

WIGGENHALL ST GERMANS

Parish Newsletter

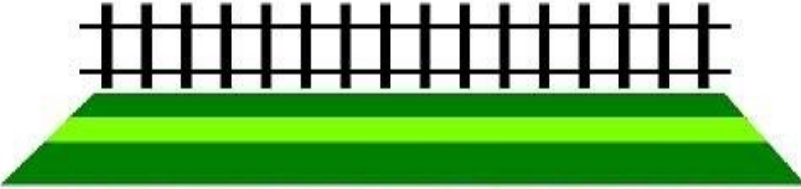
Autumn 2022 edition



Any queries or comments, please contact the Editor (Clerk):

Mike Inder,
4 Lime Close, Marham,
King's Lynn, PE33 9HN
Tel: 01553 392017

Email: wiggenhallstgermanspc@outlook.com



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From the Editor/Clerk

An incredible 6 months... the war in Ukraine and lingering COVID, and its knock on effects, have cast a long shadow over 2022. The Platinum Jubilee and fantastic village event lifted spirits and brought the community together for the first time in along time and I think we'd all agree that something similar for the Coronation might go well... The long hot summer had it's lovers and haters and the local roads certainly didn't enjoy it with terrible subsidence and ruts in melted tarmac (more on that in the PC round up). Then Boris was ousted and our MP Liz Truss installed with a new agenda for the UK that doesn't seem to be a well received medicine (at time of final edit Liz Truss has resigned and we know not who will follow!). And sadly, the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the incredible show of national mourning topped with the most incredible pageantry and circumstance for her laying to rest. How can all that have happened in just 6 months!

I would dearly like to hear your thoughts on the Newsletter and what you would like to read about in future editions? I have a few regular contributors but there is always room for more contributions to spread the word of successes (every one likes a good news story!) or advertise forthcoming events. If you don't have time to come to Parish Meetings perhaps you could use this forum to put ideas forward.

Yours

Mike Under

Closing Date for next Online Newsletter:

1 April 2023



Streetlight Reporting

If you see a faulty street light please report it to the Clerk:

wiggenhallstgermanspc@outlook.com

or by phone to 01553 392017 and leave a message if out of hours.

please include the location ie street name and property number or name it is near to, lamppost number if possible or a landmark.

WIGGENHALL ST GERMANS PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS



Meetings are in the Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30pm. There is a session to hear from the public near the start of the meeting, you can leave after you have had your say if you wish. The Agenda is published on the website and notice board at Surrey Street and in Saddlebow.

28 Nov 22	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
23 Jan 23	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
27 Mar 23	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
22 May 23	7pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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At:
Memorial Hall
1 School Lane
Wiggenhall St Germans
Kings Lynn
PE34 3DZ
The **3rd Monday of every month at 7:30pm.**

September's meeting was held on Thursday 22nd out of respect to the late Queen.

Our speaker was Gordon Phillips and we celebrated the work of Magdalen-born author Arthur Randell. As all his tales relate to local people and the surrounding villages, the meeting was open to everyone and guests of all ages were made welcome which led to a great atmosphere.

It is often said "never work with children and animals" but we have to say in this case that is not at all true, no animals but three delightful children. Gordon led pupils from the village school in a most enjoyable evening, entertaining us royally with stories about local people in and around the village written by Arthur Randell.

The stars of the show were definitely the three children, Harriet Tearle, Shannon Lerner and Alexander Culyer who gave readings of stories that they and fellow pupils, had transcribed from original hand-written materials. They finished off with a spirited performance of a traditional Norfolk Broom Dance which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

A beautifully produced souvenir book was given to each member of the audience containing many more stories from Arthur's materials.

We plan to have Tim Clayton speak on his experience about the renovation of the vessel the "Baden Powell" at our October meeting.

Katherine White

Memorial Hall Play Park Project

Sadly just before the school summer holidays the annual play inspection identified that rot in the timbers of both swing sets had reached a level where it was classified as high risk and the PC had no option but to remove the swings from use immediately.

