorpe which takes place at the end of June. We hope they have a wonderful time and create some lasting memories!

*Watton at Stone school recently retained its Ofsted status as a “Good School” and is a friendly, supportive local school. We have a very active PTA, “Friends of Watton” who organize some excellent events that are fun for adults and kids alike and raise valuable funds to enable additional activities and resources to be purchased by the school.*

*If you’re considering whether Watton at Stone could be the right school for your child, please contact the school office on 01920 830233, or email [admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk)*

## Watton At Stone Preschool

- Places available September 2024 -

At Watton at Stone Preschool, we have a welcoming environment where children are supported by qualified and dedicated staff with many years of experience. Our Preschool provision allows children to become creative, independent and confident learners.



We currently have places available in September 2024 for 2 and 3 year olds (turning 3 after 31.8.24)

We offer the following funded childcare support places as well as self-funded places.

Up to 15 hours of early education per week over 38 weeks of the year for 2 year olds (for eligible working families and for families receiving some additional forms of government support) and up to 30 hours of early education per week over 38 weeks of the year for 3 year olds.

As a provider we are signed up to receive tax-free childcare payments from parents.

You can check your eligibility for funding on the [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) website.

We offer sessions from 8.45-3.30pm during term time.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Preschool to book in a tour of our setting.

Contact the Preschool on 01920 830590  
email: [preschool@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk](mailto:preschool@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk)



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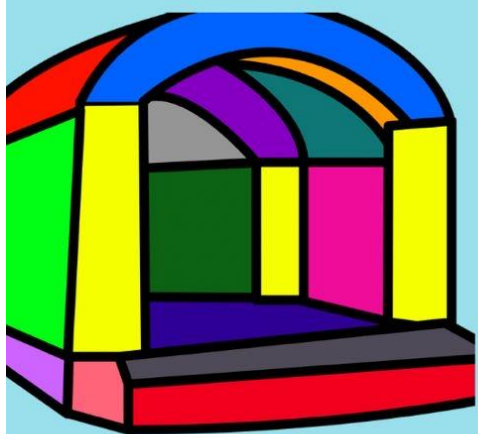
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# Watton-at-Stone

## Sports Clubs Newsletter

Issue

229

June 2024

Editor: vernon.dunhill@ntlworld.com

### Watton Tennis Club

Please visit our new club website:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WattonatStoneTennisClub>

The Datchworth Spring League on Monday evenings got off to an excellent start in April with a lovely sunny evening and victory for 3 of our 5 teams. The weather, and results, have not been quite so consistent since. The Mens and Ladies Hot Rackets Leagues at weekends have also now started.

Club Sessions will continue to run with Mondays and Saturdays being dependent on court availability due to the competitive matches. The new Tuesday session is also running. Adult sessions are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings plus Saturday afternoons and Junior Coaching is on Thursday afternoons.

The Club Adult sessions are organised via WhatsApp groups. If you are a club member who would like to join one of these groups, please contact the club on the email below.

Adult Coaching runs on a Wednesday evening with Mark Roskilly coaching. The session is from 7.30–9pm and costs £10. Newcomers are always welcome, please contact

[wattontennisclub@outlook.com](mailto:wattontennisclub@outlook.com) for details.

**NEW:** We are trying to set up a new session for adult beginners so if you would be interested in the please contact the club on [wattontennisclub@outlook.co](mailto:wattontennisclub@outlook.co).

Junior Lessons are on Thursdays from 3.30 – 7.30pm. New juniors are always welcome. Please contact the Club Coach, Ian Vosper, with any coaching enquiries: [vosperlorri@aol.com](mailto:vosperlorri@aol.com) or 07960 519373

If you would like a copy of the Club's Annual Newsletter or information about joining the club please contact the Membership Secretary at: [wattontennisclub@outlook.com](mailto:wattontennisclub@outlook.com) or 07984690727

New Players, adults and juniors, are always welcome at the club.

#### Dates for your Diary:

The Club Tournament will be on Saturday June 29th 2024.

The Christmas Party and presentations will be on Saturday 7th December 2024.

### Watton Ramblers

#### Tuesday Walks in June/July

Short 1-hour slow morning walks for all starting at the Watton Community Hall at 10.00am every Tuesday. These walks are available for allcomers and worth a try if you are recovering from something or need a little gentle exercise.

(Further details from Maurice Gordon 01920 426344)

### Watton Youth F.C.

#### Season 2023-24

This past season has seen the club continue to grow.

For season 2023-24, the club registered 297 players with the FA, in 25 teams playing in four different leagues.

