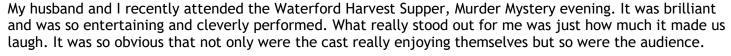
# PARISH NEWS

## The Beane Valley Benefice

www.achurchnearyou.com

St Mary the Virgin Aston, St Andrew's Bramfield, St Mary the Virgin Stapleford, St Michael and All Angels Waterford, St Andrew and St Mary Watton at Stone

## November 2025





This made me realise just how rarely today we really have a proper laugh. I know that there is so much sadness and fear around us that it may seem we have nothing much to laugh about or even that we shouldn't laugh if something amuses us. However, even if life is difficult, it can make us feel so much better if we can find something to laugh or smile about. We need to get back to our inner child and laugh at silly things or things that just make us giggle.

When we share something with others, we hope that that they too will enjoy the joke but of course we can't always be sure that will be the case. Misunderstandings can and do occur and sometimes people will read quite the wrong meaning into what may just be a throw away comment. Criticism may be inferred when it isn't meant and rather than humour this can lead to upset or even a falling out.

We may feel that people are suspicious of us when all we are trying to do is help. Our sense of humour may be very different to someone else's, and we may even cause offence when none was meant. People may make fun of us in the belief that they are just being friendly when we may feel hurt. Often, we may laugh because we don't want the embarrassment of admitting that we have been made to feel uncomfortable, but that may leave us with feelings of resentment. However perhaps it is best to be honest straight away but not to retaliate in a way that makes the situation worse. Humour, again, can play a very important part in putting things right, but it's not always easy. As someone who is quite short, I am used to comments like-'stand up we can't see you' when of course I am already standing up. I am used to being small and it doesn't worry me, so I usually make a comment of my own so that people laugh with me not at me.

Wouldn't life be so much easier if we all tried to put ourselves in someone else's shoes and be empathetic to their needs and feelings. In the Bible there are several passages which try to guide us in how to behave towards each other

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." - Luke 6:31

"Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." - Colossians 3:12

And perhaps the most well known

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Matthew 22:39

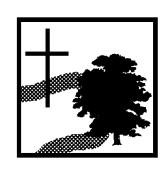
We can't solve all the world's problems, but we can make our own part of the world a better place by smiling at strangers, saying good morning to people we meet on the street or being patient when the person in front of us in the queue seems to be taking forever. Seeing situations from someone else's point of view

can make us more tolerant of the needs of others and of course finding humour in a situation will often help. We can't be perfect and won't get it right every time, but we can try to pass kindness around. If we brighten someone's day it makes us feel better but also makes them more likely to pass that kindness on to someone else. Just like a stone making ripples in the water so our kind acts can spread far and wide and make life better for all whose lives are touched by the unselfish love of others.



May God bless you Janet Bird







## Beane Valley Benefice Services November 2025

## **ALL** are welcome

Until the vacancy of Rector to The Beane Valley Benefice is filled following Rev Jenny's retirement, the Churchwardens of each church will be responsible for organizing services. Therefore, services may vary each month.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> November ALL SOULS start of 'Missing You

#### Trees'

11am Aston Family Service11am Watton Contemporary Service11.15am Stapleford Prayer and PraiseNo service in Bramfield and Waterford today



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

9th November

**10.45am Aston** Annual Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial

followed by service in Church

**10.45am Bramfield** Joint Remembrance Service for Bramfield, Stapleford and Waterford

**10.45am Watton** Annual Service of Remembrance with uniformed groups in Church ending with procession to the War Memorial

No service in Stapleford and Waterford today and no Contemporary Service in Watton

#### 16<sup>th</sup> November

**11am Aston** Holy Communion

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service

11.15am Stapleford Prayer and Praise

11.15am Waterford Morning Prayer

No service in Bramfield today

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> November

**9.30am Watton** Holy Communion

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service

**11.15am Bramfield** Prayer and Praise

11.15am Stapleford Holy Communion

No service in Aston and Waterford today

## 30<sup>th</sup> November

**11am Watton** Contemporary Service

11.15am Bramfield Holy Communion

4pm Watton CHRISTINGLE with blessing of oranges and collection for the CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



No service in Aston, Stapleford or Waterford today

For all enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals, burial of ashes, blessings, confirmation or offers to help, please contact the relevant Churchwardens (details on back page)

## **Midweek Services**



**Bramfield Open Church Wednesdays.** 

Services postponed until further notice.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm STAPLEFORD VILLAGE TEA AFTERNOON in CHURCH All are welcome for tea, coffee, cake and chat.



