



**February - March 2019**

## **Village Hall**

Greetings from the Village Hall Committee. We hope your 2019 is going well, so far!

The Village Hall was very active over the Christmas period with a number of well attended events. These included the now annual village Christmas party with a full meal, great disco and a mock casino. The Christmas draw on the Friday before Christmas, and Christmas Eve opening also went well as did New Year's Eve where it was great to see so many of you in the hall to let the New Year in.

A reminder that our minutes are always available at: <http://www.wreningham.org.uk/wreningham-village-hall/minutes-agenda-hall-committee>

Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30. You are welcome to attend; we always need help from volunteers.

Enclosed are details of the Safari Supper which is being revived this year after a break. This is a great event and a really good way of getting to know your neighbours for anyone new to the village.

You will also see that we have a pie night coming up, along with a wine tasting evening. We would love to see as many of you as possible.

Ian Holloway, Chairman

# Wreningham

**Wreningham  
Village Hall**

Charity No.  
284991

## **Wreningham Parish Council**

Clerk: Anne Rayner  
01508 570700 / clerk.wpc@gmail.com

New Year saw the closure of Spratts Coaches after many years of operating from the centre of the village. The Council expressed its sorrow at losing a long standing and community minded business which often offered help to villagers and to the school.

The Wymondham Road 3 House development has been given planning permission. Cllr. Keith Morris has been asked to keep an eye on the work and liaise with residents, the developer and SNC.

The Council formally complained to SNC about the on-going planning application for the field next to the Village Hall. Villagers asked for this months ago. However, we consider that the time is now right given that so much time has elapsed and there is a clear issue to raise with SNC.

We have received a request for a Penny Green noticeboard. This is a good match to the purpose of the CIL funds to improve communication around the village. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

In the meantime the Wreningham Heritage Group is pressing ahead with its plans, details in this edition. The Council is supporting it with start up funds for equipment and training. I am sure you will help them to explore the community heritage. We look forward to the fruits of their labour and of villagers' tales of Wreningham, Top Row and Penny Green.

The Friends of Wreningham School came to our last meeting and outlined their plans for a Summer Festival on 29<sup>th</sup> June on the playing field. An early notice for your diary!

Our next meeting is on 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Margaret Preston Room in the Village Hall. We will be pleased to see you there.

Michael Hill, Chair

# Wreningham Village Hall

## Sunday Carvery

### First Sunday of the Month

12.30 to 2.30pm

Next: 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Bar open 11am to 4pm

Advanced booking is advised

Leave your details at The Witch & Wren bar, or

email us at: [witchandwren@gmail.com](mailto:witchandwren@gmail.com)

### Carvery Roast beef, pork or gammon

*Pork stuffing ball, Yorkshire Pudding*

Cauliflower cheese, Roast & new potatoes and other vegetables

£8.95 - Large Carvery -5 slices of meat

£7.95 - Standard Carvery - 3 slices

£4.50 - Children (under 10) - 2 slices



### Dessert

Apple pie topped with flaked almonds with custard **or** cream

Chocolate cheesecake with ice cream **or** cream Chocolate **or**

strawberry ice cream sundae

£2 - Dessert

## The Mobile Library

Mobile Library in  
Wreningham:  
Mondays 4<sup>th</sup> February  
and 4<sup>th</sup> March  
at both Stevens Lane (4pm)  
and the Village Hall  
(4.25pm)



## Village Notice Board Hall

- ◆ **Over the next couple of months**, we will be painting the larger area in the Village Hall. We would welcome some help with the decorating.
- ◆ **The book exchange within the old phone box** has now past more than 50 exchanges. Well done. Please leave us some reviews of what you are reading.
- ◆ **Odd place names** - Prior to its current name of Shalimar, the plot of land on which my house was built was called... Shaggy Bottom (I kid you not)... I have asked Malar, my wife, if we might change it back, but she doesn't seem keen. Any other strange house or place names locally?

Ian Holloway

A decorative border consisting of a grid of small stick figures. The figures are arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

# Zumba

Monday evening 6.30 - 7.30  
Wednesday evening 6.15 - 7.15  
In the Village Hall - £5 *Pay As You Go*

## Wreningham Heritage Group

At our 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in January we were able to advance plans for our first project, which will be to record and film some of our long term residents in conversation with their youngest counterparts, at the village school, followed by visits to people at home for recorded chats with our members. The idea will be to find out what life was like in Wreningham many years ago – and what today's children think about life in their village today. We will be discussing with individuals in due course whether and when they might be able to take part.