The PC had already started to save funds towards replacement of the swings but the costs of such projects are significant and after 3 quotes the costs range between £11-17K depending on whether timber or metal is selected as a preference, the latter having a greater life expectancy. The PC has £6,500 ready to put toward the project but will need to fund raise and apply for a grant to speed up the replacements. The next grant opportunity is the Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Community Funding, that opens for applications in Jan 23 for up to £30k. It requires a project plan, community support and will face stiff competition from other communities and their projects and applications. An earlier donation/s by a local benefactor/s could accelerate the project...

A group of residents have already stepped forward to form a Play Park Steering Group alongside Cllrs to put a project plan together and they will be contacting you for support in due course. If successful the project could start in April and be ready for opening the Summer holidays.

The Steering Group is also keen to look at a 2nd phase to the project and increase the play equipment to include something for the older age groups, that will be far more expensive and significant fund raising and grants will be required to achieve that goal, along with the community support to use more of the memorial hall playing field. Match funding by the PC and Community would take a while to build up again after phase 1 but hopefully local businesses may take the opportunity to contribute? Watch this space and the minutes of meeting for more news... and the steering group would I'm sure welcome more volunteers, if interested contact the clerk.



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Father and Bluff at King's Lynn Gala

One evening Father and Bluff, my Godfather, was with several of their old Pals at Magdalen Bridge, which was a proper meeting place, all waiting for the two Pubs (The Cock and Dolphin) to open. It was nearly the end of July and the talk got round to King's Lynn Gala, which was always held the first Monday in August.

At the Gala there would be Horse Trotting in Harness, Cycle Racing, Flat Running, Climbing the Greasy Pole, in fact it was a full days sport and special trains was run from as far away as London. Father and Bluff had never been although it was only six miles from Magdalen but they decided they would go.

Someone said, "It's a good days outing but be careful of the Pickpockets, they will soon have your money." That rather worried the Two Teds because although they would not have too much money they didn't want to lose what they had. Next day they talked it over and at last thought of one way they knew their money would be safe.

The Gala day arrived and about 7:00 am Bluff was down at ours, of course dressed in the only suit they owned, and just with a clean neckhandkerchief round their necks and they was ready. Us kids thought they was in the shed where all the ferrets was a long time but Father never told us what it was all about and away they both went.

They arrived at Lynn, walked to the Gala, paid their entrance fee to go in and was soon among the people which included, as I mentioned before, from London. Before I go any further I must add that it was the custom of the Norfolk Police to engage the services of a retired Plain Clothed Detective to be on Lynn Station Platform when the Cockney Special arrived. Mr. Pedlar had been in the London Police Force until he retired to come and live at Watlington near Lynn, and for several years was a Plain Clothed Man. He would stand close to the ticket barrier reading a paper, his umbrella hanging on his arm but watching every face as they passed through. If he saw someone he remembered up in the City he would signal to policemen who would take the man to Lynn Police Station where he would be kept all day until the London Excursion was ready to make the return Journey.

Now back to Father and Bluff. They was feeling a bit hungry so they decided to have a pork pie and that meant getting their little Wash leather money bag out. Bluff had it inside his heavy jacket in the old Poachers Pocket. Before he reached inside they both looked to see if anyone seemed to be watching them but they felt everything was alright so out the bag came, got enough out for the Pie and put the rest back and they thought that no one had seen them.

A few minutes later they walked towards where they were getting the Trotting Horses ready and there was a crowd watching then All Hell Broke Loose. Bluff felt someone's hand and something scratching and someone shouting "Oh my Hand" and there was this bloke with our Female Ferret hanging on the fellow's finger with blood pouring down his wrist.

Bluff nearly went Mad, he grabbed his hands round the fellows neck and roared out "If you have hurt the poor old Ferret I da twist your neck like a corkscrew." A Policeman came up and asked Bluff if he wanted to charge him but Bluff said "No he's bin punished enough, he will find that will be sore for a few days."

PS

What Father and Bluff was doing in the ferret shed was putting a handful of Hay in the big old Jacket Pocket then catching a very nasty Female Ferret and putting her in the pocket (and also the little Money Bag.). That ferret was, as Father used to say "A Bit Tasty" and was like lightening when rabbiting or Ratting but would never bite Father or Bluff but I always had to have a leather glove on when I went to pick her up.