Fortnightly MONDAYS 2pm ASTON Bible Study

**Fellowship** 3 Long Ridge Aston with tea and biscuits All are welcome Contact Pauline at pauline.manley1966@gmail.com



### Baptisms - we welcome

**Piper Wren Lawrence** who was baptised at St Andrew and St Mary's Watton on 12<sup>th</sup> October



#### RIP – We Remember With Love

**Wendy Saggers** whose ashes were buried at St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 10<sup>th</sup> October

**John Cooper** whose funeral took place at St Michael and All Angels Waterford on 22<sup>nd</sup> October

On-line bereavement support

### **Parish News Distribution**

Some of our distributors are increasingly unable to deliver the Parish News to your door through ill health.

If you feel you would be able to help either in the road you live or further afield, please let me know. We want to build up some reserves of people who are able to help out.

If you can help, please contact lan on 0777 840 1799 or email to <a href="mailto:iancknight31@gmail.com">iancknight31@gmail.com</a>
Thank you

### **CARING for our CHURCHYARDS**

**TUESDAYS 10am Waterford** Church and Churchyard Working Parties contact Churchwarden Malcolm m.t.wandrag@gmail.com

To help in **Stapleford, Watton or Bramfield** Churchyards contact the Churchwardens.

ASTON Church and Churchyard Working Parties first Tuesday of month 10am to 12 noon. Contact Churchwarden Sara wardenstmarys@gmail.com
All our churchyards are cared for by Volunteers...could YOU offer occasional help?

#### WATTON SCHOOL HARVEST

We had a lovely Harvest Service for Watton school in the church on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October with over 200 children and 70 adults. Some lovely poems were read by the children and everyone enjoyed joining in with the songs. The many wonderful gifts of food which the children brought will go to the Hertford Food Bank.



## <u>CHURCHES OPEN as listed for quiet prayer</u> and visits:

WATERFORD St Michael and all Angels open DAILY 10am – 4pm for more information Contact Church Warden Malcolm 01992 552531 m.t.wandrag@gmail.com

WATTON at STONE St Andrew & St Mary open DAILY 10am – 3pm for more information Contact Church Wardens Ian and Helen

**ASTON St Mary's** open **Sundays 12 noon - 4pm** and **Wednesdays 10am - 5pm**. Contact Churchwarden Sara 01438 880750

**BRAMFIELD St Andrew's Church.** For visits contact Church Wardens Dorothy 01992 582132 or Peggy 01992 550467

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

Opening churches is important. If you would be willing to join a rota to help open and shut any of the churches please contact the Churchwarden.

# KNebWorth Community Chorus

## **Christmas is coming!**

Following the popularity of the Knebworth Community Chorus "Let's Sing Together Day" on 18<sup>th</sup> October, we're delighted to announce that rehearsals are starting for our ever-popular Christmas Concert.

The concert will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December in Knebworth Village Hall, Park Lane. The Chorus will be singing a variety of festive music, and there will be the chance for everyone to sing along with familiar carols and songs. It's a perfect way to warm up for the festive season and an enjoyable occasion for the whole family. If the weather truly is frightful, the warmth of

our welcome (and maybe some mulled wine too...) will help keep it at bay. So, book the date now!

All are welcome to join the singing too, starting with our welcoming and friendly weekly rehearsals. These are in Knebworth on 1, 5, 10, 16, 20 and 25 of November and 3 December. They're at Trinity Church in Park Lane (except 25 Nov, which is at St Martin's). Do come along, even just to dip your toe in the water.

