

WATERBEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Beach News

WATERBEACH - LANDBEACH - CHITTERING



Spring 2025
No.281

Waterbeach Theatre Company Presents

THREE COUPLES, TWO DINNER PARTIES, ONE HILARIOUS MESS

ALAN AYCKBOURN'S

How the Other

Half Loves

Directed by
Vicki Hingley



WATERBEACH
THEATRE
COMPANY

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love Waterbeach Theatre Company

14th-17th May 2025
Waterbeach School 7:30pm

Tickets £12

Advance Box Office 01223 880023

or book online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/wcp

www.wtconline.org.uk

NODA
For every stage

This amateur production of "How the Other Half Loves" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

BEACH NEWS

Journal of Waterbeach Community Association
www.waterbeach.org



'Beach News' is edited and distributed entirely by non-professional volunteers and is delivered free to residents of Waterbeach, Landbeach and Chittering four times a year.

The Association welcomes contributions on subjects of local interest but reserves the right to edit or omit articles without notice at their discretion.

Whilst every effort to ensure contents are correct on going to print the Association cannot accept responsibility for any omissions or errors.

Views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Association and we have no control over the nature, content and availability of any website or link referred to.

Articles for inclusion in 'Beach News' should be emailed to
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Alasdair Pentland 07751 786040

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Whilst every effort will be made to adhere to this schedule unforeseen circumstances may delay or restrict publication or delivery and no responsibility can be accepted for late or non-appearance.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR ARTICLE

If you would like information on your group to be published in Beach News, or have some interesting news to share, write an article and send it along. Email it to **beachnews@waterbeach.org** or send it to 5 Spurgeons Ave, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9NU.

If you have posters detailing a one off local event that you would like put up in the Associations notice boards at Waterbeach Green and School entrances on High Street and Way Lane, please post three copies to 5 Spurgeons Avenue, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9NU (Maximum size poster A4 in portrait format).

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Community Association



Hello everyone and welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Beach News. **Christmas 2024** - Thank you to everyone who turned out for Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve, it was a great turnout again and it's great to see the village come together during the festive season. I'd like to say a big thank you to Reverend Paul Butler from St John's Church for leading the Carols



and to all the readers for volunteering to help. A loud thank you to the members of the Salvation Army band and Waterbeach Brass for providing the musical accompaniment. Thanks as well to Pam Clack, Lee Clack, Nick Burch, William Moon and Shirley Hayhoe for organising and running the Carols and helping to put up and decorate the tree. The Carols on the Green would not be the same without our wonderful Christmas decorations, so thanks to Gary Langley and team

for putting up, fixing and taking down the lights and to Bannold for transporting, erecting and removing the Christmas tree.

The collection during the Carols on the Green was held on behalf of the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, a charity that does lots to support people in Waterbeach and the wider Cambridgeshire region. Your generous donations raised more than £711, a fantastic amount, thank you very much everyone

for your contribution. You can contribute and find out more about this local charity at their website <https://www.arhc.org.uk/>

Feast 2025 - This year's village Feast will take place on Saturday 7th June 2025. Planning has started and we are looking for volunteers who want to help and come up with some inventive ideas. The Feast planning meetings are open to all and I would like to encourage you to come along and have a say and pass on your ideas. Please keep an eye out for more information on this and Feast planning activities on the Feast Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/waterbeachfeast/]. We also need volunteers to help us on the day of the event, to help with setting up, marshalling and clearing up. We're a small group that organises the Feast and we cannot run it without your help, so if you can volunteer to help for an hour on the 7th June, please get in touch.

The parade is at the heart of the Feast Day celebrations. We had some new groups walking last year and we'd love to continue with that this year. Anyone is free to join the parade, local organisations, street parties and family groups are all welcome. In our trip through the theme of the alphabet we're up to 'Something beginning with the letter Q'. I look forward to seeing all your inventive ideas. We are in need of help running the traffic management for the parade this year. We are particularly in need of a local company or individuals who hold a street works licence and can assist us with the road closures, the parade cannot go ahead without this support. I'd like to say a big thank you to the CB Groundworks team who have done this for us for the last few years, your efforts are greatly appreciated, thank you. We're still looking for groups to take part in the arena, if you know of or organise a local group that would like to take part and show the village your talents – please get in touch. We plan on running the music stage again this year after the success of last year. We've had lots of suggestions for bands and musicians that cater to a wide range of musical tastes so we are looking forward to another year of great performances.



Spring Litter Pick 2025 – The WCA Litter Pick, sponsored by Urban&Civic will be taking place on Saturday the 29th March between 10 am and 12 noon. Meet at the Community Room, on the former barracks site around 10am to collect litter pickers, hi-vis jackets and bags. Free refreshments are provided to all the pickers at the Community Room after the litter pick. More details can be found on page 26. Thank you to the Waterbeach Explorers (the older members of the Scouting movement) for volunteering to help with the litter pick as part of their Earth Tribe Award. Please come along and volunteer,

turnout was disappointing at the autumn litter pick, but thank you to the volunteers who did turn out in some very unpleasant weather. Thank you to Sheila Burke, who is standing down after helping organise the litter pick since it became a regular event and to Caroline Ward for her continuing support and enthusiasm.

Beach News - Contributions to the Beach News are always welcome. Articles can be on local events, local club news or general interest. Pictures or photographs help to add interest to the magazine. Check out the online version at www.waterbeach.org where the magazine can be viewed in full colour.

I hope you all enjoy this edition of the Beach News, thanks for reading.

wcachair@waterbeach.org. Tel: 07751 786040 *Alasdair Pentland* - WCA Chair
www.waterbeach.org, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/611204276784361>
<https://www.facebook.com/waterbeachfeast>

Waterbeach WI



We have welcomed several new members recently and hope that we can encourage more to join. We have members aged from mid-30s to their 80s and we meet every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in St John's Church Room. We have a varied programme of events from social get-togethers to talks and other activities. We have a Knit and Natter group, book group and a walking group.

In January Jerry Cooper told the story of Sarah Carwin, a very active suffragette, who happens to be my first cousin three times removed (my great grandfather's cousin). We learned about her strong social conscience, her work among the disadvantaged women in west London, her training at Great Ormond Street, her role in London's first Invalid School and her travels to St Petersburg and Bogotá before her involvement in the cause of women's suffrage which led to her imprisonment and having to endure force-feeding. By way of a contrast, February's meeting will be a games evening, in March we welcome Rebecca Pharo to talk about 'How to Overcome a Fear of Public Speaking' and in April local expert, Lisa Broad, will be leading a seated yoga session.

You are welcome to come along as a visitor to sample our activities and becoming a member gives you opportunities to join with members of other local WIs on trips, craft activities and social events. Membership also gives access to National Federation of WIs (NFWI) hub where you can join in exercise classes, arts and crafts activities, films etc. Our WI also takes part in community activities like the litter picks and Feast Day. We look forward to welcoming some of you soon.

WASPS



It feels a long time ago, as we are now beginning to see a few signs of Spring, but the children at WASPS had a great time celebrating Christmas festivities. We raffled off a Playmobil advent calendar at the end of November to raise funds towards some new resources, chosen by the children. Our Christmas tree was decorated at the After School Club to brighten up our space. We enjoyed taking part in the PTA Winter Fair again this year, it was a wonderful way to kick start December! At the Winter Fair we raffled a festive hamper full of lovely items donated by our families/staff (thank you!), sold reindeer food and Santa keys. Our tinsel pull game proved popular as did our penny drop game. We also sold Christmas decorations, keyrings and bracelets all made by the children. Our advent countdown was enjoyed, everyone was very excited to see whose turn it was to receive the chocolate/sweet treat each day.

Our Holiday Club ran for the day on 6th January. The children enjoyed making paper gift bags, mini keepsake boxes, calendars and we had a very exciting visit from Zoolab. By the time you receive this copy of Beach News our February half term Holiday Club will have already taken place. We have lots of crafts planned over the two days to include, making photo frames and bird houses, pom pom monsters and wooden keyrings. The children will also be making cereal bars and fruit and cracker pizzas. There will be plenty of free play opportunities both inside and outside too throughout our sessions!



Our planned upcoming WASPS Holiday Club dates:

- Mon 7th to Fri 11th April
- Tues 22nd April
- Tues 27th and Wed 28th May
- Mon 2nd June
- Summer Holiday Club dates coming soon!

