

Wappenham Village Newsletter

Autumn 2020

FROM THE EDITOR



Thanks once again to Rita H for her memories of living here – this time her theme is wartime. The cover photo is of Di and Brian W's garden, from last year's Open Gardens. Any paintings or photos for future issues are welcome. Thanks to our advertisers including Towcester Vets, who are open for customers; see the editorial towards the back of the newsletter as to how appointments need to be carried out at the moment.

For anyone wishing to contribute to the winter 2020 newsletter, the copy deadline is **November 10th**. Let's hope that we can safely put on events in due course. Please drop off contributions to me at 1 Highbridge Road, or email them to me via: parishclerk@wappenham.net

Jane H

WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. It lets you know of events, roadworks, things for sale etc. To join, send an email via parishclerk@wappenham.net

WAPPENHAM VILLAGE WEBSITE



Note the **new website address**. If you would like to add something to the website, such as photos, events, articles, news items, your business details, stories, and so forth, please send the information to parishclerk@wappenham.net. The website is at <http://www.wappenham.net>

There is also a Wappenham Facebook page.

NOTICES

Welcome to some new arrivals to the village: Karen and Martin T and their son Gabriel, who have moved into Greenside. We hope you enjoy living in this lovely village.



NEW COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE DEVELOPS

The pre-bookable bus service, Ability CIC, has started up again. The weekly shopping trips are being reorganised as there is a new minibus and also a smaller wheelchair-friendly vehicle, which is planned to take one or two people, at a cost less than taxis. Social distancing is achieved by limiting passenger numbers and spacing out seating, with masks being used. Contact Ability for more details of these journeys.

There are also monthly trips to places such as garden centres and shopping venues. For pensioners with a bus pass these are free; they usually involve being at the venue for 2-3 hours over a lunchtime. For more information, go to <https://abilitycic.org.uk/> and register, or ring 07799 522097.

Jane H

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is keen to extend its already extensive coverage of South Northants, and we were wondering if there is any requirement in Wappenham for such a scheme. Do you know of anyone who would be willing to participate in the role of Coordinator? If so, they might like to contact me and we will

provide all the support necessary, including training, street signs, literature and stickers, as required.

Best regards

Jeff Reynolds South Northants NHW Chair-designate

ROAD WORKS ON A43

Summary of the Highways notice – see Wiz for more details.

...We will be carrying out essential maintenance work on the A43 between Abthorpe roundabout and Northampton Road roundabout on the A43 Southbound carriageway at Whitfield.

Work is due to start early **September 2020** and is scheduled for completion by **February 2021**. To keep our programme for these works as short as possible and to minimise disruption to the local community, we will work:

- between 7pm and 6am, Monday to Thursday
- between 8pm Friday and 8am Saturday
- between 7pm Saturday and 9am Sunday
- between 8pm Sunday and 9am Monday

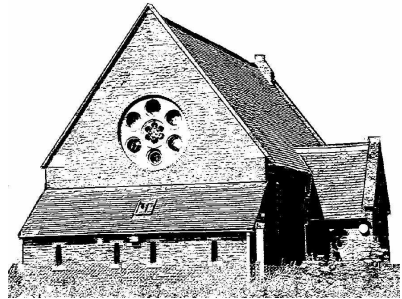
...During all road closures we will put in place fully signed diversion routes. All carriageways will be open, as usual, outside our working hours.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact our **Public Liaison Officer**, Leanne Gibson, as follows:

Email: EMADcomms@kier.co.uk, Telephone: 07768 796542

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

While the country has been in lockdown and the hall out of action, the village hall committee has been quietly beavering away improving the fabric of the hall. Much of this has been masterminded by Ant R.



The kitchen has a newly-plastered ceiling and has been redecorated; the serving hatch tiles have been removed, and we are currently awaiting completion with new fitted tiles. We plan to replace the cracked arrow-slit windows with wired glass replacements. The kitchen door has also been repaired and repainted.

With the installation of a storage unit planned for the land at the back of the hall, a concrete base and path have been laid complete. There is an electrical connection to the shed for those dark winter nights. The shed is on order with an estimated delivery of mid-October.

We have been pestering Nick B to complete the installation of the rose window. I fear he has quite a backlog of work but, hopefully, we are fairly high on his job list.

As per advice from our insurance company, we have had the drains checked and replaced. New downpipes and guttering will be fitted once the roof is replaced. Quotes have been received ranging from £10,750 to £11,927. They are currently beyond our financial means, however Jane H has been busy looking at available grants.

Finally, a projector screen has been fitted just above the acoustic panel below the rose window. The projector is to be ceiling mounted and secured with wall mounted ties, so no tripping over trailing cables. Hopefully we'll be able to run a regular film night once the projector is in place.

