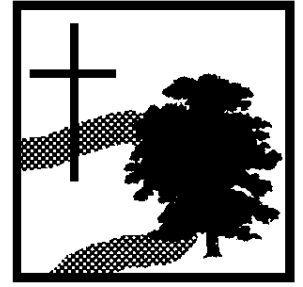


# PARISH NEWS



## *The Beane Valley Benefice*

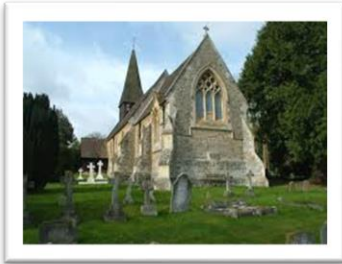
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

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

**September 2024**

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### **FROM REVD ANGELA**



As I write, it is only a few months before I will be retiring from the Beane Valley Benefice. Martin and I will be very sad to say goodbye as the five churches have been so much a part of our lives.



It is hard to believe how fast the years have gone since I joined the benefice and despite the global pandemic isolating us for a while, I have got to know so many people in our lovely village churches, sharing with you in life's joys and sorrows. It has been a delight and a privilege to serve here and I have appreciated your support and kindness so much. However, the time has now come to step back, take a rest and see what God has in store for the next phase of life in retirement.

It is easy to jog along with the familiar in life and when change comes it can be a struggle even though we love some of the change we see every day like babies growing up and flowers coming into bud. Retiring will result in change for all of us, especially Jenny and those helping in the Benefice, so your loving and prayerful support in times ahead will be especially valued.

As hard as change can be, I have learned that unexpected and positive opportunities arise along the way, so we can all look forward to those times and keep hope alive as we go. In the recent summer Olympics, I have been impressed by those participating who have faced dramatic change in their lives and made it work well for them. It is heartening to hear such inspiring stories from young people that give us courage to face change in our own lives amidst the laughter and tears.

Those who know me, know my thoughts on the importance of prayer. Bringing our concerns, joys and sorrows to God is a powerful part of Christian faith. Let us continue to do that for the five Benefice churches.



As I sign off, thank you so much all for your love and kindness and I hope to see you before I go. Martin and I will always remember you and treasure our happy times in the BVB!

With love, prayers and best wishes  
Revd Angela





Revd Canon Jenny Gray



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF  
ST ALBANS

## Beane Valley Benefice Services September 2024

**ALL are welcome**

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September

**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

**2pm ASTON** Baptism



### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**9.30am WATTON** Holy Communion

**11am ASTON Family Service** all are welcome

**11.15am BRAMFIELD** Holy Communion

**11.15am STAPLEFORD** Prayer and Praise

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

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

**11am ASTON** Holy Communion

**11.15am STAPLEFORD** Holy Communion

**11.15am WATERFORD** Morning Prayer

**2pm STAPLEFORD** Baptism

**1pm WATERFORD Fete** – Village hall

**WATTON HORTICULTURAL SHOW** – presentation of prizes 3pm-ish Memorial Hall

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

**BRAMFIELD HARVEST SUPPER**

contact Peggy



### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**9.30am WATTON PETS SERVICE**

**11.15am BRAMFIELD HARVEST SONGS of PRAISE**

**11.15am STAPLEFORD** Prayer and Praise

**2pm WATTON** Baptisms

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**11am ASTON Benefice** Holy Communion

NO service in the other churches

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October

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

**11am ASTON** Holy Communion

**11.15am WATERFORD** Songs of Praise HARVEST

**11.15am STAPLEFORD** Prayer and Praise

**You are welcome to attend a service in ANY church on any Sunday**

Activity bags or activities are provided for children.

To receive our weekly church newsletter and daily

Thought for the Day by email contact

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

## **MIDWEEK**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 10am** Holy Communion  
128 High Street, Watton (Linda Tyler) followed by coffee and chat – all are welcome. Contact Rev Jenny or Linda.



### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm**

Stapleford Village Tea Afternoon in St Mary's Church - Coffee, Cake and Chat- all are welcome. Contact Rev Angela [clergy.angela@gmail.com](mailto:clergy.angela@gmail.com) for information or to help

### **MONDAYS 2pm ASTON Bible Study Fellowship**

3 Long Ridge Aston with tea and biscuits (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays) – all are welcome

**NIGHT PRAYER** Alternate **WEDNESDAYS** 7.30pm on

**ZOOM 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September.** Contact

Rev Angela [clergy.angela@gmail.com](mailto:clergy.angela@gmail.com)



### **Bramfield Church Wednesdays 10am**

Morning Prayer restarts

**18<sup>th</sup> September**

Short said service. Coffee and Chat 10.45am. Time to catch up with the ministry team. All are welcome.

**TUESDAYS Waterford** church and churchyard working parties – Contact Churchwarden Malcolm Wandrag to make a real difference.

**Bramfield** churchyard - to help Mike contact Churchwarden Peggy

**To help in Stapleford or Watton** please contact the churchwardens.

**ASTON** church open Sundays 12 noon to 4pm and Wednesdays 10am to 5pm. Church and churchyard working parties **first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon**. Contact churchwarden Sara.

**Thank you to all our Volunteers.**



### **BAPTISM – we welcome**

**Caleb Liddon** at St Mary's Aston on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July



### **WEDDINGS – we celebrate the marriage of**

**Peter Edgley and Rachel Underhill** in St Andrew's Bramfield on 29<sup>th</sup> June

The blessing of the marriage of **Noel Russouw and Robyn Gafney** in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July



### **RIP – we remember with love**

**Mrs Evelyn Perry** whose funeral and burial took place in St Michael and all Angels Waterford on 5<sup>th</sup> July

**Dr Neville Spurling** whose funeral was held at Woollensbrook Crematorium on 11<sup>th</sup> July

**Mrs Mary Wood** whose memorial service and burial of ashes took place in St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 19<sup>th</sup> July

**Mr Trevor Blacktin** whose ashes were buried in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 20<sup>th</sup> July

**Mrs Sandie (Sandra) Campbell** whose ashes were buried in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 20<sup>th</sup> July

**Mrs Margaret Joan Dowton** whose funeral and burial took place in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Mr Robert (Bob) Smith** whose funeral and burial took place in St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 30<sup>th</sup> August

**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)

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)

### **Concern for our World:**



#### **In September we pray for:**

those who work behind the scenes to broker peace in war-torn areas

people to work together and treat each other with love and respect

protection of young people in our modern world of instant social media



**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

**9.30am**

**WATTON PET SERVICE**  
**St Andrew and St Mary's Church**

Bring your **PETS** (or cuddly toys - Large animals may be blessed

outside). **EVERYONE** is welcome. Refreshments and Dog treats to follow.

**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 Open weekends.**  
For visits contact Church Wardens Dorothy 01992  
582132 or Peggy 01992 550467

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

**Opening churches is important (see Rev Jen 10) If  
you would be willing to join a rota to help open and  
shut any of the churches please contact the  
Churchwarden.**

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

### Ministry Team News

Rev Angela has taken the difficult decision to retire at the end of October 2024. We will miss her hugely. We pray for Rev Angela and her husband Martin as they prepare for the next phase of life and thank them both for their huge contribution to the life of the benefice. Their Farewell Services and Lunch Party will be held on 27th October. Details will be shared in the October Parish News.

We are delighted that Mrs Niki Page from St Mary's Church Stapleford has been accepted to train with the Diocese of St Albans to be a Licensed Lay Reader in our benefice churches. (A Lay Reader is a layperson (not a Rev/priest) who is authorised by the Bishop to lead worship and conduct funerals (not weddings or baptisms or Holy Communion). Please pray for Niki Page and her family as she prepares to begin her 2 year training in September. Niki is already very involved in church life. This summer she organised the collection of snacks and toys for children in the local Women's Refuge. In 2022 Niki organised the massive response in our benefice to the national appeal for donations to Ukraine – a huge time-consuming logistical operation. With her husband Bob, Niki organises

the concert programme at St Mary's Stapleford to raise money for the church and for nominated charities. Her Reader Training involves the study of Church History, Christian Doctrine, the Old and New Testaments, Pastoral Care, Preaching, Spirituality and Discipleship, Worship, Mission and Christian Ethics alongside practical tasks and reflection. We look forward to training updates from her.