To register to take part, or for more information, please email <a href="mailto:knebworthchorus@gmail.com">knebworthchorus@gmail.com</a> or call 01438 817 992. Meanwhile, do also visit our website – <a href="https://www.knebworthchorus.org.uk">www.knebworthchorus.org.uk</a> – for more information about singing with or listening to the Chorus. Our website also includes videos from our well-received and very summery concert - "Summer Landscapes" - including a visit from Dylan Thomas.

## First new homes on Walkern Road ready for new residents

Fairview New Homes has completed the first of the homes at its recently launched development on Walkern Road.

A selection of homes at 'Wattons' are ready to move into and 40% have already been reserved off plan.

The development has been delivered in collaboration with the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and brings a range of benefits to the community such as new cycle routes and green space access, whilst a bridge over the River Beane has recently been installed as part of the village walking loop.

The street scene around Wattons is also opening up, with landscaping work making progress and a new play area being installed on the development.

For those thinking about buying a home at Wattons, a new three-bedroom show home is launching and will be available to tour from Saturday  $1^{\rm st}$  November alongside The Stort, a four-bedroom show home which launched back in September.

Anyone interested in a viewing at Wattons can get in touch to book an appointment via email at <a href="mailto:watton.sales@fairview.co.uk">watton.sales@fairview.co.uk</a> or phone 01920 560093.



Prices at Wattons start from £575,000



## TAC Tea Room

Memorial Hall, Watton at Stone

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

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

We also take orders for birthday cakes. Pop in or text Sharon @ 07931 325288 to order any of our products for delivery

#### Card or cash are accepted.

TAC Tea Room is enabling us to support the community. Please support us too!!







## **Toddlers and Babies!** A village place for Mums, Dads and carers to meet **Watton at Stone**

## **Tuesday mornings (Term time only)**

Memorial Hall, High Street Parking available.

Time: 9.30am - 12noon

Cost: £3.00 per child, and £1.00 per sibling

A lunch snack will be provided for the children. Singing time at 11.30am

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

Come along and play, draw, paint, read, create, build, listen, sing, ride, eat and have fun!!!

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## **TAC Tweens.**

A Youth Group for... Year 6s, Year 7s, and Year 8s... Meeting on Friday evenings, from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. November 7th and 28th, December 12th. At the Memorial Hall, High Steet, Watton at Stone.

Arts, Crafts, Games, Karaoke, **Tuck Shop and Refreshments** 

For further details, contact Sharon: 07931 325288



## Christmas Extravaganza @ War Memorial Hall, Watton at Stone Sunday 9th November 10.00am to 3.00pm

Makers & Bakers are so excited to announce two Christmas Extravaganza Events to take place in Watton at Stone. Expect a wealth of wonderful gifts, local produce and talented artisans. We cannot wait to welcome you with mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas cake and other seasonal festivities. Come along and see what it is all about and support our lovely stallholders with their artisan gifts and produce on the run up to Christmas. All from the heart of Hertfordshire. This is a dog friendly venue and parking 2 min walk away in the Church Field and is signposted.

War Memorial Hall, 118 The High Street, Watton at Stone, SG14 3RZ

Charity chosen for this market is Isabel Hospice (a voluntary entry donation of £1 with all proceeds to Isabel Hospice, or please donate using this link Donate - Isabel Hospice)

Email: Makers bakers@outlook.com

Media: Facebook, Instagram Tiktok @makers bakers markets

## **NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES BRAMFIELD**

## WHAT'S ON IN BRAMFIELD

**Bramfield Carpet Bowls** 

Meets Village Hall Monday eve 7pm to 9pm Enquiries Mike Jones 01992 550182

**Parish Council Meets** 

**Every other 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month** 

Clerk Chris Underhill 07714 711253

## **Village Hall Committee Meets**

1<sup>ST</sup> Tuesday of the Month 8pm Contact Cheryl Jackson 01992 583958

## **Bramfield Book Club**

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Contact Louise 01992 583173

Gibbslouise83@gmail.com

Plea<u>se Note</u>

We are currently not taking New members but you can Join our waiting list

#### **Bramfield Parish Council**

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

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

#### **ANYONE FOR TENNIS?**

Bramfield has a well-kept Tennis Court that is open for use for families from the Village and beyond, we offer a very reasonable Family Membership Fee at £25.00 per year. To take advantage of this amazing deal. Call Cheryl Jackson on 01992 583958.

