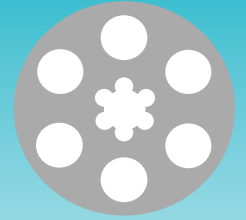


The Wappenham Newsletter



Summer 2020

From the Editor

Here is an A4 edition specially for online reading, while those who usually pick up and deliver the newsletter take a break enforced by the lockdown.

As there aren't village events to report on, we have some history, both about VE day and the village, and some photos of those who have been volunteering here as well as our key workers. There are also some tips for delivery services if you haven't already found them on Wiz.

Thanks to all volunteers and key workers. You made me realise that people do instinctively think of others when it's clear there is a need, and that's good to know.

**Next copy deadline: 10th
August**

Hopefully with news of events...

As usual, please send to me via parishclerk@wappenham.net or drop items in.

Please let me know of new residents as well as news of key life events – I'd be happy to publish them.

All the best and stay safe...

Jane H



Memories of past sociable times! The Beer Festival 2014

© Paul Elcoat

WIZ

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group run by Clive W. To join, send an email via <mailto:parishclerk@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 <mailto:parishclerk@wappenham.net>. The website is at <http://www.wappenham.net>.

There is also a Wappenham Facebook page.



Notices

A Tribute to Sally G

My dear friend was born in Lee Green London in December 1951 and died so very sadly this March after battling cancer over fourteen years, which she fought unbelievably bravely. I feel this strength of character has shown all through her life.

She excelled at many subjects at Blackheath School for Girls and her first job at 18 was Secretary to the General Manager of Commercial Union Insurance in the City. In 1985 Sally became John's secretary when he was working in Kent and I guess the rest is history - they moved to Towcester with her son Peter in 1986 and married in 1987, moving to Wappenham the following year as the houses in Shepherds Way were completed.

She worked locally at Sponne School for over twenty years as PA to Head Teachers, Mr Mayes, Ian Brown and Jamie Clarke, who all benefited from her great efficiency. In fact it has been said that the school revolved around Sally.

Sally loved living in the village and was actively involved over the years, sitting on the Parish council, running numerous stalls at the village fete, joining me on the monthly coffee morning cake rota, hosting Safari Supper meals and of course the Quiz. This was an event which she loved and excelled at, with her wide knowledge, sharp brain, quick sense of humour and an outstanding memory, a trait I particularly envied.

Being close neighbours, we've spent many hours together and I learnt so much from a very special person. Sally was wonderful company, whether it was on the tennis court, walking, or just talking in the house or her beautiful garden, where she was always so happy and content.

Over the years we have looked after each other's canine friends and watered gardens. I shall remember her as a beautiful, intelligent, honest human being. She was an articulate, kind and welcoming person who thought of others first and got on with everyone she met.



A Tribute to Sally G (continued)

Sally once said to me that she could cope with anything if she understood and believed in the facts and perhaps that is how she managed her recent years so successfully. Through all those tough times, Sally remained upbeat and positive and never wanted to be thought of as the person who had cancer. I admired her so.

John was the most wonderful support to Sally over a long and often distressing period for them both as she fought the illness. I believe we all send him much sympathy and kindest thoughts in the isolating time we are in right now.

As the family was not permitted to hold the normal funeral, in fact only three mourners were present at Blisworth Crematorium on the 31 March. John would like to hold a 'Celebration of Sally's Life' in Wappenham Church later in the year, virus permitting and afterwards in their garden, perhaps in August or September, assuming life has returned to anywhere near normal.

With happy memories of a close and important lady in my life – rest in peace Sally, you will be sorely missed by us all.

Hilary W

Dorothy D'A (1922 - 2020)

Dorothy Eileen A., known as Dort, was born in Wappenham on 19th January 1922, the eldest of four children. She attended Wappenham School and then went on to school in Towcester, before attending college in London, training to be a senior school teacher. Before leaving for college, between the ages of 16-18, Dort used to play the Church organ for services in Wappenham.

Her teaching jobs took her from London in the mid-1940s to teaching at various Army Schools in Germany and Hong Kong in the 1950s and early 1960s, before ending her career from January 1965 to August 1986 at the Royal Ballet School in Richmond Park, London.

