

WATERBEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# Beach News

WATERBEACH - LANDBEACH - CHITTERING



*Winter 2025*  
*No.284*

# BEACH NEWS

Journal of Waterbeach Community Association  
[www.waterbeach.org](http://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.

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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](mailto: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 Winter 2025 edition of the Beach News. I'd like to start this edition by talking about the Beach News itself. The Beach News has been part of village life for many years, we are now on issue 284. A lot of the articles in the Beach News are written by people in the village about life in the village. What you may not know is that it is organised, assembled and edited by one person who, along with a team of volunteer delivers, makes sure it arrives through your letterbox four times a year. The Beach News has been through many changes as it keeps up with the growing village (we're up to almost 3000 printed copies) and updated technology. We are looking for people in the village who would be interested in helping to update and run the Beach News for future editions. If you have experience or just ideas of what you would like the Beach News to be, please get in touch, share your ideas and help us make them part of the Beach News. We would like a team of people to take on this task as this represents the best way to ensure the future of this great local newsletter. To speak to us about this please contact us on ([BeachNews@waterbeach.org](mailto:BeachNews@waterbeach.org) and [wcachair@waterbeach.org](mailto:wcachair@waterbeach.org)). We have been looking for volunteers for a while but we still need more people to contribute and get involved.

While I am on the topic of volunteers, we will be holding a social evening for the Feast committee on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the Beach Social Club at 7:30pm. This will be an introductory event and is open to everyone (you do not need to be a member of the Beach Social Club to attend the meeting), while there will be some discussion on organising the Feast there



will also be plenty of socialising. Please come along and speak to us, the Feast can only survive by evolving and changing and for that we need new members of the committee with new ideas. We wanted to add some new events and attractions to the Feast last year but they did not happen as we did not have people to help organise them. If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch. I would love to hear from you ([wcachair@waterbeach.org](mailto:wcachair@waterbeach.org)).

Carols on the Green will be held on Christmas Eve (24<sup>th</sup> December) – at 6:30pm, on Waterbeach Green around the Christmas tree. A great part of the Christmas tradition singing carols with accompaniment from volunteers from



Waterbeach Brass and the Salvation Army Band. The carol sheet will be available on our website before the event ([www.waterbeach.org](http://www.waterbeach.org)). Please



download and use an electronic copy, it's easier to see in the dark and saves paper. Leading the carols this year will be Reverend Paul Butler from St John's and Corps Officer Angela Wilson from the Salvation Army. The Christmas tree is provided by Waterbeach Community Association, thank you to all the volunteers who help put it up and decorate it and to Bannold's for their assistance. A big thank you also to Gary Langley (Brian Langley and Son Ltd) for putting up, looking after and maintaining the lights around the Green, and to the Parish Council for letting us plug them in.

During the Carols we will be holding a collection in aid of the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. If you have not seen it in the news they have just lost a lot of funding and we would like to try and help make up for some of this loss. Arthur Rank Hospice Charity does lots to support people in Waterbeach and the wider Cambridgeshire region. In their own words "Supporting people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end of life care". For more information on their work please see the article later in the Beach News (page 22) or visit their

website ([www.arhc.org.uk](http://www.arhc.org.uk)). Every year I am amazed at the kind and generous donations from our community to our carols collection. Thank you all for your continuous support.

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped with autumn's Community Litter Pick. We had a good turn out and lovely weather. While we still find lots of litter, I'd like to think we are making a difference. Thank you to Caroline Ward and the team for organising it.

Contributions to the Beach News are always welcome. Articles can be on local events, local clubs happening or general interest. Pictures or photographs help to add interest to the magazine (be sure to check out the online version at [www.waterbeach.org](http://www.waterbeach.org) where the magazine can be viewed in full colour). If you happen to spot them on their rounds, please join me in saying thank you to the volunteers who deliver Beach News throughout the area. Thank you, *Alasdair Pentland* - WCA Chair  
[wcachair@waterbeach.org](mailto:wcachair@waterbeach.org). Tel: 07751 786040.

## Girlguiding in Waterbeach



Guides, Brownies and Rainbows in Waterbeach enjoyed an impromptu mini STEM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), after a planned county-wide event was unfortunately cancelled. Leaders and volunteers rallied around to put together an alternative offer for those who had signed up to the day, mixing hands-on science experiments with engineering crafty creations!

Members of Girlguiding Waterbeach spent the day racing coke cans using static electricity from balloons, making catapults from lolly sticks, designing towers from rolled-up paper, testing the pH of everyday household chemicals and learning about genes, chromosomes and the structure of DNA - all through a huge range of fun and accessible activities.

District Commissioner, June Stephen said "We are so lucky that we were able to rely on our team of dedicated volunteers, who put together this amazing mini STEM Day for the girls. Everyone had a fantastic time, including



STEM Day in Waterbeach

the leaders and volunteers! The 'Fizzy Flier' film-canister rockets were a particular hit with the Rainbows, and they loved taking home some of their creations - like their UV bead bracelets and pom-pom paper cup poppers - to show their parents too."

Feedback from the day told us the day was a big hit with the young people too, with one parent messaging us to say "Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers for a fantastic STEM experience for the girls. Our Brownie came back really happy, with many things she had created and told us all about the many experiments she had done on the day."

**1st Waterbeach Brownies** have enjoyed exploring Cow Hollow Woods on a Nature Walk, discovered crafts, dances and delicacies from South Africa with parent visitor Julia, as well as creating 'Festivi-tree' decorations for the All Saints' Christmas Tree Festival. The run up to Christmas boasts more exciting meetings - visiting Ely Museum for a local history session featuring the Romans, ice skating in Cambridge, enjoying the acoustics at St John's during a singing session with visitor Jan, willow-weaving with visitor Tish, Christmas Bingo with the residents of Hatley Court, and ending the term with a magical evening visit to Ely Cathedral!

Cambridge Apple retail store facilitated a fabulous coding workshop for our **1st Waterbeach Guides** using Swift Playground. The visit incorporated a journey on the 100 bus from the village green! In preparation for Armistice Day, the Guides learnt local military heritage with a visit to WMHM and shared remarkable stories of how Girlguiding assisted in the war efforts. A Christmas treat to Ten Pin bowling looms and our older Guides will be organising a Christmas market for our final meeting of the year.

Meanwhile **Rainbows** are Christmas crafting and completing badge work. They had a super interactive talk from Cambs Wildlife Care and learnt ways to protect and care for wildlife. They also enjoyed a fun pond dipping visit to NT Wicken Fen.

Girlguiding Waterbeach took part in the Remembrance Sunday Walk and Act of Remembrance at St John's laying poppy wreaths on the war memorial alongside other uniformed organisations.

Our Brownies and Guides look forward to continuing their Christmas tradition with an exclusive Girlguiding screening at the cinema – this year watching the new Zootropolis 2 film.

All of these activities are made possible by the amazing 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/> We are always keen to welcome new volunteers!

