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**Editorial Team :**

**Geoff Beaumont,**

**Jean Golding, email:**  
*DJPCGolding@aol.com*  
**Fax: 01553811362**

**Brenda Leedell email:**  
*leedell@paige-close.freemove.co.uk*

**Jenny Connell email;** *jenny.*  
*connell@btopenworld.com*

**Advertising:**  
**Contact Peter Ryder,**  
**69 Station Road, Watlington, Norfolk,**  
**PE33 OJF Telephone: 01553 810702**  
**email: peter.ryder2@virgin.net**

**Barry Shears, email:**  
*barry.shears@tesco.net*

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**Barry Shears, 17 Orchard Close,**  
**Watlington, King's Lynn, PE33 OHN.**  
**Tel: 01553810203 email:**  
*barry.shears@tesco.net*

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### **Please Note**

The closing date for receipt of articles to be included in the next issue of the Gossip is:

**Monday November 10th 2003** If you have an item for inclusion which is ready before the deadline, please let us have it (see previous column for methods of doing this).

**THANK YOU**  
**EDITORIAL**

**Hats off to the parish council**

I'd like to say thank you to Watlington Parish Council, they don't get much praise as a rule. Towards the end of June I noticed that copies of a letter about the proposed development of land adjacent to the village school had been posted on the public notice boards around the village. After initial fiery protestation and letter writing, I had given up on combating the developers and half expected this letter to confirm my fears of their inevitable impending invasion. Quite the contrary. The excellent letter from the parish council to the planning officer itemised in great detail the objections to this proposal, and outlined requirements the developer would need to meet in order to satisfy the parish council. We all know that housing is needed, but 173 homes with 2.4 children equal 761 new residents and 346 vehicles, a massive increase in the village population and a burden on the already limited facilities.

I am reassured that the company will have to go back to the drawing board, and relieved to know that our little bit of green will remain intact for a while longer. Meanwhile, the letter gave me new confidence in the parish council's intention to serve and represent the community.

### **Green spaces**

Speaking of green spaces, I'd also like to say thank you to anyone involved in the Millennium Green project. It's been a pleasure to walk along the green's paths en route to the village shop. I try to identify the great variety of wildflowers and I am glad that they were left to seed and spread naturally before the field was cut. Now the strategically placed benches provide a welcome stopping place on the way home where I can "rest awhile", to quote the plaque on one of the benches, and watch the seasons' changes.

### **Entertainment**

We may not get Robbie Williams at the village hall but we do have the Watlington Players. We'll be booking seats for Run for Your Wife and, if this show is up to the usual standard of Players' productions we have seen, it should be a good night out.

### **Advertisers**

PS. At our last Gossip committee meeting we decided to offer our loyal advertisers the following service. If you advertise with us and have a special anniversary coming up, we'd be happy to write a few lines about your business and provide a little advertorial. Please let us

know well in advance, and remember we're a quarterly.

**Jenny Connell**

A member of the editorial team

oooOOooo

*Please note that there is no 'DIARY DATES' item in this issue of your Gossip. We apologise for this and can only suggest that you record the dates of forthcoming events directly from any article contained herein.....Ed.*

1.

### **THE RECTOR WRITES Endless clamour, driving us all to total despair.**

On a recent visit to London, my once a year pilgrimage to the capital, I had just stepped out of Kings Cross station when I was accosted by a very sad alcoholic who begged me for money and who could hardly stand up at 10.30 in the morning. Trying to watch I did not get run over by the traffic that was deafening, I made my way slowly along the pavement, past over-amplified music from bars and sandwich outlets.

On my return home one had to negotiate football supporters trundling along the pavement, jeering and shouting support for their team. Eventually, getting back to the train, the journey was like being in a telephone exchange with all varieties of call tunes from mobiles, and listening (for one could not help it) to people's conversations. Arriving back at Watlington and walking up Station Road on a beautiful summer evening, the first thing that I noticed was that for the first time all day I could hear the birds.

What noisy world we live in. Burglar alarms go off at any hour of the day or night, even without a break-in. Cars with open windows boom out base beats that send shivers through the mind: de-bum, de-bum, de-bum! Noise is becoming more and more intrusive and more and more part of our daily lives. Many people who are irritated by noise have given up complaining because those who create it can't hear because of it, or do not want to hear, because they have come to rely on decibels for company. Whatever the other causes of the increasingly popular condition referred to as stress, noise must be one. If families are seen shouting among themselves in Emmerdale, Coronation Street and EastEnders, the chances are that viewers will come to believe this is normal and do the same. Certainly, there is

some evidence that loud, heavy beat influences drivers to more aggressive, leading to road rage. It is not so much the noises of our technological world which cause tension and short tempers, it's the jarring, disagreeable sounds that people create through their lack of respect for our ear privacy, their thoughtlessness or aggression. We have all sat on the beach nodding off blissfully, surrounded by the sound of the sea and the joyous chatter of children having a good time, only to be suffer a rude awakening because the party behind the next wind shield has turned a radio pop programme to maximum volume! Sound can be therapeutic; sometimes doctors, dentists and airlines use gentle sounds to help us relax. Stores in town give us sweet gentle background music to tempt us to buy.

Holy Church uses soft music to woo us into a mood for meditation and prayer. Spiritual music is so popular among people who are not regular at church worship, that it takes monks to the top of the charts. If soothing sounds can help to smooth the fevered brow, then surely unwanted noises contribute to tension and ill feeling. It was said by Saint Ignatius, a second century Christian leader that a bishop should be "particularly revered when he is silent. The silence of a bishop bears witness to the reality of God both in the mystery of his divine silence and the silence of his passion". When we seriously give ourselves space and silence, we find that inner peace; we give ourselves time to see the beauty around us; there is inner calm and space. Silence even perhaps to allow God to speak to us, and we to listen to Him. May God go with you. *Father James*

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

##### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUNDAY 5th October**

SS Peter & Paul Church, Watlington, at 11 a.m. All Age Worship, with communion All children are welcome **TRADITIONAL HARVEST SUPPER Saturday 18th October at 7p.m.** In the village hall, Tottenhill For tickets phone: 01553 810305

