



# The Wreningham Diamond jubilee Memento 1952-2012



The Diamond Jubilee emblem was drawn by 10-year-old Katherine Dewar, a winning Blue Peter competition design.  
Below: proposed EIIR Diamond Jubilee commemorative All Saints Church window.

This document is compiled and published by the EIIR Diamond Jubilee Wreningham Celebrations Committee  
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In the summer of 2011 it was announced that Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee would be celebrated in 2012, marking 60 years of the Queen's reign. Mr Ian Dobson expressed a willingness to form a committee to plan the Wreningham Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the first meeting for which took place in August 2011. The committee comprised: Jean Agnew, Lizzie Brake (treasurer), Christine Coyle, Linda Craig, Ian Dobson (chair), Michael Hill, Barry Jarvis, Val Keel, Jean Lambourne (chair Village (Street) Party), Jayne McDaid, Christine Minns, Tim Read and Bill Smith. This committee proceeded to plan and implement the following celebration projects:

- Diamond Jubilee Songs of Praise (approved service), Sunday 3 June
- Village (Street) Party to include village photograph – 4 June
- Diamond Jubilee Wreningham Beacon (one of 3000 nationwide), 4 June (evening)
- The Wreningham Diamond Jubilee Memento 1952–2012 (booklet)
- Year in Wreningham (DVD)
- Diamond Jubilee commemorative church window
- Diamond Jubilee Community Orchard (planted November 2011)

The chairman constructed a budget and we began to raise money by forming a 100 Club, tickets for which were purchased by many in the village, and prize draws took place at the end of every month. Grants were also obtained from the Wreningham Parish Council, South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council. A fantastic raffle was organised by Hilary Tinner with prizes, ranging from a meal for two at the Bird in Hand to a complimentary massage, which were kindly donated by the Brake family, Anglia Elite, Amanda Francis – the Potting Shed, Spratts Coaches, Travis Perkins, Reeders of Ashwellthorpe, Wymondham Chiropractic & Acupuncture Clinic, Sue Allen, Kevin Foley, Hilary Tinner, Jean Lambourne, and Val Keel.

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Wreningham PC grant	650.00	Sreet Party	246.00
SNC grant	100.00	Memento Booklet	450.00
NCC grant	200.00	Church memorial window	1648.80
NCC grant	200.00		
100 Club	1100.00		
Raffle	294.80		
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	2344.80		2344.80

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## What a memorable time!

Wreningham celebrated Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee with a number of events over the holiday weekend. All Saints Church displayed a collection of art and poetry by the children of the village school and held a Diamond Jubilee Songs of Praise service on the Sunday which followed the recognised approved service for the occasion. The Social Club organised a plate buffet with a Jubilee prize draw.

However, the main event of the weekend was the Jubilee Village Party on Bank Holiday Monday. The day threatened to be cold, wet and windy but was in fact temperate and sunny with only occasional droplets of rain. Over 250 residents of Wreningham (with a few visitors) joined together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on the Wreningham playing field and Mill Lane which was closed to vehicles. Tables were laid out along its length for anyone to occupy and residents arrived laden with gazebos, chairs, tables, cool boxes and bunting. Entering through arches decorated by Sue Rudd, the playing field was quickly turned into a colourful party venue.

The event was opened officially by Jean Lambourne at 2 pm with the National Anthem kicking off the proceedings and we gathered for a group photograph to be taken by Mike Butcher – just as the first drops of rain arrived.

Throughout the day, emphasis was placed on activities for children and mingling for adults although many adults did cross the boundaries! A very successful Punch and Judy show was delivered by David Leggett and enjoyed by everyone, proving traditional entertainment still has its place. A treasure hunt had been devised and enthusiastic children, often in fancy dress and faces painted, could be seen racing around the field looking for clues. At the top of the field, the swing boats kindly provided by Bill Smith had a steady stream of riders and at the bottom the ice cream stall did a roaring trade in spite of the weather. Throughout the day, children could try their hand at crown making or biscuit decorating and, mid-event, Linda Craig organised races and games for those who still had energy left.