# Salvation Army



Well, time is flying, we'll be having Carols on the Green on Christmas Eve before we know it. Thank you to everyone who attended our Craft Fair on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. We had a lovely variety of crafts and many of you did some Christmas shopping, including me! It's good to support the crafters and nice to buy gifts that are a bit different and you won't see in the shops. As always, we had a little tea room, where you had the choice of homemade cakes and scones. Our customary White Elephant stall is always popular, where we sell all sorts of bric-a-brac, books, games, hand knits, toiletries, books, puzzles etc. We also had a jewellery stall, which is always a "must-have-a-look" stall. We often have silver and gold items, so always worth a look!

In August we held our 2-day Vintage Tea Room, which was very well attended. It's a chance to step out of the busyness of our daily lives and step back in time, be waited on and use lovely bone china crockery, set out on pretty tablecloths. Lots of vintage things to look at and reminisce over, also some vintage books and toys which the children (and some adults) enjoyed playing with. Lots of homemade cakes (blackberry loaf was a new one this year, very tasty) and plenty of savoury goodies too. The savoury whirls were very popular, one being cheese and tomato, fiddly to make, but so popular that more had to be made! My three granddaughters love helping, they enjoy clearing the tables, putting on clean tablecloths and napkins and choosing which china to set out. If you like vintage things we always have some for sale. Watch out for the posters next August.

We had a very hot spell in the summer, loved by some and not by others. Amazingly, the plants in our Salvation Army garden managed to just survive, they didn't grow and not many flowered, until that is, the temperature cooled a bit and we had some rain! Then, everything started to grow and flower and it was beautiful well into November, what a joy. Do please walk in around the path, it's there for all to enjoy, not just those attending the Salvation Army.

By the time you read this we will have had our Exhibition of Nativity Scenes from around the World. They are beautifully displayed and of course light refreshments are available. It is always the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday & Saturday in December. The school come on the Friday morning and then you can come from noon till 5p.m. Saturday 10am - 3p.m. If you missed it this year, put it in your diary for next year, we'd love to see you, there's always something new!

Our Salvation Army band will be busy carolling during December, do look out for them and have a listen and if you wish, sing along. We will be at Tesco in Milton Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am-12.30pm and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

December same time also, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30am-12.30pm. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm with the children at Waterbeach Primary School and of course at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve for Carols on the Green. We also have other various engagements, sharing the true meaning of Christmas and celebrating the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Our Carol Service is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December in the afternoon, check our noticeboard for the time. We look forward to seeing you. There will be mince pies after! Our weekly worship time is every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. you will be made very welcome. Thank you for all your support.

All that's left for me to say is, we are here to help if you need us.

We, at the Salvation Army wish you a happy & healthy Christmas and New Year.

*Angie*

## Waterbeach Brass

The autumn season saw the band return to the grounds of Emmanuel College, providing musical entertainment for the thousands of walkers making their way through central Cambridge as part of the Bridge the Gap charity event. A trip to Desford to compete at the Leicestershire Brass Band Association's annual contest gave the band a chance to focus, grow, and develop as a group, working on Paul Lovatt-Cooper's 'Fire in the blood'. And although we didn't quite come away with a winning result, the band really pulled together and delivered a fantastic performance. Of course, there's never much time to pause in the world of banding—we headed straight into accompanying the Remembrance Day service at the Hill's Road War Memorial in central Cambridge, always a deeply poignant and proud occasion.

As the temperatures drop and the sound of jingle bells begins to fill the air, Christmas must be close! This December, you'll spot the band popping up at the Longstanton Christmas Markets, Swavesey Village carols, and at Tesco in both Fulbourn and Milton. More locally, make sure to catch us at:

**Waterbeach Scouts Santa's Grotto** - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm, *Waterbeach Village Green*

**Carols at the Community Hub** - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 1pm, *the Lake, Waterbeach*

**Waterbeach Community Market** - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, *Waterbeach Barracks*

We'd absolutely love to see you at one of our festive events. And don't forget—you can always follow the band and keep up with where we're playing next on our website, [waterbeachbrass.org](http://waterbeachbrass.org), and on our Facebook page!



# Gardening Club

At our October AGM a new committee was elected to lead the club through the 2025-26 year. We were pleased that two relatively new members were prepared to join the committee and contribute new ideas. The membership rates and meetings fees remain unchanged and most members have already rejoined. The programme for the year is complete and we can look forward to a list of enjoyable and informative talks and other activities. Upon completion of the AGM, we were entertained by Jerry Cooper, our previous and current chairman, who gave an illustrated talk on two gardens in the Weald – Sissinghurst and Great Dixter.

We had a local speaker for our November meeting. Wendy Jones from the Bushel Box farm shop in Willingham talked about “A Year on a Fruit Farm”. We are looking forward to visiting the shop to sample more of their produce when it re-opens in January in its new premises.

As usual, we have no December meeting because of clashes with Christmas activities but we resume in January with our New Year Social. For many of our members this is the highlight of the year! In February we will be re-visited by Hawk Honey talking, this time, about ‘Wasps: Malicious or Misunderstood?’

We are a friendly group and we welcome new members. Also, visitors are welcome to attend our talks upon payment of £5 on the door. We meet on the third Thursday of each month in St. John’s Church Room. All talks start at 7.45pm.

## 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](mailto:waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com)

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

All personal applications are confidential.

# WASPS



The children have recently been enjoying popular activities such as colouring, card games, chess, junk modelling and crafts at our term time clubs. They have been making the most of playing football and tennis outside in the afternoons, but we are now having much shorter outside sessions in the afternoons due to the darker nights.

During the October half term we ran our popular Holiday Club for two days, the children enjoyed taking part in Halloween themed activities, such as making paper plate monsters, ghost art and spider balloon webs. They also enjoyed 'salt volcano' and 'snowstorm in a jar' experiments too! As well as our carefully planned activities, the children enjoy a range of play opportunities at the club from the selection of resources we have available in the play space, all supervised by the team of Playworkers.



Our next planned Holiday Club dates are Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December, activity planning is currently underway but is set to include lots of festive fun and a visit from a magician! Look out for the details available on our Facebook page soon. We are also hoping to do some fundraising soon too.

We welcomed Ros (Playworker) to the staff team at the end of October, Ros will work at Breakfast and After School Club regularly. We have some exciting employment opportunities coming up soon, if you would be interested in working at WASPS, please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for further information.

By the time you read this article, our Annual General Meeting will have taken place at the Playhouse. This year we tried something a little different, holding the event on a Friday evening in the hope that more people would be able to attend, and having an 'Open Playhouse' event at the start, where the children could show their parents/carers around and show them what they do at WASPS. We then held our meeting with the grown ups whilst the children attending could stay and have a play, with members of the staff team providing childcare.

