

Mardle



No 243

Feb - Mar 2022

Wreningham

From the Village Hall Committee

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you had a good Christmas and are looking forward to 2022.

The hall closed over the Christmas period but not before we enjoyed the lighting of the Christmas Tree on the Reading Room together with carols, mulled wine, mince pies and music from Peter Williams' steam organ. Thank you to Jill and Jean for organising it again. As a break from partying, there was the Christmastide Afternoon Tea which was enjoyed by many.

We're all keeping our fingers crossed that this will be the year the Village Hall returns to full functionality. Things are definitely looking up with more hirers booking events and people returning to the social life offered by the Witch & Wren.

Welcome back to Janet who has returned from her eventful trip to South Africa and is again behind the bar creating her wonderful cocktails. We're happy she and Stephen are fully recovered and we look forward to welcoming you to **COCKTAIL NIGHT** at the Witch and Wren. Jill, Jean and Val held the fort in December and had a fun time doing it. The next Cocktail Night will be 24th February. Please tell your friends and make a night of it. We move to twice a month in March!!

Wreningham

Village Hall

Charity No

284991

Other events coming up include Swing, 60s Dances, a Charity Dance in aid of the EAAA with The Dreamers, Church quiz as well as our regular Zumba, Mother & Toddler Group and Last Coffee Morning. Further details are found later in this issue and all events can be found on the Village website; keep an eye on the Facebook page and noticeboards too.

Pizza night will continue on the 1st Friday of the month starting in March; we haven't secured the services of other food vendors to date but will announce it as soon as it's sorted.

Are there any other things you'd like organised in the village? Would you support a Women's Institute or something similar, how about a crafting group or cosmetic parties? Would a group that helps people to do their own DIY or a gardening group appeal? What about events or clubs for young people? If you have any ideas or wishes, please email info@witch&wren.org with your suggestions.

Village Hall AGM

As mentioned in the last issue, committee numbers are low and we need more members to keep the hall moving forward. Ideally, we should have 9 trustees with additional committee members or volunteers to spread the workload or work on specific tasks. If you think you have something to offer, would like to join in or just listen, please come along to the **AGM on Monday 28th February, 7.30pm at the Witch & Wren**. If you'd like to discuss it, please give Val a call on 01508 488231.

Interested but think you have nothing to offer? Come along anyway. The committee is a team of people with varying interests and skills. Sometimes it's just a matter of lending a hand. Maybe you have ideas we could try, or you have an interest that you'd like to share or build on. It's not just about meetings and paperwork. By developing a diverse team, we can offer more for the village and its residents. Over the years, the Village Hall has been a 'go to' place for many people, both local and the wider community and we really want to return it to being the place people choose to visit.

Please give it some thought. Everyone has something to offer. Hope to see you on Wednesday 28th.

Aaron, Jill, Val

Wreningham Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Nicky Allen clerk.wpc@gmail.com

An apology to those expecting a council meeting in January. The legislation that allowed councils to hold meetings virtually has lapsed and not been renewed. We had expected the Government to re-enact this law in time for our January meeting but that did not happen. As the other option was to hold a socially distanced meeting with all the hall doors open, we decided to postpone until February. Hopefully this will go ahead – wrap up well when you attend!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June 2022) approaches and the Parish Council has set aside money to support Jubilee activities in our parish. Items planned:

- Afternoon tea at the Village Hall.
- Two or three benches to be placed beside our footpaths. Often such benches display a commemorative plaque – if you would like to sponsor a bench to commemorate a person or event, please get in touch.
- The commemorative village booklet – this needs a team to develop it.
- A Jubilee tree has been planted in the churchyard and a ceremony is being planned by the Vicar, Lydia Avery.

You may have other suggestions for the Jubilee or might like to be involved in making these ideas happen; do contact us soon as time is getting on.

NCC has installed the signposts for the Kett's Long Distance walk and the Wreningham circular walk around the village. Don't forget that you can add value to your walk around by taking with you one of the litter picking kits (see later). Being proactive and removing litter is a satisfying activity as it improves both the countryside and your walk. Details of the 10 sets available are on the village website.

Whilst on the theme of keeping things tidy and looking after others, consider taking a pair of secateurs to trim back the brambles which intrude into the road and paths.

The proposed village gates on the B1113 will cost from £4000 – half of which we hope NCC Highways will provide. We will be talking to them and our NCC / SNC Councillors, for additional support.