An Arthur Randell story; copies of Randell Revival, the Lost Stories, are available (free) in the pub and, hopefully the Church. Best wishes Gordon Phillips

Useful web addresses for Borough Council issues

GENERAL CONTACT

<https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/contact>
Phone 01553 616200

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Bins and recycling

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20004/bins_and_recycling

Council & Democracy

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20006/council_and_democracy

Council tax issues

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20002/council_tax

Local air quality monitoring

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/bcklwn-local-air-quality-monitoring>

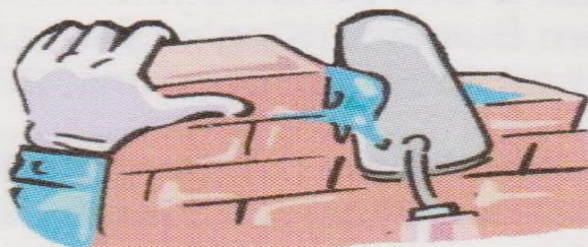
Planning and Development

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20000/planning_and_development

Tree Preservation Orders

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/bcklwn-tree-preservation-orders1>

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Parish Council Chairman's Report

In preparation for compiling these words I refreshed my memory of previous comments only to find the suggestion in May that hopefully life is becoming more normal. Since then we have seen the sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II with the subsequent accession to the throne of His Majesty King Charles III. In addition to this we have seen two new Prime Ministers in quick succession, record temperatures in the UK (40.2°C recorded in Lincolnshire), soaring energy costs, the shortest day on record, tournament victory in the UEFA women's Euro 2022 championship and many other things. I think that going forwards I may refrain from any references to normality.

Within our parish we have seen a number of positive events; the AED has been installed at the Leonard Towler Playing Field with associated familiarisation training (including CPR guidance) arranged. If there is sufficient interest we can look to provide a future session. With the increased usage of the facilities at the playing field works have also taken place to increase the parking by moving the fence and gate and clearing the overflow car park beside the bowls club.

The Platinum Jubilee took place with our own event at the Memorial Hall with the dedication of the Platinum Jubilee tree to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with my thanks to Scilla Ash and Dave Rust for keeping the tree watered across the hot dry summer. The weather events sadly also saw storm damage to trees at the bowling club, with the damage being cleared in June.

The three prize winning road safety speed awareness signs have now been mounted near the school following the School Road Safety Steering Groups competition. Now that the SAM2 speed indicator has been repaired hopefully these signs will help to keep vehicles travelling safely. In addition to this the steering group recommendations continue to assist with a bid for Parish Partnership funding for temporary advisory 20mph speed limit flashing signs, if the bid is successful these would be expected late spring.

The annual play equipment inspection took place over the summer, with the swings identified as having rotting timbers that were deemed high risk. The swings have been removed and plans are in place to replace them, albeit the replacement project is an expensive undertaking which we are looking for funding to assist with. We are currently establishing a Play Park Steering Group consisting of volunteers and parish councillors to look at the options for a second phase of improvements to the play equipment. The initial project tabled in 2019 to provide older youths with somewhere safe and engaging to spend leisure time, is now starting to gain traction and will hopefully reduce anti-social behaviour through youth engagement. Looking forwards we are expecting the Fitton Road Trod to be installed over the winter, making rounding the corner on foot a far safer proposition. The Fitton Road Trod sadly isn't the only highway's challenge in the Parish and we are continuing to try to identify possible solutions. Sadly there are some challenges that simply don't have obvious practical solutions, such as the Fitton Road / Lynn Road chicane. There are already HGV restrictions in place, with no further restrictions that can be applied. It's not possible to ban commercial HGV's or agricultural traffic, vehicles that have the most difficulty in navigating the route (and being the most common causes for damage to properties). At the moment we are reliant on drivers to use extreme caution. Through discussions with Highways the potential resolution to this involves straightening the road, which would require the compulsory purchase and demolition of properties and a new bridge installed to meet current regulations. The estimated cost for this being over £130m (and with several Parish residents losing their homes).