If you are planning to have a clear out at home of your children's toys ahead of Christmas, please think of us! We are seeking complete games/board games in good condition and footballs for outdoor play. Any donations can be dropped off at the playhouse during our session times – thank you!

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](http://www.waterbeach-wasps.org.uk). For enquiries, please email us [wasps.waterbeach@outlook.com](mailto: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.

# Waterbeach Scout Group

During this time of Prince William being at the Earthshot Prize our Scouts have been learning what they can do towards it. They have done a clothes recycle, different foods, litter picking and learning how to purify dirty water to make it drinkable. This made them understand where in future they can help make this world better.

In September our Cubs went for a sleepover at Clip and Climb which was a unique experience for them. They were able to do clip and climb sessions then as the evening went on, they had a meal then they slept in their sleeping bags under the climbing walls. I do not think there was much sleep as they were just so excited about being away with their mates. Also, our Cubs visited the Military Museum and were shown photos and all military equipment, medals etc. This helps them learn about everything that all the armed services do and how they protect our country. The Beavers have been doing First Aid and learning about disabilities and how people cope.

We now come into our winter months where our Scouts do inside activities like shooting with guns and learning about the safety aspect and the damage guns do. We always strive to teach all the young people about safety in life and about bullying.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> we attended the Remembrance Service at the church where all the sections marched with their flags and our Scout Explorers laid a wreath to remember the fallen from any war.

So going forward we are making lots of plans for the future at Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> we are doing our Pop-Up Santa on Waterbeach Green where you can bring any children to see Santa for free. Waterbeach Brass will also be playing. We will be doing tea/coffee and cakes and having lots of fun. Please put this in your diaries. We would like to thank the people of Waterbeach for your support throughout the year and hope you have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# Community Playgroup



The autumn term is always a time of new beginning as we settle back into playgroup following the summer break. A time where new friendships are formed and old are rekindled. We focus on really getting to know the children and their families and how unique and diverse they all are.

So far we have spent time exploring the changing seasons and the wonderful autumnal bounty all around us! This year seemed to be a bumper year for acorns, conkers and beautifully coloured leaves, so they have featured very heavily in our planning and have helped us with our colour recognition, counting and sorting skills.



We also looked at Harvest, both large scale farming right down to harvesting things planted in our own gardens. Our cookery sessions used local produce as we created some delicious apple cinnamon pinwheels and apple crumble for the children to share with their families

As part of our Harvest exploration the children, their families and the staff all brought in donations for our local foodbank, we were amazed that we managed to collect 44.3kg of food which we all delivered to the foodbank at the Baptist chapel. The children loved walking through the village looking for house numbers, waving at buses, and spotting Halloween decorations and the much-loved dinosaurs in a garden along the High Street.

In October we had a visit from Angela our lollipop lady who talked to the children about how to stay safe, we practised crossing the roads and thought about how we could make sure we were visible as the nights draw in and the evenings get darker. Angela very kindly gave each child a hi-vis vest and reflective keyring to help them be seen. We thank her for taking the time out of her very busy schedule to come and see us.

We have also spent time looking at dates and celebrations that are important to our children and their families and as I write the children are currently engaged in creating beautiful poppies as we join others in the act of remembrance.

We are very excited to once again take part in the Landbeach Christmas Tree Festival and are busy creating our entry "The Jolly Roll Tree" We hope you had a chance to stop by and see our tree and support this lovely community event.

I would like to close by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Community Playgroup.



Waterbeach Community Playgroup provides a fun, safe environment with an emphasis on learning through play. You can see what we get up to by checking out the gallery on our website [www.waterbeachcommunityplaygroup.org.uk](http://www.waterbeachcommunityplaygroup.org.uk)

Children are welcomed from their second birthday and can attend sessions between 9am and 3pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. We offer 15 and 30hrs funded places to all qualifying families as well as paid sessions. We do not charge any registration fees, deposits or consumable charges. We currently have limited availability for 2025-26; places are filling fast, and we have opened our 2026-27 wait list. Our application to join form can be found on our website. You can also get in touch either by email: [info@waterbeachplaygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@waterbeachplaygroup.org.uk), or alternatively by telephone on 01223 440769. Please leave a message if we are closed when you call and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

## Waterbeach Independent Lending Library

Happy Christmas to all our readers. Do call in to select some festive reading, which is now on display. Monday 22nd December is our last opening day before Christmas, and we will re-open on Friday 2nd January.



Maybe you might resolve to read more in the new year? Registering for a library card (which gives access to books in all the County's libraries), borrowing our books and using the library remain free. There are charges for ordering adult books from other libraries, and if books are returned overdue. We are now able to take card payments.

Or maybe you'd like to join the volunteer team? Do send us an email, or call in and see us, and we can take it from there.

The library is on the school site, on the High Street. Just go down the drive and you'll find us on the left.

We are open:

Monday	14:45 - 17:00 (except Bank Holidays)
Wednesday	14:45 - 17:00 and 18:00 - 20:00
Friday	14:00 - 17:00
Saturday	10:00 - 12:00

Uncertainty over the future of the library remains, and your continuing support is much appreciated. Discussions are ongoing with the Parish Council, the school and other interested parties regarding the immediate and longer term location of the library once we vacate the existing building next year. Waterbeach has had a library since 1922, being one of the first of 63 libraries created that year due to a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. Hopefully it will continue to serve the village for many years to come.

To contact the library, email [waterbeachlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:waterbeachlibrary@gmail.com). The volunteers look forward to seeing you soon!

# Waterbeach Day Centre

We are enjoying being back after the summer break, seems a long time ago now. We have a few new members but there is still room for more if you wish to join us on a Wednesday from about 10-30am for coffee and biscuits followed by a two course lunch, then the afternoon is spent chatting, playing bingo or bowls before tea and cakes to round the day off. We have a small raffle every couple of weeks and our sales help to keep the price of the day down.

We are still looking for someone who can spare a few hours to be our treasurer. The weekly account is handed over at the end of each month to be entered onto the books, there are the payments to make for the hire of the room and record any other income. If you can help with this, we would be very grateful, please find contact details below.

One of our members celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday recently (see below). We had birthday cake on the Wednesday and some of us attended her party on the Saturday.

We've also had a very enjoyable trip to the Twenty Pence Garden Centre. The staff were very friendly and the afternoon tea was huge.

If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Longstaff on 01223 564666 or Shirley Hayhoe on 07760 093505. Looking forward to hearing from you.



## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Waterbeach resident Edna Bolton celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with family, friends and neighbours on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Waterbeach Day Centre.



Edna May Bolton (née Band), was born near Peterborough on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1925. Edna has spent most of her life in the Waterbeach area. She and her two sisters lived down Waterbeach Fen during the second world war where they helped their family run a farm. Edna then lived in Landbeach for many years before moving back to Waterbeach in 1982.

Edna has been a member of the Luncheon Club at the Waterbeach Day Centre for 26 years.