County Broadband confirmed it will bring its fibre network to Wreningham, although there is no date for the start of the service. On their website they say “the whole programme takes around a year to build from start to finish, with a connection period of a few months after the build is completed”. The announcement letter is being sent to all who have not pre-ordered their service. Terms and conditions are to be found on www.countybroadband.co.uk.

Our meetings are open for the public to attend – that includes you! We would welcome expressions of interest in joining us and becoming a councillor, often a useful entry on your CV! Contact the clerk.

Michael Hill

Chair, WPC

All Saints, Wreningham



We have now received an 85 page report on the church fabric following our 5 year Architects inspection. The good thing is that he has not indicated that the building is likely to fall down soon.

However, as usual there are items which need attention in the not too distance future and the PCC will be studying his report.

In the meantime, we will continue to open the church each day for private prayer.

Christine Minns & Christine Bilham (churchwardens)

Church Plant Sale

Provisional advance notice for your diary – **Saturday 14th May**. Save cuttings, plant seeds, pot up self-sets – we will need as many plants as we can get for this annual sale. Last year was such a success that it will be hard to match it this year!

“Quiz & Supper”

Friday 18th March – 7.15 for 7.30

Wreningham Village Hall

£6.00 per person but bring your own nibbles!

Enter a team of up to 6 people or we can introduce you to a team.

Advance booking essential (last time we had to turn away teams)

Contact: Christine on 01508 488123

Raffle Licensed Bar

In aid of Ashwellthorpe and Wreningham church expenses

Two Years On

The third week in March will see the 2nd anniversary of the first lockdown due to covid-19. For many who did not experience a “world war” the past 2 years will be the nearest we have come to one.

People dying without family with them, and no chance to say a final farewell to loved ones – just as the families of soldiers would have experience during a war.

Scientists working day and night, not to produce a new bomb or other item of war but to produce a vaccine.

The medical teams rushed off their feet in hospitals and providing, not field hospitals, but overspill facilities.

The “land girls” and “Bevan Boys” did not mine coal or plant food but they manned the vaccine units.

I could fill a page of similar examples from evacuees similar to home schooling and so on.

There are no “war memorials” to remind people of the experience of the past 2 years. The sadness and the good things which have come out of the pandemic, but for those of you who would like to remember, mourn a loss and/or celebrate the survival of so many, we invite you to join us on Sunday 20th March. The service of Remembrance will be at 10.30 am at Wreningham All Saints and will give thanks for the good things – all the support we received and remember all who have suffered. This will be followed by the dedication of an Oak Tree planted in the graveyard as a reminder of the pandemic.

If you feel the time is right for you, to reflect on the past 2 years, do come and join us.

Wreningham School

When I look back over the last few months and consider all the hurdles and different demands we have overcome, I’m really proud of my staff and their positive and enduring enthusiasm in school. The children too have done really well, and they continue to be bright and cheerful in class.

The younger children had a school trip to Norwich Cathedral, and to everyone's surprise, just before the holiday, we had a visit from Father Christmas that also made the ITV Anglia News.

The pupils' school council have been busy organising a bring and buy sale and the pupils recently voted to adopt a red panda. Despite restrictions, we managed five performances of a Christmas nativity in front of parents, and we held a Christingle service in Wreningham All Saints church.

We look forward to the term ahead and in particular, Class 3's residential trip to Aylmerton. Rob Jones, Headmaster

Women’s Institute

There has been an active WI group in Ashwellthorpe and Wreningham since 1943 and meetings have been held once a month ever since...until the enforced break, that is, because of covid 19 ! We are now delighted to be meeting together again in person, in the new Thorpe Hall, Ashwellthorpe, on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm.

The Women’s Institute (WI) was formed over a hundred years ago as a mainly rural organisation with the explicit intention of encouraging women to get involved in food production during the First World War. Now it has a membership of over 220,000 women with groups throughout the UK from the largest cities to the smallest rural communities. WIs around the country have members of all ages from women in their 20s to 100+. Meetings can be held at whatever time of day suits members most.

Interests vary depending on membership and locality and for every group it is decided by members themselves how they would like their meetings to go. The most important aim of the WI is to bring women together locally. For us in Wreningham, Ashwellthorpe and surrounding villages it has been a chance to meet up, and make new friends. At most meetings we have an invited speaker and we are planning a lively programme for the first part of 2022. If you are interested in any of the events below please contact Carole Bradford 01508 489211 for further details. It is up to us to make our WI whatever we want it to be, whether it’s craft activities, a variety of talks, coffee and cakes and even outings, or a combination of any of these. We would love to keep this wonderful community-based group going and are open to all of your ideas about how it might develop. We might even be persuaded to make jam and sing Jerusalem! (Probably not!!)