#### Save the Date

Bramfield Quiz Night 1st November 7.30pm Tables of 8 to include Ploughman's Supper £8.00 per person

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 30<sup>th</sup> November 2pm to 4pm

Both in Bramfield Village Hall.

## WATERFORD

### ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS WATERFORD

It has been quite a busy Autumn so far.

Dorothy Abel Smith gave a Talk on September 20th "Sir Edward Burne-Jones Bt 1833-1898- his life and works" She described his early life in Birmingham and meeting William Morris at Oxford. They formed a lifelong working relationship and between them created many of the greatest 19th century works of art. Burne-Jones travelled in Europe and was inspired by the earlier works of Botticelli, Raphael, Michaelangelo and ancient Greek art.

During his life he produced dozens of paintings, designed tapestries, stained glass, jewellery, embroidery and engravings which can be seen in galleries and museums around the world. Churches in England have windows by Burne-Jones and manufactured in the Morris workshops.

St Michael and All Angels, Waterford was built by order of Robert Smith in 1872, Morris and Co were commissioned to design the windows and interior decorations. Burne-Jones designed five of the original windows- The east end window, Michael the Archangel on the north chancel. King David and Miriam the Prophetess on the south chancel. St. John on the west end. Later he designed the triptych window for Robert Smith in 1894 and for the Mrs Robert Smith.

At the end of his life he was created Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Baronet. His Memorial Service was the first ever held at Westminster Abbey.

Dorothy also described the recent restoration of the Reredos, designed by James Powell in 1872; and the importance of funding this complex work.

70 people attended the Talk, then tea was served in the Village Hall. Over £450.00 was raised.

A huge thank you to Dorothy for sharing her time and knowledge and helping us raise much needed funds. Thanks also to the generosity of those that attended.

The following weekend Waterford church held its annual **Harvest Supper.** Fish and chips followed by apple crumble was enjoyed by those that attended. A little light entertainment was also provided in the form of a Murder Mystery set in Hollywood. The costumes, accents and story line provided great amusement and intrigue and a good time was had by all. Great thanks to all who contributed.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October a small team of workers attacked some of the bigger jobs in the churchyard. It was a windy day but the rain held off and the churchyard was noticeably tidier. Great thanks to those who took part. Please note that this is going to be a regular event at 10am on the first Saturday of April and the first Saturday in October each year.

Of course thoughts are now turning to Christmas so I've included a date for your diary. Our annual **Carol Service** will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 6pm and all are welcome. Let's come together to celebrate Christmas as a community. Details of other services in the benefice will be included in next month's edition of the Parish News.

You may know that at the Carol Service we have a little pop-up choir. It is nothing fancy but just a small group of us sitting in the choir stalls singing the carols along with the rest of the congregation. The idea is to swell the sound and encourage the whole church to participate with gusto. If you would like to join in then please message Sarah on <a href="mailto:sarahebaldwin59@hotmail.com">sarahebaldwin59@hotmail.com</a>

#### **NEWS FROM WATERFORD**

This year's Summer Fete was another great success for Waterford, and we are grateful to both the volunteers and the crowds who braved the weather and came along to enjoy all the attractions on offer. Children loved the huge inflatable slide, the games, the crafts and the face painting and the adults enjoyed the opportunity to buy crafts, plants, bric-a-brac, jewellery, and the many chances to win marvellous Grand Draw prizes, bottles on the Tombola and even a coconut!

We were serenaded by our own talented musicians Peter Crossley and Pat Crilly who got the afternoon off to a great musical start, followed by the wonderful Rock Choir who got the toes tapping and the crowd clapping along. As ever the Beer Tent and the Tea Room were hugely popular, and the Barbecue's delicious hot dogs and burgers went down a treat!

Despite the rain which finally arrived late in the day, it was universally agreed that the Dog Show was once again a highlight, as the canine villagers of Waterford strutted their stuff around the arena and gave Crufts a run for their money.

