**Wadenhoe Village Hall (serving the villages of Achurch, Lilford, Pilton, Stoke Doyle, Wigsthorpe and Wadenhoe)**

The new Committee elected last October are taking the opportunity while our Village Hall is closed to attend to the admin, catch up on some maintenance issues, and getting systems in place for regular checks and recording.  The end stones on the roof gables were working dangerously loose, so these have now been reset and pinned. There have also been extensive discussions on how to manage the Village Hall car park after the massive influx of visitors last Easter and Summer which caused chaos in the village.  It is looking rather tidier after a Committee working party gave it some TLC in December. Pot holes and tree stump should soon disappear!

We are most grateful to Gill Williams (previous Chair) who secured a significant grant from East Northamptonshire Council which has kept us afloat and able to afford the building works. To try to keep some income coming in, we have re-established the 100 Club which has its first monthly draw on Friday 29 January.  There is still space for a few more members.  We would also love to hear from anyone who might like to make a regular booking of the hall once it reopens (e.g. for yoga, tea dance, crafts??).  There are evening and day slots available.

Looking forward to opening again one day….

Email: admin@wadenhoevillagehall.com

**PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS**

For any queries concerning the Parish Council please contact the Clerk on::**parishcouncilforlwta@gmail.com**

**PARISH CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

Carolyn Brawn – Churchwarden and Reader

07805416947 or email cabrawn@hotmail.com

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**LILFORD WIGSTHORPE THORPE ACHURCH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**Winter/Spring 2021**

**Dear Residents,**

Please find in this newsletter information about the Parish Council and what it has been doing on your behalf over the last year and what it hopes to achieve in the next twelve months.

**YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Lilford Wigsthorpe Thorpe Achurch Parish Council has 6 councillors, and meets bi-monthly (January, March, May, July, September, November, on the second Tuesday of the month, normally in The Upper Room of The Fox Inn, Thorpe at 8pm but currently via ZOOM) – members of the public are more than welcome at all meetings and log in details can be found on the Parish Council Website.

County Councillor Wendy Brackenbury and Ward Councillor Geoff Shacklock are in attendance at most meetings to bring us up to date on issues that affect us and to offer support and advice when needed.

Currently your Parish Councillors are:-

Justin Clarke (Chair)

Gareth Hopkinson (Vice Chair)

Shaun Moffat

Tim Bird

Tracy Wright

Marion Healey

During 2020 we said goodbye to Terry Barcham and Linda Saunders and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them publicly for all their work over the years on the Parish Council.

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**WHO DOES WHAT?**

Parish and town councils are part of local government in Northamptonshire together with Northamptonshire County Council and East Northants District Council. Each is responsible for different things.

The Parish Council is responsible for: seats and benches, the village noticeboards, the telephone kiosks, Thorpe village sign, and the Achurch war memorial.

The District Council is responsible for local services including housing, local planning, environmental health and refuse collections.

The County Council is responsible for strategic services such as highways, education, libraries, social services, strategic planning and refuse disposal.

Highway problems - if you wish to report problems such as potholes, overgrown verges, or problems with footpaths, you can report on line at: **fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk** or via **Street Doctor**. Problems with the yellow grits bins should also be reported to NCC but issues concerning the red bin at Lilford must be reported to the Clerk.

Anyone who spots fly tipping in East Northamptonshire can report offences online at [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/flytipping](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/flytipping) or by calling 01832 742026. Please use if possible what3words.com to identify accurately where any issues are.

To dispose of unwanted waste responsibly, residents can use the Council’s bulky waste collection service. To find out more, please visit:  [www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/bulkywaste).

**WHAT LWTA PC ACHIEVED DURING 2020**

**PLANNING** –commented on seven planning application, taking into account representation made by members of the public, including the proposed motor-cross site at Old Weston.

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**THE FOX INN**

Thank you to everyone that helped us deal with the unexpected flooding on Christmas Eve. The community support was lovely to see and very much appreciated. The ground floor of the building has been emptied and all flooring removed. Dehumidifiers are still running today, almost six weeks after the flood. While there is no indication from the government about reopening, we are trying to coordinate things so that we can open as soon as allowed. Once again, thank you for all the kind messages of support.

***The Fox Inn Team***

**News from your parish church St John the Baptist**

We were sorry to cancel our face-to-face services during this lockdown. Although the government and C of E permitted churches to remain open, we took the decision to close to remove any risk of Covid 19 being spread to anyone. Church services are held online every Sunday morning at 10.30am and a Family service is held on the 4th Sunday of the month at 4.30pm. Full details are in the Pink Sheet. If you would like to join in, please let me know.

The rise in lead thefts has meant that we have installed a roof alarm to help keep our insurance costs down. Luckily, we received a grant from the Historic Churches Trust and a donation to pay for the installation.

Those of you who enjoy walking through the churchyard will have notice the effect of the wet weather on the churchyard wall. Two sections have fallen and will need rebuilding. At the moment we are unable to carryout this work due to lack of funds. The cost is likely to be in the £1000s as 9 years ago a smaller repair cost over £400. In 2020 we were unable to carry out any fund raising and with the church shut our collections at services ceased. If you would like to contribute to rebuilding the churchyard wall please get in touch. Any monies given will be ring fenced for the wall.

Please remember your parish church is there for everyone in Achurch, Thorpe Waterville, Lilford and Wigsthorpe. (see pg 8 for contact details) (7)

**LOCAL ELECTIONS**

The local elections that were unfortunately cancelled due to COVID in 2020 are now scheduled to take place on Thursday May 6th 2021, at the time of going to press it is envisaged that all six current council members will be standing for election again but this is your opportunity to put

yourself forward to represent your community. Any resident can apply if they fulfil the following criteria:

You are over 18, on the electoral register, and have lived, worked, owned or tenanted property in the area for at least the past 12 months.