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th November at 11 a.m.** At SS Peter & Paul Church, Watlington Act of remembrance and Requiem Eucharist

*[This additional item came in as the Gossip was in the final stages before going to print.....Ed]*

#### ***Why this wicked vandalism?***

***Like you all I am sickened and deeply hurt by what has happened to our village church. Never in living memory have we had so much damage done to such a holy place. Every day it is open for the benefit of the village and the many people who visit our village church.***

***The village and the congregation have worked so hard over the years to keep the church in good order, so that we enjoy this most important heritage, now and for future generations. The faithful struggle to meet the £15,000 of our part towards the diocesan expenses and this vandalism is going to make their task much harder. This is not only an attack on God and His church, it is also an attack on everyone who lives in the village, for this place of worship belongs to the village, it is not Father James's! This is our Good Friday, as we ask our Blessed Lord to carry us during this hurt. Good Friday was followed by Easter Day. Good will triumph in the end, as we try to restore the wrong done to us.***

*Father James*

#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

This first letter, an appeal, comes from the chair of Watlington Under Fives..... We have a thriving mother and toddler group in the village and over the past five years have been able to provide mums, dads, grandparents and carers somewhere to have a chat, a coffee and a chance to take part in activities with their children on a Wednesday morning. We have had sponsored events and generous donations this year and, as such, have a healthy bank balance. Unfortunately, due to committee members moving on as their children begin pre-school, we are now without a big enough committee to continue running. We are in need of a secretary, back-up treasurer and more general committee members. Meetings are held at members' houses on average once every two months and are very informal.

Without extra help we will be forced to close. As it stands for September we will not be able to reopen the group, which is a great shame. We have decided to keep the toys in storage and the money in the bank account until December, in the hope that we can attract more people onto the committee. The purpose of this letter is to inform those who have been attending the group that we will not reopen in September and to appeal to anyone out there who would like to help to keep it open. It is sad that, in village with so many children, there are only four people who are willing to run such a lively and important group. Hayley Smith: chair of Watlington Under Fives ***Anyone interested in helping with this group should telephone King's Lynn 819350.***

*oOo*

oOo

*The following letter came about as a result of a discussion which took place in the centre of the Millennium Green. It comes from Mrs. Kate Carpenter of Station Road.....*

I enjoy my Gossip and read it from cover to cover, but it struck me in the last issue that people are quick to point out the negative aspects of the village but nobody seems to praise what we have in this community. We have a church, pub, social club, with food, karaoke, live music and a good social life, doctors' surgery and dispensary, shop and Post Office and a highly thought of school and playgroup. A village information centre, website, copying facilities, etc, our own village magazine, a rail station with hourly service to King' s Lynn, Ely, Cambridge and London, and a bus service. The village hall has two halls, committee room, changing rooms and showers, two kitchens and a bar area and a stage with full lighting and three sets of curtains, to facilitate all events

There are numerous societies and clubs, from embroidery, W.L, over 60s and adult and youth drama; three sorts of bowls, badminton, football and adult tap classes, and anything else anyone wants to start up!

There are green open spaces all round the village, with play equipment, skate board park, basket ball pitch, football pitches, pertanque square, amphitheatre, a managed wild flower meadow, seats and soon (hopefully) a grass maze and pond/bog area.

Most important of all are the people. The amount of work done by volunteers, from the lady who empties the waste bins on the playing field every week to the various bodies and committees who run the clubs. In the past the villagers have raised monies to build the village hall and extension. Millennium Green and seats, skate park and play equipment, and indeed campaigned to have the rail station re-opened after the Beeching closure.

The companionship, support and friendship of this village is second to none and hopefully the younger generation will appreciate what is here now and what is possible if, and when they assume the mantle of responsibility, which I am sure the majority will.

Kate Carpenter

Reference: to the field next to the school.....  
Yet another small piece of England' s green and pleasant land goes under the auctioneer' s hammer. A place of great natural beauty, much loved by all who have the privilege of walking there. Here you can see all forms of wildlife, with the added pleasure of the trees, plants, grasses. The frogs and newts will not survive in concrete tunnels. The ditches have a purpose - to draw the fields, also to serve the swallows that have delighted us over many years. Should the ditches be filled in, this will deprive them of open water.

Every month of the year there is always something to see and wonder at.

Norfolk is a beautiful county, its wide open spaces are its heritage.

Dorothy Underwood  
(For the environment)

oOo

*This letter [actually an email] with its accompanying poem arrived too late for publication in the last edition of the Gossip, having been held in the ether!.....*

Dear Gossip editors]

As you published the poem I received from one of my sisters, (*see the Gossip issue Autumn 2002, number 15...Ed.*) I gave it some thought and decided you might like to also see the poem she wrote, following our return visit to her. We visited her when we had had some storm damage. Also, as the poem indicates, I could not remember how old she was and this caused some laughter, as I put a couple of years on her age (she was not amused!). The trip to Rom-ford was organised for our benefit because we come from there and since leaving, major changes had been done to the town centre. *And so, to the poem.....*



*The Return Visit*

Your return visit to us was a real treat

We' re pleased to say it was very upbeat  
 Although the wind it sure did blow  
 We' re really lucky it did not snow  
 Ted! I can' t believe you added two years to my  
 age  
 I think you were teasing to see if I' d rage  
 My birthday certificate saved the day  
 To prove you wrong I had the last say  
 We always thought you were in the pink  
 But listening to your ailments our hearts did  
 sink  
 Keep your chin up and take the pills  
 Doctor knows best it will cure all your ills  
 A very long life still lies ahead  
 So don' t go taking to your sick bed  
 Annette we are glad you are looking so well  
 How you keep up with Ted' s jokes it' s hard to  
 tell  
 The weekend, boy how it did fly  
 Plenty of laughter no time to cry  
 A trip to Romford down memory lane  
 With all the new buildings it isn' t the same  
 A sincere thank you for the flowers and drink  
 Much appreciated, leaving us in the pink  
 We' re glad your storm damage wasn' t too great  
 We trust the repairs done at a reasonable rate  
 No electricity to add to your plight  
 Though candlelit dinners can set the mood right  
 The next weekends will seem quiet and blue  
 But again with a smile we' ll remember you two  
 Well Annette and Ted we will bid you good day  
 At last we' ve run out of things to say  
 Whenever you feel life is getting you down  
 Like you say "try to smile" much better than  
 frown  
 Good night and God bless hope to see you in a  
 while  
 When we think of you we will always smile

oOo

### WATLINGTON YFC

Andrew Matthews, along with some other  
 volunteers, has recently started a youth football  
 club in Watlington village. The initial response  
 has been very encouraging. The training days  
 are held every Saturday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Watlington sports  
 field. So far we have had an excellent response  
 and over 50 boys and girls have attended and  
 registered an interest. The response has been so  
 good that we have been able, in the space of a  
 couple of months, to enter five mixed youth  
 teams and one girls team to take part in next  
 season' s youth football league.

