



February – March 2021

Wreningham

Village Hall

Firstly, a happy New Year to you all and welcome to the latest edition of the Mardle. I hope you are all keeping well and safe through the latest lockdown.

As you may expect, the Village Hall remains closed for all internal events until we receive Government advice to the contrary. Takeaway fish & chips remains available on the second and fourth Friday of the month and takeaway pizzas will be available on the first and third Fridays. Unfortunately, we cannot now by law sell takeaway alcohol at these takeaway events.

The Village Hall Committee is still meeting online and is considering how we can create a really interesting set of activities for the Spring and Summer. Our plans include a Summer party for the village, beer festival, wine tasting along with our usual pie nights, curry nights, barbecues and other functions. We think this is going to be a great Summer and something to look forward to. If you have ideas for any other events, please let us know. Obviously, this is all dependent on lifting of lockdown restrictions and will be in line with any Government rulings.

For now, all please keep safe and well.

Wreningham

Village Hall

Charity No

284991

Ian

Parish Council

It's good to be in 2021 with hope on the horizon as the vaccines are being rolled out to the country. So glad to see the back of 2020 with all its serious trials and tribulations. I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy 2021.

Our Council meetings remain open to the public even though they are on-line. Previous experience of much shorter meetings was born out by January's meeting – just on an hour. This is only possible after much preparation by the councillors, preparing their input against the agenda and pre-published meeting papers.

The recent playing field inspection report highlighted a wide range of issues which, whilst not causing major concern individually, collectively point to tired equipment and environment. This has confirmed the comments I made in the last Mardle that the playing field will need some TLC this year. Hence, when we can, we will be organising a working group to address the multitude of small repairs and maintenance required. Please let the Clerk know if you would like to help.

NCC are running a short survey on the preferred route for Kett's Walk through the village – see our website. Mick and Sue Ryder are our footpath wardens and liaise with SNC and NCC about footpath access problems within our village.

5 years ago, without our knowledge, CAMRA arranged for the Bird in Hand pub to be registered as an Asset of Community Value. ACV registration provides the local community with 6 months within which to buy the "asset" should it come up for sale. The registration has now lapsed and the law has changed so that only local groups can re-register the asset. My question is whether there is community interest in forming a group to represent the locality and manage the re-registration. CAMRA are willing to help such a group. Please let the Clerk know if you are interested.

Following the widespread flooding in the county due to the heavy rainfall over the last few weeks, SNC is establishing a working group to recommend SNC's response and strategy relating to flooding in the district. When we have details of their Terms of Reference and programme of work, we will post the information on the website. The village had its share of flooding and some homes were at risk of being overwhelmed. It would be helpful if parishioners ensure the SNC working group is told about local experiences and concerns.

A huge success in 2020 was the illuminated Christmas Tree at the Reading Room; well done to all concerned. People are looking forward to this being a regular feature for future Christmases.

One of life's mysteries is why some dog walkers pick up their dog's mess, carefully wrap it in a plastic bag and then toss the bag into the roadside, ditch or hedgerow. There they hang, unsavoury decorations, giving credence to the folly of mankind. If taking it home for correct disposal is beyond you, then at least kick it into the verge, unwrapped, so nature can take its course and dispose of it gradually.

It has come to our notice that SNDC will no longer supply us with calendars detailing the various bin collections. Whilst the information is available online, we know that isn't appropriate for some residents therefore a calendar has been generated and inserted in this Mardle for you to keep. Bin collection dates will also be published within the Mardle from now on.

Membership of a Parish Council is both a privilege and a responsibility. We endeavour to effect improvement for the village and always welcome your input on village matters. More direct engagement would be to volunteer as a Councillor (2 vacancies); a role which can enhance your CV!

Please look after yourselves and those around you. Stay safe and well.

Michael Hill, Chair, WPC

All Saints Church

Many of you will have seen that the East wall is still covered by scaffolding and in fact the scaffold is holding up the wall at the moment. Repairs should have been done in November but when the builder started it was discovered that the movement was more serious than first thought. Further investigation had to be carried out and we are currently waiting for a fresh report and pricing for the work. Hopefully, we will be in a position to do this work early in the Spring. In the meantime, I regret to say that the church is closed for safety reasons.

