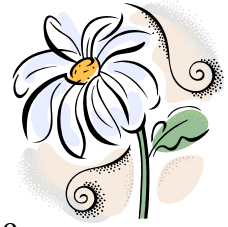


# Wappenham Village Newsletter

Spring 2020

## FROM THE EDITOR



Thanks once again to Rita H and Olive W for their reminiscences of living in Wappenham. Also thank you to Robert T for the annual village weather report and to Michael P for the cover photo.

For anyone wishing to contribute to the summer 2020 newsletter, the copy deadline is **May 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please drop off contributions to me or email them to me via: <mailto:parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk>  
Jane H

## WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. To join, send an email to [wiznews@wappenham.net](mailto:wiznews@wappenham.net)

## WAPPENHAM VILLAGE WEBSITE



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@wappenhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk). The website is at <http://www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk>.  
There is also a Wappenham Facebook page.

## NOTICES

**Welcome** to some new arrivals to the village: Ian and Sue G have moved into Highbridge Road from Somerset. We hope you enjoy living here.



### **Football Fame..**

Olive W's great grandson was a mascot at the Liverpool vs Leicester Premier League game on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019. When the letter arrived from Liverpool FC, his parents had to check as they thought it was a joke. His father and elder brother travelled with him to Liverpool and had a most enjoyable day. He was even allowed to keep his kit!!

Graham W

### **A polite request...**

David A came to put flowers on his parent's graves and found dog mess on them. Please respect this area and do not allow your dog's mess to remain in areas in and around the village, even away from footpaths. It can be very upsetting.



**BritishRedCross**

**FUND RAISING DAY**

**Sunday 31st May 2020**

**11:00am - 4:30pm**

**In the Garden of Stone Cottage, Wappenham**

**Home made Refreshments all day**

**If you can help - please contact**

**Anne or Di on 07875 227727 or 01327 860219**

## CINDERELLA

What a great show in Lois Weedon this year.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, in whatever way, in the three excellent performances of this production of a much-loved pantomime.



I have to give great praise to the three young ladies from Wappenham on their wonderful performances - the singing, the action and their joint enjoyment as a group was very special and professional. Well done Hannah, Ella and Phoebe! Now Kathryn - how scary was she? I wouldn't want to meet her on a dark night in the village, nor cross her in any other way! I thought it was a fabulous performance and you achieved such a high standard of production: I'm sure all the hard work was greatly appreciated by all who bought a ticket.

Thanks to everyone involved for a lovely Saturday Matinee.

Hilary, Lucie and Aida



## NEW COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE DEVELOPS

As I've mentioned in the last issue, there is a new pre-bookable bus service provided by a Community Interest Company called Ability CIC. It does not go to Towcester from Wappenham at present as there are too few users here, but it can take people to Banbury on Monday afternoons (around 12.15 start) and Thursday mornings (start around 9am).

Every month there are now trips to places such as garden centres, other towns (eg Daventry, Brackley) or the Heart of the Shires centre. For more information, go to <https://abilitycic.org.uk/> and register, or ring 07799 522097.

Jane H

## **OUR MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING**



The village coffee morning was started by St Mary's PCC as a secular event following the closure of the village shop. Its main aim is to enable villagers to get together for a chat over refreshments. It is not primarily a money-making exercise. However as people do give more than is needed to cover costs, it does raise quite a bit for charities.

During 2019, £200 was paid to both the Village Hall and the Hope Centre. £192 was raised for the Macmillan Cancer Charity. £75 was given to Cancer Research UK together with the separate takings from the Lent Lunch, and the proceeds from the May Coffee Morning were given to the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (£100 plus a generous individual donation of £200).

A big thanks to all the bakers and servers over the year from organiser Anthony T. And a very big thank you to Anthony from all of us who come along, as he puts in a lot of work putting the tables up, supplying fresh flowers all year and making sure there are enough volunteers - and cakes.. (If there are any bakers out there who want to try their wares on an unsuspecting public, contributions are always welcome.)

If you would like to come along, please do – everyone 'new' is greeted and made to feel welcome. The selection of cakes is

wonderful, usually including something gluten and/or dairy free, and not just filter coffee, decaf and tea also available. It takes place at the village hall in School Lane from 10-12 every first Wednesday of the month. Turn up at any time.