Tuesday 8th February 2022 The Inconvenience of Loose Elastic! by Ruth Smith. Episode Three of a humorous trio of monologues written and performed by the speaker, outling her “Life With Nanny” as a child in the 1940s.

Tuesday 8th March 2022 Still to Be Decided
<https://www.thewi.org.uk/about-us>

Events at the Village Hall

Thursday and Friday bar nights are active so come on down!
Bar open Thursday 8-11pm (cocktail nights 7pm), Friday 8-11pm (5-11pm if food is on sale & if staff are available)

If you want to bring your own food on a Friday, that's fine but make sure you take your rubbish away.

Specific events:

Friday 4th February – **Family Night opening 6pm** **NOTE:** No pizza in February
Remember, please no wheels as they damage the floor and no children on the stage.

Thursday 24th February 7pm onwards - **COCKTAILS AT THE WITCH & WREN**

VILLAGE HALL AGM – Monday 28th February 7.30pm

Friday 4th March – **Family night with pizza from 5pm**

Thursday 10th and 24th March 7pm onwards - **COCKTAILS AT THE WITCH & WREN**

We will have a longer term view of events in the next issue once the new committee has had a chance to put some plans together.

Check the village website (<https://www.wreningham.org.uk/>), Facebook Groups & noticeboards for updates.

Other events:

ZUMBA– Mondays and Wednesdays 6.15pm

MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP – Fridays 9am

SWING - Monday 31st January 8pm

HERITAGE GROUP MEETING – 1st February 2pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – 8th February and 8th March 7pm

60s DANCE - 12th February, 12th March and 23rd April

THE LAST COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 23rd February and 30th March 10.00-12.00

CHURCH QUIZ - 18th March 7.15pm. Contact Christine Minns to book a table 01508 488123

Charity/Dance – THE DREAMERS - 27th March –2pm. For tickets contact Helen Norman 01953 600563, helen.norman.i@uwclub.net
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group

If you want to book the hall, call Jill on 01508 481823. Check the village website for availability.

Fancy playing badminton?

The Village Hall court is available to hire - £15 for 2 hours with racquets and shuttlecocks provided.
Contact Jill to book – 481823

The Last Wednesday Coffee Morning



every month at the Village Hall

Bacon rolls are back!!!

Our Christmas Afternoon Tea was enjoyed by a select band of Coffee Morning regulars who tucked into generous amounts of David Loader's celebrated and very boozy Christmas cake at the Village Hall.

If we can persuade him to make another one, we shall definitely do it again next December.

Until then, it's back to morning coffee and bacon rolls on the last Wednesday of every month.

Wreningham Heritage Group

We are currently in the process of arranging a visit to the village hall, probably in early May, of the Museum of East Anglian Life's travelling exhibition, "Food Stories" - how food and language bring communities together. It will feature local recipes, historic techniques of food production and local dialect. They would like the village community to be involved by donating recipes and sharing stories and local words to the Museum collection.

So, if you can donate any traditional recipes or share any local words, please contact me initially and we will pass them on to the Museum....

Jean
01508 481947 or pamela27@btinternet.com

Obituary – Donald Whiterod

Who was Donald Whiterod (always Donald and never "Don" or "Donny")?

Many people in the village will know him as the elderly gent who drove very slowly, in a large car through the village, loved dogs and for most of his time at High Common Farm he had at least one dog for company – often of Alsatian type and whose favour tippie was a good whisky. Those who regularly supported Wreningham Social Club would have known that nobody sat on "Donald's" stool, and the bar staff knew better than to put his drink in anything other than "Donald's glass".

However, there was much more to Donald Whiterod than this. His family took on the farm in 1969 and once the farmhouse had been renovated, they moved in and this is where Donald lived for the rest of his life. He soon became active within the village and he is one of the few Parish Council members in living memory who was elected into office as he was pleased to inform people. He served on the Village Hall management Committee and at one time helped to run the junior discos. He was a member of Ashwren Players and opened his home for rehearsals. His involvement within the village led to him helping to fund raise for the playing field and the building of the present village hall, and in fact he was elected the first chairman of Wreningham Social Club and although he didn't hold this position for long, he continued to be an active member. He supported the local church, not least by providing the hoggin for the entrance to the car park. He was a gate steward for the "Wreningham Trotting" which took place at The Poplars grass raceway and served on the Millennium committee and it was he who suggested that the memorial to the year 2000 should be a village clock which eventually was installed on the tower of All Saints church.

