



# THE WARBLER

*A newsletter for the Parish of Wardington, Williamscoth and Coton*

**DEADLINE** for next issue  
(August) of the Warbler:

**20th July 2021, 5pm**

Contact your editor with any news, articles or items for the next issue, everything welcome:-

Lexi Gordon-Finlayson

Email: [wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com](mailto:wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com)



## Cowslips around Wardington

Mike Pollard has been keeping an eye on the wildlife around Wardington and took this lovely photo. Look inside for a very interesting article about Ivy that he has also written.

This issue is very exciting - I finally have something to put into the events section for the first time in a year! I hope this means that we are making progress and maybe I might have even more to put in the Events section next issue!

I must thank John Rourke and Mike Pollard for the articles they have kindly taken the time to write and submit - please do take the time to read these.

Stay safe!

Lexi

## Recipe

*This issue's recipe is one that I've recently discovered in Sainsbury's Bake magazine. It is a little bit more effort but totally worth it!*

### **Queen of Heart Jam Tarts**

Plain flour, for dusting

1/2 x 500g black shortcrust pastry

25g soft butter

25g caster sugar

1 medium egg, beaten

40g ground almonds

100g seedless raspberry jam

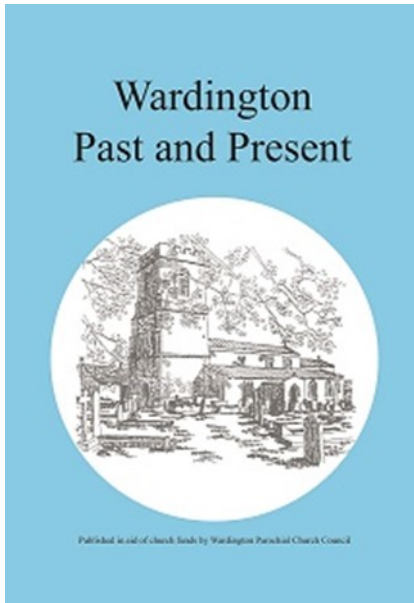
*If you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share, we'd love to hear from you! Please send it to the warbler email address on the front page, or drop it in to Cobweb Cottage.*

1. Lightly dust a clean work surface with flour. Roll out the pastry until about 3mm thick. Using a 7.5cm fluted round cutter, stamp out 12 circles of pastry and use to line a 12-hole non-stick patter tin. Chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 180C (fan 160C). Meanwhile, gather the pastry trimmings together in a ball and re-roll. Then, stamp out 12 hearts with a 4cm heart cutter. Put onto a baking tray lined with baking paper. Bake in the oven for 5-8 minutes until golden.
3. To make the filling, beat together the butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy. Then stir in 25g beaten egg (you can save the rest to brush on scones or a pie), ground almonds and almond extract until well combined.
4. Divide the almond mixture equality between the pastry cases, smooth level with the back of a teaspoon, then bake in the oven for 15 minutes until lightly golden. Remove from the oven and, using the back of a teaspoon, press down on the tops of the almond mixture to flatten slightly. Heat the jam in a small pan until melted and spoon a little into each one to cover the top completely. Return to the oven for 5 minutes.
5. Remove and top each with a pastry heart. Leave to cool for 10 minutes, then enjoy - warm or cold!



# Wardington Past and Present

Good News. The brand new revised and updated 4th Edition of this popular booklet is available now.



Many of you will already know it is an ideal point of reference for people who live in Wardington, Williamscot and Coton. Visitors love it as well.

It covers the history of the Parish of Wardington, its people and its buildings. There are also sections on Wardington as it is today.

It is the first edition to include colour photographs.

As with previous editions it is published in aid of church funds by Wardington Parochial Church Council. The launch price is just £3. Copies are available in the Church, from Barn Farm Plants, from the Church Wardens and the Parish Council. (see below)



Contact details for copies from the Church Wardens:

Clive Hunt [clippa.comms@btinternet.com](mailto:clippa.comms@btinternet.com) and Nigel Bankes **01295 750500**

Contact details for copies from the Parish Council:

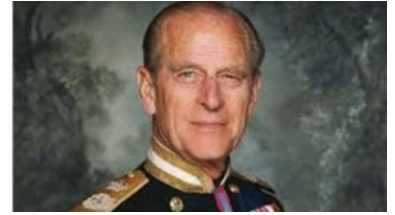
Malcolm Patterson **01295 750014** or [theoldgranary5@gmail.com](mailto:theoldgranary5@gmail.com)

# **NEWS FROM ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH**

## **HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH – 1921-2021**

The Bishop of Oxford wrote:

*"We give thanks for Prince Philip's long and extraordinary life, his faithful service to Queen and country, his support especially for young people, his humour, honesty and integrity and strong Christian faith and especially his steadfast support to the Queen over the long years of their marriage"*



Wardington Church marked the death of the Duke of Edinburgh by flying the Union Flag at half-mast throughout the period of national mourning.

Special prayers were said in the Churches across our Benefice.

On both the day of his death and on the day of the funeral the tenor bell was tolled – on the latter occasion there were ninety-nine strikes, one for every year of his life.