We currently have a vacancy for Club Manager, and we are also looking for Bank Staff to work as and when needed to cover staff absence and busy sessions. If you know someone who may be interested in our available positions, please do encourage them to get in touch with us or visit our website for further details. At WASPS we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All positions at WASPS are subject to references and enhanced DBS checks.

WASPS has a Facebook page, @WaterbeachWASPS, please like our page

to find out the latest news, updates and about our employment opportunities too.

Breakfast Club runs from 7:45 a.m. until the start of school and After School Club runs until 6 p.m. on all school days. Please enquire to find out availability and book a place.

Contact us: For more information, please visit our website:

www.waterbeach-wasps.org.uk. For enquiries, please email us wasps.waterbeach@outlook.com or telephone us on 07858 975397 during opening hours. Outside of opening times, please leave a message and a member of the team will return your call when convenient.

Gardening Club

Following the Christmas break, our activities resumed with the Annual New Year Social held at St John's Church Room. This is always a popular event and, as usual, we enjoyed good food prepared by committee members and helpers, some non-competitive quizzes to encourage us to interact with each other to beat the quiz setter and the opportunity to chat to each other. We have welcomed some new members over the past year and it was a good opportunity for them to get to know us a little better and for us to get to know them.

January is also the month in which we make the most of one of the benefits of membership of the club. By making a large group order we are able to benefit from a significant discount when buying from the King's Seeds catalogue. The order was submitted at the beginning of January and the seeds arrived less than two weeks later. We are looking forward to seeing the results of our purchases as spring arrives.

Talks resumed in February with a visit from Hawk Honey to tell us about 'The Forgotten Bees'. We learned about bees other than honey bees and were told how important they are and how we can encourage them in our gardens. In our meeting on March 20th Tim Fuller, a frequent visitor to our club, will be talking about grasses. He runs the Plantsman's Preference nursery in South Lopham near Diss which supplies a great variety of interesting perennials as well as ornamental grasses. Members have often stopped there to make purchases before visiting the nearby Bressingham Gardens.

We usually meet on the third Thursday of the month in St John's Church Room at 7.45pm. However, to avoid a potential clash with church activities in Holy Week, our April meeting will be on the fourth Thursday (April 24th) when David Livermore will be talking about 'The World of Alpines'. Visitors are welcome at all our talks upon paying £5 at the door. We look forward to welcoming more new members as the new gardening year begins.

Friends of Worts Meadow

Our most successful public event of last summer (2024) was held on site in Worts Meadow led by two members of the Cambridge County Council archaeology team. Around 30 people enjoyed seeing and hearing about the archaeology and history of Worts Meadow, followed by a short walk to the Tithe Barn for refreshments kindly provided by the Tithe Barn Trust and a short presentation on the barn's history.



A FOWM walk to see and hear about the archaeology of Worts Meadow, led by members of the CCC archaeology team. Credit: Frances Dipper.

Our monthly work parties have continued to maintain the pathways around Bourne Wood and to keep rampant brambles and other vegetation in check in the wildlife ponds area. Plenty of tall vegetation and 'scrub' is left in place around the ponds and other areas for wildlife; a Harvest Mouse nest with young was recorded in late autumn and an adult out and about near the wood entrance in January this year (2025).

Planning for the work on clearing and improving the moat continues after a visit in January from Historic England. Further survey of the sediment depth is needed to avoid any possible damage to the archaeology. Meanwhile work will shortly begin on installing a new culvert to replace the partially blocked one at the main entrance to the site, and some willow pollarding and fallen tree removal in the moat area can also start.

Spring 2025 Events

Amphibian count by torchlight – Tuesday March 18th 7.15pm. Meet at Landbeach Village Hall car park.

Dawn Chorus walk and breakfast – Saturday May 3rd at 05.30 am (!). Meet at village hall car park. RSVP if you can to frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk (for catering purposes).

Farming in Landbeach: leaving room for wildlife. An illustrated talk by local farmers Pete Hatley and Matt Redman – Wednesday May 28th 7.30pm. Preceded by FOWM AGM at 7.00pm.

FOWM volunteers help with the practical management of Worts Meadow LNR and meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 09.30am (August & December excepted). We are also planning an August Saturday work party date TBA. For more information, to send in wildlife photographs, or to be added to our email list, contact Frances on 01223 861836, frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk.

Salvation Army



Well, here we are in 2025 and the months are flying by! It was lovely, as always, to see so many of you on the Village Green on Christmas Eve. We hope that you had a lovely Christmas. We had a lovely family service on Christmas morning as we celebrated the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Thank you to those who set up our display of Nativity scenes from around the world, it was beautifully set out and refreshments were enjoyed. It was lovely to welcome some of the classes from the school. It is always held on the first Friday and Saturday in December. You may have seen our brass band at Tesco playing Christmas Carols. We thank Tesco for allowing us to be there. We made shopping a more pleasurable Christmassy experience, according to some shoppers and for others, we made their Christmas, part of our Christian service.

Going back to November, we always have our Craft Fair on the 2nd Saturday in November, 10a.m. - 4p.m. We had a lovely variety of local crafts, beautifully displayed, an ideal time and place for Christmas shopping, affordable and reasonable prices. Thank you to all who came. Lovely refreshments all day, mostly home-made. The stall of home-made cakes and preserves sells out quickly, so you need to come early!

Our garden was newly planted in August and September, we hope that the spring bulbs will soon be in flower for you to enjoy as you pass by. Please feel free to walk up the path and have a look.

Coming Events:

Snack & Chat - Wednesdays, 10a.m. - 12.30p.m.

Toddler & Baby Group - Thursdays, 9a.m. - 11a.m. (term time only)

Home League/Home & Family Group - Thursdays, 2.30p.m. - 3.30p.m. with light refreshments

Coffee Morning - 1st Saturday every month. Bacon rolls, cream teas and homemade cakes available, bring a friend.

Unfortunately, our boiler broke down about a month ago, so thank you to everyone who came to our hall for putting up with a lower temperature, as we had to use portable heaters.

The Charity Sale will be open from Tuesday 13th May 9a.m. - 4p.m. Also Thursday and Friday.

Late night shopping is on Wednesday 9a.m. - 8p.m.

Closing Down Sale is on Saturday 17th May 9a.m. – 12p.m. Big reductions!

We cannot sell electrical goods, crash helmets, cycle helmets, car seats.

We will be open for donations on Saturday 10th May 10a.m.- 3p.m. and Monday 12th May 10a.m. – 2 p.m. We are extremely grateful for all our volunteers who freely give of their time, hope to see you this year.

Concert by Coventry Salvation Army Band - Saturday 22nd March at 7p.m.
Tickets are £5 each, you can pay on the door. Please do come along.

All our events are held in our Salvation Army Hall, which is our church, in Station Road, Waterbeach. We look forward to seeing you.

Happy Folks Club

Having not quite escaped the cold, dreary winter weather, it will be nice to welcome in the spring for much needed warmth and of course the various early year flowers. Many of us have had our fair share of problems during the winter, so it will be good to have some warmer sunshine and to look forward to what the new year offers.

Just to recap on past events since the last edition of the Beach News, in November we had a most enjoyable Tinsel & Turkey week in Skegness celebrating Christmas and New Year a bit earlier than the usual Christmas festivities. Everyone who went to the venue agreed that they had a thoroughly good time and look forward to the next time. The very popular Thursford Show was our venue for December. The show, as usual, was very good and was enjoyed by all. Also, in December we had our Club Christmas Party with music, food and a massive Raffle that seemed to go on for ages. Of course, drinks were available from the bar and I don't remember anyone being carried out as everyone behaved themselves! The last event which was just before Christmas was a carols and cake afternoon with music provided by some of the members of the Salvation Army Band to whom I extend my thanks on behalf of our club members.

So, what do we have to look forward to in spring? The first event is a pantomime at Brick Lane, London. This is usually a very good show and the only downside is fighting our way through the London rush hour traffic. In March we are due to visit Springfields for shopping, mainly for the ladies but there is a public house for the men, plus plenty of coffee shops and eateries to suit all tastes. April is due to be our first visit to Windsor. I find myself unable to comment on this one not having been there before but it is somewhere new for us so will see what it brings.