The Parish Council has been proactive in consulting with planning applications and many conditions and suggested amendments have been listened to and incorporated in approval of applications by the Borough Council. The Mill Road development has benefited from keen eyed cllrs and residents commenting on an anomaly with the maps and the actual rout of the Public Footpath, that will now be properly addressed. The Proposed Battery Energy Storage Site at Saddlebow gave a presentation at the Parish Council meeting in March and the comments made by the public and Sailing Club that attended and made representations have been listened to and Planners and developer are considering them. The company proposing the site, Cambridge Power Ltd, have stated they would also be looking to support the Parish with projects and grants, so if you have any ideas to add value to the community please let the Parish Council know and we can put them forward.

As a final note, we are all experiencing challenges with the cost of living. The Parish Council is following various scheme and announcements by the Government and local councils that offer help and support. Like most announcements they are announced and accessible online and it is important that as a community we watch out for our neighbours who might not have access to the internet to hear of the initiatives or to apply and either offer assistance or signpost them to ways of accessing help and if unsure the Parish Council will always try and assist so no one is left isolated and vulnerable. For those that do have access to the internet there are various websites that can offer help and advice including the Government's own 'Help for Households' which can be found at <https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk>. Please also note that there are likely to be a number of people trying to exploit the situation and as such I would recommend due caution when pursuing unofficial routes.

As always, a big thank you to everyone involved within the parish.

Cllr Rob Keal

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WIGGENHALL ST GERMAN'S POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES AT THE SIDE OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

MONDAY	9.00-14.00
TUESDAY	9.00 -14.00
WEDNESDAY	9.00-14.00
THURSDAY	09.00—14.00
FRIDAY	0.900—13.00
SATURDAY	Closed
SUNDAY	Closed

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Mileage is paid for at 45p per mile.

For more information please contact us on:

01553 776971 or

volunteers@wnct.co.uk

WIGGENHALL ST GERMAN'S PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

There are 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors.

Who can be a Parish Councillor?

Why should I be a Parish Councillor?

What does the Parish Council do?

What will they expect from me?

How do I become a Parish Councillor?



Calling Saddlebow! You are not currently represented by a resident of your area of the Parish!

You can be a Parish Councillor, so long as you are a Commonwealth, British or EU citizen over 18 years of age, not subject to bankruptcy nor have a criminal record within last 5 years.

We all have opinions on what the village needs and what issues concern us, it might be the old problems of parking, potholes, vandalism, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and litter but there's also the positive aspects like improving facilities and holding community events, so whether you have ideas or solutions being a councillor means you have your chance to voice them and influence and shape the village for the future.

The Parish Council receives a proportion of the council tax we all pay and that is to carry out its responsibilities which include:

- Managing, maintaining and improving the play equipment.
- Streetlighting, which we have upgraded to LED to save money on maintenance and electricity – *important for the environment and pockets!*
- Grounds and Street maintenance; Litter Bins – Where are our problem areas for litter and dog fouling?
- Crime and Disorder, providing local solutions to aid the overstretched resources of the Constabulary, *perhaps providing somewhere for Teens to congregate safely and engaged to see what would entertain them to stop boredom leading to anti-social behaviour?*
- Managing the Playing Field and Pavilion.
- Producing the Parish Magazine and Website for local news and reports.
- Having a say on Planning Applications.
- Organising events like *Wiggstock*.

As a new Councillor you will receive an induction pack to get you started and there is a variety of excellent training on all sorts of topics as well as a helpful clerk and fellow experienced councillors. You commit as much as you can afford alongside family and work life balance and attend a meeting on the fourth Monday of the month 6 times a year.

To become a Parish Councillor simply contact the Clerk and he will arrange to help you through the Co-option process. Elections are on 4 May 2023 but no need to wait, come and see what is involved.
Clerk: Mike Inder – wiggenhallstgermanspc@outlook.com or 01553 392017



Reg Charity No 247349

Clerk: Mike Inder
4 Lime Close, Marham, King's Lynn, PE33 9HN
07932 088784
wiggenthallstgermanspc@outlook.com

Energy Grant Application

The Bridge Charity Trustees have responded to the cost-of-living crisis of 2022 and recognise that there may be residents that are faced with severe hardship in paying to heat their homes this winter. They have decided to apply the remainder of this year's income to an Energy Grant.