In addition we are preparing facilities to copy for posterity any photographs, maps, letters and other memorabilia which are lurking in your attic, in old albums, in cupboards etc. and which you feel might be of interest to people now and in the future. If you have such items which you are willing to lend us (the originals would of course remain your property) we need to know. My phone number is 01508 481 947. If you call and I am not at home, please do leave a message, I always listen to my messages! Alternatively my email address is:

pamela27@btinternet.com.

Details of our next two meetings are elsewhere in this Mardle and you will shortly see posters advertising them – do feel free to come and listen in to what is going on, and join us if you want to get involved as a result of what you hear.

Jean Lambourne

*Last day for copy for the April / May 2019 Mardle is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Send to: Christine Minns High Gables, Church Road or c.j.mimms@btinternet.com*



# **Bird in Hand**

food all day as usual



Don't forget: Open for Breakfast every day

## **Flower Club**

**Village Hall** - Indoor meetings,

**Thursday 28th February** - demonstrator: Adele Kent, Norwich

**Thursday 28th March** - demonstration and teach by Doris  
Waymark and Ann Hammond

**Doors open 1.15 for 1.45pm start**

**Visitors always welcome**

**£5.00 includes tea and biscuits**

All details from Sue Sayers

01508 489654 [sue.sayers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.sayers@yahoo.co.uk)

## **The Story of Spratts Coaches**

Spratts Coaches was started in the early 1950's by the late Mr Colin Spratt.

He began the business with a taxi, delivering groceries from his parents' village store based in the centre of the village,

transporting school lunches to local schools, also taking local children to and from school, plus any taxi work that was required. It was soon apparent that taxis were not large enough and with the demand increasing Colin bought his first coach.

Things just start to expand! It was not just local village groups or school outings he ran. In the early 1950's he started tours to Switzerland and various other places throughout Europe. (He was one of the first coach operators in Norfolk to take a coach abroad).

In December 1955 he married Gwen Symonds who helped him run the business throughout her life.

Over the next few decades the business expanded rapidly and at one stage operated 30 vehicles from the same original base at Wreningham.

Colin always came up with new ideas, being the first company in Norfolk to have coaches adapted for the disabled that took fixed wheelchairs so customers who were wheelchair bound could go out for the day. The first to have large seating capacity coaches up to 57 seats in Norfolk.

Colin and his wife retired from the day to day running of the company in the 1990's but kept a very active interest in it, advising their children Christine Bilham, Richard Spratt & Anne Riches in the running of the company.

In 2001 Colin died suddenly and the business was then run by Christine & Richard. Gwen died of Alzheimer's in September 2016.

Sadly, Spratts Coaches finally closed for business at the end of 2018.

Christine Bilham

## **How much greenery does it take to make a Christmas Wreath??**

The last Tuesday in November saw 24 keen wreath makers, at Wreningham village hall surrounded by bin bags of greenery as well as tables stacked with the stuff! Far too much material for 24 wreaths I thought!

Supplied with warm mulled fruit cup, we all set about making our wreaths. Everybody had a different style and at the end of the evening when we shared the coffee and seasonal refreshments we were able to admire each other's work. People had so enjoyed their evening that they came up with suggestions for other workshops so watch out for these in 2019.

To get back to this mound of greenery – what mound of greenery I ask! – by the time we had completed 24 wreaths, there was very little surplus to clear up. We were able to send £20 from the raffle to “Children in Need” and the balance will be used for work with the children in our parishes. Thank you Lydia for arranging this social workshop.

**PS We may be running a “bread making” class during the week before Easter so watch out for details in due course.**

Christine Minns

### **Wreningham All Saints Church**

The good news is that both Norfolk Churches Trust and Garfield Weston have approved our grant application and offered us £5,000 each towards the work on the church. I am now waiting for the final quote for re-roofing the north side of the Chancel. Once I know the shortfall I can start to apply for further funds with the hope that the work will go ahead this summer along with the repair to the east wall.

It was good to see so many of you at the “Carols by



Candlelight” and I wish to thank all those who helped decorate the church, provided the refreshments and the erection of floodlighting for the Christmas period.

Along with the rest of the Benefice we will be raising money for St Martin’s Trust and also supporting the “Food Bank” during the period of Lent – from 6<sup>th</sup> March to Easter Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. You are invited to join us in this food collecting scheme and there will be a collection point in the church for any donations of food etc. These will be taken to the Norwich Food Bank on a weekly basis.