## Celebrate Harvest 2024



**SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> September**

**WATERFORD Harvest Supper**

Village Hall 7pm - tickets from Sarah

**FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> September 7pm BRAMFIELD Harvest  
Supper**

Village Hall – tickets from Peggy

**11.15am SUNDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> September BRAMFIELD  
Church Harvest Songs of Praise**

**11.15am SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> October WATERFORD  
Harvest Songs of Praise**

**9.15am MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> October WATTON SCHOOL  
Harvest in church**

**9.30am SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> October WATTON Church  
Harvest Songs of Praise**

**9.15am WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> October STAPLEFORD  
SCHOOL Harvest in church**

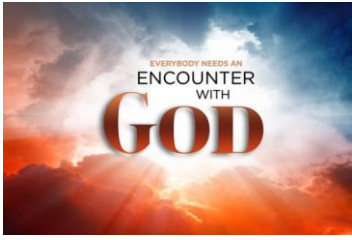
**11.15am SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> October STAPLEFORD  
Church Harvest Songs of Praise**

**11am SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> October ASTON Church  
Harvest Songs of Praise**

Donations can be left at any church or at the  
Rectory, Church Lane Watton. Help with Harvest  
decorations in church is always welcome – please  
contact the church wardens.

**THANK YOU** to Denise for all her hard  
work putting together the monthly Parish  
News.

Please send her your contributions for the  
October Parish News by **12<sup>th</sup> September**



## 'GOING DEEPER INTO GOD'

BEANE VALLEY BENEFICE

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY AUTUMN 2024

Stories from the Old TESTAMENT of Encounters with God

Starts 2pm **TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September**

Old Testament passages are read in church on Sundays but we don't usually have time to discuss them. Each Tuesday bible study will look at the background to a story, how a particular individual relates to God and how their story speaks to us today.

Tues 17 Sept EVE – Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-24

Tues 24 Sept SARAH and HAGAR – Gen 21:8-21

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Oct JOSHUA – Deuteronomy 34:9-12, Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Oct MIRIAM - Numbers 12

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Oct GIDEON - Judges 6:1, 11-24, 36-40; 7:2-8, 12, 19-22

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct JUDITH – Judith 13

Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Oct DANIEL - 6:1-23

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov ECCLESIASTES 1: 2, 12-14, 2:18-23

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Nov AARON – Ex 32:1-14

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Nov SAMSON - Judges 13:24, chapters 14, 15, 16

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Nov ESTHER - Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec HOSEA 1:2-10 and 11:1-11

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec EZEKIEL Ez 36:24-28 Ez 37:1-14



**BEDS & HERTS**  
Historic Churches Trust

### **SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Anyone can take part**, have a great cycle ride and get sponsors to raise funds for **essential repairs to our local churches**. **Other transport such as mobility scooter, car or horse is welcome**. **You don't have to go to Church**

Find out more **Tel:01767 312966**

**[bikenhike@bedshertshct.org.uk](mailto:bikenhike@bedshertshct.org.uk)** To raise funds for

**Stapleford Church** or sponsor **Bob Page** contact

Niki 01992 302501 M. 07963 260715

For **Aston Church** contact or sponsor **Tim**

**Alexander** 01438 880519

**Sponsorship forms** to support **Waterford Church**

from Ray Cole 07779 503098

**Sponsorship forms** to support **Bramfield** from

Dorothy Abel Smith 01992 582132

**Sponsorship forms** to support **Watton Church**

from Ian Knight 07778 401799



**CPRE Hertfordshire**, a local environmental charity, is running online training webinars on Zoom, suitable for anyone concerned about planning issues in their community. These are intended to help residents understand the planning process, have your say, and influence the outcome.

The first webinar covers Understanding the Local Plan process and how to have your say on **Thursday 19 September 2024, 19:00-20:30**.

The second webinar focuses on Understanding the Planning Application process and how to have your say on **Thursday 17 October 2024, 19:00-20:30**.