To assist Trustees in their awarding of the grants appropriately and to focus on those most in need, they need to gather data on which to base their decision making. The data submitted with your application will be handled under the Data Protection policy which is the same as the PC policy on the website and available on request. Please submit by completing the form and sending by email, as a scan or photo attachment or by post to the above address.

The grant, once determined, will be notified to those that have been awarded and the payment will be made by BACS transfer (or cheque if requested). Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified but may apply in future years.

Name				
Address				
No of residents at the address				
Age of applicant*	18-34	35-67	67+	
Heating Energy Fuel Type*	Electricity	Mains Gas	Bottled Gas	Oil
Contact Email/Telephone				
Bank Details Or Cheque *	Account Name: Sort Code: Account Number: Cheque Payee*:			

Closing Date for Applications: 10th Jan 2023

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Are you worried about paying bills?

Don't panic, help is at hand. The most important thing is don't hide your head in the sand. Talk to someone and see if you can work something out.

Avoid loan sharks! It may seem tempting to take out a short-term unregulated loan to get you out of a fix, but this can lead to huge problems down the line, including violence and intimidation and paying back many times what you borrow.

The first port of call should be your G.P. practice - ask to be referred to a social prescriber, in some areas they are called community connectors or living well connectors. All GP services in Norfolk are connected to a team of social prescribers who are themselves connected to a range of advice and help providers and they can help you find the support you need in the quickest possible way.

Below are the details for a range of other agencies who may be able to help.



General advice and assistance

The Norfolk Assistance Scheme ([NAS](#))

helps people who are in financial hardship and cannot pay their living costs.

Norfolk [CABx](#)

offer advice on debt and money problems face to face, on the phone via e-mail and webchat.
tel: 0800 144 88 48 option 1

[MoneyHelper](#)

can point you towards local debt advice services online, on the phone or in person.

Money Saving Expert ([MSE](#))

offers help and advice on a whole range of subjects, including signposts to advice agencies

[Stepchange](#)

free debt advice online and support for as long as you need

Money Support Service ([MSS](#))

offer help and advice over the phone, or face-to-face support in your own home
tel: 01603 223392 (option 4)
e: MSS@norfolk.gov.uk

[Money Advice Trust](#)

The Money Advice Trust is a national charity, helping people across the UK to tackle their debts and manage their money with confidence

[Turn2Us](#)

Turn2Us is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially, by helping people access benefits, charitable grants and other support.

[Breathing Space](#) debt relief

Govt scheme to give someone in problem debt the right to legal protections from their creditors.



Food costs

[Trussell Trust](#)

operate a number of foodbanks around the county.

[Nourishing Norfolk](#)

a range of hubs and schemes to help people eat economically and healthily.

Other providers

other foodbanks can be found around the county

[Other Foodbanks](#)

Social Supermarkets

offer a wide range of affordable groceries, and other goods, to help people eat healthily.

[Sally's Store – Great Yarmouth](#)

[Shrublands CFC - Gorleston](#)

[The Feed – Norwich](#)

[The Burrell Shop - Thetford](#)

Community [Fridges](#)

public places where surplus food is shared between people in a community.

[Fridges](#)

[Hubbub](#)

Norfolk Community Directory ([NCD](#))

provides information, advice, services and activities on a range of services across Norfolk

Low cost/free meals

a number of organisations offer free or low cost meals to rough sleepers, families without cooking facilities etc. May require professional referral.

[Norwich](#)

[Elsewhere](#)

Food Apps

low-cost food packages available in your local area – via an app.

[Too Good To Go](#)

[Olio](#)



Energy costs

Money Saving Expert ([MSE](#))

offer advice on a range of subjects including energy

[Ask Bill](#)

offers free and impartial advice about money and bills.

National Energy Action ([NEA](#))

advice to householders in England & Wales on energy bills and keeping warm and safe in their home

Centre for Sustainable Energy ([CSE](#))

The Centre for Sustainable Energy offer advice if you are struggling with your energy bills

[AGE UK](#)

[Advice](#) for older people

[SCOPE](#)

[Advice](#) for people with a disability.

[Warm and Well](#)

Warm clothing packs to get you through the cold weather, available at all libraries.