Later in the day Ian Dobson mustered everyone for Mike's second attempt at a group photograph which was successfully completed (this time without the rain), together with another rendition of the National Anthem although the second verse needed some brushing up.

The atmosphere was one of community, family, relaxation and fun with all ages mixing together. It was lovely to see neighbours coming out together and joining forces for a wonderful picnic. Many people had gone to town and brought Jubilee themed cakes, cake stands, drinks, costumes, balloons – we even had a throne in its own gazebo.

A good day was had by everyone and there were lots of happy tired faces when the event closed at 5 pm. However the fun didn't stop there and many of the village residents continued to celebrate at the Bird in Hand where a special Jubilee dinner was on the menu followed by the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon as part of a chain of thousands across the country.

## All Saints Church, Wreningham

The oldest part of the church is the base of the tower which is 13th century. The chancel dates from the 14th century, the nave from the 15th century. The church was restored and the tower rebuilt in the middle of the 19th century after the tower collapsed in 1852. At this time the north transept was added using the original windows from the north wall for the east and west windows. At the same time the porch was rebuilt and enlarged.

In 1887 two south facing windows were installed to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. There are two windows dedicated to the memory of the Upcher family. The east window is in memory of the Rev. Arthur W. Upcher who was rector of Wreningham and Ashwellthorpe for 43 years from 1852-96, and the north window in the transept is dedicated to his son Somerville Hay Upcher.

The pulpit is Victorian with Jacobean-style carvings. The 15th century font is octagonal with a wooden cover. The organ is installed in the north transept.

There are four bells in the tower which have been the subject of a number of projects over five centuries. They were last restored thirty years ago and rededicated in 1981. Each bell is dedicated to the memory of a late parishioner. The bells which are in regular use can only be chimed.

Wreningham has a link with a church in Zimbabwe – All Saints Church Wreningham, in Chivu Province, which was founded by a member of the Upcher family.

Wreningham Church is now one of the churches in the Upper Tas Valley Benefice, which consists of the parishes of Ashwellthorpe, the Fornetts, Fundenhall, Hapton, Tacolneston and Wreningham. The current policy of worship taking place in only one or two of the churches each week means that Wreningham normally has an 8.30 am Holy Communion service on the second Sunday of the month and the occasional 10.30 am service, and additionally a Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol service. The Benefice produces a monthly church magazine.

The clergy in charge of Wreningham All Saints since 1896:

Canon Ernest S Fardell, 1896-1954  
Rev. John B Gordon, 1955-1961  
Rev. Geoffrey Whitehead, 1962-1969  
Rev. Henry Brierly, 1969-1986  
Rev. Horace Busk, Team Vicar, 1974-1980  
Rev. Jolyon Bradshaw, 1981-1989  
Rev. Keith Crocker, 1988-1994  
Rev. Simon Stephenson, 1990-1998  
Rev. Clive WJ Styles, 1999-2010  
Rev. Andrew Good, 2011-2012 (temporary appointment)  
The church is now in an interregnum.

Some notable events in more recent years:

- 1957 James Wiseman gave up care of the churchyard after over 50 years.  
Miss Rosetta Bell retired from Sunday School teaching after more than 50 years.  
Replacement pipe-organ installed (from Brocklebank Institution Chapel).
- 1967 Mr Robert Hanton retired as church warden after 28 years.  
Miss Pansy Rowe gave up Sunday School teaching after more than 50 years.
- 1975 The church organ completely overhauled by Boggis of Diss.
- 1981 Church bells rededicated by the Very Rev. Gilbert Thurlow, Dean of Gloucester.
- 1989 Bookcase made from Mr Henley Curl's bequest, and installed in the Church in his memory.  
Flower Festival held in the Church and repeated in 1992, 1996, 1999.
- 1990 Church floodlit during Christmas period for the first time.  
Miss Olga Ward told us about the present state of All Saints Church, Zimbabwe; funds were raised to support the building of a new church.
- 1996 Tower roof completely restored at a cost of £22,000; grants were received from English Heritage, Norfolk Churches Trust, Historic Churches Preservation Trust, and the Manifold Trust.  
Student Cross pilgrims from Essex to Walsingham call at Church for refreshment; this is now an annual event.
- 1997 Purchase of a piece of farmland to extend the burial ground.
- 1998 Visit by Mr Patrick Bwanya, lay preacher from Zimbabwe.
- 1999 Installation of the Millennium Clock by Hayward Horological Ltd from Suffolk.
- 2000 Clock dedicated on 2 January at 3.00 pm.  
Flower bowl carved by John Behm in memory of Miss Irene Gray.  
Graveyard extension consecrated by the Bishop of Thetford.  
Booklet about All Saints produced by Kerri Dobson as the result of a school project.
- 2004 Microphone and hearing loop installed – gifted by Mrs G Spratt.  
Curtains behind the altar replaced – gifted by Mr P Wilkinson.





