



Wappenham Village Newsletter

Summer 2019

FROM THE EDITOR

It's summer, and time for two special events: Open Gardens and the Beer and Music Festival. They are both in aid of charity: more details inside, together with various other fund-raising exploits.



The cover photo was taken on the Towcester Road just outside Wappenham: it's of my favourite oak tree just coming out, summer on its way.

For anyone wishing to contribute to the autumn newsletter, the copy deadline is **August 10th**. Please drop off contributions to me or email them to me via: parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk.

Jane H

WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. To join, send an email to parishclerk@wappenhamvillage.org.uk This is a great way to find out what's going on in the village, sell unwanted items, and find out about local news such as road closures, police notices re burglaries, etc.

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. The website is at http://www.wappenhamvillage.org.uk.

NOTICES



Wappenham NGS Open Gardens 16th June 2019 2pm - 6pm

Six wonderful Wappenham gardens will be open for charity on 16th June (2pm-6pm) as part of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS). Last year the NGS raised £2.5 million for charities including Macmillan, Marie Curie, The Carers' Trust and the MS Society and many more. We look forward to contributing to that total this year.

The gardens offer a diverse range of styles. Expect packed perennial borders, topiary, bulging vegetable gardens and productive orchards. The gardens range in size from several acres to ones that offer great ideas for smaller gardens. Two of the gardens are designed by James Alexander-Sinclair, a regular at the Chelsea Flower Show both as a designer and judge.

Home-made cakes and tea in the village hall in aid of the church and village hall.

BEER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019



following on the new www.wappenhambeerfestival.co.uk

time Yes, it's for leisurely afternoon/ evening in what we hope is the sunshine, listening to good local bands and singers and drinking a wide range of ales, gins and other refreshments. More details of bands and beers and catering will be Festival website at

The festival will take place Friday June 28th in the evening, and 1pm Saturday 29th onwards (see website for start time confirmation).

At time of writing there will be Gun Dog Ales' 'Hop Goes the Beagle' and 'Jack Spaniel'. Bands include Rogue State Circus and DC/73 and an acoustic duo hazyjane.

There will be camping available, picnic space, and also food on sale. Admittance is free and all proceeds go to village charities and the Friends of Danetre Hospital charity, so come along and support the event with family and friends.

OUR BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE

I was one of our regular walks around the village and I was thinking so many areas of the village are immaculately presented, and some areas are sadly neglected. Clearly, we cannot hope that South Northants. Council are going to fund the regular mowing and maintenance, so as villagers and careers of our community something needs to be done and the only way is if we all take control.

If people in each area of the village spent a short time working together, even just outside your own homes, then all the grass could be kept looking smart, the gutters kept clear of weeds and gravel. Even if people swept the gravel off the paths and road back into their own drives, we could have one of the smartest villages in Northamptonshire. In the end it does not take long.

A small team already look after the Knob and the area at the bottom of Helmdon Road and Greenside, and it makes a difference. If neighbours just talked together and worked together then our village could really look something in summer 2019. Not everyone is fit enough or has the tools or machinery to do it, but those fit enough and with the equipment could easily spare a little time and our lovely community could make a difference.

It is only an idea and not a criticism of any area. But we all could make a difference to our lovely village.

Many thanks,

Richard

FREEDOM OF THE VILLAGE FOR JENNY

At the March Coffee Morning, the Parish Council had great pleasure in presenting the above award to Jenny S. Jenny moved to the village in 1983 and before long joined the Village Hall Committee. She very quickly took over the role of Secretary, has worked tirelessly through the years of ups and downs, and is still today a driving force behind fund-raising for the upkeep and improvement of our only 'public' building.



The Village Hall was designed by Gilbert Scott as a school, in the early 20th century - it is on a 35-year lease to the village from the Peterborough Diocese.

Jenny, with the committee changing endless times during her long

period as Secretary, has brought the hall into being a very active and busy venue. She has arranged travelling theatres, regular functions such as monthly coffee mornings and pub nights, Quiz Nights and national days of celebration, all of which are very popular.

For over thirty years Jenny's huge commitment and devotion, time, energy and enthusiasm has brought about the present high standing of our Village Hall. Well done and thank you Jenny.

Hilary W

PIPPA RAISES MONEY BY DESCENDING THE LIFT TOWER...

In addition to her litter-picking activity, Pippa G has been raising money for the Northampton General Hospital... by abseiling down that community landmark, the Northampton Lift Tower. [My personal vertigo nightmare! Ed.]