On a final note The New Perspectives theatre group is offering a unique opportunity for us to be involved in a new project called Love From Cleethorpes. To sign up you just have to follow the ticket source link on Wiz and you will receive 6 postcards telling a story spread over 30 years. There's no cost too!

Hopefully we'll be able to organise a quiz in the autumn, but at the moment we're all still on hold.

Best regards
Jenny S
Secretary – Village Hall Committee

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear All

I am sitting at my desk and looking out the window, it is grey and raining. This has followed a hot and humid week with plenty of stunning thunderstorms. To be honest, I could have predicted a change because just as we get to the wheat harvest.....in comes the wet weather. That being said, walking our local village footpaths much of the cereal crops are safely in the barn including the spring wheat, so things could be worse in our beautiful area of South Northants.



Keeping it agricultural (who would guess this is my business sector) and footpath-related, walking our paths at the moment is a bit like being in a John Wyndham novel. The maize crops are looking spectacular and the tassel sitting atop of the plant is a bit like the tongue of the Triffid. I had better watch myself when our running just in case.....



Enough of me droning on about agriculture, which I could do for hours. What else has been happening in our parish? Your councillors are still meeting 'virtually' via Zoom and we are getting quite good at it. The Parish Clerk even did the last meeting while on holiday in Plymouth.... now that's dedication for you!! Even though parishioners don't have to walk up to the Village Hall and sit on uncomfortable chairs, we still don't have them joining our virtual meetings, which is a shame. Unless of course they have a planning application to be reviewed and then suddenly 7.30pm on a Wednesday is remarkably clear. Please feel free to join our meeting even if you don't have a planning application to be discussed.

While on the subject of planning (I amaze myself sometimes how I can link bits of this article together) the Clock Tower at The Laurels was approved by SNC while the Certificate of Lawfulness for a 'Material Start' at Poplars Farm was refused. We have only had one application since then and it was for 'Determination of Prior Approval' for a track to link farm buildings at Poplars Farm.

Before moving away from planning, there is a little bit of concern on the horizon. Well I see it as concern, others may think it's a great idea. As the government have not got enough to do at present they are looking to overhaul the planning

process.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

Now I am all up for reviews and ensuring processes are fit for purpose, but at first glance and looking at the headlines of this one, it is not good.

To steal an extract from Northants CALC (thanks Danny):

*The headline proposal is that, through Local Plans, all land will fall into one of three categories: **Growth** areas suitable for substantial development, **Renewal** areas suitable for development, and areas that are **Protected**.*

In Growth areas no planning permission would be required, leading critics to describe the White Paper as a “Developer’s Charter”. At first sight the White Paper appears to be an attack on representative local democracy, where councillors at parish and town councils and Local Planning Authorities will have little say over development in their area. The government is consulting on the White Paper for 12 weeks from 6 August 2020 to 29 October 2020. Please feel free to take a look and comments as you wish.

Now you may have thought I was finished with footpaths.....but I’m not. I mentioned it last time and I’m going to do it again but with more emphasis – **DOG POO**. It’s great to have so many people using our village footpaths but a number of parishioners and myself have noted the increase in Dog Poo. Please remember to take your poo bags and clear up after your dogs – thank you.

OK – so I have to talk about it, CoviD-19. We are not out of the woods and, to be honest, it doesn’t look like we will be clear of

this pandemic for a long time. I am sure it has affected all of our lives in some way – if you have had children doing GCSEs or ‘A’ levels you have my sincerest commiserations/sympathies (can’t think of the right word) as it seems to have been one almighty cock-up. I hope you are able to sort everything out effectively.

While not wanting to linger too long on CoviD, there is one more very important thing I do want to say. It is a huge “thank you” to the Tove Valley Broadband team. Can you imagine if we had all been working from home in the bad-old-days of BT Broadband!!!!? It is not worth thinking about. I, for one, am so glad that the inspiration and drive behind Tove Valley Broadband has given us a rural broadband network to be truly proud of.

Well thanks all from me for another few months....have a great autumn and keep safe.

Paul F, Wappenham Parish Council



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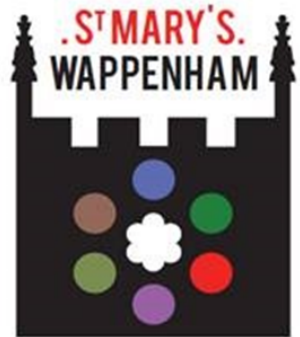


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CHURCH NEWS

Our Christian worship has certainly been stripped back to its basics in 2020 – the building closed and our new Rector just around the corner.



Two thousand and twenty years ago, when Christianity began, we also worshipped without churches. The new religion was seen as a threat to the might of the Roman Empire. Our basic Christian belief of 'Love your God and love your neighbour' was considered subversive and Christians had to meet in secret. In 2020, our beliefs are the same but, because of Covid 19, we have also had to go back to house worship and private prayer.