Sanitary Products and Toiletries

Libraries

offer free sanitary products and toiletries

[Tricky Period and Toiletries](#)

Morrisons

offer free sanitary products to anyone who needs them. Ask for

[A package for Sandy](#)

Schools and Colleges

some schools and colleges have free products available to pupils/students at the school office.



Water & sewage charges

[Anglian Water](#)

can offer discounted tariffs, assistance schemes, affordable payment plans

[Help](#)

[Essex & Suffolk Water](#)

can offer payment breaks, low-income discounts, flexible payment plans, bill cap scheme.

[Help](#)



Furniture and White Goods

[End Furniture Poverty](#)

national organisation offering advice on [finding furniture and white goods](#) and areas of support



Broadband & telephone costs – social tariffs

[Ofcom](#)

people on a low income may be able to get a [cheaper broadband](#) or telephone package

Money Saving Expert ([MSE](#))

[Broadband](#) comparison tool



Transport costs

Concessionary bus pass

[age-related](#) and [disability](#) bus passes

If you still need extra help

Norfolk County Council [Living Support Scheme](#)

Norfolk Community Foundation [Household Support Fund](#) grants up to £100 per household

Support from Boroughs/Districts:

[Breckland](#)

[Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

[Great Yarmouth](#)

[Kings Lynn and West Norfolk](#)

[North Norfolk](#)

[Norwich](#)

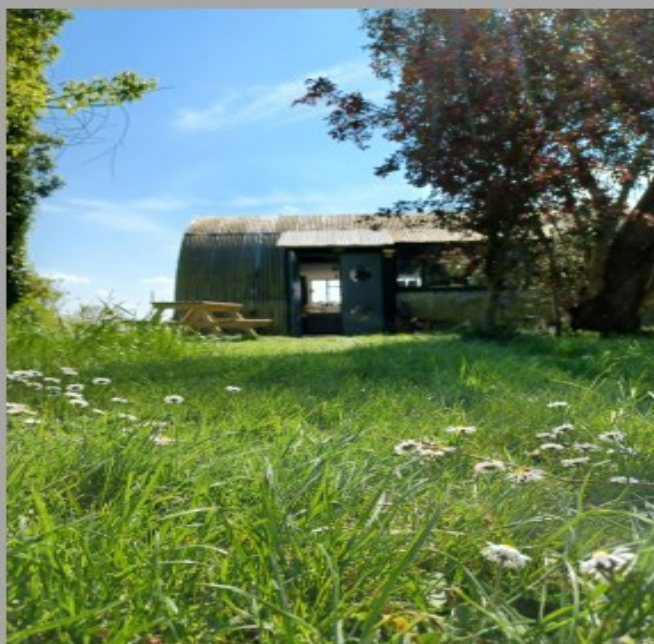
You may be able to get help from a charity based on what job you do or have done, if you have a specific health condition, or live in a particular town/village. Some focus on people over/under a particular age.

[Turn2us](#) has a grant [search tool](#)

Norfolk Citizens Advice [CABx grants directory](#)

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WATLINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

The Winter is creeping up on us after such a glorious few months of sunshine and warmth. However, Fireworks and Christmas lights will soon brighten the dark evenings to help us through until Spring.

It is important during the winter months to look after your health by obtaining a flu vaccine and a booster covid vaccine. Please contact the surgery if you have not had your flu vaccine on 01553 810253. Covid boosters can be booked online on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

or by ringing freephone 119 who can arrange an appointment for you. The nearest Centres are in Kings Lynn and Downham Market.

We are all concerned about fuel costs this winter, but it is important, especially if you are elderly or have a chronic disease, to keep warm. If you are struggling with winter and heating your home you may be able to get some help through the government winter fuel payment, or cold weather payment <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>, <https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>.

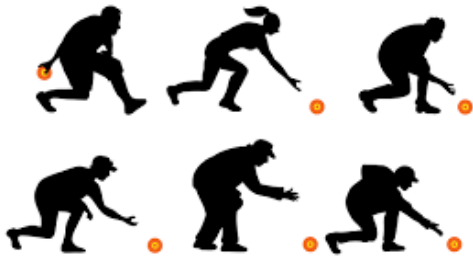
Please remember to look after each other and check on vulnerable neighbours and relatives who may need some help. Sharing warmth of company, a hot meal and a drink can be a tonic in long winter months.