What a great afternoon it was, and the bonus was a profit of £3200 to go towards our new village hall! Many thanks to all you villagers and visitors who came and supported us. Well done, Waterford! We did it again!

Can our small village offer any more excitement? Well actually it can, with our **Bonfire Night Spectacular**, being held on **SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> November** at the village hall, gates opening at 5pm, the bonfire will be lit at 6 and the fireworks will be fired at 7pm. Tickets will be available online from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October for registered residents and on general release from Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October. (Buy online or contact a Committee Member)

Once again this is a family and pet friendly event, with spectacular but low noise fireworks to delight but not terrify the crowds. And as you toast yourselves by the bonfire and gaze at the amazing fireworks, you will be able to feast on our freshly barbecued burgers and hotdogs, hot chocolate and confectionery delights for the children and a bar for the adults. It will be a wonderful night; great fireworks, great refreshments...what more could you want?! Bring the whole family!



And finally, another date for your diary is our Extra Special Christmas Craft Cafe on SATURDAY December 6th from 1pm to 4pm. Please note the change of day from Sunday to Saturday.

We have it on good authority that the Big Man himself is once again squeezing us into his tight schedule so it should be a great afternoon! Watch out for more details next month.

## **WATTON AT STONE**

## QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH

A huge thank you to all who came along to support our fund raising effort and to those who very kindly and generously, donated raffle prizes. Thanks also to the George & Dragon for allowing us to host the quiz in their pub. A huge amount of just over £800 was raised.

Thank you again, Melanie, Lyn H. & Lyn O.

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER**

We will be holding our annual Remembrance Day service at **10.45am** at the **Parish Church**. Our bellringers will be in attendance as usual - listen out for the bells ringing half muffled to mark the occasion. Half muffled bells are associated with solemn occasions such as funerals and Remembrance and also to mark the death of a prominent public figure. A leather 'muffle' is put over one side of the clapper ball which allows a loud strike and then a muffled strike alternately. The tenor bell (the heaviest and deepest sounding bell) will once again be tolled as the congregation move to the War Memorial at the conclusion of the church service.

If you are interested in learning to ring the church bells or would like to know more, please email our very own ringers: <a href="mailto:bellringing111@gmail.com">bellringing111@gmail.com</a>

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

## CHRISTINGLE - 30<sup>th</sup> November 4pm:

**DON'T MISS!!** This popular children's service will take place in the parish church with songs and a short talk. Each child will receive a Christingle – an orange surrounded by a red ribbon, studded with sweets with a candle on top. The significance of each part of the Christingle will be explained during the service. Do come to this annual service where a collection will be taken for the work of the Children's Society.

## CANDLELIT CAROL AND GIFT SERVICE – 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm:

Our hugely popular and **atmospheric festive** service. This is our traditional Christmas service of Lessons and Carols and you are invited to bring a wrapped gift for a child in the local refuge who may not otherwise receive any gifts this Christmas. It's a wonderful way to kick off the Christmas celebrations!

## CRIB SERVICE – 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm:

This very popular children's service will once again be held in the parish church on **Christmas Eve** facilitated by Sharon and Richard Knight from Take Away Church (TAC). It's a great service for the children as excitement builds for the Big Day!

## MIDNIGHT COMMUNION – 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm:

Our fantastic final service in the run up to Christmas – join us for this **festively traditional service** welcoming in Christmas Day, held by candelight.

Make this a Christmas to remember. Join us at any or all of our services during the festive period

## **WATTON BOOK WORMS**

We usually meet on the third Friday of the month at 7pm to share supper and thoughts on our book of the month. All are welcome. Contact <a href="mailto:peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk">peterevernden@hotmail.co.uk</a>

## **Watton Ramblers Walk Programme:**

Every Tuesday there is a short slow walk (max 1 hour) starting from the Nigel Poulton Community Hall at 10 o'clock.

We are lucky in Watton to have an abundance of routes taking us just into the wonderful countryside that surrounds the village. The choice of route is dependent on the weather and ground conditions and any preference from those attending.

