

WATTON SOCIETY REPORT FOR TOWN MEETING – TUESDAY, 16TH APRIL 2024

The first things people ask about the Watton Society are 'What is it, what does it do, What does it cost. The answers are that the Watton Society is a club where people meet at 7.45 pm on the third Wednesday of the month except August in the Watton Methodist Church Hall. We have speakers on a wide variety of topics or arrange our own activities or visits. Costs are small at £2.50 for members at meetings or £3.50 for non members who are welcome. Subs are only £5 per year, payable in October. If you join in May it is £2.50 to take you up to the next October. We have a committee of six people, John and Judy Kerr, Roy Challand, Margaret Cator, Wendy Collins and Liz Whitcher. At the moment we have forty paid up members.

This year has been a positive one for the Watton Society. Our membership numbers are growing gradually following the Covid years and we are able to book speakers and visits for a year at a time. Attendance at meetings is also gradually increasing. We are now working on 2025.

In addition to our monthly meetings we also hold an annual picture competition for children, for which we award prizes. We usually get a good number of entries for this and the topic this year will be My Favourite Sport, to do or to watch and the information will go to clubs and schools in July. We picked this topic because it is Olympics Year. We also hold the Watton in Bloom Competition, which entails the committee and helpers from our members looking at Watton gardens that can be seen from the road that have a good display of colour. This is held at different times each year and is judged, usually by the Mayor, at the end of the week of viewing.

Several years ago the Watton Society produced the Watton Heritage Trail leaflet and has since obtained over twenty green plaques which have been placed on buildings and sites of historical interest in Watton. Each plaque costs approximately one hundred pounds now. We are very grateful to Watton Town Council which has assisted us over the years with this initiative and with some website costs. Our meetings and visits are covered by our income from meetings and subscriptions. Sometimes we are asked if we can help with projects which promote Watton and we are happy to do so.

We have a programme booked for 2024 and if you would like a copy of this, a Town Heritage Trail, information on the picture competition or any further information please go to our table this evening or go to the following addresses:

www.wattonsociety.org.uk email – info@wattonsociety.org.uk. Tel: 01953 882613. (John and Judy)