



THE WARBLER

A newsletter for the Parish of Wardington, Williamscot and Coton

May 2025 edition DEADLINE :

10th April 2025

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



Big Breakfast, Big Hearts:

A Big turn-out and a Big Thank You to all those who came to support the fund-raising effort for MIND on 28th December.

There were no such things as post-Christmas blues in the Memorial Hall on the Saturday after Christmas!

The festive spirit was kept alive by a special offering of breakfast rolls for all, with your kind donations raising £200 for MIND, the mental health charity that's close to so many hearts.

Accompanying the sausage and bacon rolls there were vegetarian options too, and, of course no British breakfast would be complete without bottomless tea and coffee to warm you up on a chilly December morning.

"The Big Breakfast is about more than just great food," said one of the team from the village Hall committee, which organised the event. "It's about bringing the village together and supporting a cause that makes such a huge difference. Christmas can be a tough time for many, and MIND does incredible work providing help to those who need it most."

There was no need to book, people were just encouraged to turn up – children, dogs and all - tuck in, and enjoy the company. Whether regulars at village events or newcomers, or just passing through, everyone was welcome. A true morning to remember!



Villagers 'on alert' after a series of thefts and attempted break-ins.

Police urge all to keep calm and stay vigilant.

It seems our quiet, picturesque village isn't quite as sleepy as it once was... Over the past few weeks, several residents have reported nuisance intrusions and possible attempted break-ins at their homes, leaving the community buzzing with concern. Though the would-be burglars didn't manage to gain entry, the incidents have been enough to send a ripple of unease through our usually tranquil village.

Before Christmas a car was taken from the streets of Upper Wardington, and the contents of another were stolen. Meanwhile, in the small hours of one morning, several residents were woken by hammering on their front doors, with one house suffering broken glass in their front door.

Local police are urging residents to stay vigilant. "We believe these are opportunistic attempts rather than targeted crimes," said a spokesperson from the Banbury police station. "We encourage everyone to ensure doors and windows are locked, even during the day, and to report any suspicious behaviour immediately."

But it's not just the police who've been springing into action. Residents have taken to social media and FaceBook groups to compare notes. Thus far the disturbances appear to be concentrated along the Thorpe Road. Several residents have reported hearing noises in their gardens late at night. Thankfully, sturdy locks and sharp-eared and eyed villagers thwarted the culprits.

Police recommend a few simple but effective precautions:

**Double-check all locks on doors and windows before bed

**Keep exterior lights on or, if you are able, install motion sensors.

**Don't leave valuables visible through windows or in cars parked outside.

**Call 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-emergencies, and/or your neighbour if you see anything suspicious. But above all they urge us all to keep an eye out for each other, and remain calm.

Despite the unsettling news, the village spirit is alive and well.

So, keep your wits about you, double-check your locks, and don't hesitate to report anything that feels off.

After all, this is *our village*—let's keep it safe and sound.

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Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy and a thrilling adventure ensues!

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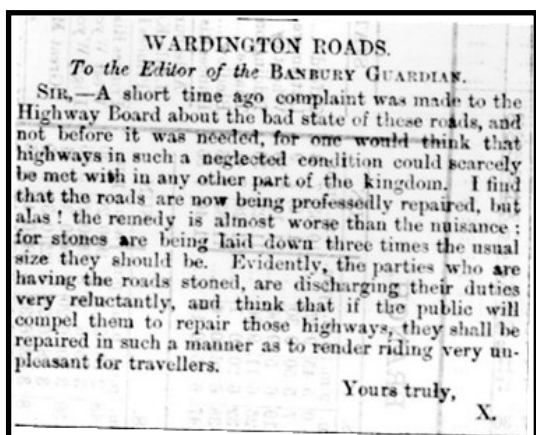
For tickets email; ejulie.campbell@btinternet.com or steve.mlawrie@btinternet.com

Chaos in Wardington: Knife Crime, Drunk Driving, and More

By Sam Young...

The state of road repair, neighbourly disagreement, drunk driving, selling of beer to children, animal cruelty - just a normal month in Wardington? But stop press: there has also been knife crime in the Hare & Hounds, sudden deaths, attempted suicide, and even manslaughter!

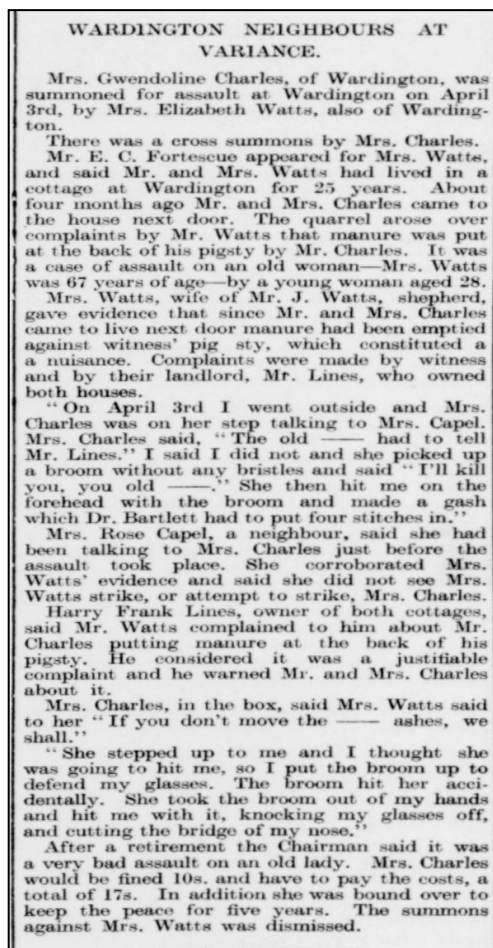
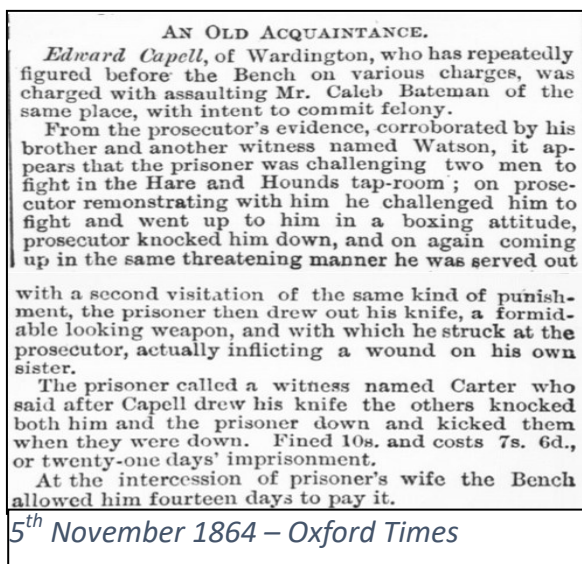
OK, not events that have happened this month, but just some of the featured articles from our village in the past. I took advantage of the findmypast.co.uk offer this remembrance weekend, which enabled full, free access to the newspaper archives, and spent several hours researching the entries for Wardington over the past 175 years.



