

WATERBEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Beach News

WATERBEACH-LANDBEACH-CHITTERING | SUMMER 2026 NO.285





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

beachnewseditor@waterbeach.org

We will be accepting a limited number of new advertisements from local businesses for the Autumn and Winter 2026 issues. For more information, please contact **beachnewsadverts@waterbeach.org**

Advertisements published in 'Beach News' are subject to individual agreements between advertisers and readers and the Association cannot be held responsible for the quality of goods or services supplied. Please refer any problems with advertisers to Alasdair Pentland on 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 **beachnewseditor@waterbeach.org**

If you have posters detailing a one off local event that you would like put up in the Association's 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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www.waterbeach.org
 Email articles, photos & events to:
beachnewseditor@waterbeach.org

Hello everyone, and welcome to the Summer edition of *Beach News*.

I'd like to begin this issue with a big thank you to Pam and Mark Clack. Since 2002, Pam and Mark have worked incredibly hard to produce the *Beach News* and keep it running through thick and thin. On behalf of the Community Association and the wider village, I'd like to thank them both for creating and sustaining this amazing magazine, which has become such an integral part of our village community.

I'd also like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who have come forward to help keep the magazine going and take it into the future. There was a really good response to our call for volunteers, which reflects the high regard in which *Beach News* is held. So, thank you to Pam, Mark and to the new editorial team. Pam continues in her role as secretary of Waterbeach Community Association. For WCA matters, she can be contacted at wcasecretary@waterbeach.org. The *Beach News* editorial team can be reached at beachnewseditor@waterbeach.org and the advertising team at beachnewsadverts@waterbeach.org.

Thank you.

Alasdair – Chair Waterbeach Community Association.



Timetable

12pm start
2pm parade
2:45pm parade
arrives at arena

Arena

performances
From 12pm

Feast 2026

Join us Saturday, 6 June!

Book a stall or enter the parade

Get your booking form at:

Waterbeach.org and www.facebook.com/waterbeachfeast

Get the latest Feast updates on Facebook

www.facebook.com/waterbeachfeast

Last year's event was a great success - we even managed to get undercover (mostly) before the rain set in! It was good to see so many people out enjoying themselves, and we'd love to see you again this year. For anyone new to the village, welcome! If you are wondering what Waterbeach Feast is all about, here's a quick summary.

Waterbeach Feast is an annual village Fete held on the Green. There will be a wide range of stalls offering fun activities, games, and treats, as well as raffles and prize draws. Please come and see us at the Waterbeach Community Association (WCA) tent. The WCA raffle is our way of fundraising, with all proceeds going towards running the event and supporting other community projects.

There is a full programme of entertainment, including fairground rides on both the Green and the Gault, pony rides and displays in the entertainment arena. Waterbeach Brass will open the arena programme at midday. Music and dance performances follow, as well as the return of last year's popular martial arts display.

Feast 2026

With a 12pm start, it's the perfect opportunity to enjoy lunch at the Feast. Alongside favourites such as the Scouts BBQ, PTA pop-up café and the ice cream van, local hospitality businesses will be offering their own food and entertainment.

The parade begins at 2pm, travelling down the High Street, around the outside of the Green, along Chapel Street, before looping back to the Green via Way Lane, Cattell's Lane, High Street and Greenside.



The parade arrives in the arena at around 2:45pm, where there will be a prize giving to celebrate the efforts of the groups following this year's theme – something beginning with "R". We always see lots of children taking part, and we encourage accompanying adults to join in with the theme, too.

This year, the parade will be led to the Green by Waterbeach Brass and then accompanied along the route by Baque Trovão Maracatu, a Brazilian percussion group from Cambridge. The charity collection this year will support Sam's Superheroes, a national charity helping families and funding research into NORSE and FIRES. Please see their article in Beach News and support them if you can.

Feast 2026

Feast Road Closures

Road closures will be in place along the parade route from 1:45 pm to 3pm. Residents on affected streets will receive details in advance. The affected roads are High Street, Greenside, St Andrew's Hill, Way Lane and Cattell's Lane, with Chapel Street closed briefly to allow the parade to pass. We will aim to minimise disruption and allow access where possible, but safety must come first. Parking along the side of the Green (marked by cones) will not be permitted - if possible, please remove any parked cars the night before.

Information on road closures is also available on the County Council Highways events website

(www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events).

Feast Volunteers

The Feast is a true community event, and we are grateful for all the support it receives. Just by turning up, you help make the effort worthwhile. If you are able, please consider volunteering - just 30 minutes to an hour of your time would make a big difference. We need help with setup, takedown, traffic marshalling, and stewarding.

As well as stepping up to volunteer, the community is always very generous with its donations to the Community Association raffle. Please donate if you are able, as the proceeds of the raffle help cover the costs of the Feast and support local community initiatives.

Thank you for your support - we look forward to seeing you there!

For more information contact Alasdair:

wcachair@Waterbeach.org | 07751 786040.

Sam's Superheroes

Sam's Superheroes Foundation is incredibly grateful to be the nominated charity for the Feast Event on 6th June.

We are the UK's only registered charity dedicated to supporting families affected by two rare and devastating neurological conditions: NORSE (New Onset Refractory Status Epilepticus) and FIRES (Febrile Infection-Related Epilepsy Syndrome).

These catastrophic conditions affect previously healthy children and adults, often following something as simple as a mild virus. They cause the sudden onset of non-stop, difficult-to-control seizures, with patients often requiring weeks or months in an induced coma. There is currently no cure, and in many cases, no clear cause is ever found. Current research suggests immune dysfunction may play a key role.

Our charity was founded in memory of Sam, who died aged five after developing FIRES in 2021. Our work includes funding vital research, raising awareness, and supporting families through the unimaginable, working closely with leading UK clinicians and researchers. This year we have funded our first research project - a £110,000 research collaboration with the Epilepsy Research Institute.

We were chosen as your nominated charity in very sad circumstances, having supported a local family whose beautiful son, Adrian Rodriguez Galarza, a much-loved pupil at Waterbeach Primary School, was suddenly struck by FIRES in November 2025. Adrian fought so bravely for many weeks in critical care at Addenbrooke's Hospital but tragically lost his life in February at just eight years old.

Adrian's family describe him as a humble, gentle, and happy little boy - shy but always smiling, and loved by all. He enjoyed swimming, dancing, riding his bike and scooter, and playing football, and loved school, especially maths.

By supporting this event, you are helping to fund vital research, raise awareness, support families, and bring us closer to understanding NORSE & FIRES and one day, a cure.



**Find out more
and support
samssuperheroes.co.uk**



Sam



Adrian

*"Adrian, you are
and will be loved
for ever and ever"*

Keep Ely and East Cambridgeshire moving

Article by MP Charlotte Kane



Many residents have contacted me recently about the rising cost of everyday life – particularly the price of getting around and heating their homes. From filling up the car to travelling to work or keeping warm, pressures are building fast for families and businesses across Ely and East Cambridgeshire. That's why I'm calling for urgent action to help keep our area moving.

I'm pressing the Chancellor for an immediate 10p cut in fuel duty, which would reduce prices at the pump by around 12p per litre. In a largely rural area like ours, where many people depend on their cars, this would make a real and immediate difference. Alongside this, I'm backing a wider package of measures to reduce transport costs, including cutting bus fares to £1, reducing rail fares by 10%, and lowering the cost of electric vehicle charging by cutting VAT and tackling unfair network charges. I'm calling for these measures to be introduced for an initial three-month period, with the option to extend them if high prices persist. People need help now, not later.