## **EASTER & CHURCH SERVICES**

At present communal singing inside churches is still not permitted and so we took the decision to hold our Easter Day family service in the churchyard hoping for fine weather.

It was a lovely sunny morning with clear blue skies and over sixty villagers, including plenty of children, came for the simple service led by Sue Upton. The special festival of Easter is not complete without some traditional hymns which included *Amazing Grace* and *Thine be the Glory, risen conquering Son*.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Looking ahead we are now back to a regular pattern of monthly services as shown on the calendar elsewhere. The Church also continues to be open for private prayer every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

This meeting (Church AGM), at which the Churchwardens and lay members of the PCC are elected, normally takes place in April. In view of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions it has been postponed until Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> June. As last year it will be held after the morning service which appears to be a more convenient time than a midweek evening.

## **CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING**

As always we are very grateful to those in the village who routinely sponsor a week or weeks at a time. For the record the sponsors for the next four months include: Jim & Lorraine Wadland, Jane Pearson and Tom Rutherford.

The sponsorship fee is only £15 per week. Once again why not consider marking a family anniversary or birthday by sponsoring the floodlighting for that week?

Full details and an application form can be found at <http://www.wardington.net/st-mary-magdalene/> or contact Clive Hunt (758087).



# **ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH:**

## **Services: May 2021 - July 2021**

### SUNDAY SERVICES

May	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Family Service
May	9 <sup>th</sup>		No service at Wardington
May	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Communion
May	23 <sup>rd</sup>		No service at Wardington
May	30 <sup>th</sup>		No service at Wardington
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Service
June	13 <sup>th</sup>		No service at Wardington
June	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Communion
June	27 <sup>th</sup>		No service at Wardington
July	4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Service
July	11 <sup>th</sup>		No service at Wardington
July	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Communion
July	25 <sup>th</sup>		No service at Wardington

### WEEKDAY PRAYERS

Every Tuesday at 1200noon via Zoom until further notice.  
Please contact the Vicar for link details.

Please check Church notice board or <https://wardington.net/st-mary-magdalene/church-services/> for further information and confirmation of these times.



### **Playground Cleaning**

Two of our younger community minded village residents have taken it upon themselves to make sure the playground is spick and span for the upcoming summer. Thank you for all your hard work!



# **FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS**

## **Guidance for Families using this Play Area**

To ensure you are ready to use this Play Area safely please read these simple instructions and plan ahead for safe fun this summer.

1. Parents must read this guidance and ensure their families follow it carefully for the safety of their children and others.
2. This equipment is checked for damage, wear and tear, and is in safe working order as of June 2020 (any damage or concerns should be reported to the Parish Clerk at [wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk)) **BUT IS NOT SANITISED OR DISINFECTED – WARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL DOES NOT TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLEANING OR HYGIENE OF THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.**
3. This is shared equipment, used at your own risk.
4. Do not use this equipment if you or any member of your household has coronavirus symptoms, or are self-isolating.
5. Ensure you have hand sanitiser with you before entering this play area.
6. Encourage everyone in your family to use hand sanitiser regularly and as a minimum before and after using the play area.
7. Encourage children to avoid touching their faces.
8. No food or drink is to be consumed within the playground
9. Enter through the IN gate and exit through the OUT gate.
10. You **MUST** maintain social distancing from others unless they are from the same household – it is the playground users responsibility to be up to date and adhere the most current government advice.
11. There is a limit to 2 children per piece of equipment and a total of 10 children in the playground at a time. Please ensure your family waits at a safe distance if equipment is in use or return later to use the equipment.
12. We ask that you clean the playground equipment before and after use.
13. If your family chose to wear disposable PPE and you chose to clean the equipment yourself prior to children playing, please take it home with you – **DO NOT LITTER.**
14. If the playground is being used as part of the village hall hire, then hirers need to abide by the above and operate a waiting area if necessary.
15. Wash your hands when you get home.

We hope you enjoy using this play area and thank you for helping to keep everyone safe by following these simple instructions.

***Thank you for your co-operation.***

This is based upon a risk assessment undertaken by Wardington Parish Council.

# WARDINGTON PLAYGROUND



**NEEDS YOU!**

The  
**Playground 200 Club**  
**Draw**  
needs you!

Pay £1 a month and you could win:

**1st Prize £20**  
**2nd Prize £10**

The winners are drawn monthly.

To join, please get in touch!

Contact  
[wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk)  
if you have any further questions

All proceeds go towards playground  
maintenance and inspections.

**Are you a parent or  
grandparent with children or  
grandchildren that enjoy  
visiting the playground?**

**Do you think that the  
playground is an important  
village asset that need to be  
maintained and developed?**

Then perhaps you would be  
interested in helping us keep this  
excellent village facility in tip-top  
working order? Perhaps you  
might be interested in forming  
part of a working group to do  
some fund raising; give feedback  
about damages and repair work  
that might be required; provide  
input about what equipment  
might need replacing and  
perhaps what to replace it with?

Please get in touch with our  
Parish Clerk (Lexi) using  
[wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk)  
or 758117 or any of the  
village councillors for more  
information.