Well, that is all from me for now and I will leave you with my usual comment regarding the trips we offer through the year. Any non-members wishing to join us on any trip through the year, we would be pleased to welcome you on board as coach prices are very expensive these days so we need as many people as possible to cover the costs. Just visit us on any Friday afternoon from 1:30p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Beach Social Club in Cambridge Road, Waterbeach where one of the committee will give you further information.

Terri Spencer - Chairperson

Waterbeach Colts FC



As the evenings grow lighter and the weather starts to get warmer it's great to be back on the rec for our training each week. With the village continuing to grow so does our club, particularly in the younger age groups, with two Under 7s teams and four Under 8s. We are also seeing great success, with our Under 13s team recently promoted to the top division.

For those joining us on Saturdays please park considerately and if possible, leave space in the car park for visiting teams who don't know the other routes on to the rec. We want to ensure our players, parents and residents all enjoy match days.

Mark the 23rd – 25th May in your diary to join us for our annual fundraising Beer & Music festival. Planning is well underway and we are looking for help both front of house and for set-up and break-down. If you can spare a few hours please visit our website www.waterbeachcolts.org.uk/beer-festival to sign up for a shift.

The Friday evening will see a clash of the titans to raise money for Parkinson's UK. Help us to support every Parkinson's journey, every step of the way by donating here www.justgiving.com/page/wcfc-charityfootballmatch. 6pm will be the opening of the festival with craft beers from Milton Brewery, other drinks and snacks plus entertainment from local favourite, The Juliets.



Saturday is the end of season tournament with teams from the local area competing in categories from Under 6 to Under 18. Throughout the day we'll have catering plus a bouncy castle for the children. The beer tent opens at midday, then in the evening we'll have live music and a disco.

Sunday is awards day for all our players and their coaches. We'll have more activities and the last day of the festival opens at midday with up and coming bands and the beer will of course be flowing.



Don't forget to bring your Pure Services cup from last year for reduced entry. The weekend is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and raise funds to support the club, allowing us to keep our annual fees low.

If you're enthusiastic about football or the community and have a few hours to spare each month, how about joining us to shape the club? We have the following vacancies:

- With our co-chair Mike Morel standing down we need a vice-chair to support Paul Cuddon in leading the committee.
- We're looking for a Communications Officer to help with articles like this and posting on social media; a great way to get experience in marketing.
- The role of Secretary liaises with Cambridge FA to ensure we are accredited and maximise the support we receive.
- We would not be able to operate without the important role of Safeguarding. It ensures the welfare of our teams by completing background checks, monitoring concerns and promoting best practice.

If you're interested in getting involved or would like to know more about these roles, particularly as a parent of one of our younger players, please get in touch. wcfc.chair@gmail.com

WCFC Committee

Waterbeach Scout Group

During the last year our Explorers have been busy cooking, playing team games without tech, and helping out other Scouting sections.

Our unit is called the 32nd Waterbeach Everest Explorer Scout Unit and is for teenagers aged 14½ years to 18 years and they meet on Wednesday evening with leaders Julia and Charlotte.

For 2025 the Explorers have taken on the Earth Tribe Award and will be teaching the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts how to look after the Earth. They will be showing how little things can make a big difference. At COP26 we promised, as a movement, to help to do our bit by teaching our young people.

Our Scouts use solar panels, when camping, to generate electricity to charge the mobile phone kept for safety and security purposes.

This leads to thinking about using less energy at home and at the Scout hut by turning off lights and shutting doors to keep heat in. Also, learning about renewable energy and its importance. Then coming up with their own ideas about how they can be used in everyday life.

They will be learning how to help the community by litter picking and understanding the need for recycling everyday plastic, paper, aluminium, cardboard and wood.

More than 78% of young people have said that looking after the environment was something they wanted to do after seeing the flooding and wildfires last year.

Community Playgroup



Happy New Year from everyone at the Community Playgroup! 2025 began for us with our Ofsted inspection, just 3 days into term, but we all had fun showcasing what we get up to as we explored all things ice and cold. From how ice is formed to looking at the changes in the environment around us, we even made some fake snow from household ingredients, that was actually cold in our STEM session.

We were so pleased to find that we had maintained our good rating and that our strong ethos of learning through play in a warm welcoming environment really shone through.

For the remainder of this half term we continued the winter theme looking at what type of birds visit our garden and thinking about ways we can sustain them in the cold winter months as their natural food sources diminish and become harder to find.

We also looked at emotions and feelings during Child's Mental Health week looking at ways to express and cope with our emotions.

In our final week together before half term we will be exploring numbers with lots of fun activities and provocations.

As part of our gym and movement provision we have enjoyed welcoming Grant and Nathan from Football Fun Factory to our sessions. They have helped us work on our gross motor and listening skills with lots of fun activities; a firm favourite was the dog in the vault game! We look forward to what other activities they have planned for us for the rest of the school year.

We have also been enjoying our weekly cookery sessions making soup, snowflake biscuits, porridge with various toppings and some gingerbread as we explored our favourite stories.

As always, it's been a fun action packed time of learning and exploring and I'll leave you with some of the questions that our children have posed to see if you know the answers.....

"What noise do giraffes make?"

"How tall is the biggest tower?"

"What's the largest mini beast that lives in our garden?"

And finally, "Why do dogs have tails?"



Library News



Thanks to our customers for bearing with us this winter while we have had ongoing problems with the heating. New heaters have now been installed, and we are working with the school to improve their effectiveness.

Regular discussions are ongoing with the school governors and Parish Council representatives on a replacement building, which we hope will be on the same site.

Library at Home service - Did you know that Cambridgeshire Libraries offer a free Library at Home service to readers of any age who find it difficult to get to the library due to disability, illness or caring responsibilities?

A local volunteer can visit monthly at a mutually convenient time, bringing library books and audiobooks chosen according to each reader's preference, and have a friendly chat if you'd like.

For more information about becoming a Library at Home customer or volunteer, call 0345 045 5225, email volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/advice-and-support/library-at-home-service>

Waterbeach Theatre Company

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual pantomime *Peter Pan - A Pantomime*. We had our largest audiences for a pantomime since the dreaded Lockdown. The reviewer said "There were many fine performances. Both the adults and children delivered an entertaining evening. The audience's reactions were testament to their enjoyment, making it a successful production." We are very proud of all involved. Thank you if you joined us and also purchased a raffle ticket which raised £250 for Versus Arthritis (formerly Arthritis Research UK).



WTC is thrilled to have received a NODA (National Operatic & Dramatic Association) nomination in the Best Play category for last November's production of *Ladies' Day*. Winners will be announced at the NODA Gala Awards in May.

WTC's next production will be Alan Ayckbourn's comedy *How The Other Half Loves* at Waterbeach School 14, 15, 16 & 17 May. Tickets will go on sale on 1 April.

You can find out all about Waterbeach Theatre Company by visiting our website www.wtconline.org.uk

Friends of All Saints', Landbeach (FOALs)

Opening up our Parish Church building to community projects.

Great acoustics, space, good light, heritage, servery, WiFi

Christmas Tree Festival - The second annual Christmas Tree Festival, at the start of December, was again a great success, with over 40 trees and wreaths turning this parish church into a cross between a forest and a fairy grotto. Each entry was the result of a lot of imagination and care; and made for a magic atmosphere. Prizes, in categories, were awarded both through voting by those visiting the festival, and by former judge Lindsay Davies who congratulated all the entrants on the quality of their pieces. Further details of the Christmas Tree Festival can be found on page 28.

Gala Dinner - The Gala Dinner, amidst the forest, was again a sell-out, with diners treated to wonderful creations with a team led by Sanji Kiliti, and enthusiastic youthful waiters. The whole evening, in this extraordinary setting would be hard to beat anywhere.

Improvement Projects - Funds raised at these, and our other events, have supported the augmentation of our bell tower to a ring of 6 bells [new bell ringers are very much welcomed]. Ongoing projects include support for the improvement of the South Porch and its Community Cupboard, the improvement of our audio-visual facilities (including the streaming and recording of weddings and other events), and work towards net-zero energy use.

This Year's Events Programme - Our programme as it has come together so far includes a number of regular favourites, and with an ambitious family Harvest Barn Dance to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 20th Sept. The band members are likely to be dressed as hay bales(!) and there will be agricultural-themed competitions including best costume, scarecrow, and Wonky Vegetable – so have a go at growing some. Any type of veg can be entered. You can use your own seeds; or marrow and carrot seeds are being made available at the back of the church (no charge).

