

WATERBEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# Beach News

WATERBEACH - LANDBEACH - CHITTERING

*Winter 2023*  
*No.276*



# 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).

*Front cover – Dawn on a frosty morning walk by the River Cam, Waterbeach – Photo by Richard Youell*

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# Community Association



Hello everyone and welcome to the Winter 2023 issue of the Beach News.

**Carols on the Green 2023** - Let's start with some information about 'Carols on the Green'. Our regular Christmas carol singing will take place as usual around the Christmas tree on the Green at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve

(Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December).

This year the carols will be led by Pastor Martin Ensell, Waterbeach Baptist Church and Captain Angela Wilson, Waterbeach

Salvation Army, with accompaniment by volunteers from the Salvation Army Band and Waterbeach Brass Band. The



Carol sheet will be available online before Christmas Eve on our website (<http://www.waterbeach.org>) – if possible, please download and use an electronic copy to save printing and paper (it's also easier to see in the dark).

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those that help to setup the village Christmas decorations and tree; thanks to Gary Langley and team for checking and putting up the Christmas lights, Bannold for transporting and helping to erect the Christmas tree, Pam and Lee Clack along with Bill Moon and Shirley Hayhoe for helping and decorating the tree.

Each year at the Carols we have a collection for a different local charity that is active in our community. This year the collection will be donated to Cam Sight, a charity that supports local people living with blindness or low vision. Cam Sight offer a range of services, peer support groups and activities, targeted to improve the independence, well-being and inclusion of the people they support. For more information, please read the article they have written for the Beach News on page 23. If you're coming along to the Carols, please donate to this fantastic local charity.

**Feast 2024** – Planning for next year's Feast will start early in the new year. The Feast is run by volunteers from the village, supported by the WCA. Last year the team put together a fantastic event and once again we are looking for volunteers who can help plan or run the Feast. A lot of the Feast planning is coming up with ways to keep the event vibrant and lively, we can't do this without fresh faces in the organising committee, it's only a couple of hours a month so please join us. We're also always on the lookout for ideas so if you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer a group you are associated with for events, arena acts, bands, stalls or anything you feel would fit in with the Feast activities, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch, either via the Feast Facebook page or email me (address below) - thank you. The Feast Day will be on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**Autumn Litter Pick** – Thank you to all the volunteers from The Way Project, Waterbeach Women's Institute and Waterbeach Wombles for organising the Autumn Litter Pick. Thank you too to all the litter pickers who turned out on a fairly chilly and bright morning. A lot of rubbish was collected, but sadly there is always more and we'll keep holding these events. Please look out for the next one around the February half term.

**Beach News** - 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.

On behalf of all the committee of Waterbeach Community Association we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Alasdair Pentland* - WCA Chair

Email: [wcachair@waterbeach.org](mailto:wcachair@waterbeach.org). Tel: 07751 786040

# Cam Sailing Club

The sailing season has now finished for 2023, except for a festive race to be held on Boxing Day, and most of the boats have been laid-up for winter.

There has been good club racing throughout the summer for dinghies, sailing cruisers and half-deckers. Added to this the Cam Youth Team have been particularly busy competing away from the club. As well as racing in the Cambs Youth League some of the older sailors in this group have also competed in Regional and National events. They braved huge waves sailing at a national meeting at Whitstable and went on to sail at the Topper Nationals at Pwllheli in North Wales. They will now be training throughout the winter as part of the National Topper Team, which is a great achievement.

If you are interested in finding out more about Cam Sailing Club please visit the website: [www.camsailingclub.org.uk](http://www.camsailingclub.org.uk) or email: [secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk](mailto:secretary@camsailingclub.org.uk)

## ***History of Cam Sailing Club Part 3 - The First World War 1915 - 1918***

Despite the fact that war had broken out in 1914, the 1915 season started with optimism. A sailing programme was planned and new Rules for the Paget Cup introduced. This was to be of no avail since the conflict became much more serious than envisaged. In June all official racing and social events were cancelled.

In July of that year the Club gave a river outing from Cambridge to



Waterbeach for wounded soldiers under arrangements made jointly with the Red Cross.

However, the grounds were still being maintained and it was agreed that the old cottage on the club grounds should be pulled down. This never happened but

the first floor was removed and the rest of the building was converted into a cycle shed. Many members must have cycled to the club and the cycle shed was clearly high priority. The main club lawn was kept for hay and members were not allowed access until after the crop was cut.

In July 1916 a tea party was held on the club grounds at Waterbeach for 170 Serbian refugees and their teachers quartered at Westminster College, Cambridge. Two elderly gentlemen acted as hosts: 'Grandpa'

Sanderson was pushed in a bath chair between the ranks of refugees, while Mr. Charles Stonebridge propelled himself slowly with the aid of two sticks. Club members and their children distributed plates of sandwiches,



buns and cakes to a crowd squatting on the grass. The two motor boats used to convey some of the party from the Victoria Bridge in Cambridge to Waterbeach were *Irene and Scout*. These boats were listed in the 1903 membership card.

In 1916 a change in the management of the river Cam was proposed and the club had fears over the consequences. There was a public enquiry, and this led to an Act of Parliament reconstituting the Cam Conservators. This change was to improve the state of the river but it gave rise eventually to financial problems for the club.

In August 1917 a 'regrettable incident' occurred. The details are unavailable, but it led to the Committee ruling that no ladies should use either of the clubhouse dressing rooms for sleeping, but the upstream room could be used for ladies to change for bathing. This is the first indication of ladies requiring better facilities at the club, and in its turn led to the formation of the Ladies Committee which became a powerful body after the war.

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

## Landbeach Village Hall

Landbeach Village Hall would like to invite you to join us for a Bingo afternoon, on Sunday, 17th of December from 15:00

Games, prizes and raffle tickets

Book your free table here or just turn up on the day!

- <https://forms.gle/rXZUYGWzCMRuGKUL9>



Bingo books will be available at the entrance: £1 per book (5 games)

Everyone welcome, please share with your family and friends

# Library News



The annual Summer Reading Challenge was a huge success once again, with 190 children registering to read 6 books over the summer. 146 completed the challenge and have now received their Diplomas and Medals thanks to Maggie, who has worked tirelessly to finish this before the presentations in schools. Many of the library users will know that Maggie has stepped down as library coordinator. We thank her for her many years of hard work and dedication, especially through the Covid lockdowns and the complete refurbishment. She leaves the library lighter, brighter and better stocked, serving more members than ever.

Three other regular volunteers, Les, Julia and Tony, have decided not to continue and we also thank them so much for their help in many areas, again especially through the difficulties of the Covid pandemic and generally being prepared to help out at short notice when it was needed.

We have since welcomed a number of new and returning volunteers, but still need help. If you love books and talking to people, why not join the library volunteers? We are particularly looking for help on Wednesday afternoons. Email [waterbeachlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:waterbeachlibrary@gmail.com) or just pop in for a chat.

The library is currently in discussions with the primary school, Parish, District and County Councils about its future. As you may know, the current building which has served for 50 years is now coming to the end of its life and does not meet modern fire and safety regulations. As the library has 1,535 members across all generations, 710 of whom are under 18, it is the largest community group in Waterbeach. As such, it is vital that the library service is able to continue in the village, and to encourage residents in the new town to join us until they have their own facility. The volunteers together with Waterbeach School and the relevant councils are researching sources of funding for a replacement building.