Dort was a keen sportswoman, winning numerous trophies for hockey and tennis in her younger years and she became a very keen and competent skier during her time in Germany. Dort met her future husband, Vincent D'A and they were married in September 1964, living together in London until Vincent passed away in 1980. Through her work at the Royal Ballet School, Dort had the opportunity to enjoy many great Opera and Ballet performances at the Royal Opera House, and in her later life, continued with her love of travel, holidaying frequently with her younger sister Christine, visiting many countries worldwide.

Dort came back to live in Wappenham in June 2016 for a quieter retirement after many years living in London. She sadly passed away on 6th March 2020 and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

David A.

Wappenham and the Coronavirus

What's Wapp Corona – speaking to Fiona K.

In the first week of lockdown Fiona saw people responding by helping their community in social media and the news, and wondered if a similar effort could be made in our village. “Frank gave me a form he found on the web which gave me the idea of asking for volunteers on Wiz. Then people responded to that.”

The volunteers said which streets in the village they could cover, and gave out the forms with their contact details, for people to use if they needed anything. Then Fiona set up a What's App group so volunteers could keep in touch, and let each other know if they were going somewhere, so that tasks were shared out. There are now 30 people in the group, including some who want to keep in touch.



“What it shows is that in our village, most people are looked out for by friends and neighbours – we haven't had a lot to do.” I think this is underplaying the value of the group. There may always be someone ‘out there’ if you need help, but having this volunteer system makes it easier for people to ask. So ask away, the volunteers are there for you if you need them. And of course, offer assistance to those you know, it will be much appreciated at the moment.

Jane H.

En the Community Chef!

Endang G. of Helmdon Road had time on her hands, as she is chef/manager for Whitbread. She decided to cook on Tuesdays and distribute the food to those who were self-isolating, along with some others she changed around every week.

“You just want to cheer people up in this difficult time. I call it Treat Tuesday, to give people a little bit of a smile every Tuesday.”

Thanks to En for brightening up the week, and also to Sara W. for distributing and Julie L. and others for giving ingredients. It certainly cheered me up when it was my turn!

Wappenham and the Coronavirus

Sewing to Beat the Virus – Talking to Dorothy O.

Dorothy, an ex nurse and health visitor, has recently taken up sewing again. “I’ve always sewed since I was 6, when I learnt it from my granny. I had a friend who works for Age UK, with community carers, who emailed me asking for help sewing facemasks for the carers – material provided. So I got going.”



At first Dorothy had to ask around for elastic as shops had run out. She’s made 20 masks for Age UK so far, and 20 for her sister’s bookshop in France, where it is compulsory to wear masks in public.

Dorothy’s also made some scrubs bags for Northampton General Hospital. In all, it’s been a good experience: “I’ve enjoyed the sewing and being part of a team.”

I know others in the village may be doing something similar – Lucy P has been making masks, for example. Thanks to those who did this for us.

Useful People & Services

Help from the village

Need something from the shops, a friendly call or a prescription? Contact your street volunteer named in the form dropped round at the start of lockdown, or if not, the volunteer coordinator Fiona K via <mailto:parishclerk@wappenham.net>

NCC also has a helping hand service, call: 0300 126 1000, option 5, or email customerservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Grocery Delivering Services:

Mumfords – butchers and ‘village shop’ type of groceries including fruit and veg. 01295 760212 Call by Thursday for delivery Saturday afternoon.

Collins – fruit, veg, cheese, eggs, sliced bread, groceries. Call between 9-3 01604 648814 or email sales@collinsfresh.uk. Min. order £30.

Duncombes for fruit and veg., order by phone, collect from Helmdon 01295 768231.

Whittlebury Bakery – for bread flour and yeast as well as bread and cakes – collect, tel 01327 831085

Daily Bread, delivery monthly or bi-monthly depending on demand – call Jane or email via <mailto:parishclerk@wappenham.net>. They sell flour as well as wholefoods and specialist dietary products.

Wappenham and the Coronavirus

Useful People & Services continued

Community Larder

South Northants Food and Education Alliance (SNFAE) ..have set up an emergency community larder for South Northants. Once a week, Wappenham Parish Council can receive boxes containing packaged goods, fruit and vegetables to distribute to residents who are experiencing difficulties getting food, perhaps because they cannot leave their homes to shop, are ill or self-isolating or are having financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The food boxes are free of charge and the aim of the service is that these boxes are primarily for those residents who otherwise unable to obtain crucial supplies from family/friends/ neighbours. If you would like to receive one of these boxes or know of someone in the Parish who might benefit from one (and they have given permission for you make contact on their behalf), please contact the Parish Clerk Liz H via parishclerk@wappenham.net. You will not be asked to provide any personal details other than your name, telephone number and address for delivery - all enquiries will be treated confidentially. Any boxes ordered will be delivered via the Wappenham Coronavirus Helpers Group being co-ordinated by Fiona K.