This letter to the *Banbury Guardian* (left) could just as easily been posted yesterday on the Wardington Facebook page – an anonymous complaint about poor work to repair the potholes! It seems that this issue has been a persistent problem for the past 150 years!

A violent dispute over manure disposal between Wardington neighbours led to Mrs. Gwendoline Charles being fined for assaulting Mrs. Elizabeth Watts with a broom! (below right)

With the current day's news awash with increasing knife crime, it seems Wardington was leading the way! An article (below left) from 1864 tells of a fight in the Hare & Hounds – I am sure this behaviour would not be stood for by Steve and Niki in the much more friendly Hare & Hounds these days.



22nd April 1937 – Banbury Guardian

Cause of death: "Died by the visitation of God" (right) – A tragic story of a James Ward who died while ploughing the Wardington allotments. Mr. Ward was buried in Wardington, his headstone is at grid reference I9-3 according to the Churchyard records on Wardington.net

But there was cheerier news:

Local Grand National winner Jonny Buckingham and other local National Hunt jockeys participated in a charity cricket match in 1967 – Wardington winning after bowling out the visitors.

AWFULLY SUDDEN DEATH.—An instance of the uncertainty of human life occurred at Wardington, on Tuesday last, under the following distressing circumstances:—James Ward, carrier, of Wardington, aged 86 years, was ploughing in an allotment with two horses, assisted by John Gubbins, carrier, of Chipping Warden. About 12 o'clock Gubbins was leading the first horse, and heard poor Ward halloo, "Woo." He turned round and saw Ward falling to the ground. He ran to him and untied his neckerchief, and called to some men who were on their allotments for their assistance, but the vital spark had fled. Dr. Harris was sent for, but death was so alarmingly sudden, deceased having lived but a few moments after he fell, that that gentleman's services were of no avail. The body was at once conveyed home in a cart, and a coroner's inquest was held at the Hare and Hounds Inn, Wardington, on Wednesday morning, before J. Churchill, Esq., coroner, when the above facts were adduced, and the coroner and jury briefly deliberated, and returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God." The melancholy event has cast a gloom over the whole village, for the deceased was highly esteemed by his fellow parishioners for sobriety, industry, and assiduity in his duties. We regret to add that he has left a wife and three young children, the youngest only 2 months old.

18th April 1857 – Oxford Chronicle and Reading

Jockeys aid charity

Local jockey Johnny Buckingham, who won this year's Grand National on Foinavon, will be among the National Hunt Jockeys who will be playing cricket against a local Invitation team at Wardington on Sunday.

The Jockeys' team will also include champion Josh Gifford, and Terry Biddlecombe. The game has been arranged to raise money for the Banbury and District Spastic Fund.

The Invitation team is Derek Tomalin, Ralph Mitchell, P. Dickorish (Chipping Warden), Dave Merry, Eddie Taylor, Mick Steel (Wardington), Trevor Watts, Alan Watts (Chacombe), Peter Gebbels, John Bradley (Claydon) Peter White (Fenny Compton).

The game starts at 2.30 p.m.

Thursday, July 26, 1967

Steel, 4-27 polishes off the jockeys

A LOCAL invitation team won the Francis Durrant Cup when they beat the National Hunt Jockeys at Wardington on Sunday.

A large crowd watched the game, which raised over £15 for the Banbury and District Spastics Fund.

Battling first the invitation eleven scored 106, with opener John Bradley scoring 34, and winning the tankard for the highest score of the day.

The tankard was given by Mr. E. Courage, a local race-horse owner.

The Jockeys started strong and at one stage looked like getting the runs. But they collapsed, and Mick Steel (4 for 27) finally finished off their innings when he bowled local Grand National winner, Johnnie Buckingham.

BOWLS

Revenge for Borough

At the half-way mark, however, it looked as if the Alan would do the double, but suddenly the Borough bowlers piled on the pressure and overwhelmed their opponents in the second set of the match to win by 145-95.

All Borough risks won, but the honours must go to the one so well stopped by Maurice Angell to win by a thirteen shot margin.

At five ends the Borough were losing 23-28, had made no headway at ten ends with the score 55-57, but suddenly took a big lead to be winning 96-79 at fifteen ends and continued to increase their margin to be 98 shots up at the close.

