

# WIGGENHALL ST GERMANS

## *Parish Newsletter*

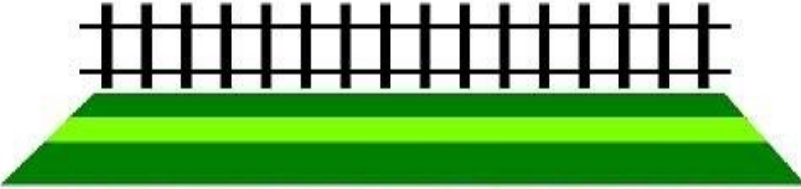
**Spring 2023 edition**



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

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

Email: [wighallstgermanspc@outlook.com](mailto:wighallstgermanspc@outlook.com)



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## From the Editor/Clerk

Thank you for some wonderful articles for this edition!

Good News for the kids, we have been awarded a KL&WN BC Community Infrastructure Levy grant towards the replacement of the swings at the Memorial Hall. These will hopefully be installed for the Summer and the Play Park Working Group can focus on fund-raising for the next phase of improvements.

AFC Lynn Napier, having made their home at the Leonard Towler Playing Field continue to go from strength to strength both on and off field with the addition of youth teams and improved facilities.

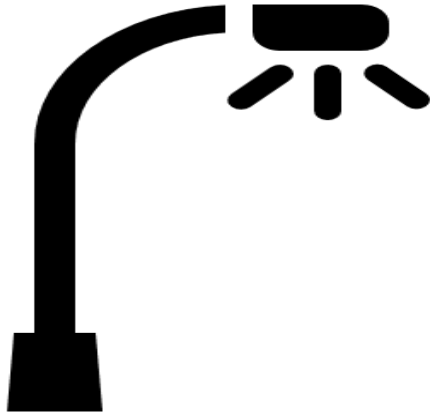
The Parish Council elections were uncontested and we have 9 councillors for the next term, with 2 new faces and one retiree (a personal thank you to Margaret Blackburn for her service to the community, which thankfully continues in her other involvement).

The Annual Parish Meeting is on the Wed 10 May at 7pm in the Memorial Hall, come along and let the new Council know what you as a community would like to see them focus on to improve life and enjoyment in the Parish. It's an opportunity for organisations and clubs to come and share their success and tell us about their future plans too.

The front cover shows the success of the PC, finally having a path installed on corner that has scared pedestrians and seen numerous injuries over the many years that people have campaigned for this. Thank you to the neighbours for the support and the persistence of Cllr Bob Ward who was the motivation for the project.

Yours *Mike Inder*

Closing Date for next Online Newsletter: **30 Sep 2023**



## Streetlight Reporting

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

[wighenhallstgermanspc@outlook.com](mailto:wighenhallstgermanspc@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.

- |           |                                                                          |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 May 23 | 7pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting. |
| 24 Jul 23 | Ordinary Parish Council Meeting                                          |
| 25 Sep 23 | Ordinary Parish Council Meeting                                          |
| 27 Nov 23 | Ordinary Parish Council Meeting                                          |

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

Well, this year got off to a great start for the Ladies Group in January with a really lovely evening get together at the Woolpack in Terrington St John. February saw us hosting Richard Morley, who spoke on the guided walking tours in Kings Lynn which raised such an interest amongst us that we have decided to organise an outing later in the year with the Kings Lynn Town Guides (once the weather gets a little warmer) and March saw a visit from Rebekah, who is with the LILY initiative to explain just what that organisation does for the community, which is considerably wider than just help for the older population and was quite an eye-opener.

April will see Bridge for Heroes representative speaking to us. Many of us are unaware of this Group and what it does for ex-service men and women and it will be interesting to see what they do and how we can help in making life worthwhile for these, mainly unsung, heroes whilst adjusting back into civilian life.

Steve Manning of the Family History Federation will be returning in May to show us how to extend our family research projects. I know there are several ladies who have hit a brick wall and Steve is sure to be able to knock a hole through to the past so the journey can continue.