I also continue to campaign for fairer support for off-grid households. Over a quarter of homes locally rely on heating oil or LPG rather than mains gas, leaving them especially exposed to volatile global prices. I'm therefore calling for an immediate three-month VAT holiday on heating oil and LPG, and for the introduction of a proper price cap, similar to the one that already exists for gas, to protect rural households from extreme price spikes. In the short term, I want residents to be aware that a £53 million Government support package for vulnerable households reliant on heating oil or LPG is now available. Applications opened on 1 April, and eligible households may be able to receive up to £400 in support: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/crisis-payment

The fund is limited, so I would urge anyone who may qualify to apply as soon as possible. I encourage those not eligible but in need of support to seek advice from Citizens Advice. I know that for so many, this relief won't be enough, or it will be too little, too late. After the Council's funding allocation, I wrote to the Chancellor to urge her to reconsider the funding formula in light of skyrocketing prices, and offer more support for all. I will continue pressing the Government to go further and act decisively to support households across Ely and East Cambridgeshire during this challenging time.

P.S. Have you signed my petition calling on the Government to fund long-term fixes for our peat soil-affected roads? These roads are failing twice as fast and costing far more to maintain. Please take 30 seconds to add your name:
<https://bit.ly/fixoursoilaffectedroads>

Waterbeach Library Closure

Follow Waterbeach Library on Facebook for updates & visit our stall at the Feast to see how you can help.

The library sadly closed on Saturday, 21 February as its building will shortly be demolished and no alternative has been found. All the books and furniture are currently in storage until such time as we are able to reopen. *BBC Look East and BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, Cambridge News, Cambridge Independent and Cambridge independent Radio* all covered the closure.



The messages of support we have received from library users and the wider community have been fantastic, and several members came to help us pack up the books in the final days. We know how much this library has meant to people across the generations. Many of you have already contacted local representatives, but every letter to Parish, District and County councillors or the MP helps make our case for the return of the library to the village.

Libraries have been closing all over the country due to local government funding cuts, with some 800 libraries lost since 2010. The County Council already withdrew from running Waterbeach Library over twenty years ago, but thanks to a large team of volunteers it has been run very successfully – with support from Waterbeach Parish Council – until this year.

Thanks to its location at the school and initiatives like the Summer Reading Challenge, Waterbeach Library supported children's learning and literacy at a time when reading is on the decline. It also offered a local service for adults to borrow books and access the internet and printing services. The volunteers are continuing to meet regularly and are doing everything we can to restart the service to the community. We are negotiating about a possible location where we could run a temporary library service, but at the time of writing, we are unable to confirm whether this will go ahead.

The nearest libraries you can get to by public transport are Milton Road, Cambridge (PR5 bus), the Central Library in Cambridge (PR5 or 100 bus) or Ely (train). Any new library at the new town is years away. Our numbers – 14,000 books per year borrowed by over 1300 members – show how important having a local library has been to Waterbeach. Waterbeach Library now needs substantial capital investment to reopen in a permanent new building.

The volunteers are hoping to work with local councillors and the school on a funding bid. In the meantime, Cambridgeshire Mobile Libraries will be at the Green every third Monday of each month, from 9:30am to 10:45am. The next visit will be 18 May. They hope to introduce an after-school slot as soon as possible.

Cam Sailing Club

The wonderful wildlife in and around the sailing club is starting to show itself; a pair of swans seems interested in the slipway near the entrance gate, kestrels are nesting in a willow behind the chalets, and a kingfisher has been seen and heard flying low over the river, close to the riverbank.

There have also been sightings of noctule bats, one of the largest British species. These bats have long, narrow wings and fly in a straight line, very high and fast. Spring is well underway, as is the sailing season for members of the Cam Sailing Club.

The 2026 sailing season started in March with the dinghies coming out of the winter storage sheds and rigged, ready to sail.



The bigger, keeled cruisers were launched in early April. It is exciting to watch these boats being lifted by crane into the river. This year, the weather was kind; a beautiful sunny day with little wind, which is always welcomed by the crane driver and boat owners alike. Behind the scenes, earlier in the year, the club grounds have been tidied, the river has had its annual Cam Clean-up, various trees have been pollarded, shrubs have been pruned, and even the flagpole has been painted! Everyone and everything is ready for the sailing, racing, training and social events planned for the coming year.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information about the sailing club, visit:
www.camsailingclub.org.uk
secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk



Waterbeach Cricket Club

Contact

Chairman Rakesh
07521 061487
Captain Sandesh
07424 523494

*Article by Steve Cardy
Hon Treasurer*

This a reminder to all cricket lovers who live in and around Waterbeach that the Cricket Club's season starts in May (see fixture list below).

If you are interested in playing cricket locally, please do come and join us. Games are midweek, commencing at 6.00 pm. Players, male and female, of all ages and all abilities are welcome.

Do come and impress us with your skills!

2026 Dates

Home Team | Away Team | Fixture Type



- 06/05**, Midweek XI, Aveva CC Friendly XI, Friendly
- 20/05**, XI, Cambridge Tamil Sangam CC - Midweek XI, Friendly
- 27/05**, Midweek XI, Qualcomm (CSR) CC - Midweek, Friendly
- 03/06**, Midweek XI, Hardwick & Caldecote CC - Madingley Mulch , League
- 10/06**, Midweek XI, Fen Ditton CC - Midweek XI, League
- 17/06**, Midweek XI, The Jaguars CC - 1st XI, League
- 23/06**, Stapleford Phoenix CC -1st XI, Midweek XI, League
- 01/07**, Midweek XI, Cambridge Tamil Sangam CC - 1st XI, League
- 08/07**, Milton CC, Cambs - Lambs - Midweek XI , Midweek XI, Friendly
- 15/07**, The Dobblers Inn - Midweek XI, Midweek XI, League
- 22/07**, Midweek XI, Telugu Assoc. of Cambridge CC - Midweek XI, League
- 05/08**, Midweek XI, Cambourne CC - Bombers XI, League

Gardening club

2026 has been a good year for the Gardening Club. We have welcomed new members, and we started with our ever-popular New Year Social in January. We also benefitted from discounted prices on our seeds for the new growing season through the Club's bulk order with King's Seeds. In February, we were treated to a second visit from Hawk Honey who, on this occasion, gave a fascinating account of the life of wasps and the ways in which they can help gardeners.

At our March meeting another speaker revisited us. Jim Paine's presentation on 'The Secret Life of Plants' was well-illustrated and very entertaining. He, like several of our speakers, brought plants to sell which is always popular.

In April, we were given an insight into the work being done at Wicken Fen by the National Trust. Tony Winchester is a volunteer at the site and spends much of his time looking after the Konik ponies and Highland cattle which play a vital part in fenland conservation. Some of our members also enjoyed a willow weaving workshop held in the church in April. Some very attractive plant supports were made under the supervision of local expert Catherine Tregaskes.



Rob Noble / Herd of Konik Ponies, Wicken Fen

**Final talk pre-summer break:
Anna Taylor 'Flowers from
Garden to Table'. 7.45pm, St
John's Church Room, Thursday,
21 May.**

**Come to our quality home
grown plant stall on Feast Day
to browse and have a chat.**

Denny Abbey and The Farmland Museum

Just outside Waterbeach, Denny Abbey and The Farmland Museum offers a full calendar of events, hands-on activities and historical discoveries for all ages – right on your doorstep.

Sunday 24 & Monday, 25 May

Visit us for our much-loved 1940s Weekend. With live re-enactments, vintage vehicles, wartime music and dancing, it's a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the spirit of the era. There will also be themed family activities and displays that bring history to life in a fun and engaging way.

Sunday, 21 June

Celebrate Father's Day with our Steam Up event, featuring model steam locomotives and our collection of stationary steam engines.

Saturday 18 & Sunday, 19 July

At our Anglo-Saxon Weekend you can meet the Grantanbrycg re-enactment group and experience life in early medieval Cambridgeshire. Expect live demonstrations, traditional skills and costumed interpreters.

