

WIGGENHALL ST GERMANS Parish Newsletter

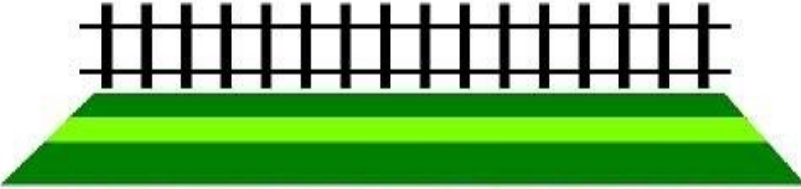
Autumn 2025 edition



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

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

Email: clerk@wighenhallstgermans-pc.gov.uk



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From the Editor/Clerk

A long hot summer seems to be coming to an end and some much needed rain finally as we entered autumn. Lets hope we can have a unremarkable winter. This summer and various regions imposing hose pipe bans highlights what fragile infrastructure and supply of essential like water that we have and whilst the traffic disruption on Lynn Road will cause significant inconvenience the need for the work by Anglia Water can't be underestimated.

The Play Park project which I have kept on the front cover is signed and sealed and work on the installation will start at the end of October this year! The work will take about 3 weeks and parts of the field will be fenced off, it is important for everyone's safety that children wait until it is inspected and officially opened before being tempted to have ago. We would hate the new park to be marred by a tragic accident before it even opens...

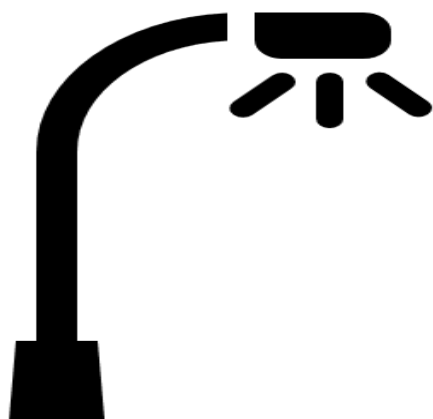
The Play Park Project team are working on a opening event so watch social media for news on that in the coming weeks.

The Woodland Project is starting soon and you should have received a letter from the Project team with info on that. The Parish Council are supporting the setting up of a "Friends of the Woodland" group and will be inviting interested residents to get that up and running to give the new trees the best start.

This newsletter relies on articles of interest to the community to remain relevant and justify the cost. There are lots of groups and individuals doing great things, please tell us about them!

Yours *Mike Inder*

Closing Date for next Newsletter: **1 March 2026**



Streetlight Reporting

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

clerk@wighenhallstgermans-pc.gov.uk

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.

24 Nov 2025	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
26 Jan 2026	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
16 Mar 2026	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
25 May 2026	Annual Parish Meeting 7pm & Ann PC Meeting follows on.
27 Jul 2026	Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

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Parish Council Chairman's Report

Hello everyone

I hope you have all managed to enjoy at least some of the glorious weather we've been having.

Progress reports

I regret that a number of the projects have been delayed for various reasons.

Highways, Road Safety and Public Rights of Way

Speed monitoring on Mill Road has been impacted by excessive vegetation growth, the Council have proposed a new site for the SAM2 unit which is currently in progress. Data from other locations in the village would suggest, whilst not ideal, that we do not have a serious issue with speeding.

The "White gates" project has been delayed due to our order having not been processed by the manufacturer, we still await a delivery date from them.

Councillors cleared the trod between St. Germans and St. Marys and spread some donated bark chipping over a muddy area. Agreement has now been reached with stakeholders regarding the ongoing maintenance of the area.

The Council continues to press Norfolk County Council Highways for improved signage at the junction of School Road, Lynn Road and Fitton Road following a number of incidents at this location. The Council were made aware of vegetation becoming an issue on pavements and roadside verges, this matter has been reported to NCC Highways their response was less than encouraging and therefore the matter has been escalated to Cllr Brian Long to ask for his involvement in resolving the problems.