MHRML (Mid Herts Rural Minors League) 2 x teams

RCL (Royston Crow League) 7 x teams

HYL (Herts Youth League) 14 x teams

HGFPL (Herts Girls Football Partnership League) 2 x teams

In addition to the registered league players, the club has continued to provide football coaching to 5–6 year olds in the development Squad.

Following on from last season's on the pitch successes, this season, the club has had the following successes:

Under 9's Dragons won the HYL Alder Divisional cup.

Under 10's Hawks were beaten finalists in the HYL Oak Divisional cup final.

Under 12's Dragons were beaten finalists in the RCL Trophy cup final

Under 13's Dragons Won the MHRML Division 2 Divisional cup.

Under 13's Bulls were crowned RCL Division 1 champions, with matches to spare & Meads Cup winners.

Under 14's finished the season as runners-up (by 1

point) in Division 1 of the RCL & Bill Doyle Cup Winners.

Under 15's finished the season as runners-up (by 2 point) in Division 3 of the RCL

Under 16's finished the season as runners-up (by 1 point) in Division 1 of the RCL. During this past season the club has had to deal with issue of the appalling weather, numerous games and training sessions were lost to, what appeared to be continuous rainfall. which effected all levels of football from professional teams right through to grassroots junior football.

Regarding the club's future, well the club continues to grow in its reputation, with the club now having teams in the top divisions of the majority of leagues in which the club's teams participate. And teams regularly contesting league championships and cup finals.

The ethos of the club has been maintained throughout the season, allowing children to play football, for their enjoyment and their development. Success will always follow if the children enjoy playing.

Any children aged between 5 –7 yrs who wish to give football a try, or if older but looking for a friendly but progressive club in which to continue their football career, please contact Derek HILL on 07974-651625 or leave a message on [wattonyouthfc@gmail.com](mailto:wattonyouthfc@gmail.com)

Derek HILL (Chair Watton Youth F.C.)

## Watton Cricket Club

After the terrible weather in April, May has been a relief. The soaked ground has been slowly drying but cricket got off to a slow start with many games unable to be played at the start of the season, nevertheless, we are now getting into gear. For Watton, unfortunately, we are only just getting out of second gear. The first few games brought little

reward, but we have just registered our first win with a decisive victory over FM Arthurs/Baldock. Not just a victory but a personal triumph for James Fox who registered his first century for the club, participating in a 194-run partnership for the second wicket with Ryan Ansell (91), before being dismissed for a magnificent 113. Shubhankar Mudigonda took another three wickets to put him in the lead for the most, on eleven in just three games. Martin Tipper's four wickets for ten runs, however, put the seal on a convincing win.

June's schedule promises to offer some exciting cricket:

01/June	Ampthill Town II	H	12:00 PM
02/June	Boxmoor	A	1:30 PM
8/June	Abbots Langley II	H	12:00 PM
9/June	Preston	H	1:00 PM
15/June	Hemel Hempstead III	H	12:00 PM
16/June	Fives	H	1:00 PM
22/June	Hertford III	A	12:00 PM
23/June	Harlow Hunters	H	1:00 PM
29/June	Baldock	A	12:00 PM

If you want to enjoy cricket with Watton, call Brad on 07801 790915.

Follow us at <http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/wattonatstone>

## Table Tennis

Table Tennis sessions are held in the Community Hall on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 –3.00pm. The cost is £4 per session, but the first taster session is free. All abilities are welcome.

Three tables are available, and a mixture of doubles and singles are played depending on numbers present.

For further details contact Steve Block on 07870 779949

<b>Contact</b>	<b>PILATES</b>	<b>CYCLING</b>	<b>WATTON VETS FOOTBALL</b>	<b>YOUTH FOOTBALL</b>	<b>LADIES FOOTBALL</b>	<b>SATURDAY FOOTBALL</b>
<b>Points</b>	Laura Jeffs 07710 408974	Alan Headland 07866 568681	Steve Betts 07970 698139	Derek Hill 01438 813684	Steve Betts 07970 698139	Paul Reynolds 07794 791978
<b>Contact</b>	<b>ARCHERY</b>	<b>CRICKET</b>	<b>SHOTOKAN KARATE</b>	<b>TENNIS</b>	<b>RAMBLING</b>	<b>TABLE TENNIS</b>
<b>Points</b>	John Meischke 07970 083256	Brad Williams 07801 790915	Peter Khera 07866 374674	Ian Knight 0777 840 1799	Maurice Gordon 01920 426344	Steve Block 07870 779949

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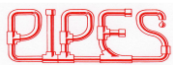
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