She says: "A quick update on my abseil down the Northampton Lift Tower last Saturday; as I feared (in more ways than one), it was too windy to go down the outside of the tower, so I missed the amazing views and had to do three separate sections inside the tower. This meant three times I had to 'go over the edge' and look down a dark concrete shaft, the longest of which was a 200ft drop. Yikes!

However, after the initial panic of "is my harness ok?", "have they tied that rope correctly?" I climbed over the railings of the first shaft and forced myself to let go of the side.... and then... I actually found it was quite fun! Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored me and if you were waiting to see if I would actually go through with it before donating(!), any amount however small, then the link is:-www.justgiving.com/fundraising/pippa-geddes1

Pippa

COFFEE MORNING THANKS

A big thank you to all who helped, attended and gave at the April Coffee Morning and the subsequent Lent lunch. A very respectable £163.16 was raised to go to the Cancer Research UK charity.

Anthony T



Thanks to everyone who came to the May coffee morning, which this time was in aid of the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service, which provides support and women's and men's refuges in the county. You were very generous: we have so far made £116, which is amazing!

Thank you everyone who helped, especially Anthony, who did the heavy lifting, served, and brought in some giant tomato 'seedlings'; Trish for serving and making cakes, and to Lynn G and Dianne W for their cakes. And thanks finally to everyone who bought tomato plants.

Jane H

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A very successful quiz was held in April with a maximum attendance of 60 squeezed into the hall. Frank K, our quizmaster supreme, was in fine form: many thanks to him for



his continued support of this very popular event. The Wood Fired Pizza Co. plied us with more pizzas than we could possibly consume and Trish C provided some excellent salads, so all in all a good evening. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to those who were not quite so successful – better luck next time. Talking of which, the next quiz will be on **Saturday 12**th **October** with fish and chips – a date for your diary.

You may well be asking when the rose window is due to be installed. Well the answer is that it will be happening very soon. The glass is ready to be fitted and we are just awaiting a date. It would be lovely if the project could be completed before the Beer Festival.

The committee currently has a number of projects to improve the condition of the hall. First up are new tables to replace the rather dilapidated folding white ones; we also plan to increase the storage space by purchasing a lockable shed to house those infrequently-used items that always seem to be in the way. Thinking about the outside area, we will be re-gravelling and replacing the damaged wire fencing and concrete posts, again hopefully before the Beer Festival.

The question of cracks appearing in both the interior and exterior parts of the hall are currently being addressed. Innovation Group, a company specialising in subsidence, are working on behalf of our insurers and in that capacity have visited the hall and drawn up a scheme of proposals to ensure the building remains perfectly safe. We have also hired an independent structural engineer to provide a second opinion on the report presented by Innovation Group to ensure that all angles have been covered. We are some way from having any work done, but rest assured we are doing all we can to ensure that the identified cracking is repaired.

Social events coming up in the hall are as follows:

Sunday 16th June – NGS Open Gardens with teas in and around the hall. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

Weekend 28th/29th June – Beer/Music Festival. The hall will be playing host to this very popular event. Again good weather would be much appreciated.

Hope to see you there. Jenny S Secretary – Village Hall Committee

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear All

Wow - I am sat in my office in Westbury and the sun is beating down - not bad for 14^{th} May and if that is not good enough the Easter



weekend must have been one of the best on record for weather. I am sure all of the gardeners amongst us are happy with warm conditions as flowers (and weeds unfortunately) are growing strongly in the spring sunshine. Good luck to all those brave people in the village who are part of this year's "Open Gardens" event; I am sure your gardens will do you proud.

Just looking at my last newsletter I was willing March 29th to arrive, so hopefully all the fuss over Brexit would be over and we could have something else on the news. No such luck!!! The deadline has now been kicked down the road to October, so many more months of uncertainty and new arguments to come – Oh Joy!!!! At least I won't have to worry about my European Health Insurance card not being valid this summer if Mrs F allows us to have a holiday!!

GOOD NEWS — I have great pleasure in welcoming Sara T to the Parish Council who agreed to be co-opted on to the PC at our last meeting. We now have our full complement of councillors, which must be the first time for over 12 months. The position of Chair still moves between the ever faithful Hilary and myself so we muddle through, but not exactly ideal.

While on PC business I usually report any new planning applications. We have had one application and one Condition 3 application since I wrote to you all last.

- 2 Brookside Condition 3 (Martials Approval Schedule) Application
- ➤ Home Manor Farm House conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and single storey rear extension.

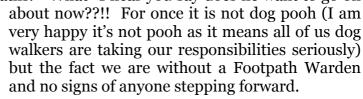
All of the above are still awaiting (as I type) decisions from SNC planning but I am sure they will be published in the near future.