As you can imagine there' has been a lot of  
 behind the scenes work going on,  
 such as finding sponsors, marking out the pitch,  
 getting equipment, storage space, football kit; the  
 list goes on and on. However, we would like to  
 thank all \_ those who have volunteered  
 their time to help get this project off the ground:

namely Mac, who marked out the complicated  
 pitches and lined them. He had very limited  
 space to fit two five- ' side and one eleven-a-



side pitch. Well done  
 Mac! Also  
 thanks to Mark, Baz and  
 Mal who have helped  
 with Saturday training  
 and have volunteered to  
 become team managers.  
 Thanks to the village hall

committee and the parish council for their help  
 and support. We are sure the club will go on to  
 be a great success and put the village on the map.  
 We continue to look for potential team members  
 and would love to see some new faces turn up on  
 training days. So if you are aged between six and  
 16 please feel free to come to the village field on  
 any Saturday between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Or if  
 you would like to talk about anything regarding  
 the club please ring one of us below:

Dave Capon, club secretary, Tel No. 01553  
 811066

Andrew Matthews, club manager,  
 Tel No. 07970 500591.

**Lorraine Ilett, club treasurer, Tel No. 01553  
 811715.**

oOo

"The world is full of givers and takers; the  
 takers may eat better but the givers sleep better"

## MORE LETTERS.....

### **Another email, this letter comes from the lady who donated the superb oak tree which now stands in the centre of the Millennium Green.....**

Gossip readers,

I would like to thank the Millennium Green committee for allowing me to plant an oak tree as a memorial to my late husband. Mark. They were his favourite trees (well, he was an ex-matelot!) Special thanks to my father Tom Harman, and soon to be father-in-law Chip Carpenter and fiancé Simon for all their hard work planting the tree, and to Harry Carpenter who made the handsome guard. It was a joyous occasion made very special by the presence of my parents Tom and Helen, and Chip and Kate Carpenter, and dear friend Karey, who sacrificed her morning lie-in to be there. The tree was planted on a beautiful summer morning and I could not have asked for a nicer tribute to Mark. Thanks are also due to members of the committee for their hard work installing the magnificent seating around the tree. I hope the tree will give pleasure to the residents of Watlington for many years to come.

Elaine Price

*oOo*

Dear Editors,

In the last issue of the Gossip I made comment about vandals ripping up the then new tree. Well, now we have a wonderful new oak tree complete with wrought iron protector, thanks to Kate and Chip Carpenter and the other members of the family.

I would at this point like to thank all the people who helped to plant the tree and dig the trench for the surrounding seat which, believe me, was very heavy. Without your help it would have taken much longer and been more difficult; again, thank you.

The tree and the seat, I think you will agree, look splendid and give the Millennium Green an excellent centre piece. Other seats on the green have now had brass plates fitted to them, some in memoriam, others depicting anniversaries. The next job is to tidy up the edges of the field and cut the grass around the trees near the BT exchange. Contrary to popular belief, we still need volunteers to help with these jobs; if you feel energetic and have spare time, give me a ring on King' s Lynn 810702.

I learned from Kate last week, that just before the field was cut, there were, or are, 39 different species of wild flowers in the field, so the seeding of the green has paid off handsomely. I know that many people are not happy with the policy of allowing grasses and flowers to grow to a point where the field looks untidy; however, it is to allow the flowers and grass to seed again, thus encouraging the Propagation of wild flowers and grasses. Surely, when all the flowers and grasses are growing in the spring the green looks far better than it did before. As you will have noticed, the field has now been cut as promised.

Yours truly, Peter Ryder

*oOo*

*It is always nice to receive mail from newcomers to the village and this next letter (another email) is no exception.....*

*Dear Editor/s*

My partner and I are recently (one year' s vintage) arrived additions to the village but have been fully engrossed up until recently in the renovation of our modest home.

Not so busy though to read the past two editions of the Gossip and get a picture of the current happenings around and about. To the point.....

We have great sympathy with your contributor who complained of the wanton vandalism of the tree in the centre of the common as we ourselves had our vehicle damaged extensively late one Saturday evening for no good reason, except it would seem, for the distress it caused us. It has not dented our enthusiasm for the village at all but made us a tad more careful where we park. To the other point. ....

No doubt you will have a full post bag with issues arising from the planning application and the proposed housing development adjacent to the school. Leaving aside our misgivings about large scale house building in a small village, we are puzzled that the hard work the community has put into the lovely open space that is the common may well be negated by the potential large increase in traffic which will be funnelled round Station Road. We have watched young and old alike use it as a recreation area as well as a place to stop and relax on the walk to and from the shop and pub. Presently, at busy times it is not easy to achieve safe passage from the pavement to the common, especially with a toddler/dog/granny in tow! We fear that the common could become an island in a fast

flowing and dangerous stream, and no amount of traffic calming measures will reverse the detrimental effects of increased usage. Surely some common sense is needed here, if you' ll excuse the pun.....

Keep up the good work,

Deryck and Karen

[That' s all the letters this quarter but if YOU have something you would like to say, something you feel strongly about perhaps, please write.....Ed]

oooOOooo

"You may be disappointed if you fail.....  
but you' re doomed if you don' t try"

### WOMEN' S INSTITUTE

Two of our ladies were lucky enough to go to this year' s Sandringham Show to demonstrate their crafts. Betty Bray demonstrated her Pergamano Cards and Chris Butcher her quilting. They also had a display of some of their work. We are very proud of them.