The library will be open on Saturday 23 December, and then close for Christmas until Wednesday 3 January. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to serving the community in 2024!

## Waterbeach Scout Group

### Pop-Up Santa

Waterbeach Scouts will be returning to Waterbeach Green on Saturday 16 December for their annual Pop-Up Santa event. This year they will be joined by Waterbeach Brass Band who will delight us with their festive tunes.

Why not come along and join us for some festive cheer which cannot fail to get you into the Christmas spirit. Children will be able to visit with Santa whilst you enjoy warming refreshments and great music from 12:00 to 16:30 on Saturday 16 December. Free entry, donations welcome.



and the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all participated in the Act of Remembrance in the village laying creative wreaths of remembrance at the war memorial and carrying unit flags.



We were reminded why poppies are a symbol of remembrance and made paper poppies and painted stones remembering the sacrifices of the Armed Forces community past and present. 1<sup>st</sup> Waterbeach Brownies were lucky to learn some conservation cleaning techniques at St John's Church in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. They rolled up their sleeves and Holly Robinson, Historic

Autumn is always a beautiful time of year for crafting activities. 2<sup>nd</sup> Waterbeach Brownies reconnected with nature collecting conkers and acorns and created adorable woodland creatures, as well as taking part in the annual tradition of blackberry picking within the village.

During half term Rainbows held a hedgehog themed activity day making clay hedgehogs, hedgehog houses, sewing and baking hedgehog bread.



We have been fortunate with the help of several volunteers this term. Waterbeach Guides have been working on the Guiding history badge and thanks to the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum and Duxford Radio Trust, the Guides learnt the importance of Morse Code. They used a Second World War morse code machine to spell out their names and send a message to the museum volunteers which brought it all to life.

On another evening, our Guiding County President and archivist, Ann, brought vintage uniforms which the Guides were able to try on. Ann also taught the Guides some Semaphore and how to fold and carry the flag.

Caroline from Urban & Civic took the Brownies and Guides on a guided walk around the lake on the new Waterbeach site and they learnt about the ecology and heritage of the area.



Emma, a volunteer, at the Foodbank in Waterbeach visited 1<sup>st</sup> Brownies and played some thought provoking games with them and talked about what goes into a food parcel and why. The Brownies also brought in some donations for the foodbank.

Girlguiding Waterbeach have recently enjoyed creating decorations for the Landbeach Christmas Tree Festival. The Brownies and Guides are now getting excited about a shared joint Christmas outing to Tenpin bowling in Cambridge. All Girlguiding members look forward to Christmas craft activities, making Christmas crackers, citrus candles and all the excitement that the holiday season brings.

All of this is 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!

## **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 Theatre Company

Our final production of 2023 *Home, I'm Darling* has just taken place. Although she has directed our last two pantomimes. Kattreya Scheurer Smith, who has been with the society since she was six years old, made her directorial debut with a play and what a super job she made of it. Our review from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) said "Overall, I think Director Kattreya Scheurer Smith did a very professional job with this script giving us (the audience) a thought provoking and riveting evening's entertainment". Praise indeed and if you came along to see it we hope you enjoyed it too.



2024 is shaping up nicely as far as productions go.

In January our pantomime, written by Julie Petrucci & Chris Shinn is one of the "big five" of panto *Dick Whittington*, directed by Emma Bolton-Luckie, Choreographer Katherine Maltby, Musical Director, Roisin O'Shea.

Wicked Queen Rat wants to rule London Town. Oh yes she does! And she seems to be succeeding. But wait who's this? Dick Whittington with his faithful cat Tommy is on the scene. No more rats, they can now all live happily ever after. But no, it can't be that simple and of course it isn't. Will Sarah the Cook's cooking win over Cooke the ship's Captain? Will Dick and Alice become an item? Will Idle Jack ever do any work? Where the heck is Mycoco? Just what does happen to Queen Rat? The answer to these and other questions can be found at Waterbeach School between 25 and 27 January 2024. Tickets £12, under 16s £8. Family tickets (2 adults + 2 children) £35. Advance box office 01223 880023. Online [www.ticketsource.co.uk/wcp](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/wcp)

In May Chris Shinn takes over in the Director's chair with Pam Valentine's witty and poignant comedy *Spirit Level*. Famous crime writer Jack Cameron and his wife Susie drown in a boating accident. Jack is refused entry into heaven because he is a card carrying atheist, so he and Susie return to the country cottage where they had lived. It's a dull life and their only pleasure is to haunt the estate agent and frighten away any would-be tenants. Things change, however, when Susie persuades Jack to allow a young couple, Simon, an aspiring writer, and Felicity, his pregnant wife, to move in. Inevitably, Susie and Jack become drawn into their lives, and whilst Simon has writer's block, Marcia, Felicity's monstrous mother, is doing her best to separate them.

In November Martin George will direct *Come on Jeeves!* This time Bertie Wooster is abroad and Jeeves has been "hired out" as butler and bookie's clerk to an impoverished nobleman who practises turf accountancy...What can possibly go wrong.

WTC wish to thank patrons for their support throughout 2023 and send best wishes to you all for the coming festive season. We look forward to welcoming you again in 2024.

# WASPS



We are starting to feel very festive at WASPS, at the time of writing this article we've been busy preparing our entry into the Christmas Tree Exhibition at All Saint's Church, Landbeach. We have created our tree from egg boxes and painted them green; we will then decorate it with a variety of handmade decorations and lights! We have also been preparing for our stall at the PTA Winter Fair, we will raffle a Christmas hamper and have some festive tabletop games and items to sell. Both of these events will have already taken place by the time you receive this edition of Beach News, but we hope you were able to also attend these fantastic local events and join in some festive fun!

Earlier this term in October, we held our Annual General Meeting, which sadly didn't attract any new faces, our officers remain in position in the interim until we have new committee members to take on the roles. We have reached out again to our members, and we are grateful that a few people have shown interest in joining the Management Committee. We always encourage parents/carers to consider joining our Management Committee, a warm welcome will be received, and it's a great insight into your child's childcare. The day to day running of the club is taken care of by the Manager and Deputy, with the committee supporting in the background. No previous experience is necessary as a smooth handover will be provided and previous officers are able to offer support to those taking on the roles. To find out more please speak to a member of the team or email us. WASPS are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All positions are subject to enhanced DBS checks (for paid or voluntary roles).

The children took part in a variety of Autumn and Halloween themed activities during our October Half Term Holiday Club, including sewing pumpkins, making suncatcher decorations, edible spider webs, spooky strawberries, and leaf paintings. Our next Holiday Club dates are 21st and 22nd December and 4th and 5th January between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Full day, half day, and flexible bookings available. Look out for our activity timetable coming soon or contact us for more information.



Our garden area at the front of our building is in need of some attention at

the moment. If there are any keen gardeners who would be willing to volunteer their time to help tidy up the garden, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch on the email address below.

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 enquires 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.

## Gardening Club

Our first talk after we resumed our programme in September was given by Zsuzsa Serer who is an expert on orchids. She introduced our members to some interesting and unusual varieties and gave advice on the best way to help the plants to flourish. She brought many examples of orchids from her nursery which were available for members to buy. Several of us are now the proud owners of some spectacular new plants.

Our October meeting was the club's AGM. A new committee was elected, looking remarkably similar to the old committee! It was agreed that, in order to meet the increased costs of good quality speakers, the annual fee would be increased to £15 with the meeting fee remaining at £2. Visitors will continue to be welcome to attend up to three meetings per year and will be charged £5 per meeting. We meet at 7.45pm on the third Thursday of the month in St John's Church Room.