## FAREWELL TO THE ELWORTHY'S

After the disastrous fire at the Manor in 2004 and the death of Lord Wardington the following year, Lady Wardington oversaw the restoration of the Manor whilst living at The Bishops House.

Four years later in 2008 the house came to life again in no uncertain way when Forbes and Bridget Elworthy, along with George, Violet and Somers, moved there. Their enthusiasm for the village was evident immediately and very soon they were supporting many activities including the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall, the Church and, naturally, the Garden Club.

They generously hosted many summer fêtes and regularly opened the Manor gardens in aid of local charities such as Katherine House.

Sadly the family are moving on from the Manor in mid-May. We in Wardington are going to miss, not just their constant *joie de vivre*, but also their unstinting support for everyone and everything in the village. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude and wish the whole family well in the future.

Finally how do you follow Bridget's many magnificent floral displays!

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this newsletter, the editors cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors that may occur. The editors reserve the right to edit and amend any articles submitted for publication.



# WARDINGTON MEMORIAL HALL

For information on the village hall facilities, please visit:  
<https://wardington.net/memorial-hall/>

For information about hiring the Lady Wardington Room - our local business meeting facility, please visit:  
<https://wardington.net/memorial-hall/local-business-meeting-facility/>

For information on how to hire the village hall, please visit:  
<https://wardington.net/memorial-hall/hiring-the-hall/>  
Email: [wardington.hall@btinternet.com](mailto:wardington.hall@btinternet.com)  
or call Steve McKenzie-Lawrie on 07950 411373



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here on site!



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garden this summer!



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Thank you for **YOUR** continuing support!



#### **Opening Hours**

Monday to Saturday 9.00am–5.30pm  
Sunday 10.00am–4.00pm  
[www.barnfarmplants.co.uk](http://www.barnfarmplants.co.uk)

#### **Upper Wardington**

Banbury  
Oxon. OX17 1SN  
Facebook Instagram **01295 758080**

# **The Hare and Hounds**

**Village Pub**

**01295750645**



## **Have you been on the Wardington website?**

[www.wardington.net](http://www.wardington.net)

The village website contains lots of information about the village, including church services, up and coming events, and the new welcome pack.

You can also sign up to receive emails when new information is posted.



## Wardington Nature Notes

### Learn to love your Ivy!

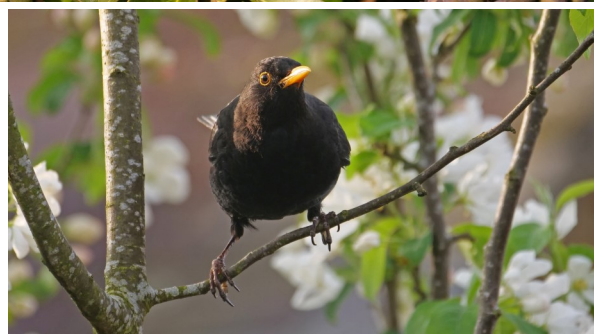
It has been wonderful to see so much wildlife around our village over the winter period, especially during the snow in January when noisy flocks of Fieldfares feasted on windfall apples and berries in our gardens and the allotments. They are normally out in the fields and hedgerows where they find plenty of worms and berries, but in hard weather they really appreciate the extra food we can offer. It is the same with the berries of the Ivy growing up on trees and along walls. They provide extra food for our Blackbirds and Blackcaps, and snug roosting places as the temperature drop well below zero. Imagine what it must be like for a wren or Robin in those conditions!

I have a pair of Blackbirds that build a nest every year hidden away in the Ivy growing on our wall in the back garden – the Ivy provides great cover in the early spring before most shrubs have come into leaf. You might also spot a beautiful blue butterfly flitting around the Ivy, this will most likely be a Holly Blue - they will often lay their eggs on Ivy as well as Holly. In autumn, the Ivy blossoms profusely and provides a rich source of nectar for our bees and butterflies, especially the Red Admiral.

It is very tempting to try to stop Ivy growing and from time-to-time control will be required, but if you can leave it as much as possible the birds, bees and butterflies will be incredibly grateful this spring and summer. To quote the Royal Horticultural Society - 'On most trees that are in sound health and are not being grown for their attractive bark, ivy can be allowed to grow on the trunk without concern for the tree's health or vigour'. Their website contains some particularly useful guidance, do have a read before you decide to control ivy.

This spring I hope to see more Cowslips flourishing on the green in Upper Wardington where we are leaving a small area uncut until the summer to allow some of our native flowers to bloom. Do stop and have a look, you may be surprised how many different flowers you can spot. This is just one of many simple and rewarding things we can do to help give nature some space to flourish. There is lots of great information available these days, especially online, for example: <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/actions>, but if you need any pointers do let me know.

Mike Pollard, [mikejpollard@btinternet.com](mailto:mikejpollard@btinternet.com)





# The Battle of Edgcote

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1469, just the other side of Fox Hill, thousands of heavily armed men met and killed each other over the course of a few brief hours. Yet, although it occurred in the middle of the conflict known today as the Wars of the Roses, this was not a battle between supporters of the Red and White Roses but White and White.