For many years Edna helped with the production of Beach News. Before the magazine was professionally printed, Edna along with a team of volunteers, assisted by collating the pages and then folding into a booklet ready for delivery.

# 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).

The museum 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 at the former Barracks. Other times by arrangement.

Our big news is we have almost reached our target with the appeal to purchase the 4 by 3 foot limestone carving by Gordon Hanes of 'The Return'. It hangs in the foyer of the Community Rooms and Museum. We hope to be able to purchase before Christmas. We have to thank the many individuals for their generous contributions and the organisations, who were, Beach Social Club, Waterbeach Parish Council, South Cambs District Council, and 514 Squadron Reunion members.



Since the last Beach News, a lot more reorganising of the museum has taken place, particularly in the 39 Royal Engineers area. See photos of the Bailey Bridge and Runway Repair nearly finished but with their new graphics to tell the story. A big thank you to David Featherby who has done the graphics in the museum and is a member of Duxford Radio Trust. Reordering is a work in progress.

Over the summer and autumn, we have opened the Museum for various groups. A cycling club, Waterbeach Scouts, Waterbeach Brownies and Herons' Preschool. We also opened to visitors to the area from Spain, Canada, Australia and Isle of Wight, who could not make the normal opening times.

email: [waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org](mailto:waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org) Tel: 01223 861846  
Website: [www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk](http://www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk) Follow us on Facebook  
We look forward to you visiting us. *Adrian Wright- WMHM Chairman*

# Waterbeach WI



We have been delighted to welcome several new members recently. We invite you to come along on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in St. John's Church Room.

Dorothy Druitt's illustrated talk in October on the Sreepur charity she supports in Bangladesh told us of the life-changing work to help vulnerable mothers and their children. She brought along a variety of items to sell to raise money to support the charity.

Our craft evening in November was great fun. Many members made Christmas wreaths, whilst others tried their hand at needle-felting gnomes or Santas, making Dorset buttons and Christmas tree decorations. Some impressive crafting skills were shown.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we shall have our lunch at Scottsdale's in Horningsea and later our monthly meeting will be a Christmas party with delicious food brought by our members and will feature some light-hearted quizzes. We will be collecting items for Cambridge Women's Refuge.

In January we have a Games Evening and Bring-and-Buy sale raising funds for the local food bank and in February Kay Blayney will give a talk entitled 'Mill Road Monologues'. In March, Mike Smith, a glider pilot, will share his experiences.

Being a member of the W.I. gives you additional opportunities through the local CFWI and access to the NFWI online hub with lots of skills to learn such as Pilates, a foreign language or learning how to paint.

New members are always welcome.

## 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](mailto:waterbeachunitedcharities@gmail.com)
- By post: Ms Shelley Mason, Secretary, Waterbeach Turbary Charity, c/o 7 Cambridge Road, Waterbeach CB25 9NJ.
- 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.



# Happy Folks Club

Writing for the winter edition means that Christmas is just around the corner. A few weeks ago it was a distant thought but how it creeps up on us so quickly! Anyway, it doesn't stop the Happy Folks Club from enjoying the end of year festivities and monthly outings. Since the last edition we have been to Bury St. Edmunds in September for a shopping spree at their market. Mainly for the ladies I would add but there are plenty of eateries and watering holes for the men. Although a relatively local trip, going by coach relieved the stress of driving by car.

In October we had a great 5 day Tinsel & Turkey break in Skegness. Although a bit early for such a break, we went to the same hotel as last year and had a thoroughly good time. Our hosts made us very welcome and as you can see from the picture, one of them was ready to celebrate Hogmanay. The hotel was decked out in Xmas decorations which may seem strange for October but an early Christmas party was very enjoyable.



The next item on the agenda is a trip in November to Lakeside Shopping Centre and a show at The Inn on The Lake. Some members are taking in the show while others will be doing their Christmas shopping.

December is our regular visit to the Thursford Show which, as those who have been before will know, is a very enjoyable day out. Definitely worth a visit. Also in December we will have our carols and cake afternoon at the Beach Club.

Dates and destinations for next year have not been finalised yet although our club dinner in Soham will be in January and a pantomime at Brick Lane, London has been booked for February.

It just leaves me to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year plus reminding readers that our monthly trips are open to guests. If you are interested, please contact us at the Beach Club on a Friday afternoon.

# Waterbeach Theatre Company

Our November production *Pack of Lies* is done and dusted and if you joined us during production week, we hope you had an enjoyable evening. We very much appreciate all the nice comments we received from many audience members, we are not resting on our laurels as we are straight into rehearsals for our annual pantomime which is *Jack & Jill and the Beanstalk* written especially for WTC by members Vicky Butt & Clare Macdonald. This is a rip-roaring pantomime, which subtly mixes tradition with some modern references to keep all the audience happy. Tickets will go on sale on 1 December 2025.



Watch the WTC website and our Facebook page for more details as they become available. [www.wtconline.org.uk](http://www.wtconline.org.uk) or search @waterbeachdrama

# Rosemary Farm

## *3 Rosemary Road, Waterbeach*

I'm no historian so cannot offer any facts 100%. It's a case of memories handed down over the generations. However, there may be some information recorded in the History of Waterbeach.

Rosemary Farm started life as a mixed farm. The farmyard itself had been in the Shipp family for many years. Amongst the outbuildings was a wooden barn which was used as a slaughterhouse. The farmhouse was built in the early 1940's, to be the home of the young Shipp family, with Kenneth as the head of the family. When Alan, Gordon and Tony finished schooling, they helped run the business. Over time, Alan Shipp took over the arable side of the farm and Gordon Shipp took over the dairy side of the farm. New barns of brick construction were built housing fruit and vegetables, which were delivered locally to people's doors, grocer's shops and market places. The dairy herd of cows were milked, and the milk was processed on site in the dairy. This was delivered locally along with eggs, which were collected twice daily, from the chicken barn in the farmyard, these were graded by size, quality and packed ready for sale. I doubt anything was more than 3 days old when it was sold – no sell by dates back then! Over the years, both the farming and the village community changed. At one point, there were 14 shops in Waterbeach and 2 in Landbeach as I recall, all having their own share of business, supplying what was needed to village life.

Large dairy companies moved into Cambridgeshire and sadly many small dairies were swallowed up which brought an end to the local dairy business, along with supermarkets offering cheaper milk. The doorstep delivery had to end.

In 1995, Gordon converted the dairy and cold store into a new shop, necessary to support the growing communities of Waterbeach, Landbeach and the surrounding area.

Rosemary Newsagents were born!

The new newsagents sold a vast range of products and services, employing local people. You could buy almost anything from a penny sweet to a garden bench, a new watch battery, your shoes repaired, and your winter coat cleaned. All were welcome and trusted. If you couldn't pay today,



well, next time would do. It is now very sad to have to say goodbye and close the door one final time. We have happy memories over the many years.

Thank you for all the gifts and flowers. It is truly appreciated and if you have time in the future, please call and say hello to Maggie, who will remain in the house.

