

# Mardle



No 234

August – September 2020

# Wreningham

## Village Hall

Hi all and welcome to the latest edition of the Mardle. Slowly but surely we are starting to emerge from our lockdown state. The Social Club is now back open again and you can find details of our opening hours within The Mardle and online at [wreningham.org.uk](http://wreningham.org.uk). Coffee mornings are again up and running and we are hoping that Zumba will also be able to return soon.

As you would expect, safety is our top priority, and we have a number of precautions in place to manage Covid risks. These include requirements to socially distance, contactless payments, one-way systems and only one person being allowed in toilets at a time. We also need to record your contact details for the purposes of track and trace. We have summarised the rules for chip night elsewhere within the Mardle. Note particularly that everyone, including children will need to remain seated and socially distanced whilst they are in the Hall.

It is always the case that you learn a lot about a community when it comes under some pressure, as we have over the last four months. I am impressed by the support that villagers have shown for their neighbours, and the community spirit that has allowed us to carry on as near a normal life as is possible over this period.

Wreningham

Village Hall

Charity No

284991

We do have vacancies on the Village Hall Committee so we would welcome your support if you feel you are able to join us on the Committee, or more generally provide us with support.

We look forward to welcoming you all back soon.

Ian

## **Wreningham Parish Council**

To-date we have not heard of anyone in the village succumbing to Covid-19 – due, perhaps, to a combination of good luck and good practices. Keep doing whatever you have been doing.

Having cancelled our last meeting, we went ahead and held our first ever on-line meeting. Thanks to the Clerk for making all the administrative arrangements. It worked very well and we finished the whole agenda in just about an hour – very efficient; the minutes will be on the website soon. We are waiting to hear from you about projects which could benefit from the CIL funds we hold. The Clerk can provide more details for you. Next time, in September, we hope to hold a socially distanced meeting in the Hall.

The B1113 has its new signage to announce the 40mph speed limit through the village. This is the result of a concerted effort by many people over the years, but, a pointed input by Dr Patricia really had the required effect to get NCC Highways to take action.

We are receiving complaints about bonfires. They need to be set only when it is both legal and socially acceptable to do so. For one individual, having the fire brigade visit you and read the riot act does indicate you have overstepped the mark.

Similarly, when another's bonfire smoke envelopes the neighbourhood, people's washing and gardens in a dense fog, then you too are not being considerate. SNC have some good advice on their site about the steps to take in order to ensure acceptability and safety – they also have advice on how to complain.

Walking around the village there are two aspects which spoil the walk – one is litter and the other is unkempt hedgerows. Littering is wrong and anti-social; so is walking by. Please consider taking a bag with you on a walk and retrieving a few items. Together we can keep the village clear.

Hedgerows which border a footpath or the road need to be managed. Do take a look at yours and ensure it is not an obstruction, a potential nuisance to passers-by, a danger to cyclists or causing poor visibility to motorists.

There has been a spate of drug taking in the back waters of the village where syringes and other paraphernalia have been discarded. The Police are interested in these matters and would like to hear about them. Do not intervene but record any details (such as time, place, car number plates) for passing to our Engagement Officer, PC Hudson ([Andrew.Hudson@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Andrew.Hudson@norfolk.pnn.police.uk) or 01953 425699 Ext 2377)

Finally, there is a free, once in a lifetime, show in the skies to the north-west (after 11.30pm). On a clear night the comet NEOWISE is still visible for the next week or so, as it rushes out of the Solar System to return in 6,800 years' time.

Stay safe out there.

Michael Hill Chair, WPC

## Witch and Wren

NORMAL SERVICE RESUMES! (Not quite?)

We are pleased to be able to say the Witch and Wren bar has re-opened and we now have a full range of drinks available for you to either enjoy in safety with all relevant guidelines in place or alternatively as a take away service.

Our opening hours are currently:-  
Thursday evening 7pm - 10pm  
Friday evening 6pm - 10pm  
Saturday afternoon 3pm - 5pm

The bar area seating has been re-arranged to allow for safe distancing and, when the weather allows, the patio doors will be open where additional outside seating or standing is allowed.