In November Jim Paine from the Walnut Tree Garden Nursery in Attleborough gave a thought-provoking talk entitled "Climate Change – the Long-Term Gardeners' Forecast". He gave us some practical suggestions for ways in which we can adapt to changing conditions as individual gardeners plus some suggestions for possible community activities. Watch this space!

We have no meeting in December to avoid clashing with Christmas Activities and in January we have our ever-popular New Year Social. Our evenings resume on February 15th when Lucy Skellorn will be talking about "My Family and Other Irises"

# Friends of All Saints Church, Landbeach (FOALs)

*Opening up our Parish Church building to community projects.*

*Great acoustics, space, good light, heritage, heating, servery, Wi-fi*

During the year, thanks to your generosity, we have been able to support the project to enhance the bell tower from a peal of four to a peal of six. The two new bells have now been cast, and you can see videos and photos of the casting process on the FOALs Facebook page. These new bells will have been on display in the church for the Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. They are then to be lifted and hung in the tower in time to ring for Christmas!



*The Bell Ringing Band who are looking forward to the installation of two new bells in December*

Our planned programme includes some novel and prospectively epic events. The programme from December is set out below; with dates for your diaries, please. *\*[Events in italics are not technically FOALs events, though we hope you may like to join them.]*

**Tues 19 Dec** - 7:30 for 8:00 pm *Beer & Carols in the Landbeach Sports & Social Club\**

**Sun 24 Dec** - 4:00 - 5:00 pm *Christingle\**

**Wed 7 Feb** - Evening Professional Wine Tasting with matching Cheeses

**Sat 27 April** - 6:00 - 7:30 pm Concert by St Augustine's Choir, with new piece written to be sung with bells, ahead of Bell Dedication service the next day; Sunday 28 April.

**Sun 28 April** - Morning *Dedication of Bells. With Bishop Dagmar, & New Piece for choir and bells.\**

**Sat 11 May** - 5:30 - 6:30pm Gig by the St John's Band [tbc]

**Sat 18 May** - 10:00 am-2:00 pm Garage Sale

**Sat 15 June** *Party in the Park\**

**Sat 13 July** - 2:00 - 4:00 pm Garden party

**Sat 21 Sept** - 7:00 – 10:00 pm Barn Dance in Village Hall

**Bell Ringing** - Ring our centuries-old bells in the ancient tradition of church bell ringing. Trial sessions by arrangement, and weekly expert tuition on Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 8:30 pm, ringing at both Landbeach and Horningsea. Please contact Barbara LeGallez on [blegallez@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:blegallez@yahoo.co.uk) or 01223 860283.

We hope you like our programme, and we look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as possible.

Contacts: [foals.info@gmail.com](mailto:foals.info@gmail.com) Hon Sec: Jane Oakes 07740 282387. Chair: John Buckley 01223 861836 Facebook: Landbeach Community, and FOALs.

# Waterbeach Cricket Club

## End of season review

It is probably fair to say that the club had a pretty average season, though it was not without some excitement in games that could have gone either way. The team did marginally better at home (which may or may not have been due to partisan crowds!) where 5 out of 7 games were won. All 6 away games resulted in defeats. Results improved as the season progressed, ending on the high note of winning the last 3 league games and the final friendly. This compared to losing the first 6 games. Final league placing was 10th out of 11: so not all bad news.

The highlight of the season was winning the home 'A10 derby match' (as we now refer to it) by beating Milton by 14 runs. In contrast, the disappointment of the season was losing a friendly game against Champs by 4 runs chasing a mere 65 to win. And in the game against Dobblers they won by hitting a 6 off the penultimate ball.

A total of 29 players represented the club during the season. This included three new players whom were welcomed into the ranks. It also included two very talented youngsters who played in the team with their Dads.

Prajwal Kumar was the highest run scorer with a total of 177 runs at an average of 29.5, and with the only 50 of the season. He also hit 22 off the last over of the innings in the win against Milton. In the field, skipper Rakesh Panigrahi, monopolised the action with 15 wickets at an average of 12.47, plus six catches and two run outs.

It could be said that the club's greatest loss occurred before the season started. In January Andrew Lane, the landlord of The Sun, collapsed and died suddenly. For many years he and his wife, Helen, had provided after-match refreshments, and were staunch supporters of the club in many ways. This included recruiting a team to play an annual friendly against the club in conjunction with Feast Day and Beer Festival.

It was agreed that this year's game should be played in Andrew's memory. Helen duly recruited a team as well as starring in the game itself. Invitations were extended to erstwhile club members/players and a number attended on the day. The club decided that match fees should be donated to a charity of Helen's choice and these were added to a collection made on the day. Subsequently, £120 was sent to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, which was involved on the day that Andrew died.

All this seems quite a while ago now, and with Christmas only a throw from the boundary away, we are looking forward to the 2024 season. If you or anybody you know would like to play cricket for the village club please join us; you will be very welcome. You can make contact via Rakesh (Captain) Tel 07521 061487: or Alasdair (Chair) Tel 07751 7860.<sup>^</sup>

*Steve Cardy* – Hon Treasurer

# Military Heritage Museum



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

## ***WMHM Open on the following dates:***

Sundays (Waterbeach Community Market days) December 17<sup>th</sup>, January 21<sup>st</sup>, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Then in March Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> (Market Day).

***Busy Autumn*** - It has been a busy period since our last article in Beach News, with visits to the museum by people who formerly served at Waterbeach, or their relative did. Only yesterday, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov., we were visited by, a former REME serving officer, whose grandfather, ground crew with 514 Squadron RAF, was fatefully thrown from a lorry near Alconbury Weston and run over, aged 50, leaving eight children. He had served in both world wars. Our visitor was pleased to see Grandad recorded in the Book of Remembrance in St Johns Church and on the memorial in the Museum.

***Tap it out*** - Since the installation of the replica Lancaster Wireless operators display, by our partners the Duxford Radio Trust (DRT), visitors have been interested to have a go at spelling out their name and hearing about the various electronic apparatus that was developed during the 1940's and on display.

We have been pleased to welcome Scouts and Guides who have used it to learn a little Morse Code to gain their Communications badge.

Members of DRT have come in to instruct the young people then take them through a small test to see if they can key in their first name on the Morse Key. This was overseen by a DRT member who had to be satisfied he could discern the correct letters. He was not primed with the names first so the young people had to work at getting it right. We hope the young people enjoyed the exercise. Each candidate was presented with a certificate which also had the Morse Code on it and the phonetic alphabet – Alpha for A, Bravo for B etc, which could be useful in life.



Hérons' Preschool paid a visit to the Museum on the 10<sup>th</sup> November. They had made a giant Poppy for the Remembrance weekend which we displayed in the foyer of the museum for our visitors to see. Well done, Herons! We will leave it there for a while for more people to view. The children were showed a gas mask for a baby to sit in and many enjoyed putting on service hats and having photographs taken. All children like doing that! Sometimes we get jackets out as well, which all adds to the memories of a visit.