Church Magazine – once again we are not printing and delivering the February/March edition to keep our delivery team and customers as safe as possible. However, it will be available to those with access to a computer online at “achurchnearyou” by going to one of our local churches and following the links.

Foodbank – We are still collecting for the Norwich Foodbank in the village so if you have home deliveries, you can order items for the foodbank (they need toiletries as well as food) and leave them in the crate in my porch at High Gables, Church Road. The crate is emptied once or twice a week and taken to the foodbank warehouse.

Thanks to donations towards the cost of electricity we were able to floodlight the tower over 3 weeks during the Christmas period. My thanks to these generous people and to Vic and Rachael Long who provided and fitted up the lights.

Christine Minns (churchwarden)

One Small Step

Do you received lots of unsolicited personally addressed junk mail that goes straight into the recycling? Reduce the irritation – and the waste paper – by signing up with the Mailing Preference Service www.mpsonline.org.uk. It's free, and you can contact them online or call on 0207 291 3310. It won't stop you receiving mail you've requested or letters from firms where you are already a customer.

“Full of Thanks”

We need to be thankful for the good things and happy times we experience in this current climate and I would invite you to join me in this throughout “Lent” which begins on Ash Wednesday, 17th February through to Good Friday, 2nd April. Many people, even those not associated with a Christian church, give up items for “lent” but this year when things are so hard, we are not encouraging you to do that but instead to appreciate the good things happening to you and around you.

How about, you find a small jar to drop coins in, or a notepad to put a “tick” on each time you experience something good. For example: a phone call from a friend or relative you were not expecting, a favourite food, seeing a beautiful sunrise, etc. At the end of lent, you can then convert your “coin or ticks” into a donation to charity.

The local church will be supporting St Martins Trust which cares for the local homeless and if you would like to join in with us, please can you let me Christine Minns, have your contribution early in April.

Coffee Morning:

Is anyone else missing their cups of coffee, bacon butty etc in the village hall? I know I am!

Your coffee team is ready to swing into action just as soon as we are allowed to gather - all our good intentions for December were thwarted, including the afternoon Christmas Tea planned for the end of the month, but maybe we can make it an Easter afternoon tea instead - and that would be in addition to a traditional bacon butty morning.

Meanwhile, the marmalade season has started. I know that one or two of you are kind enough to consider my Seville Orange marmalade worth having so if you would like some, do please call me on 481947 and we can arrange delivery/collection!

Jean

Wreningham Village Christmas Tree

During the second lockdown in November, Jill and Jean had a “light bulb” moment and proposed a village Christmas tree to provide something to brighten up our days prior to Christmas in this strangest of years. With the aid of some fund raising and many village stalwarts, a tree was purchased and erected in the reading room (why is it called that) by the village sign.

December the 4th saw the great turn-on in front of a crowd of villagers - all socially distanced of course. Organ music, takeaway pizzas and beer were available at the village hall. Afterwards if you took a walk around the village, you were treated to an array of illuminations where everyone seemed to have made a bigger than usual effort to raise some festive cheer. For many of us it kick-started the run up to a quiet Christmas and the tree was lit up every night through the festive season. Thanks to everyone who made it all happen so smoothly.

Could this become another annual event? Thanks to the Parish Council reimbursing the costs of the tree and lights, all donations received will be held in readiness and put towards next year's celebration...yes, it will be an annual event!

Mary & Dave Loader



Eco and Recycling News

Great News! Thanks to your hard work in eating crisps and biscuits and saving their packaging plus feeding your furrries, we are now in a position to pass on some of the accrued money raised with TerraCycle. This week I scheduled a payment to PACT for **£150** which is fantastic. The total raised so far is £256 and reflects **42,269** items saved from landfill (don't know how they work that out!), an amazing figure. Well done everyone and keep it up. The drop off point is still open (Atherstone House, Wym Rd) but if your household is in quarantine, please don't send it.

I'm about to send off a consignment of pet food packaging which is great but it also means I'm in need of large boxes. If you have, see or have access to large boxes (60 x 60 x 50 cm max), can I have them please.