This year's programme so far:

Sun 27 April	11:30 am	AGM
Sat 17 May	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Garage Sale
Also on 17 May	5:30 pm	Gig and Concert by St John's Band
Sat 12 July	2:00 pm	Garden Party & Bell ringers' Open Day
Sat 20 September	6:30 pm	Family Harvest Barn Dance
Sat 25 October	7:00 pm	Pudding (Savoury) Pie and Quiz Evening
Fri 28 November	6:30 pm	Advent Gala Dinner
Sat 29, Sun 30 Nov	10:00 am - 5:30 pm	Christmas Tree Festival

All Welcome. Enquiries: john.buckley@sustenergy.co.uk 01223 861836

Cam Sailing Club

Sailing activities at the Cam start again this month and a full racing and training calendar has been organised for 2025. As always, there is also plenty of opportunity for leisure sailing too.

A first for CSC this year was the participation in the RSPB Birdwatch where, from the relative comfort of the unheated clubhouse, members recorded fourteen species of birds and waterfowl in one hour with the moorhens getting by far the highest count. Unfortunately, the resident Little Owl let us down that morning by staying well hidden.

If you are interested in joining the Cam Sailing Club or would like more information, please visit our website: www.camsailingclub.org.uk or email: secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk

History of the Cam Sailing Club Part 6 - 1945-1960 The Dinghy Boom Years

This was the start of the post-war dinghy boom. Many new dinghy classes were designed by Jack Holt and other major designers following in the tradition of Uffa Fox. These new boats were mainly designed for the family and were generally suitable for use on the river.

Racing the old half-raters gradually disappeared and by 1956 the adopted dinghy classes at the club were the Merlin, Firefly, British Moth and Open (General Handicap). No dinghy could race that was over 14 feet in length, or had an outboard contrivance, a rule which still exists today.

The Paper Boat - At the end of the war there were few building materials for boats. John Hookham, a club member, decided to build a boat from Aerolite resin glue and paper. After many trials and help from Aero Research at Duxford, the boat was launched and sailed successfully for many years. This may have been one of the first composite boats constructed, leading directly to the GRP boats we know today.

Grounds and Facilities - It was quickly realised after the war that the club was lacking in any modern facilities, being without water, flush toilets, a proper clubhouse, a dinghy park and boat storage. Also, the club did not own the access to the grounds, as the track to the main lawn was leased.

The first priority was the water supply. More chalets had been built in 1949 and the first caravans were allowed to be parked along the river frontage in what is now the car park. Negotiations were held with the owner of the track, and in 1949 a fresh water tap was installed, situated by Waterbeach Lode.



Dinghies Approaching the Buoy at Bottisham Lock

Keats' Meadow became a dinghy park with a new slipway and storage sheds. These sheds were disused chicken sheds donated by a club member from his farm at Grantchester.

The decision to build a new clubhouse was rescinded at the 1953 AGM and instead it was resolved to spend £180 on repairing the existing one and £150 on building a Dutch Barn between the two new storage sheds. The balance remaining from the Jubilee Fund was kept in reserve for future land purchase and after lengthy negotiations Warrington's Meadow was finally purchased in 1959 securing access to the club grounds.

The diving stand, which had been set up by the RAF during the war, was dismantled and replaced by a springboard. The RAF-built framework was used as the base for a new Starters' Hut built on the strip of land leased from Mr. Hatley where it still stands today, although the hut is not the original one.

Post War Social Activities - After the war the season of 1945 started with great optimism and energy. In February a grand Ball was organised in the Guildhall; two rooms and two bands were engaged and the attendance was limited to 450 people. This was a major celebration for peace, hope and the future of the club. After this the social activities became more low key in keeping with post-war Britain. Summer parties were held at the August Regatta, and Balls were held annually up to 1950. The first Laying-up Supper was held in 1951 at the Lion Hotel. For the Club's Diamond Jubilee in 1959 the grounds were lit by hundreds of candles and other lights forming an excellent backdrop to two marquees with interconnecting walkways for the Diamond Jubilee Summer Party.

History extracts from The Cam Sailing Club - The First Hundred Years by Rodney Bryant

Waterbeach Day Centre

We meet on a Wednesday at Denson Close Community Room from 10-30 till 15-00. On arrival tea/coffee and biscuits are provided before a two-course home cooked meal. After lunch we have games, tea/coffee and cake. All this for £8-00 and to spend the day among good company. If you wish to join us, please contact one of the numbers below. We look forward to seeing you soon.

We are busy planning for the coming year and we will be having an Easter party with buffet and music.

Our Easter Sale will be held on Saturday 29th March from 14-00 to 16-00. All welcome - raffle, tombola, refreshments etc.

We are desperately looking for a new treasurer. If you can help, please contact either Mary on 01223 564666 or 07711551766 or Shirley on 07767 793505. We look forward to hearing from you.

Military Heritage Museum



The museum tells the story of the former airfield from 1938 when Winfold Farm land was bought for a war time airfield and then the RAF arrived in 1941. The Royal Engineers took over in 1966 until they left Waterbeach in 2012. The site is now being developed as Waterbeach (New Town).

WMHM Open on the following dates

March	Sunday 2 nd & Wednesday 5 th 10am - 4pm
	Sunday 16 th with Waterbeach Community Market 10am- 3pm
April	Wednesday 2 nd & Sunday 6 th 10am - 4pm
	Sunday 20 th with Waterbeach Community Market 10am- 3pm
May	Sunday 4 th & Wednesday 7 th 10am - 4pm
	Sunday 18 th with Waterbeach Community Market 10am- 3pm

The Return Carving by Gordon Hayes - Was unveiled on Saturday 30th November by The Commander of RAF Station Wyton, Wing Commander John Grenville, in front of forty guests. We were pleased 104 Squadron Cambridge Air Cadets were able to attend, along with County, District and Parish councillors. The Museum Friends and others made up the group. The daughter of the Flight Engineer, F J Saunders, far left in the carving was also able to attend.



*The Return unveiling
(Photo by Tim George Urban&Civic)*

The carving from a photo taken by a Daily Express photographer on the 14th October 1944 depicts the Gordon Crew of 514 Squadron Waterbeach coming off their Lancaster after a bombing raid.

This iconic carving, capturing a particular event and time here at Waterbeach, should, we feel, be kept here as it shows part of history of the place. We hope you feel the same and will support our efforts to purchase 'The Return' by making donations to enable the carving to remain here at Waterbeach for posterity. We need to raise £13,000. We already have £5,000 which is good going. Donations can be made by the QR on this page or by calling in at the museum and using the Sum-up machine, cheques and cash of course are also very acceptable. Thank you in advance.



What's in a name?

On 1 April 1918 the Royal Air Force was created by the merger of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.

Even though 1918 is the official birthday of the RAF, the Royal Engineers' pioneering work at the Balloon Factory and in operating airships, balloons and aeroplanes, is properly regarded as part of the RAF's heritage. It was for this reason that, when the Married Quarters of RAF Waterbeach were built, the RAF turned to *CAPPER*, *CODY* and *TEMPLER* for street names.

Equally, when the Royal Engineers took over Waterbeach airfield, they found themselves at home with street names that are part of the Corps of Royal Engineers own history. 39 Engineer Regiment, who took over from the RAF at Waterbeach in 1966, specialised in the construction and repair of RAF airfields and therefore appropriately embodies the strong historical links between the RAF and the Corps of Royal Engineers.



John Edward Capper KCB, KCVO. - He joined the Royal engineers in 1880 and went on a ballooning course in 1883. He served in India, Burma and South Africa between 1883 and 1905. He commanded the R.E. balloon units and the Balloon Factory from 1903 until he left Farnborough in 1909. Under his guidance he saw the development of British Army Aeroplane No.1, British Army Airship No.1 and later airships.

James Lethbridge Brooks Templer - A career officer in the Militia serving with the Middlesex Militia and latterly in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. He made substantial contributions to ballooning particularly in the generation of hydrogen gas and in the manufacture of balloon envelopes. He was responsible for the construction of all British military balloons, some 1,000 in all, between 1878 and his retirement in 1906 as superintendent of the Balloon Factory. He started British Army Airship No.1 in 1903.