**Help Needed** - The Museum is looking for people to help steward the museum during opening times and other tasks such as keeping the museum tidy and helping with the exhibits. We also would be grateful to find someone who would help with the artefacts data base which uses MODES programme. Contact us by email below in the first instance for more information

[waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org](mailto:waterbeachmilitarymuseum@waterbeach.org) or call Adrian on 01223 861846. Website: [www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk](http://www.waterbeachmilitarymuseum.org.uk)

Follow us on Facebook

*Adrian Wright* - WMHM Chairman

## Waterbeach WI



Waterbeach WI meets every second Thursday of the month at St. John's Church Room from 7.30pm. We have about 30 members and welcome visitors to join with us. We have a range of speakers, activities and social events, which hopefully appeal to women of all ages. In October, Ben Hudson, a local tree surgeon, told us of his time as a boxer. It was both informative and amusing and he was clearly a very good and highly respected boxer. He raises a lot of money for local charities.

Our members also took part in the October community village litter pick. We had an evening of craft activities in November, which included making Christmas tree decorations to prepare a couple of trees for the Christmas Tree Festival at Landbeach Church the first weekend in December. We now have edible iced gingerbread reindeer, stars and trees plus bead snowflakes and natural foliage and cone hangers.

We have a monthly book group and Knit/Craft and Natter group. Our walking group also meets monthly except for the winter season.

December 14<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas party with delicious shared victuals and entertainment from hand bell ringers and a seasonal quiz.

John Flood, a local historian, will give us a talk on Victorian Cambridge and the Riverside Pumping Station on January 11<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Frances Dipper, a marine biologist will give a talk entitled 'The Marine World - A Journey from the Shore to the Depths'.

Please come along and enjoy the company and friendship of the local WI.

# Salvation Army



**Vintage Tea Room** - Thank you to all who helped at our Vintage Tea Room in August. Thank you to all who baked, we had a wonderful variety on display, something for everyone, including those with food allergies. Thank you for coming and partaking of the yummy food that was available. It was great to get your comments about the authentic way it was set up, the beautiful china, a lot of which was donated by village folk, thank you all very much! We use lovely tablecloths, some of which are beautifully embroidered, some have matching serviettes, and we didn't run out so we didn't have to use the more modern paper ones. On Friday there was a steady flow of customers, Saturday was busier and we were getting a bit low on cake stands, so if anyone has one that they don't want, we would gratefully receive it and use it next year. I like to have little displays to add interest and this year we had a selection of Christening gowns from different eras and also a selection of Salvation Army historical memorabilia. For the children we had the castle complete with knights and horses, which all ages enjoyed setting up and as usual the farm was very popular, not forgetting our wooden pull-along duck, who had lots of walks around the tea room! There were games, books, comics and puzzles from the 1950's onwards. If anyone is interested, we have a selection of Annuals many 1990s and story books possibly 1940s and 50s for sale – please contact Angie 01223 571477. We also had some vintage items for sale, which added to the display. We have 1940s music, when I remember to put it on – no I don't have a gramophone! It's always in August, so watch out for the posters next year! Do come along, it's a time when you can step back in time, relax and enjoy.

**Remembrance Sunday** - As usual our Salvation Army Band was in attendance, providing the music at the War Memorial. The Army Cadets, the Baden Powell groups, The British Legion and The Salvation Army all brought their Standards and laid wreaths. Names were read from the Memorial by Rev. Norman Setchell, Waterbeach people who had given their lives for our freedom. The beginning and end of the 2 minutes silence was marked by our Bandmaster Joe McLelland playing the appropriate music on his cornet, beginning with The Last Post. We sang a hymn and then moved into Church for the rest of the service. It was well supported; it is good to share together as a village at this Remembrance Service. We will remember them.

**Craft Fair** - This was held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November and was very well attended. We observed the 2 minutes silence at 11 a.m. The stall holders had created a great variety of items, all beautifully displayed, a great way to do your Christmas shopping! There was a great variety of cakes, jams, chutneys and marmalades to tempt! Again, I would like to thank you for your support. The stall holders enjoy coming because it is a lovely atmosphere,

the food is good and everyone is so friendly. So it just shows what lovely people we have in our village.

Next year the Craft Fair will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

***The Exhibition of Nativity Scenes*** - Hopefully, many of you were able to attend this on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Over 200 Nativity Scenes from around the world were beautifully displayed. As always refreshments were available and there were activities for children. Try and come next year if you missed it, it's always the first Friday and Saturday in December.

Christmas Messy Church is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 3 p.m. Followed by tea!

The Salvation Army Carol Service is on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 4 p.m., followed by mince pies. Our Band and Choir (The Songsters) will be taking part. Come along and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. Bring your family and friends with you, we would love to see you.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January will be the first of our regular monthly Coffee Mornings 10 – 12. There will be the usual bacon rolls, scones and cake to accompany your hot or cold drinks and a cake stall. Come along with your friends and family, have a chat and enjoy good food.

We at The Salvation Army would like to thank you for all your help and support through this year, helping us to help others. We wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas and best wishes for 2024. God bless you all.

## Waterbeach Bowls Club

The 2023 season ended with most club members taking part in the annual competition for the Henry Burling cup on a beautiful afternoon in early September. After close competition the winner was Viv Doughty. In addition to the action on the green the members enjoyed fish and chips.

Towards the end of the season the pairs competition was played, but for a number of reasons the final could not take place. But it will take place at the beginning of next year's season.

A number of players have started playing indoors and joined one of the many leagues at the facility at Chesterton which is proving enjoyable. Short Mat bowls is also being played by some members in a league at Cottenham.

At the end of September there was good attendance at our Annual General Meeting. There was a wide ranging discussion with most members contributing. Some of the major items that were agreed were that two additional members should join the committee. Also that we would enter an additional team in the Cambridge Business House Open League and that we would revert to our traditional name of Waterbeach Bowls Club.

We will continue to ready ourselves for the next season. This will of course include welcoming new players. But anyone interested need not wait until 2024 and can contact Chris Rushmer on 07712940184.

# Autumn Litter Pick

Waterbeach Community Association have now decided to facilitate two litter picks each year as part of their community involvement.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> volunteers gathered in The Community Room on the old Barracks site ready to help spruce up our village.

We had ample equipment provided by the council and many people had their own litter picking sticks because they kindly already tidy up their own streets.

We assign routes on the day when we see how many volunteers arrive and we consider the safety of any children present. Children and accompanying parents /carers are assigned quieter areas. The children do enjoy litter picking and one boy asked his mother to buy him a litter picker so that he could do more to help.



We have designated drop-off points throughout the village for the bags of rubbish and so there is no need for anyone to carry rubbish for any great distance.

We collected about 40 bags of rubbish, but we could have far exceeded that number with more helpers. Please do consider volunteering when we have the Spring Litter Pick in March next year.

Everyone enjoyed the drinks and snacks kindly provided by Urban&Civic at the end of the event. People chatted and many of us got to meet new people. Afterwards it was nice to hear from various villagers that they noticed the village looking tidier. Please do come and join in next time.

*Caroline Ward and Sheila Burke* – On behalf of Waterbeach Community Association

# Herons' Preschool



Did you know that Herons' is a fantastic Preschool for children aged 2-5 years old right in the heart of the village? We have an amazing purpose built building and fabulous outside area as well as onsite Forest School. Our preschool is open from 8.30-3pm and hosts a Holiday Club in the Easter and Summer holidays- want to know more? Contact us on [info@heronspreschoolwaterbeach.org](mailto:info@heronspreschoolwaterbeach.org) to find out what makes us special or read on to see what we get up to.

At Herons' Preschool we have had a very busy start of the term. We have welcomed lots of lovely new families to the preschool and have enjoyed getting to know the children.