The Parish Council would like to thank Fiona and the volunteers for the support they are giving to those self-isolating.

Takeaways/delivery of meals

As you probably know, the New Inn and Kings Head are doing a roaring trade in delivered meals, both cold for heating up (Tues-Sat) and hot, eg fish and chips (Weds-Sat) as well as roast dinners on Sunday mornings. Call 01327 857306.

The Fat Landlord in Helmdon also does takeaways though not deliveries in Wappenham. The Crown Weston does takeaways on a Friday. And there are several restaurants in Towcester that deliver or do takeaway – Bar Encore (also does groceries), Truva and The Olive Tree among others. See Facebook or call the venues for details.

There is also Julie, who prepares and delivers meals and cakes. Eg lasagne and cottage pie £3.. Curries, fishcakes, rhubarb crumble etc....

Tel 07785 995513 or you can email info@julieturnhamcatering.co.uk.

Milk and More – stop press..

This used to be Dairy Crest, our milk deliverer, now sells a wide range of products, delivery free 3 times a week. Can be expensive but very convenient. Now open to new customers again, see www.milkandmore.co.uk or call 0345 606 3606.

Parish Council News

Dear All

I am almost stuck for words.....or at least how to start my little bit for the Newsletter. I have so much to say but it all seems to pale into insignificance bearing in mind the situation we find ourselves.

I have decided to keep this article as upbeat as I can because, quite frankly, Coronavirus and its implications are a pretty depressing subject. Speaking of which, I looked back at what I wrote this time last year and Brexit was top of the discussion. Hasn't there been some water under that particular bridge!? However, if we can get past the first 30 minutes of CoviD-19 on the news there is a Brexit update and at present it doesn't look too good as our lot and the EU lot have fallen out during the negotiations again!!

So what else has been happening. Well the local elections and parish elections have been postponed until next year so your seven Parish Councillors work on tirelessly (well I have to "big it up" don't I). We had our annual PC meeting last night and took full benefit of the temporary change in legislation to have a virtual meeting. Seven councilors, the Clerk and three members of the public all logged on to Zoom and we had the meeting from the comfort of our own homes. Just as well they could only see my head & shoulders as I was wearing shorts and I am not sure that is proper attire for a formal meeting!! All agendas etc still come out as normal and are published on the Village website and the noticeboard.

Speaking of the Village website.....I assume you have all noticed that we have moved and we are now at www.wappenham.net ?

Knowing where to find the website is important



as the planning application process has changed as far as the Parish is concerned. There is no longer notification to neighbouring properties or a yellow A4 note on a nearby telegraph pole. All the notifications are electronic. We will get them out on WIZ but also put the links on the village website, so interested parties can look at the info on the SNC Planning Portal in much more detail.

While we are on planning.....since the last newsletter (thank you Hilary for giving me a break) we have had three applications. First was a Determination of Prior Approval for some agricultural buildings at The Laurels, 31 High Street. It has been confirmed that prior approval is not required for this and last night we had two applications: a clock tower at The Laurels 31 High Street, which the PC approved, and then a request for a Certificate of Lawfulness for lawful implementation of planning permission at Poplars Farm. The PC note that from the evidence submitted it appeared that a material start, in line with the permission, had commenced, but we left the intricacies of defining a legal start to those far better qualified in such legal complexities at SNC to decide.

With the lockdown in place and social distancing paramount, we have not been able to have several village events. VE75 came and went without the big celebrations we had hoped for, but I know some people made mini household celebrations which I sure were still

Parish Council News (continued)

fun. Our spring litter-pick had to be postponed but hopefully we can resurrect it in the autumn. We also had to abandon the annual Village Meeting. I won't dwell on this, other than to say that I would like to give my formal annual and very sincere thanks to Clive W for his WIZ contribution to the village and to Jane H for the wonderful Village Newsletter.

Footpaths and Dog Poo will be mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, so pay attention please when you get to that article.