Many of you have asked what next? The paperboys will enjoy extra time in bed before school and both Emma and Rebecca have found new jobs. We wish them well in their new careers. Margaret – well, she has seven pieces to fit into her current jigsaw and a stack of new ones to start as she finally retires as an octogenarian.

Margaret would like this opportunity to thank all the customers over the years for their faithful custom, the employees for their continued support, often going above and beyond their daily duties and the community for the wonderful support you have shown.

3 Rosemary Road will now start life with the next generation of Shipps taking ownership.

## Beaches Community Car Service

Do you have a few hours a month to spare. If so, you could become a volunteer for the Beaches Community Car Service. BCCS is a voluntary service taking elderly residents of Waterbeach, Milton, Landbeach, Chittering and Horningsea to doctors, dentists, hospitals and other essential appointments. Volunteering as a driver is very easy; you can pick which journeys you wish to do from regularly updated emails, and you can claim normal mileage expenses. Not only will you be serving your community, you will have the opportunity to meet many interesting people with widely varying life experiences.

If you are not a driver, you could become one of our coordinators, performing the vital role of connecting clients requiring transport with the available drivers. Coordinators work in periods of two weeks, typically 5 times a year. A mobile phone is provided, so there are no costs to you.

Sadly the supply of volunteers seems to be drying up, and to enable BCCS to keep on providing the vitally essential service that we do, we really do need more drivers and coordinators.

If you feel that you would be able to help, or would like more information about what is involved, please talk to one of our coordinators on 07807875878 or email the Administrator at [m.dean@ntlworld.com](mailto:m.dean@ntlworld.com) for a friendly chat without commitment. BCCS offers an essential service for people who have no other means of getting to important appointments and it would be a great loss to our communities if this service could not continue due to lack of drivers or coordinators.

*Mike Dean*

# Waterbeach Baptist Church

Many people in the village know Waterbeach Baptist Church as a familiar historical landmark, the home of the vibrant annual Summer Holiday Club and the Waterbeach Easter Trail, and a hub for the community.

As we move into the festive season and the familiar glow of Christmas lights begins to brighten windows around the village, many of us find ourselves pausing—taking stock of the year, its joys, its challenges, and the moments that have shaped us. Christmas has a gentle way of bringing people together, offering a chance to reconnect not only with friends and neighbours, but also with the traditions that help give this time of year its meaning.

At Waterbeach Baptist Church, we would love to welcome you to our Family Carol Service on 21st December at 10:30am. Whether you have been part of church life for years, popped in occasionally, or never visited before, you are warmly invited. There is no need to dress a certain way, know any special words, or be a regular churchgoer. Our Christmas service is for everyone—families, children, newcomers, and long-time residents alike. Whatever your background, we hope you will feel at home with us. Village life thrives on connection, and Christmas is one of those rare seasons when the whole community draws a little closer.

Our Family Carol Service will include well-loved carols, a warm and friendly atmosphere, a nativity play (with a twist!) performed by some of the children of our church, and a moment to reflect on the deeper themes of Christmas: hope, peace, and light in the midst of winter. For many, it's a chance to slow down in what can be a busy and sometimes overwhelming season. For others, it is simply a lovely tradition—an hour of music, fellowship, and community.

We also know that Christmas can feel complicated. While some look forward to it all year, others find it a difficult or lonely time. Please know that you are not alone. The church community is here for support and companionship as much as for celebration.

***Getting In Touch*** - If you would like to know more about our Christmas plans, or any other events throughout the year, you can check the noticeboard outside the church or visit our website: [www.waterbeachbaptistchurch.com](http://www.waterbeachbaptistchurch.com).

You are always welcome - no booking required, no expectations, just an open door. Whether or not you are able to join us this year, we are grateful to be part of this wonderful village community.

From all of us at Waterbeach Baptist Church, we wish you a peaceful, joyful, and hope-filled Christmas.



# Friends of All Saints', Landbeach (FOALs)

Our programme of events in the autumn included a Harvest Festival Supper and Barn Dance with the Cyriacs Ceilidh Band, a superb choral concert by the Accorde Chamber Choir, our ever-popular Pudding (Savoury) Pie and Quiz evening, and three popular and over-subscribed Wreath-making Workshops that have brought new skills and will have provided well for displays in the Advent Christmas Tree (and Wreath) Festival.



*Wreath makers*

Our programme in 2026 will start with the traditional welcoming of the Chapel Choir of Corpus Christi College for their first performance away from college in the academic year. Held at Candlemas, we look forward to their evening concert at 7:30 pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Further events being planned through the summer of 2026 include a Gig by St John's Band, Garage Sale, and Garden Party. Keep an eye on Facebook and on the church web site for details;

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13835](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/13835) There is space for more: if you would like to run an event or activity here at All Saints', please let us know:

[john.buckley@sustenergy.co.uk](mailto:john.buckley@sustenergy.co.uk) 01223 861836

[janemaryoakes@gmail.com](mailto:janemaryoakes@gmail.com) 07740 282387

## Alzheimer's Society

### ***Dementia Support in Cambridgeshire***

We have a team of fully trained Dementia Advisers who are here to support everyone affected by dementia or worried about memory, their family members and carers.

As well as providing you with information, we can help you to understand dementia better, for example, helping with communication, eating and drinking, washing and dressing, etc. We will work with you to find strategies to cope with the difficulties that you face. Our staff will offer you a listening ear and a safe space to discuss the emotional impact of this. Our service is free and confidential, and can be accessed at any point and as often as needed.

We can help you to access benefits and any other services that may support you. We can also help you to plan for the future. We have a range of services including one-to-one support, groups, information sessions and are available in over 60 GP surgeries around the county.

If there is any way we can help you, please give us a call on 01223 620962 or email at [cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk).



# Waterbeach Surgery News

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our patients. Thank you all for your continued support over the last year and to the many of you who have found time to personally thank the team for their hard work and support. It means a lot.

**Menopause Evening** - On the 15<sup>th</sup> October, GP Dr Rosie Gordon gave a presentation on Peri-Menopause at Beach Social Club. It was much appreciated by those who attended. All the details can be found on our website. If you feel you need help and advice to cope with your symptoms, please do not hesitate to make a GP appointment.

**Dementia Support in your GP Surgery** - Our Dementia Advisers work with people with dementia, their families, and carers to provide a highly responsive and individualised information, support, and signposting service. This service is based at your GP surgery and it's free and confidential. As trusted experts in dementia, our advisers offer advice and support with all aspects of dementia, including:

- Understanding the diagnosis.
- Practical tips on living with and caring for a loved one with dementia.
- Understanding symptoms and changes in behaviour.
- Advice on hospital stays and discharge.
- Provide emotional support.
- Planning for the future – legal and finance.
- To see a Dementia Adviser speak to the receptionist at your GP surgery who will book an appointment for you.
- Cambridgeshire Dementia Support Service  
Email: [cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:cambridgeshiredementia@alzheimers.org.uk) Tel: 01223 620962
- National Dementia Support Line - Telephone: 0333 150 3456  
Opening hours: Mon to Wed: 9am - 8pm, Thurs and Fri: 9am - 5pm, Sat and Sun: 10am - 4pm

**Flu Vaccines** - Cases of 'flu are already high this year. If you are eligible for an NHS flu vaccination, then you will be invited to book your appointment. We will continue to invite people through December and January. Parents should make sure they respond to invitations for childhood vaccinations. The diseases children will be protected from can be life threatening and altering.