Jane H & Anthony T

## **VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

Those of you who have been in the hall recently may have noticed the newly-repaired and decorated main hall and porch. The work has been covered by our insurance company and also includes repair to the external cracks where the toilet extension joins the main building. While this work was in progress and the weather has been so wet, Nick Bayliss, who installed the new porch windows, has been unable to fit the rose window. Now that the decorating is complete, however, and the weather appears to be improving, we are hoping that this work can be undertaken fairly soon.



We are also awaiting quotes for a complete overhaul of the kitchen: this will include repair and redecoration of the walls, ceiling and doors.

The committee is also planning to install a shed, with hard standing, to the rear of the hall. The idea is to clear much of the floor area that is currently cluttered with chairs and folding tables, thus making all the space in the hall more accessible.

On to social matters. The annual senior citizens' Christmas lunch on 4<sup>th</sup> December at The New Inn was, as ever, a great success. In all, twenty diners enjoyed an excellent meal in a

jovial and festive atmosphere. Thanks must go to the staff of The New Inn for making us so welcome and of course to funding from the Beer Festival, without whom the event would not go ahead.

Our next social event is on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March** when we will be hosting the ever popular **quiz with fish and chip supper**. Frank has again agreed to be our quizmaster supreme. Sara will be organising the publicity and sale of tickets a little nearer the time. A date for your diary.

Think that's all the news. Hope to see you at the quiz night.

Jenny S  
Secretary – Village Hall Committee

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear All

How to follow our Vice Chairman and his great upbeat regular reports is not a job I relish, but now maybe is the time to acknowledge with thanks Paul's huge commitment to the village through the Parish Council and for all the work and responsibilities he undertakes with admirable due diligence.



With the extraordinary weather we've all been experiencing, there is no doubt our roads will be on the agenda for months to come. Regarding recent flooding problems, Ian A and I met with Helen Howard (Community Liaison Officer for Northants Highways} for site meetings below Slapton turn, the area just around the bend at Spring Hill and at the bottom of The Lane.

As I write I am pleased to report that today (10 Feb) Highways have been on site at Slapton turn where they had agreed to jet the drainage system under the road, which hopefully will clear the blockage. At the Spring Hill corner, the landowner has cleared the ditch beyond the culvert and again we trust this will solve the flooding there.

Not such good news, in particular for the residents of The Lane, but Highways message on this discussion was that there is no order in for work to be done but the message was 'if this area deteriorates further' then another notice should go on Street Doctor!

Just a few planning items for information

1. Oct 19 -Land North of Astwell Road, Helmdon NN13 5QX - Erection of a plant digestive store. This application has now been withdrawn by applicant
2. Beeches Farm - Listed Building Consent for replacement of Attic Window - Approved
3. Poplars Farm - Certificate of Lawfulness regarding wind turbine. The Parish Council struggled with the evidence presented by the applicant's agent to prove that work had commenced. The applicant has subsequently withdrawn the application

Precept for 2020 - the new decade. The precept was agreed at £3147 (an increase if 2.5%). We were able to hold the rise to 2.5% as we also plan to use some financing from the PC reserves.

I attended a South Northants Parishes Together meeting in Brackley in November out of interest to learn more about the local transport for villages, the challenges that the soon to be formed Unitary Authority would present and the now advanced building project of the new Brackley Community Hospital. It

looks as though Wappenham parishioners may be able to take advantage of these facilities and we plan to invite a representative to join us at the Annual Assembly.

Our clerk had been suffering difficulties with internet and emails and the changeover to Tove Valley Broadband has certainly helped during recent weeks. We now have a much better service and thank Eric M for his help with this transfer. The Council would also like to thank Paul K very much for his kind work in allowing the PC Noticeboard a new home on the wall outside his house at 21 Greenside.

One last item of great importance is of course the local elections in May - a notice will be posted elsewhere in this newsletter. Please do give some thought as to whether you might join us - new input is always welcome and it is a great way of serving the village you live in. More information on application dates online.

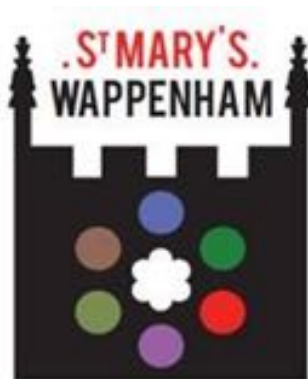
The garden is full of snowdrops and aconites and some blossom is breaking so surely it can't be long till spring!