- 2008 Essex branch of the 'student cross' presented us with a kneeler to mark 60 years of their Easter pilgrimage.
- 2009 A week-end festival held, mostly of flowers and crafts, entitled 'Festival of Creation'.
- 2011 A group of six local people started a weekly bell-ringing practise and now ring for special occasions.  
Mr Dennis Long, who had been organist and churchwarden for over 50 years died on 9 May.  
Land to the west of the churchyard (one tenth of a hectare), purchased for use as a car park and this was dedicated on 26 June.
- 2012 Plans have been submitted to the Diocese for a coloured glass memorial to the Diamond Jubilee of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II to be placed in the west window in the tower and engraved roundels for the east window in the north transept to commemorate the long service by Mr D Long to the church and the link between the church and All Saints, Wreningham, Zimbabwe.

## Wreningham VC Primary School since 1952

Mr Ted Barber was headmaster at Wreningham until leaving in 1957. At this time the school taught children aged 5-15 years. Mr Barber was succeeded by Miss Joan Balls (later Mrs Lambert) who immediately (1958) saw a status change for Wreningham School when children over 11 years were transferred to Secondary Modern school in Wymondham.

During the 1950s and 60s Mrs D George was infant teacher and Miss IM Gray school teacher. Miss Gray retired in 1973 after 24 years. That same year the



village school changed from Church of England 'Aided' to become 'Voluntary Controlled'. In 1977 the school changed from a primary school to a first school. The school had over 100 pupils during the 1970s but in July 1977 children aged eight and over were transferred to Mulbarton Middle School leaving just 39 children at Wreningham School. The three mobiles were removed leaving the original buildings to provide two classrooms. In 1979 the original buildings gained new heating with the installation of calor gas central heating. Indoor toilets became available in 1989! After a long campaign by parents and governors an extension was built to house indoor toilets for children and staff. 1994 saw building works to extend the infant classroom and provide new cloakroom and storage space.

In 1995 the LEA were once more reviewing the status of Norfolk schools and the school system. With the advent of 'Key Stages' the first, middle and upper school system did not fit well and governors at Wreningham were keen that our school should become, once more, a primary school for children at Key Stages 1 and 2. The children then move on to secondary school at age eleven, Key Stage 3. Ultimately the governors' discussions bore fruit and in September 2000 our school once more became Wreningham VC Primary School. In 2002 there were four mobile classrooms back on the school playing field and 93 pupils at the school. Today there are 95 pupils and two mobiles.

Over the years the school has developed a very good reputation and continues to provide local children with a good primary foundation. Mrs Wright managed the school into the new Millennium with the new National Curriculum and improved ICT capability. Mr Jones became head teacher in January 2011 and with new international emphasis on the environment the school has gained Green Flag ECO status. The school recently developed the outdoor area for the youngest children and this was opened in 2011 by the Rt Rev. Alan Winton, Bishop of Tethford.