Samuel Franklin Cody - He was born in Birdville, Texas and spent his early years in the USA as a cowboy and rodeo rider. Came to England in 1889 and gave rodeo shows in England and on the Continent.

A self-taught engineer, he developed automatic small arms and man lifting kites. Instructed the Royal Engineers in kiting from 1904. With Capper he designed British Army Aeroplane No1. in which he made the United Kingdom's first piloted flight in a powered aeroplane on 16 October 1908. He became a naturalised Briton in 1909. Built several later aeroplanes on his own account. He won a number of air events and set new records for duration and distance. He was killed at Farnborough in August 1913 when his seaplane broke up in mid-air.

This article was adapted from an original by Gordon Bruce, by Les Moss WMHM Secretary

Website: www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk
We look forward to you visiting us.

Follow us on Facebook
Adrian Wright - WMHM Chairman

Waterbeach Bowls Club

Centenary Year

We had hoped to celebrate our centenary year which is 2025 with a new pavilion. However, progress has been ponderously slow. But we aim to arrange club events which we shall advertise and report upon as appropriate when progress is made.

Soon after last year's season ended several club members helped the green keeper carry out work necessitated by several months play and to improve the surface for next year. Removal of debris and light cutting has continued over recent months and will increase until we are ready to play in April.

Several members have been playing in various leagues at Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club and also short mat at Cottenham courtesy of their bowls club. Most members also enjoyed a dinner at the White Horse in Milton which enabled us to meet together during the months when we cannot play our game out in the open.

In March we shall hold our pre-season meeting and agree when first roll ups can be arranged and other matters discussed. These will include when we hold our open events when we invite those interested in playing bowls to come along and give it a try even if they have never previously delivered a wood. To those who know the game and are looking for a new club, do make sure you give us a look. Posters will be displayed around the village and details put on our Facebook page. So please keep an eye open and come along. Or if on reading this article you already know you would like to attend an open day, please give Chris Rushmer a call on 07712 940 284 and give him your contact details so that you can be told the dates. We look forward to hearing from you.

The members of the bowls club are looking forward to what we hope will be a fine summer playing the game we enjoy. In particular we are keen to participate for the first time in the Ely and District afternoon bowls league. We shall let you know in future editions of Beach News how successful we are.

Waterbeach Surgery News

I would like to wish all our patients a Happy New Year and thank all of you for your support and good wishes.

We now have a NHS Point-of-Care machine to ensure that we can complete NHS health checks in a more efficient manner. The testing machine enables us to test a drop of your blood before completing the health check in the surgery.

Due to the high demand for blood tests, we will be asking you to attend, where possible, the Park and Ride at Newmarket Road.

We can refer you to Waterbeach Pharmacy for certain ailments. The pharmacy is now part of the new NHS initiative of 'pharmacy first'. This is done by having a referral by the team at the surgery.

These conditions are

1. Sore throat – 5+ years and not pregnant.
2. Earache – Children aged 1-17, not recurrent.
3. Sinusitis – over 12 years, not more than 12 weeks duration, immunosuppressed or pregnant.
4. Impetigo – not recurrent, over 1 year and not bullous.
5. Shingles – not pregnant, over 18 years.
6. Infected Insect bites – over one year old.
7. Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women – 16-64, not recurrent, not pregnant, no catheter.

Our new GP Dr Rosie Gordon has settled in well. We currently have 3 salaried GPs employed at the Surgery, 2 regular locum doctors and an ANP (Advanced Nurse Practitioner). Below are the days covered by our salaried and locum GPs.

Dr R Gordon Mondays & Wednesdays

Dr R Hampson Monday to Thursday

Dr J Buckler Tuesdays & Fridays

R Alia A.N.P Tuesdays & Thursdays

Dr A Hussain (locum) Monday & Every other Friday

Dr I Shevki (locum) Every other Friday

We have had very positive feedback regarding the new phone system. We now offer call back. The system will ask you if you would like a call back. This will keep your position in the queue. Another feature we have introduced is a message that informs patients that the surgery has no on-the-day appointments left. This has seen a reduction in frustration.

When you have a GP telephone appointment, please can you ensure that you have your mobile with you at all times and that it is not on silent. Those without a mobile will need to be close to their landline. The GP or ANP (Advanced Nurse Practitioner) will ring at least twice. Some patients are phoning repeatedly to check they've not missed their call. This is putting more pressure on staff.

We no longer prescribe medications that can be purchased over the counter. This is because it is government policy to reduce the amount of money the NHS spends on prescriptions for treating minor conditions. If you are wanting help or advice about this, please ask. Please be aware that we do not take repeat prescriptions over the phone. If you require a repeat you will need to put this in writing and place in the letterbox at the entrance of the surgery or take it to

reception. Please allow 5 working days for your prescription to be processed. Please can patients with a smart phone or Tablet device consider using the NHS App, as it enables you to order your prescription online without using paper and it reduces workload for the prescription clerks. You can find the App on the App store or for Android on the play store. The practice currently has a 64% take up of patients using on-line access.

Like all GP surgeries there is a big issue with patients missing appointments. These DNAs (Do Not Attends) are costing a huge amount of time and money. If you cannot attend your appointment, for whatever reason, please can you contact the surgery to inform us so we can then accommodate other patients? We recognise that sometimes it is unavoidable that an appointment may be missed; you will be phoned or sent a letter to follow this up. If you do not attend on three occasions you may be asked to register at another practice. The new messaging should help this not to be needed. There has been some talk by politicians of fining patients, who miss appointments. We can stop the need for this if patients are more considerate.

The management team are happy to field your calls referring to appointments. However, there seems to be an expectation that if the manager calls you back then you will be provided with an appointment. This is not the case. We understand there is frustration about the number of appointments available but all GP surgeries struggle with this. It is not unique to Waterbeach. If the reception team tells you there are no appointments they are telling you the truth. Please respect what the team are telling you. They will advise you what to do. Speaking to the manager will not result in an appointment but we will sign post you where we can.

I constantly get challenged why are there no appointments left. Last month was no exception, as we had a high number of calls from patients. The frustration for me is that if the 133 patients who didn't turn up had contacted the surgery, the spare appointments could have been reallocated to sick patients. This number covers now both Waterbeach & Cottenham.

Over the last couple of months, we have seen an increase in unacceptable behaviour. This is just a gentle reminder that the practice operates a zero-tolerance policy on aggressive and abusive behaviour. If you are rude, aggressive or abusive to any member of the team you will be warned via letter of your unacceptable behaviour. If this happens again then I will have no choice but to remove you from the Practice list and you will need to register at another practice. We can serve you best when there is good communication.

The surgery team is very positive about our ability to take care of our Waterbeach community. If you have any concerns about your care please contact me or another member of the management team at the surgery straight away by phone so we can discuss your concern. You could also use the feedback link on the Waterbeach surgery website. *Bruce Abel*—Practice Manager

Waterbeach Parish Council

The Parish Council, meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the New Sports Pavilion on the Recreation Ground. Some Committee Meetings may be held in the Parish Office as they are smaller. Details of all meetings along with the Agendas and Minutes and associated reports can be found on the Parish Council Website www.waterbeach-pc.gov.uk.

The new website is currently being worked on to bring it up to date with all the legal and community information it should have. Whilst it has a lot more data yet to be uploaded, if you have any ideas about what you would like to see on it, please do let us know.

At the budget meeting in February an £11,000 allocation was approved for 2025/26 to go towards community grants. Any community group or organisation can apply for a grant (terms and conditions apply) from the Council. We will be accepting applications during the months of April (to be decided in May) and October (to be decided in November). Examples of applications are: one-off improvement projects, group events, to provide communication tools etc. Grants cannot be considered for contributions towards running/staffing costs. Please contact the office for more information or for a copy of the T&Cs.

As with many villages, speed restrictions are being implemented due to the increasing amount, and speed, of vehicles on our roads. Waterbeach has received funding from County Highways to initiate this project which will be going ahead this year.

The Parish Council holds a significant amount of money for use on Community Projects within Waterbeach. This money comes from developers who are required to contribute towards the community in which it is building. This can be very small or very big depending on the size of the development. At present the Parish Council holds just over £1million to be spent within the Parish. There are certain areas where the money must to be spent, such as recreational facilities, community facilities etc. We will soon be reaching out to residents with a survey asking for your view on how to spend the money and improve facilities, or create new ones, for your village. If you have any ideas you would like to share, let us know!