For further information and to book, visit the CPRE Hertfordshire website:

<https://www.cpreherts.org.uk/news/understanding-planning-our-training-webinars/> or email [abby@cpreherts.org.uk](mailto:abby@cpreherts.org.uk)



## Rev Jen 10 Opening the Church

Thanks to faithful volunteers, Waterford and Watton Churches are open daily, Aston Church on Sundays and Wednesdays, Bramfield and Stapleford Churches on request. Opening churches is important because:

1. A church is a sacred place, built to glory of God, where people can feel close to God not just on Sundays.
2. An open church invites people in - a sign of God's love for everyone, whatever their faith.
3. An open church says it belongs to everyone – not the vicar, not the congregation, not the bishop – God's church is *your* church.
4. An open church offers quiet space for the grieving, lost and distressed to sit in silence, light a candle, leave a prayer, pray when they need.
5. An open church teaches people about the Christian faith. Stained glass windows tell the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, the font speaks of baptism etc.
6. The risks of keeping a church open say it is a place of vulnerability, not power. It speaks of God who makes Himself vulnerable in Jesus.
7. Insurers believe an open church that can be visited is more secure than a locked church. Minor losses are usually less significant than major damage caused in forcing an entry.
8. Churches are part of our national history and heritage. A church is open to those who like to visit for the architecture etc
9. An open church breaks down a barrier to what may seem a fortress of unfathomable faith and practice.
10. A closed church may as well not be there!

When I came in 2013 none of the Benefice churches were open during the week. The Bishop of Hertford said: 'For God's sake open your churches.' With **YOUR** help we could open them more. If **YOU** would be willing to join a rota to help open and shut any of the churches please contact the Churchwarden.

# Play Space



## Watton at Stone

**RE-OPENING 17th SEPTEMBER**

**Tuesday mornings**

Memorial Hall, High Street

Parking available.

**Time: 9.30am – 12noon**

**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!!!



# KIDS SPACE

**Re-opening 20th September**

**Friday afternoons**

**3.30pm—5.30pm**

Memorial Hall, High Street

Parking available

**Age Range: Up to Year 6**

Activities: Crafts, play, games, sewing, Bible story and singing.

Cost: £3 per child, and £1 per sibling.

Hot chocolate and fruit on arrival and finish with Pizza and Pasta

*Homemade cakes and scones available to purchase from the Tea Room*

Run by Take Away Church (TAC), in conjunction with the Parish church. Contact details: Sharon @ 07931 325288



## TAC Tea Room

Memorial Hall  
Watton at Stone

**Tuesdays (TERM TIME only) 9am – 1pm**  
**Fridays 2pm - 5pm**

### RE-OPENING 17 September

A selection of homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, shortbread and scones to enjoy in our Tea Room or to TAKE AWAY!

We also take orders for birthday cakes.

Pop in or text Sharon @ 07931 325 288 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!!



### **A village afternoon out!** **Date for your diary!** **Table Top and Craft sale!**

Calling all our villagers who make and create, to display and or sell their craft. And those who need to have a clear out of toys and clothes!!!!

Come along and browse and enjoy a pot of tea and a delicious homemade cake or cream tea!!

**2 November, Saturday afternoon**  
2-4.30pm

Memorial Hall, High Street,  
Watton at Stone

£7 per table, £20 per gazebo

Book at TAC tea room, or text Sharon at  
07931 325 288

All proceeds to be given to support our village Parish church.

**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 7pm to 9pm  
Enquiries Mike Jones  
01992 550182

#### **Exercise Dance Class**

Monday 1.15 to 2.15  
£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)

#### **Bramfield Parish Council**

We meet on the third Tuesday of every other month at 19.30 in the village hall. So, this means January, March, May, July, September and November.

Did you know we have a parish website? We have a bit of history, contact details and all documentation such as minutes posted there. Feel free to have a look at [bramfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://bramfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

#### **HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **THE HERTFORDSHIRE (TEMPORARY CLOSING OF BRAMFIELD LANE, WATERFORD) ORDER 2024**

NOTICE is given that Hertfordshire County Council intends to make an Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to prohibit all vehicular traffic from using that length of Bramfield Lane, Waterford from its junction with A119 High Road south westwards to its junction with Main Road, a distance of approximately 967m ("the Road"), except for access.

An alternative route will be via A119 (High Road/North Road), Bramfield Road and Tattle Hill.