Watts c. Durrant & R. Weston	11
Bradley c. Devereux & Meads	34
Taylor c. Harding & R. Weston	19
C. Taylor bow. to Meads	10
Merry c. Meads	10
Tomalin c. Devereux & Meads	10
Gubbins & Meads	10
Steel c. & Meads	10
Michael c. Devereux	10
Larkins & Nicholson	10
White not out	10
Total	106

National Hunt Jockeys

Durrant c. Tomalin & Mitchell	11
R. Weston c. Watts & Mitchell	11
Harding c. White & Steel	11
Arthur c. Larkins	10
Watts not out	10
Devereux c. Merry & Mitchell	10
Meads c. Mitchell & Steel	10
Buckingham & Steel	10
Nicholson c. Gubbins & Steel	10
Vale c. Allington & Tomalin	10
Melior not out	10
Total	95

And the reply (below left) from the late Lady Wardington, expressing her gratitude to the hundreds of friends and neighbours who helped save belongings from the Manor fire in 2004. One of the rescued atlas' from Lord Wardington's collection, later sold at auction for £2.1M

I also found many more stories, including a man slaughter case in 1863; a burglary from the Hare & Hounds in 1874; drunk driving (of a horse and cart) in 1888; a church bell ringing competition with a £5 prize [equivalent £500] in 1832; cruelty to a horse in 1900; selling of an unsealed vessel of stout to a child in 1909; a tragic case of a broken heart in 1910; and the awful trial of a maid who was convicted of concealing the birth of a child in Williamscot in 1853! What an eventful history our Wardington has had over the years!!



COUNTRY LIFE
KING'S REACH TOWER, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON SE1 9LS, APRIL 27, 2004

FIRE: PLAN BEFORE IT HAPPENS TO YOU

READERS who saw the pictures of Wardington Manor in Oxfordshire in *The Times* on Saturday will have been horrified at the fire which reduced this beautiful house to a burnt-out shell. Although their hearts will have gone out to Lord and Lady Wardington, they may well have felt a shudder of relief that it was someone else's house which met this fate, rather than their own. Devastating fires are probably less common than they were a century ago, when every bedroom had its cheerfully crackling grate. But at least in those days houses were wholesomely damp. Now, says Robert Hescox, chairman of Hescox plc, insurance underwriters, "central heating has made most homes tinder dry". We have introduced new perils, most obviously the "hot work" associated with lead soldering and paint stripping, which did for Uppark. A particular menace are the romantic little candles in squat dishes known as tea-lights: they are easily forgotten or overlooked. Electronic equipment such as mobile telephones and computers can get hot when they are charging, accidentally leaving something on top of one is becoming a common cause of fire. It has been calculated that about one Grade 1-listed house, a dozen Grade 2* and 50 Grade 2 houses are consumed by flames each year.

Four years ago, the Romney MP Michael Colvin and his wife, Nicola, were killed in the violent blaze that destroyed their home, Tangley House, in Hampshire. The culprit on that occasion was probably a spark which escaped from the fireplace in the hall onto a rug. Now, their son, Jamie Cazyzer-Colvin, has founded the Colvin Fire Prevention Trust to raise consciousness among property owners of fire risks and how to avoid them. The trust organises twice-yearly seminars, the next of which takes place on Wednesday, April 28, at Penhurst Place, Kent. One problem on the night of the Tangley fire was that the drive was not wide enough to accommodate all the fire engines which were needed.

Mr Cazyzer-Colvin urges that owners should ask the local fire brigade to provide a tactical plan of what might happen in the case of disaster. This is particularly important in the case of isolated houses in remote areas, where response times may be slow.

Thanks to a superb booklet produced by AXA Art Insurance Ltd and the NFU Mutual, this is something that owners can also undertake for themselves. The booklet, *Fine Art Salvage Guidelines*, details a wide range of actions—many quite simple—that householders should consider to safeguard their property. Reports indicate that, at Wardington Manor, the rare books were rescued. Such emergency operations can be made easier if a plan of the room, marked with important objects to save, is available. The priority salvage cards show agency wallet containing essential commodities. These should include building materials to supply materials such as polythene. Precautions should be taken to minimise damage. Solden books, for example, do not conserve are ready to go until the conservators are ready to go. The booklet offers similar advice for paintings, sculpture and textiles. Another vital. If the worst comes to the worst, from our articles on Harrington Hall and August 29, 1996; outwardly such the catastrophic fire of 1991, inwardly, elegant 21st-century country house. *Colvin Fire Prevention Trust: Shaun Gay on "Fine Art Salvage Guidelines" (see booklet); email: info@axa-art.co.uk*

SAVED FROM FIRE

FROM THE LADY WARDINGTON

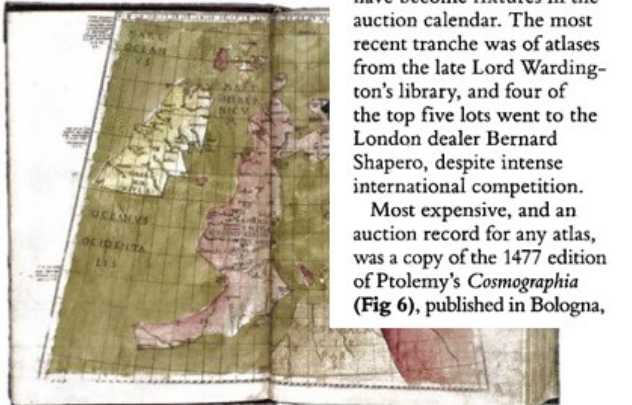
YOUR leading article about fire (April 22), which mentioned the recent fate of our house, gave some excellent advice.