Edward IV had taken the throne from Henry VI in 1461. Both were descended from sons of Edward III but, at a time when a King was expected to take a firm hand in running the country, Henry VI had shown himself unequal to the task. In taking the throne at the age of 18 the tall, charismatic Edward, was energetically supported by the Earl of Warwick who earned himself the epithet 'Kingmaker' and to whom Edward afterwards awarded many lands and titles. Warwick's influence was such that many saw him as the real power behind the throne.

However, the qualities that made Warwick indispensable in war and afterwards as a diplomat conflicted with what Edward needed in the peace that followed and he found himself increasingly sidelined as Edward's wife's family, the Woodvilles, (whom Warwick regarded as mere upstarts) became increasingly influential.

Early in 1469, Edward refused permission for his brother, the Duke of Clarence, to marry Warwick's daughter Isabel. For Warwick this was just the last in a series of perceived insults. He withdrew to Calais, England's last toehold in France, taking his family and Clarence with him. It was there that he plotted a revolt in his lands in the North of England and oversaw the marriage of Isabel to Clarence joining his bloodline with that of the Yorkist Royal family.

At first the rising did not concern Edward too much and he moved north to crush it. However, when he found out that not only were the rebel forces much stronger than those he had to hand but that also Warwick and his new son-in-law, Clarence, had landed in the South of England, he realised the peril he was in. With Warwick moving north proclaiming his supposed loyalty to Edward and the rebels moving south he was in danger of being caught in between them. He immediately sent for help from the Earls of Pembroke and Devon with instructions that they were to gather their forces and march towards him in the Midlands to prevent the rebels and Warwick joining forces at Northampton.

The accounts of what happened next are sketchy. There was a skirmish at Northampton after which the Royalist forces took up a position on the hill where Edgcote Lodge Farm now stands. This was an ideal location as it covered both main roads south from Northampton, the Daventry Road and Welsh Lane. However, although all of Pembroke's troop were there, the Duke of Devon's forces, including most of the archers, were some distance off possibly between Banbury and Deddington. Some sources say this followed an argument over billeting between the Earls, others that there had been a falling out over the affections of a Banbury bar maid. Whatever the truth, when the Rebels attacked the next morning, Pembroke's Welshmen found themselves on their own.

At first Pembroke's troops seemed to be winning but the turning point came when a fresh body of troops suddenly appeared on their right flank. Assuming these were the battle-hardened forces of Warwick, the Welshmen broke and ran. In the resultant rout it was said that somewhere in region of 2000 of Pembroke's men were killed although, considering the numbers involved, this may be an exaggeration. However, it seems that over 150 members of the Welsh nobility were killed.

Pembroke, who may have had the 12-year-old future King Henry VII with him, was captured and beheaded a week later. Devon was killed by a mob at Bridgewater some days after that. Many of the Woodville family and their supporters followed suit in the weeks that followed as Warwick took his revenge.

Edward was captured and taken to Middleham Castle as Warwick tried to pressure him to denounce the Woodvilles and reinstate himself as the King's key advisor. But Edward was no Henry VI and refused. Warwick, showing himself to be militarily astute but politically naïve, failed to get the support he needed from his fellow nobles and was unable, or unwilling, to take the final step of killing his old friend and anointed King.

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By September, Edward had been fully restored to his throne. He pardoned both Warwick and Clarence but they continued to plot against him. Warwick died at the Battle of Barnet in 1471 and Clarence, having been found guilty of treason, was executed in 1478 some said by being drowned in a vat of wine. Henry VII, who defeated Richard III at Bosworth Field in 1485 had learnt important lessons from the preceding turbulent years. He married Edward's daughter, Elizabeth (ending the war and uniting the Houses of York and Lancaster) and instituted a system of governance and taxation that ensured the troublesome nobility would come firmly under his control. His accession to the throne marked the end of the 331-year reign of the Plantagenets and the start of the age of the Tudors.

If you want to find out more about the Battle you can get 'The Battle of Edgcote - 1469: Re-evaluating the evidence' from Amazon. It is written by Graham Evans who is Secretary of the Northamptonshire Battlefields Society and has studied the battle and its site for many years.

*Article written and submitted by John Rourke*

## Latest News on HS2/Fusion Work in Wardington

There has been a hotline set up for those wanting information or having concerns about the HS2 works:

08081 434 434

or

[hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk).

## Remembrance

As the latest (and hopefully last) lockdown is gradually eased I wondered if it might be the time to pause and remember those members of the Wardington village community whom we have lost during the pandemic. As a carer, I am aware of several who have died - not of Covid-19 - but whose deaths were certainly affected by the pandemic. Those whose deaths were perhaps not marked at the time as their friends and loved ones would have wanted.

I would be glad to have a chat or correspond with friends and family who might like to contribute to a Wardington Warbler article to commemorate those village lives lost. If anyone thinks this might be helpful, please do get in touch. I'm hoping to have something ready for the next edition.