Talking of planning, I presented the full 12-month planning summary to the Annual Village Meeting a few nights ago. There were 15 applications in total, of which 11 were approved, one withdrawn, one was advice only and, as above, two still awaiting decision. This is about the normal run-rate for Wappenham but interestingly the SNC decisions were almost a mirror image of the PC's comments on the same applications.

Thanks you to all those people who attended your Annual Village Meeting, to Hilary for laying on the refreshments and to our PC Clerk, Liz, for making sure all the information was to hand and for keeping me on track during the meeting. As always, there were some interesting and, at times, conflicting views/opinions from our County Councillor and District Councillor, particularly around the Northamptonshire Unitary system that is still developing. Thanks also to all those village associations and activities that submitted a report and these plus the minutes of the meeting I hope to be able to publish sometime soon.

While I am thanking people I would like to reiterate what I said at the Annual Meeting. Clive and his WIZ plus Jane and her Newsletter once again deserve special mention. I am 100% convinced that Wappenham would be a worse place to live without the great services Clive and Jane bring to the village – my personal thanks to you both once again.

Finally footpaths. "What" I hear you say does he want to go on



Your PC has a cunning plan to ensure any problems with our paths are reported in a timely manner. We need to thrash out the details of our plan but suffice to say it will involve YOU!! We have a huge number of people walking our footpaths and we are thinking about people 'adopting' a footpath for a year and, by exception only, letting us know on the PC if there is a problem. We can then take action to remedy any issues. Not sure of the full details yet but hopefully it is something we can encourage people to help with.

Have a great summer and enjoy whatever challenge and opportunities come your way.

With kind regards

Paul F Wappenham Parish Council

PS – final thank you to all those keen village residents who helped with the litter pick back in March – you all did a great job.

CHURCH NEWS



The Church continues to offer spiritual and pastoral care to the people of Wappenham.

We have a regular pattern of services with a Benefice Communion (at one of the 5 churches in rotation) on the first Sunday and Communion in St Mary's on the third and fifth Sunday (when there is one). Then there is Breakfast Church

and Village Praise and Prayer on the other two Sundays.

We are still awaiting the appointment of our own new Rector. Lay reader 'Wiggy' S has stepped up and leads us with great love and joy, for which we are most grateful. Lay members of the Church also lead some services and we are pleased to welcome visiting preachers. STOP PRESS: we welcome Revd Paula C from Towcester who is leading us for the next three months as she prepares to take up the full rectorship of Towcester.

There are issues regarding funding, as the Church of England is under financial pressure. We are still in discussion over the future appointment of a new Rector. The new Benefice structure is sustaining us and other local parishes. We are working and praying for a successful outcome.

We are keen to help ourselves and thank everyone in Wappenham who supports us with regular gifts and comes to our social and fund-raising events. The latest one, the Spring Supper, was a great success and we look forward to helping serve teas at Open Gardens on 16 June, to helping serve beer at the Beer Festival on 29 June and throwing wellies at our Village Fete on 7 September.



The Churchwardens and BRICC (buildings, repairs, insurance and contents committee) look after the Church, aided by support from the Friends of St Mary's. This year's big project has been the repair of the tower steps. Dating from the 12th century, they had come to resemble a river of stone, but are now restored to neat stone steps. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported this project with skills, expertise and funding. We will have a celebratory launch with a

memorial plaque to commemorate all those loved ones for whom a step has been sponsored.

So who are we? Edwin K and Sheena W are the Churchwardens. Sheena replaces Howard who has stood down after many years of service. Peter O represents us on the Benefice Council, plus a churchwarden. Anthony T is Treasurer and Jane M is Secretary. Phyllis K is Electoral Roll Officer, i.e. keeper of our list of members - which has also grown slightly since the last count. Other members are Angus W, Barbara G, Michael B and Di W.

We are pleased to say that the Church in Wappenham is strong and cheerful. It needs to be, as it is buffeted about by wider Church concerns. Do contact the Churchwardens for practical issues or Wiggy Smith for pastoral care – they would be very pleased to help.

Edwin K, Churchwarden Sheena W, Churchwarden

FROM WAPPENHAM CHAPEL

Accountability

Do you ever find yourself reacting to the news because of some apparent miscarriage of justice? Somehow we all feel a sense of indignation when we hear of a criminal being released because of



some technicality in the judicial system or because of what appears to be the leniency of a judge. Justice matters to us. It is part of our very make-up. When we see the absence of accountability in our society it evokes feelings of rage. From the

very depths of our being we seem to cry out that justice must be done.