Finally, I have to say something about the positive impact of Coronavirus. Is it that it's great to see so many people walking our village footpaths getting in their daily exercise – no. Is it the fantastic sense of support I hear every Thursday at 8pm as village residents clap, bang, toot and shout support for our healthcare professionals – no. Is it the great community spirit that Wappenham residents have shown to neighbours, friends and parishioners since CoviD-10 stuck us – YES. The actions I have seen and stories I have heard about have made me proud of our village once again and helped boost my faith in the people all around me. Thank you to everyone that has taken it upon themselves to help those less fortunate: you are truly remarkable.

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

With kind regards

Paul F
Wappenham Parish Council

Public Footpaths in our wonderful countryside

It's rather along the lines of the Covid-19 lockdown that the large percentage of walkers do follow the rules of the countryside!

However I can report there have been some circumstances where landowners have found walkers and dog owners not sticking to the registered footpaths, and I would request that everyone makes themselves familiar with the National Ordnance Survey footpath map. At the same time I appreciate not all footpaths are clearly marked and this is something we ask our landowners to undertake, to help us keep to the correct footpaths. Could I also ask that everyone keeps their dogs on a lead in pasture where sheep are grazing.

Please, Please, **Please** would dog walkers pick up their 'poo' upon the field footpaths as well as on the roadside paths, both situations are liable to a fine. It is horrible to see fouling in the churchyard and cemetery and there has been a big increase lately of fouling on SC30 leaving Pittams Lane. I believe in respect for all in our community, please can we work together on this.

Thank you, enjoy your exercise and keep safe.
Hilary W., Footpath Warden

And another comment on dog mess...

I wish to comment about the article on dog mess (*in last NL*). I live opposite the field on the Helmdon Road, and have witnessed many dogs off the lead - this I feel contributes to fouling without the owners realising. It's disgusting to think our fellow villagers are allowing this to happen - no respect for the dead.

With kind regards, Tina W



Memories of Wappenham School

By Rita H.

I started school when I was 5 years old. The school building consisted of one large room, divided by a folding partition, with girls' and boys' cloakrooms on either end of the building. Bucket toilets were outside in the playground.

Mrs Osborne (nickname Maths) (I think her maiden name was Matthews) was Head teacher, helped by a few part-time teachers. Mrs Osborne walked each day from Slapton.

Our day began with repeating the times tables and learning the catechism off by heart. Each week we had to write a composition (essay) using pen and ink, and blotting paper. A pupil was chosen to fill the inkwells.

Heating was by a 'tortoise' stove, burning coke: this stood one end of the room.

A small bottle of cold milk was provided to drink (with a straw) in the middle of the morning. Most children went home at lunchtime.

The only handicraft I remember was items made from raffia and bunting – threads were pulled from the edge to make a fringe. This made a type of dishcloth. Also, we wove coloured plastic strips into shapes. Obviously,

as it was wartime, nice material was not available!

May Day – Each year a May Queen was chosen and all the children paraded round the village, singing songs and dancing round the Maypole. I was chosen as May Queen one year. We also visited the elderly and housebound.

Empire Day – A flag was hoisted up the pole in the playground.

The **Nit Nurse** ('Nitty Nora') was a frequent visitor and most embarrassing for the children who had headlice. I believe they were segregated from the other pupils, and after the inspection, occasionally sent home.

School Dentist was terrifying! An enormous piece of equipment was erected one end of the school and the pupils stood in rows, to be examined – one boy screamed and put everyone off!

11+ Exam At the age of 10, I had to take part in this exam to decide whether my next school would be Towcester Grammar School. I was a

Memories of Wappenham School continued

borderline case and had to take an oral exam, which I eventually passed.

When I started the grammar school, we were fortunate in having a bus service; previously all pupils had to bike to Towcester.

During my time at Wappenham School, of course, it was wartime and evacuees joined in our classes. Each day, we took our gas masks and time was given to practice wearing them – not pleasant!

Maybe next time I will recall my wartime memories.

Rita H

Towcester & District Angling Association

The new season starts on June 16, and the club's main waters include: Astwell Mill, two small picturesque lakes between Wappenham and Helmdon; Silverlake, a four-acre lake in peaceful countryside on the edge of Wappenham; and half a mile of rural canal near Cosgrove. Between them they provide most common coarse fish species, including carp, tench and pike, and fun challenges to suit all levels of ability from novice to expert.