We don't walk in the rain!!

Newcomers are welcome, particularly those recovering or who need a little gentle exercise in good friendly company.

(No payment required and no need to book. Further details from Maurice 01920 426344)

### SPORTS GROUPS CONTACTS

PILATES	Laura Jeffs
	07710 408974
CYCLING	Alan Headland
	01920 830351
WATTON VETS	Steve Betts
FOOTBALL	07970 698139
YOUTH FOOTBALL	Derek Hill
	01438 813684
LADIES FOOTBALL	Steve Betts
	07970 698139
SATURDAY	Paul Reynolds
FOOTBALL	07794 791978
ARCHERY	John Meischke
	07970 083256
CRICKET	Brad Williams
	07801 790915
SHOTOKAN	Peter Khera
KARATE	07866 374674
TENNIS	Ian Knight
	07778 401799
RAMBLING	Maurice Gordon
	01920 426344
TABLE TENNIS	Steve Block
	07870 779949

## Waterford Nature Notes

I heard on the wireless a report about research into the DNA of Peacock spiders. There are over 100 species of Peacock spiders, all of which have different markings and tiny differences in behaviour, habitat, etc. The males perform a dance to attract females to mate, the dances are one of the tiny variations. The research will look at the differences in DNA to try to identify which strands of DNA cause what effects. The ultimate aim is to use the findings to decipher the 'codes' contained in DNA so that we will have a complete understanding of the DNA of every living thing.

Have you ever thought about how grasses recover? During the long, dry spell of this Summer we decided to not waste water by watering the lawn and the pot plants but to just let them take their chance. The lawn became a dry, brittle, brown and apparently dead all over except for a narrow strip that was sheltered from the sun by the shadow of our hedge. The morning dew didn't dry off and this proved enough moisture to keep that grass alive and green, even to need cutting. After weeks of the lawn being 'dead' the rains came, within a few days of the first rain, new shoots were growing and, with further rain, the whole lawn recovered. Unfortunately, most of the pot plants did die.



It might have been that the lawn was so sere that the grasshoppers were more evident or it might have been that this was a 'good' year for them but we saw many in our garden including a couple of species not seen here before. Grasshoppers are one of those insects that live for only a year, there are some that hibernate but not in Britain. Eggs are laid in late Summer, in the soil, survive the winer and hatch in Spring. The nymphs metamorphose several times before reaching maturity, they then mate and the cycle begins again.

Ladybirds do hibernate and often find their way into houses where clusters might be found in a favoured spot. Many ladybirds hibernate in the church but they haven't picked a good place, many hundreds die each year.

In my notes in the August edition of the Parish News, I reported on the illegal killing of birds of prey, we had a short break in the Scottish Borders, just South of Lanark. The local news reported on a pair of Golden Eagles that had been fitted with trackers. After what was described as 'suspicious activity' the trackers went off air. A search of the area with specialist dogs found no trace of either the birds or the trackers so this was clearly another illegal killing with the trackers being destroyed or buried.

While in Scotland we visited a remote, ruined hunting lodge, Morton Castle. The ruin is perched on a hill above a small, artificial loch. The loch was inhabited by a pair of Mute Swans with three young, a pair of Canada geese also with several young and a few Mallard, Wigeon and Coot. I have reported before, as has my Southgate Correspondent, on the enmity between breeding Swans and Canada geese, these were living in perfect harmony with the adult geese only a few metres away from the cygnets and one of the goslings quite close to the adult swans.

This is a good time for a Human Nature Note. The road to the loch was narrow with very few passing places, meeting another vehicle would have meant one of us being aware of the last possible passing place and reversing. The farther along the road we went the worse became the surface. After visiting the castle we had a choice of retracing our route or continuing along the road, which was by then virtually an unmade road. In our younger days, my wife would have got out the OS map and navigated us back along the byways, starting with the rough road ahead but these days we are not so adventurous. To quote one of the few bits of Shakespeare



that I remember from my schooldays, "creeps on this petty pace from day to day", heigh-ho.