Donald passed away peacefully at home and was laid to rest in Wreningham churchyard.

Recycling News

With the closure of the pet food programme, the amount we are raising has dropped dramatically so please keep saving everything on the list and drop them off at my dropoff point. Please try and spread the word. Just a thought - my experience of care homes is that they use a lot of the items we collect – crisps, biscuits, cheese, blister packs so if anyone works in or visits care homes, please ask if you can have them. Similarly, if you're back at work, can you set up a collection point? Or speak to your local pub. There is loads of plastic just being thrown away and we want it!

Please continue to drop off packaging from *crisps & snacks, *biscuits & crackers, *cheese, *Taylors coffee, *confectionery, *dishwasher and laundry pouches, *dishwasher salt bags, *contact lenses, *home cleaning wipes, *toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes, *medicine blister packs, *bread bags, *Carex refills, *baby food pouches and children's yoghurt pouches (including lids), *Lavazza eco coffee pods. I will continue to investigate other sources of revenue and don't forget, whilst you can take many of these items to supermarkets, please don't do it – we need them more than they do and it's also not clear how they're recycled.

Don't forget Wreningham School collect stationery for recycling and also have a bin for broken plastic toys (nothing electronic).

Check out www.terracycle.com/en-GB/ for all programmes.

If you have any questions please email me on val@valkeel.co.uk or join the Facebook Group **Eco living in and around Wreningham** where you'll find lots of ideas, questions, answers and support

I'm still intending to have a 'Green Day' in the village hall where we can show what can be recycled, what can't, where things can be taken etc. I'd also like to have a Freesale where items are passed on but I'm reluctant to arrange anything until we're sure it's Covid safe to hold it. Please get in touch with your comments.

Val 01508 488231

Help keep Wreningham Parish Litter-Free

Wreningham Parish residents can now help keep Wreningham, Top Row and Penny's Green litter free after the Parish Council bought litter-picking equipment which can be borrowed for free.

Sets of two litter-pickers, bag hoops and high-vis jackets are now available for residents to borrow for ad-hoc litter picking around the area. Litter picking would be done at residents' own risk.

Sets are located at homes on the main roads in the parish and can be borrowed via a quick email or phone call as follows:

Wymondham Road and general enquiries:

Cllr Keith Morris: 01508 488318 or keith.morris@networknorwich.co.uk

Ashwellthorpe Road:

Cllr Hughie Glaves: Porthtowan or hugh.glaves@btinternet.com

Church Road, Hethel Road & Penny's Green:

Sarah Lidington: Cloverside, Church Road or sarahl@live.co.uk

Mill Lane:

Christine Bilham: Cha-Am or 01508 489626 or bilham8@aol.com

Top Row: Nicky Allen: The Birches or clerk.WPC@gmail.com



Anyone who would like to advertise in the Mardle, please contact Christine Minns for costs and further information
01508 488123

Copy date for the next issue is mid-March. If you have something for inclusion, please let me have it by then.

Thanks, Val.

Email: val@valkeel.co.uk

Bin Collections

Gr – Green, Br – Brown, Bl – Black

February							March						
M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
	1	2 Bl	3	4	5	6		1	2 Bl	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Gr	10	11 Br	12	13	7	8	9 Gr	10	11 Br	12	13
14	15	16 Bl	17	18	19	20	14	15	16 Bl	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Gr	24	25 Br	26	27	21	22	23 Gr	24	25 Br	26	27
28							28	29	30 Bl	31			

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Contact: Ian Lowe
07717 002213 - 01362 821181 - www.norfolksooty.co.uk

YOGA

Tuesday 6-7:15pm
Ashwellthorpe & Fundenhall Community Centre Musket Road,
Ashwellthorpe, NR16 1FD
wildfish1@btinternet.com
contact Pauline 07902 079862

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www.justpaintanddecorate.co.uk 07909 338200
Excellent recommendations on Facebook: justpaintanddec



at Wreningham Village Hall

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

Thursday - Open from 8-11pm (cocktail nights 7-11pm)
Friday - Open from 8-11pm (or 5-11pm if food is on sale)
Check website or Facebook for updates

This issue is dedicated to Donald Whiterod; gone but never forgotten.