I can't believe Easter has come and gone and, so I am told, "summer is a coming in"! Next up on this year's Agenda is the King's Coronation in May. The Village will be hosting celebrations on Sunday 7th May. A Songs of Praise event at the St Germans Church to start at 9:30 am and a fete at the Memorial Hall with all sorts of interesting things to see and do for all ages, commencing at 2:00 pm. Come along and say hello, meet some new (and old) faces and have some fun to celebrate King Charles and the commencement of the Carolean era.

Katherine White , Chair

## Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Norfolk <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/norfolk> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Norfolk (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris  
[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)  
[john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)





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## Help and Advice

The article below lists a collection of bodies and organisations to help us all through the difficult times ahead this winter. Some organisations listed are just useful to know about and we might find them helpful at any time - in a time of need. The list is random but covers a wide range subjects:

**Food Bank**—The Trussell Trust Foodbank situated in Downham Market provides emergency food and compassionate dignified support to those in crisis. Food vouchers can be issued by health visitors, staff at schools, social workers, priests, medical staff. A voucher means people can receive a food bank parcel of three days' nutritionally balanced food from their local food bank. They also receive additional support like debt advice, benefits guidance and mental health support. (Food banks rely on the local community to support people in crisis and seek donations of tinned food. See the article on food banks elsewhere in this magazine)

**The Norfolk Swift Response—0344 800 8020** The Norfolk Swift Response Team is a 24 hour service that provides help, support and reassurance. If you have an urgent, unplanned need at home but you don't need emergency services e.g. if your partner or carer is suddenly admitted to hospital, the Swift Response team can assist you with getting up and washing and dressing. Or if you have a fall and can't get up but not seriously injured, the team can bring special lifting equipment to help you with safe lifting. The Swifts help older people, people with physical illness or disabilities, people with learning difficulties and people with mental health problems. This is a free service for those living in Norfolk.

**NB. For this an Alarm Pendant would be very useful, which can be obtained from Careline.**

**Careline Community Service— 01553 616200** For pendants that can detect falls and can automatically call through to the monitoring centre. Pendants that can be worn in the shower and the bath.

**LILY- 01553 616200** Service that combats loneliness and social isolation in adults of all ages. Contact them also for Care and Repair Service and also Handy Person Service e.g. grab rails, key safe etc

**Citizens Advice - 0800 144 8848** Will give help and advice on Benefits, energy bills, cost of living, Debt and money, Housing.

**Well Being Service - 0300 123 1503.** [www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk](http://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk/norfolk)

Visit your library in Downham Market for 'Warm Packs' and hot drinks.

**Watlington Medical Centre - 01553 810253** for your flu and covid booster vaccines.

**Discretionary Housing Payment** - For the over 65's. Means that the council will be able to top up Housing Benefit or Universal Credit Payments if a resident has a shortfall in their rent and their income is less than their allowed expenses.

**Council Tax - 01553 616200.** The Council is reminding residents to get in touch asap if they are experiencing difficulties in paying their council tax bill.

**GOV.UK** - Help for households, Family support - Tax free child care, 30 hours free childcare, 15 hours free childcare, child benefit, claim back childcare costs, free school meals, holiday activities and food programme, national breakfast clubs, household support fund, claim healthy start vouchers, help with maternity costs. Money Helper Service – provides free confidential and impartial help tailored to individual needs. [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk). A website to check regularly to find what support you may be able to get.

## Community oil buying

**Thinking Fuel** is a community oil buying scheme offered by Community Action Norfolk which is a charity working across Norfolk.

Following an advertising campaign last year they now have nearly 550 members in West Norfolk. The more members they have, the more members can save when buying oil and we understand that people signed up for **Thinking Fuel** are currently saving around 20p per litre on oil purchases compared to some other commercial providers. It's free to join and there is no obligation to buy. As the borough council we don't recommend one supplier over another but we are sharing this information to give borough residents the opportunity to think about the options available to them.

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# Parish Council Chairman's Report

As we move towards the end of the four-year term the temptation is for me to look back across the last four years and comment on all the challenges that the parish, county, country, and indeed globe has faced. Instead, I am going to try to pick up more on the specifics surrounding the Parish. My role of Chairman started late 2020, following on from Alastair Done who moved away from the parish at around the same time.

Looking at some of the highlights across the four years, whilst many of them have been completed over the last twelve to eighteen months, a number of those have taken years to develop.