School Holidays

In the school holidays, children can enjoy trails and creative activities, offering new ways to explore the museum and its stories each time they visit. Each week will be themed to a different time period with free themed crafts and activities. *(Some activities may incur an additional cost.)* Whether it's playing on our pedal tractors, exploring the play area, or solving a themed trail, there's something to keep every young visitor engaged.

Take a break at the **Docky Box**

Café, serving delicious cakes, drinks and light lunches in a relaxed setting. It's the perfect place to refuel after exploring the museum or watching a re-enactment! Every ticket is valid for free return visits for 12 months *(excluding the 1940s event)*, making it exceptional value for money.

Find out more and plan your visit:

www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk



Heron's' Preschool



Heron's' Preschool
Waterbeach

Tucked away on the old Barracks site (just on the left as you arrive — our own little hidden gem!), Herons' Preschool is a warm, nurturing environment where children aged 2–5 can learn, explore, and thrive. We're proud to be an Ofsted-rated 'Outstanding' setting, offering term-time sessions Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm, with an optional early drop-off from 8:30am.

Our days are centred around free-flow play, making full use of our incredible outdoor space all year round.

Every afternoon brings something special:

Monday & Wednesday – Forest School Adventure awaits! From tree climbing to bug hunting (and plenty of mud!), children develop confidence and a love for the outdoors.

Tuesday – Premier Sports run by the same provider as the local school, helping children build skills and familiarity for their next step.

Thursday – Cooking Club

Exploring new tastes, learning to use utensils, and building independence through hands-on fun.

Friday – Bedtime Stories A calm and cosy 10-minute storytelling session to gently round off the week.

All the above extracurricular activities are offered at no additional cost to parents.

We also offer Holiday Club sessions during the Easter break and at the start of the summer holidays.

Open Morning

Saturday, 11 July, 10am–12pm

For more information visit

www.heronspreschoolwaterbeach.org

Little Stars



Spring term at Little Stars was filled with lots of special celebrations and memorable experiences. The children thoroughly enjoyed learning about and celebrating Chinese New Year, getting creative and exploring traditions together. We also had great fun on Pancake Day, where the children took part in making and, of course, eating some delicious pancakes! Valentine's Day and Mother's Day gave us wonderful opportunities to talk about kindness and love, with the children creating some lovely crafts to take home. Our preschool children really enjoyed their outings to Tesco, exploring the store and making some yummy cookies. Our younger children had a fantastic time getting out and about too, enjoying walks around our local area and visits to the park.

Preschool participated in the National Day Nurseries Association week 'Healthy Body, Happy Me' which aims to encourage physical activity and healthy habits from an early age. As we go into the summer term, we are excited for warmer weather and the chance to spend even more time outdoors. We have some new ducklings that the children have loved watching grow and learning about. The babies, toddlers and preschool have recently had water walls installed in their gardens, which have already had lots of use. We're also looking forward to planting and growing together, giving the children hands-on opportunities to learn about nature and how things grow.

Clothes hub: Come find used nursery clothing for ages 9 months to 5 years, some of which may be stained, but all are otherwise perfectly ready for more adventures! We also have shoes, sandals and sunhats - come and have a look!

hannah.littlestars@outlook.com



WASPS

The start of the spring term, with the darker evenings, saw lots of indoor den building, colouring and junk model creating at the after-school club, all of which continue to be popular activities. During February Half Term the children made Chinese New Year masks, took part in seed planting and made bird feeders. They also showed off their biscuit decorating skills and loved making slime. We have been very busy recruiting some new Playworkers to join our existing team. We recently welcomed Sayeh, Esme, Derek and Jessica, and the children and staff have been enjoying getting to know them and helping them to settle in. The children have enjoyed the spring weather and lighter evenings so far, as they have been able to spend even more time outside. Ball games are a firm favourite, as is playing on the play structure — there was even a bubble party in the garden one afternoon!



Our Easter Holiday Club ran for two days of the break. Activities included crafts such as making bunny fences and chocolate biscuit lollies, alongside the usual free play opportunities, all under the supervision of the Playworkers. There were also some competitive team Easter egg hunts and a disco or two! We are currently finalising our plans and dates for Holiday Clubs for the remainder of the year — more details coming soon.

WASPS has a Facebook page, **@WaterbeachWASPS** — please like our page to find out the latest news, updates and employment opportunities.

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

Contact us:

www.waterbeach-wasps.org.uk
wasps.waterbeach@outlook.com
07858 975397 (tel opening hours only).

Outside of opening times, please leave a message and a member of the team will get back to you.

Level Up Hub

Young people in Waterbeach are being supported to learn, socialise and grow through a new initiative starting this month.

Blossomify, a Cambridgeshire-based community interest company, is launching Level Up Hub, a free weekly session for young people aged 10–14. The sessions will run every Saturday from 3pm to 5pm in the Community Room, Waterbeach Museum Barracks. The Hub will provide a safe, engaging, and supportive environment for young people to connect, gain skills, and grow.

At Level Up Hub, young people will enjoy:

- Fun and engaging board games
- A positive learning atmosphere
- Opportunities to build confidence and social skills
- Free snacks provided at every session

Our sessions have already had a positive impact in Cambourne and Northstowe, and we are excited to extend this opportunity to young people in the Waterbeach area.

Register your child

To ensure a safe and well-managed environment, registration is required. Parents can register their child by scanning the QR code or by emailing us at

info@blossomify.org



LEVEL UP HUB
WATERBEACH

DROP-IN SESSIONS

FREE ENTRY

SEND-FRIENDLY

AGES: 10–14 YEARS

STARTING SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2026
@ 3PM – 5PM

MATH & ENGLISH SESSIONS, BOARD GAMES . LIFESKILLS. FUN LEARNING

THE COMMUNITY ROOM, WATERBEACH MUSEUM BARRACKS, DENNY END ROAD, CAMBRIDGE CB25 9PA

REGISTER HERE



www.blossomify.org

[INFO@BLOSSOMIFY.ORG](mailto:info@blossomify.org)

BLOSSOMIFY
BRIDGING LEARNING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Deserve Tutors
COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

WAY

Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth (WAY) is a free, **Open Access youth club that operates 2 nights a week, Wednesday and Thursdays - 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Tillage Hall for secondary school aged children.**

Alongside our core activities of cooking, arts & crafts and games this term, we welcomed local organisations to engage and inspire members. During Women in Construction Week, Urban & Civic shared videos highlighting careers in the built environment and discussed work experience opportunities.



South Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team visited, answering questions and giving young people a look inside a police car. The final visit was from Healthy You who led an engaging session on vaping, sparking lots of discussion about its risks.

Ways to Support WAY

WAY continues to encourage young people to engage positively with their community. This year, Waterbeach Colts have invited us to support their annual May Bank Holiday Beer Festival by helping with litter picking afterwards.

Like many community organisations, WAY depends not only on funding but also on time and commitment of local people. Our Trustee Board meets five times a year and is currently looking for new members to help support and sustain the club.

The Board are pleased to welcome Sarah Smart, who joins existing trustees Ben Cons (Chair), Gavin Mullin, and Linda Strange - dedicated local residents passionate about youth provision.

If you're interested in becoming a trustee, please contact Ben at cenbons@gmail.com

WAY >>

To ensure accessibility for all, we made the decision to remove the weekly entry fee. This allows every young person to attend regardless of financial circumstances and enables our staff to focus on building positive relationships rather than handling payments. We feel this is the right decision but we do need your help to sustain the finances.

Each year, WAY must raise between £25,000 and £30,000 to continue operating. We are therefore asking parents and community members to consider making a one-off donation or a small monthly contribution to support the youth club's essential running costs.

If you can support WAY as a trustee, volunteer, or financial donor, please get in touch at caroline.waterbeachway@gmail.com Your support makes a real difference in sustaining this valuable service for our young people.