Newcomers and seasoned anglers alike might be wondering how – with so many shops still closed under pandemic regulations – they can get a TDAA ticket. No problem: just go to our

Towcester and District Angling Association

new website www.t-daa.uk and buy a slice of fishy happiness using PayPal, debit or credit cards. They are also available by post (cheques please) from TDAA c/o 62 Jenkinson Road, Towcester, NN12 6AW; or from Weals Motoring & Leisure in Towcester on 07941 867535. Various tackle shops in Northampton, Daventry and Milton Keynes also sell them..

This could be a great time to join, as over the past 18 months, TDAA has spent several thousands of pounds and a lot of volunteer hours improving its Astwell and Silverlake waters. Extra fish are due to be stocked in both soon. And it's far from expensive as a YEAR's membership costs just £35 – £25 for senior citizens – £15 for juniors aged 13 to 16 inclusive – while those under 13 are free but need to be accompanied by a 'responsible adult' aged 17 or over. Everyone – including newcomers and 'returnees' – most welcome.

We also have a vacancy for someone to act as a Bailiff at Silver Lake in Wappenham. The job simply involves visiting the lake in the morning and again in the afternoon to collect fees from the anglers. A small remuneration will be made. This would suit one or two of the many people who walk their dogs in the area. If anyone is interested please make contact via the details below. Enjoy your fishing.

John Newman.
T&DAA Development Officer.
07971 869656 email: development@t-daa.uk

Victory in Europe: VE Day. 8 May 1945

Winston Churchill became an MP at the second attempt in 1900. He was 25. He was a great orator from the start and was immediately in demand to speak in support of other candidates because in those days General Elections were held over a period of around 6 weeks. He quickly rose to the Cabinet and held several high offices until 1929. The House was always full when Winnie was due to speak. His standing caused jealousy amongst some colleagues who feared being overshadowed by him and as a result, he was a mere backbencher from 1929 to May 1940. These colleagues most significantly included Prime Ministers Baldwin and Chamberlain.

This was a shame because Winston was much feared by Hitler and had he been PM in the Thirties WW2 might have been averted. Appeasement certainly didn't work.

Operation Sealion the planned Nazi invasion of Britain August/September 1940, required German air superiority. In spite of Goering's Luftwaffe's savage best efforts, our Air Force and the mighty forbearance of Londoners in particular prevented it. The bombing Blitz on London meant that it took a terrible pasting night after night for 9 months. Their motto became "We can take it". Never did Winston say a truer word about our pilots than "...never has so much been owed by so many to so few".

Overlord, the beginning of the end with the Allied seaborne landings on the north coast of France, began with D Day on 6 June 1944. Poor weather had put it back a day.

Although the Allies caught the Nazis by surprise, they soon rallied and gave stiff resistance. Caen was virtually destroyed as the Allied troops fought their way east out of Normandy. My Mum's sister, Auntie Pat landed there 6 weeks after D Day. But she did meet her husband to be!

By August our troops had reached Paris, which was liberated by the 25th. Simultaneously the Germans were being squeezed from the West by Russia, who started the war on the side of the Axis and had, by a narrow margin, survived the Nazi onslaught at the cost of millions of lives.

At the penultimate Allied Summit (Feb 1945) held at Yalta in the Crimea, Churchill began to feel marginalised by US President Roosevelt and Russian dictator Stalin (Winnie privately called him Uncle Jo but anyone less avuncular is hard to imagine; he murdered more than Corporal Hitler, as WC liked to call him). Already there was awareness of Russia's postwar annexation plans. There was thus a race to Berlin.

Hitler shot himself in his Berlin bunker on 30 April 1945 and within days Germany surrendered.

5 dreadful years of war were suddenly over. Relief in Britain was palpable, immediate and manifest in the Victory in Europe celebrations one sees on newsreels of London rejoicing.

(continued overleaf)

Victory in Europe: VE Day. 8 May 1945 (cont'd)

Very quickly (July), a General Election was held. We had had National and Coalition governments since 1931. We showed our thanks to Churchill by not keeping him as PM. His wife Clementine said "Well dear, I expect it's a blessing in disguise," to which from behind the Havana came "Well, it's an extremely good disguise....."

Rebuilding postwar Britain was, however, far from easy: a year on, bread rationing was introduced. Winnie was back in Number 10 by 1951 and was PM when I was born. Yes, I know that's incredible, with me being just a boy.

Japan cooked their own goose when they bombed Pearl Harbour (Hawaii) in December 1942 because it finally brought America in on our side, something Winston knew was vital from the start and had spent considerable energy achieving. America subdued Japan with 2 atomic bombs in August 1945. VJ Day is on 15 August.