With kind regards,  
Hilary W, Wappenham Parish Council

## CHURCH NEWS

### **The Church in the community**

An important part of Church life is helping people who live in and around Wappenham. For those who are experiencing tough times and depending on their faith to get them through, there is help at hand. Do contact the Churchwardens for practical issues or Wiggy S for pastoral care – they would be very pleased to help (see contact details at the end of this article).



We also organise the monthly Coffee Morning, which is wonderfully well attended. It is a moment of warmth and conviviality and many thanks go to all who make this happen, not least those who bake and serve cakes and coffee – and those who clear up!

We support charities such as the Hope Centre and the Children's Society.

So, apart from tackling fear and social isolation, 'what did the Romans, sorry, Church, ever do for us?' Well, we also offer a home to the super local broadband and are hoping to have wifi ourselves.

### **Ministry leadership**

Efforts are being redoubled to attract and appoint a new Rector. The Archdeacon recognises that we are doing a great job at keeping the flame of Christian ministry going in the Astwell Benefice and is hopeful of offering some candidates in the spring. In the meantime, we have some been receiving some super ministry from various sources, not least our own Wiggy S,

as well as Reverend David P. There is a regular monthly pattern of services: Benefice Communion, Breakfast Church, Parish Communion and Village Praise and Prayer.

### **Church leadership**

Our churchwardens, Edwin K and Sheena W, continue to keep our beautiful Church functioning as a place of a worship. We are proud that our one-handed clock is extremely rare and old. The tower steps are looking good, thanks to wonderfully generous village support. We are planning a ceremony with a board of remembrance listing everyone who is commemorated by a step, in the summer. The Friends currently stand ready to help with funding of repairs to the porch rooves. Thank you to everyone in the village who has been able to support us.

### **Services coming up .... Please also see**

**[www.astwellparishes.org.uk](http://www.astwellparishes.org.uk)**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March Benefice Communion, Wappenham 10.30am

Revd Doug Spenceley

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March Breakfast Church, Wappenham Village Hall

9am Wappenham team

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March Parish Communion 11.15am Revd David P

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Mothering Sunday – Village Praise & Prayer 11.15am Phyllis K

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March Parish Communion 11.15am Revd Will A

If you have any questions or need any further information about our church or its services, please contact Sheena W or Edwin K. For pastoral care, contact either of the churchwardens or Wiggy S.

## FROM WAPPENHAM CHAPEL



Over the years people have loved history: they study it, take lessons from what has happened in the past and use it to help make informed decisions. However, there are many times when people have ignored history and mistakes have been made; this has led to great errors.

The Easter story is history and truth, that 2000 years ago in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover, Jesus came to the city; he knew what would happen to him. There are few in the world today who would not have heard that Jesus was crucified. But the death on the cross was like no other death in history. Three hours of darkness, earthquakes and a huge curtain torn from top to bottom. No eclipse is three hours long, it is over a much shorter time, but three hours! It is written that the centurion at the foot of the cross said that this 'truly was the Son of God'! Yet three days later after his death, after every effort to ensure his body could not be removed from the tomb was made, he was gone and he appeared to hundreds of people, alive.

The Bible tells us he was 'the lamb of God, who came to take away the sin of the world'. The cross was where he died and became the sacrificial lamb. In Luke 24, v46 'Jesus Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem, you are witness to these things.'

Any normal human being, if they knew they were going to be tortured and crucified would have gone nowhere near Jerusalem at this time. But Jesus was no normal man: he was

the Christ, the Son of God. In John 3, v16 & 17 'Jesus said, God so Loved the world that he sent his only Son, that whoever believes on Him should not die but have eternal life. For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.'

These words and this history are there to make you think. Do you need saving? We all do, from ourselves.

Our chapel offers to you all, the opportunity to have God's word opened up to you. We are all so different and we all have different goals and objectives. But you can discover that missing certainty, if you could open your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. He died for you and me, so that if we can trust and believe on Him, we can have eternal life. He said "I am the way, the truth and the life".

What sets Jesus apart from any person in history is that he rose from the grave, three days after dying on the cross. There are no prophets or any other person in the history of the world who fulfilled the promise in the Old Testament to rise from the dead. This was the power and promise of God.