So, it was with great delight that we opened up the Church again in July for our first service since lockdown. The service was led by Rev'd David P, who brings such reverence, humility and Christian love to worship. Of course, the church itself looked very different. Thanks to Churchwardens Sheena and Edwin, all that could be done to make it safe in a time of Covid, had been done. Seating on the pews was socially distanced, worship sheets were printed a few days previously and then left in place to be picked up a few days later etc, etc. Above all, it was just lovely to be back in Church.

We are also looking forward hugely to welcoming our new Rector, Rev'd Diane Whittaker, in September. The Churchwardens have met her, and we look forward to getting to know her once she is settled in. We will hope to eventually get back to our previous pattern of worship, with its mix of parish

communion and lay-led services. But not until the virus is under control.

Meanwhile, the fabric of the Church continues to be worked on. The two porch roofs and the vestry roof have been refurbished with care and craftsmanship by Paul K of Wappenham. Thank you to him and, of course, to everyone whose donations have helped make this possible. Thank you also to all who continue to look after the churchyards outside, making it a peaceful and harmonious whole.

The Church is a beautiful building and we will get back to using it regularly as soon as it is safe to do so. It is open for private prayer on Sunday mornings only, from 10 till 12 noon – but please note that it will be closed for 1 day on Sunday 30 August, following a service there on the 29th.

Jane M/12.8.20
Church Committee

FROM WAPPENHAM CHAPEL

He who has the Son...

The story is told of a very wealthy art collector whose son tragically died as a war hero in Vietnam. One of the soldiers he had courageously saved had drawn a sketch of his son just days before he died and sent it to his father as a tribute to him. His father framed it and kept it on the wall alongside all of the works of art in his collection.



Sometime later the father himself died. In his will he left instructions for the sale of the art collection by auction to be held in the family home. Art dealers came from all over the world to bid for the various paintings. But the auctioneer began by asking the crowd if anyone would bid for the sketch of the son. No-one raised so much as an eyebrow. After a short while someone called out from the back of the room, "We haven't come here for that. We want to see the Rembrandt and the Picasso. Get on with the real auction." But the auctioneer persisted. "Who will start me off with \$10? Who will take this picture of his son?" No-one was interested. Eventually, someone in the crowd, impatient to get on with the rest of the auction, raised his hand and offered \$5. "Will anyone give me \$6? The crowd grew more and more restless. "Going, going, gone." And with that, the gavel came down and the sketch was sold. Then the auctioneer declared that the auction was now closed. There was uproar in the room. He motioned for silence and went on to explain that that there had been a secret stipulation in the father's will that stated that whoever took the sketch of the son was to be given the whole collection along with it! For just \$5, one man had just inherited millions.

That is what happens in the gospel whenever anyone believes in the Saviour who came to die for us. The apostle John wrote, "Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" 1 John 5:12. What he is saying is so amazing that it has to be said both positively and negatively to make sure that no one will misunderstand.

In the gospel, God offers us eternal life in the Person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Whenever anyone believes and trusts in Him, they not only begin a new relationship with God, but countless blessings are added to them as well. Life, forgiveness, heaven, peace, joy, love... in fact every blessing that God has to give us is wrapped up in His Son. That's why life here and now can seem

so empty without Him. And ultimately, if we continue to refuse God's Son when He is offered to us in the gospel, we get nothing!

Chapel Life

Sunday mornings: 10.30am Wappenham Chapel.

Also available on You Tube.

Sunday Evenings 5pm – We meet for prayer at Wappenham chapel.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7.30pm. These meetings are currently held on Cisco Webex online.

There are no fortnightly ladies' meetings at present.

More details can be found on our website at:

www.towcesterevangelicalchurch.uk

Pastor Trevor T

A BUTTER-FUL SUMMER

Here's a photo of a rare Swallowtail butterfly taken by Anthony R in his garden. Note the shadow beneath it. Jane H also saw a silver-washed fritillary butterfly for the first time.



WARTIME WAPPENHAM MEMORIES

When war broke out in 1939, I was 3 years old. My brother (Roger King) was in Lincolnshire, staying with our aunt and uncle; apparently there was a rush to get him home safely. My father was in the Home Guard and my mother a member of the WVS (Women's Voluntary Service). I was given an identification document. Printed on it was my name, address and number RKL B654. My father's number RKL B651, mother RKL B652, Roger RKL B653.

All windows had to be blacked out with first of all sticky tape (criss-cross design) to save the windows from shattering and then black blinds. Gas masks were allocated (I still have my father's Home Guard gas mask). The children had to take them to school and time was allowed to practise wearing them.