We finished paying American war loans in 2006.....

Kids: Don't go to war. Jaw jaw is better than war war.

Richard O. 2 May 2020

Village Wartime Activity

Looking into who fought in World War II from Wappenham, I have discovered five men so far. Bert Mansfield and Jim Keene went to the Army, Reg Haynes and Ernie Wheeler to the Marines and Cyril Wheeler to the Navy. They all returned; Ed Bearman's sister Lizzie married a Mr Anderson, who was killed shortly after

Village Wartime Activity

they were married. Lizzie then married Mr Geary, whose son Alan lived in a bungalow in the High Street until recently.

Of women's work in the war, I hear that Gladys Haynes joined the ATS, the women's version of the Army. Any other wartime careers, please let me know. (Women's jobs were very varied. My mother, for example, joined the ATS, as part of the teams shooting down enemy aircraft.)

Soldiers were billeted in the Rectory and in the house in Helmdon Road popularly known as the Squash Courts. There were dances in the 'Tin Hut', the old village hall, every two weeks and the soldiers would attend. Olive's mother and a Mrs Allen did the refreshments. Olive's sister Mary met a soldier from Manchester at one of these dances, married him and went to live in Manchester.

Olive W. remembers the bombing at Coventry. It was a dreadful night in 1940 and they had to sit under the stairs, listening to the planes flying over.

Olive's family took in evacuees: Rosemary, John and their mother who came from Sussex; their father was in the army. The children went to Wappenham School and were in touch with Olive for many years.

Jane H.

Seen About the Village: Photos of Covid rainbows and VE day bunting



Coronavirus Letter to Humanity

(sent in by Joanna T.)

The earth whispered but you did not hear.
The earth spoke but you did not listen
The earth screamed but you turned her off.

And so I was born...

I was not born to punish you..
I was born to awaken you..

The earth cried out for help...

Massive flooding. But you didn't listen.
Burning fires. But you didn't listen.
Strong hurricanes. But you didn't listen.
Terrifying Tornadoes. But you didn't listen.

You still don't listen to the earth when the
ocean's fish and animals are dying due to
pollutants in the waters.
Glaciers melting at an alarming rate.
Severe drought.

You didn't listen to how much negativity
the earth is receiving.

Non-stop wars.
Non-stop greed.

You just kept going on with your life...
No matter how much hate there was...
No matter how many killings daily...
It was more important to get that latest
iPhone than worry about what the earth
was trying to tell you..

But now I am here.

And I've made the world stop in its tracks.
I've made YOU finally listen.
I've made you take refuge.
I've made you stop thinking about
materialistic things..

Now you are like the earth...

You are only worried about YOUR survival.
How does that feel?

I give you fever.. as the fires burn on earth.
I give you respiratory issues.. as pollution
fills the earth's air.
I give you weakness as the earth weakens
every day.

I took away your comforts..
Your outings.
The things you would use to forget about the
planet and its pain.

And I made the world stop...

And now...

**China has better air quality.. Skies are clear
blue because factories are not spewing
pollution into the earth's air.
The water in Venice is clean and fish and
dolphins are being seen, because the boats
that pollute the water are not being used.**

YOU are having to take time to reflect on
what is important in your life.

Again I am not here to punish you.. I am
here to Awaken you...
When all this is over and I am gone... Please
remember these moments..

Listen to the earth.
Listen to your soul.
Stop polluting the earth.
Stop fighting among each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbours.
Start caring about the earth and all its
creatures.

Because next time I may come back even
stronger....
Signed, Coronavirus



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Stop Press! New Rector, Church Open

There will shortly be a new Rector for the Astwell Benefice of churches. She is Rev'd Diane Whittaker, and she is currently Rector of the South Clely benefice that includes Potterspury. More details are to be announced in due course.

The church of St Mary the Virgin will now be open for private prayer on Sundays between 10 and 12 noon. Details of safety matters will be advised in the church.

Renee's Lockdown Song in the Spotlight!

Renee W.'s strong melodic singing voice has been a feature of our village fetes, with her local jazz/folk group Halcyon Days. You may not know that she also writes songs.

Renee's latest composition is a song about the corona virus lockdown called 'Strange Times'. A beautiful recording of it with a slide presentation & added cello/piano backing has been produced by John B. of Notivate, Northampton, & is now on Youtube!

You can hear it on

<https://youtu.be/DMx4UwZVoGY>



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