



THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM WIGGINTON PARISH COUNCIL

What's been going on?

What a year it's been! The Parish Council are very pleased to be back meeting face-to-face at last rather than having the monthly meetings on zoom and all the fun of trying to speak whilst on mute that everyone has had to contend with! We have a new enthusiasm now that everything is opening up again and we hope that this reflects on our work in the village and particularly what we have planned for the coming year.

We had our best response ever to the village survey that was in last year's Oddy and also online, so thank you to all who completed it. We look at each subject in detail, discuss it at our meetings and try to implement whatever changes are requested if feasible with our limited funds. Footpaths, Highways and speeding are discussed at every meeting but it can seem frustrating when we feel we are not getting a timely and suitable response from Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum Borough Council. To that end we are really fortunate

to have a new County Cllr Sally Symington, who is very pro-active in our discussions and helping us get village issues moved on much more quickly.

In this edition of the Oddy you will be able to read about our success with Ultrafast Broadband, plans to improve our open spaces, our exciting plans to run The Big Picnic later this summer and also numerous updates about the work we have been carrying out on your behalf. There are also a number of informative articles and updates from our numerous village groups who we are so lucky to have within our community. If you see something you have a particular interest in then have a think about joining! All our groups really will welcome new members and supporters.

We hope you enjoy reading this 2022 edition of The Oddy and really hope that it may give you a sense of the wonderful community that we are all part of and lucky enough to live in.



**Thursday 28th April
8pm**

Wigginton Village Hall

We would love to see as many of you as possible at our APM so we can share what we have been doing over the last year, answer any questions and discuss ideas and suggestions. Everything we do is for the benefit of the village so we really value as much input as possible from the community.

Keeping You Posted

We love to be able to share the work that we are doing and receive your feedback and comments (as after all we are 7 volunteers acting on behalf of the village) so communication is very important to us. Last year's survey showed the most effective way to reach our community was via email so we encourage you to sign up to our mailing list. It's really simple, head to the contacts tab on our website and submit your email to stay in touch.

We are also making a conscious effort to keep our website and Facebook pages updated so please like us on facebook and share any posts you can to help build our online presence.

For bigger notices and events we are putting up posters on our noticeboards by the village hall and next to the play area, and on the shop notice board so please check these out too. We are organising a new noticeboard for outside the village hall as we lost ours to storm Eunice, and we are spending money on securing the play area noticeboard as someone keeps removing the notices!!



ULTRAFAST BROADBAND

Wigginton did it!

Ultrafast Broadband, fibre cable to your house (or FTTP for the technically-minded) is a step nearer. Wigginton residents have smashed the £368,000 target for pledges in record time. The next step will be for those who applied for a voucher to validate their application. Please watch your email inbox.

A massive thanks to all the households who responded to the call, and three cheers for the tireless "street champions", who pounded the streets and knocked on doors. Finally, congratulations to the Parish Council who saw the opportunity for the village and sponsored the project.

We can see the summit. Installation has happened in other villages ahead of us in the process and the feedback is really positive with users enjoying both reliable connectivity and truly fast speeds. No more hanging web pages, no more freezing images or lost connections.

The next step will be to validate vouchers and so we ask you all to look out for the DCMS and Openreach emails which should be on their way soon. Then it's over to Openreach to install.

Thanks again and here's to the next step!



Note from the Chair

It's been another difficult year, but I believe that we can at last see the light at the end of the tunnel and Covid seems to be settling down. Although the number of local cases has increased in recent weeks, we are all finding a way to cope, and beginning to learn to live with it.

I am extremely proud of the way that the village has come together in supporting the application for high-speed broadband, I would like to personally thank the parish council team and helpers who pushed this forward and obtained enough signatures to get the first step of the way. I am grateful to all those that volunteered to help and get people on board. Everyone in the village will be able to get the benefit from this.

We have had the pleasure to work closely with County Cllr Sally Symington since she was elected to represent Wigginton. She has been immensely helpful in consulting with HCC and Dacorum BC and has been actively attending meetings both on site and monthly Parish council meetings in the village hall.

We are happy to welcome our new village warden Keith; he can be seen out and about ensuring our village looks its best. Thank you to him for an outstanding job.

I am so pleased to see that there will be a village picnic on the 2nd of July this year and a big thanks to those people who are organising it. I for one am looking forward to it and hope that the whole village can come together in a day of fun and enjoyment. It's a great opportunity to join with old friends and to meet new people. Fingers crossed the sun will shine.