We have also been busy in the community this term with a trip to the local library and to The Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum. We love to get out and about, showing the children things in our local environment that they may not see on the way to our destination.

Our first trip was to the library on a beautiful sunny afternoon. After a short walk from the preschool to the school site - which we enjoyed immensely looking at all the cars, houses and general sights, we made it to the library and were welcomed in by the Librarians. We



enjoyed some free time looking at the books- finding those books that were familiar to us and some that weren't, looking at non-fiction and some very big books too! We chose some amazing books to take back to Herons' and enjoyed a few stories read to us by the Librarian. With our bags bulging we then made our way back to Herons' to enjoy the books we had borrowed.

As part of our 'Poppy Week' we took the children over to Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum - not too far for us to walk! We enjoyed looking at all the exhibits and getting hands on with some of the items. We especially liked to try on the hats, use the old-fashioned telephone and have a go at morse code. We then gave over a handmade poppy to say thank you. This is a fantastic place to see the history of the area and the children really were engaged in seeing all the items- well worth a visit if you can.

The rest of this term will be about Christmas, and we have some great activities planned. We are also taking part in the Landbeach Christmas Tree Festival Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, so please do pop by to see our beautiful tree.

We are always looking for Trustees to join the fantastic group of superhero Trustees that we currently have. If you think this maybe something that you would like to be part of and work alongside our amazing staff team to make Herons' such a great place to be, please email Diane on [heronspreschool.chair@gmail.com](mailto:heronspreschool.chair@gmail.com)

# Waterbeach Fun Dog Show

*"What an amazing day I had at the show. Friendly people, beautiful dogs. The rosettes, prizes and trophies are outstanding. I have the privilege of looking after the George McDermott cup for a year and I will treasure it in that time. Thank you for organising a brilliant show"*

*"Lovely day and thank you to everyone involved, fab show as always"*

*"We had such a great time. Never been to a dog show before, our dogs and children loved it and it was so well organised, it really was about fun and dogs. The food stalls were delicious too. All for good causes as well. Roll on next year!"*

This year's show raised a whopping £760! which has been split between Woodgreen Animal Shelter, Cambridge Army Cadets and Animal Craziness. Herons Playgroup provided a great array of scrummy cakes and a tombola, to raise money for their growing community facilities. There were only a few crumbs left!

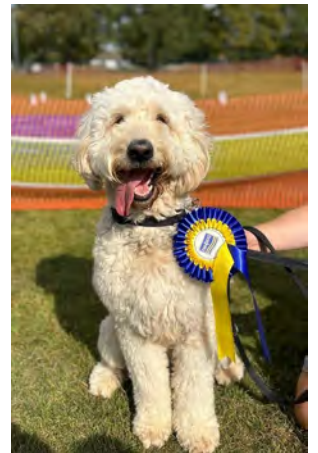
It was wonderful to bring the show back after having to cancel due to the summer heat wave: people definitely brought along their fun, generosity and community spirit. It was clear to see we have a village of many much loved waggy tails!

Most dogs went home with a ribbon and/or prize and 16 trophies are now proudly displayed in new homes. A pleasure to see so many dogs enjoying social time together.

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. 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.

Some people made use of the outing to enjoy a good picnic with friends and some made the most of the delicious Italian street food van. Many people enjoyed Herons Preschool's homemade cakes and the numerous small local business, craft, photographers and animal related stalls, whether they had a dog or not. We were joined by Suffolk Owl Rescue and thanks to Woodgreen this year we had a have-a-go dog agility zone which was very popular. Thank you for showing all our stall holders your support.

Thank you to everyone who came along to make the show a success for the show beneficiaries and enormous thanks to the many local businesses and stall holders for supporting the show, without whose amazingly kind generosity we would not be able to run the show each year. We are enormously grateful.



Thank you too to the Cambridge Army Cadets who kindly give their time to help us make it happen.

Lastly but by no means least, in fact quite the opposite, thank you to all the doggies, who brought their two-legged families out, for a brilliant day out with us.

Waterbeach Fun Dog Show will be back again next year - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024!

Keep your *Paws at The Ready* and an eye on the Facebook page (Waterbeach Fun Dog Show) and Beach News for further details.

*Jude* – Organiser

## Happy Folks Club

Well, here we are again at that time of year where everyone's focus is on Christmas with the family, presents and all the glitter that goes with it. Here at The Happy Folks Club we have an exciting run up to the festive season before the big man in his red suit tumbles down our chimneys. First of all, though, let's catch up with events since the last issue of Beach News.

In September we spent an exciting, and sometimes emotional, Sunday in Sheringham at their 40's weekend. It was an amazing sight to see lots of people dressed in 40's era clothes and uniforms. Everyone was in a good mood and the parade down the high street was welcomed with applause and cheering from the multitude of spectators.

Next on the list was a Christmas shopping day in Norwich. The weather wasn't too kind but walking through the city was a pleasant surprise as it was the first time the writer of this article had visited Norwich.

Now for the run up to Christmas.

At the beginning of December we will be holding our Club Christmas Party with music, plenty of food and maybe the odd drink or two.

The middle of December will be our yearly visit to the Thursford Christmas show. This is always an amazing show where we will be highly entertained by the various acts, dancers and singers. On the way there we will be stopping at a local hostelry for lunch.

On the last Friday in December we will be feasting on cake and singing carols. Sometimes difficult to do both at the same time but strangely promotes a better tone.

Also planned is a New Year's dinner in January.

That's all we have for now so on behalf of us all at the Club, we would like to wish everyone in Waterbeach, Landbeach and Chittering a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

On a final note, our club meets every Friday 1.30 – 4.00 pm for a raffle, auction and bingo.

*Terri Spencer* – Vice Chairperson

# Waterbeach Surgery

I would like to wish all of our patients and services users a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

We have seen many new additions to the surgery team over the last few months, we have welcomed Dr Rasa Hampson our salaried GP, and Barbara Buckley our new clinical pharmacist. Both have received very positive feedback since they have started with us at Waterbeach Surgery.

During the year we have completed the additional room space so now have an extra clinical room. This was supported by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Urban&Civic.

We have recently updated our website, which is now easier to navigate with more up-to-date and relevant information. As a practice we have looked at the advantages of having a Facebook page, and developed one with an outside agency to manage this for us, so again the information is relevant and up to date.

Looking at current systems, we have now introduced a new process for Medical Insurance reports. We will be using a third party to complete these reports and for this we need consent from patients. The details are available on the Practice website.

We have introduced an improved text messaging system. This will give us the ability to send appointment reminder text messages, with an option for you to cancel if you no longer need the appointment. We hope this will reduce high Did Not Attend (DNA) levels. This new system will also allow us to send a Friends & Family Feedback test to you once your appointment is complete. This will enable us to monitor your feedback in a more precise way.

We will be installing a new phone system in the early New Year, further updates will be given once I have more information. I would ask patients who are calling for a non-urgent appointment or other reason to call after 10 am as this may reduce the waiting time for you.

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

We are no longer allowed to prescribe medications that can be purchased over the counter. This is because of government policy to reduce the amount of money the NHS spends on prescriptions for treating minor conditions. If you are wanting help or advice about this please ask. Please be aware that

we do not take prescription orders over the phone. If you require a repeat prescription you will need to put this in writing and place it in the letterbox at the entrance of the surgery or take it to reception and allow 5 working days for it to be processed.

Please can patients who have a smart phone or tablet device consider using the NHS App, as it enables you to order your prescription online without using paper and it reduces work load for the prescription clerks. You can find the App on the App store or, for Android, on the Play Store. The practice currently has a 64% take up of patients using on-line access which is very helpful.