If you are out and about enjoying a walk or just fancy a change of scenery and a catch up with some of the local villagers, why not pop in and stay for a while

Also: for those very kind people who paid to attend our wine tasting evening back in March prior to the lockdown period .....fear not!

A new date will be published as soon as we possibly can when we know more regarding future events.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

John Knight

## Rules for Chip Night

As you would expect, the safety of our staff and customers is our top priority, so there are some rules in place to control Covid risks.

- If you have a temperature, cold or cough or are otherwise unwell please do not join us
- When queuing for fish and chips please observe social distancing and queue away from the car park going up towards the school. Only one person at a time should be at the chip van
- A mask should be worn when ordering at the bar.
- Please maintain the optimum social distancing of two metres at all times on the premises
- We will need to record your contact details on entry for track and trace purposes. This data will not be used for any other purpose other than track and trace.
- When you are indoors you should remain seated at all times unless you are ordering. This includes any children in your group. Toys including scooters will not be allowed.
- If you are outside you may stand, but please ensure you observe proper social distancing.
- We will operate a one-way system to enter and exit the premises.
- Only one person will be allowed in the toilets at any one time and children must be accompanied.
- Please wash your hands regularly and use the hand sanitiser provided.
- Payments for the bar are contactless, payments for fish and chips are cash and contactless.
- We may have to refuse entry if our maximum capacity is reached. Please be patient with us if we need to do this.
- At the bar please have only one person ordering. You cannot sit at or lean on the bar.

**For further information and updates see the [wreningham.org](http://wreningham.org) website.**

## The Last Wednesday Coffee Morning

every month (except December) at the Village Hall

Coffee morning in the village hall is back! By the time The Mardle goes to press we will probably have held our first socially distanced event, on 29th July, and will know how well our return has been received. For everyone's comfort and protection, there will be several changes: we shall convene in the **Witch and Wren Bar**, where the sliding doors can be kept open, and on the patio. Access will be via the patio entrance, where you will be asked to take advantage of the hand sanitisers provided by the village hall and we will have to restrict numbers so that everyone can be seated on arrival. The toilets adjacent to the bar will be open if needed.

Orders for coffee and other drinks will be taken at table by our small band of helpers and delivered to you there and you will be given a cup/glass which you will retain for refills. Payment will be taken and change given by one member, who will not be serving drinks. All helpers will be masked and will practice frequent hand washing. Biscuits will be available at the table in small packets for you to help yourself and will be free of charge. Sadly, at least for the moment, no bacon rolls!

These arrangements are for the protection of all our visitors and we will try to make the event as relaxed as possible within the guidelines. We hope you will join us for an opportunity to commiserate with one another about the strange turn our lives have taken in recent months and a good old mardle in general. Looking forward to seeing you!

Oh, and all being well we hope to make our Last Wednesday in September a MacMillan Coffee Morning....but that's another story!

## Zumba – Rachel Evans

For the last 9 years I have been running my Zumba classes from Wreningham Village Hall. On March 18th I closed the Hall door for the last time and said a nervous goodbye to my Zumba Family, many of whom have danced with me for years. It was a very sad day indeed.

Over the last 4 months I have reinvented myself as a technical wizard and from just a week after that last class to this day I've run a weekly schedule of 9 Zoom Zumba Classes. In the early days of Lockdown it was an incredible comfort to be able to meet each other and chat about our fears before and after class. It was as much about keeping my students sane as it was keeping them fit and healthy.

I have moved from my lounge into a purpose-built studio in my back garden to offer the very best virtual class experience for my students. It's been a huge learning curve for all of us and I'm so proud of everyone for embracing this new way of exercising. I have been able to dance with students from their 20s to mid 80's! I also have had many Instructors join my classes from as far afield as New Zealand and the USA.

At this moment in time (July) Group Exercise classes are still rather in the wilderness. Loud music is not permitted, students may not sing (heaven forbid) and a class such as Zumba or aerobics which requires travel needs a massive 4 x 4 metre square per person. I will have to operate a booking system where I will take student information for Track and Trace plus we will also have to follow the Protocol of the Hall regarding entrance and exit etc.