This year sadly we have lost a couple of trees due to high winds, the massive 200 – 300-year-old oak in the far corner of the sport field and

the Millennium Oak planted next to the shop in the year 2000. Unfortunately, the large oak at the back of the field has gone for good but we are looking at other things to do in that area, see the separate article on Queens Green Canopy. Professional tree surgeons also attended the Millennium Oak and it was decided to cut it to a safe level to avoid the possibility of injury and hopefully it will grow back in the future.

It is good to see that since returning to some sort of normality the village shop continues to thrive and the Greyhound pub is busier than ever. Both businesses are popular with Wigginton villagers and have attracted many people from outside the local area.

Last year in November the firework display was a massive success. It was nice to be able to put this event on having missed the previous two years due to Covid. The event was extremely well attended with record numbers, and everyone enjoyed an amazing display! As always this could not have happened without those volunteered who put in so much effort in to make it a wonderful village event. On a personal note it is with extreme sadness that the Friends of Wigginton lost one of its main organisers at the beginning of this year. Geoff Head sadly passed away in January. He is missed by us all and our condolences go to his family and friends. It will not be the same without him.

Getting on to Parish Council business, I need to let you know who does what.

Cllr Walker – (Chair) - Shop Liaison, Wigginton Support Fund Committee, Friends of Wigginton Liaison



Cllr Axon – (Vice-Chair) - Wigginton Helping Hands, Play Area, Sustainable Wigginton Liaison, Oddy Design and editing and Big Picnic Sub-Committee

Gosia Turczyn – Clerk and finance.

Cllr O'Sullivan - Highways and Footpaths, '20 is plenty' campaign Sub-Committee

Cllr Grammenos – Planning and Open Spaces.

Cllr Carr - Website, Social Media, Communications, Tring and District Transport Plan and Ultrafast Broadband

Cllr Masey – Planning, Ultrafast Broadband and Open Spaces

Cllr Stillwell – Wigginton Helping Hands, Social Media, Open Spaces and Big Picnic Sub-Committee

Finally, we would like to say thank you to Cllr Jane Mitchell for her contribution and enthusiasm as she retires from the parish council and we welcomed Cllr Masey and Cllr Stillwell onto the team. Cllr Grammenos will be leaving this month and so we will be advertising a new position soon. If you are interested in joining, please contact clerk@wiggintonhertspc.org.uk

Steve Walker

Play area update

The play area has continued to be busy but we are thankful to say that it has calmed down somewhat from when it first opened, and from throughout the pandemic. It is checked monthly by our fantastic new warden who has taken a course in play area inspection, and we have it annually inspected by an external Play Inspection Company to ensure we are keeping within the recommended safety requirements. This, and reports coming in from those of you who use it daily, keep us notified of any broken or faulty equipment so we can repair or replace when necessary.

The main expenditure in the last year has been to replace the two green slides which were starting to crack, with a new double slide that is industry grade so will last a great deal longer, and in moving the gate to open onto the field with new slabs for a mud free path to the car park. We

have looked at a path along side the car park edge to join the park with the shop without having to walk on the car park but it is very expensive and we may have to discuss it for another years budget. We allocate a certain amount of funds each year that go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the play area and we are trying not to spend more than is needed as a response to the survey, as not everyone in the village benefits from it.

That said, an area that keeps coming up in the inspection reports is the surfacing as with the play area being on a slight slope the loose chipping constantly moves to the back edges. We have tried raking it back but is a thankless task so we are now looking a more permanent mulch



or wet pour surface. Quotes are coming in at 20-40k so we will be applying for various grants to help towards this. To save a huge amount we will organise a working party to remove the existing and prepare the area for a new surface, please get in touch if you'd like to be involved in this!!

Looking after the Village

Many thanks to everyone who has cut back hedges over recent weeks. This work is essential for the safe movement of all residents and visitors around the village. To take things a step further it would be beneficial in terms of safety for hedgerow owners to ensure that debris from hedge cutting is cleared from pavements and footpaths particularly where this is impacting on pedestrians.

Remedial work to pavements and footpaths is primarily undertaken by Hertfordshire Highways and Dacorum Borough Council so it is vital that any issues arising are reported to the relevant body.