As well as looking after physical health, our mental health is equally as important. One of the places you can seek help is from the Well Being Service (<https://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk/> or telephone 0300 123 1503). They can provide one-to-one support, guided self help, online CBT Modules and peer support. The Surgery also has a Social prescriber who can help signpost you to a range of local non-clinical and clinical services to support your wellbeing. The Patient Support team at the surgery would be happy to refer you to the service.

Can I thank the majority of you for treating our staff with Kindness, patience and understanding. It has been a very challenging few years and we really appreciate those words of encouragement. Unfortunately, our Teams still have to suffer rudeness and at times aggression from some and this can have a huge negative impact on them, so words of kindness go a very long way.

Lastly, we all wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

Amanda Moss
Partner



Wiggenhall Bowls Club

For any information about the Bowls Club please contact the Club Secretary:
Margaret Blackburn, 01553 617418, Lords Bridge
Toll House, Lords Bridge, Wiggenhall St. Mary the
Virgin, King's Lynn PE34 3BW

Bowling activities have more or less been back to normal in 2022. The green was opened in April, and we have been bowling in the usual 4 leagues throughout the summer, and holding the Saturday afternoon informal roll-ups. We have not done as well in the competitions as in previous years, but we find that several of our stalwart members are not able to bowl at the moment, suffering from the problems of getting that much older, and with a range of physical problems not helped by the NHS backlog in treatment care which is affecting so many of us.

However, we forage onwards, and tell ourselves that if no-one came towards the bottom there wouldn't be anyone at the top.

We did attract some new members to the Club, and would be delighted if others would like to come along next year and give bowling a try.

The Club held two very successful Open Days, one in mid-season in June, and another in September to mark the end of the outdoor bowling season. Both were well attended, the Drives were much enjoyed, as were the free refreshments, and the raffles raised useful funds for the Club. We also joined in the Village celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 3rd June, and organised a tombola with a children's lucky dip. It was a toss-up whether the wrapped gifts or the chance to dig into the lovely messy sawdust were the main attractions of the latter.

Our maintenance team have again kept the bowling green in good order. Before the 2022 season started, the outside of the clubhouse received a much-needed coat of paint, and over the winter of 2022-23 they are installing a new irrigation system, which it is hoped will be more automated and save having to come to the club so often to set up and remove the free-standing sprinklers. Club members pitch in and do all the work that would have to be paid for if done by contractors, and we cannot thank them enough.

The Carpet Bowls sessions have now started again. One of the sad after-effects of Covid is that a number of carpet bowls clubs in our area have ceased playing, and at the time of writing it is uncertain how much of what used to be the normal competition programme will continue. We seem to be very lucky that our carpet bowlers are keen to continue, and we hope that we will be able to find opponents. If all else fails, we can organise a series of friendly matches against teams who are still bowling.

We meet on Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. in the St. Germans Memorial Hall. All are welcome to come along and have a go. The normal cost is £2 for the evening, which includes tea and biscuits, but for new people the first 3 evenings are free. We hope that if you enjoy the sessions you may want to join the Club.

The Bowls Club annual Christmas Bingo evening will follow the format that we tried out last year. We will not be holding the Grand Draw, with tickets sold in advance of the evening, but instead there will be a raffle with tickets sold on the evening only. This arrangement worked well, but we hope to start selling tickets rather earlier in the evening, as it was quite a rush to fit everything in! The prizes as usual will be a mixture of seasonal and general interest offerings. If anyone cannot come on the evening, but would like to purchase tickets, please contact a member of the Bowls Club committee. We will try to sort something out for you.

The **Christmas Bingo** will be held in the St. Germans Memorial Hall on **Monday 12th December**. We expect that the bingo will start from 7.30 p.m., with doors opening at 6.00 p.m., but these times will be confirmed nearer the time – look out for notices round the village and in the local press.

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We look forward to welcoming back our regular groups and small bookings.

Any enquires can be directed to the Secretary - Robyn Press on KL 617208.