The school head teachers have been:

1952-1957	Ted Barber
1957-1981	Joan Lambert (previously Joan Balls)
1981-1984	Vivien Horobin
1984	Audrey Pollard (County unattached head)
1985-1995	Sheila Palmer
1995-1996	Claire Ogilvie (acting head)
1996	Annabelle Rose (acting head) & Linda Moyes (County unattached head)
1996-2009	Lynne Wright
2009-2010	Richard Burbage
2011	Robert Jones

## Wreningham Village Hall

The site was donated to the parish in 1947 by Mr Burton Bullimore Long of High House Farm, for the purpose of providing a village hall. The first hall, a nissen-hut from Hethel airfield, was opened in 1951 and connected to mains electricity in 1952. Prior to that, lights were supplied by a tractor and dynamo. In 1954 the floor from the gymnasium at Hethel airfield was fitted in the village hall – the present stage floor is made of timber from this original floor.

In November 1976 it was decided to build a new village hall, big enough to take a badminton court. This was to be a brick building, but by January 1978 it was realised that this would be financially out of reach and a portal frame was investigated. Plans and the confirmation of grant was recorded in May 1978, even so there was a problem providing enough funds to satisfy grant requirement and fundraising was stepped up and donations and interest-free loans appealed for. The old hall was sold for £312.50 and removed in early 1979. A Loan Bond scheme was launched as one of the ways of raising money and had its first draw in October 1979.

The first Wreningham Mardle, a bi-monthly village hall newsletter, was edited by Mike McGregor and came out in October 1981 in time to give details of the first event in the present village hall – a Christmas Celebration. This newsletter is still published and distributed free to every house in the village.

In 1983 a Social Club was formed to enable us to hold our own drinks licence and a provisional licence was granted in February 1984. A full licence was applied for and granted in March 1985. In 1985 Keith Skipper officially opened the bar which was then in part of the existing kitchen.

At the Annual Meeting in November 1983 the patchwork group who met at the hall presented the meeting with a wall-hanging representing the legend of the name of the village – this now hangs in the main hall. An active dramatic society 'The Ashwren Drama Group' used the hall for some years and in 1985 they helped to buy second-hand spotlights and dimmer controls. The group rested between 1995 and 2002 and are now known as 'The Ashwren Players' and



are responsible for putting on an annual pantomime.

In 1989 a planning application was made for an extension. Fund-raising was greatly helped by a bequest from Miss Margaret Preston who died in May 1991. The extension, which now houses the bar, the Margaret Preston Room, and a store, was officially opened, again by Keith Skipper, on 2 July 1993. The Social Club still meets two evenings a week in the Margaret Preston Room and is a social focal point for all age groups.



In 2001 it was decided to plaster the walls in the main hall which until then had been painted block-work. During 2007/2008 the ceiling tiles in the main hall were replaced with acoustic tiles, acoustic boards were fitted to the wall and the whole of the stage area was re-vamped with new curtains, lighting and sound system, thanks to a number of successful grant applications. 2007/2008 also saw the improvement of facilities for the less able with a wheel-chair accessible toilet and hard standing in the car park designated for use by the disabled.

In 2010 the hall and many of the houses in the village were connected to a new mains sewer system, and a wind turbine was erected on the car park. The present plan is to make the hall more energy-efficient, easier to heat in winter and cooler in the summer and grants are being sought to boost the funds we have raised.

Regular groups using the hall today are: zumba class, short mat bowls, flower club, youth club, mother and baby group, country & western club, rock & roll club, a coffee morning group, drama group, social club and the village school.

Chairmen of the Management Committee over the past twenty-five years have been:

Mrs B Douglas, 1976-1977

Mr D Nudd, 1977-1981

Mr I Dobson, 1981-1983

Mr J Hanton, 1983-1984

Mr I Dobson, 1984-1985

Mr B Nixon, 1985-1988

Mr P Wilkinson, 1988-1993

Miss C Minns, 1993-2011

Mr John Bligh, 2011-

## Notable events in Wreningham 1952–2012

(These facts have been compiled as accurately as the information would allow. We apologise for any errors or omissions.)