Highways

Road surface problems such as potholes or general wear and tear, overhanging bushes, branches or vegetation encroachment onto roads or pavements, blocked gully's, drains and signage issues. These can be reported to Hertfordshire Highways via their website:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/report-a-problem/report-a-highway-fault

Public Footpaths

Any issues should be reported to Dacorum Borough Council Countryside Access Officer:
Email :Clayton.rae@dacorum.gov.uk
Tel:01442 228356

Oddy Hill

An area of concern over the winter months has been vegetation encroachment on the pavement down Oddy Hill, the main pedestrian route between Wigginton and Tring. Reports to Hertfordshire Highways did result in clearing works to be undertaken and bush and tree trimming on the other side of Oddy Hill to improve traffic sight lines was carried out. This is an area which will need further work once Spring growth sets in. Please always report issues such as these to ensure Highways are aware and appreciate the urgency of the work required.

The Highway Code

Beautiful scenery, challenging hills and a vibrant cafe and shop, as well as being enjoyed by residents, also bring many walkers and cyclists to the village. Additionally, taking into account the many horse riders in the area it is important that all motorists are aware and put into practise the new Highway Code regulations with regard to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

For the full summary of changes go to:

www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022

The Chiltern Society

The Chiltern Society also undertake repairs of footpaths in the Wigginton area and wider Chilterns. They are always seeking new volunteers. Check out their website www.chilternsociety.org.uk or email: office@chilternsociety.org.uk if you are interested in this kind of work.

New Double Yellows

Parking along Chesham Road and the resulting hindrance to traffic flow is often the subject of discussion. Following a meeting with Assistant Highways Manager, Peter Wright and with support from the Parish Herts County Councillor, Sally Symington, plans are taking shape to install yellow lines on either side of the Sports Field entrance in the new financial year. This should improve traffic sight-lines on exiting the Sports Field and effectively create a substantial 'passing place' along Chesham Road.

Let's respect our verges.....please be mindful when parking, particularly during wetter periods that no damage is caused to green verges throughout the village. An area particularly to note is along Common Field. Deep tyre marks rarely self repair.

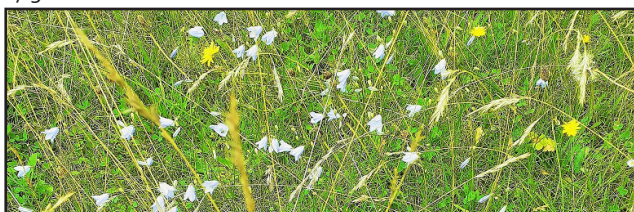
Finally, a huge thank you to our warden, Keith, for his brilliant work in keeping the village litter free and, not only reporting numerous highways issues, but then chasing up HCC and Dacorum to get repairs actioned. Please support his efforts by reporting faults such as potholes etc. The more voices that highlight issues the better!

Sustainable Wigginton

Sustainable Wigginton is an informal group which aims to increase understanding of climate change, threats to biodiversity and to promote local actions to combat these, in line with the policies of the Parish Council.

Activities since April 2021 include:

- Wilding of the recreation ground continues. Several varieties of wildflowers appeared last summer including delicate Harebells.
- We created a bog in April 2020, planted with a range of native and other plants and this looked beautiful later in the year.
- In order to help the growth of wild cornfield annual flowers, by reducing competition from grasses, an area was stripped of turf and in October seeds were sown by children from Wigginton Pre-School. We await results this summer!
- Maintenance work has continued over the winter and we look forward to more wildflowers (and pollinators) this spring and summer.
- Four RSPB boxes were put up around the rec in December 2020 and emptied, cleaned and put back up in September 2021. Three of them contained nests, we think belonging to great tits. We hope for a full house this year! If you would like to provide or sponsor another bird box please get in touch.
- SW had a stall at the church fête in September 2021, where we publicised SW's activities and encouraged people to pledge to reduce their carbon footprints and to email their MP asking for effective action by government.



Future activities:

- In September 2021 Dacorum launched their Climate Action Network, "Dacorum CAN" with an event at the Forum in Hemel which we attended. We will publicise Dacorum CAN's future events and initiatives and where appropriate join in.
- We aim to collaborate with other groups on future sustainable projects.
- Electric vehicle chargers. We are trying to arrange installation of EV charging points in the village car park. However because of the location of the power supply the costs may be prohibitive. We will continue working on this.