Play Park Project

Funding has now been secured for the project however the FCC Communities Foundation requested additional information which delayed the placing of the contract for the work.. A meeting has been held with the contractor who will be installing the equipment and completing the associated groundworks and it is hoped work will start during October.

Environment and Biodiversity

Councillors have decided not to proceed with the wild flower project due to a number of concerns and instead look at planting bulbs around the village, the project is being formulated. The Wighenhall Woodland Creation Scheme would appear to be moving forward, a meeting was held with Norfolk County Council, at which it was stated the contracts for the planting and maintenance of the scheme have been put out to tender, with a hope that work will commence this Autumn/Winter. It is hoped to set up a "Friend of" group to help monitor the woodland and report any issues.

Winter Fuel Costs

Please remember the Wighenhall St. Germans Bridge Charity is able to help eligible parishioners with the cost of winter fuel.

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Mobile Library Timetable

Village	Stop Name	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Postcode
WIGG ST GERMANS	ALLEN CLOSE	09:50	10:05	PE34 3EE
WIGG ST GERMANS	ORCHARD ROAD - no 19	10:10	10:25	PE34 3DS
WIGG ST GERMANS	CROWN & ANCHOR PUB CARPARK	10:30	10:45	PE34 3EY

Upcoming Dates: 14 Oct ~ 11 Nov ~ 9 Dec 2025

~ 6 Jan ~ 3 Feb ~ 3 Mar 2026



AT THE SIDE OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

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

KEVIN SMITH DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

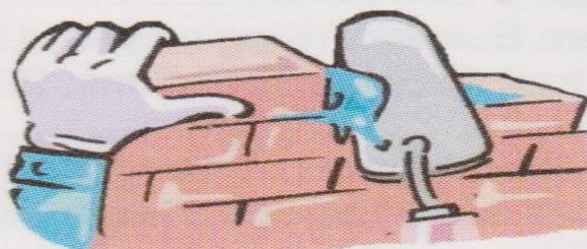
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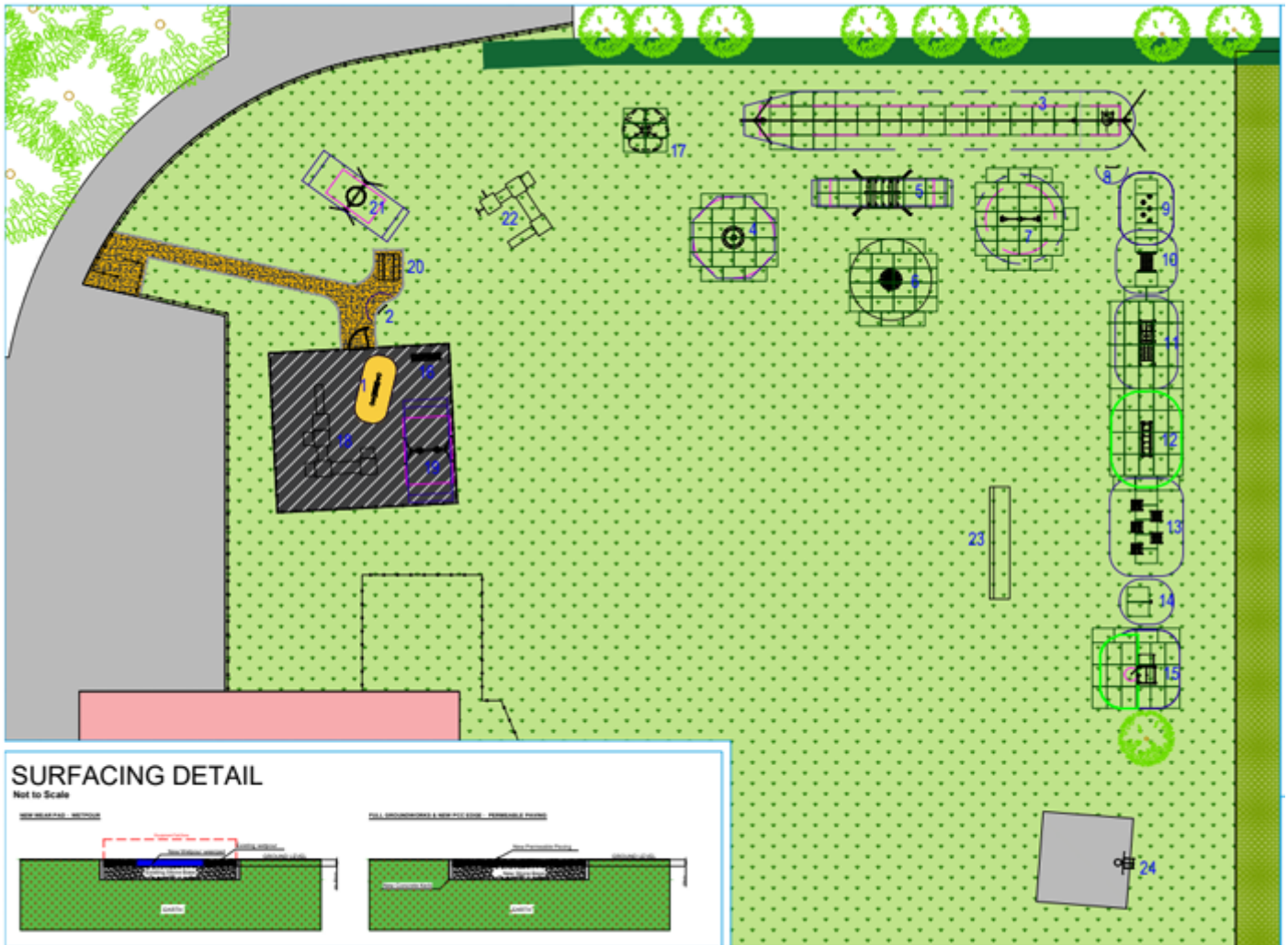
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Memorial Hall Play Park