We had not made any glaring mistakes and can add a few hints from experience: hope the fire starts at 8am on a fine day; be near to one of the best fire brigades in England; and hope that more than 100 friends and neighbours will come to help.

Without these wonderful people, my husband's precious library and so many of our personal belongings would not have been saved.—AUDREY WARDINGTON, *Wardington Manor, Banbury, Oxfordshire.*

It took Sotheby's more than a century to complete the sale of Sir Thomas Phillipps' library; the current Macclesfield and Wardington dispersals are unlikely to equal that, but they seem to have become fixtures in the auction calendar. The most recent tranche was of atlases from the late Lord Wardington's library, and four of the top five lots went to the London dealer Bernard Shapero, despite intense international competition.

Most expensive, and an auction record for any atlas, was a copy of the 1477 edition of Ptolemy's *Cosmographia* (Fig 6), published in Bologna,



6—Ptolemy's *Cosmographica*, the first printed atlas. £2,136,000

RECIPE TIME

PROVIDED BY: DEBORAH PAGE

This edition's recipe comes from Deborah Page, who gives the humble sausage roll a taste of gourmet – perfect as we bid farewell to the festive season but still need something warm and comforting to see us through those cold days.

Ingredients: for up to 30 cocktail-sized rolls

One packet ready-rolled puff pastry

100g pitted dates – the softer the better

400g pork sausage meat

100g Stilton - or Cheshire if preferred

(Cheddar will generally prove too greasy for this), crumbled

Salt and pepper (and chopped flat leaf parsley if wished)

1 egg, beaten, for egg-wash

Method

Grease or line a large oven tray

Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured surface to a rectangle roughly A4 size (30 x 21cm). Now cut it in half lengthwise so you have two long strips of equal size.

In a large bowl, combine sausage meat, cheese, dates and optional parsley, then season with salt and pepper. Divide the mixture in two and make long sausage shapes about the same length as your pastry strips.

Put each sausage along the middle of each strip, leaving a decent border at either side. Brush the border and top of the sausage mix with beaten egg (reserving some for brushing over your finished rolls) and roll the pastry over to encase the sausage, tightly pressing both edges of pastry together by pressing down gently with a fork. Roll the finished product over so that the seam is underneath.

Cut the sausage rolls into a length that suits and transfer them to the baking tray. Chill for at least 20 mins or until ready to bake (chilling the pastry now will stop it from splitting as it cooks). Can be made up to a day ahead or frozen for a month. To cook from frozen, just add an extra 10 mins to the cooking time.

Heat your oven to 200 degrees/180 fan/gas mark 6.

Just before baking, brush with the remaining egg-wash and some more salt and pepper.

Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden. Allow to cool for 5 minutes before serving.



We would love to hear your favourite recipes just email wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com



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The defibrillator is located outside Wardington
Memorial Hall

Memorial Hall

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website at
wardington.net/memorial-hall/
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THE HARE AND HOUNDS

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Where has the time gone? We are now entering our 6th month at The H&H, and enjoying our time here. December was rather a test for us like many others businesses. In November's issue we mentioned about the impact of the Edgcote Lane closure on us (HS2). Little did we know we had floods, ice, a sinkhole and loss of electricity for 3 days heading our way too. I do not think any of us were prepared for what was to come! BUT we got through it with thanks to our pre booked Christmas bookings and local support. We were thrilled with the number of local businesses and surrounding areas choosing The H&H for their Christmas gatherings, thank you. Our first Christmas and New Year exceeded our expectations 😊 We would ask you kindly not to forget about your local this winter! Whatever the weather is doing outside we will be here with the fire blazing and the lights on (along with our wonderful Hare Team) waiting to welcome you into your warm and cosy village pub. Whilst we got through December it did have a serious impact on our normal trade! Meaning January/February/March will be even tougher for us than normal. We smiled and carried on BUT we lost around 60% of our trade overnight, scary!

TIME now to look forward and concentrate on 2025, a year we are aiming to be our best yet. We have made great progress on spreading the word that The NEW H&H is welcoming everyone again. It has been wonderful to see children coming in again and enjoying the H&H game to win prizes. It will take us a good 12 months realistically to rebuild The H&H customer base and attract new customers. Progress has been very positive so far. The word has been spreading nicely that Wardington OBVIOUSLY has one of the best pubs around now 😊 We are excited to be bringing with us plenty of events to keep you occupied and coming in. Steve's Quiz Nights are proving to be extremely popular (each winning team member receives a FREE meal voucher). I am hoping my Bingo Nights will also entice you to come in? We will need a minimum of 20 people for bingo, this makes the cash prize pots worth winning for every game (you will need cash to play Bingo), also prizes for a line. Live Music is proving to be a bit more difficult to entice you in. Please do make the effort to pop down, always great nights and we do need your support to continue with them (we do have to pay the musicians to be here). Local 'Live Music Session' nights (formally Folk Night) are on the 3rd Thursday of every month, always worth a listen and you can even join in, a variety of music hence the name change. Fantastic evenings with a wonderful crowd.

We will be doing special food evenings e.g Steak Nights, plus discounted food nights (not on our menu) with deals from our suppliers. 2025 will be holding events like Classic Car Days, our Family Fun Day with Dog Show, and Wardington 'Hound Sounds' Music Festival. If anyone has anything else in mind, please do let us know. Possibly things like motorbike meets etc?

UKRAINE has been an important part of our fundraising since March 2022. Thank you to everyone who supported Trip 5 with items for the Ukraine Orphans. 2025 will see us continuing to support Ukraine, with Trip 6 expected in March (unless TRUMP manages to end the war as promised) fingers crossed. Remember the Air Ambulance clothes bank in our carpark, please make use of this if you can (for every 15 times our clothes bank is emptied, it is enough to get the Air Ambulance in the air), no quilts please! H&H FUNDRAISING FOR 2025: Ukraine / Air Ambulance and now Katharine House Hospice.