As one of his last involvements as chairman, Alastair spearheaded the installation of a flagpole with the sponsorship of Balfour Beatty. The presentation of which from Balfour Beatty to the Parish took place in early 2021.

The Leonard Towler playing field has been a focus, with the field now being well used by the AFC Lynn Napier football teams. The area including the pavilion have seen general improvements across the last four years including the fitting of CCTV to hopefully stem any anti-social behaviour, and the installation of an AED.

The corner of Fitton road has now seen the installation of a trod to improve safety for pedestrians.

Likewise, with the assistance of the Middle Level, Sluice Road between Wiggshall St Germans and Wiggshall St Mary the Virgin has also seen a trod installed. As always, we are still keen to receive any suggestions for improvements throughout the parish for pedestrians and road users. On that front, we are hopeful that additional signage will be installed shortly to highlight to road users the severity of the left-hand bend as Lynn Road turns into Fitton Road. The Parish Council has also pushed for additional 20mph signs to be installed at the school to remind road users of the dangers surrounding the school, which should be installed shortly.

The Memorial Hall playing field has seen the planting of a tree to commemorate the platinum jubilee and will shortly have replacement swings and improvements to the ground accordingly. To assist with this the Parish Council has managed to secure significant CIL funding to aid with the cost of the improvements. Further improvements to the field and the play equipment are in the pipeline.

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. I mentioned previously that the proposed Battery Energy Storage Site at Saddlebow is an ongoing application that the Parish Council is monitoring, that, were it to go ahead, may provide an opportunity to secure some support with Parish projects. Again, if there are any suggestions for projects that may benefit from some outside support of this nature, please contact the Parish Council.

Last year we were given a presentation by the 1 million trees for Norfolk campaign, who have identified our Parish as a potential site for planting areas. Whilst the discussions are at the early stage, this looks to be a positive step that would bring community engagement and provide areas with sustainable tree cover to encourage and support wildlife.

Following on from the previous newsletter, we are still 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>. Details on the extension of the energy bill support scheme can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-extended-for-an-extra-three-months>. There is also an alternative fuel payment scheme to cover those who use alternative fuels, such as heating oil, at [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Av9TjS2EHs-19E3O82qJhwQGGuuZQp370/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Av9TjS2EHs-19E3O82qJhwQGGuuZQp370/view?usp=share_link).

I would like to give a big thank you to everyone involved within the parish for the support over the last four years and beyond and look forward to the positive steps that we as a Parish will take over the next four years.

Robert Keal  
Chairman

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|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 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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## **New woodland in Wiggenhall St Germans Community Drop-in Event**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 1:00pm - 7:00pm**

**Memorial Village Hall, 22 School Rd, King's Lynn PE34 3DU**

Initial feasibility checks by Norfolk County Council (NCC) have passed Stage 1 of the Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Planning Grant process to create a new woodland on our own County Farm land in Wiggenhall St Germans.

The proposed woodland will cover approximately 26 hectares and initial estimates suggest there may be space for around 30,000 trees.

NCC would like to share the draft Woodland Creation Design with the local community and we welcome any feedback from people in the area; this might be things you think we need to consider, concerns you might have, or even thoughts about what features the woodland areas might have.

**This is an open event, but we would be grateful if you could please confirm your attendance via our booking form link below or scan the QR code:**

<https://shorturl.at/hwL68>

(or email us at [tree.planting@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:tree.planting@norfolk.gov.uk))



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# **CYCLE RIDE**

## **WHEN**

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09:00**

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**Downham Market**

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# WATLINGTON MEDICAL CENTRE

As I write this, I look out of the surgery window and see the sun is out and the daffodils are blooming, a true sign that Spring is here. So now is the time to remember to book your Covid Vaccine booster.

You are entitled to a booster if you are aged 75 years or older, live in a care home or aged over 5 with a weakened immune system (due to chronic illness or medications). Once you have received your invitation you can book online as per the link below;

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

or ring 119 or attending the Vaccination Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Tel: 01553 214530

Please keep an eye out on our social media for any other changes.