Actions:

- Make a pledge! Measure your carbon footprint at <https://footprint.world.org.uk>
- Pledge to reduce it by 10%, 20%, 30% or 40%..... (You decide!) and email us with your pledge.
- Request actions. If there are specific sustainable actions you would like us to work on get in touch – see below.
- For ideas and inspiration have a look at the PC's Action Plan at <https://www.wiggintonhertspc.org.uk/policies> Alternatively have a look at April's superb "Climate Crisis" issue of WI Life, if you can get hold of one. On the subject of the WI, we would like to congratulate Wigginton's wonderful WI on their recent Nearly New Sale which saved many clothes from the bin and raised over £1000 for Ukraine!

Join us! If you are concerned by climate change or biodiversity loss (we hope you are!) and would like more information or would like to take action on your own or on a local level, please get in touch. Message us on Sustainable Wigginton Facebook page or email to dehwilde@btinternet.com.



Meet the Warden

Dear Reader,

I have lived in Berkhamsted since 1988. Before taking early retirement in 2014, I worked in local government for thirty-nine years based in Central London, Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and finally South Buckinghamshire.

Since retirement, I have endeavoured to lead an active life, taking every opportunity to walk within the wonderful Chilterns countryside - this includes volunteering with the Canal & River Trust at Marsworth as a lock keeper. In addition, I recently achieved a lifetime ambition, gaining a first-class honours degree with the Open University (history).

As Warden, I am required to monitor amenities and green space provided by the Parish Council, plus highways, pedestrian routes, and signage. I report back to the Parish Clerk with my findings, together with reporting defects directly to the Parish Council and district council; this can include potholes, missing signage, and fly tipping.

Since starting in September, I have found local people to be very welcoming and supportive of my role. Moreover, I have enjoyed working closely with the parish council, who constantly strive to improve local services, experiences, and foster community.

To conclude, I am normally in the village on Mondays, sporting high viz. cap and litter picker, so please do not hesitate to approach me - I always enjoy a chat!

Best regards
Keith

Less Litter

Since starting in September Keith has noticed a big drop in the amount of litter he is collecting, from 3 bags a week to now just a half a bag. Fantastic news, so please keep it up!

www.keepbritaintidy.org



DID YOU KNOW

You can put your dog waste in any normal litter bin.

If you do not clear up after your dog, you can be issued with a fixed penalty notice, or you can be taken to court and face a fine.

Luton Expansion

In essence, the expansion of the airport is in two stages. Stage 1 takes passenger numbers from 18m to 21.5m which will remain the cap till 2032 when a new franchise and further development will raise the cap to 32m. There is some concern around the fact that the airport has already breached the 18m ceiling, so the rise to 21.5m reflects in part what has already happened.

Wigginton may have reduced influence on the overall proposal given it's distance from the airport, but the village perspective is the issue of overflying aircraft and noise. In that regard, there is no present plan to change the flight path so we will see more planes. 70% of the time the prevailing westerly winds mean that landings and take-off's will be east to west with the remainder into the easterly winds. Take off's are noisier than landings with engines on full thrust. A new generation of engines is being rolled out that are quieter than older engines and should account for about 50% of movements by the end of the decade. Without getting too bogged down, noise comes from both the engines and the aircraft body and there is therefore a diminishing rate of reduction in overall noise even as engines quieten.

As a separate consultation, likely in the next 2-3 years, there are national plans to revise the use of airspace where flight paths have been similar since the 1950's and more efficient use would be sought. The altitude of aircraft over the village is presently capped at 4,000ft to comply with Heathrow restrictions, so there may be scope in future to raise their path.

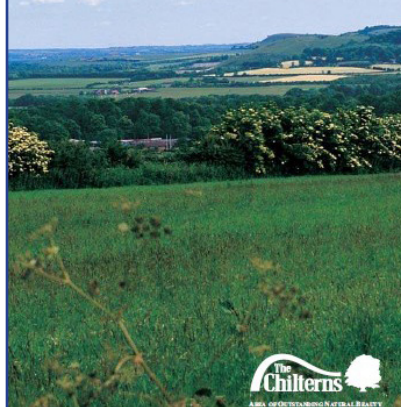
Chilterns Country

Beacon View Walk

Walk Description: Long: 6.5m (10.5km)
Short: 2m (3km)

Walk Time: Long: allow 2 1/2 hours
Short: allow 1 hour

Start/Finish: The Greyhound, Chesham Road
Wigginton, Herts



Walking in England

If the lockdowns and travel restrictions of the last two years have had any lasting benefits, it is the appreciation of the English Countryside and the delights of spending time with nature. So, with the mud drying up it is time to get out to walk again in the beautiful Chilterns and beyond again.