SAVE THE WEEKEND - IN AID OF UKRAINE & KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

Wardington 'Hound Sounds' Music Festival has now been confirmed as a weekend event
Saturday 26th July 12pm-11pm & Sunday 27th July 12pm-5pm



More details will follow – Lots of work to be done
With thanks to Patrick Baker for agreeing to be our Sound Engineer



ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

The Autumn and Winter season of 2024 was full of all the many ups and downs, ordinary and profound moments of parish life. Festivals and joyful weddings were punctuated by a significant series of funerals, where we gathered at St. Mary Magdalene to remember and to say sad farewells to some much-loved parishioners.



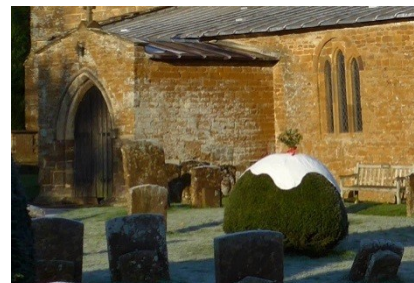
Looking into 2025, we don't know what the year will bring, but then again I think I don't have to, as the journey of faith is one of trust, hope and love, in one with who is with us on the road, step by step. . Do be in touch if ever I can be of assistance.

Morning Prayer begins again 24 th January 9am at St. Mary Magdalene, and everyone is warmly welcome to any of our monthly services.

All baptism, wedding and funeral service enquiries can be also made to vicar.shiresedge@outlook.com
Tel: 01295 750486 *My best wishes and prayers for 2025, Sarah*

News from St Mary Magdalene—Reflecting on Christmas; by Clive Hunt

Once again all visitors to the church during December were left in no doubt as to what time it was again in the Christian calendar. Our now locally famous yew bush/Christmas pudding had been carefully re-iced for all to see! Our thanks to Roderick and Nikki Stell for the original idea and for continuing it year on year.



The month was packed with Christmas related activities starting early on with the Christingle service, led by Sue Upton, and much loved by the younger members of the congregation. A modern Christingle is made from a candle in an orange (representing the light and the world respectively) which is typically decorated with a red ribbon and sweets or dried fruit. The children actually decorate the orange during the service and present them at the altar at the end. The history of the service can be traced back to the eighteenth century and the Children's Society organises over 5,000 such services every year raising over £1m annually to help vulnerable young people.

The traditional carol service followed on the following Sunday with an interesting combination of carols supported by biblical and other readings put together by Nigel Bankes. The readers were of all ages chosen from across the parish and the carols were sung by mix of the large congregation, a small "senior" choir and a select choir of under eights for "Away in a Manger". After the service many stayed on for some Christmas fellowship along with wine and mince pies.

Sadly the weather forecast for the evening of "Carols on the Green" at Upper Pool was dreadful and an early decision was made to move to the Memorial Hall. However the spirits of the large number who still turned out were not dampened. They were in good voice, assisted by excellent mulled wine, and raised some £100 in a very short time. Many thanks to the Friends of the Church for their speedy reorganisation.

The Christmas Eve Crib service is a favourite for all ages, from grandparents through to babies in arms, and this year was certainly no exception with one of the largest congregations of the year. As for many years Sue Upton led the service, along with husband David on the organ. There is nothing more moving than being with our families of all ages whilst our children walk up to the crib and then sing "Away in a Manger" standing around it at this most special time in our year.

Christmas Day, of course, followed with a Christmas Family Service taken by the Vicar, Revd Canon Sarah Fenby. The service celebrated and reflected on the importance of the birth Christ and included some of the best known carols.

In conclusion the Church Christmas Fundraising Virtual Draw was running throughout December. The support was as good as ever with some £500 being raised from many loyal parishioners and our thanks must go to everyone who “had a go”. All winners have been advised but special mention must be made of Barbara Cochrane – a very deserving winner, who won the second prize, a Christmas Hamper, donated by DSV Ltd, the grass company at Top Dawkins.

CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD UPKEEP

As a parish we are naturally very proud of our beautiful and ancient church and churchyard which we must continue to preserve for ourselves and many generations to come. Whilst the building itself is generally in good order, the church and churchyard do at times do appear to be in need of some extra care. We are very lucky to have over twenty volunteers in the village all of whom have a routine task or tasks to carry out. These include daily opening/closing, heating, cleaning, mowing, sidesman, bellringing and many more. With the exception of cleaning, these are all unpaid roles.

Two key tasks which are important to our appearance. Firstly cleaning - Amanda Thompson ceased this job at Christmas and we are now without a cleaner. A volunteer (s) is being sought to start straight away. Approximately two hours per fortnight at a good rate of pay – equipment provided.

Until some five years ago we had a team of five volunteer mowers each of whom had their allocated churchyard patches which they mowed as necessary throughout the summer. Over the years many of the team have retired and we’re down to two – Roderick Stell and John Baker. This forced us last year to allow an area in the centre to grow wild leading to much justified criticism from many. The alternative was to hire a contractor whom we would have pay a significant sum. We are most keen to avoid this situation again this summer.

Whether it be for the role of cleaner or mower would anyone who is interested please contact Clive Hunt (578087) or Roderick Stell (758381).

THE WARDINGTON CHARITIES

Wardington is fortunate to have three parish charities. In this *Warbler* the Trustees explain what the charities are and, where it is known, a little of their history. The charities are small, as is often the case. The generosity of the benefactors has been overtaken by inflation and other factors but if anyone in the parish likes to make a recommendation to the Trustees which could qualify for an award under the terms of the charities, the Trustees will be glad to consider it.