**1952** Feb Beginning of removal of Wymondham/Fornsett railway branch line; most was taken up by 1957 when land was rejoined to adjacent farms. (Work on this line began 3 Sep 1879, opened 2 May 1881, last passenger service 10 Sep 1939 and last freight service 4 Aug 1951. The road bridge at Hapton was rebuilt in 1920 replacing a wooden structure. The original was destroyed by the 1912 flood.) Village contribution sent to Lynton and Lynmouth flood relief. **1953** Village celebration on 2 June for coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Nurse Reeder died suddenly, as did Victor Long snr. **1954** Manorial rights comprising manorial documents and court books of Ashwellthorpe and Wreningham sold at auction in London – part of Beaumont collection since 1919 – now in possession of member of the Wilson family. Retirement of Canon Ernest Scott Fardell, rector of Ashwellthorpe and Wreningham 1896–1954. Floor of gymnasium at Hethel airfield fitted in village hall. Death of Marjorie Long (Red Cross, WI, Church Council). **1955** Death of Canon Fardell, funeral service by Rt Rev. Percy Herbert, Bishop of Norwich. Large section of the rectory demolished (servants' quarters) and house modernised. Death of Burton Bullimore Long (donor of site for village hall). **1956** Last village pantomime produced. Deaths of Mabel Long, church organist for 57 years, and James Quantrell. 50th anniversary of the Methodist Chapel. **1957** Village connected to mains water supply. Post office moved from Mrs K Folwell (1951–1957) to Mabel Ireland. James Wiseman retired as village postman due to ill-health and gave up care of graveyard after almost 50 years. Mr L Bateman became postman. First edition of Ashwren monthly magazine produced. Deaths of Simeon Howlett (Bird in Hand) and John Aves (sheep-dresser). Neolithic stone axe-head dating from 1800 BC found on farm at Fir Grove, now on loan to Castle Museum Norwich together with further specimen found late in the same area – origin of former Whinsill, Northumberland, of latter Langdale, Westmoreland. Major Fletcher left Ashwellthorpe Hall, home of lords of the manor (the Knyvetts) from the 16th century till 1917, then Lady Berners, then became holiday home for Invalid Tricycle Association. **1958** 22 Feb, very heavy snowfall. Death of Mrs ME Newnham (headmistress of village school over 20 years until 1948). Mrs Bateman (shopkeeper) died. **1959** Mrs D George retired as infant teacher, later returned until 1969. Batemans shop on Top Row sold to Bearmans. **1960** Golden wedding of Mr & Mrs Herbert Bothway. **1961** Charles Spratt (grocer) died. **1962** Church youth club 'Pathfinders' started, meeting in rectory stable block. Mr & Mrs Percy left village to take charge of Methodist home for the elderly at Bury St Edmunds. He was chair of the parish council for 25 years. James Marsham died. Mrs E Quantrill died – past organist of Tacolneston and music teacher. **1963** Tom Brighton closed village butcher's shop. Home Guard club officially disbanded. Golden wedding anniversary service for William & Susan Ireland, 12 of their 13 children (all born in the