And living in Wigginton there are so many walks from the village and many more not far away. For the inquisitive, new and interesting walks can be found from many sources.

Walking in Hertfordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/herts> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hertfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place. Whether you are walking from home or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

Other useful websites include the Chiltern Society <https://chilternsociety.org.uk>; Ordnance Survey offers a tempting array of maps and other essentials <https://shop.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/maps/>; and for circular walks in the Chilterns (and there is a huge range of alternative areas) a handy series of books is published by Cicerone <https://www.cicerone.co.uk/southern-england>.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

Money

Wigginton PC 2 YEAR REVIEW 2022-2023		
	March 2021-2022	March 2022- 2023
Income & Expenditure	Actual	Agreed Budget
	£	£
Income		
Precept	14,715	15,500
Concurrent Services Grant	9,292	9,292
Village warden grant	744	762
Rental Income	1,656	850
Interest received	42	42
Other grants	400	350
TOTAL INCOME	26,849	26,796
Expenditure		
Salaries	3,958	4,820
Warden	1,113	1,160
Maintenance of open spaces	7,238	10,150
Grant funded payments	1,220	1,220
Subs & Grants	1,505	2,500
General administration	4,332	6,770
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	19,366	26,620
Surplus/deficit for the year	Surplus £7,483	Surplus £176
General Reserve	22,316	10,457
Earmarked Reserves	21,200	21,200

The Precept demand for the financial year 2022-23 is going up from £14,715 to £15,500. The Parish Council will be raising the Precept slightly each year to make sure there are enough reserves to reflect the rising costs of staff and contractors.

New costs this year have come from the new employment of a parish warden who is doing an excellent job in keeping the village litter free and in tact. He also keeps the Parish Council informed of any issues, and reports to Highways, Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum. We have also taken a contract out for a new grounds maintenance company to make sure the grass and the hedges that are the Parish Council responsibility are all cut back on time, and we will be planting trees to mark the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations which also involves further work on the back corner of the sports field. The results of the survey told the Parish Council that the villagers would like to see more community events happening so we have a team organising a 'Big Picnic' which will hopefully become an annual event and we have put in place a budget for it to get us started.

This financial year 2022-23 the Parish Council will be giving out small grants to community groups under the section 137 (4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972. There is a procedure in place to apply and qualifying criteria so please contact the clerk for more information.

Queens Green Canopy

Wigginton Parish Council is using the Queen's Green Canopy, part of the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the centenary of Wigginton's WI and the 20th Anniversary of the Pre-School as a fantastic opportunity to add new trees to the Sports Field this year. The Parish Council also wants to replace the two significant losses that have occurred in the storms at the start of the year. Losing both the Millennium Oak, planted close to the Community Shop, and the much older oak in the far corner by the football pitch calls for action. It is sad to lose both trees, but the Parish Council is determined to use the opportunity to add to Wigginton's valuable space.

Having identified the Sports Field as the only suitable land owned by the Parish Council, careful planning is being undertaken to mark

the 2022 anniversaries and also to recognising the need to meet the different uses and the range of people who visit the Sports Field.

The tree planting season is normally from the autumn to spring, so we have time to select trees that will become substantial features in future years and add to the appearance of the space. Grants are available for the Green Canopy, and along with contributions from the interested parties, the Parish Council have allocated funds towards this exciting project. More will be apparent by this time next year and we shall be arranging planting days later this year.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>



Planning

Dacorum's planning department is responsible for reviewing all planning applications for developments within the borough. It passes judgment based on appropriateness of the development to the local environment as defined by the Planning Policy and taking into account Green Belt and AONB guidelines.

Wigginton Parish Council is consulted on all plans submitted for development within the parish boundary. These are discussed at our monthly meetings and listed in advance on the agenda which is published on the Parish Council Website. Anyone interested is free to attend and make their own comments.

WPC can either support, object or make no comment on applications. If we "no comment" then Dacorum's decision follows the planning officers' recommendation. If we take a view which is opposite to the planning officer's then the application goes before the development control committee. Interested parties, including the applicant, are entitled to speak at the committee meeting. Our comments and the decisions made by the Dacorum are published in the minutes of our meetings which are available on the website.

During the global pandemic we have seen an increase in planning applications due to people spending more time at home and wanting to make improvements, as well as a number of new residents to the village wanting to re-develop.

If you have a submitted a planning application and want to attend the PC meeting where it is discussed you are very welcome. The agenda is posted the Thursday before each meeting, or get in touch with the clerk.