Polite Notice — Parking

The Memorial Hall Car park dropped kerb is access to School Lane, this is access to residential properties and access is required 24/7

**When parking to use the Memorial Hall or visiting the School for events, pick up or drop off, please keep School Lane Clear.
Thank you**

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Wiggenhall St. Germans Church News

With the retirement of Rev Martin Dale on 16th October 2022, there are some changes to the contact details for the church. If you wish to discuss a baptism, wedding, or have any other queries, please contact our Licensed Lay Minister Mark Wright on KL 617689, or our churchwardens Carolyn Cast on KL 617986 or Angie Yeoman on KL 617518.

Services will continue to take place every Sunday at 9.30 a.m. details of which will continue to be advertised on the church notice boards.

Martin's Farewell Service took place on 16th October in Wiggenhall St. Germans Church and was attended by members of the congregations of all the churches in the benefice. The service was followed by a Fellowship Lunch in the church and gifts were presented to Martin and Maddy.

We are very grateful to Martin for all his hard work over the past 12 years and wish him and Maddy a very happy retirement.

Events

We would like to thank Chris and Chloe at the Crown and Anchor for hosting the church **Harvest Lunch** and for all their support. Thank you also to all those who came and those who gave donations.

The Kids Fun Fest in September was a great success and we are grateful to Chloe and Divine for organising it. **A Xmas Kids Fest** will take place on Saturday 3rd December in the Memorial Hall from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. when there will be a bouncy castle, face painting, biscuit decorating and Christmas arts and crafts....and a guest appearance from Father Christmas. Entry will be free but donations are welcome. Look out for the posters nearer the date!

We would like to thank everyone who supported **The Macmillan Coffee Morning** in September and £185 was raised for the work of Macmillan Cancer Trust.

In December we will be holding a **Toys and Tins service** for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal as we have done for many years. Details of suggested gifts and food will be available and the gifts can be brought to the church for 4th December. We look forward to holding our Carol Service on 18th December and a Crib Service for the children on Christmas Eve. There will also be a service of Holy Communion during the evening on Christmas Eve, as well as a Christmas Day Service. Look out for posters nearer the date for times of the services and further information, or pick up a copy of the December monthly newsletter from the church..

Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Sunday Service will take place in the church on 13th November at 10.15 a.m. and will be led by Mark Wright. The service will move out to the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths and the two minutes silence at 11 a.m.

Coffee Mornings

There is a Coffee Morning in the church every Friday to which everyone is invited, so why not come along for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat? There is a short service of Prime at 9.30 a.m. with the coffee morning starting at around 9.45 a.m. and lasting until 11 a.m. You are very welcome to come to the service, just the coffee morning, or both, we would be most pleased to see you.

Flower Arranging Group

A flower arranging group is held monthly in the church. If you are interested in flower arranging and would like to learn more, whether you are a beginner or have some skills you would like to improve, then please contact Marion Coleman on KL 617494 for further details. The group made a lovely display for the church flower festival which looked beautiful.

Youth Club

The Youth Club is held in the Memorial Hall on the first Monday of the month from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. The Youth Club is run by members of the church for young people aged 11 years and over and we would be very pleased to welcome new members. If you would like to find out more then please come along and see what you think. There is badminton, table tennis, and snooker as well as games and other activities and the cost is £2 per night. If any parents or young people have any questions then please contact Angie Yeoman on KL 617518 or Margaret Cook on KL 617617 and we will be pleased to help.

Foodbank

We still have the collection point for donations to the King's Lynn Food Bank, which is a black bin at the back of the church, in which donations can be placed anytime the church is open. With the current cost of living crisis this service is in even greater demand so your support is most appreciated by all those who run the Food Bank.

Walk & Talk

There is a monthly 'Walk & Talk' group who join together for a leisurely walk (and talk) of up to 3 miles, usually around the villages. The group meet at 10 a.m. and tea or coffee is available at the church afterwards. Everyone is very welcome and If you would like to find out more information, please call Judith on KL 617363

We would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and joy and peace for the New Year

Mark, Carolyn & Angie

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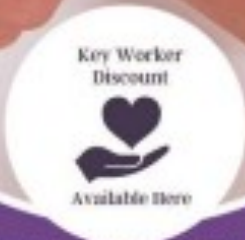
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