In July we welcomed Pat Saboum who came to show us how to wrap presents. We learned that the secret is always to use a box, co-ordinate the paper and ribbon, and we were shown how to make some of those spectacular bows that give a present that finishing touch. No excuse for boring parcels now!

In August we again welcomed Mrs Anita Carpenter from the National Trust. She gave us an excellent talk about East Anglian wind and watermills and their history, illustrated with slides. Looking ahead, some of our members will be going to the Hollywood Cinema, East Dereham, on 14th October, for a private showing of the film "The Calendar Girls" followed by afternoon tea in the Phoenix Hotel. Pity some of us can' t get the day off work, it sounds like a fun afternoon.

Our meeting on 9th September as usual is in the village hall with an open meeting, so that the gentlemen may come along too and listen to Mr Victor Wil-liamson talk to us about "Mole catching and Pest Control". Do come and join us.

### A WATLINGTON HERO

*Researched by Brenda Leedell* There are fourteen men who gave their lives for their country in the first world war named on the Watling-ton war memorial in the churchyard.

They all have a story to tell. This is the story of one of them.

Frederick Charles Lake was bom in Watlington on 15th May 1873, one of at least seven children children bom to James and Momimia Lake. James was an agricultural labourer. In the 1881 census Fred is shown as aged 7 years, living with his parents and six brothers and sisters in Back Street, Watlington. (Back Street is probably the Plough Lane/Mill Road area). In the 1891 census he is still living at home with his parents in Chapel Road, aged 17 but with only one sister aged 10.

On the 12th November 1896 Fred enlisted in the the Norfolk Regiment at Norwich and on the 8th April 1897 joined the 2nd Battalion in Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland. On the 4th January 1900 he embarked with the 2nd Battalion Norfolk Regiment for South Africa on board HM Transport Ship "Assaye". He served with the machine gun section throughout the Boer war and was twice wounded. Fred was granted the Queen' s South Africa medal with three clasps (relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, Johannesburg) and the South Africa Medal with two clasps (South Africa 1901 and 1902).

On the 16th November 1902 Fred was drafted from the 2nd Battalion in South Africa to the 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment in India and landed in Bombay on 1st January 1903.

Fred Lake was one of the first Englishmen to enter the country of Tibet. In 1903/1904 Colonel Younghusband took a Political Mission to Tibet and Fred served on this mission as part of the armed escort, as Sergeant in charge of two machine gun teams (Maxims) of the 1st Norfolk Regiment and was present at the action of Niani, operations in around Gyantse and the march to Lhasso (3rd May to 6th July 1904). He was awarded the Tibet medal with clasp Gyantse. This medal was only awarded to 17 men, mainly Indian troops. Few British troops received the Tibet medal, so it is quite rare.

As soon as WW1 began, Fred was sent to West Africa and served in the Cameroon Expeditionary Force with the Gold Coast regiment, the WAFF (West Africa Frontier Force).

Fred' s wife, Mabel received a letter dated 2nd April 1915 from the Commanding Officer of the Gold Coast Regiment, Duala, the Cameroons, Ban, which said "*7 regret to inform you that your husband died of wounds received yesterday morning. His loss is most deeply felt by myself and all the officers of the Regiment. He was a*

*smart and efficient soldier and did not know what fear meant. At the time he met his death, he was on patrol with Lieutenant Butler, and was ambushed by a party of Germans who were concealed in the thick bush, and did not open fire until he was within 50 yards of them. We buried him with all honours at Bari this morning..... "*

Colour Sergeant Charles Lake is buried in the Douala cemetery, Cameroon. Doula cemetery can be found opposite the Catholic Cathedral of Rue Joss. There are 26 graves, 24 of which are Commonwealth burials of the 1914 - 1918 war.



#### W.E.A, LECTURE

' Why war came to Britain and The Origins of the Second World War'  
A series of eight lectures  
by

DOCTOR PETER NEVILLE

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Starting Thursday 2nd October in Watlington School

For further information, contact Doctor IL Lacey On 01553 810276

#### WATLINGTON PLAYERS

*From Kate Carpenter*

Our autumn production, ' Run foyour Wife' on October 29th, 30th and 31st, is now in rehearsal. Look out for posters and book early! It' s a very funny farce and they do say laughter is the best medicine. We have had very quiet summer, with the electrical work taking up our club nights but we are almost finished.

We had a very enjoyable barbecue in Terry and Ei-leen Cook' s beautiful garden. After a very unsettled day weather-wise we had a lovely clear evening, with sunshine through the trees. Our pantomime in January 2004 will be ' Goldicks and the Three Bears' , set in a circus, so it should be very different. It also ties in very well with the Circus Skills Workshop on November 22nd. Hosted by the COWPS, the workshop teaches juggling, plate spinning, tightrope walking and unicycling and will be run by Circus Berzercus. Numbers are limited but if you are interested e Kate Carpenter on 8103 81. Circus Berzercus will give an evening

performance the same day. By all accounts a very good family evening out.

We are a very open, friendly society, everybody is made very welcome, so do think about joining us. There are many facets to theatre, so you do not have to be in the spotlight.

Incidentally, I am looking for someone to help me with COWPS, the youth section of seven to 16 year olds of the drama group, on Friday evenings. We meet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the small hall. If you are interested telephone the above number.

#### WATLINGTON VILLAGE HALL

The 50/50 auction recently held proved to be a successful fundraising event and one that would be worth repeating. As well as providing a means for the disposal of unwanted items and some proceeds to the sellers, it was a good social event and raised £280 for village hall funds. Thanks must go to Peter and Paul Haynes for sharing the auctioneering.

The village hall is a member of the Association of Village Halls which provides useful advice and support. The Association holds an annual quiz with entries of village hall teams from across the county. Recently, a team from this village consisting of Jill Stone, Trevor Burton, Elaine Price and Simon Carpenter progressed from the local heats to the county final and we are pleased to report, came second, only being beaten into first place by one point. Congratulations to them all.

The hall is always keen to see its facilities used by all sections of the community and is pleased to support the recently formed Watlington Wanderers YFC by offering them the use of the changing room in the village hall.

