



THE WARBLER

A newsletter for the Parish of Wardington, Williamscoth and Coton

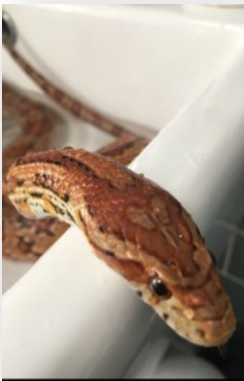
November 2025 edition

DEADLINE : October 10th

Contact the editors with any news, articles, photos, etc for the next issue
Wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com

Still on the Loose: Keith the Corn Snake Celebrates 16th Birthday in Style

Keith the corn snake has achieved something most newcomers to the village can only dream of – instant celebrity status. But his rise to fame has come with a twist...



Within days of the Hughes' arrival in the village, their 16-year-old snake (who ironically celebrated his birthday on US Independence Day, July 4th), managed a spectacular escape. Since then, Keith – named after Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones – has been living the high life somewhere in or around the cricket ground and recreation area, turning what should have been a routine family settling-in period into an ongoing village-wide search mission.

"We know he's eaten recently, so that's something of a comfort," said the Hughes family, "But we're concerned about his access to water, especially with the warmer weather." They

have made an unusual but heartfelt request to residents living near the recreation ground: could they consider putting out a dish of water for Keith, just in case he needs it? This of course will also benefit the wildlife who may be struggling to source water when everything around is so dry.

There was a glimmer of hope a few weeks ago when Keith was spotted, raising the family's spirits. Unfortunately, by the time the family was alerted to his whereabouts, the elusive escape artist had already slithered into a patch of nettles, well beyond human reach.

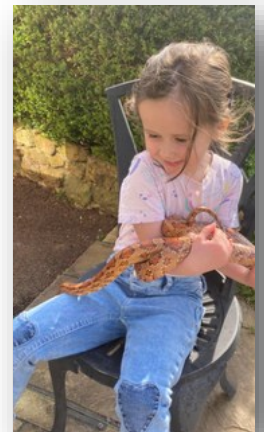
For those unfamiliar with corn snakes, Keith poses no danger to the community. These brightly coloured reptiles are completely harmless to humans and are actually quite popular as pets due to their docile nature. Native to North America, corn snakes are excellent climbers and can live for 15-20



years, suggesting Keith may have many more adventures ahead of him.

And so the cricket ground has become an unlikely wildlife sanctuary, with local dog walkers keeping a vigilant eye out for any sign of the village's most elusive resident.

As Keith continues his extended staycation in the great outdoors, his family remains hopeful that their beloved pet will eventually decide that home comforts outweigh the thrill of village exploration. Until then, the legend of Keith the corn snake continues to grow, proving that sometimes the most memorable neighbours are the ones you never actually see.



Wardington Church Clock by *Roderick Stell*

The Wardington church clock has been chiming on the hour and half-hour since it was installed in 1900. It was built to last, and indeed it has done so. The mechanism is still almost as good as new, however the weights which drive it rely on gravity and, every seven days, someone is required to wind them back up to the top of the tower.

For thirty years Malcolm Patterson was responsible for winding the clock, and I took over from him nearly 10 years ago. Climbing the tower steps and winding up the weights is not an easy job. Whoever does it needs to set aside the time each week – and also needs the strength to do the winding.

I would like to believe that the clock will continue to provide a certain heartbeat in the community for years to come, but I foresee a time when I myself will not be able to continue winding it.

Many tower clocks have automatic regulation and winding in place. The cost of such automation, installed by a professional clock engineer, is around £12,000. This sum is beyond the current means of the St Mary Magdalene PCC, which has many calls on its resources in maintaining the Grade 1 listed building.



I have made an application to HS2 for a grant for this sum, as they have made grants recently to local communities who are affected by their operations. I await their reply. Many local communities have had partial support from HS2 for which they have been trying to raise funds themselves, and I anticipate that HS2 will respond enquiring about support for this project within the village.

My purpose in writing this is to seek information as to what support might be forthcoming from the Wardington community as I understand that many residents value the contribution which the clock makes to village life.

I would appreciate a response from those residents who might be able to help in this respect or have views to put forward

Email roderickstell44@gmail.com or you can drop a note to Roderick at 1 Stud Farm Close .



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Facebook Instagram 01295 758080

RECIPE TIME: CRUSTED PLAICE

SHARED BY: Nikki Stell

A firm supper time favourite; simple, quick dish – and oh, so tasty... the tangy mayonnaise-layer pairs beautifully with the flaky fish and cheesy crunch! *A lack of exact measures is deliberate. Quantities really depend on your taste and appetite.*

Ingredients

- Plaice fillets (as many as needed – allow 1–2 per person)

For the topping:

- Good-quality mayonnaise
- Gherkins, finely chopped
- Capers, finely chopped
- Fresh breadcrumbs (white or brown – either works well)
- Grated cheese (Gruyère or mature Cheddar both work beautifully)

Method

1. Preheat the grill.
2. Lay the plaice fillets skin-side down on a shallow, non-stick, baking tray.
3. Mix the creamy layer: Stir the chopped gherkins and capers into the mayonnaise and spread this mixture generously over each fillet.
4. Prepare the crunchy layer: Combine the breadcrumbs with grated cheese then sprinkle this evenly to completely cover the mayonnaise-covered fish and pat down gently.
5. Grill to golden perfection: place the tray under the hot grill and cook until the topping is golden and bubbling and the fish is just cooked through — about 5–8 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fillets.