Christine Minns, Churchwarden 01508 488123

# Wreningham Heritage Group

We’re getting underway with our investigations and uncovering things which might surprise you:

personal recollections - old village movies  
photos - maps - documents

Come and see for yourself.

Join the team.

Next Meetings: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

7.30pm, Margaret Preston Room in the Village Hall

We’ll see you there

## Wreningham school

The school celebrated Christmas in style this year with various well attended events. We had 50 parents and children singing Christmas carols around the village of Wreningham on the last week of term. It was a clear, cold night and we finished the evening with fruit juice, mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls in the school hall, lit with candles. The school invited in grandparents and retired members of our community to sing Christmas carols. The Christmas tree was lit, coffee and tea was served and everyone enjoyed singing the traditional carols around the piano. We held a Christingle service, in the church, on the last day of term. The service was planned and led by children from Year 6. The church was packed and parents listened to readings from the bible, recorder playing, carols and music from the school pupils. Spratts coaches drove the children to/from the church, which proved to be the company's final trip.

The spring term is always busy: We have athletics competitions starting (we are Norfolk Small School Champions!); a whole school trip to Norwich castle - each class studies a painting from the Castle Museum; we have a residential trip to How Hill for class 3; and we are busy re-applying for our ECO flag award. Another busy term!

## Bramble Bears Playgroup

Bramble Bears is a sessional, term-time only pre-school for 2-5 year-olds running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from Ashwellthorpe Village Hall. For more information or to book a visit: call **07847 225093** or email **bbsupervisor01@gmail.com**

# DANCE TO LIVE BANDS

PUT YOUR DANCING SHOES ON  
AND COME AND JOIN US



## 50's / 60's dance

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February:

dancing to

Shake, Rattle 'n' Roll

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

The Beat Deluxe Band

**8.30pm - 11.45pm**

**£7.50 on the door**

**Further details from:**

**Shirley 07951 864295**

## DUMPLIN' COUNTRY

17<sup>th</sup> February: Country Mile

17<sup>th</sup> March: John C King

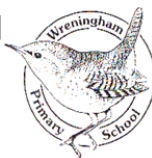
Doors open 1pm; Music 1.30pm - 5pm

**£6.00 on the door**

**Hot Drinks / Bar / Raffle**

**Further details from: Jesse on 07880 995199**

## Friends of Wreningham School Summer Festival 11am – 5pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019



The Friends of Wreningham School are excited to announce that we will be holding a Summer Festival on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to raise funds for a number of projects which will help our school thrive.

The day will be an assortment of stalls, activities, food, drink and live entertainment for the whole family to enjoy and we would love to welcome everyone in the community and beyond to help us make this a special annual event.

Do you have something you can offer; perhaps run a stall, offer sponsorship or provide raffle prizes? Do you have or work for a business that could provide support? We are keen to make this a true community event and would welcome any assistance.

All the profits from the event will go towards helping the school and further details will be made public in due course. If, like us, you can't hold back your excitement and want to help with preparations or on the day please contact Jo and Greg Lattimore either through the school or by email at: [jo.lattimore@icloud.com](mailto:jo.lattimore@icloud.com)



### Last Coffee Morning



*... last Wednesday of every month*

**27<sup>th</sup> February & 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**10am to 11.45am in the main part of the Village Hall**

Come and meet your neighbours, old and new

Have a chat over a coffee and biscuit

**- ALL WELCOME -**

**Correction from the last Mardle:** The Macmillan Coffee Morning in November generated a **magnificent total of £310** - **not** the £130 figure stated in the previous issue - Ed.

## **A Message from the NHS: Help Us Help You**

Just a reminder from the NHS in Norfolk and Waveney about how to help us help you this winter. All of us should be making sure our medicine cabinets are stocked. It's sensible to order any regular medicines you need in good time so you don't run out, taking care to only order what you need. If you do feel poorly, seek advice from your local pharmacist before it gets worse. If it's urgent, then a call to your GP or NHS111 is the next step, and they'll advise you what to do.

**Common sickness bugs** - Suffering from norovirus or other common sickness bugs? Don't spread it around by visiting your GP or other public places. Stay at home and rest.

### **Home First – your bed is the best bed!**

The NHS and social care across all of Norfolk and Waveney are stressing that if someone needs a hospital or temporary care bed they will get one, but our aim is always to help people get back home as soon as possible. Being back home can also help a speedier recovery. So if you know anybody who has to go into hospital it would be kind to make sure they have all they need to get back home, including checking the heating works and they will have food in the house, the washing is done and they feel OK.