The Order is needed because works are proposed to be executed on or near the Road.

If the Order is made, it shall come into force on 4 September 2024 for a period of up to 18 months. However, the restrictions specified shall only take effect at the times indicated by signs on or near the Road.

A copy of the proposed Order may be inspected free of charge at County Hall, Hertford between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm (excluding weekends, bank and public holidays).

If you have any queries about the proposed Order, please contact Carl Leggett tel. 0300 123 4047 at Ringway.

County Hall  
Hertford  
Herts  
SG13 8DN

15 August 2024  
Mark Doran  
Executive Director  
Growth and Environment

## WATERFORD

**Waterford Recreation Committee** look forward to welcoming you to the annual **Summer Fete** on Sunday 15th September from 1pm until 4pm!

The word 'Fete' is French, yet this is the most quintessentially British of pastimes. Since medieval times, fairs have been a feature of British life, originally for selling anything from chickens to bulls and hiring shepherds or farm labourers.

Our village fête, however, is an altogether gentler and more modern event and while we no longer offer sheep for sale or 'bowling for a pig' (playing skittles to win a live piglet – what WOULD you do with a live piglet?!), we do have many great entertainments for both adults and children alike: live music, a BBQ, Bar, Tea Room, kids entertainment, a bouncy castle; a grand draw with amazing prizes and so much more, and entrance is free!

Our ever popular dog show will once again be taking place so bring along your beloved pooches for an afternoon of fun for the whole family.

Parking will be available at £2.

Like all our events, we heavily rely on volunteers. If you could spare some time on the day to help out, please email Lacey at [waterfordvillagehall@gmail.co.uk](mailto:waterfordvillagehall@gmail.co.uk)

We can't wait to see you there!

Another date for your diary is our **Bonfire Night**, which this year is being held on a FRIDAY night, **1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER**. Once again it will be low noise, animal and children friendly firework display. Watch this space for more details.

## Help Waterford Churchyard

Please come along on **Saturday 19th October**, any time between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m, spend as much or as little time as you can with us to help maintain the churchyard and the area around the War Memorial.

We will provide hot drinks, cakes and gossip in return for your efforts.

Tasks will include clearing brambles and brushwood, removing Ivy from walls and general tidying.

The following tools will assist if you are able to bring them:

Secateurs, lopping shears, digging forks, spades, strimmers, brush cutters that will cut through brushwood and brambles, saws for light pruning, ride-on mower, flat blade to scrape off Ivy, hedge trimmers, rakes, garden shredders and anything else you think might help.

The churchyard is "owned" by the parishioners - you that live in the parish, whether you have a religion or not and whatever your religion might be. We maintain the churchyard for wildlife in line with current, conservation policies and ideals, while keeping clear the areas around graves that are still visited.

We need help to tackle some of the longer tasks that our weekly, working parties can't. Please contact Malcolm on 01992 552531 or [m.t.wandrag@gmail.com](mailto:m.t.wandrag@gmail.com) if you have any questions or suggestions (or tasty gossip to pass on), otherwise just turn up on the day, please.

Even if you can only be there for 15 minutes, you will make a difference and we will be ever-so-very-much appreciative, grateful and indebted to you and will mark you as a wonderful person for evermore, well, at least until our next request in February or March.

## WATTON AT STONE



**?QUIZ  
NIGHT?**

**Saturday, 19th October  
7pm  
Memorial Hall, Watton**

Tables of 8 or 10      Bring your Own Drinks

Tickets **£15** per person available from  
[wattonatstonequiz@gmail.com](mailto:wattonatstonequiz@gmail.com)

To include light supper

# Waterford Nature Notes

In a car park at Hatfield, I saw a Carrion Crow peering into the grill low down on the front of a car, the crow then went from car to car examining the grilles and, occasionally taking out some tasty morsels. The crow had obviously learned that it could have ready meals with little effort. A week or so later, I was in the same car park and saw a bird conducting the same searches, whether it was the same crow or another I have no way of telling.