Food rationing started in 1940 and finished in 1954; there was clothing rationing too. Nothing was wasted: leftover vegetables were kept for the pigs. Living in the village, our family benefitted as my father had a large garden with fruit and vegetables. My grandfather had cows, pigs and hens.

Soap was kept in a cupboard to make it last longer. Toothpaste was in a tin. Father looked after our shoes by adding 'Toe-taps' to Roger's shoes and rubber to mine. There were two types of sweets: I remember liquorice and barley sugar sticks. No bananas until after the war.

Clocks were turned back two hours (double summer time).

We were taught that if we were ever out in an air raid, to lie face down, preferably in a ditch.

My father went for rifle practice in the gravel pit between David W's farm and Syresham. I remember walking with my father over the fields towards Astwell to see the crater where an American plane had crashed.

The night Coventry was bombed (14th November 1940), we watched from a bedroom window – in the distance the whole sky was red.

A mock battle took place between Wappenham and Helmdon and I was taken over to the Beeches to watch, from the attic windows – I was terrified someone would be hurt! When we had the manoeuvres in the village, I was standing outside the shop: the tanks made the ground shake and it was all very noisy. Roger told me that some of the soldiers stayed in our workshop and slept on the coffin boards. Regarding Radar, silver paper floated from the sky.

Old Park Farm (between Wappenham and Syresham), the home of Richard and Sue W's parents, was bombed on the 23rd April 1943. I remember going to see the devastation: cattle killed, barns destroyed. My aunt and uncle were fortunate that they survived, but a terrible shock for them: see the photos overleaf.

Collecting rosehips was a must – made into rosehip syrup. Each child was paid by the amount collected. Cod liver oil and malt was taken from a spoon each day after breakfast.

Entertainment: radio (always called wireless).

8.15am - Radio Doctor

Lunchtime - Worker's Playtime. factory workers singing to popular songs.

4.15pm – Mrs Dale's Diary

Evenings – The Goons, Dick Barton Special Agent, In Town Tonight. Radio Luxembourg.

The radio accumulator had to be charged at a garage.

VE Day - I believe that the only celebration was a bonfire.

VJ Day – I was staying with my aunt and uncle in Lincolnshire. My uncle took me to the docks and I saw a boat arrive with bananas!

As this year marks 75 years since the second World War came to an end, may I mention a Dunkirk veteran, Ernie W from Lois Weedon, who started work with my father (F King & Sons) when he was 14 years old. At the age of 17 years he joined the Royal Marine Commandoes. The French government awarded him the Legion d'Honneur and also a medal (at a reunion) for liberating the town Port-de-Bessin. To him, and many more, we give our thanks for the peace we have enjoyed since 1945.

Rita H





TRUST TOWCESTER VETS

Advertising Editorial

Throughout lockdown, Towcester Vets followed government guidelines and the advice of our governing body to ensure we could continue to treat animals that needed our care. These guidelines have continually changed over the last few months and Towcester Vets has adapted to ensure the safety of both our staff and clients.

We are happy to inform you that we are now able to offer non-emergency and routine treatment for clients. This has come with some changes as we are operating on a reduced team in every department.

When you arrive for your pet's appointment, please call the clinic and inform them of the vehicle you are in. The treating vet will then come to collect your pet for their appointment. Clients will not be able to enter the practice, but the vet will discuss treatment options safely

from a 2-metre distance. This process is similar for any equine appointments at our Towcester or Onley clinics.

When out at yards and farms, our team respectfully asks that you keep at least 2 metres away. Each of our vets and nurses are practicing social distancing and will be wearing PPE where appropriate.

Please ensure you pre-book consultations where possible and always let the office know if you no longer need your appointment. Also note that we are happy to meet somebody on your behalf if you're shielding.

As one of the few remaining independent veterinary practices in the Midlands, we want to thank our loyal clients for your support during such a difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact our team on either 01327 350239 (small animal & farm) or 01327 811007 (equine).



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What's on this autumn

For help with groceries, chemists etc if you are self-isolating:
Contact your road's volunteer (on the form dropped through your door) or call Fiona on 0786 879400.

Regular Events –

Mumford's butcher/grocery van Meat, fruit, veg & groceries. Delivers Sat around 3pm. Order on 01295 760212

Dave's Fish Every Thursday 07886 553229

Duncombes Fresh fruit and veg, call 01295 768231 to order; collect from Helmdon

Takeaway food Tues-Fridays, also hot food Weds-Sats, New Inn/Kings Head, delivered, call 01327 857306

Wholefood and specialist foods Daily Bread - free delivery to Wappenham every two months, contact Jane H

Chapel service Sundays 10.30am (Chapel and online)

Chapel service Sundays 5pm (Chapel)

Bible Study Tuesdays 7.30pm (Currently held online by Chapel)

Space for private prayer 10-12 noon (St Mary's church) – See Wiz and church noticeboard for services