Fitness professionals are hoping that by **mid Sept** the social distancing required is lessened to allow viable classes to begin. European space requirements are half that of the UK.

Keeping everything crossed to get back to the live version of Zumba soon but in the meantime, Zoom Zumba will keep us fit.

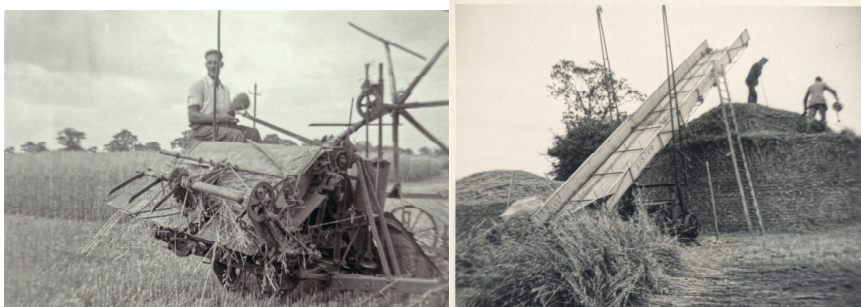
In the immortal words of Dame Vera Lynn ' We'll meet again' .

## Wreningham Heritage Group

It's been a quiet period for the Heritage Group but I can confirm that we have booked the Village Hall for the May Bank Holiday weekend 2021 to stage the Heritage exhibition which, sadly, had to be cancelled this May due to Covid-19 restrictions. At least we now have further time for planning, information gathering etc. and I hope we can make it bigger and better! The committee met recently to discuss this and other matters and we hope it will not be too long before we are able to gather the whole Group for a proper update and a look into our future activities.

Meanwhile, please keep your eyes and ears open for items of historic interest - and perhaps someone should write/put together a piece for posterity about how Wreningham is coping with the Covid-19 pandemic. After all, one day this will be History and contemporary accounts will be priceless.....

Jean Lambourne



## Recycling News

Thanks to everyone munching away on crisps, snacks, biscuits, muesli bars, cakes and feeding their furry family, I recently sent to TerraCycle 19Kg of hard to recycle plastic. This brings the total of items saved from landfill to a whopping **21,846** and we have collectively raised **£153.88** for PACT Animal Sanctuary to date. Thanks to your efforts, I am close to sending off yet another box of pet food packaging and one of crisp packets so our total will be even higher.

An additional big thank you for separating your items into the 3 streams (crisp/snack, biscuit/cake and pet food) and for flattening all packets where possible. It made my job so much easier.

Don't forget I also take confectionery packaging, toothbrushes / toothpaste tubes and baby food packaging which I pass on to other collectors.

Many thanks for all your hard work.

## Face Masks

Whilst there are differing views on the efficacy of wearing a face mask, compulsory mask wearing comes into force on July 24<sup>th</sup>. My personal feeling is that you protect others from any germs you might harbour, you protect yourself from others and you keep reminding people that we aren't out of the woods yet.

I continue to sew face masks (adult, teen or child) and am happy to offer them to any residents for a donation to PACT. I can take orders or you can choose from those I've already made.

Val. 01508 488231 [val@valkeel.co.uk](mailto:val@valkeel.co.uk)

## **RUBBISH!**

Despite the efforts of volunteers who look after the playing field and others who pick up discarded items, there are those who blatantly dump their rubbish wholesale and individually around the village.

Recent examples include: bags of party detritus dumped outside the village hall; the bins on the playing field were filled and rubbish accumulated on the ground around about; empty beer cans discarded everywhere; soda stream gas capsules; the list goes on.

This is not supportable and needs action by us all - a sustained effort to tackle the rubbish proliferating in our village. You are a villager and some people, often not from here, fail to acknowledge and respect your enjoyment of where you live. Unfortunately, this is life. But, please do not walk on by when you see rubbish discarded, pick it up for disposal in your dustbin. By all means shake your head at the foibles of others but at least take the right action, even if they choose the wrong one.