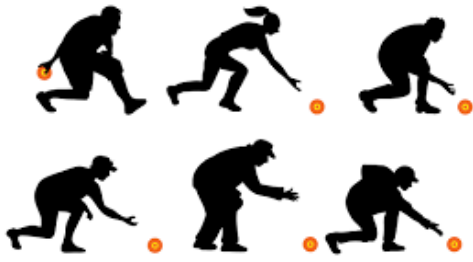
This month saw Jane Purt, our Practice Nurse of 19 years, retire. We are so pleased she is able to now spend time with her family and finally be able to do more of the things she enjoys. As one door closes, another opens, and we welcome Lauren Cox to our nursing team. She has lots of experience from secondary care that she will be bringing with her, and she is looking forward to expanding her knowledge here at Watlington Medical Centre. I hope you will make her feel welcome when you meet her.

The dispensary and pharmacy, as always, are extremely busy but have found ways to help stop patients having to queue outside in busy periods. You may find that you are given an electronic device that buzzes you when your prescription is at the counter ready to be given to you. This means you can wait, in comfort, in your warm car if you wish. Also don't forget to sign up to the text service so you can be notified when your repeat prescription is ready to be collected.

In view of new stock and ordering restrictions, please allow longer time to order your prescriptions. This has been extended to 5 days so you may have to order your repeat medications little earlier than you used to. You can also use the comments box on the App if you need to order early because of holidays etc. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

And finally, one of our delivery drivers, Gary, is leaving to spend more time playing golf! He kindly stepped into the brink during covid to help deliver medications for our vulnerable patients and for that we are so grateful. We are only saying Au revoir rather than goodbye, as he is still going to cover the delivery shifts when Kevin is away, so you will still be able to catch up with him.

I do hope you all enjoy a healthy Spring, keep looking after each other.  
Amanda Moss



# 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

At time of writing, the Bowls Club is planning to open the green for the outdoor 2023 season on Easter Sunday, when we hope the weather will have settled enough for us to be able to do a bit of bowling. We are having a rather more low-key event this year, mostly for club members only, and not the big Open Day that we have organised in previous years.

In the coming season we are planning to enter some 4 leagues and to hold the Club Pairs competition, which we had to miss last year as there were not enough people interested to make it viable. Even this year, we are not certain that we shall have enough club members able to play on all the relevant evenings to give us enough teams for the leagues that we would like to take part in.

In hopes of enticing more people to come along and try bowling, we are continuing the Saturday afternoon 'roll-ups', from around 2-4 p.m., weather permitting, starting from 15<sup>th</sup> April. Everyone is welcome to come along to the Bowling Green next to the playing field on Mill Road, Wiggenhall St. Germans and have a go. It's free, very informal and friendly – and we offer tea and biscuits as well. We have various sizes of bowls for you to borrow, and all we ask is that you wear flat shoes to protect the green. Complete beginners are particularly welcome to come along. Please contact the Secretary [details below] if you would like to check that we will be there on a particular Saturday – especially if the weather is a little doubtful.

Looking ahead, we are planning to have a much larger Special Open Day for New Bowlers on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 2 p.m. This is intended to be a fun 'come and try it' day, which we will be advertising near the time around the village and in the local press. It will again be very informal, with bowls to borrow, club members on hand to explain and assist, and light refreshments during the afternoon. This will be a free event!

The Club's major Open Day will be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July from 2 p.m., when we shall be organising an Open Drive competition, with a Spider, Raffle and extensive refreshments. For this event there will be a small charge to enter the drive and the Spider [if you don't know what this competition is, why not come along and find out?], and of course the raffle tickets will be on sale. There is no charge for the refreshments, and it is traditionally a friendly, competitive and fun event. This is your chance to put into practice the skills you have been learning on Saturdays and at the Special Open Day – and we usually have people who have never bowled before also joining in. This event will be advertised more widely nearer the time.