We had a few Ragwort plants growing in the garden, which we left in case Cinnabar moths used them to lay eggs. Ragwort is the most usual food plant of the Cinnabar caterpillars. A couple of weeks after the plants flowered, the caterpillars began to appear, in the end I counted over 80. The caterpillars drop to the ground and spend Winter in a cocoon underground so we cut the plants back to ground level but won't uproot them until next Spring when the caterpillars have turned into adult moths and fly. In general, nature's warning colours are a bright colour such as yellow or red and a dark colour such as black, the Cinnabar caterpillars are striped black

and yellow - a warning to predators that they are poisonous. The caterpillars only become poisonous after they have ingested the toxins contained in Ragwort, which, as many people know is poisonous, particularly to horses and sheep. Ragwort attracts bees but tests have shown that the amount of Ragwort toxins in honey produced by those bees is negligible. Apart from our garden, I have seen the caterpillars in only one other place, a small group of Ragwort in the churchyard.



In late July and early August I heard a Little Owl calling, sometimes from the churchyard and sometimes from Waterford Plantation. The Little Owl is not native, it was introduced in the 19th century but obviously found a niche for itself that didn't compete with our other owls. Little Owls are often seen in daylight and often hunt from a perch such as a fencepost or a branch on the edge of a wood or in a hedgerow, dropping onto small mammals and insects.



At the same time as I was hearing the Little Owl, on one night only, I heard what I can only think was a fox screaming. The scream was too irregular and too loud to be something like a rabbit caught by a fox or otherwise injured. Foxes make this sound during the mating season, usually around December to February but also use it at other times to announce their territory or to make contact with their mate or young.

In a year when flying insects have been scarce, I finally saw Gatekeeper butterflies in late July, my Southgate correspondent tells me every year that he has a profusion of Gatekeepers on the Oregano just outside his kitchen door, this year was no exception.

As I write this on 10th August, I have yet to see a Small Tortoiseshell, let alone some of the not-so-common species.

I went to a talk on spiders by Christopher Benton, I have reported before that Christopher is the Hertfordshire Spider Recorder but was mistaken, he is a keen arachnologist but does not know enough about micro spiders to be a recorder. Christopher tells me that there are around 300 species of "Money spider" alone in the UK. I asked Christopher whether the lack of flying insects, common prey of spiders, particularly web-builders has had an effect upon the spider population, Christopher told me that he has not noticed a reduction, which seems strange. If you have time, search the internet for the effects of drugs upon spiders, experiments demonstrated how web-building spiders were affected by drugs including LSD, amphetamines and caffeine in doses equivalent to a dose for a human. Caffeine had one of the highest impacts with the webs built by those spiders being just a few strands with huge holes. Enjoy your coffee but perhaps don't try to knit a pair of booties for your grandchild afterwards. While looking at drugged spiders you might also find interest in the Space Lab experiment suggested by a schoolgirl in the USA, orb-web spiders (the common pattern of web) use gravity to build their webs, when in zero gravity, the spiders were initially unable to build their webs but, within a few days had managed to build effective webs.

## **STAPLEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL – OFSTED “GOOD” in all areas!**

After a very busy term involving a Beach Day, Sport Days, Forest School, a class residential trip, a country fayre and a “Red, White and Blue Day” on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings we are delighted to announce that Ofsted have, once again, rated our hidden gem of a school as “GOOD” in all areas. We are over the moon that the report has captured how it feels to attend a small, rural, church school in such a wonderful way.

Inspection dates: 8 and 9 May 2024

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>Good</b>
------------------------------	-------------

The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Early years provision	Good
Previous inspection grade	Good



- *“Pupils get along famously. Break- and lunchtimes are a hive of activity. Pupils perch on climbing frames, play games of football or dance around a maypole.”*
- *“Calm conduct and polite manners are the norm. Pupils learn to behave this way from leaders and staff.”*
- *“Events, such as singing carols around the Christmas tree and the school country fayre, promote strong ties with the local community.”*
- *“Pupils’ parents point out the patience and kindness staff provide as a strength of the school.”*

### **Ofsted, May 2024**

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Please send any items for the next edition

**BY 12<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH**

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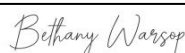


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# Watton-at-Stone Sports Clubs Newsletter