The Council currently has one seat vacant after the resignation of Cllr Newall. We wish her well and thank her for her time on the Council. If you are interested in knowing more or would like to represent your Parish please do contact the office for more details.

Contact your Council - You can contact us in a variety of ways:

Telephone: 01223 441338 Text: 07923 134471

Email: council@waterbeach-pc.gov.uk Instagram: [waterbeachpc](https://www.instagram.com/waterbeachpc)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567343578674>

Our Socials are shiny and new, so please 'like' or 'follow' us to stay informed this way.

Girlguiding

Spring is in the air and members of Girlguiding in Waterbeach are getting ready to enjoy more activities outdoors!

Rainbows have been making bird feeders in preparation for the RSPB Great British Birdwatch in February, and they also said a sad 'Goodbye' to Sue, who has been helping at meetings for more than 10 years. Rainbow Leader June shared "We are so grateful for her involvement and will miss her at Rainbows."

1st Waterbeach Brownies braved the January cold, timing a stargazing evening to take advantage of the 'planet parade' - where six planets were visible in the night sky - Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. They only managed to spot three of the planets through the clouds, but it was still exciting wrapping up warm and exploring the night sky, with the evening culminating in the Brownies each receiving a Stargazing badge.

All of our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides participated in the successful Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints' Church in Landbeach at the beginning of December. 1st Waterbeach Brownies loved making decorations for their 'Animal Communi-Tree', whilst 2nd Waterbeach Brownies tested their stitching skills -but hopefully not their leader's patience - whilst 'Stocking up for Christmas' to decorate their tree! The Guides and Rainbows entered a new category for this year, creating 'Coral Wreaths' and a 'Helping Hands' wreath. Some of the girls also visited the festival with their families over the weekend, to share their creations and grab a mince pie.



'Helping Hands'

Many of our Brownies and Guides joined other members from our Guiding county (Girlguiding Cambs East), for an exclusive members-only screening of Moana 2 at The Light cinema in December.

Heading towards the end of the winter term, both 1st Waterbeach Brownies and Guides thoroughly enjoyed their silent discos... In case you're wondering, a silent disco is an event where rather than using speakers, music is broadcast via a radio transmitter with the signal being picked up by wireless headphones worn by the participants, which means you can adjust the volume to suit you, and anyone without headphones on doesn't hear the music!

1st Waterbeach Brownies visited Hatley Court Care Home in the run up to Christmas, created some paper Christmas wreaths and flower crowns with the residents, and sang some Christmas songs and carols. In the weeks before that, they had a movie night, ate popcorn in their pyjamas as they watched a movie and created many wonderful Christmas creations - and a great deal of mess!

2nd Waterbeach Brownies have welcomed a lot of new starters this term and played lots of games. They have learnt how to 'finger knit', leading to some beautiful knitted snakes in theme with the lunar new year zodiac traditions. Having sampled Chinese food, they are next looking at what kind of food astronauts eat and making some of their own, as they explore a Space theme at their meetings.

1st Waterbeach Guides had a fantastic visit from The Animal Experience, also embracing the 'year of the snake'! Charlie the Royal python greeted them, along with a corn snake, milk snake and Brazilian rainbow boa. An amazing opportunity to touch and even carefully hold a species of snake!

Our Guides were inspired by a presentation from two Guides from the area who had travelled to India on an international visit representing Girlguiding Cambs East. They also gave a special welcome to members of the Indian community in Waterbeach, who came along to talk about festivals, help dress leaders in saris, and share Indian breads. Some of the Guides look forward to joining in with a 'Colour Run' in March, and celebrating Holi Festival with the Indian community in Waterbeach.



*Indian Community Waterbeach
dressed us up in saris*

All these adventures are made possible by the amazing commitment of our volunteer Girlguiding leaders. If you or your daughter would like to get involved in Guiding, please register online at <https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/> and leaders from your local group will get in touch with you.

Station Car Park

The County Council will be taking over management of the car park at Waterbeach Station from April 1st. Charges are to be "simplified": £3.50 a day on weekdays and £2.50 a day at weekends; free for blue badge holders. This means the cheaper rate after 10 a.m. is being withdrawn, along with season tickets and premier parking.

In common with other car parks managed by the County Council, payment will be via the RingGo app, quoting code PR1060. This requires users to have a mobile phone with some charge in its battery and able to get a signal. It is proposed that there will be no other way to pay, and no physical tickets; however, this might be reconsidered, following objections received during the consultation period.

Blue badge holders will continue to be able to park for free; they just need to display the badge in the usual way.

John Grant - Chairman, Fen Line Users Association

What's in a name?

Harding Close and Josiah Court

Two small closes at opposite ends of the village, seemingly with no connection, both were built as a result of the growth of the village after the installation of mains drainage in the mid 1960's. (Before then many houses were visited by the 'night soil man' who regularly came and took away what now goes directly to the sewage works).

Josiah Court is named after Josiah Sparke Harding who ran a business selling 'oil and hardware.' It included home deliveries to outlying dwellings and also surrounding villages. Earlier he had lived in Sun Street (now called Chapel Street), but by 1939 was living and working in Bannold House where Josiah Court now stands. Oil for lighting and heating was an essential commodity before mains electricity arrived and for some time after Waterbeach village itself had been connected, homes in the outlying fens and smallest settlements still relied on oil for cooking and light



One of Josiah's sons, Felix John, helped Josiah with the business and eventually took over. In 1935 he married Winnie, and moved to a newly built bungalow on Waterbeach Road in Landbeach. He became a much loved figure known to all as Jack in both Landbeach and Waterbeach and the surrounding small villages, which were each visited once a fortnight. He

drove a very slow and increasingly frail van known affectionately as the 'Jackmobile' (named after the Popemobile) which emitted a loud whistle as it went. It had canvas sides held down by leather straps which could be rolled up to display the other wares he brought round along with the paraffin oil. He ran the business until 1967.

He was, like his father, a gentle, soft spoken and kind man, always ready to help someone in difficulties.

Sadly in 1967 he had an accident outside what was then the Chocolate Box (now Village Stores and the Post



*Impression of the 'Jackmobile', a travelling hardware shop which served Waterbeach, Landbeach and surrounding villages operated by Jack Harding.
Drawing by Denis Cheason - 1983*

Office) and was no longer able to keep the business going; it must anyway by that time been struggling as demand for lighting oil would have almost dried up. He didn't stop working though and for some years he had a job at

Benton's bakery on Station Road (now a private house but the shop window is still there). He would appear from the bake house, stooped and slightly floury in his big white apron with a smile on his face and a gentle greeting, often with a tray of warm bread or rolls.

Jack also became a Lay Reader for St Johns Church in Waterbeach and All Saints' in Landbeach, working unstintingly for both churches for 42 years. He and his wife Winnie ran the very well attended St John's Sunday School at Waterbeach. Sunday School outings to Hunstanton (by train) and Christmas parties in the Old School will be remembered with great affection by many of the older residents.

Harding Close, tucked away behind the old infants' school and built in the mid 1990's must have been named in memory of Jack who died in 1985 but perhaps of his father too, and their contributions to village life over many years.



I am indebted to Robert Stripe who was Jack's neighbour and godson and shared memories of both Jack and Josiah with me. *Jane Williamson*

Singing Mamas

February saw the beginning of a new singing group in Waterbeach. Singing Mamas provides a group singing experience for women of all ages and life stages but with a particular focus on ensuring mums can bring babies and children along. We learn simple songs by ear using call and response so there is no need to read music and you don't need any experience of singing to join. Every week we enjoy an hour of lovely group harmony singing followed by time for a cuppa and cake to build on connections made through singing together.

Singing Mamas is all about making you feel good. Singing is proven to release 'happy hormones' and can help improve mood, reduce stress and boost energy levels. We sing simple but beautiful songs which help you connect with yourself and others. Little ones also love to hear the beautiful harmonies and the singing is really good for their brain development and language skills too.

Singing Mamas Waterbeach meets on Mondays, 10.30-12 during term time in the Barracks Community Room. Sessions cost from £5-£7.50 per session and your first session is free. If you would like to book a taster session please email Sally at singingmamaswithsally@outlook.com. Sally also hopes to start a monthly evening group soon so if you would be interested in this group please do get in touch.