Friends of All Saints' Church, Landbeach (FOALs)

The Chapel Choir of Corpus Christi College opened our events programme for 2026, with a wonderful choral concert.

Next up was a wreath-making workshop, just in time for Valentines' Day (romance is alive and well in the "Beaches").

As the days lengthen and the weather warms, we look forward to a varied programme throughout the rest of the year.

Next Events

**Garden Party and Bell Ringing
Open Day | Saturday, 11 July**

**Harvest supper and barn dance |
Saturday, 12 September**

john.buckley@sustenergy.co.uk
01223 861836
janemaryoakes@gmail.com
07740 282387



Keeping Waterbeach Clean and Tidy

On 22 March, around 20 volunteers, including several keen Scouts, took part in another two-hour litter pick that made a visible difference to our shared spaces. Armed with grabbers, gloves, and enthusiasm, the group collected approximately 20 bags of rubbish from footpaths, verges, and green areas around the village.

After the hard work was done, volunteers gathered for light refreshments kindly provided by Urban & Civic. Several participants remarked that the event was not only productive but also a great way to feel more connected to the village.

Building on the success of March's effort, the Waterbeach Community Association is planning to make litter picking a regular fixture in the local calendar.

These events are simple and effective ways to care for the village. Whether you are a regular volunteer or someone thinking of joining for the first time, everyone is welcome to help us keep our village clean and green.

All equipment is provided but you are welcome to bring your own if you have it.

If you have any queries, please contact the Waterbeach Community Association.

Join the next litter picks!

**Sunday, 7 June
(after the Feast Day)**

The plan is for this to be done annually after the Feast.

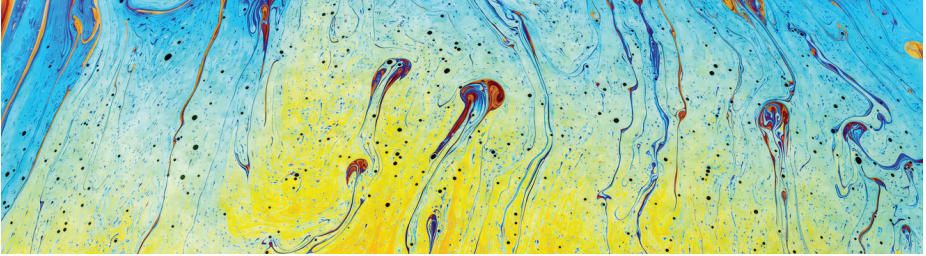
Meet in front of Tillage Hall at 10am.

**First Sunday in October &
First Sunday in March
Meet at the Community Rooms
on the Barracks at 10am.**



Summer at the Beach

**Waterbeach Barracks,
August 29th-30th,
September 5th-6th & 12th-13th,
10am to 5pm daily.**



Waterbeach's favourite art festival is back.

Staged in Waterbeach Barracks over the weekends of August 29th-30th, September 5th-6th and September 12th-13th, from 10am to 5pm daily. This year's event will be held exclusively in the evocative and historically distinctive Cold War architecture of the 'Terrace Units'. As always, the programme promises to be filled with the highest-quality mix of art, food, music, and culture. A must see and do for everyone. Summer at the Beach is a fantastic opportunity for Waterbeach's artistic community to come together, celebrate and share the place that so inspires it. This year's art exhibition will include ceramicists, milliners, textile artists, painters, photographers, filmmakers, sculptors, installation artists, printmakers and experimental musicians and performers.

So why not come on down and see what it's all about.

Alongside the exhibition, Summer at the Beach will also be staging a range of events and workshops for all ages and interests. These will be held free of charge and on a drop-in basis. Throughout all the weekends refreshments will be available from the famous 'Pop-up Café' whose range of delicious homemade cakes and snacks have been a deserving highlight of previous years.

For detailed descriptions and timings of all events please check out our website www.summeratthebeach.art and our Summer at the Beach Facebook page.

Pub Talk

Summer is just around the corner, and there's plenty to look forward to at the **Brewery Tap!** With a fantastic line-up of street food, lively events, and great company, it's the perfect place to eat, drink and make the most of the longer evenings.

Kick things off on **Saturday, 16th May** with an all-singing, all-dancing Vinyl Night—expect great tunes and a buzzing atmosphere. Then, on Monday **18th May**, why not unleash your creative side at a Canvas Painting Workshop, starting at 7pm? A brilliant way to try something new with friends.



And of course, no visit to The Taps would be complete without some delicious food. Here's what's cooking over the months ahead:

Food Trucks Line-Up

May

- 16th – Kapsalon Kebab
- 22nd – The Purple Pepper
- 23rd – Your Burger Zone
- 28th – Your Burger Zone
- 30th – Sam's Thai Food

June

- 4th – Azhar
- 5th – Pigs In
- 11th – Kapsalon Kebab
- 12th – Sam's Thai Food
- 18th – The Purple Pepper
- 19th – Auntie Pam's Kitchen
- 25th – Your Burger Zone
- 26th – Sam's Thai Food

July

- 2nd – Your Burger Zone
- 9th – The Purple Pepper
- 10th – Sam's Thai Food
- 11th – Azahar
- 17th – Auntie Pam's Kitchen
- 24th – Sam's Thai Food
- 25th – Your Burger Zone
- 31st – Pigs In

August

- 7th – Sam's Thai Food
- 14th – Kapsalon Kebab
- 15th – Your Burger Zone
- 20th – Auntie Pam's Kitchen
- 21st – Azahar
- 28th – The Purple Pepper

Pub Talk >>

And if you fancy a midweek brain teaser, head over to **The Sun Inn** where **Thursday nights** mean quiz night fun from 8:30pm—round up your sharpest friends and see who'll claim bragging rights!

Meanwhile, there's plenty happening over at the **Beach Social Club** too! On **Saturday, 30th May**, Duck Orange will be bringing their unforgettable energy and feel-good vibes to the village—perfect for getting into the summer spirit.

You can also kick off Feast weekend celebrations with OR Wot, taking to the stage with a crowd-pleasing mix of hits from The Jam, Rolling Stones, Oasis, Arctic Monkeys and more. Tickets are just £5 and everyone is welcome, whether you're a member or not.

Looking ahead to June, don't miss a fascinating evening on **Saturday, 27th June** when international psychic medium Mark Gilbert takes over the Social Club for a night of mystery and intrigue. Tickets are £10, with nibbles included—sure to be a memorable night!

And don't forget all summer there are big-screen sports at the **White Horse**: Premier League, Rugby, Cricket, Tennis, F1... shown across multiple screens. Go to the White Horse website to book your table for big games and matches.



Waterbeach Colts FC

Beer Festival & Football Tournaments

Sponsored by Pure Service

Friday, 22– Sunday, 24 May 2026

Clear your calendars (and maybe pace yourselves) — the end of May Bank Holiday weekend means one thing in Waterbeach... Beer Festival weekend is back.

From Friday evening through to Sunday, we're throwing open the gates for a proper community weekend: football, family fun, food, music, and yes — a generous splash of real ale - other drinks exist, apparently.

Fun with fundraising at its heart

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, helping to keep football affordable and accessible for all, while also supporting local causes. We kick things off on Friday at 6pm with the Adults 5v5 Charity Tournament — 16 teams, plenty of competitive spirit, and likely a few pulled hamstrings.

www.justgiving.com/page/wcfc-charity-match-for-sams-superheroes



This year, we're supporting Sam's Superheroes, a charity funding vital research into rare, catastrophic epilepsies — a cause close to home and one we're proud to back. If you can, please donate.

Festival highlights

Saturday brings the main event — over 100 youth teams battling it out from 9am. It's loud, it's busy, it's brilliant. Come down and cheer them on.

Across the weekend:

- Live music & disco - yes, you can still dance like it's 1999!
- Real Ale Bar with Milton Brewery
- Food trucks keeping everyone fuelled
- Bouncy castle & The Playground for the younger crowd

Sunday is your wind-down day — local bands, relaxed vibes, and a gentle recovery mission — and the bars are still open.