Malcolm

## **Watton At Stone Primary and Nursery School**

It's been a busy and positive start to the new school year. The children were excited to return to school after their Summer break and have enjoyed a number of exciting activities inside and outside of the classroom. We have also welcomed parents into school for class welcome meetings.



### Year 4 visit to Watkins Farm

The children visited the farm to explore the woodland habitat. They even dug up a pair of underpants that were buried last year to see the effect of the microorganism decay on them!

#### Trips to Wodson Park and Sele School

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 went to Wodson Park in Ware for a games activity afternoon. Each school represented a country, and we were Wales. We even had to do a parade around the track carrying the Welsh flag. The children took part in either netball, ultimate frisbee, dance, hockey, quidditch, bowls or martial arts. Our netball team came first!

Year 3 had the opportunity to visit Sele School in Hertford on 25th September to take part in a variety of activities including balls skills, agility, orienteering and throwing. The children all had a great afternoon.

#### Election of House and Vice House Captains

After some persuasive and heartfelt speeches to their Houses, all children in Key Stage 2 voted for their new House and Vice House Captains. Those elected will lead the Houses for this school year and will also organise some events.

## Harvest Festival

We visited the church on the 6<sup>th</sup> October for the harvest festival service. Some of the children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 read harvest and autumn poems and we received generous donations which will be taken to a local food bank.



### What we are looking forward to?

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October the children will take part in our annual fundraiser 'Break the Rules Day'. For a small donation, the children will enjoy simple 'rule-breaking' fun, such as wearing their own clothes, eating dessert first, and bringing in a toy. It's a day of great excitement that raises essential funds to benefit every child's learning experience at the school.

From the  $10^{th}$  –  $14^{th}$  November the children will take part in various activities for Anti-Bullying/Wellbeing Week.



15th November @7.00pm.

War Memorial Hall, Watton-at-Stone.

TAC would like to invite you, your friends and family to join us for a fun Quiz evening.

This is a Fundraising event for the charity Tearfund, and for Take Away Church helping to fund our work for the Watton Village Children's groups.

Tickets: £10.00/person.

Included: Refreshments (Tea and Coffee) and... yummy homemade Desserts during the interval.

Drinks: Bring Your Own...including glasses.

We will be holding a Raffle...

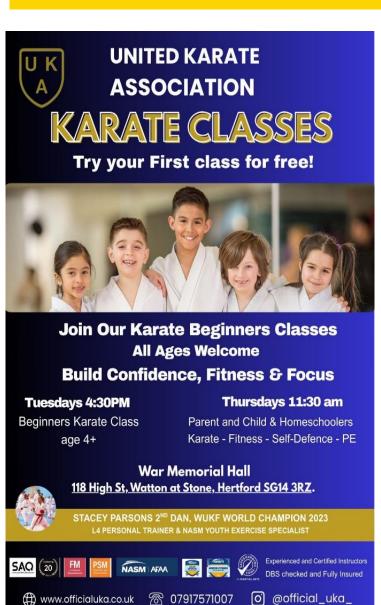
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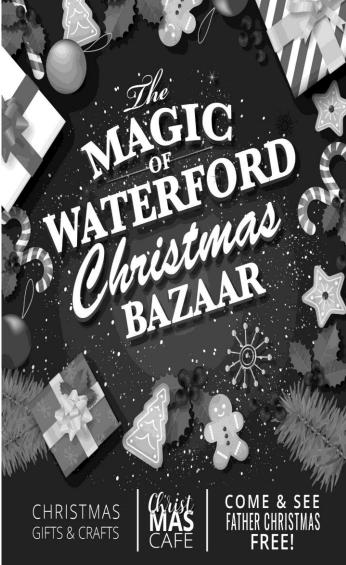
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SATURDAY December 6th Fun starts at 1pm till 4pm www.waterfordvillagehall.co.uk



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## Please send any items for the next edition

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

To the Parish Reps or the Editor:

#### Bramfield

Jenny Clayton 3 Bury Lane, Bramfield (01992 538712) jenny@jmsprojects.co.uk

#### Stapleford

Carol Eccleston
1 Clusterbolts, Stapleford.
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