With grateful thanks

Rachel Knell (on Facebook)

Tel: 07434 903257 Email: [rachelleigh73@hotmail.com](mailto:rachelleigh73@hotmail.com)



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## Did you know...?

Normally Village Teas are held in Wardington Memorial Hall on the last Thursday of each month. Jan is hoping to restart these up again when circumstances. Please keep an eye on the Village News section of the Banbury Guardian updates on this.



Did you know that Wardington has a new  
Facebook Group?

[Wardington Village community page](#)

This is for anyone to post information or ask questions on by it will also be  
used by Wardington Parish Council to disseminate information



We live in a beautiful part of the world and we are very lucky to live in such a pretty village. However, there are always things that can be done to make it look tidier and cleaner both for us and our visitors - signs are a big part of this. The signs on the way into the village are cleaned by OCC-Highways due to the dangerous nature of their position but the others dotted around the village are our responsibility.

# Could you adopt a sign near you?

- ◆ Keep an eye on it (make sure it doesn't run away)
- ◆ If it gets damaged, report it on fixmystreet (instructions can be found to the back of this issue)
- ◆ Give it a good wash if the mould takes hold

Let the WPC (and the world) know what you are doing for your community by contacting them on

wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk OR wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com



## **A BIG THANK YOU TO:**

Sarah and Stuart for clearing the path along the main road in Wardington

Malcolm Patterson for cleaning the bus stop glass

Jane Humber for cleaning the Williamscot Signs

Bob Jarrett for cleaning the sign next to Taylors Cottage on the A361

Lexi-Gordon-Finlayson for keeping the noticeboard opposite the Hare and Hounds tidy

Jonathan Meredith for all his sign cleaning help

Rodderick Stell has kindly taken on the maintenance & repair of the bus shelter opposite Greensward

## **Fancy seeing your name in print here?**

Let us what you are doing to help the village and community or perhaps get involved in one of the many projects and groups in the parish (see our sign cleaning push above, or the advert for help with the playground also in this issue).

## May Reflection – Among the Trees

I grew up in a home with a garden where there were two great hawthorn trees as markers of the seasons. Though not just as things of beauty to watch and enjoy but physical objects of practical and playful use. They were fixtures for a home-made swing, and for the household washing line. In my childhood dreams of escaping gravity, I wondered what it might be like to climb high in the branches, but was too scared to try. Now I live in a vicarage with a huge Wellingtonia (also known as a sequoia) outside. Still, looking up into its branches you cannot fail to have a sense of awe and respect, and passers-by often stop and look up at it.

May will hopefully take us fully into the season of summer, and also hopefully life will be opening up more as we continue to be in pandemic times. In creation around us buds, flowers and leaves will also be opening up. The poet Mary Oliver says: 'When I among the trees .. I would almost say they save me, and daily'. In the church calendar May is the season of looking up, with the celebration of Ascension. In the thinking of Ascension time heaven and earth are drawn together. We remember that we are rooted and reaching, we are earthly creatures and citizens of heaven, however we might understand this.

*May those who look and strain their eyes, longing for signs of the kingdom, find the way of justice, hope, joy and love is closer than their next breath. Amen.*

*From the Vicar – May 2021*

## Horses in fields

Members of the public are politely requested not to feed the horses in the fields around Wardington. The fields that they are in are private and the public should not be entering unless there is public right of way through. This is as much for the safety of members of the public as horses are unpredictable animals; as well as they may be on restricted diets.

## Need a tutor?

Tutoring in all three sciences and maths up to GCSE and A level Biology offered. Experience of teaching ages 8-18. References available and flexible hours possible.



Please contact Lexi on 07743895054 or email [lexihgf@gmail.com](mailto:lexihgf@gmail.com)

## Are you signed up to receive email updates from the Wardington Village website?

To find out information about the Cinema Club, upcoming events and other things happening in the Village, go online and subscribe to email updates.

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# Over 60's News

If anyone would like more information on our activities, or would like to get involved, our contact numbers are as follows:

Ian Franklin 758347  
Jane Pearson 750316  
Anne Wilkins 758167

**Re-upholstery & new sofas & chairs  
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Unit 8d Boundary Road, Brackley NN13 7ES 01280 704437



### Wardington Parish Clerk

Lexi Gordon-Finlayson will be on Maternity Leave from her role as Clerk to Wardington Parish Council for the rest of the year. Kirsty Buttle - an experienced clerk who looks after a number of local parishes - will be filling the role of Clerk during this time.