In the event of more than six people standing for election the representatives will be decided via the polling booths.

**Public Health Northamptonshire Supporting Independence Programme** Services can be tailored to support anybody in the county, over the age of 18, who may be struggling with one or several areas of their life, leading to mild frailty or reduced independence. We are currently operating as a telephone service, offering 12 weeks of person-centred support with a trained Wellbeing Advisor. Advisors have a wealth of knowledge and contacts for community services, charities and organisations across the county, working in partnership to achieve a positive outcome for customers. Referrals are dependent on successful completion of the eligibility criteria, which are just a few quick questions included within the referral form. Our administrator will then contact the customer within 2 working days to arrange an initial appointment with an allocated advisor. Examples of areas we support with include:

Social isolation, Falls, Lifestyle.  Medication, Mental and emotional health, Physical health and mobility. For more information and to access the online referral form, please visit:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/pages/supporting-independence.aspx>

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**HIGHWAYS -** Reported potholes and other damage to NCC via FIX MY STREET. Successfully lobbied NCC to carry out work to prevent vehicle impacts damaging the Aldwincle Road bridges, the PC was also

successful in having the black and white directional fingerpost on the

Lilford/Achurch junction repaired and reinstated. LWTA PC is currently lobbying for much needed repairs to be carried out on the raised footpath on the Thorpe/Aldwincle Road.

**RIGHTS OF WAY –** has supported Lilford & Wigsthorpe residents by corresponding with the landowners to remove the blocking off of foot traffic along the private track into Lilford from the A605. The current situation being that LWTA PC has been informed by the land agent for the owners that there is no public right of way over this land.

The PC is also supporting Thorpe residents by corresponding with the landowners for access to be restored to Waterville Lakes, the current situation is that the land agent has requested that Aldwincle PC be the point of contact for this issue therefore LWTA PC will liaise with that council.

**FLOODING** –LWTA PC is currently supporting Lilford residents in attempting to define who is responsible for the various elements that caused the recent flooding. Contact will be made with land owners, NCC, Anglian Water, and the Environment Agency to see what if anything can be carried out by those agencies to help stop this happening again. An application has been made to take part in the NCC Pathfinder Flooding Response Project although notification of acceptance has not been received at present.

**ACHURCH** – originally initiated by Terry Barcham before his stepping down from the council Cllr Hopkinson took on the role of liaising with the churchwardens and others to see if funding could be found to renovate the church gates. Thanks to a generous benefactor work to the gates will be shortly commencing.

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Anti dog-poo signage erected in the hope that it will encourage dog walkers to clear up after their canine companions.

Several incidents of fly-tipping on the Lilford road reported and currently Cllr Clarke is working with ENC for help, including signage to be erected at identified fly-tipping hotspots. (Signage now in place)

**LILFORD** – Cllrs have been pleased to be able to support residents with their aim of installing a defibrillator. We would like to thank Ward Cllr G Shacklock for the grant of £100 made towards the costs of this project – all other funding has come from Lilford residents.

**WIGSTHORPE** – As at Achurch the PC has worked with ENC to get anti dog-poo signage erected in the hope that it will encourage dog walkers to clear up after their canine companions.

Ongoing are attempts to have signage erected on the Wigsthorpe access lanes requesting motorist do not park and leave their vehicles in the passing places whilst they head off into the countryside for walks.

**ACHURCH & WIGSTHORPE BT KIOSKS**

The phone boxes will, weather permitting, be receiving a facelift in the spring. Once this work has been carried out LWTA PC will need to decide what use to put the boxes to and it would be really useful to have some ideas put forward for consideration by residents. Please pass on your ideas to your local Cllr or to the Clerk. Part funding for the refurbishment was obtained from Ward Cllr Geoff Shacklock’s members Empowerment Fund.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

As a result of the recent Government consultation on future changes to the planning system Cllrs looked into and discussed the possibility of putting a Neighbourhood Plan in place to cover the communities of Lilford, Wigsthorpe, Thorpe and Achurch. After taking into consideration the time and work involved and balancing this against the perceived

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need it was resolved to go no further at this stage but to review it in the future.

**EMERGENCY PLANNING**

In the wake of the recent flooding issues that have affected households in the area and especially at Lilford, Cllrs discussed whether it would be

useful for a PC led Emergency Plan to be developed. After looking at the available information it was felt that while such plans are good in principle they are only worth having if kept under constant review and

Updated accordingly, with this in mind it was resolved that rather than develop such a plan that residents would be recommended to give thought to their own person situation and devise their own plan, this could be as simple or as in-depth as individual households wish. One thing that might be worth every household thing about is an emergency ‘grab bag’ containing items of importance that could be picked up and taken at a moment’s notice.

Northamptonshire County Council has a wealth of flood related information which can be found at:

<https://www.floodtoolkit.com/> in addition information on grab bags and other emergency planning can be found at <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/fire-safety-and-emergencies/emergencies/emergency-prevention-and-advice/Pages/protecting-yourself.aspx>

**WEBSITE**

To ensure compliance with recent website accessibility legislation LWTC PC has updated its website – if any accessibility issues are discovered by users please report them to the Clerk for correction. A great deal of information can be found including all meeting agendas and minutes, copies of our policies and procedures, and financial information. This can be found at: <http://www.lwta-parishcouncil.org.uk>. Copies of the meeting agendas and minutes are also posted onto the noticeboards.

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