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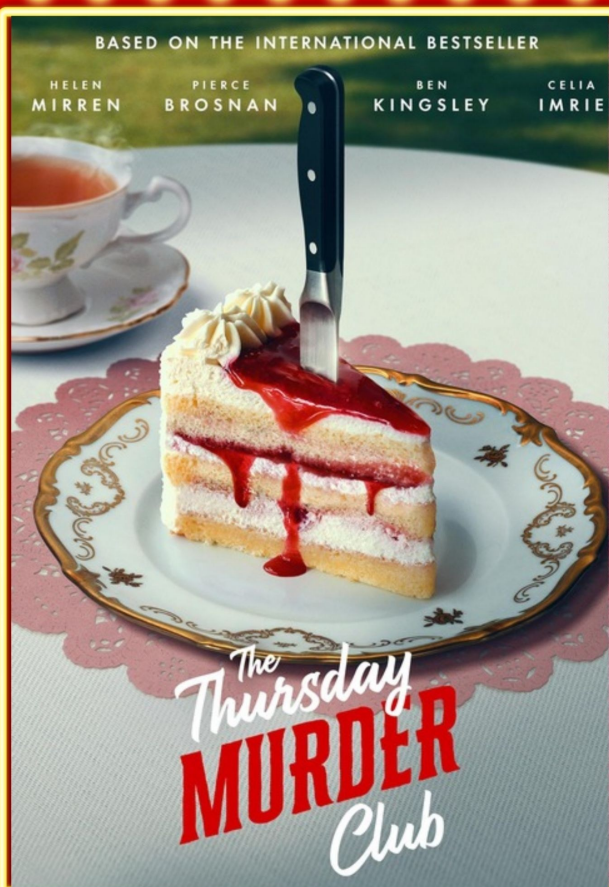
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Wardington

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday 10th October

Complimentary ice cream – Raffle – Bring your own refreshments



Four irrepressible retirees spend their time solving cold case murders for fun. When an unexplained death occurs on their doorstep, their casual sleuthing takes a thrilling turn!

Starring;
Helen Mirren
Pierce Brosnan
Ben Kingsley
Celia Imrie

**DOORS OPEN AT 7PM
FOR 7:30 START**

Tickets are £7 or £8 on the door.

Available from ejulie.campbell@btinternet.com or steve.mlawrie@btinternet.com

Cricket Club News

Net sessions are on the Cricket field on Thursday evenings from 6pm. These are open to anyone who would like to come along and join in, we are always keen to recruit new players. Village cricket is suffering and we are doing our best to keep it alive so if anyone is interested please do get in touch



Our remaining home fixtures for the season are (all games start at 1.30pm):

Date:	Visitors:
9 th August	Printers
23 rd August	Bodicote

We look forward to seeing you all there to support our team. The bar will be open on all match days from start of play and for a while after the end of the game.

Contact numbers for the Cricket Club: Tom Cuniffe, Captain 07985 415863

Chris Morgan, Chairman 07471 110579 Anne Wilkins (Club Secretary) 01295 758167 or 07951 794994

Finally a plea from our Grounds Team – If you are exercising your dog on the sports field please make sure that you pick up after them. It is not very pleasant to be showered with dog excrement when mowing the outfield. Many thanks to all who do but there are still too many who do not.

'BRING & BUY' SALE

Children's Toys, Books & Clothes

Wardington Memorial Hall

Tea & home
made cake
available

Saturday 15th November

Stalls set up: 10:00

Sale: 10:30-12:00

Book your table for £5 by emailing
grace_coleman@outlook.com
Donations of good quality items
welcome on the day to raise money
for the hall

**Clear out and grab a bargain before
Christmas!**





Memorial Hall

To hire the Memorial Hall visit the website at wardington.net/memorial-hall/
Or
call Steve Mackenzie-Lawrie on 07950 411373 for more information

Reporting of issues with potholes and other Highway related issues

www.fixmyStreet.com is an online system for reporting issues to the County and District Councils. This can include reports of potholes, overhanging/dangerous trees, damaged pavements, blocked drains, flytipping etc. Anyone who reports a problem using this system will receive updates about their report and it also allows you to see reports made by others and the response given which helps to see which issues are already in the system.

In a recent meeting with a Highways representative to discuss the ongoing issues with flooding in the village the Highways representative advised that drains are no longer cleared/jettied on a routine basis and they only get cleared when people report that they are blocked so we would encourage parishioners to report any issues they see to ensure Highways are aware of the issues as soon as they occur.'



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Harvest Supper

Saturday 4th October 2025

6:00pm

Wardington Memorial Hall

This highly popular social event brings together adults, families & children and is designed to provide the opportunity for villagers old and new to meet and socialise whilst raising funds to maintain our beautiful Church.

**Your ticket includes Main Course, Pudding and
Cheese & Biscuits**

Cash & contactless payment bar and Raffle

Adults - £16.00 | Over 65s - £13 | Children aged 7-16 - £8
Ages 6 and under FOC

TO SECURE YOUR TICKETS

Please visit Barn Farm Plants or

Call Deborah Page on 07503 772720

www.wardington.net

Devolution and local government reorganisation:

What you need (or might want) to know.....

In December 2024, the government published a white paper on a national programme of devolution and reform to local government. Oxfordshire county council's cabinet requested that the county is fast-tracked for local government reorganisation while continuing to work with partners on a future mayoral strategic authority.