Look at all our community groups

Wigginton History Society



Why not come along to our History Society meetings? They are held between September and May starting at 8pm in the Village Hall. There is a contribution towards costs for each meeting.

Each month we have a talk on a wide variety of subjects, with a local connection wherever possible, followed by refreshments and a social gathering. In summer we organise an outing to a place of local historical interest.

The Committee is always pleased to hear of any interesting fact or facet about Wigginton or the immediate area. Contact Cliff Mills.

cliff.mills99@gmail.com

The Wigginton Gardeners' Association

The Wigginton Gardeners' Association has been around since 1977 when the first event was staged to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and continues to thrive. It aims to bring together like minded villagers who enjoy their garden and who are happy to share their knowledge or learn from others.

The current annual subscription is just £3 per household and for this, in a normal year, you would get four informative talks, an annual flower and produce show, a plant sale in May and a charity-focused social night, which is an extra charge. We would also try to organise a coach outing to one of the lovely gardens in the south of England.

We cancelled all events in 2021, and even cancelled our AGM this year. We have since been able to hold two talks and, while attendance was down, the talks were very well received. Paid-up members from 2019 were able to re-join for this year at no extra cost.

We are planning to hold a full program this year with the Plant Sale on May 21st, our Annual Show on September 3rd and evening talks planned for October and November.

Anyone is most welcome to join the WGA, please email for more information.

steve.cannon@hotmail.co.uk

Facebook - Wigginton Gardeners



The Village Shop and Café

Run by the community, for the benefit of the community, we're a true hub of the village where you are guaranteed a warm welcome. Thanks to our amazing volunteers and team, we continue to offer a place to come and get essential groceries, hot and cold light bites, delicious cake and great coffee. Our menu includes vegan, vegetarian and gluten free options. Our cosy cafe provides a lovely environment to sit inside or out, to meet friends or watch the world go by.

We are proud to showcase an amazing array of local produce including deli goods, fresh bread, veg, ale, cakes and gifts. Everyone, including our four-legged friends, are welcome!

We have several volunteer lead groups that meet at the shop.

Mondays (10-11am) "Happy Hookers", a beginners to experienced group of crocheters lead by volunteer Sheila who produce a dazzling array of crochet items that adorn the inside and outside of the shop.

Tuesday Tea Club (2-3.30pm) offers villagers of all ages the opportunity to gather, chat, laugh and generally put the world to rights! Enjoying supplemented hot drink and cake prices, the group has become a delightful way of bringing people together.

A new addition and currently monthly, our Wigginton Board Games Night, run by Julie and Elliott, is growing in popularity through the volunteers and we hope soon to launch to a village-wide audience - watch out for more news soon!

We cannot exist without our fantastic volunteers who cover a variety of flexible shifts each week. Here are some reasons to give it a go!

- No experience necessary
- Full training and supervision
- Sociable and fun
- Flexible to fit around your life
- Stay active
- Improve your mental health

If you would like to find out more or if there's a club you would like to see please email our manager Sally Clarke.

manager@wiggintonshop.org.uk or visit:

<http://wiggintonshop.org.uk/volunteers/>

WE ARE HIRING!

Join our award-winning team as a

**WEEKEND SUPERVISOR FOR
WIGGINTON SHOP AND CAFÉ**



To find out more, visit our website:

www.wiggintonshop.org.uk

or email Sally Clarke:

manager@wiggintonshop.org.uk



Wigginton Preschool

Wigginton Preschool has had a fab year, we have kept open through the pandemic with positive policies & procedures to keep the children & staff safe. The children have been able to explore the wildlife around the village by going on walks, running around in the fields and enjoying the play park. Our curriculum has widened to include a very successful "Mini Movers" a weekly music session that has enhanced children's well-being provided by Challis School of Dance in Tring. We've included a recycling topic and often see the dustmen outside the village hall where they would chat to the children. We continue to have visits from Rev. Michael where he tells stories and talks to the children.

Our new topic for this year is to have our own Forest School teacher, one of our Committee members has signed up for the course and will be able to implement sessions with the children from September.

Tel : 01442 828879

info@wiggintonpreschool.com

www.wiggintonpreschool.com

Facebook : Wigginton preschool



Wigginton Film Club

The Wigginton Film Club will be restarting in September. Films are shown once a month in the Village Hall from September through to April inclusive. Annual membership, to cover the cost of the film licence, is £2.00 and we ask for a donation of £5 per film, which includes one free drink (coke/lemonade/wine/beer/and cocktails occasionally!) and unlimited tea and coffee. Doors open at 7.30pm so you can enjoy a drink and snack before the film starts at 8 pm.