Landbeach Party in the Park

With no Glastonbury Festival this year, the stage is perfectly set for the much-anticipated return of Landbeach Party in the Park. This much-loved, biannual local outdoor music festival is a safe, family-friendly event where everyone can enjoy live performances on a big stage in a mini festival atmosphere.



What's on?

If you've been before, you'll know how popular this event is. Expect live music from 6pm until midnight on a massive, outdoor, covered stage, complete with professional sound system, lighting, and a large video screen. There'll be bouncy castles and face painting for children, and food trucks and bars to keep everyone fed and refreshed.

This year's live acts are The Silverbacks, The Contrives, The High Point Players, and our headline act, a brand-new addition to the Party in the Park lineup — Counterflow.

Landbeach Party in the Park only happens once every two years, so this really is one you won't want to miss!

Tickets on sale now!
Book before it sells out ...

Party in the Park
Saturday, 27 June 2026,
Landbeach Recreation Ground

Buy your advance ticket:
<http://pitp.landbeach.org.uk/>

- **Adult: £30 (£35 on door)**
- **Child (under 16): £10 (£12 on door)**
- **Gazebo: £50**

Waterbeach Theatre Company

We hope all who supported our annual pantomime Jack & Jill and the Beanstalk enjoyed our efforts once again. Thank you if you came along and also purchased a raffle ticket, raising £200 for our sponsored charity Arthritis UK. The raffle, as for many years, was once again organised by the indefatigable Shirley Randall.

In March, WTC members were among the 500 guests representing 300 NODA (National Operatic & Dramatic Association) nominated societies in the East Region at the annual Gala Awards in Stevenage. WTC was nominated in the Best Drama category for their 2025 production of *How The Other Half Loves*. We made the podium but came runner up to our friends Haslingfield Little Theatre. As always, it was great to receive a nomination in such a talented and distinguished field.

By the time you read this we will be deep into performance week for our May production *The Unfriend* a comedy by Steven Moffat, directed by Kattreya Scheurer-Smith who has 'grown up' with the society as she has been with us since she was six years old! WTC will then be preparing their tombola stall for the Beach Feast before we break for the summer. Do come along on the day to meet us and, of course, to try your luck. More news soon of our November production *The Exorcism*. An old house with a tragic past teaches its new occupants a lesson or two. Watch this space!

Love theatre, love Waterbeach Theatre Company your local multi-award winning amateur theatre society.

Happy Folks Club

Article by Alan Spencer

What has happened so far this year? Well, the first item on the list was our Club dinner at The Cherry Tree Pub in Soham. Good food, good company, and of course a good drink.

In February, we had a rollicking good time at a pantomime in Brick Lane, London. As usual, the cast were fabulous and really put on a very good show, albeit a bit risqué as usual.

The month of March saw the first shopping trip of the year, with a visit to the Springfields outlet. Plenty of shops for the ladies to browse, with a pub on hand for the menfolk, should they be able to escape the shopping scene.

Our next visits will be a local run to Bury St Edmunds in April, Whitstable in May, Great Yarmouth in June, Cromer—with an optional show on the pier—in July, and Southend in August. Due to circumstances beyond our control, such as the escalation of fuel costs, some destinations may change.

Happy Folks Club >>

Additionally, now more than ever, we need as many members or guests as possible to fill the coach; otherwise, the trips are a non-starter. Therefore, non-members of the club are very welcome to join us on these outings. If anyone is interested, please contact **Terri on 07752 902197 or Alan on 07487 648680**.

Alternatively, visit the Beach Social Club, Cambridge Road, Waterbeach, on a Friday afternoon at around 1:30pm and ask for Carole, the Happy Folks Club secretary.

Unfortunately, I must end on a sad note, as we lost a very dear member of the club recently. Alice Hall was a much-loved member and had been in poor health for some time. She will be sadly missed. May she rest in peace. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

WI

Article by Viv Cooper
(President Waterbeach WI)

Waterbeach WI meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at St John's Church room at 7:30pm. We enjoy a wide variety of talks, crafts and games evenings.

In February, Kay Blayney gave a dramatic presentation, "Mill Road Monologues", highlighting renowned past and present residents of the Mill Road area of Cambridge. March's meeting featured "Gliding Free as the Birds" by Mike Smith, a dedicated glider pilot. He inspired us to plan a gliding trip for members.

At our April meeting, Will Hornett talked about his passion for blacksmithing. He showed us many beautiful items created by him and his family and involved us in making plasticine structures to experience blacksmithing techniques, without the dangers of a red-hot forge.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we hold a regular lunch at Scotsdales in Horningsea, run a book group, and take part in local walks, litter-picking, and group trips to Waterbeach Players' shows. We raise money for other community groups, and our members also join in Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes (CFWI) events. For example, recently four of us took part in a hilarious Murder Mystery evening at Over Players WI. We came second and were very proud of our detective skills.

On **Thursday, 14 May**, we start with a talk, "My journey with the miniature world of doll's houses" by Alison Moore, followed by refreshments and a short Annual Meeting. June's event will be slightly different, as we will have a tour of Jesus College gardens on **Saturday, 13 June**, instead of our usual Thursday meeting. In July, Lukas Piwnski will tell us about Kombucha, with samples to taste.

We are, at heart, a friendly and supportive group of women of all ages who enjoy each other's company and learning new things. You are welcome to come as a visitor before deciding whether to become a member. Do come and see us at our Feast Day stall if you would like to find out more, or feel free to give me a call.

Friends of Worts Meadow, Landbeach

If you have never visited Worts Meadow local nature reserve (LNR) in Landbeach, then now might just be the time to do so! Sporting two meadows, six ponds and including Bourne Wood, it is managed for its wildlife and to give residents and visitors easy access to a local green space. Management is carried out by the Friends of Worts Meadow volunteers, aided by the cows that graze there in the summer, in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council who own the site. Each year we arrange a number of public events and talks, to which all are welcome.

One of the ponds is in fact an ancient, if small, moat surrounding an island and said to be the site of the old manor house. Over the years this has become clogged with fallen trees, brambles and silt and regularly overflows into the meadow. In September 2025 we had a new culvert installed at the main entrance to the site, to replace the partially blocked one, as well as willow pollarding and fallen tree removal. The moat and ponds support a thriving population of Great Crested Newts, along with some Smooth Newts. Outside the breeding season, newts spend much of their time out of water and during the day you may come across them hiding in damp places, such as under log piles. This means they are less affected when water levels drop in dry summers such as that of 2025. While progress with the restoration of the moat and flood prevention has been slow, we now have a new culvert to replace the partially blocked one at the main entrance to the site.

Within the wood area, the high winds of winter and ash dieback have taken their toll on trees, with the loss of a fair number of ash trees. However, we have created log and brash piles from these, thus providing new homes from old, for mammals, birds and invertebrates. The more open canopy lets more light in, resulting in more wild flowers and undergrowth, as well as brambles!

FOWM volunteers help with the practical management of Worts Meadow LNR. For more information, to send in wildlife records or photographs, or to be added to our email list, **contact Frances on 01223 861836, frances.dipper@sustenergy.co.uk**



Summer events

- Pond dipping, butterfly, dragonfly & other bug hunt – **Saturday, 18 July at 2pm**. Meet by field pond in Worts Meadow, Cockfen Lane.
- Work parties – **4th Wednesday each month** (except August & December). Meet 9:30am at entrance to Bourne Wood, Cockfen Lane.

The Salvation Army - 140th anniversary

The anniversary celebration was held
16 & 17 May!

In May 1886, The Salvation Army came to Waterbeach.