The film, "Casualties of War" from 1989, tells the story of Private Erikson played by Michael J Fox. Erikson is a young soldier fighting in the Vietnam War. It is the story of his struggles not only with the horrors of war but with the question of the morality. He witnesses the abduction and rape of a Vietnamese girl by some of the men in his squad and feels powerless to do anything about it. But towards the end of the film he declares:

"Just because each of us might at any second be blown away, we're acting like we can do anything we want, as though it doesn't matter what we do. I'm thinking maybe it's just the opposite. Because we might be dead in the next split second, maybe we need be extra careful what we do. Because, maybe it matters more. Maybe it matters more than we even know."

The question of right and wrong is inextricably linked to our view of accountability. If there is no God to answer to, then the moral debate is pointless and empty. We can only be accountable if there is Someone to be accountable to. If He is not there, then it really doesn't matter what we do or how we live. But in that case we are left with a universe where there is no justice in the end. And who can live with that?

The Bible says, "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that to face judgement", (Hebrews 9:27). When you think about it, that is both good news and bad. It is good news because it means that God takes us seriously. It is good to know that although there is often no justice in this world, there will be perfect justice in the world to come. But it is also bad news because who of us can claim to have clean hands? We might be reasonably decent people in society but who can claim innocence before the Judge of all the earth? We "need"

accountability and even cry out for it and yet the accountability we long for leaves us condemned ourselves.

And yet, wonder of wonders, God has made Himself accountable for our sins in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The verse quoted above from Hebrews 9 goes on to say, "...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him".

That is our only hope as we face the prospect of judgement and accountability. "We are not right". But God has done something amazing through the cross to deal with our guilt while sparing us from the justice that condemns us. Are you eagerly waiting for Him?

Wappenham 10.45 am

All are welcome to come along or to listen in on our website at; www.towcesterevangelicalchurch.uk

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 and Prayer. 7.30pm in the Schoolroom behind the chapel.

6pm – Sunday Evenings – At Slapton Chapel With a prayer meeting before at 5.30pm.

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

www.towcesterevangelicalchurch.uk

Pastor Trevor T

A PHOTOGRAPHIC PEEP AT BYGONE WAPPENHAM

This is part two of an occasional series looking at the village in times gone by.

This photograph has been kindly loaned by Olive W.

It was taken on Brookside outside Hope Cottage on the occasion of a May Day celebration. The girls, wearing their best dresses and with garlands in their hair, sang May songs around



the village while the boys followed behind with collecting boxes. The money raised financed a sit-down tea for all the children in the village hall. Opposite is a bungalow built by Edwin K grandfather and great uncle, Frank and Harry K. It was

constructed for their brother Tom K, who lost a leg in World War 1; he moved there in 1929. The bungalow was demolished in the 1990's and replaced with a larger dwelling by Nigel Reynolds. This is now known as The Owls of Wappenham.

Jenny S and Olive W

LOCAL BROADBAND COMPANY CHAIRMAN STEPS DOWN



At the conclusion of a recent meeting of the Abthorpe Broadband Association Ltd, the not-for-profit company operated entirely by unpaid volunteers, that delivers Tove Valley Broadband, Eric M the Chairman of our little company made the following statement: -

I am standing down as Chairman as of now! I feel that the project I started 16 years ago has come through various stages and emerged into clear blue sky. No debts, a robust financial

situation and a network and service that makes me proud as I am of the team I have been part of.

There is an exciting new phase developing which, with stable services, will undoubtedly bring advantages, some we cannot yet identify, to our area. I am pleased to continue working with the team but I feel the helm needs a different perspective from now on. Our Company's Articles say that a Chairman should be voted for by the Directors at the beginning of each meeting, which rule now exists until we, the Directors, find a suitable person to take on the position permanently.

It seems such a long time ago when back in 2003 a group of local people were enjoying their pints of *Hooky* in our village pub but bemoaning the fact that the major broadband companies were unable to provide us with a service. Eric mused that we could do it ourselves. He was proved right and today 641 premises are connected to the company's network. The exciting new phase Eric was alluding to in his statement includes presumably, the company's plans to provide a fibre optic cable connection that delivers a very high speed service to all members who request it.

Our local community owes Eric a huge vote of thanks for his vision, leadership, tenacity, technical knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. He will be a hard act to follow. Thank you Eric from us all.

John R

CANONS ASHBY UPDATE



This year we've been focussing on improving the biodiversity of our green spaces. In April we ran seed bombing in the paddock, where the public helped us fill the space with wildflower seeds by throwing seed bombs at our targets.