Lexi will continue to edit the Wardington Warbler during this time so please send articles, pictures and things for inclusion to her, as usual, using the Warbler email address: [wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com](mailto:wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com)



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# WARDINGTON GARDEN CLUB

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## 2021 PROGRAMME

**Wednesday 26 May at 6.00**

Meet at Village Hall at 5.40

Visit to 2 gardens in Byfield starting with

**No 28 Church Street, Byfield, NN11 6XN** courtesy of  
Meriel Gardner and Liz Kemp

**Wednesday 23 June at 6.30**

Meet at Village Hall 6.00

Visit to **Mill Hollow Barn, Stockwell Lane,**

**Sulgrave, OX17 2RS** courtesy of David Thompson

**Wednesday 21 July at 6.30**

Meet at Village Hall at 6.00

Visit to **Hardwick Hill, Priors Hardwick, CV47 7SP**

courtesy of Candy Kelly

Potential Members and Guests welcome to come to any of our meetings  
For further information contact Malcolm Patterson (750014)



**Wardington Parish Council Meeting**  
**– February Minutes**

**Location:** Zoom

**Date:** Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (7.30 pm)

**In Attendance:** Mr M Patterson (Chairman), Mr G Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Gordon-Finlayson (Clerk), Mr R Jarrett, Mr G Page, Mr N Bankes, Mrs J Burnett, Cllr P Chapman, Cllr G Reynolds

**Apologies:** none

**Agenda Items**

**1. Minutes of previous meeting - signed**

**2. Matters arising from previous minutes**

**2.1** Unity bank update – the current account switchover should take place on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Mr R Jarrett has been added to the internet banking to he can submit payments but not authorise them – this is in preparation for Clerk's maternity leave.

**2.2** White posts on Mt Pleasant – quotes were received to have white posts put in with the option of having the posts concreted in. Decision taken to not concrete the posts in and to add reflectors. Mr B Harris to carry out the work.

**2.3** Faded junction markings – this has been reported and is being investigated by Highways. Clerk to follow up when the weather warms up as currently too cold for line painting.

**3 Planning**

**3.1 New**

**3.1a 20/03641/F** Mr Will Lombard, Fern Hill Farmhouse, Fern Hill Farm, Thorpe Road  
Erection of a steel framed agricultural livestock building for the housing of cattle. **NO COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS.**

**3.1b 20/03561/F** Mrs T Barrett, 8 Council Houses, Thorpe Road  
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and first floor part extension with associated alterations. **NO COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS**

**3.2 CDC decisions**

**3.2a 20/03582/TCA** Miss Lucy Rose, Newhouse, Street from Williamscothill to centre  
1 x Cherry tree in rear garden to be reduced by 40 % (2m) in order to gain more light into the surrounding garden whilst retaining the tree. **NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS**

**3.2b 20/00552/LB & 20/00551/F** Mrs Olivia Hazell, Wardington Barn, Chacombe Road  
Change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house – re-submission of 19/01144/LB. **WITHDRAWN.**

**4. Finance**

**4.1 Invoices**

Parish Magazine Printing (Feb issue)	£262.50	Brent Harris (dog bin)	£89.75
E-type Press (welcome pack)	£89.00		
Mrs G-F (Clerk's Pay – Jan)	£376.41		
HMRC (PAYE – Jan)	£94.20		

**4.2 Playground 200 club draw**

100727	Mrs Zoe Baldwin	£20.00
100728	Jane Pearson	£10.00

**5. Parish business**

**5.1** Playground cleaning offer – Karla Batchelor and her two children have kindly offered to do some cleaning in the playground. Clerk has spoken to the insurance company and no liability will be accepted for accidents that happen during cleaning, though the children will, of course, be covered if they are playing on the equipment. Councillors agreed this was a lovely idea and the volunteers were free to go ahead as long as the children were fully supervised. Thanks to go in Warbler.

**5.2** CDC Bulletin – there are various different funds available for people and organisations struggling in this current time. Councillors agreed that they will point eligible people who would benefit in the right direction and the village hall has been made aware.

**5.3** Meetings will cease to be held online from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 according to the government. Clerk has been directed to provisionally book the village hall accordingly.

**6. AOB**

**6.1** The WPC is currently waiting to hear for an appeal date for Spruce Meadows.

**6.2** A budget increase of 2.99% has been agreed at county level. Talks have begun about budget spending with 20mph through villages and spending on drains (a lot of villages are having problems with excess water currently) on the agenda.

**6.3** Cllrs G Reynolds and P Chapman have been attending HS2 briefings.

**6.4** WPC would like to thank the community minded villagers who turned out to help motorists and grit the roads during the snowy weather. People are encouraged to scatter the grit thinly rather than using large piles to increase effectiveness.

**6.5** Williamscothill have started a litter picking initiative (now is a good time to do it before the verges start growing). Wardington would like to follow suit and are looking to invest in litter pickers to encourage people

The next meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm.

**Wardington Parish Council Meeting**  
**- March Minutes**

**Location: online - Zoom**

**Date: Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (7.30 pm)**

**In Attendance: Mr M Patterson (Chairman), Mr G Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs A Gordon-Finlayson (Clerk), Mr G Page, Mr R Jarrett, Mr N Bankes, Cllr G Reynolds**

**Apologies: Cllr P Chapman, Mrs J Burnett**

**Agenda Items**

**1. Minutes of previous meeting - signed**

**2. Matters arising from previous minutes**

**2.1** Unity banking update – February invoices coming out of the main account were successfully submitted, authorised and paid through online banking. The paperwork has been sent off for Mr R Jarrett to be added to the internet banking system to submit payments.

