

Events report

School Holiday Activities

Easter 2024: 420 children attended the Egg Decoration Competition/Easter Egg Hunt and a Silent Disco. Total spend £500.00.

May half term 2024: 210 children took part in multi-sports and a planting session. Total spend £718.00

Summer holidays: An extensive programme of activities took place which included Archery, a climbing wall, water wars, bungee trampolines, mini golf, multi sports and craft sessions. For some activities parents were able to join in too. Approximately 1865 children participated. Total spend: £4959.00

Work on the 2025 programme of activities will begin in the autumn.

VE Day 80th Anniversary – 8th May

A well-attended, gentle event much appreciated by our community. Barry Sapsford's Swing Orchestra were popular as was the entertainment provided by 'The Land Girls'. The evening concluded with a Beacon lighting by the Mayor. It was good to hear some anecdotes from those who remembered VE Day.

Food Festival 2024

Held on 12th May on the front lawn at Ware Priory, this event is cemented in as part of our annual calendar and was very well attended. 21 traders attended. There was entertainment from Lip Service Brass Band and biscuit decorating. Both the front and back lawns were busy.

Cinema

Cinema continued to sell out right up until the May film. After a short summer break, cinema resumes in September when the following films will be shown:

September 17 th	The Color Purple
October 15 th	The End We Start From
November 12 th	One Love
December 17 th	The Holdovers

Ware Festival

Despite dreadful weather the Carnival Parade and Town Fair still had a strong turnout. The Real Ale Festival the following weekend was a great success and the smaller events such as the Putting Competition, Raft Race, Pavement Artists and the Bus Pass Party were well attended and appreciated by our community. The AGM takes place at the Priory, 7.30pm on Monday 30th September and work will begin on 2205 in November.

OTL Ware – Saturday 27th July

This event was broadly well received by the community. The event was well attended throughout, with family activities in the High Street during the afternoon. The Tap Bar, Punch House, The Snug, the Quiet Man and The Saracens Head all hosted stages and some local businesses got involved although some chose to close for the day. Pubs, restaurants & Cafes were all very busy. Verbal feedback from local police was that it had been a great day for the town with no public order issues, either during the event or at the after parties hosted by the participating pubs. It is estimated that 5000 people attended throughout the day. You can view photos of the event here: <https://ware.oldtownlive.co.uk/> Plans are underway for 2025 which will take place on 26th July.

Summer Concerts

The final summer concert of the season took place on September 15th. The programme has been well attended throughout the summer, especially the Old Time Sailors concert on August Bank holiday. Work will begin on the 2025 programme next month. Total spend £6770.00.

Wellbeing Programme

The Wellbeing Programme launched in May with a talk and Q&A session around resilience. The programme has included two events at the Lido – ‘Ecstatic Dance & Swim’ and ‘Moonlight Swim’, a programme of breathwork classes, a kickboxing programme, Laughing Yoga, Sound Journey. Over the next few months the kick boxing/breathwork programme will continue and in addition there will be wreath making and zentangle. Spend to date £5200.

Forthcoming Events

Forthcoming School Holiday Activities

October 2024 Half Term: Lego activities, gaming & a film

Film Festival

The Film Festival will take place over the week of 27th October – 3rd November. There will be 9 films showing across the week and venues taking part are Southern Maltings, The Saracen’s Head, Allenbury’s, The Brewery Tap, Place House and Fletcher’s Lea.

Councillor support with hosting would be appreciated, particularly with the 3 evening films which will be hosted in Fletcher's Lea. Free tickets are now available here:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Waretowncouncil>

Christmas Singalong with Ware Brass

The popular Christmas singalong with Ware Brass will take place on 22nd December – details to be announced nearer the time, weather dependent.

February 2025 Half Term: Silent Disco & a film

Food Festival 2025

To agree a date – 11th or 16th May

VE Day 80 – 8th May 2025

To consider whether or not to mark this occasion

Mayoral Events

An Autumn Celebration in Ware – Sunday October 13th, 3pm in Fletcher's Lea, followed by tea in the Conservatory.

Proposed Quiz Night – Ware Priory – 26th October

Mayor's Reception for volunteers – 12th December

Celebration Dinner – 15th February, Ware Priory