DATE: 15/10/2024 REF: 2410.45060(MemorialHall_WiggenhallStGermansPC)





After 3 years in the planning and fund-raising, with generous donations from Palm Paper, Eaubrink Farms and community fund raising events, the Parish Council was able to secure £100k funding from the FCC Communities Foundation and the project build starts at the end of October!

This will see the next generation of children have an engaging and exciting place to play, compete and have fun!

Gemma, Clarie, Chloe and Emma have done amazing work with fund raising and are now planning a grand opening event in December.



WIGGENHALL ST GERMAN'S MEMORIAL HALL

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or £150 all day

CONTACT: Robyn Press on 01553 617208 or robynhpress@gmail.com
for Bookings/further information

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When parking at the Memorial Hall please avoid obstructing School Lane.

Memorial Hall Notices

Regular bookings:

Mondays	Chair Yoga	10am - 11am
	Ladies Group	7pm - 9pm monthly
	Parish Council meeting	7pm - 9pm 2-monthly (odd numbered months)
Tuesdays	Warm Space/Coffee Morning	9.15 - 12pm
	Slimming World	5pm - 9pm
Wednesday	Carpet Bowls	7pm - 9pm September to March
	Sunshine Club	2pm - 4pm monthly
Thursdays	Heartbeeps—Baby & Toddlers	10am– 1pm
	Yoga	7pm
Friday	Chair Yoga	10.30 - 11.30am
	Bingo	7pm - 9pm

Weekends are available for bookings.

The Sunshine Club

Meet at : The Memorial Hall,
22, School Lane,
Wiggenhall St Germans
King's Lynn,
PE34 3DZ

On: The last Wednesday of every month.
2pm to 4pm April to October
1.30pm to 3.30pm November to March

The Sunshine Club is a small, friendly social group that meets on the last Wednesday of every month to enjoy a wide variety of activities. These can include games such as dominoes, bingo, beetle drives etc; crafts of many kinds as well as a range of interesting speakers. We also try to include an afternoon tea, a strawberry tea and a trip to Hunstanton for a fish and chip lunch. In 2023/24 we even tried our hand at carpet bowls thanks to our local bowls club.