Over the winter months we held our weekly Wednesday evening carpet bowls sessions in the St. Germans Memorial Hall. As life got back to normal after the covid disruption we entered several league competitions with varying success, but as several of us told ourselves "someone has to be at the bottom to hold everyone else up". The regular carpet bowls evenings end on 12<sup>th</sup> April, and are booked to start again on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The Club held its annual Christmas Bingo in December 2022. In spite of bad weather and a clash with a Football World Cup match, a decent number of people came along to the St Germans Memorial Hall and we had a successful evening. The event was again held in the main hall, with one major raffle with tickets on sale on the evening. The Club would like to thank the local businesses who so kindly donated prizes for the raffle – Evergreens, Flower Corner, St. Marys' B&B, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Tesco's, Sargeants of Stowbridge, and Caley Farms. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Margaret Blackburn, Club Secretary.

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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**

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## **Wiggenhall St. Germans Church News**

St. German's Church continues to play an active role in the community and be its spiritual heart. Attendances at services are now well in excess of pre-Covid levels.

April started with another highly successful Church-sponsored Children's Day in the Memorial Hall; this included the making of a display which featured in the Church throughout Eastertide. The following day saw the traditional Palm Sunday procession through the Village starting off the Holy Week and Easter observances. Eastertide included the celebration of England's Patron Saint, St. George whose flag we fly on the Church tower throughout the year. We also remembered St. Germanus' Alleluia Victory when our Parish Patron, one Eastertide nearly 16 centuries ago, successfully defended a Christian village on the Welsh borders from attack by a hostile force by using the echo from the surrounding hills to achieve a bloodless victory by shouting Alleluia! We shall be remembering him again on St. Germanus' Day at the end of July.

We shall all be celebrating King Charles' Coronation at the beginning of May and the Church will head up the Sunday festivities with Songs of Praise at 10am. We are using this occasion to change the time of our main Sunday service from 9.30 to 10 for an experimental period. Our daily weekday services, including prayers for the sick, will however continue at 9.30 with the opening of the Church and the ringing of the Angelus. Our wonderful 700+ year old church continues to attract visitors as well as being a place for private prayer till 5pm.

May should also see the repairs to the Church roof after two lead thefts; we are very grateful to members of the Parish who did temporary repairs to keep the church watertight and to Chris at the pub who saw off intruders who may have been planning a third attempt. St Germans seems to be the focus for attacks at the moment and we need all to be vigilant.

June will see the annual Flower Festival on the weekend of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> (St. Barnabas' Day) and the Open Gardens Day which we expect to be even more successful (subject to weather) than last's year's event. Full details will be in the monthly Church Newsletter which is available free at the back of the Church or by e-mail.

We continue to be significant contributors to the Kings Lynn Foodbank with nearly 550 kg. in our weekly deliveries during 2022. The collection point is a black bin at the back of the church. We are still looking for an organist to succeed John Etherington who retired last year. James Trundall is kindly playing for our monthly Evensong at 5pm on the second Sunday and at weddings and funerals but is unavailable on Sunday mornings; please let us know if you know anyone who might be able to help. Meanwhile we are using 10 CDs giving us access to some 200 hymns and songs.

### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

There is a coffee morning in church every Friday to which everyone is invited, so please come along. A warm welcome awaits plus cake and biscuits. Coffee mornings are from 9.45am and last until 11am. Before the coffee morning there is a short service of prime at 9.30am. Please join us for one or both.

### **FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP**

A flower arranging group is held monthly in the Church. Please contact Marion Coleman on KL 617494 for full details. The group often displays their wonderful creations in the Church.

### **WALK & TALK**

There is a monthly Walk and Talk group who meet for a leisurely walk (lots of talk) of up to 3 miles. Usually starting at the church or the village memorial hall. The group meets at 10am and refreshing drinks are available at the Church afterwards. All are very welcome. So please call Judith on KL 617363 for further details. Don't be lonely, join them.

### **USED STAMP COLLECTION**

There is a box for used stamps which are donated to the QEH to support their fundraising. This is by the table at the entrance to the church.

If you need any further information please contact Mark KL 617689, Carolyn KL 617986 or Angie KL 617518.