All proceeds go to towards the upkeep of the village hall. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please email: johnshelton1234@gmail.com

Wigginton WI

Wigginton WI meets at 7.30 in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. We are a friendly group enjoying a range of activities including pub lunches, long and short walks, a book group, cinema and theatre trips and outings to places of interest.

We currently have a waiting list but if you would like to come along to a meeting as a guest and try us out you would be very welcome.

Please contact Sue Hexter on 01442 826440 or email: sue@hexter.co.uk

Little Stars

Little Stars Play Sessions has provided our younger children from 1 years old the opportunity to socialise, play and explore their surroundings while their parents enjoy a couple of hours to continue with their busy days. The children have fun with a variety of toys, resources and feed their curiosities through malleable textures. We often take the children out for walks and go to the park.

Tel : 01442 828879
info@wiggintonpreschool.com
www.wiggintonpreschool.com
 Facebook : Little Stars



St. Bartholomew's Church

St. Bartholomew's Church Wigginton has been on this site for over 900 years. The churchyard flora contains some rare wild flowers and some of the gravestones have a certain type of lichen that only grows on chalky ground and where the air is clean. We hold a Communion Service every 1st. Wednesday of the month at 9.30am and on Sundays there are 3 services, 8am Holy Communion, 10am Parish Eucharist and 6pm Evening Prayer.

We have just started a new Breakfast Service on the 1st. Sunday of each month (9.30am to 10.30am). The service is aimed at those who are new to coming to church and would like to try something different.

Every month on a Saturday morning (the first Saturday of the month) we run Messy Church from 9-11am for our younger families, with breakfast, drawing and painting, story time and prayers . The church is also used for a lot more activities, French classes, wine talks local choir rehearsals, to name just three and the fête is planned for the 3rd. September this year, with stalls, entertainers, BBQ, and local attractions. Concerts are also planned for later in the year and we look forward to welcoming the Open Air Theatre back again during the Summer.

If you would like to hire our church room, just let us know. Ideal for small parties and meetings.

Rev. Michael Eggleton
 phone: 014428327
 mobile: 07584600408
 email: revmike1@outlook.com



Wigginton 56 Club

There's never been a better time to grow your own fruit and vegetables! Whether you have a small garden or an allotment plot, with a little planning and support from the Wigginton 56 Club you can grow an abundance of food for your family.

Since Wigginton 56 Club was set up we've:

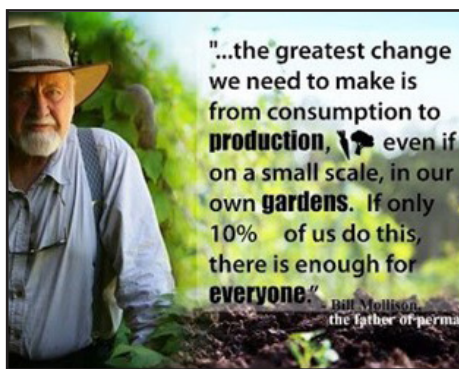
- Given away hundreds of packets of seeds
- Organised over 500 fruit and veg plant swaps
- Provided support and advice to over 50 growers
- Provided stands to swap plants and produce
- Produced and distributed five monthly newsletters.

Why the 56 Club?

There are roughly 560 families living in Wigginton. Our aim was to encourage 10% of these families to grow more fruit and vegetables and to share plants and produce with others. By the end of the season well over 60 families had grown their own.

In 2022 we hope even more villagers will get planting!

To find out more email:
Wigginton56Club@gmail.com



Wigginton Village Hall

Wigginton Village Hall continues to provide a great venue for the village. Since the end of lock down we have seen the welcome return of children's birthday parties, christenings, celebrations and our various village groups who have really enjoyed being able to meet up in person at last. We now have regular pilates classes and meditation workshops to name but a few of our newer users.

We have a shiny new website which has all the relevant village hall hiring details and enables people to be able to see when the hall is busy or free, along with a price guide. It also contains details of some of our regular users in case anyone is interested in joining them. We are always keen for villagers to use the hall and try to be as flexible as we can in order for the hall to be used as much as possible.

As with any old building, there is always something to fix or update. The toilets are being decorated this Spring and we hope to have a new kitchen installed by the Summer so that it is much easier for hirers to do catering for the various parties or meetings being held.