**Did Not Attend Appointments (DNAs)** - Last month 268 appointments were not attended. When you work this out by the average of 10 minutes an appointment then you get 44 hours or appointments missed, which could

have gone to other patients. Please tell us if you no longer need a GP or Nurse appointment.

For details about Pharmacy First, Shared Care, Weight Loss Medication and Third-Party Medication Requests please consult our surgery website.

***Prescription Request over the phone*** - We do not take any medication requests over the phone. If you need a repeat then you will need to use the NHS app, go online or drop a hand-written request into the post box or pop into the practice. Please can patients who have a smart phone or tablet device consider using the NHS App. It enables you to order your prescription online without using paper and it reduces workload for the prescription clerks. The practice currently has a 64% take up of patients using on-line access.

We are here to help you. The surgery team are very positive about our ability to take care of our Waterbeach community. If you have any concerns about your care, please contact me at the surgery straight away by phone or by the feedback link on the Waterbeach surgery website. *Bruce Abel* (Practice Manager)

## Thermal Imaging for a Cosier Home

Once again, we're delighted to offer residents and organisations across Cambridgeshire the opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for free. Join a one-hour online training session to learn how to interpret thermal images, identify draughts, gaps in insulation, and heating problems, and to make your home cosier and more energy efficient. Great for homeowners and renters alike! We also encourage individuals, organisations and community groups to undertake training to survey multiple properties within their community.

In 2024, volunteers from communities across Cambridgeshire undertook surveys of 113 neighbouring homes and community buildings, adding to the 325 properties that were surveyed by individuals who had attended the training for their own homes.

### ***Thermal Imaging Training Dates:***

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> January 7:30-8:30 pm

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> February 7:30-8:30 pm

We only lend cameras to people who have attended the training. Loan periods are: Fri pm to Mon am, or Mon pm to Fri am, and cameras can be picked up from one of 18 volunteer camera hosts around South Cambs, Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire.

More information, and interviews with experts, volunteers and organisers can be arranged on request. Contact Fran Sutton: [fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](mailto:fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org) or 07713 841391

# Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Thank you to the Waterbeach Community for supporting Arthur Rank Hospice. The Charity supports people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end-of-life care. Our 'Outstanding' services are provided free of charge to patients and their families. Our aim being to provide the highest quality care, helping people to make every moment count.

Over 3,800 patients each year are cared for at the Hospice in Cambridge, the Alan Hudson Centre in Wisbech and in patients' own homes via the Arthur Rank Community Team. This care supports people to improve their quality of life and fulfil their end of their life choices.



*"We wanted to thank you for the excellent care and compassion you showed to Mum in her final days. Knowing she passed in such a calm setting with you all brings us much comfort."*

Alongside the care provided by the Inpatient Unit, Living Well services and Hospice at Home teams, patients can access: patient and family support (including counselling, bereavement, psychological and spiritual support); Lymphoedema care; physiotherapy, occupational, complementary and creative therapies; medical and pain outpatient clinics; Caring Communities and advice from the Clinical Nurse Specialists within the Specialist Palliative Care Home Team or via the Palliative Care Hub (111, Palliative and End of Life Care option).

*"I would like to thank each and every one of you for the love, care and support you showed my dad and my family. It's never easy losing a loved one, but all of you have made the journey a lot easier."*

People are our greatest asset and make Arthur Rank Hospice Charity vibrant, welcoming and engaging. Around 250 colleagues, over 600 active volunteers and thousands of supporters, are known collectively and fondly as 'Team Arthur'.

It will cost over £14 million to run our services in 2025/2026. Contracted services from the NHS are set to change in 2026 and we have launched a 'Protect Our Care' Campaign. With the help of our community, we need to raise over £5.9 million through donations, fundraising activities, retail sales, the Education and Conference Centre and Bistro. Sustaining services for



people in our community is our focus and therefore we are extremely grateful to everyone who demonstrates their dedication, commitment and generosity and helps protect our care for the future.

You may wish to sign up to 'Mission Mud' taking place in Waterbeach on 9 May 2026 but however you support - whether that is registering your Christmas Tree to be collected, buying raffle tickets, attending an event, supporting challengers, visiting our shops and Bistro, fundraising your way, volunteering or leaving a gift in your Will – we are very grateful for your support which helps us to continue to support people in your community. For further information please visit [arhc.org.uk](http://arhc.org.uk)



## Cam Sailing Club

In mid-September the Cam Sailing Club took part in a global fundraising race, Bart's Bash, in aid of the Andrew Simpson Foundation. This was founded in memory of the Olympic sailing medallist Andrew 'Bart' Simpson. Clubs from around the world participate on a similar length race course on the same day and then send their timed results to the Foundation. The combined results are then posted online.

This event aims to get people of all backgrounds on the water to transform lives through sailing, water sports, and participation events. This was followed, on the 25 October, by another important event in our sailing programme - a 125th Anniversary Race in recognition of the first race ever held by Cam SC on 25 October 1900. This was preceded with an excellent BBQ and display of old photos together with a copy of the original club racing rules which the sailors were asked to observe. There was a very good turnout of dinghy sailors and all participants were presented with certificates to mark the event.



*125th Anniversary Race*

All too quickly the sailing season has come to a close and the boats are stored in the sheds or on their trailers in the club grounds. The Laying-Up Lunch and Prize-Giving was held in the clubhouse and the last race, the Frostbite Spoon, will be held at 11:30am on Boxing Day morning. If you are interested in the Cam Sailing Club and would like more information, please visit our website: [www.camsailingclub.org.uk](http://www.camsailingclub.org.uk) or email: [secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk)

## ***Waterbeach Distribution Centre (part of Ely Foodbank)***

When faced with impossible decisions – to put food on the table or pay for their heating, to go without toiletries like shampoo, toilet roll or period products or afford the bus fare to a job interview, very often people need foodbanks. Hunger in the UK isn't really about food. It's about people not having enough money for the essentials.

Trussell exists so that everyone in the UK can be free from hunger. They work to ensure no one needs a foodbank to survive. Until that happens, they provide emergency food and practical support for people left without enough money to live on.