Spring Litter Pick

Spring is just around the corner, and with it comes the Waterbeach Community Association's annual Spring Litter Pick! This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for the whole village to come together to spruce up our beautiful surroundings.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday 29th March
- **Time:** 10-12pm for the main event.

If another time is more convenient for you over that weekend, just let us know so we can direct you to the nearest rubbish collection point and can help you with equipment if required.

- **Meeting Point:** The Community Room on the former barracks site will act as the main meeting point for the distribution of areas and equipment. However, we are happy to drop equipment round to other starting points if they are more convenient for you.

Why Join the Litter Pick?

- **Community Spirit:** It's a wonderful chance to meet fellow residents and strengthen community bonds.
- **Family-Friendly:** All ages are welcome! Bring your kids, grandparents, and everyone in between. They will enjoy it more than you might think!
- **Dog-Friendly:** Feel free to bring along your furry friends; they are welcome in the Community Room on leads.
- **Make a Difference:** Your support helps keep our village clean and allows us to tackle some rubbish hot spots that need a bit of attention.



What to Bring:

- **Gloves:** Protective gloves to handle litter safely.
- **Litter pickers:** If you have them, otherwise we have some to loan out.
- **Members of your local group:** If you are a member of a local group, please encourage other members to join us for a very worthwhile social event.

After the clean-up, participants are invited to join us in the Community Room for light refreshments and a debrief of problem areas so we can follow up with the local councils regarding any further work that needs to be done.

Let's come together to make our community shine even if the sun isn't on our side!

Are you in? Please let us know we can expect your support by emailing caroline.waterbeachway@gmail.com along with any area or street that you would like to focus on. Thank you!

Denny Abbey & Farmland Museum

Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum will be open again very soon - we're getting ready to welcome you back from Thursday 27th March. Your local heritage site is then open every Thursday to Sunday, and Bank Holiday Monday, until the end of October.



Before then, we are looking for lots of new volunteers to join our team and are holding a volunteer recruitment drop-in on Saturday 15th March from 11am to 1pm. Come along to find out more about the many and varied roles we have on offer. From welcoming visitors, to delivering school sessions or working in our café, whatever your skills or interests we have something for you! Send us an email if you're thinking of coming along to info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk.

The season begins with a Mother's Day afternoon tea special on Sunday 30th March (booking essential) and we have plans for children's activities over the Easter Holidays. Our big special event this side of the summer is our hugely popular 1940s weekend on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th May, where we will be celebrating 80 years since VE Day.

The Docky Box Cafe team is planning a new menu, our education team is preparing for local school visits, and exciting exhibitions are being put together. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk for the most up-to-date information on all that's going on.

Don't forget, all admission tickets provide free repeat entry for 12 months, so do check last year's as it might still be valid!

Waterbeach United Charities (Reg No 201528)

Waterbeach United Charities provides financial support or pays for services that help to alleviate the situation for individuals residing in Waterbeach Parish who are "in need or distress".

Electric Wheelchairs - We have a number of electric wheelchairs for those in need. If you would like to be considered please ask for an application form.

Distress Grants - The Trustees would like to hear from individuals who may be IN NEED OR DISTRESS. If you think we could help, and to find out whether you are eligible for assistance, whether it be loaning equipment to you, or providing financial support, please ask for an application form.

By email waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com

By post: Waterbeach United Charities, c/o 7 Cambridge Road
Waterbeach CB25 9NJ

All personal applications are confidential

Christmas Tree Festival 2024



Across Landbeach, Waterbeach and the Fen Edge Villages, support for the Friends of All Saints' Church provided cross-community fun and cheer in a second Christmas Tree Festival. This illuminating winter spectacle built on last year's commitment and creativity, and this year raised nearly £800 for the Warm Hub, Food Cupboard and Lunch Club facilities.

As well as the 30 Christmas Trees, some natural, some artificial, some recycled, there were 12 Christmas Wreaths in an interesting new section of display and competition. Visitors were invited to vote for their favourites, with discretionary prizes also awarded by Judge Lindsay Davies. After the prizegiving came a seasonal time as everyone sat among the twinkling trees for a celebratory Advent Service with Carols.

Among the Adult group winners were: Emmaus, Cambridge; Lisa Wood 'And the bells were ringing out for Christmas Clay'. Heron's Preschool's 'Jolly Postman Christmas' and Eliza Smith's 'Everything is awesome' won prizes in the Children's Category. Special mention was made of Little Star's 'Tree-sons Greetings' to celebrate the diversity of languages used; The White Horse 'Drink and Be Merry' bottle-tops wreath; and Rosa and Lulu's Gold Origami.



The FOALS team would like to thank everyone who made this celebration possible, including many unsung volunteers! If you would like to be part of next year's team, there is a place ready for your skills and enthusiasm! Just contact janemaryoakes@gmail.com

The committee would especially like to thank Beach Social Club who gave so generously of their time and resources with the Café Noel; and Emmaus Cambridge who provided fragrant mince-pies. Thanks are due, too, to very generous Sponsors and Donors: Amrou Cuts, Beach Social Club, Bookers Wholesale Cambridge, Emmaus, John Neville Mechanic, Pharmacie Pizzeria, Rosemary Newsagents, Spectacular Opticians, Turn & Burn (little wooden Christmas trees given out to all participants and helpers), and Urban&Civic, as well as many individual donors who contributed to the prizes, including Felicity Bell, Wendy Slaninka and Julie Clarke.

Above all, thanks are due to Jane and Richard Oakes who initiated the Landbeach Festival. Due to their inspiration and FOALS' action, donations are possible for the Friends' projects in the church, including the upgrading of the Community Cupboard facilities in the porch of the church – and for seasonal cheer across our communities.

Foodbank

Waterbeach Distribution Centre (part of Ely Foodbank)

A huge 'Thank you' to all of those who organised donations for the Foodbank before Christmas. We are very grateful to the congregations of all the Waterbeach Village churches, to the customers at the Co-op and the Parish Council, not forgetting all the villagers who regularly pop into the Baptist Chapel throughout the year to drop off food, toiletries and pet food. We'd like to extend a big thank you to Allana and the staff at the One Stop who organised a collection of food throughout the whole of December.

We are extremely grateful to the Baptist Chapel who open their church for our weekly food bank sessions which run every Thursday from 11.00-12.00.

At the time of writing, these photos of empty shelves were taken in our main warehouse. If you're able to help fill them again, please use the QR code below which will take you directly to the Ely Foodbank donation page. If you prefer to donate non-perishable items, but can't get to the chapel on a Thursday, there are collection boxes or opportunities to donate in all the churches and one in both the Co-op and One Stop.



If you're unsure as to the types of non-perishables we're in need of, the Ely Foodbank Facebook page post a weekly shopping list of the items most in demand. Welcome throughout the year, however, are biscuits / coffee / long life milk / rice / tinned fruit / tinned meat / rice pudding / custard / squash / long life juice / tinned vegetables / toilet rolls (pkt of 4 preferable) / men and women's toiletries / shampoo and conditioner / laundry products / cleaning products. The warehouse currently has plenty of baked beans, pasta and soup. While these are important staples, the real need is for the items previously listed and any help you can give with these will be much appreciated.

We understand that times are difficult for so many, so if you or someone you know is struggling, please contact Ely Foodbank on 01353 468626 or email info@ely.foodbank.org.uk



Indian Community of Waterbeach

The Indian Community of Waterbeach (ICW) is a small, non-profit, volunteer-led organization dedicated to fostering cultural exchange and community spirit. It brings together people of Indian origin and those interested in Indian culture in Waterbeach, Cambridge, and surrounding areas. Through vibrant festivals, traditions, and inclusive events, ICW provides a platform for celebrating Indian heritage while strengthening connections with the wider community.



ICW was founded in 2018 when a few Indian families gathered to celebrate Diwali at Tillage Hall. The joy of that event inspired a vision to share Indian cultural festivities with the broader Waterbeach community. Over time, ICW has grown into a welcoming space where families reconnect with their roots, pass on traditions to younger generations, and build a strong sense of belonging.

Last year, ICW, Urban&Civic partnered in hosting the Festival of Colours – Holi-inspired Colour Run in March, followed by Navratri celebrations with Dandiya, a vibrant dance festival honouring Goddess Durga, at The Studio in October. The community also came together to celebrate Diwali at The Studio, enjoying music, dance, and cultural festivities. The Holi event was proudly sponsored by *Little Stars*.