For your information the table below shows the activity within the surgery for September and October 2023.

	September 2023	October 2023
Appointments Offered	2387	2932
Face to Face Appointment	954	1172
Telephone Appointments	1433	1760
Did Not Attend	150 = 15.00hrs of missed appointments	125 = 12.5hrs of missed appointments
Telephone calls	5287	6187

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

I constantly get challenged on why are there no appointments available, and you can see by the numbers above that over the last 2 months, September & October, in total 275 Appointments were missed. This is equal to 27.5 hours of lost appointments that could have been available to other patients.

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

The surgery team 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

# Cam Sight

Imagine your world in darkness. How would it feel to walk around your local village and not be able to see the faces of those saying good morning to you? How would you cope if you couldn't read the words on a page anymore? And at Christmas, how would you feel not being able to see the look on your family's faces when they're opening their Christmas presents?

That is the reality of all the clients we work with at Cam Sight. Our clients have either been suffering with health problems which have caused their eye health to deteriorate over time, or in some cases, have completely lost their sight in a short period of time.

Cam Sight is here to support anyone affected by sight loss living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

We have a small, yet mighty team, who can offer emotional support through dedicated services. We run regular groups, activities and social events, to give those people who have lost their sight the opportunity to meet others who are going through similar experiences.

We are a charity which has been helping people with sight loss challenges for over 100 years, and we aim to empower our clients to continue to live fulfilled and independent lives.

In Waterbeach this summer we were touched by the support for your local resident, Josh Mackriell, who completed the Northstowe 10km run in aid of Cam Sight. Having lost his sight overnight last year, at just the age of 29, due to diabetic retinopathy, Josh came to Cam Sight looking for extra assistance. Our team helped to make improvements in his home, adopting new technology and providing suggestions on how to navigate around his home safely. We continue to support him through one-to-one emotional

support sessions, and everyone at Cam Sight were so proud to see him completing the Northstowe run and raising a massive £5650.00 for our services team.

Donations to our charity mean we continue to deliver our vital services helping those people affected with visual impairment such as your local resident, Josh Mackriell. And we can't thank you enough for any support you may be able to offer whether big or small.

If you want to know more about our work, you can visit our website [www.camsight.org.uk](http://www.camsight.org.uk) [1] or follow us on Instagram @cam\_sight or Facebook Cam Sight.



# Waterbeach in the News

We have recently been looking through past editions of Beach News and came across this article in No. 47, Oct - Nov 1979.

## ***Robbery at Waterbeach 1793***

I thought readers might be interested in a story I came across whilst looking through micro-film records of the *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Lion Yard.

The edition of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1793 carried the following item:

The house of Mr. Frohock, of Causeway (sic) end in the parish of Waterbeach, has several times lately been attempted to be robbed; and on Monday night a man was observed endeavoring (sic) to get in at a chamber window, when he was resolutely opposed by the servant girl, who struck him twice with a hatchet, and wounded him in the arm, which we hope may lead to a discovery of the offender.

In the same paper, John Frohock inserted an advertisement offering 10 guineas reward for information relating to the robbery (or for spotting someone with a bad arm!). Ten guineas was a considerable sum in those times, indicating the extent of Mr Frohock's wealth and, perhaps, the great value of the items stolen.

At least he was spared his ten guineas! The pare of 28<sup>th</sup> December referred to the same incident. After a reprise of the details, it was reported

Several suspicious circumstances, in the course of last week arose, tending to criminate (sic) the servant-maid herself, who, in order to establish her evidence, is said to have cut off the head of a fowl, to make a show of blood, when she pretended to cut the arm of a man; upon further examination, she was committed to the castle.

Why did she steal? Probably because she was a poor member of a poor family in a time when the price of corn, and therefore bread, was high, and the only people with anything worth stealing, at least in Waterbeach, were farmers like John Frohock.

*John Beresford*

# Waterbeach Baptist Church

***Festive Carol Night, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.*** For one night only, join us for a candlelit evening of singing your favourite carols played on our heritage chapel organ, whilst enjoying mulled wine and some Christmas treats.

***Family Carol Service, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.*** Kick off the Christmas weekend with our carol service on Christmas Eve morning. Find out who is the Star of the show and hear from our special reporter in Bethlehem.

Christmas snacks served after the service.

***Christmas Day Service, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.*** Our doors will be open for a warm welcome on Christmas morning. We'd love to see you there!

# Foodbank



Waterbeach Distribution Centre (part of Ely Foodbank)

*“The current amount of Universal Credit people are receiving has no bearing on basic human needs. It is meant to be a safety net, but this net is full of very big holes, which people are falling through thick and fast and ending up in crisis.”* Ian Oulton, Trustee, West Cheshire Foodbank.

Shocking new figures recently released from the Trussell Trust in their Mid-Year Stats show that 1.5 million emergency food parcels were given to people experiencing hardship across the UK between April and September 2023 - more than ever before for this six-month period. A record 540,000 food parcels were provided for more than 265,000 children living in families who could not afford the essentials.

Emma Revie, Chief Executive at the Trussell Trust, said:

*“These statistics are extremely alarming. An increasing number of children are growing up in families facing hunger, forced to turn to foodbanks to survive. A generation is growing up believing that it’s normal to see a foodbank in every community. This is not right.*

*Rising hunger and hardship have devastating consequences for individuals and our communities, damage the nation’s health and hold back our economy. People in work, as well as people who cannot work, are increasingly being pushed into debt and forced to turn to a foodbank to survive.”*



Waterbeach Distribution Centre, (part of Ely Foodbank) is supporting the Trussell Trust and Joseph Rowntree Foundation campaign ‘Guarantee our Essentials’. You might have visited our stall on the Village Green in September when we were raising awareness of the huge

financial gap faced by those receiving Universal Credit and the actual cost of paying for essentials such as food, travel, toiletries, clothes and bills.

If you too would like to join us in signing and sharing the petition, you can do so via <https://action.trusselltrust.org/guarantee-our-essentials-petition-fb> or scan the QR code included here using your smart phone. You may already have signed up during the Christmas



Tree Festival at All Saints' Church, Landbeach at the beginning of December. We are very grateful to the Salvation Army, St John's Church and Herons' Preschool who collected items for the Foodbank as part of their Harvest celebrations, together with 1<sup>st</sup> Waterbeach Brownies who kindly donated during an evening meeting when a member of the Distribution Centre visited to talk about our work. Waterbeach WI have also given generously at a recent meeting and we are grateful for all these donations.

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)

Donations of food, toiletries and dog/cat food can be left at the Baptist Chapel whenever it's open or during Foodbank sessions there on Thursdays 11.00 - midday.

A big 'Thank you' to all the village residents and others who pop in throughout the year and fill up our donations box. You can also find a donation bin in the One Stop and one should soon appear in the Co-op and The Village Stores. We know that last winter was hard and it's set to look like even more people will need our support this year.

## **Update from Lucy Frazer MP**

As we approach the end of 2023, I wanted to look back on the year and let you know about some of the work I have been doing for you as your local Member of Parliament.

2023 has been a year of highs and lows. I think most people would join me in recognising the coronation of Charles III and Camilla in May as a memorable highlight. As the first coronation in seventy years, the event was always bound to be a special occasion, but I was moved by the many displays of national unity and celebration I witnessed over the Bank Holiday weekend.