Hopefully over May and June you will see these wildflowers thriving in the paddock, and plenty of happy bees and other insects buzzing around them. Over the next few years we hope to continue to focus on improving the health of our habitat and making our space a welcoming environment for plants and wildlife.

On 25 May we are launching a new children's trail about moths and butterflies, so the kids can learn something new about nature too. Little ones can explore the parkland and earn a sticker for having a go!

Check visitor opening hours, events and find out more about the work that's going on to care for Canons Ashby on our website. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby

What's on?

We have plenty of events and activities listed on our website. Here are just a couple of highlights.

| Here are just a couple of highlights. | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 25 May | 10-4pm | Moths and | Flitter and flutter across the |
| -23 | | Butterflies | parkland looking for our British |
| August | | family trail | butterflies and moths, then pick |
| 1148434 | | 1411111, 111111 | up your sticker from the Coach |
| | | | House shop. Normal admission |
| | | | prices. |
| 05.01 | 11 0nm | Dlant it | * |
| 27-31 | 11-3pm | Plant it, | Get green fingered and plant |
| May | | grow it, eat | something to grow and nurture at |
| | | it | home, and earn a sticker for your |
| | | | 50 things to do. £1 and normal |
| | | | admission prices. |
| 8 - 23 | 10-4 | Father's Day | Explore the grounds and discover |
| June | | Trail | fascinating parts of Canons |
| | | | Ashby you might not normally |
| | | | notice. Also suitable for |
| | | | Grandads, Mums, Aunties and |
| | | | anyone else who wants to have a |
| | | | go. Normal admission prices. |
| Sat 6 | 6-8ish | Sense and | Elinor Dashwood has a lot of |
| July | | Sensibility | good Sense. Her sister Marianne |
| o ary | | performed | Dashwood has an excess of |
| | | by | Sensibility. Together they make a |
| | | Pantaloons | snappy title for Jane Austen's |
| | | 1 antaioons | classic novel of scandals, |
| | | | |
| | | | scoundrels and severely sprained |
| | | | ankles. This funny, fast-paced |
| | | | and faithful new adaptation from |
| | | | the critically-acclaimed The |
| | | | Pantaloons Theatre Company |
| | | | features live music, audience |
| | | | interaction, romance and |
| | | | heartbreak. Adult £15, Child £10, |
| | | | Family of 4 £40 (2 adults 2 |
| | | | children) Pre-booking essential |

Information about visiting, our history, work and projects, and upcoming events can all be found on our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/canons-ashby

You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @CanonsAshbyNT

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GARDENING TIPS

Free tomato fertiliser

For the last few years I've been making a very easy comfrey fertiliser and feeding my tomatoes with it. All you have to do, once you have a comfrey plant, is to cut off some leaves (comfrey can be cut back 2-3 times a year), put them in a bucket with some water



to cover and keep the leaves covered with water for a couple of weeks. It smells terrible but it is free! Then dilute with water in a watering can (probably half and half depending on how much water is in there) and pour round your plants or in the growbag.

Jane H



Military: Lorries Fair Organs: Fairground

Tea Tent: Market Stalls

STEAM 2019

Working Area Archery: Model Boats Stilt Walkers: Model Tent

Motorcycles : Barn Engines To HEAVY HORSE SHOW Pets Corner: Arts & Crafts Childrens Entertainers

SATURDAY ONLY:

6th & 7th JULY

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Further information: Liz Black, Honorary Secretary, 01327 263186



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What's on this summer

June

5th June Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)

16th Jun Wappenham Open Gardens 2-6pm

28th Jun Wappenham Beer & Music Festival evening

29th Jun Wappenham Beer & Music Festival all day

3rd July Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)

26th July Possible Pub night – to be decided 5-11pm (V Hall)

7th Aug Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)

30th Aug Pub night 5-11pm (Village Hall)

Future Dates

4th Sept Coffee morning 10-12 (Village Hall)

7th Sept Church fete

12th Oct Quiz night (Village Hall)

Regular Events

Chapel service & Sunday School Sundays 10.45am (Chapel)

Benefice Communion 1st Sunday in month 10.30am (location varies)

'Breakfast Church' 2nd Sunday in month 9am (Village Hall)

Communion service 3rd Sunday in month 11.15am (St Mary's)

Village Praise & Prayer 4th Sun in month 11.15am (St Mary's)

Benefice Communion 5th Sunday in month 10.30am (St Mary's)

Dave's Fish Every Monday around 7.30-8pm 07886 553229

Mumford's butcher/grocery van Fri 12.30 01295 760212

Bible Study Tuesdays 7.30pm (Chapel)

Short mat bowls Thursdays 2-4pm (VH)