The village hall management committee has a number of events arranged for the remainder of this year and is already planning events for 2004. Details appear in this journal as well as in the other usual forms of publicity. We hope that you will support these events as they are intended to provide a variety of pleasant social occasions as well as generating funds for the maintenance of the hall. There have been many successful events in the past and we hope that those in the future will prove equally so. COMING EVENTS:

**Watlington Past & Present, a photographic art and bygones exhibition.**

Saturday 27th September, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 28th September, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The closing date for the photographic competition is Monday 8th September. Entry

forms are still available from the Information Centre (810777) Barbara Church (810584) or John Harris (810711) from whom full details can be obtained. Forms, with entries, should also be returned to them.

We are still interested in hearing from anyone who has material (photographs, documents, records or any other items of interest). You need not part with any originals as all material can be copied (with your permission). If you have

## 11

As well as displays of by-gones, the entries to the photographic competition will be on display, together with the works of local artists. There will undoubtedly be members of the community on hand who will be able to recall and give accounts of some of the historical information.

Refreshments will be available, so come along and browse through the various displays at your leisure. **Village Hall Quiz:**

Saturday 18th October, 7.30 p.m. This is a light hearted quiz for teams up to eight members.

Why not organise a family, friends, or club team? The cost is £3 per person, including a light supper. Telephone 810584 to book your team.

Bar applied for. **Circus Beraercus**

Saturday 22nd November, 7 p.m. Book your tickets early for this family show, booked through Creative Arts East.

Traditional circus and clown skills made fresh and painfully funny. Circus Berzercus involves the audience, creating a super show that is enjoyable fun for the whole family.

Two brilliant performers, 'Gerald' ( juggler, Ben Cornish) and 'Wallace' (clown, Steve Eldridge) combine to bring you a show packed with comedy, dazzling juggling, circus skills, unicycling and daftness that is suitable for all ages. From curtain up there is trouble. Wallace and Gerald are thrown together when Gerald's regular partner falls ill. The replacement is wildly over-enthusiastic. Gerald demands order! Will this intrepid pair overcome their differences? The audience is encouraged to join in as part of the fun.

*Tickets priced at: Adults £4, concessions and children £3, in advance. Family ticket (in advance only) two adults and up to four children: £16. Door ticket prices: Adults £5, concessions and children £4. All available from [telephone] 810584 / 810732/810231.*

**Circus Berzercus, Circus Skills Workshop**

Saturday, 22nd November at 2 p.m. Participants (ideally 8 years +) learn juggling, plate spinning,

anything that you think might be of interest please contact either Barbara Church or John Harris.

We already have material in the form of photographs, film and documents which provide much interest about Watlington's past, both distant and more recent, showing what the village looked like and the variety of events and incidents that took place. Any more material would be most welcome. As well as

Diablo, unicycling and tightrope - topped off with presentation skills. In school sports great emphasis is laid on the ability to hurl, spin and catch one ball at a time. It is a logical extension of these skills to be able to deal with 2, 3 or more balls at a time, i.e. juggling - a personal sport, competing with no-one except gravity and your own reflexes, and defying them both!

Tickets for the Circus Skills Workshop are limited to 30 - contact Kate Carpenter (810381) for details. **Fundraising Morning and Social Evening** Saturday, 6th December.

The village hall is inviting clubs and groups to participate in a pre-Christmas fundraising morning, 10a.m. to 12 noon, which will help both groups and the village hall. Telephone to book a stall. The Social Evening will include some films of horse races, amongst other activities. Look out for the advertising posters.

**Advance notice... 2004, Obelon Puppets....**

Monday, 16th February 2.30 p.m. 'The Three Singing Pigs'. This is half term week, so put the date in your new 2004 diary or calendar. The show is suitable for 3-9 year olds and their families.

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## WATLINGTON SCHOOL OF DANCING

The annual At Home was held on the afternoon of 19th July in the village hall. The programme commenced with a surprise for Penny, as several past pupils entered the stage and each presented her with a white rose to commemorate her 25 years of teaching dancing in the village. Two former tappers, Christine Kilbee and Brian Creasey, also presented a cake in honour of the occasion. After this surprise interruption Penny then continued to introduce the programme - a display of various syllabus items and dances from all disciplines and levels taught within the school. After the display, Kate Carpenter, chairman of the Watlington Players presented



certificates to those pupils who had taken examinations during the past year and special awards. She also presented a new trophy, donated by the Watlington Players, in gratitude for the funds raised by the dancing school towards the Players' lighting replacement scheme. Kate mentioned the long and happy association the Players had had with the dancing school and it seemed an appropriate attribute for the cup to be awarded for artistry and performance. Edna Hayton, the school pianist, then presented the school cup. Refreshments were served by Jean Papworth and Judy Parsons. Award winners were as follows:

**Exceptional examination results:**

Madeleine Hodges - Pre Primary Tap  
 Kate Hopkin - Grade 1 Tap  
 Amy Metcaife - Grade 2 Modem  
 Eleanor Mack - Pre Primary Modem  
 Claire Yaxley - Intermediate Tap >



**Effort & progress awards:**

Junior Ballet - Laura Bunkle Senior Ballet - Amy Mack

..... *Continued overleaf*

**Effort & progress awards** Junior Tap - Rachel Grove Senior Tap - Amy Wiseman Junior Modem/Jazz - Susie Mack Senior Modem/Jazz- Ellen Matthews



**Special awards for kindness in the dressing room during**

**Dancetime 2003:**

Alys Williams  
 Melissa Buxton  
 Carrie Hopkin

**Watlington Players Cup for artistry and performance** was awarded to Claire Yaxley.

**School Cup for student of the year** was awarded to Eleanor Churchill.

A further successful examination session was held on Sunday and Monday, 20th and 21st July, completing a very busy weekend. After this the school closed for the summer holiday. Autumn term commences on Saturday 6th September. There are a few vacancies although a waiting list applies to several classes.