We welcome both ladies and gentlemen to come and meet us as guests to see if you might like to join us once a month. We would love to see you.

I should add that there is always time for a raffle and a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

If you have any questions please contact me, Jackie Mattson on 01553 617707 (mob. 07804241777)
email. jmattson1946@gmail.com

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Wiggenhall Bowls Club

For any information about the Bowls Club please contact the Club Secretary:

Margaret Blackburn: Tel: 01553 617418

Email: mcb@mblackburn23.plus.com

Lords Bridge Toll House, Lords Bridge, Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, King's Lynn PE34 3BW

The Bowls Club has branched out over the last 12 months, obtaining a grant to purchase a large container that enables us to move much of our maintenance equipment under secure cover, and rescues our groundsman from having to store some equipment in his garage.

The container has fitted in neatly under the trees by the Bowls Clubhouse, and being green in colour blends in nicely with the surrounding trees and hedges.

At the time of writing, at the end of the outdoor bowling season, the maintenance team led by Mick Garlike, are getting ready to work on the green over the winter, repairing the stresses of the recent very hot summer, and preparing it for the new season in 2026. The Club relies heavily on our team of volunteers, who give a great time and effort in making sure that we can continue to bowl on an excellent quality green. We truly couldn't keep going without them.

The Club has played in the usual 4 leagues in 2025, as well as running the Club's own Pairs Competition. It has on occasion been a struggle to find enough players, as we have been beset with health problems – an unfortunate side effect of our aging bowlers, as wear and tear makes itself felt. On the plus side we have recruited one or two younger members who have done sterling service, being plunged into playing in competitions rather sooner than they might have expected. The team captains have been kept on their toes as they have worked to keep full teams on the green.

In spite of these challenges, the teams have done fairly well in the leagues, the big result being in the Albert Victor League, where Wiggenhall has been raised from the 4th to the 3rd Division. The final placings were on a knife edge, and the results went down to the final game of the season. We are looking forward to meeting our new set of opponents in 2026, and our old friends in the other leagues.

Rather than the traditional Open Day, this year the Club hosted a 4-Team Tournament in July, sponsored by Smiths the Bakers. Wiggenhall, Clenchwarton, Shouldham and Kings Lynn entered 2 teams each, and during the day each team played all the others. Fortunately, it was a dry day, not too hot, and with a pleasant amount of cloud to keep the bowlers cool. Van Pelt the butchers delivered a hog roast for us to dispense, which we supplemented with salads and desserts. There was also a raffle during the afternoon. For the first time we had organised such an event it seemed to go very well, and from comments received people had a good time. Congratulations went to Kings Lynn, who were the winners on the day.

This may well be an event the Club will arrange again next year, as an enjoyable occasion also provided a welcome profit for the Club.

We closed the green for 2025 on 31st August, with a small gathering of home bowlers and some friends. We had an extremely informal bowls session, and ended with cakes, biscuits, tea coffee and the inevitable raffle.

The Bowls Club AGM will be held on 12th October, when there will be a change of committee, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer stepping down, and a new team taking their places. Keep an eye on the local paper and information around the village for further news of events and arrangements going forward.

From 10th September we shall start the winter season carpet bowls sessions, held on Wednesdays in the St Germans Memorial Hall, from 7-9 p.m. The normal cost is £2.50 for the evening, which includes tea and biscuits, but for new people the first 3 evenings are free, so folk can find out if this is something they would like to do. We hope that if you enjoy the sessions you may want to join the Club. Carpet bowls are much smaller than outdoor bowls, the carpet is not so long, and the need to direct the bowls around the central obstacle makes it an interesting challenge.