The charities are:

The Wardington Educational Foundation is for promoting the education (including social and physical training) of young people under 25 who need financial assistance and are resident in the parish.

George Watson’s Foundation is also for promoting education, as above, except that the awards go to those under 21, and with a preference for Methodists or the children of Methodists. It was provided by George Watson in his Will dated 23rd May 1856.

Wardington Relief in Need Charity is the result of amalgamating the Charities of William Healey (1703) and Constance Denton (1773) and others, and of William Taylor (1958). The object of the charity is to relieve either generally or individually people in the parish who are in need, hardship or distress. A wide range of needs can be met but on the whole they are not the conditions that can be met by social security payments or local authority welfare services.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH Services: February to April 2025

Please check Church notice boards for confirmation of these times.

9th February	10 30 am Family Service St Mary Magdalene
23rd February	0930 am Family Communion St Mary Magdalene
5th March	7pm Benefice Ash Wednesday Eucharist, <i>All Saints Mollington</i>
9th March	1030 am Family Service, St Mary Magdalene
23rd March	0930am Family Communion, St Mary Magdalene
30th March	10 am Benefice All-Age Mothering Sunday, St Mary Magdalene
13th April	1030am Palm Sunday Family Service, St Mary Magdalene
17th April	7pm Benefice Maundy Thursday Eucharist, <i>St James the Great Claydon</i>
18th April	12 noon Benefice Good Friday Walk of Witness and Reflective Service Cropredy
20th April	1030 am Easter Sunday Family Service with Egg Hunt, St Mary Magdalene
27th April	0930 am Family Communion, St Mary Magdalene

All-Age Mothering Sunday Service

March 30th, 10am.

Everyone Welcome.

With bouquets and candles.
Giving thanks for all women who have been and are, an inspiration to us.



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Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr M Patterson, Mrs J Burnett, Mr G Page.

In attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Brant, 0 members of the public

51. Apologies for absence – Apologies received from Cllr N Bankes, and Cllr A Gordon-Finlayson. Apologies accepted – None.

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

53. Public participation session – None.

54. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 23rd July 2024 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

55. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

55.1 HS2 update – Notices have come out about single lane traffic managed by traffic lights on the section of the A361 near the EKFB compound entrance from 5th October to 27th October 2024.

55.2 Feedback from Defibrillator/CPR training session – Around 10 parishioners attended the training session. It seemed to be generally well received and lots of useful discussions and actions came out of the session, particularly in relation to the access to and use of the defibrillator although some feedback was that the session felt unplanned/disorganised at times and that the valuable information was only due to questions from the participants. It was proposed and agreed that the **Clerk should provide the feedback to St John Ambulance and make a donation of £50.**

55.3 To agree the type of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) the PC would like in the village – After some discussion about the pros and cons of the types of signs available it was agreed that the most suitable sign would be the sign displaying the 20mph roundel and 'slow down'. **Clerk to inform the supplier of the PC's preference.**

56. Play Area

56.1 Play equipment safety inspection – Not available due to Cllr A Gordon-Finlayson's absence. It was suggested that a parishioner may be interested in completing the safety inspections on behalf of the PC. **Cllr M Patterson to discuss this with the parishioner.**

56.2 To receive the quotes for work required on fences and gates in the play area – A quote of £594.57 has been received plus up to £80 to get another spur replaced before the next inspection – proposed and agreed. **Cllr M Patterson to inform the contractor.**

57. Planning applications received

24/01935/TCA – Keechbrook, Thorpe Road, Wardington. T1 x Prunus - Reduce height by 1.5m and shape. T2 x Prunus - Reduce height by 1.5m and shape. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

24/02365/TCA – The Last Straw, Banbury Road Through Wardington, Wardington. T1 - Holly tree - Reduce by 50% from 14m to 7m and width from 7m to approx 5m. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

24/02214/TCA – Red Lion Cottage, Thorpe Road, Wardington. T1 x Purple prunus - Fell.

This Prunus tree is infected with root fungus. Around 60% of the canopy has died. Reducing it back to the remaining growth will take away the natural form so we would like to fell the tree. There are lower lying plants and shrubs which should flourish in its absence. G2 x Row of Maples and Ash - Reduce height by approximately 4m from tips. These trees have become very leggy and my clients park their cars under-

neath. We would like to reduce them to reduce risk of damage to vehicles. Fell end maple (furthest north) as this causes excessive shading on greenhouses below. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

24/02522/TCA – The Limes, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Cherry (T1) - Cutting back the cherry tree on the highway verge back to the boundary line, reducing to the nearest growth points available. approximately 3 metre reduction on the east side of the crown. **No objection.**

58. Planning decisions received

24/00471/F and 24/00476/LB – Butlers House, Williamscot Road, Williamscot. Install new dormers to rear roof slope, alter existing rear dormers, replace bay window to rear. Form 1 new window opening. Replace 1 window in existing opening. Replace concrete pointing with lime mortar pointing on dwelling and garden wall. Replace plastic gutters and downpipes with metal alternatives. Internal alterations and installation of new mechanical ventilation unit. **Approved.**

23/03053/F and 23/03054/LB - The Bishops House, Street From Banbury Road To Mount Pleasant, Wardington. Insertion of conservation rooflights in rear roof slope to facilitate use of roof space as habitable accommodation, and conversion of stable to ancillary guest accommodation. **Approved.**

24/01492/F - Pubstuff, Williamscot Road Industrial Centre, Williamscot Road, Cropredy. Warehouse/ industrial storage and light assembly/workshop. **Approved.**

24/01596/LB – Home Farm, Street from Williamscot Hill to Centre, Williamscot. Replacement of 5no windows on south and west elevations with new double glazed metal framed windows with timber sub-frames to match rest of dwelling. **Approved.**

59. Concerns raised about an unlicensed scrap collector in the parish whose collected scrap is attracting rats – The Clerk has not been able to chase Cherwell District Council (CDC) on this due to requiring further information. **The Clerk will send an e-mail to CDC to see what information they can provide.**

60. Memorial Hall Walnut Tree – The Memorial Hall are going to have to get a tree removed and they wondered if the PC would like them to get a quote for some treework to a tree overhanging the play area as it may be cheaper to get the work done at the same time. The PC appreciate the Memorial Hall making them aware that there is a potential safety issue with the tree overhanging the play area but the PC will deal with it in house so no quote is required.