**WATLINGTON WEDNESDAY CLUB**

May, June and July, the summer months that allow us to enjoy the garden and the countryside around. In May our venture was by coach to the Romany museum at Claylake near Spalding. Mr Gordon Boswell greeted us on our arrival and showed us round his fascinating collection of gypsy wagons and carts and necessary equipment, all of which was beautifully decorated by hand. We were then escorted to his theatre, where Mr Boswell gave us further insight into the Romany life with tales of his family history, while presenting his slide show which concluded with great photographs of the journey made by Mr Boswell and his wife, by horse-drawn caravan from Spalding to Appleby horse fair each year. Before we left Mrs Boswell provided us with welcome refreshments. Our coach carried us on to spend the afternoon at Baytree Nursery where we were free to explore this colourful establishment.

Early in June we were pleased to welcome Mr Mike Petty, O.B.E and his wife from Stretham. His talk and slide presentation on the history of the fens was highly original and informative as well as entertaining.

On 25th June members' brains were put to the test by a treasure hunt devised by Mrs Carter and her team. All efforts were duly rewarded with a delicious cream tea organised by the committee, with superb strawberries.

On July 9th we enjoyed a great afternoon of carpet bowls organised by Mr Brian Toates and his fellow players. It provided an excellent opportunity for the non-playing members to try something new. Once more, all efforts were rewarded by a splendid tea. This afternoon was chosen to celebrate a very special birthday of fellow member Mrs L. Miller. Our thanks go to her friend Maria and the post lady for providing the wonderful spread and lovely birthday cake, and to Mrs dough for proposing the toast. On the 10th July members travelled to Cromer where they enjoyed the End of the Pier Show. Future events include:

10th September, A talk by Mr James Sharpe of Denver

24th September, A visit to Caithness Crystal, including lunch.

8th October, Annual General Meeting. 22nd October, A talk on the Hanseatic League, by Dr Paul Richards.

Come along and join us. Our meetings start at the village hall at 2 p.m. Admission is £1, which in-

cludes tea (or coffee) and biscuits. You would be most welcome.

Mrs B. J. Newman, chairman

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### **WATLINGTON CARPET BOWLS**

We held our first AGM on the 26th June. Our officers are now: Chairman, Ian McDonald; Treasurer, June Alexander; Secretary, Joy Stephens. We now have a Captain, Peter Goodship. We have entered the W.N.C.B.A. Summer League and at the moment are in 5th position. We have few more games to play but hope that we stay in this position, which is about in the middle. We have also entered the West Norfolk Carpet Bowls Association competitions, held at Lynn Sport and Downham Market. Only £5 per year Telephone 01553 810171

#### **Watlington Carpet Bowls continued.....**

There are a few more competitions we are entering, and hope that we may achieve some good results. We still need some new members. Please come along and try. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and Thursday mornings at 9.30 a.m.

J. D. Stevens (Mrs), Hon. Secretary

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### **WATLINGTON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**

We have played a few friendly games during the summer months. They were very enjoyable and gave the members some interest.

We had our summer competition on 3rd August which was won by June Bush, Ray Dean, Daphne and Edmund Horn. The cup will be presented to them at our Annual Presentation Dance. This was included in a Social Afternoon which was enjoyed by all who attended.

Our summer outing was to Burghley House and Gardens on 28th August.

We have entered the Paget League again this year, and hope that we can achieve a better result than last year.

J. D. Stephens (Mrs) Hon. Secretary  
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### **BIKE FOR BRIAN A big thank you!**

It was a pleasure to see so many people out on their bikes on Sunday 27th July.

Led by Fred Cooke on a Penny (or Halfpenny?) Farthing, everyone was off to a good start and round the eight mile course in no time at all. Bryony Chapman, aged seven, was the youngest girl to complete the course, with Harry Taylor, aged nine, the youngest boy. Our most senior lady cyclist award went to Jill Brock. However, even Jill was outdone by our most senior gentleman, Stan Smart, who completed two laps on his tandem and still made back to the barbeque! Over £770.00 was collected on the day for the Motor Neurone Disease Association, with more to come in by the end of August from sponsorship. Cheques made payable to MNDA please, if any readers have sponsorship money to send in. Our very grateful thanks to the Angel for their kind support and to Richard Aisthorpe who organised us all so efficiently as always. Support from St. John' s Ambulance Brigade was much appreciated. We were pleased they had so little to do - in contrast to Ernie with his welcome refreshments at Stow Bridge and John at the barbeque who both had plenty to do! Special thanks to Kath for checking us all in and to Joan Smith for setting us off in fine style. Thank you all for cycling. Please keep the last Sunday in July free for 2004!

*i Jane Lewis, chairman MNDA, King' s Lynn branc*

### **WATLINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE NEWS Summer 2003**

The summer has certainly hit Norfolk now and we hope that everyone is enjoying the sunshine - of course we wouldn' t be doctors if we didn' t remind everyone about the risk of sunburn, both in the short term and also the long term risks that sunburn poses in relation to skin cancer. It has been shown that children who experience sunburn are many times more likely than those whose parents protected them from the sun to develop skin cancer in later life. So, as they say in Australia "SLIP (into a T-shirt), SLOP (on plenty of high factor sun cream) SLAP (on a hat)". Also make sure everyone drinks extra fluids during the heat.

Dr Bendre has moved on to a hospital post now but we hope she may join us again in a year or so for further training. We wish her well and will miss her. Our new registrar, Doctor Desmond Nimako, has now started his six month post at the

Medical Centre and we all hope he enjoys this attachment.

Some of you may have noticed that we have had some new installations at the Centre - air conditioning for the dispensary and administration room (lucky them!) and also security CCTV cameras to cover the building and the car park. Sadly we have had to do this as episodes of vandalism have arisen recently. The tapes will be kept and used if necessary to identify the culprits. No doubt eventually when houses are built in Rowan Close the building will be less isolated.

The out of hours cooperative of doctors that covers the on-call medical emergencies has asked us to try and ensure that if you do make a call to the service that you are easily contactable on the telephone number you give. It is not at all unusual to find that either the line is engaged or unobtainable in the case of a mobile phone number, or that an answer machine is left on and therefore the doctor is unable to speak to the caller. This can mean that the call is not dealt with until the patient rings back again.

The patients' group is organising an evening on the subject of ADHD or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in October. More details will be displayed at the Medical Centre nearer the time. Anyone who is interested in becoming a committee member for the group would be most welcome to attend future meetings that take place every couple of months. Please contact the Practice Manager, Scilla Ash for further details.