ICW, in collaboration with Urban&Civic, is thrilled to return with its annual Festival of Colours (Holi) on 15th March, a celebration of joy, unity, and the arrival of spring. This year's festivities include a Fun Colour Run, inviting participants of all ages and abilities to walk, jog, run, or dance through the course. Our volunteers will shower them with dry vibrant colours.



The event will feature colour play, live DJ music, a Bollywood dance workshop, Indian street food, a variety of stalls, and community engagement activities - offering a rich and immersive cultural experience. More than just a festival, it embodies ICW's motto: "Sharing Culture, Bridging Communities." We are grateful for all the support offered by the community and look forward to your involvement.

For more information about entry tickets, event details, stalls, conducting community workshops, or volunteering in the event, please follow us on:

www.facebook.com/Indiancomm.waterbeach

www.instagram.com/indiancommunity_waterbeach

Email: indian.community.waterbeach.cambs@gmail.com

ICW continues to create opportunities for people from all backgrounds to connect, celebrate diversity, and foster friendships, making Waterbeach a more inclusive and culturally enriched community.

Shweta Mathur - Chair ICW

Memories

Remembering Mr Harry Hancock, the village thatcher

I expect there will still be people in the village my age who will remember Mr Hancock the village thatcher.

Mr Hancock lived down the little lane adjoining the White Horse public house. His house is no longer there although it has been replaced by a new one. He was a master thatcher and of course in the early forties where were many more thatched cottages in Waterbeach requiring the skills of a thatcher to keep them well maintained. A great aunt of mine lived in one such house, a thatched cottage in Way Lane and I remember visiting her frequently. I also recall a number of other thatched homes in Way Lane, High Street, Greenside and Burgess Road.

In his spare time Mr Hancock was also keen gardener and he had an allotment down the little roadway adjoining the old Infant School on Cambridge Road, which is now a private house. At the time the roadway just led to the allotments but much of the land has since been built on and is now the Ashfield housing estate. I can remember going to the allotments with my mother to get strawberries from Mr Hancock and recall seeing the little huts he had built to store the baskets etc. in, all of course with thatched roofs!

Mr Hancock lived well into his nineties and had a house keeper to look after him until he died. I remember she would escort him to and from church every Sunday morning.

Does anyone else remember Mr Harry Hancock?

Jenny Cross

We always welcome articles about village life in times gone by. If you have any memories to share, please forward to beachnews@waterbeach.org or hand-written items can be sent to 5 Spurgeons Avenue, Waterbeach, CB25 9NU

Waterbeach Turbary Charity (Reg No 201529)

Applications for Heating Grants

If you are resident in Waterbeach or Chittering and struggling to find the money for your heating bill, then you can apply for a grant from the Waterbeach Turbary Charity. Please ask for an application form from:

By email: waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com

- By post: Ms Shelley Mason, Secretary, Waterbeach Turbary Charity, c/o7 Cambridge Road, Waterbeach CB25 9NR.
- Alternatively, ring 07761 155881 and leave a voicemail message with your email address (or postal address if you don't have access to emails).

Completed applications should be returned using the contact details above. Funds are limited so it may not be possible to accept all applications. The Charity is also unable to make ongoing commitments.

Clerk to the Alms Houses trustees wanted

The Alms Houses Charity was set up in 1967 to manage the 6 single bedroom Alms Houses on Cambridge Road, Waterbeach run by 6 trustees. Its role being to support "Poor women of good character in the Parish of Waterbeach"

A vacancy has arisen for the position of clerk to the trustees. This is a voluntary position spending approximately 5 hours a month on duties listed below. An honorarium paid twice a year. The role would suit someone with clerical experience.

The duties include:

Finance:

- Keep Charity accounts up to date and issue regular financial reports for Trustees meetings
- Submit accounts approved to Charity Commission on a yearly basis
- Manage Insurance, Almshouses Association membership and ICO renewal

Administration/Communication:

- Organise Trustees meetings in liaison with the Chair (usually meetings take place 3/4 times a year) Preparing agenda and take minutes during meetings and circulate to Trustees
- Ensure mandatory inspections are carried out (boiler services, electrical checks, Legionella Risk assessment, Fire/Smoke alarms, Fire/Health and Safety Risk Assessment, quinquennial inspection)
- Maintain Fixture/Fittings/Maintenance Register up to date
- Be the first point of contact for residents in case of any issues and advise / provide a list of suppliers they can contact. Keep Trustees up to date with any issues.

Please contact the Chairman Ian Ellwood at ian.ellwood@ntlworld.com or phone 01223 571477 if you are able to support the charity in this role.



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or telephone our Secretary Julie on 01223 880023

WATERBEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

1 ST WATERBEACH BROWNIES	Tiffany Langton - 1stwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com
2 ND WATERBEACH BROWNIES	Penny Clay - 2ndwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com
1 ST WATERBEACH GUIDES	Louise Campbell - 1stwaterbeachguides@gmail.com
1 ST WATERBEACH RAINBOWS	June Stephen - 07956 949964
32 ND CAMBRIDGE (WATERBEACH) SCOUT GROUP	William Moon - 07879 626682
BEACH BALLS - WATERBEACH JUGGLING CLUB	Felix Clay - 07723 329288
BEACH BELLRINGERS	Barbara Le Gallez - 01223 860283
BEACH SOCIAL CLUB	Kate Donovan - 01223 860033
CAM SAILING CLUB	Anna Cole/Nick Heath - secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON	Alasdair Pentland - 07751 786040
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SECRETARY	Pam Clack - 07367 123110
FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LANDBEACH (FOALS)	John Buckley - 01223 861836
FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW LANDBEACH	Frances Dipper - 01223 861836
HAPPY FOLKS CLUB	Terri Spencer - 01223 666051
HERONS' PRESCHOOL	Angela Impey - 01223 863245
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH	Rev. Paul Butler - 07903 904599
WASPS (WATERBEACH AFTER SCHOOL PLAY SCHEME)	Sarah Heil - 07858 975397
WATERBEACH & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB	Jerry Cooper - 01223 574050
WATERBEACH & LANDBEACH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	Norman Setchell - 01223 862404
WATERBEACH BAPTIST CHAPEL	Angela Ensell - 01223 862494
WATERBEACH BOWLS CLUB	William Clough - 01223 861386
WATERBEACH BRASS	David Pell - 07703 352080
WATERBEACH COLTS FC	Paul Cuddon - wcfc.chair@gmail.com
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY MARKET	Gaynor Clarke - 07824 399240
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP	Fiona Thomas - 01223 440769
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A	Jane Fowler - waterbeachpta@gmail.com
WATERBEACH CRICKET CLUB	Alasdair Pentland - 07751 786040
WATERBEACH DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY	Shirley Hayhoe - 07767 793505
WATERBEACH INDEPENDENT LENDING LIBRARY (WILL)	Sheila Burke - 01223 864177
WATERBEACH MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM	Adrian Wright - 01223 861846
WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL	Parish Clerk - 01223 441338
WATERBEACH SALVATION ARMY	Ian Ellwood - 07885 659860
WATERBEACH THEATRE COMPANY	Julie Petrucci - 01223 880023
WATERBEACH VILLAGE SOCIETY	Mike Lynch - 01223 863946
WATERBEACH WI	Viv Cooper - 01223 574050
WAY YOUTH CLUB (WATERBEACH & LANDBEACH ACTION FOR YOUTH)	Caroline Ward - 07749 738870
WOODLAND TRUST - COW HOLLOW WOOD	Adrian Wright - 01223 861846

Other useful numbers:

BEACHES COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE	07807 875878
COMMUNITY WARDEN	07977 219403
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR	Paul Bearpark - 07824 709153 / Judith Rippeth - 07956 528223
DOCTORS SURGERY – WATERBEACH	01223 860387
LANDBEACH VILLAGE HALL	villagehall@landbeachvillage.co.uk - 07942 361194
WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL	Parish Clerk - 01223 441338
WATERBEACH SCHOOL	01223 718988
WATERBEACH CHARITIES	Pam Gooding - 01223 861003
WATERBEACH SQUASH CLUB	Iain Smith - 07882 770415

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