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# Teaser

|    | 16 = O in a P                   | 16 Ounces in a Pound |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | 26 = L of the A                 |                      |
| 2  | 7 = D of the W                  |                      |
| 3  | 1001 = A N                      |                      |
| 4  | 12 = S of the Z                 |                      |
| 5  | 54 = C in a D(with J)           |                      |
| 6  | 8 = P in the S S (P is not a P) |                      |
| 7  | 88 = P K                        |                      |
| 8  | 13 = S on the A F               |                      |
| 9  | 32 = D at which W F             |                      |
| 10 | 18 = H on a G C                 |                      |
| 11 | 90 = D in a R A                 |                      |
| 12 | 8 = S on a S S                  |                      |
| 13 | 3 = B M (S H T R)               |                      |
| 14 | 4 = Q in a G                    |                      |
| 15 | 24 = H in a D                   |                      |
| 16 | 1 = W on a U                    |                      |
| 17 | 57 = H V                        |                      |
| 18 | 1000 = W that a P is W          |                      |
| 19 | 29 = D in F, in a L Y           |                      |
| 20 | 50 = W to L Y L                 |                      |
| 21 | 60 = S in a M                   |                      |
| 22 | 1 = H on a U                    |                      |
| 23 | 7 = B for S B                   |                      |
| 24 | 21 = D on a D                   |                      |
| 25 | 7 = W of the A W                |                      |

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07796456446

[lymphoedema.lipoedema.care@gmail.com](mailto:lymphoedema.lipoedema.care@gmail.com)



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NEW TOURISM  
BUSINESS  
OF THE YEAR

**Watatunga Wildlife Reserve** is a stunning new wildlife reserve in Watlington, west Norfolk which opened in 2020. Situated amongst 170 acres of woodland, grassland and lakes, Watatunga provides a unique environment for over twenty types of deer, antelope and rare birds to roam at their will. Our team collaborate with international zoos and safari parks to run breeding programmes for some of the world's most endangered animals. Visitors access the reserve on guided self-drive electric buggy tours where our expert guides introduce them to the magnificent animals that we are privileged to work with and bring their conservation stories to life.

With over 25 different hoof stock species on site, Watatunga holds the most varied collection of deer and antelope in Europe. We are blazing a new path within the zoo and safari world, re-imagining how visitors interact with and learn about animals in captivity. We take small groups of visitors on 3 daily guided tours in self-drive buggies from April-October inclusive. Within the reserve the animals roam free; our guests love that the site is designed to prioritise the animals' welfare and their feedback often refers to the excitement of close encounters with many animals now extinct in the wild.

There is no other U.K. destination that assembles such a range of species in a natural setting without segregation. This works at Watatunga because there is space - 170 acres of grassy savannah, ancient woodland, marshland and lakes, for each species to find their niche. Each tour is unique and exciting, just like a 'real' safari – there is no script nor guarantee as to what you will see and our expert guides rely on their keen eyesight and vast knowledge to bring the reserve and the stories of its inhabitants to life, regularly delighting three generations at a time.

Visitors often mention our guides by name in reviews and almost always comment on the warmth of welcome and well organised, Covid-secure feel of their experience. Alongside the animals, our guides really are our greatest assets. Tour guiding at Watatunga is not just 'a job' – it is vital for us that the right people are presenting our message and we are a small, family focussed team with flexible working for parents. Our efforts to make the reserve accessible to as many people as possible has been positively highlighted in reviews by wheelchair users and those with other access requirements.

We are honoured to have been voted Best New Tourism Business in the East of England Tourism awards last year and Best Small Visitor attraction in the East of England this year.

In the last two years, we have converted the site at Watatunga from monoculture agriculture to a wildlife haven for native and non-native species alike. In the last 12 months, we have worked with zoos and conservation organisations across Europe and Africa to expand our collection of birds and animals. A particular highlight was the birth of a mountain bongo at Watatunga in May 2021. Less than 100 of these animals remain in the wild and it was very exciting to be part of their conservation story. We hope to have Mountain bongo back at the reserve this summer. Our focus is not just on exotic species – our team have also co-founded the Turtle Dove Trust in 2020 which is working to save the U.K's most endangered farmland bird. We do hope that some of you will visit soon. Trailer tours are now also live on Tuesdays and Sundays throughout the season.



© Phil Stone



© Phil Stone

# 'THE SUNSHINE CLUB' Wiggenhall St. Germans

The members met the first time this year, on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 'The Crown & Anchor. in the village, for a 'New Year' lunch.