However, for all of its wonderful moments, the year has presented us with challenges. Not only have we had a second year of war in Ukraine, but another conflict has commenced in the Middle East.

I also know how important quality healthcare is to my constituents. That's why I have been working with my neighbouring MP, Anthony Browne, and senior leaders at Addenbrooke's Hospital to secure a new cancer hospital at Cambridge Biomedical Campus. I am delighted that the government has approved the Outline Business Case for the Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital. This is a significant milestone in plans to build a new specialist cancer research hospital, which will have a regional, national and global impact. I continue to campaign for the funding required to deliver a new children's hospital on the same site, which would be a world-first specialist facility for children and young people.

As MP for a largely rural constituency, I also appreciate the need for effective bus services. Following my efforts at the end of last year to prevent Stagecoach from axing or significantly altering 23 local bus routes, I was pleased to assist the Combined Authority with the retendering of bus services for at least another 12 months from April 2023. Recently, I have written to the Mayor to call him to identify how he intends to utilise the new £2.3 million government funding for Cambridgeshire's bus network. I also continue to press Stephensons to alter the No.9 route to mitigate the problems currently experienced by residents trying to get to Milton.

Meanwhile, I am delighted that following an extensive study and representations by myself and others, the East West Rail link will not take the northern route, which would have affected residents of Waterbeach and Landbeach.

I have campaigned for better transport since I was elected in 2015, and so I am also pleased that Waterbeach and Landbeach are due to benefit from the first phase of the government's £5 billion 'Project Gigabit' in the next few months. The project to instal next-generation broadband will break ground this quarter, with connections starting early next year.

This year, I have had the chance to visit the Waterbeach Barracks development on several occasions. In August, I went along to the wonderful Arts Festival before visiting the fantastic homelessness charity, New Meaning Foundation, a few weeks later to meet some of the work experience participants. At the end of September, I then met with Urban&Civic to discuss the vision for Waterbeach New Town and to express my commitment to seeing the necessary infrastructure built to accompany the incoming demand for services. In October, I then spoke to several business owners in the centre of Waterbeach about the challenges they are facing and how I could best support them as their local MP.

I am very disappointed that the Post Office has not been able to deliver a service to my constituents for the best part of a month now, and only informed my office last week of this - three weeks after its closure on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

I know that many local residents rely on these services every day, especially those who are elderly or vulnerable and cannot easily access another branch. That's why I have, written to the Royal Mail Group to call on the Post Office to reinstate a like-for-like replacement service for Waterbeach as soon as possible. In the meantime, I have asked that the period of closure is kept to a minimum, given the nearest alternative branch is over two miles away in Milton. I will continue to monitor the situation and update my constituents on the responses I receive.

I wish you all the best for the rest of the year. And, as always, please do not hesitate to contact me on [lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk) if I can support you in any way.

# Fen Edge Twinning Association

The Fen Edge Twinning Association held its first Quiz Night since COVID on September 29<sup>th</sup> this year. The event was a great success in that it raised over £500 and a lot of people enjoyed a fun evening out.

Enormous thanks are due to:- The “anonymous benefactor” who paid the cost of hiring the lovely new Cottenham Village Hall. Nathalie Morgan, who brought all of the refreshments back from France and organised their preparation and service. Andrew Snelson, who provided the questions. Kit Kilgour, who compered the evening. All of the volunteers who helped to set up the hall, prepare and serve refreshments, meet and greet our guests and run the raffle. And last but not least, all of the local businesses who donated prizes. Cottenham Reflexology by Georgiana, Les Ward Greengrocers and Cottenham Coop. The Bushel Box, Lot 25 Cafe and Rumbles Fish Bar (Willingham) and Foxhay English Cider.

The money raised will go a long way towards the cost of entertaining our French visitors when they next come to the Fen Edge in May 2024. Our visitors are hosted by members of the Association, who provide food, accommodation and informal entertainment, entirely at their own expense, but the association likes to arrange formal group events (a formal reception, a visit to a local place of interest, some form of group entertainment) , and it is nice to be able to give our guests a small gift as a souvenir of their visit. It is these formal activities that our funds raised together with any grants received, will help to pay for.

The association is always happy to welcome new members. To qualify, you must live in one of the fen edge villages (Waterbeach, Landbeach, Cottenham or Willingham) and you must want to join us.

## Wicken Fen

***Winter Wildlife Watching*** - Groups of winter thrushes are creating colourful sights and chattering sounds around the reserve. Corvids can be seen swirling overhead, particularly in the later afternoon just before dusk. There have been regular sightings of short-eared owls and large numbers of lapwing too, so it's a great time for getting your binoculars out, pulling on some wellies, and heading to the Fen for some wildlife watching.

***Father and Mother Christmas*** - At the time of going to press we have a few tickets left for midweek and Mother Christmas dates. See our website 'What's On' section for more details and to book.

***Wicken Fen's Twelve Creatures of Christmas*** - Explore the Woodland Walk and experience our new Winter Trail – our take on the classic carol, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. No French Hens or Gold Rings, but lots of the creatures that call Wicken Fen home.

Can you spot all the animals from each line of our carol? Games and activities to enjoy along the way. No need to book, drop in with family and friends to enjoy some festive fun.

**Christmas and New Year Opening** - As usual, we are open every day over the festive season apart from Christmas Day. The Visitor Centre and shop are open from 10am to 4:30pm, and the Docky Hut Café is open from 10am to 4pm. It's a great time to get together with family and friends to stretch your legs in a beautiful place, and warm up afterwards with a hot drink and a snack or treat in the café.

**Wicken 125 project: Future Artefacts ceramics exhibition** - We had a great response to the ceramic's workshops held over the summer at a variety of locations including Wicken Fen, Ely Market and Burwell Carnival. Over 300 artefacts were created, and we are holding an exhibition at Babylon Gallery in Ely for the month of January. You'll be able to see the artefacts and artwork by local creatives that were inspired by Wicken Fen and the fen landscape. If you came to a workshop, your piece will be displayed at the gallery, and there will be the opportunity to collect your artwork at the end of the month. See our website for more information about the exhibition.

## Waterbeach Life Drawing

Waterbeach now has a weekly life drawing venue! Local artist, Peter Sutton, set up the group last May to offer residents the chance to draw the figure from life. It takes place in **The Community Rooms at Waterbeach Barracks on Thursday's, 7:30-9:30pm.**

There's a relaxed atmosphere with no tuition, just an unclothed model with drawing boards supplied. The meeting is open to beginners and more seasoned artists equally and many of the current attendees exhibited this year at the Waterbeach arts festival, Summer at the Beach. Life drawing is having a resurgence nationally but has always been widely recognised as the foundation of art education.

One of the primary advantages of drawing from life lies in the enhancement of observational skills. Drawing from a live model provides artists with the opportunity to closely study the human form in three dimensions. Beyond technical proficiency, figure drawing encourages artistic expression and creativity. The immediacy of working within a limited time frame encourages a dynamic and responsive approach to the creative process. Artists often find that life drawing sessions serve as a source of inspiration, pushing them to explore new techniques and styles.

There is a strong artistic community in Waterbeach and the group offers a collaborative experience and the opportunity to learn from one another's unique perspectives. So, no matter your proficiency, you will be made welcome. There's also tea and biscuits!

Contact Peter Sutton [petersuttonartist@gmail.com](mailto:petersuttonartist@gmail.com) for further details.

We have recently been looking through past editions of Beach News and came across this poem written by Jack Harding, a former local resident.