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### **WATLINGTON INFORMATION CENTRE**

The Information Centre continues to receive a good level of support for its services, from customers using the internet service, the spreadsheet and word processing software, the copying facilities and other office equipment, from those using the office for meetings and from our volunteer workers.

The village website now has representative material from all the local community clubs and societies. If your group is not represented why not visit the site and send an email with your details, or drop into the Information Centre which is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The website is also a good place to keep up to date with news

about the proposed housing development on the land adjacent to the school.

Reluctantly, the Centre has decided to introduce a small charge for internet access, to help cover communication charges (line rental, internet costs and machine maintenance). Charges are 20p for up to five minutes access and 4p a minute thereafter. "It' s free at the library" I hear you cry. Yes, but don' t forget your travel costs! At a recent fundraiser £125 was raised and a £100 grant has been received from the parish council. Unfortunately, there was an unforeseen expense when the computer modem was destroyed in violent storm on 17th June.

Work has started on a Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village. If you have any ideas for the pack, or wish to help put it together, please call in at the Centre. Your support will be gratefully accepted. Experiences of recent newcomers would be most welcome. The Centre welcomes new volunteers. Volunteering in a small friendly environment can be a good way to help if you are considering returning to the work place or have retired and feel that the computer age has left you behind. Gentle training is given on the use of equipment, usually by the person who will be volunteering with you on the day. The Centre also has get-together sessions to discuss future plans and promote ideas.

The **Pensions Service** is available at the Centre on the third Tuesday of each month between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. No appointment is necessary and confidential facilities are available. More information from the Pensions Service can be obtained by phoning 0845 60 60 265. *Just a reminder of the services we offer:*

- Full internet access
- Fax and scanning
- Photocopying (colour and standard)
- Locally arranged courses
- Notice Board
- E-mail service
- Word processing and spreadsheet packages
- Laminating
- Community information
- Information exchange/Special events

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday from 10 to 12 noon. Telephone : 810777 (messages may be left). E-mail: wicofGce@watlingtonmfo.com

Web: www.watlingtoninfo.com The centre is at the east end of the village hall with disability parking spaces adjacent.

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

*From Colin Vince, Clerk to the parish council*

The council has rejected, on a number of grounds, the application for 173 houses on the land adjacent to the school. Many of you will have seen on village noticeboards a copy of the letter sent to the borough council. The council minute, giving full details of the rejection and also the rejection letter to the borough council can be seen on the village website at [www.watlingtoninfo.com](http://www.watlingtoninfo.com) The borough council will not be considering the application until mid-September at the earliest.

The council has now approved the plans drawn up by the Community Projects Committee for the purchase and installation of new play equipment on the recreation ground and at the Warren Close play area. The committee will now be submitting detailed grant applications to various funding bodies, to put alongside the council's budgeted contribution of £2,400. It is difficult to put a timescale on when grant funding may become available, but it is hoped that, if successful, installation work will take place in the late winter. The project has taken a little longer than originally scheduled before reaching this stage, as the council has had to ensure that it will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, parts of which relating to play areas are due to come into force in 2004. Over the next few months the council will also be looking at accessibility to the recreation ground and Warren Close site to ensure that the council meet its requirements set out in the disability legislation.

The slide at the Warren Close play area has now been removed. Following a recent risk assessment, this slide was found to have irreparable damage and had to be dismantled. Thanks to generous volunteer assistance with repairs it has now proved possible to keep the slide on the recreation ground, hopefully until the new equipment is installed. The current play equipment on the recreation ground has been given a coat of paint (or two) to help brighten up the area for youngsters.

The council has agreed plans to provide traffic management in the village. The plans, co-ordinated by Richard Miller on behalf of the council, provide for traffic calming measures on the five routes into the village, gateway signs at with appropriate road markings at each village

entrance, and pedestrian support measures around the pub and shop area. The plans have been submitted to Norfolk County Council for guidance and approval. The parish council has a committed budget of £2,400 towards traffic management projects this financial year. 30 mph 'Think' signs have been installed for a period in the village as a reminder to road users to respect the speed limit. The signs were erected by the County Council at the request of the parish council.

The council is currently in negotiation with the Ely diocese and hopes to secure a 10 year lease on the Glebe lands behind the village hall to allow the area to be used for leisure pursuits. The council is keen to support the Watlington Youth Football Club, and as such has given permission for the goal posts to be realigned, new smaller pitches to be marked out, for a storage container to be used in the vicinity of the pitches, and has arranged for control of the mole problem.

The internal audit of the council's accounts for 2002/2003 has now been completed and reveals that the council spent nearly £29,900 last year; £19,300 excluding the skateboard park installation. The council has also approved new standing orders and financial regulations and carried out a complete risk assessment on its activities. The council's accounts for last year and the current year's budget are available on the village website.

Norfolk County Council has started a new £25,000 feasibility study on the upgrades of the rail station car park. A report is expected in late November with the hope that, if approved, works to start in mid 2004 *THERE IS A PLANNING REPORT ON PAGE 21*

### Stone Pony

Play Blues, Rock and Soul for you, and in aid of

### "War Child"

On the 12th October 2003 at

Watlington Village Hall

Tickets available from the Information Office Or telephone 81133 3

Drinks licence applied for

**WATLINGTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

The bowls season is almost at a close, with only a few games to play. All teams have done very well but we have no winning teams this year. Although the season started off with a lot of rain, all this has been forgotten with the glorious weather of the last few weeks.

We are now looking to our winter activities and will be putting out two or three teams in the Downham Pool League. If anyone would like to play pool, let the club know and we will try and fit you in. We now have Sky big screen T.V. and are open for all sporting activities; football, rugby, speedway, grand prix, etc. This is for members only and membership is available at £5 per year. We have entertainment on Saturday evenings and the future programme is as follows:

September 20th, Travis Graham

October 18th, Mark Steel

November 1st, Race Night

November 15th, Deon Damon

November 29th, Quiz

(1st prize, £100 Argos voucher)

December 6th, Bondy

December 20th, Kenny Bernard Food is available each evening. Booking is essential. No booking required for snacks.