Waterbeach Distribution are part of Trussell and we are extremely grateful to the Baptist Chapel who host our weekly foodbank sessions which run every Thursday between 11.00 and 12.00. If you, or anyone you know need support from the Foodbank, please call 01353 468626 or email [info@ely.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@ely.foodbank.org.uk). During the last 6 months, 351 local people including 175 children have been supported by an emergency food parcel from one of our sessions.

We are so grateful for the wonderful support we receive from the local community and Harvest was no exception. A huge 'Thank you' to the congregations of St John's, the Salvation Army, the Baptist Chapel and St Vincent de Paul who collected donations, to Herons' Preschool, Waterbeach Community Playgroup and the Footsteps and Praise and Play families at St John's.



*Harvest collection of gifts from Herons' Preschool*

In addition to these generous Harvest gifts, we are continually grateful to all those who regularly pop into the chapel to drop off food, toiletries, pet food and home-grown produce. All three of our village churches have collection boxes as does the Co-op and One Stop, and we would like to thank everyone who supports these donation points throughout the year.

Due to the nature of donations, we can't predict exactly what will arrive in the warehouse during any given week. As guidance, a regularly updated list of the most needed items is posted on the Ely Foodbank page. But welcome throughout the year are tinned meat / tinned vegetables / tinned fruit / long life milk / rice / tea / coffee / biscuits / rice pudding / custard / squash / long life juice / toilet rolls / men's and women's toiletries / shampoo and conditioner / laundry products / cleaning products. The warehouse currently has plenty of baked beans and pasta. At the point this edition falls through your letterbox, donations of Christmas foods would be especially welcome.

We all know what an expensive time of year Christmas can be and ask you to remember those in our own community who will find this a particularly challenging time financially.

# Are we on the right track?

The Waterbeach New Town railway station is soon to be built, about 1.5 miles north of our existing Waterbeach village station. This relocation is part of the New Town development plan and the new station will serve the new homes and commercial areas. It will clearly not be as handy for many village residents as our existing station.

Our existing Waterbeach village station is planned to close when the new station is operational. The Department for Transport is expected to run a public consultation on closure of our existing station. Closing our existing station will cost millions of pounds on top of the recent funding to upgrade it.

As village residents we have not yet been consulted as to whether or not we wish to keep our well used village station. It is not a good idea to close a station in an area where the population will be doubling over the next 20/30 years. We will need both stations in future to cater for thousands of new town and village residents.

Operationally a two station option is perfectly possible. The two stations are not particularly close in national railway terms. Foxton and Shepreth stations are similarly close.

**What do the experts say?** - FLUA - Fen Line Users Association - supports retention of our existing village station. Transport demand between Ely and Cambridge is increasing, and providing a local service stopping at both Waterbeach stations would be better than building a separate tram or metro system.

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

**Have your say** - Our group of Waterbeach residents is supporting the "two stations for Waterbeach" option. Please let us know what you think, let us start to be heard. Make sure your friends and neighbours get to read this.

email: [waterbeach.2.stations@gmail.com](mailto:waterbeach.2.stations@gmail.com)

## Waterbeach Community Association Carols on Waterbeach Green



**Christmas Eve  
6.30pm**

**Please remember to bring your  
lights, lanterns and torches**



A copy of the carol sheet can be downloaded in advance from [www.waterbeach.org](http://www.waterbeach.org)

# Waterbeach Fun Dog Show

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*"The rosettes, prizes and trophies are outstanding. Thank you for organising a brilliant show"*

*"We aren't local but thought we'd come to see and give it a go. We didn't expect such a friendly and brilliantly organised show- the best we've been to all year, and we've been to lots with our new-ish rescue dog"*

*"We had such a great time. Our dogs and children loved it, it really was about fun and dogs"*

We're thrilled to share that £480 (after costs) was raised for four chosen causes:

Woodgreen Animal Shelter  
Cambridge Hedgehog Rescue  
Ravenswood Pet Rescue  
Waterbeach Community Library

Although this year's show saw slightly lower footfall - thanks to those gloomy weather forecasts - the generosity of everyone who came more than made up for it.

A huge thank you to: every visitor who braved the skies and donated so kindly, our dedicated stallholders and ground crew (including last-minute absolute heroes!) and of course, the real stars- the doggos! Their waggy tails, joyful energy, and boundless love made the day a true celebration of our four-legged friends and family.



*Winner Experienced Handler Best in Show: Annie Waller with Charles and Reserve Experienced Handler Best in Show Brenda with Red*



*Winner Waterbeach Best Dog: Jess Holden and Bruno*

Most dogs went home with a ribbon and/or prize. Young and nervous doggies joined in at their own pace.....Clever tricksters entertained.....Golden oldies showed their wise and fun-loving ways.....So many breed varieties. It was wonderful to see so many owners who care greatly for their four-legged friends. There are clearly some very talented, handsome, much adored paws, in the village and beyond.

This 10th anniversary wouldn't have been possible without your support. Together, we've given a much-needed boost to animals and community groups alike. PAWS UP to you all!

Facebook page: Waterbeach Fun Dog Show

*Jude* (Show Organiser)



# Fen Edge Twinning Association

## *Another successful Year of Twinning*

The Fen Edge Twinning Association has strong links with the town of Avrille in France. Twinning essentially is an agreement between local authorities to consult and cooperate on issues of mutual concern but, as far as the members of the association are concerned, it is about making friends.

The highlight of the year is the annual exchange visit where a group of people from one side of the channel travel to their "Twin" area. They are always warmly greeted before being introduced to their hosts with whom they will be house guests for the whole of the weekend. The visitors get a very good idea of what it is like to live over (t)here.

This year, the French came to us in November, and we went to Avrille in May. (Two annual visits in one year!). We treated the French to a day out at Bletchley Park and an "Indoor Picnic" at Landbeach Village Hall. The French took us to a truly amazing cave complex and a very scenic river cruise, but the highlight of both visits was the company and the feeling of good will that we experienced.



*Reception in Avrille*

The association traditionally holds an "Annual Quiz Night" to raise funds to help defray our costs. This year we had two of those as well! Cottenham parish council regularly makes the village hall available free of charge to "worthy causes". We were offered two slots - so we held two quizzes. Both were a great success in that we raised quite a lot of money and, even more importantly, the teams that came along reported that they had enjoyed them very much.

To celebrate, we are having a social evening at Rampton Village Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. We shall follow the French tradition of celebrating "Kings Day". The event is open to all members and their guests and to anyone who genuinely wants to find out more about twinning and what Kings Day celebrations involve. There is no charge for the event although donations to our funds will be welcomed. Please e-mail "[fenedgetwinning@gmail.com](mailto:fenedgetwinning@gmail.com)" to let us know you are coming so we can cater accordingly.

# Anglesey Abbey

Celebrate Christmas at Anglesey Abbey. The house will be richly decorated for all to enjoy and the wider estate offers walks around the sensory Winter Garden, festive shopping, tasty treats and wintry adventures in the woodland play area.