### ***Short of .....***

*At Christmas time I always find  
The days are much too short  
Too short, in spite of all my plans  
To do the things I ought*

*Too short to look around a bit  
And choose my gifts with care  
Until at last I feel inclined  
To give up in despair*

*Too short to buy that special card  
For dear old Auntie Flo  
And get the steps from out the shed  
To hang the mistletoe*

*Too short to fill the piggy bank  
And ice the homemade cake  
And make a pudding rich and large  
Like Mother used to make*

*Too short to buy a proper bird  
Or see to this and that  
And get old Grandad's ounce of shag  
And something for the cat*

*And though we pride ourselves a bit  
The Christmas tree is bought  
We find when fixing up the lights  
The flex is far too short*

*And jostled by the noisy crowds  
Around the shops we dash  
Then when we find the 'Very thing'  
We find we're short of cash*

*And having written all the cards  
And switched off all the lamps  
Quite suddenly the thought occurs  
We're short of postage stamps*

*Then singing carols round the tree  
We've quickly had enough  
For just half way through 'Silent Night'  
We find we're short of puff*

*And for the children, bless them all  
Their sleep is far too short  
When waking up at three o'clock  
To see what Santa's brought*

*And though this verse of mine is short  
It's not too short to say  
I hope that joy and happiness  
Will bless your Christmas Day*



Jack Harding – 1979

# No brollies, blag or blare...

Do all tourist guides wave brollies about? There is one species which doesn't: try to spot them in Cambridge – because you shouldn't hear them too loudly. Most of Cambridge's official tourist guides are so passionate about what they do that visitors just want to listen to tales of our Fen-Edge world – and Silicon Fen itself. We need to be crystal clear – but not to disturb anybody studying or working! We don't wag umbrellas. We don't shout. We do try to unfold Cambridge to the world.

Being a Blue or Green Badge Guide for Cambridge opens doors: because of a special relationship with both Town and Gown we are often permitted to take groups to parts of the city not always open to general public. To foster that relationship we sometimes volunteer our interpretive skills for events such as Open Cambridge, or Bridge The Gap. What is required of us is that we 'know our stuff', stay sensitive to our groups and their safety, and conform to Institute of Tourist Guides standards. We share the history, the stories, the fun! Modestly, we get paid, even!

The Society of Cambridge Tourist Guides support us and keep us informed. Monthly meetings are a chance to listen to hand-picked and expert speakers: it's through the lecture on Cambridge in World War One that I was inspired to help commemorate the centenary of our War Memorial here in Waterbeach, with our community Poppy Installation. An illustrated talk about Hobson's Conduit was the nudge for the Eco-Textile last autumn, alerting us that water-stress is in this area, too.

Meetings are a chance to share information with guides from every imaginable background. Allan Brigham is still remembered here in Waterbeach: originally a street-sweeper in Cambridge, his enthusiasm for the city resulted in an Honorary Degree because of his contribution to the city. New to Cambridge itself, my training opened up a whole friendship network, and even a chance to build some language skills. There is an increment for Guides competent in a modern foreign language.

If History and Heritage are something you soak up but also want to share, you may like to know that the chance to qualify as a City of Cambridge Tour Guide comes up again in 2024. You can attend an open morning to find out more Saturday 10 Feb, 10.00-12.00, Upper Hall, St Paul's Church, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1JP or contact the training team on [training@cambridgegreenbadge.org.uk](mailto:training@cambridgegreenbadge.org.uk) The training itself begins in September.

*Angela Brown*- ITG [Associate] Green Badge

## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

1 <sup>ST</sup> WATERBEACH BROWNIES	Tiffany Langton - <a href="mailto:1stwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com">1stwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>ND</sup> WATERBEACH BROWNIES	Penny Clay - <a href="mailto:2ndwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com">2ndwaterbeachbrownies@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>ST</sup> WATERBEACH GUIDES	Louise Campbell - <a href="mailto:1stwaterbeachguides@gmail.com">1stwaterbeachguides@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>ST</sup> WATERBEACH RAINBOWS	June Stephen - 07956 949964
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
CAM SAILING CLUB	Cath Lindon - 07950 709921
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON	Alasdair Pentland - 07751 786040
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SECRETARY	Pam Clack - 07367 123110
FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LANDBEACH (FOALS)	Jane Oaks - 07740 282387
FRIENDS OF WORTS MEADOW LANDBEACH	Frances Dipper - 01223 861836
HAPPY FOLKS CLUB	Stuart Atkins - 07964 129623
HERONS' PRESCHOOL	Angela Impey - 01223 863245
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WATERBEACH & LANDBEACH	TBC
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH	Rev. Paul Butler - 07903 904599
WASPS (WATERBEACH AFTER SCHOOL PLAY SCHEME)	Sarah Heil - 07858 975397
WATERBEACH & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB	Jerry Cooper - 01223 574050
WATERBEACH BADMINTON CLUB	<a href="mailto:davidpdurston@gmail.com">davidpdurston@gmail.com</a>
WATERBEACH BAPTIST CHAPEL	Angela Ensell - 01223 862494
WATERBEACH BOWLS CLUB	William Clough - 07963 137913
WATERBEACH BRASS	David Pell - 01223 860396
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP	Fiona Thomas - 01223 440769
WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.A	Siobhan Brixey - 01223 718988
WATERBEACH CRICKET CLUB	Alasdair Pentland - 07751 786040
WATERBEACH DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY	Mary Longstaff - 01223 564666
WATERBEACH INDEPENDENT LENDING LIBRARY (WILL)	Barbara Le Gallez - 01223 860283
WATERBEACH MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM	Adrian Wright - 01223 861846
WATERBEACH PARISH COUNCIL	Parish Clerk - 01223 441338
WATERBEACH SALVATION ARMY	Captain Angela Wilson - 07469 658377
WATERBEACH THEATRE COMPANY	Julie Petrucci - 01223 880023
WATERBEACH VILLAGE SOCIETY	Mike Lynch - 01223 863946
WATERBEACH WI	Viv Cooper - 01223 574050
WAY YOUTH CLUB (WATERBEACH & LANDBEACH ACTION FOR YOUTH)	Caroline Ward - 07749 738870
WOODLAND TRUST - COW HOLLOW WOOD	Adrian Wright - 07710 710289

### 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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[www.wtconline.org.uk](http://www.wtconline.org.uk)

# Waterbeach

The former barracks and airfield at Waterbeach offer a range of community facilities for local groups including:

• Sports Hall • Studio • Tennis Courts • Squash Courts • Community Rooms

For more information and to book please contact:

[hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk)



- 1 Sustainable Travel Hub
- 2 Space for imaginative play
- 3 The Causeway
- 4 Deneia Primary Academy
- 5 Wild Woods Play Area
- 6 Allotments (coming in 2026)
- 7 Waterbeach Gardens
- 8 Lake
- 9 Community centre, café and interim health centre (coming in 2024)
- 10 1.2km lake loop
- 11 Memorial Park
- 12 Sports Hall & The Playground assault course
- 13 Mere Way cycle route
- 14 Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum
- 15 Squash courts
- 16 Tillage Way cycle route
- 17 Waterbeach Causeway

— Walking and cycling routes

## Find out more

Urban&Civic are keen to work with the community to keep you informed and give you the opportunity to shape the development of this special place. If you, or your local group would like to find out more, meet us for a coffee and have a tour of the site contact:

[hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk)



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