The government's long-term vision is for simpler structures, which make it much clearer for residents who they should look to on local issues, with more strategic decisions to unlock growth and deliver better services for communities. The government believes that devolution over a large strategic geography, alongside local government reorganisation, can drive economic growth while delivering optimal public services. The government asked councils in Oxfordshire to submit interim proposal(s) for local government reorganisation by 21 March 2025, **with full proposals by 28 November 2025**.

Sound simple? Well actually there have been **3 proposals made for Oxfordshire!** Here is a summary (*not opinion*) of each.

1 A single unitary council for Oxfordshire—Oxfordshire County Council's preferred option.

Meaning Oxfordshire Council would be responsible for all services for Oxfordshire residents and would replace all 6 existing district councils. You can read more about this proposal on [**oxfordshire.gov**](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)—search for local government reorganisation.

2. Two Councils—Cherwell's preferred option

- Oxford and Shires Council created from the existing district councils of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- Ridgeway Council created from the existing district councils of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

You can find out more about this proposal on [**twocouncils.org**](https://www.twocouncils.org) Cherwell were seeking to *engage* with the community but the deadline for comments was July 25th. *Consultation* is apparently not permitted as part of this process



3. Three unitary councils— with a unitary city (Oxford) with expanded boundaries as well as northern and southern unitaries, also including West Berkshire. More information on this proposal can be found on [oxfordshire.gov](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) but the detailed papers focus primarily on Greater Oxford City
In parallel with other partners, all Oxfordshire councils will continue collaborating to propose a mayoral strategic authority to the government as part of the national devolution programme.

Oxfordshire councils will have further detailed discussions so they can submit final proposals by 28 November 2025. **The government will then decide what form of unitarisation Oxfordshire will adopt.**

You will see from the minutes of the July Waddington Parish Council that WPC has opted to support the Two Councils proposal of which Cherwell District Council have been an active participant. Extract from the minutes: **“Clerk to make a response on behalf of the council which supports the proposals made by CDC. “ minutes of WPC 24th June**

Full minutes of WPC can be found later in The Warbler

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS OF
WARDINGTON AND BE PART
OF OUR 2026 VILLAGE
CALENDAR

Simply share your photos
with Rob Moulds:
Rob.moulds1@gmail.com

Photos must be in landscape
and 300dpi (but don't worry,
just send them and we'll check!)

Submit before
**21
SEPT**



ALL PROFITS FROM THE
CALENDAR GO TO WARDINGTON
MEMORIAL HALL

Waddington Memorial Hall,
Mount Pleasant, Waddington
wardington.net/memorial-hall



Please support me in this challenge
By donating to my Just giving page.

Lymphoma
action
Inform | Support | Connect

CHRIS MOULDS is walking THE COTSWOLDS WAY

Why?

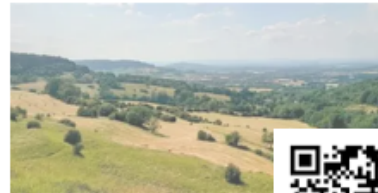
To raise awareness of **Lymphoma**

Every 26 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with lymphoma,
the UK's fifth most common cancer
and to support **Lymphoma Action**

The only organization in the country dedicated to support and
information for those affected by lymphoma

When?

25th July to 3rd August 2025



www.justgiving.com/page/christine-moulds-14 or use the QR code

INSIGHTS ON BRITISH SNAKES!!

Back on the earlier subject of snakes, there have been many sightings in and around Wardington this summer. Here's a brief reminder of who's who in and around our hedgerows.



The Grass Snake: no bite but distinctive by their length and defensive stinkiness!

- ◇ Long and slender, olive-green/grey in colour, with darker spots, and a creamy yellow and black collar behind the head
- ◇ Loves a swim — often spotted swimming or basking near ponds. Also found amongst cool, dark vegetation.
- ◇ Completely harmless and more scared of you than you are of it (yes, really). If it's disturbed it might hiss, emit a truly horrible smell,

or roll over and play dead. But it won't – *it can't* – bite!



The Adder: Britain's only venomous snake – but it would rather avoid you than look for trouble.

- ◇ Shorter and stockier, dark coloured with a black classic zigzag pattern down its back.
- ◇ Prefers heathland and sunny spots to sunbathe like a lizard.
- ◇ Venomous, yes - but shy. Bites are rare and usually happen when they're disturbed by chance.

- ◇ Protected by law, so please admire them from a distance (they prefer it that way too).

This is a pull-out section for you to fill in and deliver to the address below.

**WARDINGTON PRODUCE SHOW
ENTRY FORM**

Please return your completed entry form with correct entry fee .

No later than **Monday 15th September 2025** to:

Jane Howard, Merrie House, Thorpe Road Upper Wardington, OX17 1SP.

Please note all classes are 50p per entry.

Spare entry forms are available to download from the Wardington Village website.

Class No.	Name of Entrant	Entry Fee

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:
.....
...

EMAIL:.....

SIGNED:.....DATE:.....

WARDINGTON PRODUCE SHOW RULES:

1. All exhibits should be the work or product of the Exhibitor, resident within a 5-mile radius of Wardington.
2. Only entry forms completed in full and signed, accompanied by the correct entry fee, by the closing date, will be accepted. Entry fees will not normally be refunded unless circumstances are considered exceptional.
3. Exhibitors are allowed more than one entry in any single class.
4. All exhibits must be received in the Hall by 9:00am on the day of the show, for judging to proceed from 9.30am.
5. The organisers accept no liability whatsoever for any damage to any exhibits.
6. No exhibitor shall be allowed within the produce tent during the time of judging.
7. No exhibit should be removed from the produce tent before 4pm.
8. Exhibits must be removed between 4pm and 5pm. Exhibits not cleared within such time shall become the property of the organisers for disposal.