Only one member was unable to attend, and two special guests had been invited. A take-away meal was sent to a member who was house-bound.

We all enjoyed the meal, and the company of friends. We also got to meet one of the Landlords new puppies, so sweet, who could resist a little bundle of fur?

Later in January, at the members meeting, we held our A.G.M. The treasurer's report was given, we have a still healthy bank balance, so no need to do too much fundraising this year.

The committee will all stand, as there were no nominations for any changes. There were no programmes for 2023 yet, but members were given a copy each at the February meeting.

At that meeting, we held a 'Beetle Drive', this turned out to be a little chaotic, given that there was a lot of rule bending taking place. Never the less, great fun.

At the March meeting, we shall play Bingo.

Included on the programme is an afternoon tea, place to be decided, A coach trip, and a visit to Hunstanton, for a 'Fish & Chip Lunch. We may also book to see a show at the Corn Exchange in the Summer, or a Pantomime near Christmas. These are free to members, funded by the club.

In September, there will be a Harvest meeting, with a short service, followed by an auction of produce.

Sadly, we have lost a few members (friends) in recent years, and would like to be able to meet new members, and gain more friends.

The club welcomes anyone in their Senior years (retired?)

We meet at the Memorial Hall, School Road, the last Wednesday of the month, at 2pm - 4pm Why not give us a visit? you will be made very welcome.

Please phone Diane on 01553 617412 for more details.

|    | TEASER ANSWERS                                      | 13 | Blind mice (see how they run)   |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1  | Letters of the alphabet                             | 14 | Quarts in a gallon              |
| 2  | Day of the week                                     | 15 | Hours in a day                  |
| 3  | Arabian nights                                      | 16 | Wheel on a unicycle             |
| 4  | Signs of the zodiac                                 | 17 | Heinz varieties                 |
| 5  | Cards in a deck (with jokers)                       | 18 | Words that a picture is worth   |
| 6  | Planets in the solar system (Pluto is not a planet) | 19 | Days in February in a leap year |
| 7  | Piano keys                                          | 20 | Ways to leave your lover        |
| 8  | Stripes on the American flag                        | 21 | Seconds in a minute             |
| 9  | Degrees at which water freezes                      | 22 | Horn on a unicorn               |
| 10 | Holes on a golf course                              | 23 | Brides for seven brothers       |
| 11 | Degrees in a right angle                            | 24 | Dots on a dice                  |
| 12 | Sides on a stop sign                                | 25 | Wonders of the ancient world    |

# OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 11th June 2023  
11am - 5pm

The Old Chapel  
Church Road  
Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin  
Norfolk  
PE34 3EH

01553 617363

Dear all

*Christine and Bob.*

Thank you very much for helping to make the 'Open Gardens Sunday 2022' in both Wiggenhall St. German's and Wiggenhall St. Mary's such a great success. The gardens that opened that day were a credit to you all. We raised over £700 for the restoration of St Germans Church.

We hope that this years 'Open Gardens' will be even bigger and better! We will have the Flower Festival back on the same weekend this time. So if it is at all possible could you please open your garden for us on the Sunday 11th June.

It is more important than ever to raise funds for our historic church as we have suffered not one, but two overnight thefts of lead from our South Aisle roof. Each time we have been covered by insurance but in each case we will have to pay the first one thousand pounds of the claim. As you can imagine this, for our small church, is a very high cost to bear.

So once again please can I ask you to spare the time and effort to open your garden on the 11th of June and let us all show what Wiggenhall St Germans and Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin can do!

Please email or call us to confirm that you will be able to open this year.  
Thankyou

Ken and Judith Baker

*Ken*

01553 617363  
email: [theresa5070@gmail.com](mailto:theresa5070@gmail.com)  
[tangent2design@gmail.com](mailto:tangent2design@gmail.com)



# unicef



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at the end of Church Road, PE34 3EJ



# 7th May 2023

## Wiggenhall St Germans Memorial Hall

Come join us in Celebrating King Charles III Coronation.

Games and Entertainment for all ages.

Kids Crown design, come join the parade!

Competitions, Raffle, Music, Stalls and much more.

BBQ and Bar Provided by the Crown & Anchor

14:00 - 17:00

Come Join Us!