**The Snowman™ trail** - Come and see if you can spot all 12 Wild in Art sculptures around the gardens, each festively painted with designs from the carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas. From now until 4 January 2026, pick up a trail map in the visitor centre and enjoy a magical, wintry day out with friends and family.



We're likely to be very busy at weekends. If you can, we recommend visiting us during the week for a quieter Snowman experience. We look forward to welcoming you!

**Christmas in the house** - The Jacobean-style country house at Anglesey Abbey is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, with festive displays



highlighting Lord Fairhaven's vast and significant collection. Step inside to discover a treasure-trove of history and spot the miniature Snowman toys hidden among the Christmas decorations.

You can also meet Father Christmas in the house – there are just a few spaces left. For more information and to book, please visit the Anglesey Abbey website.

**Snowdrops** - From mid-January to February, the gardens will be full of beautiful snowdrops. The snowdrop collection at Anglesey Abbey boasts over 500 varieties of these delicate white flowers and you can join a specialist tour to learn more about them. Please head to the Anglesey Abbey website to book your ticket.

We will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and open again on Boxing Day. From all of us at Anglesey Abbey, we wish you a very merry Christmas!

[nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey)

Photo credit is © National Trust / Mike Selby

# Fire and Rescue Service



## ***Take Charge and Be Safe this festive season***

As the festive season approaches and people look for presents and take advantage of Black Friday deals, many are looking to save money on electrical items. However, we continue to urge people to Take Charge and Be Safe when buying devices, especially items that require batteries or chargers.

You can help keep yourself and your family safe by following a few simple safety measures, including ensuring to buy electrical items from reputable dealers, being awake and at home when using and charging devices and adding safety to your bedtime routine.

Electrical devices are a key part of everyday life and are often bought in Black Friday deals and as presents for family members and friends. Games consoles with controllers, tablets, laptops and e-bikes and e-scooters are on lots of people's present list. All these items require charging as they contain lithium-ion batteries.

Most devices come with failsafe features to ensure they do not overheat when being charged, but rely on the manufacturers' provided charging cables and adapters to work. Also, using the plug and cables supplied with the product rather than cheaper versions will help charge devices safely.

The Service is reminding people to Take Charge and Be Safe, not only when charging their devices, but also when planning on purchasing devices and presents. Most new items come with a suitable battery and charger, however if you are looking to purchase additional ones then make sure they are the right voltage and are fully compatible. Other things like charging a mobile phone while you are awake and alert, rather than while sleeping, means the device won't be overcharged and risk overheating the battery. This can be the same for any device.

We are encouraging people to plan a good bedtime routine including things like making sure electrical sockets are switched off, all internal doors are closed, any candles are out, heating appliances are off and hallways and stairs are kept clear of obstructions. This will not only help prevent a fire from happening but also ensure an easy escape if one does.

***Disposing of batteries safely*** - Batteries can be a fire hazard if they are not disposed of properly. They should never be put in household rubbish or recycling bins.

During the processing of waste or recycling, a battery can be compacted and damaged, which can lead to ignition of the highly reactive lithium, leading to a fire starting.

Any kind of battery can cause a fire if not disposed of correctly and safely. This includes vapes or other e-cigarettes as well as standard batteries.

Fires involving batteries cause damage to refuse vehicles and roads, as well as significant delays to bin collections and road closures.

**How to dispose of batteries** - There are many places to safely dispose of batteries. As well as local recycling centres, many shops around the county have collection bins in-store.

To find your nearest battery collection bin, visit either <https://www.recyclenow.com> or <https://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk> to check where your closest location is.

**Help keep your home and family fire safe** - Complete our online home safety check. You can carry out your own home fire safety check online by visiting the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service website.

The online home safety check helps you carry out your own fire risk assessment and is a simple way to help reduce risks and keep your home safe from fire. It takes you through some simple questions about you and your home, then provides an action plan that you can download and print. You can fill it in for yourself or a member of your family that might need help.

Visit [https://bit.ly/Home\\_Safety\\_Check](https://bit.ly/Home_Safety_Check) to find out more and start your online home safety check.

For more information log on to [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk), follow us on social media or call 01480 444500.

## Report from Charlotte Cane MP

As the year draws to a close and we gather for festive events across our villages and towns, I've been reflecting on what makes Ely and East Cambridgeshire so special — our sense of community, our compassion, and our determination to look out for one another. That spirit has shone through in everything from local campaigns to doorstep conversations this autumn.

In November, I joined my constituent Lisa Smart, from Cottenham, outside 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition with over 15,500 signatures calling on the Government to save vital hospice beds at Arthur Rank Hospice. Lisa's



*Charlotte Cane MP (second from right) stood alongside local residents and MPs to deliver the petition to save palliative care beds at Arthur Rank Hospice.*



daughter received end-of-life care there, and her powerful story shows just how much this service means to families across Cambridgeshire.

The petition is part of a joint campaign I launched alongside Liberal Democrat Cambridgeshire MPs Pippa Heylings and Ian Sollom to reverse an £829,000 funding cut. Without that funding, nine of the hospice's 23 beds face closure – meaning more than 200 patients could be left without access to specialist care each year. Everyone deserves compassion, dignity, and peace at the end of their lives. We must not let a funding failure take that away.

In Parliament, I've been urging the Government to deliver fair funding and real reform for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In Ely and East Cambridgeshire, 4% of pupils have Education, Health and Care Plans — higher than the national average. Our schools do incredible work, but they need the Government's support. Every child deserves the chance to thrive, with properly funded and accessible support close to home.

I continue to press the Government on fuel poverty, after uncovering official figures showing that 9.6% of households in our constituency — that's 4,487 homes — were living in fuel poverty as far back as 2023. Shockingly, Ministers have yet to publish the data for the past year, even as families continue to struggle with soaring energy costs. I am urging the Government to publish the latest figures, to end fuel poverty and tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Whether it's meeting residents on the doorstep, attending local events, or holding my three monthly surgeries, I'm always here to listen and help. Since being elected, I've now closed over 9,000 cases where residents have come to me for advice or support.

As your local champion, I'm here to stand up for you – and I'll keep doing just that.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who keeps our community running through the darker months — from NHS staff and carers to utility workers, emergency services, and transport teams who work tirelessly through the holidays.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy festive season, *Charlotte Cane*

P.S. This is just a snippet – to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at [bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte](https://bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte).

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire

[charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk) | 020 7362 1601

## WATERBEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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32 <sup>ND</sup> 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 - <a href="mailto:wcfc.chair@gmail.com">wcfc.chair@gmail.com</a>
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY MARKET	Adam Stevens - 07506 560581
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP	Fiona Thomas - 01223 440769
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A	<a href="mailto:waterbeachpta@gmail.com">waterbeachpta@gmail.com</a>
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 (WATERBEACH & LANDBEACH ACTION FOR YOUTH)	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	<a href="mailto:villagehall@landbeachvillage.co.uk">villagehall@landbeachvillage.co.uk</a> - 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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