At the moment we do not know if the traditional Christmas Bingo will be taking place, so again keep an eye on local notices – the village hall and pub are good places for information.



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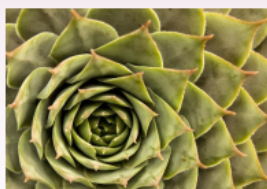
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We are volunteers who work with our Practice to represent patients views on services and facilities that are provided.

What we are not?

We are not a forum for individual agendas or personal complaints.

When do we meet?

We meet about four times a year at The Surgery with a doctor and one of the operational team.

Future Plans

We would like to encourage more patients and carers of our patients to join our group or make suggestions through our dedicated e mail address: watlingtonppg@gmail.com

Joining our PPG

To join the PPG e mail watlingtonppg@gmail.com or contact Watlington Medical Centre Reception on 01553 810253 and we will arrange for the relevant application form to be sent to you.

Wiggenhall St. Germans Church News

After a very hot summer the weather since the beginning of September seems very autumnal, which may come as a relief to several people. Summer has been a busy time with our annual flower festival in June, as well as group visits to the church by the Norfolk Churches Trust and the Norfolk Photographic Society. You may not know, but our parish church is listed in the book 'England's 1000 Best Churches' by Simon Jenkins and is well known for its medieval pew ends. If you haven't had chance to look at these, then call in to have a look and pick up an information leaflet. The church is open from 9.30 a.m. each day until 5 p.m. or dusk, whichever is the earlier as we move towards the darker evenings.

If you wish to know more about what is going on in church a monthly Newsletter is produced and you can collect a copy from the church, along with a Pew Leaflet giving further details of the services for the month. If you would prefer to have a copy e-mailed to you then, please let Mark know on the number shown below. Some of the regular events held in the church are a Coffee Morning every Friday from 9.45 – 11 a.m. and you are welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat. There is also a monthly Flower Arranging Group, Prayer & Praise Evening and Walk & Talk. You are most welcome to all the activities and services as they are for everyone in the village.

There is a collection bin at the back of the church for the King's Lynn Foodbank if you would like to donate food or toiletries, please leave your donations in the bin and these will be delivered weekly to the foodbank. Thank you to everyone who supports this very worthwhile cause.

On Friday 26th September there will be a Macmillan Coffee Morning in the church from 10 until 12. There will also be a raffle and if anyone would like to donate a cake or a raffle prize, please let Lorna know or contact Angie or Carolyn. This event has been very successful in the past and we would like to make it even bigger and better this year to raise more funds to support the vital services they provide.

On Sunday 9th November there will be a Remembrance Service for the village. The service will begin in the church at 10.15 a.m. and finish outside at the Memorial just after 11 a.m. There will also be refreshments available in the church after the service.

In December we will be collecting donations of new toys and gifts (unwrapped) and Christmas food for hampers as part of the Radio Norfolk and Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Donations for the appeal will be collected at the Family Service on 7th December, which starts at 10 a.m. or you can bring them to the church, or give them to a church member. These gifts go towards those who find themselves in difficult circumstances and are unable to provide these for their children or family and are distributed to the families by the Salvation Army.

Our Christmas services will begin with Carols by Candlelight at 6.30. p.m. on Monday 15th December at Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin Church. This service is very popular and a perfect way to start your journey up to Christmas. Please remember to wrap up warm as there is no heating in the church and a torch is also useful. There will be warm mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards.

There will also be a Carol Service on Sunday 21st at 9.30 a.m. in Wiggenhall St. Germans Church, which will be led by Jo Chilvers. Come along and enjoy singing some of your favourite carols.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Crib Service at 4 p.m. for children and adults, led by Mark. The children can participate in the service to tell the Christmas story, along with Dominic the donkey. At 7.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve there will be a Eucharist Service, led by Fr Paul Bennett, who will also lead our Eucharist Service at 9.30 a.m. on Christmas Day.

A Christmas Family Fun Fest is due to take place in December, further details will be available later.

If you would like further information about anything, or you are new to the village and would like speak to someone please, get in touch with Angie (617518), Carolyn (617986) or Mark (617689)

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

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. 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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Middle Level Commissioners' News

Middle Level Commissioners are pleased to share that a planning application for the installation of solar panels at St Germans Pumping Station has now been submitted. We are waiting to hear back and are hopeful of a positive outcome as we continue to move forward with this important initiative.

Over the autumn/winter period, we'll be carrying out important desilting work along the Main Drain between St Mary's Bridge and St Germans Pumping Station. These works will start with construction of two settlement lagoons on the right hand (east) bank between St Peter's Drove and St Mary's Bridge. While the exact start date is still to be confirmed with our contractor, we wanted to keep you informed ahead of time.

If anyone has any questions about the projects mentioned above, MLC will be attending the upcoming Parish Council meeting and would be happy to chat.



At:
Memorial Hall
22 School Lane
Wiggenhall St Germans
Kings Lynn
PE34 3DZ

Well, here we are again -- this year has seen some wonderful speakers at the Ladies Group meetings. There is no guarantee as to what you are going to get and in the past we have had one or two disasters but the Ladies are very warm hearted and have welcomed everyone with good nature. Our special speakers this year so far have been the two lovely gentlemen from Medical Detection Dogs, both in their 80's (we think) who travel all over the country giving their talk. So entertaining and the stories are amazing and heart-tugging as well.

St Germans Pumping Station's representative's talk was most enlightening too, I for one, didn't realise how far the Middle Level Commissioners area reached. Who realised that the current pumping station is the third reincarnation and that there are two previous versions still under the water in the Middle Level Drain? This is why it is so dangerous to try and swim or canoe in that stretch of water.

Our Quiz mistress Mary Harney presented a quiz in August – I was absolutely gobsmacked to find I was in the winning team (for the second year running) especially as I am useless at quizzes – my brain doesn't work fast enough to answer questions, I need time to absorb the question and troll through my memories these days and honestly the only input I had was to answer one question with the herb tarragon. We have persuaded Mary to do another quiz next year – how she comes up with the questions amazes me and I can't say how much we appreciate her agreeing to do this again for us.

Our group trip this year was to Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse. Such an interesting museum – we spent around four hours there and it wasn't enough time to see everything. The general consensus was that it is well worth another trip to see the rest. The restaurant is also very reasonably priced compared to some other venues we have been to.

We went on a day that was forecast to be overcast and stormy, but the gods were with us that day as whenever it rained we were either in the workhouse or having lunch so the macs, etc., that we took "just in case" were not needed.

Talking of organising group trips – when is the right time of the year to organise one? The weather has to be reasonable as most trips involved being outside at some point or another. Quite a few of our members have child-related responsibilities during the 6 week summer break and holiday commitments play a big factor too. The upshot is that while over half our members would like to go on the organised trip it usually ends up with only about 8 – 10 people being able to. Any ideas would be gratefully accepted.

Katherine White
Chair

Wiggenhall St Germans Ladies Group



CROWN & ANCHOR

WIGGENHALL ST. GERMANS

FREE WIFI



**WHY WORK FROM HOME
WHEN YOU CAN
WORK FROM THE PUB**



OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY**

**CLOSED
CLOSED
12 - LATE
12 - LATE
12 - LATE
12 - LATE
12 - LATE**

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS



CROWN & ANCHOR
WIGGENHALL ST. GERMANS

MONTHLY QUIZ NIGHT

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

7.30PM

HOSTED BY CHRISTINE

£2 PER PERSON

MAXIMUM 6 PER TEAM

PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM

PRE-BOOKING ADVISED FOR GUARANTEED TABLE

PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE TO GET SEATED AND YOUR DRINKS IN

CHECK OUT OUR NEW COCKTAIL MENU

MADE FRESH TO ORDER