The first Hall (church) was a barn on the High Street, across the road from the old post office, which is now the new barbers. Those who know Miriam Day may be interested to learn that her great-grandparents on her father's side were the first generation of Salvationists in her family, and some of the first soldiers (members) of Waterbeach Salvation Army. As numbers grew, a larger building was needed. The second hall was located between the present Village Stores and the former Lloyds Bank site but set further back.

In 1974, The Salvation Army needed an even larger building and was able to purchase the former Methodist Church in Station Road. Extensive renovations were carried out to make the building safe and usable. An extension was added to the rear to provide a kitchen, toilets, and a Sunday school room for children's worship and activities. Much of this work was done by Salvationists themselves. In 1986, the side extension was added to enlarge the toilet facilities to include a disabled toilet and baby changing area, as well as a music room. The front entrance was altered, with an extension added to provide an office and storage cupboards for tables, etc.

When viewing the building today, the tallest part in the centre is the original Methodist Chapel. There is a tablet outside the entrance showing the date that the Methodist Chapel was built. You are welcome to have a look, and to enjoy the garden as you walk up the path.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Mammoth Sale! I would like to thank everyone for their donations, as I know many of you save items throughout the year for this event. The sale is extremely hard work, and I want to say a big thank you to those who give their time to help. It is hugely appreciated, and we couldn't do it without you. The sale is a great recycling effort but also offers many opportunities to help others. The motto of The Salvation Army is "Heart to God and Hand to Man."

We will have our cake stall at the Feast on 6 June, with everything homemade, of course. The Vintage Tea Room is held in August, so please look out for posters. On the **first Saturday of each month**, we hold a Coffee Morning from 10am–12pm, offering bacon rolls, cream teas, homemade cakes, jams, marmalade, chutneys, books, and more. Do come along and bring family and friends — as always, you will be made very welcome.

Girlguiding in Waterbeach

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoyed marking the centenary anniversary of World Thinking Day in February with games and activities. Celebrated since 1926, it's a day of international friendship which began with birthday celebrations of our founders and has grown into an annual event for Girlguiding.

Come and visit our Girlguiding gazebo at Feast Day (Saturday, 6 June.) It's always a fun event to share what we do and spend time with our village community. We'll be running a bottle raffle and our highly competitive ladder game and lots of opportunities to win prizes! Brownies & Guides are busily preparing 'ribbon' parade costumes and decorations for the day. Three of our Guides will be representing our county at international visits to Iceland and Switzerland in 2026/7 and continue fundraising for their trips.

Congratulations to Ruth who recently celebrated her 10-year service award with contributions to Girlguiding both in Waterbeach and Milton.

Waterbeach Rainbows recently visited the Botanic Gardens and enjoyed following the Easter Plant Puzzle Trail around the gardens and making crafts in the garden rooms. They were all excited to take home a chocolate egg for completing the trail.



1st Waterbeach Brownies have been working on 'Skills for my Future' and 'Take Action' badges. Many Brownies are completing some of the new interest badges at home, with Kitchen Creations and Craft being the most popular so far! Two Brownies are working towards gaining their Silver and Gold awards before they move to Guides.

2nd Waterbeach Brownies enjoyed a fun session at Cambridge Clip n' Climb and plan to play Footgolf and visit Denny Abbey later this term. Five new Brownies have recently joined, and several Brownies have now made their promises. Brownies enjoyed distributing "random acts of kindness" flowers to members of the village and brought a little extra cheer to the community at Easter. Girls volunteering and working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award have been invaluable in leading weekly games and activities.

Girlguiding in Waterbeach >>

1st Waterbeach Guides completed a BioBlitz survey at St Johns and gained their new 'Biodiversity' badge. They identified trees and wildflowers in the churchyard and old burial ground and learnt about ways to manage habitats with a member of the Eco Team. The Guides will have further adventures this term including a Cambridge city centre scavenger hunt and a special 'whittling' evening at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket before the summer holidays.

Get involved

All of this is made possible by the incredible commitment of our volunteers who run meetings, as well as managing all the behind the scenes planning and admin. If you or your daughter would like to get involved in Guiding, please register online at <https://girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/> or find our contact details on community noticeboards within the village. We're always keen to welcome new volunteers to our friendly team.

Waterbeach Distribution Centre (part of Ely Foodbank)

Our piece in this edition is simply a big 'thank you'.

Thank you to everyone who donates food to the Co-op and One Stop Foodbank collection bins; to the congregations of St John's, the Salvation Army, and the Baptist Chapel; to the groups that meet in or run from these churches; and to Herons' Preschool, Waterbeach Community Playgroup, and Waterbeach Community Primary School.



Thank you to all of you who regularly visit the Baptist Chapel on a Thursday morning and drop off donations, or who leave parcels of fresh produce outside the door; to those who make financial contributions directly to Ely Foodbank; and to all who support in other unseen ways. Every tin of fruit, jar of coffee, or pack of toilet rolls is gratefully received and helps make up an emergency food parcel for someone in our community who is currently having a hard time.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Baptist Chapel for offering their building each week, from which Foodbank sessions can run.

What's in a Name - Lode Avenue

Article by Jane Williamson

Many of you may know, if you get off near the front of a train arriving at Waterbeach from Cambridge, there are steps from the platform down to a lovely footpath which comes out in Lode Avenue opposite Lode House. This cuts off quite a corner if you are walking up the slight incline to the village (just noticeable to the less fit at the end of a long and tiring day). To the left of the footpath there is a deep ditch, often, but not always, dry. You are walking by the last stretch of Waterbeach Lode.



Before the coming of the railway, the footpath would have come uninterrupted from the river; at one time, before trains got faster and the embankment was raised for platform extensions, it was possible to cross the line there. Today, the continuation towards the river is accessed by crossing the tracks at the level crossing and turning left to walk back to rejoin the original path.

In the days before the fens began to be systematically drained in the 17th century, there were few roads in our part of the world and those that did exist were in poor condition and virtually impassable for much of the time due to the low-lying and marshy land. Consequently, the easiest way to transport people or goods was by boat and many villages were connected to the rivers by short manmade waterways called lodes. Some of these are still in use today for drainage purposes, such as Bottisham Lode which now has a pumping station at the junction with the river. Others may remain as ditches.

Waterbeach Lode terminated with a small dock opposite what is now a private house, but used to be The Star pub. There had been a hostelry there for a long time, probably originally for the benefit of the watermen loading and unloading the boats.

There doesn't seem to be much evidence of when the lode was dug, but there is good reason to think that it would have been made in the early/mid-12th century when the original Norman church, and Denny Abbey, began to be built. There was no building stone locally; it would have come by boat from Barnack Northamptonshire, then hauled up the slight hill to build the parish church on the highest part of the village, or through the village and up one of the causeways to build Denny Abbey.

What's in a Name - Lode Avenue >>

With the introduction of drainage acts resulting in new waterways and much more dry cultivable land, the whole landscape, use of land and pattern of living changed forever. It became possible to build roads which could be used throughout the year and provide a comfortable journey.

By the late 17th century, road building was big business, with Turnpike acts providing the opportunity for land to be used for building roads, and the money raised from toll charges for their maintenance. As a result, water transport became much less popular. Our lode fell out of use and eventually blocked from the river by the railway line, though a channel still runs underneath the line.

So, if you walk along the path, enjoying a sense of rural peace in a busy world, think of the boats that at one time would be making their way up river to unload their goods and enjoy welcome refreshment at the pub opposite, in a village which was so different from today's.

PS if you are interested in the draining of the Fens and its impact, there is a new exhibition telling the story at the Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey.

For details see dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk

Waterbeach Community Forum - March 2026

This summary was brought to you by the Beach News Editors.

At 6:30pm on Wednesday, 25th March, residents came together at Waterbeach Baptist Church for a Community Forum that reflected both the energy and the questions shaping the new town. This forum is held three times a year, and allows residents to meet developers, council officers and councillors, to learn how the developments are moving forward and to raise issues.