Mick Desborough, chairman

**PLANNING REPORT**

The following planning decisions have been made by the borough council:

11 Rectory Lane: pitched roof and dormer window. Approved with conditions.

Land adjacent to 25 Downham Road: site for construction of dwelling. Approved with conditions.

3a Thomas Close: two storey extension. Approved with conditions.

35 School Road: extension to dwelling. Approved.

33 Paige Close: conservatory. Approved.

The following planning decision has been received from Norfolk County Council:

Land adjacent to former Watlington Quarry, west of the A 10: extension of sand and gravel extraction. Approved with conditions on site usage and storage.

"Great learning, if not accompanied by sound judgement, frequently carries us into error, pride and pedantry"

From Lord Chesterfield's Letters to his Son

## **PETER**

*by Henrietta White*

Some three weeks ago a large black and white cat appeared in my garden. Bold as brass, he started coming into the house and helping himself to my cat's food. He was obviously hungry and too big to argue with, so my cats did not attempt to see him off and just sat and looked at him. He was a very affectionate cat and I used to find him in the house when I got home from work. He would rub round my legs and ask for his supper and being the cat lover that I am, I could not find it in my heart to drive him away. I have adopted two strays in the past, one who stayed with me, and one who went to live with my parents. I was seriously considering adopting this one, as he did not seem to have anywhere to go. However, events took an unexpected and tragic turn. I had arranged for Peter, as I had named him, to be neutered and vaccinated but a few days before this was to happen I noticed that he had an open wound on his back. I whisked him up to the vet straight away and she suggested that the blood test that I had arranged to have done at the same time as the neutering be brought forward and done that day. I agreed and to my horror she informed me that this cat, who was such a beautiful and handsome animal, had the Aids virus.

To those of you not in the know, cats can contract the Aids virus in the same way that human beings can. It is a debilitating disease and ultimately fatal. I am not a vet and cannot go into the medical ins and outs, but I do know that it is spread by cats fighting and mating - both of which torn cats do in abundance.

*Humans cannot contract the Aids virus from a cat. The two diseases are quite separate and not transmissible.*

So I had to resign myself to the fact that I could not adopt Peter. Unfortunately, no cat sanctuary would take him. Feline Aids is such a problem in Norfolk that some animal charities are refusing to take HIV positive cats. The only one willing to take him was absolutely full to capacity. I had no choice but to have him put to sleep. Peter was just two years old.

I also had to have my own cats tested for HIV. As far as I knew they had not fought with him and had certainly not mated with him as they have all been neutered. However, I had to be sure and it was very worrying waiting for the results. Luckily, they had not caught the virus. I shall make sure that in future, if any more strays come round they are going straight up to

the vets for testing. I just can't take the risk! So, what is the point of this sad story? The point of the story is to make the case for neutering. I know that many of you reading this are responsible for preaching to the converted. However, I know there is a hard core of people who are unsympathetic to the whole process. "Why shouldn't a torn cat have his fun?" they say. Is it fun to spend all your life out in the dark and the cold? Originating in Egypt, cats love to be warm and comfortable, but torn cats, because they scent mark their territory, do not make suitable house pets and have to live outside. They wander for miles in search of females, often far outside their territory and many end up getting killed on the road, or worse still, are not killed outright and die a painful death on the side of the road. I ask you again - is that having fun? They are a hundred times more at risk of catching the Aids virus than cats that are neutered. Tom cats are restless and ultimately unhappy animals. They are always searching and never satisfied. They are also a danger to other cats, who have owners who love and care for them, because they enter other cats' territories and fights inevitably ensue.

It is a common fallacy that cats that are not neutered are better hunters. This is complete and utter nonsense! I know some of you reading this article keep cats for the purposes of pest control - rats, mice etc. My mother owns two neutered male cats; both are avid hunters and bring in rats and mice (and other things besides) on a daily basis. My tabby cat Sammy, now a grand old gentleman of 16, was an avid hunter in his younger days and rid my house of mice when I lived on the Cambridgeshire fens.

Neutering a torn cat is cheap and simple. It costs approximately £21 and doesn't involve any stitches. If any of you would struggle to find that amount of money, animal charities are always willing to help. You can find them in the phone book. Talk to any vet. They will be only too happy to advise you. Not very much bother in my opinion, to give an animal the chance of a long and happy life.

Useful telephone numbers:

**Parish Councillors:**

01553 810276 Dr H Lacey  
 (chairman) 01553811282 Mr R  
 Amor 01553 810216 Mr E W  
 Featherby 01553 811362 Mrs J  
 Golding 01553810711 Mr J Harris  
 01553 810848 Mrs B Leedell  
 01553 810212 Mrs S. Miller  
 01553810169 Mr C Pike 01553  
 810331 Mr R Rockcliffe  
 01553810231 MrBToates 01553  
 812082 Mr C. Vince (Clerk)  
 01553 811870 Mr D Widowson  
 E-mail address of the parish council:  
 watlingtonparish@onetel.net.uk

**Borough Councillor:**

01553810428 MrAnsell

**Other useful numbers:**

01553 810253 Watlington Medical  
 Centre 01553810253 Emergency (out  
 of hours) 01553 811440 Prescriptions  
 (fax only) 01553 811631 DistrictNurse  
 01366 383241 Health Visitor  
 01553617429 Patients' Group 01553  
 613613 Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
 01223 245151 Addenbrooke' s  
 (Cambridge) 01480 830541 Papworth  
 Hospital 01603 300600 Norfolk  
 Health Authority

01553 810468 Watlington Community School  
 01553669300 Social Services 01553 695800  
 Benefits Agency 01553692722 Borough  
 Council 01553 772568 King' s Lynn Library  
 01366383073 Downham Library 01553  
 691211 King' s Lynn Police Station 0800  
 555111 Crime Stoppers (free phone) 01553  
 810263 Watlington Post Office & Stores  
 01553 811326 The Angel Pub and Restaurant  
 01553 811510 Chas' s Chippy, fish & chip shop  
 01553 811345 Village correspondent to Lynn  
 News 01553810305 Father James Nolan  
 01553810732 Village Hall (Bookings)  
 01553810777 Information Centre.

email address of the Information Centre:  
 wic@watlingtoninfo.com

***Still some space here for other useful  
 telephone numbers!***