**2.2** White posts on Mt Pleasant – in place and seem to be working.

**3. Planning**

**3.1 New**

**3.1a 21/00389/F** Mr George Tuthill, Sutherlands, Wardington House

Erection of a greenhouse in the garden. **NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR OBJECTIONS.**

**3.1b 21/00577/TCA** Mr Jerry Winterbrown, Study Cottage, Street from Banbury Road to Mount Pleasant  
G1 x 6 nos Leylandii – fell as trees not maintained for 20 years and are taking most of the light from the garden. **NO OBJECTIONS.**

**3.1c 21/00497/TCA** Mr James Dobbs, The Bishops House, Street from Banbury Road to Mount Pleasant  
T1 x Yew (*Taxus Baccata*) – crown reduce height by 1.5m and reduce lateral spread by 2.0m all around. Remove deadwood (exempt). **NO OBJECTIONS.**

**3.1d 20/03556/F** Francis Tuthill Ltd, Tuthill Park, Banbury Road Through Wardington

Erection of new building and associated car park. **NO OBJECTIONS BUT COMMENTS MADE ABOUT FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE.**

**3.2 CDC decisions**

**3.2a 20/03642/F** Mr N Hudson, High Wardington House, Thorpe Road

Extension to existing outbuilding and its conversion to create a dwelling. Associated works including amenity space, landscaping and access. **APPLICATION PERMITTED.**

**3.2b 20/03641/F** Fern Hill Farmhouse, Fernhill Farm, Thorpe Road

Erection of a steel framed agricultural livestock building for the housing of cattle. **APPLICATION PERMITTED.**

**3.2c 20/03561/F** 8 Council Houses, Thorpe Road, Wardington  
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension and first floor part extension with associated alterations. **APPLICATION REFUSED.**

**4. Finance**

**4.1 Invoices**

Litter pickers (Reimburse Mrs G-F) £16.79

Brent Harris (Mt Pleasant White Posts)	£249.00
Brent Harris (Mt Pleasant Bus Shelter)	£45.79
Mrs G-F (Clerk's Pay – Feb)	£376.61
HMRC (PAYE – Feb)	£94.00
OALC subs	£146.16
OFPA subs	£42.00
100052 Mr N Bankes (Williamscot Litter pickers)	£32.58
<b>4.2</b> Playground 200 club draw	
100729 G & R Page (1 <sup>st</sup> prize – March)	£20.00
100730 L Lawless (2 <sup>nd</sup> prize – March)	£10.00

**5. Parish business**

**5.1** Churchyard Extension hedge maintenance – this is owned by Wardington Parish Council. Hedge on three sides is becoming large and difficult to cut so should it be laid? Initial expense large but then easier to cut in future and would look better. Concern raised about wildlife – first year there will be a negative affect but will recover quickly and better in the long run. Mr G Page to speak to Paul Lewis about quoting and Clerk to seek second quote. This will not take place until later in the year due to it already being nesting season.

**5.2** Bradley Munro has made a kind donation towards the playground through his company Bradley Munro Controls.

**5.3** There has been an 8% increase in Warbler printing costs through Parish Magazine Printing, but this is still significantly cheaper than other quotes. It was agreed that more advertising should be sought and the council was very grateful to the current advertisers for their continuing support.

**5.4** There is an Ash Tree of questionable health by the Pond. It appears to be on unowned/unregistered land. Clerk to make enquiries with CDC.

**5.5** Arrangements for May and June WPC meetings: there is still some confusion in place concerning the cessation of zoom held parish council meetings and the restrictions that will still be in place on gatherings in May. Hall bookings have been provisionally made for 25<sup>th</sup> May, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Clerk to cancel May but to keep up to date for further recommendations. General meeting to be held in June rather than May when the restrictions will hopefully have lifted.

**5.6** Should we submit a proposal for funding to COMF (Deadline 26<sup>th</sup> March)? There is some confusion about what this can be applied for and the deadline is rapidly approaching. Email to be forwarded to Friends of the Church.

**5.7** Spruce Meadows appeal hearing 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**5.8** Confirmation of arrangements during Clerk's Maternity Leave. Clerk will start Maternity leave on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Kirsty Buttle, who is covering the maternity leave will start on 1<sup>st</sup> April – the overlap is deemed as a handover period. She will cover all of the Clerk's responsibilities except for the Responsible Financial Officer role, which will be covered by Mr R Jarrett.

**6. AOB**

The next meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

## **Wardington Parish Council**

**DRAFT** Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom video conferencing

**Present:** Cllr Patterson (Chairman), Cllr Martin (Vice Chairman), Cllr Jarrett, Cllr Burnett

**In attendance:** Lexi Gordon-Finlayson (Clerk), Kirsty Buttle (Cover Clerk), County Cllr Reynolds, District Cllr Chapman. 1.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Bankes, Cllr Page

2. **Members declarations of interest for items on the agenda –**  
None

3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 16th March 2021 –** The minutes were proposed, agreed and duly signed

### **4. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**

4.1 Ash Tree by the pond – Concerns have been raised indirectly by a parishioner about the condition of the Ash Tree as it appears to be at the end of its life and that large branches may fall. The Ash Tree is in an unregistered area of the village therefore it is not owned by the Parish Council (PC). The PC have been advised not to complete any work on trees that do not belong to them unless absolutely necessary. If it is considered a significant danger to the public it may be possible to get Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to organise removal of the tree. Issues such as this should be reported to OCC using [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). It was agreed that no further action should be taken on this issue by the PC.