WARDINGTON PRODUCE SHOW CLASSES

Entry Fee for all classes: 50p

Produce

Eggs

Class No.	
1	4 Eggs – white or brown, of uniform size and arranged on a plate.

Vegetables

Class No.	
2	2 Ears of Sweetcorn
3	2 Courgettes
4	6 Onions – arranged on a plate of sand or on rings and tied with raf-
5	4 Main Crop potatoes – any variety, arranged on a plate.
6	4 Beetroot – trimmed with at least 5cm of leaf attached.
7	2 Squash – Any variety
8	Longest Runner Bean
9	Mixed Vegetables – 5 Different Varieties displayed on a plate

Fruits

Class No.	
10	3 Apples – all of one variety on a plate
11	3 Pears – all of one variety on a plate
12	6 Blackberries – any variety arranged on a plate
13	6 Raspberries – any variety arranged on a plate.
14	5 Plums or Damsons or a mixture - arranged on a plate

Flowers

Class No.	
15	3 Dahlia stems – single species arranged in a vase
16	Mixed Dahlia Arrangement – in a vase
17	1 Specimen Rose Stem – in water
18	A Mixed Flower Arrangement – in a vase
19	Tallest Sunflower – to be measured in situ before the show –

Preserves

Note: jars should be plain glass and have a small label with the date of making and main ingredients. Curd jars: metal lids and chutneys vinegar-proof covering.

Class No.	
20	Marmalade – 1 jar, citrus marmalade.
21	Fruit jam – 1 jar, any variety.
22	Fruit jelly – 1 jar, any variety.
23	Chutney – 1 jar, any variety.
24	Fruit curd – 1 jar, any variety.

Drinks

Class No.	
25	Wine OR Flavoured Spirit 1 bottle.
26	A Cordial – 1 bottle.

Cookery

Class No.	
27	Tea Bread – 1 loaf
28	6 Scones – any variety, in a basket.
29	4 Pieces of Shortbread - any variety
30	4 Biscuits or Cookies – any variety
31	Fruit cake
32	Victoria sandwich – made in 2 tins, filled with raspberry jam and butter
33	<u>Mens Class:</u> Chocolate Sponge Cake - iced

Arts and Craft

Art and photography

Class No.	
34	Amateur photography - A Picture of Wardington
35	Amateur photography - Patterns in Nature
36	Amateur art – any subject, any medium including clay, wire, paper, wood any size.

Combined Adult & Children's Classes

Class No.	
37	A Bird House
38	A Greetings Card

Children's Classes

Cookery

Class	
39	2 Decorated Marzipan Mice– 6 years and under.
40	4 Flapjacks – 7 to 9years.
41	4 Chocolate Brownies – 10 to 14 years.

Produce

Class	
42	A Fruit or Vegetable Insect– any variety or combined variety.
43	A Decorated Terracotta Flowerpot (without planting) – using paint or
44	A Flower Arrangement in a Jam Jar

Art and Photography

Class	
45	A Painting – Theme 'Summer Holiday' - 6 years and under.
46	A Painting – Theme 'Summer Holiday' -7 – 9years
47	A Painting – Theme 'Summer Holiday' - 10 - 14years
44	Cover competition – A4 design for next year's Wardington Memorial Hall Centenary Village programme, to be judged by public vote. Note In Portrait Layout



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

New community art exhibition of mediums including painting and film, inspired by a story in the museum's collections.

Oxfordshire Yeoman Arthur Tyler wrote letters to the family of Bergen-Belsen survivor Naomi Warren, helping reunite her with family.

Exhibition coincides with Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's touring 80 Candles for 80 Years exhibition arriving at the museum

From Saturday 9th to Saturday 30th August 2025, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum will display a new exhibition created by local artists and inspired by the story of a simple act of kindness during the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in April 1945.

The Oxfordshire Yeomanry, a Territorial Army regiment serving as an Anti-Tank battery of the Royal Artillery at the time, were among the first troops to enter the Bergen-Belsen camp when it was handed over to British forces. Just ordinary soldiers, they were not prepared for what they would find inside – camp survivors were starving while typhus was spreading rapidly, made worse by cramped conditions, poor sanitation and lack of clean water, as well as around 10,000 dead left unburied.

Amid efforts to relieve the survivors, control the spread of disease, and arrest the camp guards and commandant, came a simple act of kindness. Survivor Naomi Warren, a Polish Jew, was desperate to contact her surviving family, having already lost many while held at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and approached her liberators for help. Oxfordshire Yeoman Arthur Tyler came forward to offer help.

The new exhibition will combine artwork and film created in response to the story of Naomi and Arthur. The exhibition is the culmination of the *Lifelines* community art project which brought together a group of artists from diverse backgrounds. Inspired by this story of a light of hope in a time of darkness, the work on display explores the themes of witnessing, kindness, vision and positivity.

Alongside is the *80 Candles for 80 Years* project involving 80 communities and organisations across the UK who have created unique candleholders, each one inspired by the life story of Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, and other individuals targeted by the Nazi regime.