The Parish Council will continue to work with volunteers to manage the field and the Hall.



## **All Saints, Wreningham**

Firstly, I am so sorry that we have had to keep the church locked for so long but at last we are able to open Wreningham church for private prayer. We hope to open each day but it will depend on the ability to clean on a regular basis. Please, do your bit by following the advice provided for both the safety of yourself and others.

The other good news is that the builder has given us a date for the repair to the East Wall. This should be carried out towards the end of September.

It is too early for us to start arranging social events or fund-raising activities but if anybody would like to join in the NCT cycle ride, on 12<sup>th</sup> September, I would love to hear from you.

The NCT is a grant aiding charity which supports the repairs of historical churches. Over recent years, All Saints, Wreningham, have appreciated the funding which NCT has been able to give to us. In order that they can continue to support churches with grants, they need to raise funds. Their annual sponsored cycle/walk event which involves the whole county has become one of their major fund raisers and always get coverage in the EDP.

The idea is that people who want to take part, get themselves sponsored to visit as many churches as they can or wish to, in the time they can spare on that day. Half the money they raise will go to NCT and the other half will be returned to the church of the sponsored person's choice. So! This gives you the chance to keep up your fitness regime, raise money for your local church and for NCT. So many of you have been walking and cycling recently, let's put all that extra fitness to good use and support the charity which supports the buildings which are our heritage.

Sponsorship forms are available from and need to be returned to me.

Throughout the last 4 months our volunteers have continued to keep the churchyard tidy for which I wish to thank them. My thanks to all those who have supported the plant stall at my gate either by donating plants or buying. To date I have raised about £350.00 which is much needed at this time when the churches have been unable to arrange other events. The plants will be there into the Autumn so you still have a chance to add surplus plants or buy something if you still have a space in the garden. You will find the stall at High Gables, Church Road.

**Stop Press:**

We have just received advice from the Church of England which means that, yet again, we will not be able to deliver the bi-monthly church magazine. However, there is a copy on the "Church Near You" website if you go into the Wreningham page. If you have a problem finding it, get in touch and I will see if I can help.

The good news is that we are now able to restart our collection for the Food Bank. They are desperate for our contributions and you can leave these in the church porch where they will be collected and taken to the distribution centre.

Thankyou

Christine Minns. Churchwarden.

## Obituary – Maurice Green

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Maurice Green, a longtime resident of Wreningham.

Born in Portsmouth, he grew up in Duxford with five siblings, four sisters and a brother. Maurice was a practical young man with a preference for metalwork and mechanics over more theoretical subjects. He excelled at sports and became an ABA Eastern Counties boxing champion. He had a variety of jobs, including dairyman, driver, working with thoroughbred race horses, and as a coalman. Maurices' love of horses was central to his life; he was a steward at the racing track in Wreningham.

His passion for horses was shared by Pam. They married in 1967, the next year Nick was born, followed by Darryl in 1973. The Greens stabled their horses at Hill House Farm where they supported Mr & Mrs Peel and eventually inherited the farm. An easy going man with simple tastes, Maurice did not do holidays, he worked hard and enjoyed his dog, a simple life, his family, his horses and, of course, his Massey Ferguson tractor.

He passed away in the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital being treated for cancer. He leaves behind his wife, Pam, his two sons, Nick and Darryl and Nick's partner, Annie. His cremation was held at Breckland Crematorium on 13 May 2020 and following his wishes, his ashes will be scattered across the fields on his farm.

His family are grateful for the many tributes, flowers and cards received and ask that any donations be made to the Norfolk and Norwich Colney Centre.

# Classifieds

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Copy for the Oct/Nov edition to Val Keel ([val@valkeel.co.uk](mailto:val@valkeel.co.uk))





## 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 -

**ALL activities have been cancelled for the time being. Please see the Village website:**

<https://www.wreningham.org.uk/>

**or the Facebook Page:**

**@WrenVillageHall**

**or Notice Boards around the Village for news about possible reopening.**