With the start of a New Year people's thoughts turn to getting fit and improving their health. There are many local services that can enable people to be more active. A wealth of information can be found through the Norfolk Community Directory at:

**<https://communitydirectory.norfolk.gov.uk>**

## Safari Supper, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May

A long-standing village tradition will return this year – the Safari Supper. A chance to dine with friends and make new friends. This is a very special evening. It's also a great way to raise funds for your village hall and bar.

Your evening begins around 6.30pm with a starter and quiz at one house, followed by a main course at a different house with a new group of people. The final stop on your Safari is the Witch & Wren Bar, around 9.30 pm, where we all get together for dessert, cheese & biscuits, tea/coffee and port. There will be a small raffle and a prize for the winning quiz team. All for £20 a head !

To make this a success, we will need volunteers to host, typically 6 guests. Starter course hosts receive one free ticket and main course hosts receive 2 free tickets.

People who are not hosting are asked to contribute a dessert and/or some cheese, which can be left at the bar between 3 and 4 pm on the day. To add to the fun, details of who is going where are not revealed until the day of the Safari and over the course of the evening

Nicki & Harvey Day are kindly organising the event this year so, if you've not yet done so, do get in touch soon to book your place (maximum 64 available). Please indicate if you are able to host and if you have any dietary requirements. Also, whether you would prefer to donate cheese or a dessert if you're not hosting.

Our thanks in advance for your goodwill and support for this most enjoyable village event.

Contact: [day.nicki@btinternet.com](mailto:day.nicki@btinternet.com) Westwinds, Ashwellthorpe Road

### **Lost Control of Your Plot?**

Contact Trevor, your local Green Gardener  
On 01508 489253 or [tdw2106@gmail.com](mailto:tdw2106@gmail.com)

### **Sarah's Creative Cakes of Fundenhall**

Celebration cakes with a homemade touch  
07967 931754  
[www.sarahcakesoffundenhall.co.uk](http://www.sarahcakesoffundenhall.co.uk)

Classifieds

**NEIL PRIOR Plumbing and Heating**

For all your plumbing and heating requirements, full bathroom installations, established 20 years.  
01508 489359 / 07713 352494

**THREE SIXTY PROPERTY SERVICES**

For all round home Improvements and maintenance  
Contact Chris Peachment on 01508 488275 or 07786 886351  
Email: peachment360@gmail.com

**Little Wren's Cakes**

Bespoke cakes, cupcakes, biscuits and sweet treat gifts  
Based in Wreningham  
Contact Emma on 01508 489058 or LIKE me on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/littlewrenscakes](http://www.facebook.com/littlewrenscakes)

**DOMESTIC AL**

Electrical Appliance Repair  
(From washing machines to Dyson vacuums)  
01508 4819190 or 07856 966566

**Would you like to advertise in this space?** If so, please contact Christine Minns at [c.j.minns@btinternet.com](mailto:c.j.minns@btinternet.com)

**YOGA**

Ashwellthorpe Village Hall. Tuesdays 6 - 7.15pm (term time)  
£7.00 per class  
Email: [wildfish1@btinternet.com](mailto:wildfish1@btinternet.com); Tel: 07902 079862



# at Wreningham Village Hall

Open to all  
No membership  
.... just come by and say hello

**Every Thursday & Friday** - Open from 8pm to 11pm

**First Friday**, every month - Family night open from 6.30pm

**Second Friday**, each month - Fish & Chip Night: Van serving from 5.30 - 8pm

## - Upcoming Events -

We have made a start on planning events for the year. Here is an outline of what's on so far. Please note that some details are to be confirmed so keep watching! If you have any suggestions about events you'd like us to do, please let us know.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** - Pie Night, from 7.30pm. Bring along a pie to share with friends, or make a donation on the night. Sweet or savoury pies very welcome!

**March** - A Friday night Wine Tasting. Details to be confirmed.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** - Safari Supper. *See the article on Page 14*

**Late June or early July** - The annual summer Beer Festival, Thursday to Sunday

**Friday 18th October** - Curry night

**Saturday 2nd November** - Fireworks

**Saturday 14th December** - Christmas Party

**Friday 20th December** - Christmas Draw

**mail:** [witchandwren@gmail.com](mailto:witchandwren@gmail.com)

**facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/witch.wren/>

**website:** [witchandwren.weebly.com](http://witchandwren.weebly.com)