61. Finance

61.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 26.09.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£551.05
PC Savings	£30,413.69
Total	£30,964.74

	WPC Main	Williamscott	Total
Cashbook balances as at 26.09.24	£21,882.29	£9,082.45	£30,964.74

61.2 To confirm completion of the first quarterly (Apr to Jun) Internal Control Check – Cllr Jarrett confirmed the check has taken place and all was found to be in order.

61.3 To confirm receipt of the External Auditor’s Report for the 2023-24 financial year and agree if any actions are required – Receipt was noted. No issues were raised and all documents have been published on the website and noticeboard as required.

- 61.4 To review the spend against budget to date – The councillors reviewed the spend against budget document and no concerns were raised.
- 61.5 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

30.07.24	Moore	External audit 2023/24	£252.00
30.07.24	N R Prickett	Grass cutting 23rd July	£429.60
30.07.24	Parish Magazine Printing	Warbler printing August	£420.75
22.08.24	Wardington Memorial Hall	Hall hire for defib training	£38.91
22.08.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and expenses Aug 24	£462.71
30.08.24	NEST	Pension Aug	£17.61
26.09.24	Brent Harris	Repairs to play area	£289.29
26.09.24	N R Prickett	Grass cutting 23rd Aug	£429.60
26.09.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary Sep 24	£459.61

- 61.6 To note the following receipts: Noted.

30.07.24	Nigel Bankes	Fairport cash	£1,375.00
07.08.24	Credit slip 31	Fairport cheques	£450.00
13.09.24	CDC	Precept	£6,300.00

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

NEST	Pension Sep	£17.61
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- 62. Information exchange** – There are some areas of flooding in the village due to blocked drains. It was agreed that these areas should be raised with the Highways representative when she visits the village later in the month. The Thorpe Rd sign promised by Cherwell District Council (CDC) has not yet been installed. **Clerk to chase CDC to see when the sign will be installed.**

Meeting closed @ 8:30pm

Date of next meeting – 26th November 2024

Reporting of issues with flooding, 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/jetted 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.'

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr M Patterson, Mr N Bankes, Mrs J Burnett, Mr G Page.

In attendance: Clerk, 0 members of the public.

63. Apologies for absence – Apologies received and accepted from Cllr R Reid. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Chapman and County Cllr Reynolds.

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

65. Public participation session – None.

66. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 1st October 2024 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

67. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

67.1 HS2 update – No further update.

67.2 Update re concerns raised about an unlicensed scrap collector in the parish whose collected scrap is attracting rats – The Clerk has spoken with Jayne Cundy at Cherwell District Council (CDC) who has confirmed that the issue is now in hand and that the original complainant has confirmed that they are happy with the progress made.

68. Feedback from walkabout with the Highways Engagement Representative – A very positive meeting was held with Kathryn Gash from the Highways Engagement Team on 14th November. Kathryn walked around the village with representatives of the PC to have a look at the areas of concern. Kathryn compiled a list of the issues noted and instructed some of the works required as a priority, some of which were completed within 24 hours. Kathryn advised that drains aren't cleared regularly so they should be reported on fixmystreet when they are blocked which should trigger someone to come out and clear them. **Clerk to write an article to go in the next newsletter encouraging parishioners to report blocked drains and other issues on fixmystreet.**

69. Play Area

69.1 Play equipment safety inspection – A parishioner has volunteered to complete the monthly safety inspections. **Clerk to send the inspection forms to the volunteer.**

70. To consider whether a Parish Council response should be submitted to the consultation regarding enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings – Proposed and agreed to submit a PC response. Cllr Jarrett to put together a draft response which should be submitted by the Clerk when agreed by the councillors.

71. Planning applications received

22/02607/F – High Wardington House, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Erection of carport. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

24/02645/F - High Wardington House, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 23/02491/F - To reflect the change in fenestration arrangement. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

24/02696/F and 24/02697/LB – Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 21/02814/F - Modification of main house coats, boots and plant room, including introduction of chimney. Replacement of existing CCTV. General update of internal finishes, fitted joinery and radiators. Addition of window to stables workshop. **No representation made.**

72. Planning decisions received

24/01935/TCA – Keechbrook, Thorpe Road, Wardington. T1 x Prunus - Reduce height by 1.5m and shape. T2 x Prunus - Reduce height by 1.5m and shape. **Approved.**

24/02365/TCA – The Last Straw, Banbury Road Through Wardington, Wardington. T1 - Holly tree - Reduce by 50% from 14m to 7m and width from 7m to approx 5m. **Approved.**

24/01759/F and 24/01760/LB - Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 2 of 22/02162/F and 22/02163/LB - amendments to rooflights in the barnyard building and stables loft and reconfiguration of stairs to the stable loft and reduction of the barnyard building footprint and height. **Approved.**