The people and organisations who created and contributed candleholders to this exhibition come from a diverse cross-section of society, including educational institutions, prisons, the public sector, faith and interfaith groups, local authorities, inclusive communities, charities, museums and heritage organisations.

80 Candles for 80 Years will go on display at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock from 12th to 30th August 2025.

Pen and ink illustration depicting a British officer reading a letter to a soldier with a bandaged head. Published in 'London Opinion and Today' magazine on 22 May 1915. © The Shepard Trust, 1915. From The Shepard Trust Archive, University of Surrey (Ref No. SS/6/2).

E.H. Shepard:
BEFORE & BEYOND
WINNIE-THE-POOH

SEE THE EXHIBITION
18 January - 31 August 2025
www.sof.org.uk

 **Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum**

In collaboration with
 **ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Pencil self-portrait of E.H. Shepard, copied in his WWI officer's uniform. © The Shepard Trust, c. 1915-1918. From the E.H. Shepard Archive, University of Surrey (Ref No. SH/5/2/126).



ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

We welcome any age at our services with activities for children, and a wide welcome for all. Refreshments and time to connect are also a feature of all our worship. Everyone is welcome!

All baptism, wedding and funeral service enquiries can be also made to vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com Tel: 01295 750486 / 07747 181868

NEWS FROM ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

SAFARI SUPPER

The Friends of St Mary Magdalene Church organised the 20th annual Safari Supper which took place as usual on midsummer's day. The weather was excellent for the pre-supper Pimms and canapés reception in the churchyard with a record (since the pandemic) number of 45 present including many new village residents. This was followed by the dispersal to various houses for supper hosted by five generous hostesses.

By 9.30pm everyone was back at the Memorial Hall for puddings, cheese and further liquid refreshment. Such was the merriment that closing time had to be called with many still enjoying a very jolly evening.

A big thank you to all those who supported the occasion and very special thanks must go to Andrew and Ginny Steven who spearheaded the organisation all of which led to over £900 being raised for future church projects.

CHURCH FABRIC

Remembering that the church building dates back over six hundred years, it is inevitable that certain aspects require maintenance and repair on an ongoing basis. This year it has been the turn of the south aisle external wall which of course takes the brunt of both good and bad weather and so was in very poor condition.

As we go to press work is just being completed on the "defrassing" (hacking out all loose stonework) and re-pointing of the stonework. Whilst it has been a relatively small project compared to when the whole tower underwent similar treatment in 2008, it has still taken some three weeks.

We have been fortunate to receive a grant of £4,000 from the Oxford Diocesan small improvements fund.

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

Once again 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 coming months of this year include: Jane Pearson, Tom Rutherford, Brenda Mortimer, Joe & Emma Woodward and Roderick & Nikki Stell. The sponsorship fee is £15 per week. 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 on the table adjacent to the south door of the church or contact Clive Hunt on 01295 758087.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH: Services: August 2025 – October 2025

Please check Church notice board and the Church monthly newsletter for further information and confirmation of these times.

SUNDAY SERVICES

When no Sunday service at Wardington is planned, please see Church noticeboards which give details of services at other Shires Edge Benefice churches.

August 3rd		No service at Wardington
August 10th	1030am	Family Service
August 17th		No service at Wardington
August 24th	0930am	Family Communion
August 31st	1000am	United Benefice Communion, Mollington

September 7th		No service at Wardington
September 14th	1030am	Family service
September 21st		No service at Wardington
September 28th	0930am	Family Communion

October 5th		No Service at Wardington
October 12th	1030am	Harvest Festival
October 19th		No Service at Wardington
October 26th	0930am	Family Communion

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Every Tuesday	12.00noon	Holy Communion – Cropredy
Every Friday	09.00am	Morning Prayer (said) at Wardington.





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Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Jarrett (Chairman), Cllr M Patterson, Cllr G Page, Cllr R Reid, Cllr M Chivers.

In attendance: Clerk, 0 members of the public.

- 1. Election of Chairman** – It was proposed and agreed to elect Cllr Bob Jarrett as the Chairman. Cllr Jarrett completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 2. Apologies for absence** – Apologies received – Cllr Nigel Bankes, Cllr Julie Burnett. Apologies accepted – None. District and County Cllr Brant also sent his apologies.
- 3. Election of Vice-Chairman** – It was proposed and agreed to elect Cllr Julie Burnett as Vice-Chair.
- 4. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – None.
- 5. Public participation session** – None.
- 6. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 18th March 2025** – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.
- 7. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**
 - 7.1 Update re flooding on Thorpe Road and water running down the A361 – Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) have now laid bigger pipes in the field on Thorpe Road but there already appear to be cracks in the new surface. **Cllr Mark Chivers to report this on fixmystreet.**
 - 7.2 Update re Parish Council communication with parishioners – It was noted that the PC is now communicating more with parishioners and it was suggested that when the PC is putting out these communications it should ensure that it is clear who the communication is from and in some cases it may be better to make a more personal approach.
 - 7.3 HS2 update – No update.
 - 7.4 Update re details received from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) re their streetlighting policy – The policy has been received and there is a lot to consider in the way of dark skies, safety, cost effectiveness etc. As OCC are the only people who can make a decision about whether additional streetlighting is required it was agreed that the parishioners' who raised the idea of having more streetlighting should be given the link to the StreetSafe system (<https://www.police.uk/pu/notices/streetsafe/street-safe/>) which is part of the OCC Policy where parishioners can report safety concerns including poorly lit areas. **Clerk to put the details on the website and Facebook to make parishioners aware of the system generally.**
- 8. Play Area**
 - 8.1 Update re play equipment safety inspections – The monthly inspection has been completed with no issues raised.
 - 8.2 Update re repairs instructed – Unfortunately the contractor who was instructed to complete the work on the play area appears no longer able to complete the work. It was agreed that the **Clerk should confirm with the contractor that the PC no longer wishes for them to do the work and obtain a quote from another contractor.** The Ash Tree in the planter has been cut back but it will keep growing and the planter is not in a good position. It was agreed that the best option is to remove the planter and its contents. **Cllr Malcolm Patterson to arrange the removal of the planter.** It was agreed that three signs advising that dogs aren't allowed in the play area should be purchased. **Clerk to order signs.**

8.3 Trustee Meeting 20th May 2025 – The lease for the play area will expire this year. The trustees have a meeting on 20th May so would like a representative from the PC to attend the meeting. **Cllr Malcolm Patterson will attend as the Parish Council representative.**

9. **To note concerns raised about the condition of the War Memorial and to consider whether quotes for refurbishment should be sought** – It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for all work required to refurbish the War Memorial and bring to the next suitable meeting.

10. Planning applications received

25/00820/F – 1 The Greensward, Wardington. Single storey side and rear extension (re-submission of 23/01287/F). **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

11. Planning decisions received

25/00083/CLUE - Units 1 and 2 Coton Lodge Wardington. Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use for Use of the buildings and surrounding land for Class E (g)(iii) light industrial. **Approved.**

12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024-25

- 12.1 To receive the Internal auditor's report, agree any actions to be taken and to appoint an internal auditor for the current financial year – The Internal Auditor's Report was received. It was proposed and agreed to appoint Nick Chadwick as the Internal Auditor for the 25-26 financial year.
- 12.2 To complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement for the 24/25 audit – It was proposed and agreed to tick 'yes' to all statements except statement 9 which is 'not applicable' and for the Chairman and Clerk to sign the document.
- 12.3 To approve the Accounting Statements for the 24/25 audit – It was proposed and agreed to approve the Accounting Statements and for the Chairman to sign the document.
- 12.4 To approve completion and signing of the AGAR Certificate of Exemption for 24/25 – It was proposed and agreed to complete and sign the Certificate of Exemption.
- 12.5 To agree the dates for the notice of public rights – proposed dates are Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2025 – Proposed and agreed.

13. Finance

13.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 08.05.2025 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£460.04
PC Savings	£30,545.56
Total	£31,005.60

	WPC Main	Williamscott	Total
Cashbook balances as at 08.05.25	£22,973.36	£8,032.24	£31,005.60

13.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

31.03.25	Unity Bank	Service charge	£6.00
08.05.25	CDC	6 monthly dog bin emptying	£432.43
08.05.25	Wardington Memorial Hall	Room hire May to Nov 25	£106.56
08.05.25	Kirsty Buttle	Salary Apr and software reimburse	£398.71
08.05.25	HMRC	Tax Apr	£107.63
08.05.25	Parish Magazine Printing	Warbler May edition	£420.75
30.04.25	NEST	Pension April	£18.49
30.04.25	Unity Bank	Account fee	£6.00

13.3 To note the following receipts: Noted.

31.03.25	Unity Bank	Interest	£160.68
09.04.25	CDC	Precept	£6,617.00
24.04.25	HMRC	VAT Refund	£1,100.88

13.4 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed to pay all invoices EXCEPT the Parish Magazine Printing invoice as this should not have been charged to the PC.

N R Prickett	Grass cutting 9th and 30th April	£902.40
Parish Magazine Printing	Additional printing for May	£220.50
Kirsty Buttle	Salary May 25	£385.25
HMRC	Tax and NI May 25	£107.83
NEST	Pension May	£18.49

13.5 To note changes to audit requirements requiring the PC to use e-mail addresses with a domain owned by the Parish Council and consider what the PC needs to do to comply with this requirement – Discussions were held around the new requirements. A quote has been received for 20 .gov.uk mailboxes. It was agreed that further quotes should be obtained, including a quote for a .gov.uk website which includes e-mail accounts as it is believed this may not be much more expensive than the mailboxes alone. **Clerk to obtain quotes for mailboxes and a website.**

13.6 To receive quotes for annual parish insurance and agreed which insurer to instruct. Quotes received are:

Clear Council (current insurer) - £719.72 (last year's price was £563.82)

Zurich Municipal - £599 (if including War Memorial)

Zurich Municipal - £536 (if not including War Memorial)

It was proposed and agreed to accept the policy offered by Zurich Municipal which includes the cover for the War Memorial at a cost of £599. **Clerk to instruct Zurich.**

14. To re-adopt the following policies/documents with no changes made: It was proposed and agreed to adopt all policies listed.

- 14.1 Publication Scheme
- 14.2 Scheme of Delegation
- 14.3 Code of Conduct
- 14.4 Financial Control and Internal Audit Procedure
- 14.5 Complaints Procedure

- 14.6 Risk Assessment
- 14.7 Biodiversity Policy
- 14.8 General and Sexual Harassment Policy

15. To approve the following updated policies: It was proposed and agreed to adopt both policies with the proposed changes.

- 15.1 Financial Regulations
- 15.2 Standing Orders

16. Information exchange – It was noted that there are some places in the village where cars are parking on corners which is dangerous and reduces visibility. It would be helpful if drivers could try to avoid parking on corners where possible.

It was confirmed that a letter of thanks has been sent to the previous County Councillor, George Reynolds, to thank him for his work as the councillor for Wardington for many years.

Meeting closed @ 9:09pm

Date of next meeting – 24th June 2025

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Jarrett (Chairman), Cllr M Patterson, Cllr G Page, Cllr M Chivers.

In attendance: Clerk, 1 member of the public.

17. Apologies for absence – Apologies received – Cllr N Bankes. Apologies accepted – None.

18. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

19. Public participation session – None.

20. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 13th May 2025 - The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

21. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- 21.1 Update re flooding on Thorpe Road and water running down the A361 – No update.
- 21.2 HS2 update – No date has been given for the drop in event that HS2 want to organise. They have provided details about the closure of the A361.

22. To consider a response to the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) 'Part-Night Lighting' Consultation – It was agreed that due to the number of questions involved in the survey it is difficult to get a consensus response therefore the PC will not make a response but would encourage individuals to respond if they have a view about the proposals.

23. To consider whether a PC response can be made to the Cherwell District Council (CDC) Local Government Reorganisation survey or if individual responses would be more appropriate – There does not appear to be a document showing the questions in advance of completing the survey which makes it very difficult for the PC to agree a collective response. **Clerk to contact CDC to ask if a document showing the full survey can be obtained** to help work out the collective response. If this cannot be obtained it was agreed to delegate responsibility to the **Clerk to make a response on behalf of the council which supports the proposals made by CDC.**

24. Play Area

- 24.1 Update re play equipment safety inspections – The no dog signs requested at the last meeting have been purchased and will be installed soon.
- 24.2 To receive quotes for repairs and agree which contractor to instruct – 2 quotes have been received. It was proposed and agreed to appoint Chris Jarvis at a cost of £899. **Cllr M Patterson to instruct contractor.**
- 24.3 Feedback from Trustee Meeting held on 20th May 2025 – Discussions were held about the management of the play area and the PC representatives advised those present that the PC would appreciate the support of a separate committee of people who have an interest in the play area to complete the day to day management with the PC still insuring and funding the play equipment. It was agreed that an **article should go in the next Warbler** asking if any parishioners would like to volunteer to form a committee.

25. To receive quotes for repairs to the War Memorial and consider whether the PC is in a position to proceed with the repairs – The Clerk contacted 3 companies for a quote. The first wouldn't quote as they said the paperwork relating to repair of War Memorials is substantial therefore they would not consider taking this on. Of the remaining quotes the PC were particularly interested in the quote from Oxfordshire Military Grave Restorers but would like further information in relation to whether they would renovate the lettering rather than just cleaning it, whether they are aware that the memorial is made of Hornton stone so is a soft stone, and if they have done any other work in the area that the PC could see the outcome. **Clerk to contact Oxfordshire Military Grave Restorers to get the additional information.**

26. To consider a proposal made by District Cllr Brant to form a cluster group of local parish councils to discuss issues that affect a number of those parish and possibly create a Neighbourhood Plan – It was felt that there would be no benefit to the Parish Council to hold regular meetings with other villages so do not wish to be part of this but if there is a specific issue that does affect all of the villages then the PC are open to being involved.

27. Planning applications received

25/01200/DISC – Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Discharge of Conditions 4 (repointing), 5 (masonry repairs), 6 (method statement - grouting) and 7 (replacement lintels) of 24/00184/F. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

28. Planning decisions received

25/00820/F – 1 The Greensward, Wardington. Single storey side and rear extension (re-submission of 23/01287/F). **Approved.**

24/01783/F and 24/01784/LB - Postbox Cottage, Banbury Road Through Wardington, Wardington. Improvements to existing access and landscaping, replacement garage, machinery store, and timber out-building. Alteration to amenity space relating to The Cottage to include change of use from open countryside to residential. PV panels to roof of replacement machinery store. 1no new field gate. **Approved.**

24/03087/LB – Wisteria Cottage, Wardington. Roof repairs, replace four rear windows, replace two rooflights and insertion of one new one, replace oak window lintel to kitchen window, guttering repairs, patch pointing and chimney repairs. **Approved.**

25/00470/TCA – Wisteria Cottage, Street from Banbury Road to Mount Pleasant, Wardington. T1 - Cherry- Crown reduce by 2m. T2 - Cherry. Removal of cherry suppressed by nearby walnut to ground level. T3 - Yew. Remove to a 1m pole due to close proximity to adjacent tree buttressing. **Approved.**

29. Finance

- 29.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 18.06.2025 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£348.63
PC Savings	£28,495.56*corrected from agenda value stated
Total	£28,844.19

	WPC Main	Williamscot	Total
Cashbook balances as at 18.06.25	£20,811.95	£8,032.24	£28,844.19

29.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

02.06.25	Annette Reed Bookkeeping	Internal Audit 24-25	£125.00
02.06.25	Kirsty Buttle	Reimbursement SIM and One Drive	£17.44
31.05.25	Unity Bank	Account fee	£6.00
10.06.25	Zurich Town and Parish	Annual parish insurance	£599.00

29.3 To note the following receipts: None

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

N R Prickett	Grass cutting 23rd May	£451.20
Kirsty Buttle	Signs for play area	£25.34
Kirsty Buttle	Salary Jun	£385.45
HMRC	Tax and NI Jun 25	£107.63
NEST	Pension Jun 25	£18.49

29.5 To receive quotes for .gov.uk e-mail addresses and a PC website and consider whether to instruct the creation of PC e-mail addresses and/or a PC owned website – After some discussion it was proposed and agreed to instruct Parish Online to create e-mail addresses and a new website for Wardington Parish Council. **Clerk to instruct Parish Online.**

30. Proposal to adopt an IT Policy – Proposed and agreed.

31. Information exchange – Concerns have been raised about the VAS still stating 30mph. Oxfordshire County Council still haven't completed the relevant paperwork to get this installed but the Clerk and Cllr R Jarrett are chasing this up.

Meeting closed @ 8:58 pm

Date of next meeting – 29th July 2025

Signed..... Date.....

Wardington Parish Council Contact Details

<p>Bob Jarrett (Chair)</p> <p>2, The Old Vicarage, Wardington</p> <p>Tel 01295 758084</p> <p>Email: bob.jarrett6@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Julie Burnett (Vice Chair)</p> <p>Canon's Yard, Williamscoth</p> <p>Tel 07940 590907</p> <p>Email: Julie_herd@hotmail.com</p>
<p>George Page</p> <p>Sabins, Upper Wardington</p> <p>Tel 01295 758122</p> <p>George.ros.page@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Malcolm Patterson</p> <p>The Old Granary, Wardington</p> <p>Tel 01295 750014</p> <p>Email: theoldgranary5@gmail.com</p>
<p>Nigel Bankes</p> <p>Home Farm House, Williamscoth</p> <p>Tel 01295 7505400</p> <p>Email: nigelbankes23@gmail.com</p>	<p>Richard Reid</p> <p>Forge Cottage, Wardington</p> <p>Tel 07984 097727</p> <p>Email: reidra9@icloud.com</p>
<p>Kirsty Buttle (Parish Clerk)</p> <p>74 Beaulieu Close, Banbury</p> <p>Tel 07419 126206</p> <p>Email: wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Mark Chivers</p> <p>15 Chelmscote Row, Wardington</p> <p>Tel 07810 005686</p> <p>Email: Cllr.Mark.Chivers@outlook.com</p>
<p>Chris Brant (Cherwell District Councillor)</p> <p>c/o Bodicote House, Bodicote</p> <p>Banbury</p> <p>Email: chris.brant@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Doug Webb (Cherwell District Councillor)</p> <p>Old School House, Stratford Road, Drayton</p> <p>Tel 07836 339617</p> <p>Email: douglas.webb@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</p>
<p>George Reynolds (County Councillor)</p> <p>Grange Farm, Malthouse Lane,</p> <p>Tel: 01295 780479</p> <p>Email: George.Reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Phil Chapman (Cherwell District Councillor)</p> <p>Blaize House, Williamscoth</p> <p>Tel 01295 750114</p> <p>Email: phil.chapman@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</p>

Whilst there are three district councillors representing our area, each can have a different role to play depending on the nature of the interaction a parish/individual is having with various district or county council committees. Your first point of contact is usually Cllr Phil Chapman.

Parish Council Meetings for the remainder of 2025

9th Sep, 21st Oct, 25th Nov.

Visit Wardington.net and subscribe to email updates

Join the "[Wardington Community](#)" facebook pagee for village updates

What's on in Wardington

What	When	Where	Contact Details
Artery Art Group	Every Monday 10-1	Memorial Hall	Barry Whitehouse Theartery@hotmail.co.uk
Indoor Bowls	Every Monday 7-9 pm	Memorial Hall	Tony Limb Tony.limb@tiscali.co.uk
Pilates	Every Wednesday 6.30 – 7.30pm	Memorial Hall	Tracey Trembl Thepilatesplaceinfo@gmail.com
Ballet Workout	Every Friday 9-10am	Memorial Hall	Ginny Steven ginny@asteven.com
Pilates	Every Saturday 0830– 0930 am	Memorial Hall	Tracey Trembl Thepilatesplaceinfo@gmail.com
Live Music	3rd Thursday monthly 7.30 pm	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk
Quiz Nights & Bingo Nights	Quiz (1st Thursday) and Bingo carry on for now:	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk
Wardington 'Hound Sounds' Music Festival	Saturday 26th July 12- 11pm & Sunday 27th July 11-5pm	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk in aid of Ukraine & Katherine House Hospice
Home Cricket Fixtures 1.30 pm	9th August, 23rd August	Wardington Cricket Pitch	Tom Tunnicliffe, Captain 07985 415863 Chris Morgan, Chairman 07471 110579 Anne Wilkins, Club Secretary 07951 794994
Motorbike Meet & Band + BBQ	Sunday 7th September 11am-5pm	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk
Produce & Craft Show	Saturday 20th September	Memorial Hall	Entry forms by 15th September (within this edition r on Wardington.net. Entries at Memorial Hall by 9am. Viewing 11-4 pm
Macmillan Coffee Morning	Friday 26th September 0930-1200 noon	Barn Farm Plants	More information visit Barn Farm Plants or call 01295 758080
Film Night : The Thursday Murder Club	Friday 10th October 7pm for 730 start	Memorial Hall	Tickets £7 in advance ejuliecampbell@btinternet.com or Steve.mlawrie@btinternet.com £8 on the door
Bring & Buy	Saturday 5th November 1030-12 noon	Memorial Hall	Children's toys books and clothes email grace_coleman@outlook.com for more information
Big Breakfast	Saturday 27th December 9-1130am	Memorial Hall	