The hall committee is run by a group of volunteers so if you would like to join and help out please get in contact!

wiggintonvillagehall@gmail.com
www.wiggintonvillagehall.com

Sustainable Wigginton

Sustainable Wigginton is an informal group which aims to increase understanding of climate change, threats to biodiversity and to promote local actions to combat these. See the main article. Message us on Sustainable Wigginton Facebook page or email to: dehwilde@btinternet.com

Fireworks

The annual fireworks display has been superbly run by the Friends of Wigginton volunteer group and has grown into one of the premier bonfire night celebrations in the area. Last year's display was extremely busy (unexpectedly so), and it became apparent there needs to be several changes this year around parking, lighting, and signage to better deal with the number of visitors.

The insurance and underwriting of the event has also grown, and to this end the Parish Council will now be financially supporting the event, in particular by looking to include the insurance in a combined package with other events. The event is self-funding in that donations and proceeds from the night are used to pay for the following years event. No entry fee is charged on the night, and instead costs are kept low volunteers helping set up and run the event and collect donations by bucket shaking. This year the event will be held on:

Saturday 5th November



Wigginton Big Picnic

This is the first year that WPC are running an event for the village. As a response to the survey and to mark (hopefully) the end of a tricky couple of years, a working group from the council will run what will hopefully become an annual event for all the village. We are hoping to have a day of food, drink and some live music with a few local bands playing throughout the day. There will be a beer tent and BBQ and the shop will be open serving the usual, plus some specials for the day, but you are also welcome to bring your own picnic and pitch up on the field.

We have a fantastic inflatable package including bouncy castle and slide, bungee run and gladiator dual, and there will be Dog Agility Course running throughout the day so bring along your four legged friend!

We also have a Classic Car display for all you motor enthusiasts and we are in the process of getting various stalls organised. It's gearing up to be a really fun day, fingers crossed for the weather!

We are a small volunteer group getting this event off the ground and hope it will grow each year. If you would like to be involved as an organiser or just to help out on the day please email as we would love to have you on board.

wiggintonhelpinghands@gmail.com



Wigginton Helping Hands

This new community group has been set up as a team of villagers who are happy to get involved in various tasks around the village, whether it's picking up nails from the bonfire, cleaning village signs or helping out at community events. You can sign up to whatever task suits you and there is no obligation. This year we are excited to be part of 'The Big Picnic' and hope that an event like this will encourage new members to join. If you are interested in joining please send us an email.

wiggintonhelpinghands@gmail.com



20 is Plenty Campaign

Concern regarding speeding through the village is often a recurring theme in recent Parish surveys. With that in mind the Parish Council recently passed a motion to join the growing national campaign to support:

20's plenty where people, live, work and play

Local Authorities have the power to set speed limits, so along with other Parish and Town Councils, the aim is to persuade Hertfordshire County Council to adopt this policy county-wide as well as in Wigginton itself. County-wide campaigns involve 20's Plenty groups across a highway authority area jointly calling for 20mph limits. Rather than compete for funds, campaigns work together for the policy commitment to giving all built up areas wide 20mph limits. Unity is powerful and it's the most cost-effective policy.

The benefits of a 20mph speed limit are multi-fold, including, but not limited to:

- Creating a safer environment for everyone but particularly children, families and the elderly to be out and about, walking to school or the shop, at play, enjoying bike and scooter trips.
- Promoting healthy activity, a more pedestrian friendly environment, less pollution and a reduced risk of serious injury or death.
- Many village roads do not have a pavement or footpath to walk on.....pedestrians compete with passing traffic.

Join the campaign: Let us know your thoughts via the Parish Council Website 'Contact Us' link, subject '20s Plenty for Wigginton'.

20s Plenty stickers for cars, wheelie bins and bikes will be available to pick up at the Annual Parish Meeting or can be purchased directly from the 20s plenty website. The Parish Council, with the support of our local Hertfordshire County Councillor, Sally Symington, is working with the



Highways Dept. to undertake 'Speed and Traffic Surveys' in the village. Statistics are only one aspectif you want to achieve speed reduction in the village make sure Hertfordshire Highways have no doubts about public feeling. You can leave your comments on the PC website and contact HCC transport committee through our local HCC Councillor, Sally Symington. Come to the Annual Parish Meeting to sign the petition and display 20s plenty stickers on wheelie bins, cars and bikes.

Find out more about 20s Plenty on their website: 20sPlenty.org