4.2 COMF funding - Grant of £1,666 offered and accepted – The plan is to use the funds primarily for a village get together, probably in September, dependent on the guidance at that time on public gatherings.

4.3 Handover of Clerk's responsibilities – The Clerk advised that she has now handed over the majority of the financial documentation to Cllr Jarrett who will be acting as the RFO during her maternity leave and the handover has taken place with the Cover Clerk.

### **5. Planning applications received**

5.1 21/00497/TCA - The Bishops House Street From Banbury Road To Mount Pleasant Wardington. T1 x Yew (*Taxus Baccata*) - Crown reduce in height by 1.5m and reduce lateral spread by 2.0m all around. Remove deadwood (exempt). No representations made.

5.2 21/00985/F – Up Corner Cottage, Wardington. First floor rear bedroom extension. No objections.

### **6. Planning decisions received**

6.1 21/00577/TCA - Study Cottage, Street from Banbury Road to Mt Pleasant, Wardington. G1 x 6 nos *Leylandii* – fell as trees not maintained for 20 years and are taking most of the light from the garden. Approved.

7. **Responsible Financial Officer's Report** – Account balances currently are:

Wardington Community £20,954

Williamscott Acct £6,322

Playground Account £1,256

Savings Account (play ground) £4,246 – this is high because the grant £2500 from OCC went into this account. It was agreed that as it is so difficult to take funds out of the savings account the account should be closed and all funds transferred to the main playground account. Cllr Page to arrange closure of the account.

Issue 70 May 2021

Cllr Jarrett advised that there is standing order set up to pay £30 to the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) which is no longer required as the fees have increased and the PC receive a request for payment annually. It was agreed that Cllr Jarrett should cancel the Standing Order to OPFA. It was agreed that the Asset Register should be amended to remove the PC laptop as this has not been in the PC's possession for some time. Cllr Jarrett to remove the laptop from the Asset Register.

### **8. Finance**

8.1 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

Lexi Gordon-Finlayson March Clerk's Pay £376.41

HMRC March tax £94.20

Lexi Gordon-Finlayson April Clerk's Pay £376.61

HMRC April tax £94.00

Kirsty Buttle April Clerk's Pay £207.65

HMRC April tax £51.91

Parish Magazine Printing Printing Feb/May/Aug 2020 £813.00

8.2 Playground 200 club draw Number Name Prize

13 Nigel Banks £20

32 Elsie Smith £10

### **9. To consider plans for holding meetings in future taking account of COVID restrictions and the change to the rules regarding lawfulness of electronic meetings from 7th May 2021 –**

The PC are required to hold a meeting in May in order to elect the Chairman for the coming year. The rules allowing electronic meetings expire on 7th May but they could be reinstated depending on the outcome of a court hearing before the end of April. To ensure that the May meeting takes place it was agreed that a very brief electronic meeting to complete the statutory tasks should be held on, 5th or 6th May. Clerk to confirm meeting date once councillor availability has been confirmed. It is understood that public meetings will be able to take place again from 17th May but COVID safety measures will be required. Some councillors are concerned about the risks involved in having a public meeting before the majority of people have received their vaccinations so it was agreed to keep the original planned date of 25th May in the diary and reconsider whether this meeting should go ahead closer to the time.

10. **To consider arrangements (if any) for advertising the Fairport ticket sales given the uncertainty due to COVID –** Currently the Fairport organisers say they hope the event will be going ahead so they will be putting an advert for tickets in the Warbler.

11. **Information exchange** Cllr Reynolds stated that he is concerned about the number of lorry movements connected with planning applications and scoping reports involving HS2. He will be keeping an eye on them to ensure the number of lorries are kept to the limit allowed. Cllr Chapman advised that there was another burglary in Williamscott last Friday and he is concerned that the police do not seem to have done much about this despite quite a lot of information being made available to them. Cllr Chapman advised that Cropredy Parish Council has a quarterly meeting with the police to discuss crime in the area and this seems to be of benefit to the parish due to the open regular communication with the police. Clerk to put item regarding improving communication with the police on the next agenda.

Date of next meeting date – \*Now confirmed as 6th May 2021\*  
Meeting closed @ 8:45pm

Events Diary				
Date	Time	Event	Place	
26th May (Weds)	5.40pm for 6pm	Byfield Garden Visits - meet at Hall	Memorial Hall	
23rd June (Weds)	6pm for 6.30pm	Sulgrave Garden Visit - meet at Hall	Memorial Hall	
21st July (Weds)	6pm for 6.30pm	Hardwick Hill Visit - meet at Hall	Memorial Hall	

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## **Wardington Playground**

This is a picture of Amitte Munro enjoying the Wardington playground. Her father's company - Brandley Munro Electrical/Brandley Munro Controls - has very kindly made a donation towards the maintenance of the playground.