24/01771/F and 24/01772/LB - Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 2 (plans) of 21/02814/F and 21/02816/LB - Minor layout modifications to the staff area within the Stables rear, partition and door location between new corridor and pottery studio as part of the design development. Introduction of new and modification of existing rooflights to Stables Flats to improve natural ventilation and daylight, which is not visible as they are within the valley of the two roofs. Replacement of existing rooflights to pottery studio in timber to match existing at potting shed. **Approved.**

73. Planning appeals received

APP/C3105/W/24/3352512 - OS Parcel 7921 South Of Huscote Farm And North West Of County Boundary, Daventry Road, Banbury. Outline planning application for the construction of up to 140,000 sqm of employment floorspace (use class B8) with ancillary offices and facilities and servicing and infrastructure including new site accesses. Internal roads and footpaths, landscaping including earthworks to create development platforms and bunds, drainage features and other associated works including demolition of the existing farmhouse. **A further objection response has been submitted using delegated powers. Full details of the objection can be found on the Wardington.net website.**

74. Finance

74.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 20.11.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£326.42
PC Savings	£28,091.11
Total	£28,417.53

	WPC Main	Williamscot	Total
Cashbook balances as at 26.09.24	£19,681.75	£8,735.78	£28,417.53

74.2 To note the publication of the 2024-25 payscales and confirm the PC's decision to increase the Clerk's pay by 5% which differs from the payscale increase – Noted and confirmed.

74.3 To confirm completion of the second quarterly (Jul to Sep) Internal Control Check – Cllr Jarrett confirmed the check has been completed and all was found to be in order.

74.4 To consider renewing membership with CPRE for another year at a cost of £36 with the option to make a higher donation – Proposed and agreed to increase to £50. **Clerk to arrange the donation.**

74.5 Proposal to register with the Information Commissioner's Office at a cost of £40 per year or £35 per year if paid by direct debit – Proposed and agreed. **Clerk to complete the registration and direct debit set up.**

74.6 To review the draft budget for 2025-26 -

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

28.10.24	N R Prickett	Grass cutting 27th Sep	£429.60
28.10.24	CDC	Dog bin emptying half yearly chg	£432.43
28.10.24	OALC	Clerk training	£72.00
28.10.24	Parish Magazine Printing	November 24 Warbler	£312.75
28.10.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary Oct, backpay, and reimbursement	£619.39
28.10.24	HMRC	Tax Oct	£17.40
31.10.24	NEST	Pension Oct	£23.78
30.09.24	Unity Bank	Service charge	£18.00
31.10.24	Unity Bank	Service charge	£5.40
12.11.24	N R Prickett	Grass cutting 30th Oct	£429.60
12.11.24	Emma Reed	Reimbursement for items for the Williamscot event	£346.67

74.8 To note the following receipts: Noted.

30.09.24	Unity Bank	Interest	£177.42
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74.9 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

Kirsty Buttle	Defib pads	£68.40
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal	£50.00
Kirsty Buttle	Salary November	£480.25
HMRC	Tax November	£2.40
NEST	Pension November	£18.49

75. Information exchange –PC requested a new Thorpe Rd sign due to the deterioration of the original sign. CDC has installed a new sign in a different location and will be removing the original sign. Some of the salt bins have recently been used so they need topping up again. **Clerk to inform Highways.** It was noted that the lease on the play area expires in around 2 years.

76. To agree meeting dates for 2025 – Proposed dates are 14th Jan, 18th Mar, 13th May, 24th Jun, 29th Jul, 9th Sep, 21st Oct, 25th Nov – Proposed and agreed. Clerk to make bookings for the Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed @ 9pm

Date of next meeting – 14th January 2025

Please don't hesitate to forward any suggestions or contributions for the Warbler to Julie Campbell and Jane Mackenzie-Lawrie at this email : wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com

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.

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<p>George Reynolds (County Councillor) Grange Farm, Malthouse Lane, Tel: 01295 780479 Email: George.Reynolds@oxfordshire.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 2025

14th Jan, 18th Mar, 13th May, 24th Jun, 29th Jul, 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 TremI Thepilatesplaceinfo@gmail.com
Shiny Stars: Baby & toddler Group	Every Thursday 9.30– 11.30 am	Memorial Hall	Louise Oliver info@rio-shiny-stars.co.uk 07368 448303
Ballet Workout	Every Friday 9-10am	Memorial Hall	Ginny Steven ginny@asteven.com
Pilates	Every Saturday 0830– 0930 am	Memorial Hall	Tracey TremI Thepilatesplaceinfo@gmail.com
Live Music	3rd Thursday monthly 7.30 pm	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk
Quiz Nights	All Thursdays: 6th February; 6th March & 3rd April	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk
Bingo Night—11th February and 11th March Not the usual—great fun—Nikis' own version!!		Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk
Live Music Townsparks Duo in February	Friday 14th February, 14th March and 11th April from 8pm	Hare & Hounds	Niki and Steve 01295 760389 enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk See socials for other bands for March & April
Cricket Club Dinner & Dance	Saturday 15th February 2025	Memorial Hall	Tickets £25 Live music, pig roast and bar. Secretary Anne Wilkins 07951 794994
Garden Club AGM	Tuesday 25th March 7pm	Memorial Hall	Ginny Steven ginny@asteven.com
Film Night: "Paddington in Peru"	Friday 21st March 6pm for 6.30 pm	Memorial Hall	Julie Campbell Tickets £6 in advance or £7 on the door ejulie.campbell@btinternet.com EARLY START TIME FOR FAMILIES!!
County Council Elections	Thursday 1st May	Memorial Hall	
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
Parish Council	18 th Mar, 13 th May, 24 th Jun, 29 th Jul, 9 th Sep, 21 st Oct, 25 th Nov.	Memorial Hall	Kirsty Buttle Wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk