

**THE WAPPENHAM HANDBOOK  
OF USEFUL INFORMATION**



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## **Welcome to Wappenham!**

This handbook has been compiled by Jane Harries, but the sources are many, inside and outside the village. Special thanks go to Dianne Walsh and the website team for some content and the framework for this booklet.

We hope you enjoy living here in this beautiful place. Please let me know of any changes to this information by email [jane.harries@virgin.net](mailto:jane.harries@virgin.net)

This edition was produced in June 2011.

## **Useful telephone numbers**

(NB: where no code is given, it is 01327)

### **Doctors**

#### **Brook Health Centre**

Dr A Supple and partners Towcester: 01327 323900 Silverstone 01327 857240

#### **Towcester Medical Centre**

Dr N Ward and partners 01327 359953

#### **Greens Norton**

Drs Kelso, Mike Greenhalgh & Jill Greenhalgh 01327 358287

### **Out of hours emergency medical service 01327 702215**

This is called 'Snowdoc' and operates from 6.30pm – 8am on weekdays or 8am Sat morning to 8am Mon morning. You may have to go to Daventry for treatment.

### **Hospitals**

Northampton General, Cliftonville 01604 634700

Horton General, Banbury 01295 275500 If you have trouble getting to the doctor or to another medical appointment, see Transport page.

### **Police**

Towcester/Northampton 03000 111222

### **Local Government**

Northamptonshire County Council 01604 236236 (M-F 8am-6pm) South Northants.

District Council 01327 322322

### **Samaritans**

08457 909090 (local rate) or [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

### **Anglian Water** 08457 145145

**E-on** (was Powergen) 0800 363363

### **'Street Doctor'**

Online reporting service available at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk) allows logging and tracking of all Highway problems from blocked drains and potholes to damaged signs and pavement issues.

Alternatively you may report on 0845 601 1113.

### **Veterinary Surgeons**

Towcester Veterinary Centre 350239 Brackley: Croft Veterinary 01280 703451

### **Shop and Post Office**

See further on for details of the Community Shop project. Meanwhile, the nearest Post Office is at Syresham (8am to 6pm Mon-Fri, ends at 12.30 on Saturdays); also Silverstone closes between 1 and 2. Others are at Helmdon on a Tuesday 10am-12pm combined with a café, and Thursday 2-4 pm, Blakesley and Towcester.

### **General Stores**

Nearest village-type general stores is Croft's at Silverstone – a wide range of produce including fresh bread. Blakesley (Brown's) also has a fairly wide range of goods including bread.

### **Fruit and vegetables**

Delivered on Thurs and Fri pm by Garry Penn Ltd (who also run the stall behind Elliotts the butcher in Towcester). Great range, including eggs and milk. Order by email (get sent the price list weekly) or by phone – ring 01295 760824 or email [g.penn2@btconnect.com](mailto:g.penn2@btconnect.com).

### **Fish**

James Hutson delivers Tuesdays to your door. Fish is sustainably fished and not frozen. Tel 01472 319940, mobile 07891 830712. Email: [jameshutson@hotmail.com](mailto:jameshutson@hotmail.com)

### **Milk Deliveries**

Dairycrest 01908 312121 Deliver 3 times a week: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, including food and organic milk and veg.

**Library** -Towcester 350374

### **Newspaper delivery**

Smiths Newsagents – 01295 268499

### **Farmers' markets**

Towcester – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 9am-1.30pm, Richmond Rd car park

Brackley – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm, Market Place

### **Running Bean**

Local produce, including from village gardens in season, plus breakfasts, drinks. Weedon Lois village hall Saturdays 10-12. See [www.therunningbean.co.uk](http://www.therunningbean.co.uk)

### **Schools**

Silverstone Infants 857351, Junior 857381 (bus provided)

St Loys Primary School, Weedon Lois 860539

Sponne School, Towcester 350284 (secondary school)

Helmdon Primary School 01295 768126

Helmdon Acorns Pre school - aged 2 - 4 yrs -01295 760327 and

[www.helmdonacorns.org.uk](http://www.helmdonacorns.org.uk)

### **Scouts, Cubs and Beavers – Helmdon**

Dave Edwards	Group Scout Leader	01295 711070
Bill Gidman	Cub Scout Leader	01280 848349
Nikki Morton	Beaver Scout Leader	01295 712435

For details of meetings please go to the Group website: [www.whistley.internet-today.co.uk](http://www.whistley.internet-today.co.uk)

### **Guides and Brownies Towcester**

Rainbows five to seven years Brownies seven to ten year olds Guides 10 to 14 year olds Senior Section 15 to 26 year olds - Rangers, Young Leaders and Young Guiders. More adult volunteers are needed. For more information call Sarah Williams, District Commissioner on 07889 523089 or by email [brown\\_ies2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brown_ies2001@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Rainbows/Brownies/Guides –**

**Helmdon** – Eleanor Shepherd 01295 768727

**Brownies – Silverstone** - Christine Branch 01327 858673

### **Riding lessons**

Jo Wesley, Blackmyres Farm, Silverstone Tel. 01327 857280

## Keeping in contact

### **Wiz**

Wiz is the Wappenham email contact group and a very useful way of sharing information and news. It is run by Clive Watt. To join, send an email to: [wiznews@btinternet.com](mailto:wiznews@btinternet.com)



### **Wappenham Website**

The website address is:

<http://www.northantsvillages.org.uk/wappenham>

It contains historical facts, information about village organisations, photos of village events and people, and more. Send material for including on the site to [wappenham@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wappenham@tiscali.co.uk). The website is maintained by Dianne Walsh.

### **Wappenham Newsletter**

This comes out 4 times a year and is produced and delivered by volunteers to all houses in Wappenham, free of charge. Posters, and messages on Wiz, remind contributors for copy, but do contact at [jane.harries@virgin.net](mailto:jane.harries@virgin.net) if you have any questions, or would like to help sponsor the newsletter with an ad or donation.

**NN12 website** with local events and news:

[www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Northamptonshire/Towcester/NN12](http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Northamptonshire/Towcester/NN12)

### **Notices**

There are noticeboards near the post box (Parish Council notices) and also on the corner of the Lois Weedon Road and Greenside.

# Organisations

## Parish Council

The Parish Council normally meets every six weeks and meetings start at 8pm in the Village Hall. Minutes are posted in the Village Hall and at the coffee mornings, and circulated on Wiz (local e-mail).

Minutes from 1898 to 2004 can be accessed at Northamptonshire Records Office, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 8BQ, tel.: 01604 762129,

website: <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/community/ro/>

and from 2004 onwards on Wappenham

website: <http://www.northantsvillages.org.uk/wappenham/parishcouncil.htm>

Agendas are posted on the PC Noticeboard on the High Street near the post box.

Members of the Public are always welcome at the meetings and, if appropriate, the Chair will invite them to speak on topics that are of interest to them.

Any Parishioner wanting a topic raised at a meeting or wishing to comment on Parish matters should contact the Clerk, preferably by letter or email.

### Members of the Council:

Dianne Walsh (Chair)

Paul Featherstone (Vice Chair)

Hilary Wickham

Howard Mordue

David Wilson

Michael Payne

### Clerk:

Liz Hart, Station House, Station Rd, Helmdon NN13 5QS

[wappenham@stationhousehelmdon.co.uk](mailto:wappenham@stationhousehelmdon.co.uk)

### Representatives:

Parish Council Rep, Village Hall Committee – Michael Payne

Footpath Warden – Hilary Wickham

NCC Snow Clearance Liaison - Paul Featherstone

Poors Charity - Liaison with Churchwardens - tbc

Liaison re roads – Michael Payne

Newsletter - Jane Harries

Website - Dianne Walsh

South Northants District Councillor – Peter Davies

Northamptonshire County Councillor - Ben Smith

## Village Design Statement

This was put together some years ago after a period of consultation with villagers. Its purpose is, to quote the VDS: "to enable us – the people of Wappenham – to have a real say in the future shape of our village, especially over the effect of future building development and the visual environment in general. It is far better to decide what we want now than to regret the results of unpopular planning decisions afterwards. Another aim of the Design Statement is to stimulate discussion and raise awareness on conservation issues relevant to the village and its surrounding area."

After it had spent some time in limbo, the South Northants. Council will be adopting it as Supplementary Planning Guidance, which will be taken into account in all planning applications.

You can download a copy of the VDS from the Wappenham website:  
<http://www.northantsvillages.org.uk/wappenham/>

## Village Hall

### Village Hall Committee:

Michael Payne – Chairman

Julie Long - Treasurer

Jenny Szczerbowski – Secretary

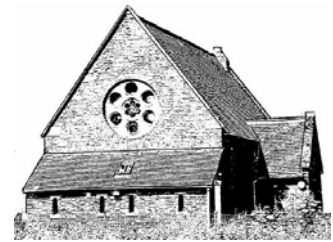
Sarah Wales

Tina and Karl Jones

Anthony and Jane Reid

Howard Mordue (Friends of St Mary's rep)

Jane Harries (Publicity)



The Village Hall is available for hire. If you are thinking about hosting an event or activity, whether it be yoga classes, art classes, theatre, auctions, parties, quiz nights, gigs, etc. why not hire Wappenham Village Hall?

The hall has been recently refurbished and there is wheelchair access, disabled toilets, a kitchen and ample parking. The surrounding area has been cleared and gravelled, and its beautiful and peaceful position makes it ideal for summer parties using both inside and outside. You can hire the hall for only £6.00 per hour, including electricity.

For more details email: [jennyszczerbowski@btinternet.com](mailto:jennyszczerbowski@btinternet.com)

**Regular events** in the Hall include a short mat bowls club, upholstery class and table tennis team – see details later in this section.

There are also occasional Drama events, Quiz Nights and a Barn Dance, but there is room for more. It's up to you if you want to make it happen! Help is also appreciated to arrange and prepare for events.

## **Wappenham Recreation Association**

The Wappenham Recreation Association (WRA) was founded to provide and maintain a communal play area within the village for the use by the entire village. This can be found at the bottom of the Helmdon Road.

### **Committee:**

Dene Ayres – Chairman – Treasurer, Linda Emary, Harvey Lay, Andrew Swan, Frank Kinner.

Special events include a Hallowe'en party, a 'Camp Out', and recently the WRA has organised the village fete (see Events). Fund-raising is needed, as the lease for the land runs out in several years, and subsequently either that land or land near the Village Hall must be bought, to ensure the continuation of a recreation area for Wappenham. Negotiations are underway for this to happen.

NB: The South Northants. District Council also organise two play sessions in the recreation ground each summer.

## **Art classes**

You may be surprised by how many people in Wappenham either paint, take photographs or sculpt, as a hobby or as a profession. Sometimes they open their 'studios' as part of the county's Open Studios month in September, and sometimes open exhibitions have been held in the Church.

There is an Art Club on Tuesday evenings at 7pm at the Weston Community Project (two villages away).

## **Lois Weedon and Weston Drama Group (with Wappenham!)**

Some of Wappenham's finest acting talent as well as backstage artistes take part in this group's regular performances. The winter pantomime, usually in February, is particularly popular. Tickets for shows are normally available at Wappenham Shop. Wappenham and District Branch of the Royal British Legion

We are always open to new members, and have meetings every few months and occasional outings. There is a yearly Poppy collection for the British Legion.

## Short Mat Bowls

Come along and have a try. All you need to bring is a pair of flat smooth-sole shoes or slippers. Short mat bowls takes place in the Village Hall on a Thursday afternoon at 2pm, and is open to all. The cost of £1 includes tea or coffee.

## Table Tennis

There is a Wappenham table tennis team, which practises weekly in the Village Hall; times vary.

## Wappenham Chapel

Wappenham Chapel was originally a Methodist Church, but together with its 'twin' Chapel at nearby Slapton (through 1994-96) became completely independent, and was constituted as the 'Slapton & Wappenham Independent Evangelical Church'.



Wappenham Chapel is a confessedly Evangelical Church, adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith, and "is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believes".

We welcome all to our meetings.

Sunday morning worship at Wappenham starts at 10:45 am, with Sunday School at 3pm. A more casual, friendly coffee morning convenes in the schoolroom every Thursday in the summer months (10:15am –11.45 am) which is open to all villagers. There is also a monthly ladies' meeting, and a prayer and Bible study meeting on Tuesdays: see Chapel noticeboard for details.

## Church of St Mary the Virgin

Wappenham Parish is part of the Astwell Benefice. The Benefice also includes: Helmdon with Stuchbury and Radstone; Syresham, Whitfield, and Lois Weedon with Weston and Plumpton.

Details of Benefice services and other events are distributed every 3 months to all households, and Wappenham service dates are also given in the Wappenham Newsletter. Holy Communion is usually at 11am in Wappenham, except on the first Sunday of the month.



Besides the Ministry Team and the Parochial Church Council, there is also 'The Friends of St Mary the Virgin' which is a committee that raises funds to maintain and improve the church building.

### **Ministry Team**

Rector, the Astwell Benefice: The Revd. Will Adams Tel. 01280 850683 Email: [rector@astwellbenefice.co.uk](mailto:rector@astwellbenefice.co.uk)

Assistant Priest (self-supporting): The Revd Dorothy Micklethwaite

Readers: Paul Stothard, Wiggy Smith

**Wappenham Churchwardens:** Howard Mordue and Alastair Judge

### **Parochial Church Council members:**

Alastair Judge and Howard Mordue (Churchwardens), Anthony Tucker (Treasurer), Jane Reid (Secretary), Michael Bath (Deanery representative and Tower Captain), Phyllis King (Electoral Roll Secretary), Edwin King, Jane George (and others).

### **Bell-ringing**

There is a bell-ringing team which practises on Thursday evenings.

### **Friends of St Mary the Virgin, Wappenham**

This organisation raises funds for the upkeep of the fabric of the Church. It is open to all, regardless of religious affiliation, who want to help preserve and improve the church building.

Jane Mordue (Chairperson), Anthony Tucker (Secretary), Alastair Judge (Treasurer), Howard Mordue (PCC Representative), Di Watts, and ex officio members, Rev'ds Will Adams (Rector), Dorothy Micklethwaite (Assistant Priest).

### **Village Shop and Post Office**

Regrettably this has closed since the last issue of the Handbook. There was, however, a packed public meeting in February 2011, which voted in favour of looking into the viability of a Community Shop and Post Office. This would entail use of volunteers to run the shop along with a paid manager, and voluntary help also in professional 'back-room' tasks. A Steering Group has been set up to look into this and possible premises, and a questionnaire has been circulated round the village and neighbouring villages to find out the potential use of a shop and of post office facilities.

The Steering Group consists of:

Rupert Fordham: [rupert@morganhunt.com](mailto:rupert@morganhunt.com)

Michael Koe: [michaelkoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelkoe@yahoo.co.uk)

Charlotte Supple, Val Sincock, and Laura King.

They say: "Please feel free to contact any one of us if you wish to speak to us directly about the project."

## **Regular Events**

### **Monthly Coffee Morning**

Every first Wednesday in the month there is a coffee morning for everyone in the village to drop in and chat over tea, coffee and home-made cakes. This is held at The Outbuildings of the Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, from 10am-12 noon. Volunteers make the cakes and serve; the rota and event was originally set up by Will Adams, our Rector, but it is not a church event. Village information is up on a noticeboard in case you want to have a look. There's a small charge to cover costs. Very popular – please drop in if you are new to the village and you will be welcomed.

### **Wappenham Village Fete**

This takes place the first Saturday after August Bank Holiday and raises funds for the various village charities. It's a popular event with live music, stalls, games, raffle, produce and home-made teas.

### **Wappenham Open Gardens**

Every two years or so, several generous members of the village open their gardens to the public, to raise money for the Village Hall. This usually takes place during June.



The event includes a plant sale, and teas and home-made cakes, and many people come to visit.

### **Safari Supper**

On the year that the Open Gardens isn't taking place there is a 'Safari Supper', a very sociable and popular event. 60 people buy tickets (well in advance) for a three-course meal with wine or soft drinks, and meet up early in the evening. They are then told where they will be having the first course, and are split into groups and head off to someone's house. At each course it is revealed who will be going where next, and then the whole group meets up again to have coffee and cheese and biscuits. It's a great way to meet new people and catch up with friends, and raises money for the Village Hall and the Church. Look out for posters giving information on where to buy tickets.

## **History of Wappenham**

On the website there is information about aspects of Wappenham's buildings – Gilbert Scott, the famous architect, was brought up here and designed some of the brick houses. There are also two books about Wappenham and the surrounding area, by Eileen Robbins.

## **Public transport including medical**

### **Buses**

Current bus times are on the Parish Council noticeboard in the High Street (near the post box) however they are due to be cut in August 2011 and a 'Dial-a-Ride' service to probably Brackley will be replacing it. If you are over 60 remember you can travel free of charge.

Buses vary as to where they pick up – Kings Corner on the Green is the best place to wait.

### **Towcester Area Door-to-Door (TADD)**

'TADD' is a charity set up to help people reach their health-related appointments, whether nearby or further afield, when public transport is unavailable or inappropriate. Members join TADD for a yearly fee (£12) and then pay mileage (60p a mile currently, which you can reclaim if on income support) to the volunteer driver.

TADD are also always looking for new volunteer drivers. You can offer as much or as little time as you wish, and as well as receiving mileage you are insured against your 'no claims bonus'.

To find out more about TADD, contact Kate, Anne or Tracy on 01327 810300 (office hours 9am – 1pm Mon-Fri) or email [tadd@btconnect.com](mailto:tadd@btconnect.com)

## **Pubs and restaurants**

Pubs NB: Please phone to check opening hours as they may change.

### **The New Inn, Abthorpe**

Small friendly pub, with open fire and events eg quiz nights. Owned by Hook Norton (local real ale). Good pub food served, with meat from the managers' farm at Slapton. Currently open 12-2pm and 6-11pm Mon-Sat; and Suns 12-3, 7-10.30pm. Food served Weds-Sun at lunchtimes, Wed-Sat 6-9pm. Tel. 01327 857306

### **The Crown, Weston**

Larger pub with cosy fire-lit corners and long bar, so offering both places to drink and to eat. Has garden and tables for sitting outside in summer, and a function room for hire. Has been listed as a 'pick of the pubs' in AA 2007 Pub guide and Hidden Places of England guide; also in CAMRA Good Beer Guide 2007.

#### *Bar Opening Times*

Monday - Saturday evenings: 6pm-11.30pm

Friday - Sunday lunchtimes: 12 noon-3.30pm

Sunday night: 6pm-11pm

#### *Kitchen Opening Times*

Tuesday-Saturday evenings: 6pm-9.30pm

Friday-Sunday lunchtimes: 12 noon-2.30pm

Tel 01295 760310 website: [www.thecrownweston.co.uk](http://www.thecrownweston.co.uk)

### **The Kings Head, Syresham**

Winter opening times: Monday - Saturday 12-2pm 5-11pm Sunday 12 noon - 10.30pm Food served Monday- Saturday 12-2pm 6.30-9.00pm No food served on Sundays They have accommodation - the rooms have been refurbished and there are special rates for local bookings Tel 01280 850280 [www.thekingsheadsyresham.co.uk](http://www.thekingsheadsyresham.co.uk)

## **Restaurants/tearooms etc**

### **The Barn Restaurant and Tearoom**

Run by inhabitants of Wappenham, this is located in The Old Dairy Farm and Craft Centre in Church Stowe (follow signs from the A5 north of Towcester, near Weedon) Delicious cakes, freshly-cooked locally-sourced food. Open every day, 10am-5pm for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Tel 01327 349911

There are also several restaurants, takeaways and tearooms in Towcester and Brackley.