Representatives of Urban&Civic, RLW Estates and Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) gave updates. The full presentation was recorded and is available online; details overleaf. Here are some specific items we believe to be most relevant to residents:

- A shop, café and community space are now open in the new Waterbeach development. The bridge over the A10, which connects the new development to Landbeach and the Mere Way, is also open. The Lakeside Café and water sports events will start again in May, and activities for Heritage Day are planned for **Sunday, 17 May**.
- Construction work for the new primary school is expected to start in the next few weeks. It is anticipated that the pre-school nursery will open in September 2027, and the first primary school students will be able to start in September 2028.

Waterbeach Community Forum - March 2026 >>

- Urban&Civic has been working with representatives from the Parish Council and the District Council to identify ways to improve road safety and reduce speeding in Waterbeach Village. It will bring some proposals to the next meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 July 2026**, so that residents can have their say.
- Residents asked about the future of the number 100 bus service. This service is currently operating under a three-year contract and will be reviewed after two years, taking into account the longer-term bus strategy for the area. It was pointed out that the area is expected to change significantly in the coming years once the new station becomes operational, alongside a proposed Park&Ride site to the west of the A10 and new Busway services to Cambridge and beyond. This remains a work in progress and forms part of the ongoing Key Phase 2 planning, with delivery expected between 2028 and 2040. Nonetheless, use of the 100 service is being monitored, and its value is acknowledged, not only for the new town but also for residents of Waterbeach Village and Horningsea.
- Regarding the new Waterbeach station, an access road for construction traffic is currently being built, and work on the station itself is expected to start in July 2026. The station is anticipated to open to passengers in the spring or summer of 2028.
- The strongest reaction from residents came when GCP repeated its proposal to close the existing Waterbeach station and have the new station serve both the new town and the village. GCP cited safety and efficiency, while acknowledging a loss of convenience for village residents. Residents argued that safety concerns could be significantly mitigated — for example, by installing double barriers — rather than closing the station completely. Residents will be able to have their say during a public consultation, expected to run for 12 weeks from August 2026, with a final decision to be made by the Secretary of State in spring 2027. A drop-in event will be organised, and more information shared at that time.

The complete presentation can be viewed on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website (scambbs.gov.uk) by searching for “Waterbeach Community Forum”. You can also sign up to receive email alerts for upcoming forums, the next of which is scheduled for **Wednesday, 1 July 2026**; time and venue to be confirmed.

Waterbeach 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, with the RAF arriving in 1941. They left in 1966 when the Royal Engineers arrived, who stayed until 2012. The site is now being developed as Waterbeach (New Town).

WMHM is open on the **first Wednesday and Sunday of the month from March to October, 10am to 4pm and on the third Sunday of every month 10am to 3pm** when there is a Waterbeach Community Market in the former Barracks. Other times by arrangement.

'THE RETURN' carving: we raised the £13,000 for the carving, its fixing in place and the graphic boards to be displayed in the foyer of the Community Building on the former Barracks. We have to thank the many individuals for their generous contributions and the organisations, who were: The Bainbridge family, Beach Social Club, Waterbeach Parish Council, South Cambs District Council, 514 Squadron Reunion members and the Friends of the museum.

Since the last Beach News, our partners the Duxford Radio Trust have added more equipment used during World War II by Lancaster bomber crews. The photograph shows, from left to right: Lancaster Wireless Operator's position; Monica tail warning radar; Loran navigation system 1942; Gee navigation system; HS2 Radar - to help bomb from above the clouds; Gibson Girl Air-Sea Rescue beacon and kite - to take the aerial up in the air for the signal, from a dinghy; VHS Ground Radio station; R1392 Radio; Ground Receiver. DRT are always happy to explain how all these artefacts work and the difference they made to the war effort.

We look forward to you visiting us.

Adrian Wright - WMHM Chairman

waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org, 01223 861846

www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk

Two railway stations for Waterbeach

Article by Robert Jones and John Cattermole

When the Waterbeach new town railway station opens, the plan is to close our existing village railway station. It makes sense to retain our village station, 1.5 miles south of the new station, as part of the Cambridge area's strategic transport network. Both stations will likely become essential for the increasing number of rail users in our growing village and new town.

As background, see our article "Are we on the right track?" in Beach News (Winter 2025). The prospect of keeping our village railway station open was discussed at the Waterbeach Community Forum meeting on Wednesday, 25 March. Local politicians have expressed concerns about the planned closure and recognise that it would disadvantage some village residents.

The legal process to close our village station requires a 12-week Department for Transport consultation period, with dates to be announced. Network Rail, as sponsor and relevant National Authority, will lead the consultation, while Greater Cambridge Partnership will manage additional feedback from the local community. Our group has made it clear that closing our village station is not a done deal.

Sign our online petition

Over 1,400 users of the village railway station have signed our online petition as of 21 April 2026. Show your support online at:

www.change.org/p/keep-waterbeach-railway-station-open

Rail groups that support our view

FLUA, the Fen Line Users Association, supports retention of our existing village station, and recognises that transport demand between Ely and Cambridge is increasing. See www.flua.org.uk/

Railfuture East Anglia supports both the construction of a new station for Waterbeach new town and retention of our existing village station.

www.railfuture.org.uk/East-Anglia-Cambridgeshire

We say:

"Two railway stations for Waterbeach – keep our village railway station open!"

Please let us know what you think and encourage your friends and neighbours to read this.

Robert Jones and John Cattermole WATERBEACH.2.STATIONS@GMAIL.COM

Waterbeach residents and rail users

Waterbeach Surgery

Please check our Facebook page for the latest news and updates.

Basic Life Support & Defibrillator training

Tuesday, 19 May 2026 at 7pm – 8pm: BEACH SOCIAL CLUB.

We've arranged for the Cambridgeshire Air Ambulance Team to complete training on basic life support and use of defibrillators. We hope you can attend.

Jess's Rule: Three strikes and we rethink!

If patients present three times with the same symptoms/concerns, particularly if symptoms unexpectedly persist, escalate, or remain unexplained, it's time to rethink. We will:

1. Reflect: Reflect on what the patient has said, consider what's changed or been missed. Offer ongoing continuity of care with follow-up. If previous consultations were remote then see the patient face-to-face, conduct a physical examination.
2. Review: Where underlying uncertainty exists, consider seeking a review from a peer and review any red flags that may suggest another diagnosis, regardless of age or demographic.
3. Rethink: If appropriate, refer onwards for further tests or seek specialist input.

Dementia Support in your GP Surgery

If you need dementia support, we're here for you. Our Dementia Advisers work with individuals with dementia and their families/carers, to provide responsive and individualised information, support and signposting. This free and confidential service from trusted experts is based at your GP surgery and offers advice on all aspects of dementia, including:

Understanding a diagnosis, symptoms, and changes in behaviour - Practical advice on living with and caring for a loved one with dementia - Advice on hospital stays and discharge - Emotional support - Future Planning – legal and finance.

To see a Dementia Adviser, speak to the receptionist at your GP surgery who will book an appointment for you, or also contact the Cambridgeshire Dementia Support Service: cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk or 01223 620962. National Dementia Support Line: 0333 150 3456.

Appointments

Please check the surgery website for ways to make appointments.

If you no longer need an appointment, please tell the surgery so it can be allocated to another patient. March 2026 saw 97 appointments not attended (DNAs). This is a significant reduction in the last couple of months, helped by our reminder text service that sends a reminder of upcoming appointments.

East Anglian Air Ambulance

Support our urgent Cambridge Air Base Appeal

Cambridge Airport – home to East Anglian Air Ambulance's Cambridge crew – is set to close. Without a base in Cambridgeshire, we risk losing half of the service that currently responds to medical emergencies across our region. Every day, five people across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk need our specialist critical care team.