Issue

231

Sep 2024

Editor: vernon.dunhill@ntlworld.com

## Watton Youth FC

**WY**  
**WATTON YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB**  
AN FA CHARTER STANDARD COMMUNITY CLUB

**3G PITCH IN WATTON INFO DAY**

**SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**2.00-5.00PM**

**NIGEL POULTON COMMUNITY HALL**  
**SCHOOL LANE**  
**WATTON-AT-STONE**  
**SG14 3SF**

[WATTONYOUTHFOOTBALLCLUB.CO.UK](http://WATTONYOUTHFOOTBALLCLUB.CO.UK)

hand; our most economical bowler, who is also the highest run scorer in the team, is suffering from plantar fasciitis; and in the second over in the field at Ampthill Town, one of our most promising all-rounders dislocated a finger and had to go to hospital. As I write this, we sit one place above relegation but, of the four remaining games, one is against the team immediately above us and one is against the bottom club. If we can win both of these and, if not win, pick up bonus points from the other two, we should be able to retain our place in the league for next season.

The friendly matches have all been great fun and it is good to see local talent coming through with Cal O'Flynn and Freddy Keenan opening the bowling. The runs have been shared around and everyone gets the chance to show off their talents in the field, with the bat and with the ball. Friendly games are scheduled right through to the end of September with the finale being the annual match with the Watton Legends (ex-players gathered from near and far to enjoy a game of cricket as the focus for a very sociable day).

We have made it to the finals day of the Hertfordshire Village Trophy which takes place at Knebworth Park on Sunday 1 September. This T20 competition has been a favourite for Watton over the years with us featuring at the finals several times but it has been a while since we actually won the trophy. This year may be the one!

### Forthcoming fixtures:

31 Aug	Baldock (L)	H	12.00 pm
1 Sep	HVT Finals Day	A	12:30 pm
7 Sep	Rickmansworth II (L)	A	12.30 pm
8 Sep	Roving Reporters	H	12.30 pm
14 Sep	Datchworth	A	12:30 pm
22 Sep	Rosslyn	H	12:30 pm
28 Sep	Watton Legends	H	2:00 pm

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

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

## Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club

We are in the heart of the cricket season and the pressure is on for Watton's Saturday league team. After a steady start to the league programme, results started to go the wrong way. It never rains but it pours and injuries hit at the same time as our strike bowler is taking a three-week sabbatical from the game. Our captain broke his

Contact Points	<b>PILATES</b> Laura Jeffs 07710 408974	<b>CYCLING</b> Alan Headland 01920 830351	<b>WATTON VETS FOOTBALL</b> Steve Betts 07970 698139	<b>YOUTH FOOTBALL</b> Derek Hill 01438 813684	<b>LADIES FOOTBALL</b> Steve Betts 07970 698139	<b>SATURDAY FOOTBALL</b> Paul Reynolds 07794 791978
Contact Points	<b>ARCHERY</b> John Meischke 07970 083256	<b>CRICKET</b> Brad Williams 07801 790915	<b>SHOTOKAN KARATE</b> Peter Khara 07866 374674	<b>TENNIS</b> Ian Knight 0777 840 1799	<b>RAMBLING</b> Maurice Gordon 01920 426344	<b>TABLE TENNIS</b> Steve Block 07870 779949

# **Watton Ladies Football Club**

are entering our **21st season** and we've teamed up with local estate agent, Yopa!



You can join us this season by supporting the club in having a Yopa estate agents board, or if you play football, why not come along!

**Want to play  
for Watton Ladies?  
Scan below!**



**Would you like to  
show your support by  
having a YOPA board?  
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- **Regular Training** • **New Players Welcome** •

**Interested in coming along?**

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Watton-at-Stone Allotment and Garden Association proudly present  
**THE ANNUAL VILLAGE GARDEN and PRODUCE SHOW**

List of classes for the show – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Please put an **X** in each box for each class you are exhibiting

**ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS PER ENTRANT IS PERMITTED**



<b>A</b>	<b>FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CLASSES</b>
1.	APPLE dessert - 3 of one variety
2.	APPLE cooking - 3 of one variety
3.	PEAR - 3 of one variety
4.	PLUM/GAGE - 5 of one variety
5.	RASPBERRY - 5 fruits with stems attached
6.	BLACKBERRY/HYBRID BERRY – 5 fruits stem attached
7.	ANY OTHER FRUIT not mentioned in any other classes e.g. red/black/white currants -5 strigs; gooseberries -5 fruits
8.	TOMATO - 5 round fruits 1 ½” to 2” diameter with calyces attached
9.	TOMATO - 5 cherry/plum with calyces attached Max 1” diameter
10.	CUCUMBER - 2 fruits 4” to 12” long Greenhouse type
11.	CUCUMBER - 2 fruits 4” to 12” long Ridge, Gherkin, Outdoor type
12.	COURGETTE - 2 fruits 4” to 6” of edible fruits
13.	MARROW - 1 fruit, heaviest in show
14.	PUMPKIN – Any Type
15.	BUTTERNUT SQUASH
16.	ONION - 5 bulbs, after cleaning
17.	SHALLOTS - 5, after cleaning
18.	POTATO - 5 tubers of any one variety white skinned
19.	POTATO - 5 tubers of any one variety partly coloured skinned
20.	POTATO - 5 tubers of any one variety coloured skinned
21.	CARROTS - Long. 5 roots with at least 1” of leaf stem
22.	CARROTS - Any other type. 5 roots with at least 1” of leaf stem e.g. short stump
23.	BEETROOT - globe, 5 roots with at least 1” of leaf stem. Max 3” diameter
24.	ANY OTHER ROOT VEGETABLE
25.	SWEETCORN -2 cobs with ¼ of sheath removed
26.	CABBAGE - hearted -1 head with 2” of root attached
27.	RUNNER BEANS -5
28.	FRENCH OR DWARF BEANS – round podded Green -5
29.	OTHER VEGETABLES NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE CLASSES e.g. calabrese (broccoli head) -1 head; cauliflower -1 head; Brussel sprouts -3; leeks -3; pepper (sweet) -3; chillies -3, aubergine -1; parsnips-3
30.	COLLECTION OF 5 DIFFERENT VEGETABLES- 1 of each type

<b>B</b>	<b>CUT FLOWERS Minimum 6 inch stem</b>
31.	ROSE – hybrid tea – single bloom
32.	ROSE – floribunda/cluster – single stem
33.	DAHLIA – vase of 3 stems
34.	VASE OF ANNUAL GARDEN FLOWERS – 3 to 6 stems
35.	VASE OF PERENNIAL GARDEN FLOWERS – 3 to 6 stems

C	CHILDREN'S SECTION (Age under 12 years)
36.	Carved Pumpkin
37.	Heaviest Marrow
38.	Vegetable Monster (can be made of a collection of vegetables)
39.	Biggest Sun Flower
40.	Any Baked Item
41.	Plant that I've grown from seed

D	DOMESTIC SECTION
42.	Jar of jam - any fruit
43.	Jar of marmalade
44.	Jar of jelly - any fruit
45.	Jar of chutney – any type
46.	Four scones - sweet
47.	Four scones – savoury
48.	Chocolate cake
49.	Apple pie with pastry top and bottom
50.	Fruit cake
51.	Victoria Sponge any filling
52.	Plate of 5 decorated cup cakes
53.	Plate of any other baked recipe or any cake not in the above classes. Please specify on entry card.
54.	1 small loaf of speciality bread
55.	Speciality baking eg GF, DF, vegan. Please specify on entry card.
56.	1 bottle of Homemade wine
57.	1 bottle of Homemade spirit liqueur (e.g. Sloe Gin)

Total number of classes you are entering	<input type="text"/>	At 20p per class	<b>TOTAL</b>	£ <input type="text"/>
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EXHIBITORS NAME:	<input type="text"/>
TELEPHONE NUMBER	<input type="text"/>
E-MAIL ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>

**ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED AND STAGED BETWEEN 10AM AND NOON AT THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL ON SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> September 2024. PRODUCE TO REMAIN ON DISPLAY AND ONLY REMOVED AT THE END OF THE SHOW at 4pm.**

An area for the presentation of exhibits and a selection of show vases and plates for loose exhibits and cakes will be available. If you are happy for your produce to be sold at the end of the show please tick this box

**ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CLASS PER ENTRANT IS PERMITTED**

(Final 2024)