Our world is full of empty promises and unfulfilled lives. You may find all this too hard to come to terms with. You may consider the thought of going to church on a Sunday a waste of time, but we can assure you before we found Jesus in our lives, in times past we really felt the same. Our lives have been transformed and we are not sad, but full of joy, knowing we have a risen Saviour. If you want to discover the truths of the Bible and discover what God has done for you, please come along; if you feel uncomfortable about coming then try listening to the ministry on our website and then see what is opened up to you.

### **Chapel Life**

**Sunday Mornings** 10.30am Wappenham - lead by Trevor T  
**Sunday School for the children.** All children are welcome to join with us at 10.45 am. They share in a reading, some singing, a short prayer and various learning activities.

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study** 7.30pm in the Schoolroom behind the chapel

**Sunday Evenings** 5pm – At Slapton Chapel

### **Easter Services**

Good Friday Service – 10:30 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Sunday – 10:30 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for any of our weekly services or listen in on our website at:

[www.evangelicalchurch-towcester.org.uk](http://www.evangelicalchurch-towcester.org.uk)

Richard K on behalf of Wappenham Chapel

## A GLIMPSE AT BYGONE WAPPENHAM

The following photographs and accompanying footnotes have been kindly supplied by Olive W, Wappenham's oldest and longest-serving resident. Olive was born in the village and has lived in her current house for the past 93 years, having moved there with her parents and siblings when just three months old.



The first photograph shows a rather dilapidated cottage with boarded up windows and thatch in need of a complete overhaul. The cottage in question was along Brookside, facing the brook and footpath that leads across a stile and up the hill. The land is currently maintained by Sara W and is adjacent to her two garages. Notice the good condition of the railings around the brook. The figure in front of the cottage is Olive's mother and on closer inspection one can just make out that she is holding a small child, that is Olive aged three months. The photograph was taken in 1927. At some point the cottage was demolished,

although Olive cannot remember when, although remains of the back wall can still be seen today.



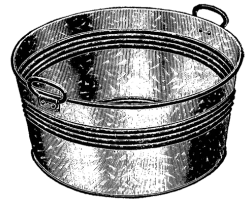
The second photograph is of Dove Cottage, again in Brookside, in midwinter: so called as it was the home of Mrs Dove for many years. Today we know the dwelling as Brook Cottage. Mrs Dove lived there with her daughter Margaret and at a later date Margaret's son Wayne. Olive's eldest sister, Elsie, would undertake domestic chores for Mrs Dove before Elsie moved to Birmingham to take up a post as a children's nanny. Wayne, by all accounts, was a little horror. When Olive's daughter, Hazel, was at Wappenham school he would throw coke destined for the boiler at the other children at playtime. Mrs Dove died in the 1980s and the cottage was purchased by Ken and Doreen Spokes who lived along The Lane and who were responsible for the renovation. Olive cannot identify the nature of the rectangular building that runs parallel to Dove Cottage.

Jenny S

## MY HOME IN WAPPENHAM

Having written my memories of the premises (F King and Sons, the builders and undertakers), I will try and explain how my home changed between the year I was born (1936) and my teenage years.

Immediately inside the back door was the kitchen, adjoining which, many years previously, was the dairy, later to become a bathroom. A window looked out onto the yard. The bumpy stone walls were painted with green distemper. Behind the door and over the sink was a large cold water pump. Hanging on the back door was a strop for shaving and a roller towel. There was a duck-board to stand on by the sink, and an opening under the sink to place utensils; a curtain (on a wire) to conceal it. In the corner was the copper for washing, which usually took place on a Monday.



On the opposite wall was the telephone (obviously installed in later years, approx. 1940s). This stood on a shelf. It was a tall telephone with the earpiece hanging on the side. Nearby was a box, with a handle, which when turned rang to my grandfather's house in School Lane. Number: Blakesley 231.

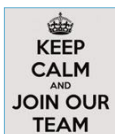
I do not know when electricity was installed, however I do remember it was usual to have a bath in front of the fireplace in the sitting-room.

The fireplace was also a cooker (Triplex). Later an electric cooker was placed in the kitchen and the dairy was changed to a bathroom. Soft water from a tank outside the back door was pumped into a Sadia in the bathroom; it took 50 pumps to fill before it was switched on. Other fittings were installed later.