We need your help to relocate and build a new base

24/7 365 days a year, our crews deliver hospital-level care to people facing sudden medical emergencies. We are not just a fast transfer to hospital; we bring the emergency department to the scene, giving people the best possible chance when every second counts. **Please act now and donate £30 to help protect the future of lifesaving care in East Anglia: eaaa.org.uk/base**

Cambridgeshire fire and rescue

- **New Firefighters** - The service proudly welcomed nine new wholetime firefighters who successfully completed their initial training and are now ready to respond to emergencies across cambridgeshire.
- **Tall building owners urged to prepare for legislation change** - New legislation requires responsible persons in certain residential buildings to take additional steps to support residents who may need assistance to evacuate in the event of fire. This includes identifying residents who may struggle to self-evacuate due to mobility, sensory, or cognitive impairments and developing a person-centred evacuation plan.
- **Reminders to test your smoke alarm** - need a prompt to test your smoke alarms? The fire service can provide monthly emails to give you that nudge to make sure your alarms are working.
- **Biker down sessions** - a free course that offers motorcyclists the opportunity to learn practical skills to help avoid being involved in a crash, essential first-aid training and advice on what to do should they find themselves first on the scene where someone is injured.
- **Older driver workshops** - free, two-hour, interactive sessions designed for those over 65 and currently driving, to help them keep driving safely for longer. We discuss how driving can become more challenging as we get older, and what simple checks we can do at home to keep ourselves fit to drive.

<https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk>

(Reg no: 201528)

Waterbeach United Charities

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".

Application forms:

waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com

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

Electric Wheelchairs/Mobility

Scooters - We may be able to arrange a loan of these 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, please ask for an application form.

All personal applications are confidential.

Waterbeach United Charities and Waterbeach Turbary Charity

Help us to help those in need! (Reg nos: 201528 and 201529)

Waterbeach United Charities and Waterbeach Turbary Charity are looking to fill a vacancy for a Trustee. Both charities look to support those in need or distress in the parish and share the same set of Trustees; there are plans to amalgamate them. WUC owns a number of mobility scooters it loans out, while both charities can provide support in the form of financial grants.

You need to have been a resident of Waterbeach Parish for at least two years and be aged 18 years or over to be a Trustee. We come from a variety of backgrounds and there are few formal requirements for the role. As long as you have an interest in people of all ages and their welfare, then this may be a role for you. The Trustees would like to positively encourage people who may have already benefitted from either charity to come forward as a Trustee as their experience would be invaluable.

Trustees meet every couple of months, so the time commitment is not onerous. Pam Gooding has now handed over the Chair duties to Naomi Wright and either would be happy to tell you more if you want to get in touch for an informal chat. Pam's phone number is 01223 861003 and Naomi can be contacted on 07815 079388. The position of Trustee is voluntary and unpaid – but your contribution would be important. You can help those in your community when they need it most. If you wish to be considered as a Trustee please write in with any relevant supporting information to: The Secretary, Waterbeach United Charities, 7 Cambridge Road, Waterbeach CB25 9NJ

Or e-mail: waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com

Closing date for applications: Sunday, 31 May 2026

Waterbeach United Charities and Waterbeach Turbary Charity >>

Info sheet for applicants

We are looking to fill a vacancy for a Trustee. The position is voluntary and unpaid – but the work is important as you can help those in your community who need it most. Below is a brief summary of the Charities and the type of Trustee we are seeking. You will also have been given a copy of the annual reports for 2024 which summarise what we do. Waterbeach United Charities makes grants to individuals in need or distress in the Parish as well as grants to students and apprentices. The Charity Commission approved a new scheme in 1998 which allows the Trustees to make grants to groups, subject to certain conditions. WUC also owns a number of electric wheelchairs/scooters which it makes available on long-term loans. Waterbeach Turbary Charity was set up many years to provide fuel to parishioners in the form of peat! Over time this became coal and now monetary grants to help those in most need with heating bills.

Trustees need to:

- Be aged 18 years or older
- Have been a resident of the Parish of Waterbeach for at least 2 years
- Have knowledge of the villages of Chittering and Waterbeach and village residents
- Be able to respect confidential matters
- Be available to attend at least 6 formal meetings a year. Usually these are evening meetings of not more than two hours (often less!) You must satisfy the trustees that you will be able to commit sufficient time to your duties as we are a small committee and if you are regularly absent this could be detrimental to our work.
- Agree to arrange DBS clearance if you join us. (This is a simple process done on-line and we will reimburse the cost)

You should also be interested in people of all ages and their welfare, and if appointed you may be asked occasionally to visit applicants or beneficiaries in their own home.

Want to find out more?

If you are interested you can contact the Chair or any of the existing Trustees for an informal chat. Trustees are: Pam Gooding, Julia Adams, Rev Paul Butler, Emma Cotton, Kate Grant, Jane Williamson, Naomi Wright. If you wish to be considered as trustee, please write in with any relevant supporting information to the Secretary (Shelley Mason) at waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com. She can also put you in touch with a Trustee if you wish to have an informal discussion first.

Waterbeach Turbary Charity

Applications for heating grants

(Reg no: 201529)

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/o 7 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.

Waterbeach/Chittering-based students and apprentices

(Reg no: 201528)

Waterbeach United Charities invites applications from individual students or apprentices who would benefit from some help with their learning. We consider grants for equipment (tools, clothing etc) for students undertaking vocational training, grants for students who may need help with the costs of books/equipment, or applications for help with travel costs for placements etc.

If your home address is in the parish of Waterbeach and you will be studying, or undertaking an apprenticeship, in the **2026-27 academic year**, then you are eligible to apply. Please email waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com to request an application form. This will need to be returned by 10 September 2026. First year students whose study intentions depend on exam results and/or clearance processes should only apply once these have been resolved.

All personal applications are confidential. Student grants are only awarded once a year. The closing date for completed applications is 10 September 2026 but late applications may be considered, depending on the circumstances.

Community Association Members

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1ST WATERBEACH BROWNIES | Tiffany Langton - 1stwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com
2ND WATERBEACH BROWNIES | Penny Clay - 2ndwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com
1ST WATERBEACH GUIDES | 1stwaterbeachguides@gmail.com
1ST WATERBEACH RAINBOWS | June Stephen - 07956 949964
32ND 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 | Daniel Shipp - 07949 135463
CAM SAILING CLUB | Nick Heath - 01223 375489
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON | Alasdair Pentland - 07751 786040
FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LANDBEACH (FOALS) | John Buckley - 01223 861836
FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW LANDBEACH | Frances Dipper - 07422 649462
HAPPY FOLKS CLUB | Stuart Atkins - 07964 129623
HERONS' PRESCHOOL | Angela Impey - 01223 863245
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH | Rev. Paul Butler - 07903 904599
WASPS (WATERBEACH AFTER SCHOOL PLAY SCHEME) | Corinne Lawrence - 07858 975397
WATERBEACH & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB | Jerry Cooper - 01223 574050
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 | Adam Stevens - 07506 560581
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PLAYGROUPO | Fiona Thomas - 01223 440769
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A | waterbeachpta@gmail.com
WATERBEACH CRICKET CLUB | Alasdair Pentland - 07751 786040
WATERBEACH DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY | Mary Longstaff - 01223 564666
WATERBEACH INDEPENDENT LENDING LIBRARY (WILL) | Sheila Burke - 01223 864177
WATERBEACH MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM | Adrian Wright - 01223 861846
WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL | Kate Palmer - 01223 441338
WATERBEACH SALVATION ARMY | Angie Ellwood - 01223 571477
WATERBEACH THEATRE COMPANY | Julie Petrucci - 07710 290225
WATERBEACH WI | Viv Cooper - 01223 574050
WAY YOUTH CLUB | Caroline Ward - 07749 738870

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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