So to sum up, drop off for our Wreningham fund raising:

Pet food pouches & packaging – that can be from food & treats for any animal, small or large but make sure it is plastic (not paper or plastic lined paper) and that all pouches are washed out, dry and flattened

Crisp & snack packaging – any crisp, snack, nut packets including the outer bags of multipacks. It would really help if the crisp packets could be empty & flattened and please, NO origami, it takes me ages to flatten and unfold hundreds of packets.

Cake & biscuit packaging – any biscuit, snack bar, cake or cracker packets

Can I please ask that you don't put mixed items inside each other as they all need checking and sending off in the correct consignment. However, I'm happy for you to put flattened crisp packets in a larger one, pet food pouches in a larger bag or you can use bread bags for each type.

In addition to our 3 revenue streams, feel free to drop off confectionery/chocolate wrappers, toothbrushes/toothpaste tubes, baby food pouches, medicine blister packs, cheese pouches & coffee bags. Don't forget to visit the **Eco living in and around Wreningham** Facebook group for all things environmental.

Looking forward to a time when we can hopefully get together, I would like to organise a drop in "Green Day" at the village hall where I can clarify what we collect, what else we can pass to other collectors, the types of plastic we can take to supermarkets and, more importantly the types that can only go into landfill.

I'd also like to include such things as zero waste, zero packaging and all those 're' words – refuse, reduce, re-use, re-purpose, recycle, rethink and rot (not a 're' word).

It would be great if we can get some input or information from South Norfolk or any other relevant organisations too.

Obviously, we can't do anything at the moment but we can prepare. If you're interested in helping, have something you want including on the day or questions you need answering, please get in touch.

Thanks, Val
01508 488231, val@valkeel.co.uk, Facebook group: **Eco living in and around Wreningham**

Face masks

Well, who'd have thought we'd still be wearing masks? In fact, we're wearing them more than we did in February and it looks like they're not going away. I still have some masks left should anyone want one and I'm still making them but only to order so..... if you want to provide fabric for me to use (a shirt or skirt maybe) or want one from my stock please get in touch.

I offer them for a voluntary charitable donation and am thrilled to say I've made my first donations - **£150** to Runham Wildlife Rescue in Great Yarmouth and **£100** to PACT on behalf of you all. Thankyou.

Val
01508 488231, val@valkeel.co.uk

Wreningham Heritage Group:

We decided early in January that an online meeting for members, on Zoom, would be better than nothing whilst we are unable to hold our regular meetings in the village hall. It's not everyone's cup of tea and of course we appreciate that some members may not have access to the internet; however, a small number of us gathered on screen and it was good to see familiar faces and to have a bit of a chinwag!

We were able to update those present on the training sessions your committee had been having with the Norfolk Records Office in the weeks up to Christmas, on the gathering of oral history, which should stand us in good stead when we are up and running again, and on the niceties of cataloguing our many - and ever increasing - historical documents, maps and photographs. Jean Agnew gave us a brief - and fascinating - insight into her career as an archivist.

I hope it won't be too long before we can meet in person but I suspect there will be at least one more Zoom meeting. It would be great to see more of you if you are able to join in and you might enjoy the decidedly informal atmosphere engendered by Mick and Sue's cats and mine, wandering in and out of view and, indeed threatening the whole conduct of the meeting with their occasional determined assaults upon the keyboard!

Do remember, as always, if you come across any old photos etc. which you think may be of interest, you can either drop them through my letterbox at Shelley Cottage in Wymondham Road, or give me a call on 481947 and I will collect during one of my daily walks around the village with Meg.



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Wreningham Bird in Hand

If you're looking for something a little different, to celebrate a special occasion or save you cooking, but know that you shouldn't be driving too far from home, why not order a local take-away and support a local business during lockdown!!

Wednesday: 4pm-8pm (pizzas only with 20% off)

Thursday: 4pm-8pm (main menu and pizzas)

Friday: 4pm-9pm (main menu and pizzas)

Saturday: 4pm-9pm (main menu and pizzas)

Sunday: 12pm-7pm (roasts and a selection of items from our main menu)

Orders should be placed online through our website or Facebook page and can be made at any time on the day they're required. We're also offering a limited number of delivery slots on each day.

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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



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