In the sitting-room was a larder, which eventually became Roger's kitchen. Another sitting room and 3 bedrooms – no toilet upstairs. The outside toilet was across the yard and down the garden path. Not a nice place, so here I will finish my memories.



Rita H



### Thursday 7th May 2020 - it's election time at Wappenham Parish Council!

Expressions of interest **are welcomed** from anyone who is over 18 years old.

As a councillor representing your community, you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to **undertake training**. You should be **comfortable working electronically**. You should **have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude** and be willing to **work as part of a team**.

If you are interested in joining the council **please contact** the Clerk Liz Hart for more information at [parishclerk@wappenham.net](mailto:parishclerk@wappenham.net) or on (01295) 760130.

The Parish Council currently meets on Wednesday evenings every six weeks. **If you care about your community** and would like to help make a real difference then **why not**

**Become a Parish Councillor!**

**Closing date for nominations: 4pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

# WAPPENHAM RAINFALL 2019



	Wappenham Rainfall			
		2019		
	Monthly	20 year	20 year	20 year
	Totals in	Average	Highest	Lowest
	2019			
January	1.1830.0	2.90	7.21	1.17
February	2.0050.8	2.44	4.79	1.16
March	2.3058.4	2.14	4.16	0.30
April	1.0526.7	2.27	6.73	0.42
May	1.7544.5	2.92	6.71	1.72
June	5.75146.1	2.65	5.83	0.06
July	1.4837.5	2.71	6.59	0.94
August	3.1479.8	2.89	5.99	0.50
September	3.6191.7	2.15	4.89	0.64
October	4.97126.2	3.43	5.66	0.6
November	5.32135.1	3.38	5.57	1.76
December	3.96100.6	3.36	5.46	1.31
TOTAL	36.51927.4	33.67855.2	45.811163.6	21.3541.1

*I have always worked in inches and after 19 years am not going to change, but as a gesture to those of you who work in mm. I have converted some of the above figures (@1inch=25.4mm) & entered them alongside in a smaller font.*

2019 was a year of two halves.

Up until June it was exceptionally dry continuing the trend from 2018. There was bit of snow and frost at the end of January and beginning of February but otherwise it was warm and dry. In June the rain came with 5.75 inches in the month nearly a record. Early July was very hot with 36.8c a record temperature. August was rainy except at the end which was dry and hot particularly over the bank holiday . This dry weather continued until 21 September when the rain arrived and this wet weather continued for the rest of the year. The rainfall for the year was above average at 36.51 in. The bulk of which fell in the last seven months of the year.

Robert T

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email jane.harries@  
wappenham.net

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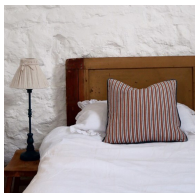
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***Proprietor: Ruth Mary Grovell***

## What's on this spring

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mar Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mar Mothering Sunday Praise and Prayer 11.15am  
(St Mary's Church)  
27<sup>th</sup> Mar Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)  
28<sup>th</sup> Mar Quiz night with fish and chips (Village Hall)  
1<sup>st</sup> April Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)  
10<sup>th</sup> Apr Good Friday service 10.30am (Chapel)  
12<sup>th</sup> Apr Easter Sunday service 10.30am (Chapel)  
24<sup>th</sup> April Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)  
6<sup>th</sup> May Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)  
29<sup>th</sup> May Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)  
31<sup>st</sup> May British Red Cross Fund-raising Day 11-4.30  
(Stone Cottage)  
  
27<sup>th</sup> Jun Wappenham Beer and Music Festival

### Regular Events

- Chapel service & Sunday School* Sundays 10.30am (Chapel)  
*Benefice Communion* 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month 10.30am (location varies)  
*'Breakfast Church'* 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in month 9am (Village Hall)  
*Communion service* 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month 11.15am (St Mary's)  
*Village Praise & Prayer* 4<sup>th</sup> Sun in month 11.15am (St Mary's)  
*Benefice Communion* 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month 10.30am (St Mary's)  
*Dave's Fish* Every Monday around 7.30-8pm 07886 553229  
*Bible Study* Tuesdays 7.30pm (Chapel)  
*Short mat bowls* Thursdays 2-4pm (VH)  
*Mumford's butcher/grocery van* Sat 3.30pm 01295 760212