village) were present with their families. Severe and prolonged frost, Jan – Mar. Frank Aldridge left the mill – in Aldridge family for over 40 years, milling ceased 1964/65. Alfred Howlett's shop closed. **1964** Wreningham and District WI celebrated 21st birthday. Mr & Mrs George Preston and Mr & Mrs Tom Brighton celebrated diamond weddings – both couples received telegrams from Her Majesty the Queen. Concert with carols in the village church by the Broadland Singers from Norwich. **1965** Publication of Anglican Hymn Book, Rev. G Whitehead on compiling committee. Mr & Mrs Horace Folwell celebrated golden wedding. William Hill (postmaster until 1951) died. Mr GA & Mrs (Dr) G Lawrence emigrated to Nova Scotia. **1966** The Reading Room (Home Guard HQ, First Aid Point and Club Room 1939-1945) taken down, amenity garden area created (now site of village sign). Methodist Chapel celebrated 60 years in present chapel. Lotus Cars came to Hethel Airfield. Visit of Faith Mission to Wreningham. Football team entered Norwich and District Sunday League. **1967** Death of Herbert Bothway. **1968** WI celebrated silver jubilee, still having eight founder members – commemorated by seat in amenity garden (constructed by local craftsmen). Mr & Mrs Capps (Mrs Capps was one time parish clerk) moved to Wymondham. **1969** Village drama group formed. Hugh Howes (village blacksmith) died suddenly. Neville Howes appointed parish clerk. **1970** Parish council agreed to take over responsibility for the Reading Room site. Leonard Bateman (shopkeeper and harness-maker) died. **1971** Horace Folwell (one time chairman of district council) died. Mr A Woods, then chief planning officer for the city of Norwich, moved from the village. Mr & Mrs Frank Ireland and Alan emigrated to New Zealand. The marsh (charity land) letting changed from annual grass-feed let to agricultural tenancy due to poor demand owing to bad condition. **1972** Deaths of Pansy Rowe and Minnie Long (who lived all her 84 years in the village), both played an active part in church affairs). Bob Nichols (church bell ringer) died. **1973** Bob Hanton, past churchwarden, died. **1974** Wreningham team ministry proposed, to comprise parishes of Wreningham and Ashwellthorpe, Fundenhall, Tacolneston, Bracon Ash and Hethel. Rev. H Busk inducted as team vicar. Jon Pertwee (Dr Who actor) stayed in village while working at Norwich Theatre Royal. Death of Mrs G Bothway. Bearmans shop closed. **1975** Mr J Farrant invited to suggest a design for the village sign. **1976** Dry, hot summer. Ox-roast at Fir Grove. Rosetta Bell and Edith Hill died. All postal deliveries now from Mulbarton. **1977** May Howlett celebrated 50 years as landlady of the Bird in Hand. Mr & Mrs J Wiseman celebrated golden wedding. James Wiseman died. New electronic organ installed in Methodist Chapel. Mr & Mrs R Douglas left village (having assisted many organisations). **1978** Silver Jubilee Memento booklet launched in village hall by David Richardson. **1979** Bells lowered from church tower and taken to Taylor's foundry at Loughborough. **1980** Death of Violet Minns. **1981** Conveyance of rectory playing field to the parish council for village use. Rectory, last occupied by Rev. Henry Brierly, sold by the Diocese as a private house. Death of John Pruce. First event held in the new village hall. Death of Percy Coleman, formerly of Pear Tree Farm. **1982** Death of Alfred Howlett snr. **1983** Death of Donald Ireland. Kenneth Hanton retired as chairman of the parish council after 21 years and was succeeded



by Christopher Brighton. Death of May Howlett, landlady of the Bird in Hand for 56 years. **1984** Bird in Hand closed with plans to be turned into a private house. **1986** William Wells became chairman of the parish council. **1987** Bird in Hand re-opened as freehouse and restaurant. The Great Storm: severe winds cut a swathe through East Anglia, destroying many acres of woodland in Thetford Forest and leaving its mark on Wreningham. **1988** Coleman family gave up milk round. **1989** Deaths of Henley Curl, and Rev. G Whitehead in Surrey. Wreningham featured on Radio Norfolk (Past, Present and Future). **1990** Death of Mrs D Folwell, founder member of Wreningham and District WI. **1991** Dr David Bellamy visits village set-aside land, part of which is now Long's Wood and the rest of which is in a country stewardship scheme. Death of Margaret Preston. First Open Gardens held. Children's play area built in the playing field. **1992** Death of Joan Ford. Stephen Richardson became chairman of the parish council. **1993** Survey of memorials in church and churchyard by wardens. Death of Harry Minns of Church Farm. Home Watch scheme started in village by parish council. **1994** Roman coins unearthed on farmland in Wreningham dated 32 BC – 170 AD. Long's Wood planted; public opening 19 June by Rosemary Tilbrook; wood extended in 1998 and 2000. **1996** Schoolchildren hold first Teddy Bears' Picnic in Long's Wood. Methodist Chapel closes; opened in 1904 at a cost of £400; last service 17 Nov. **1997** Dedication of new church at Wreningham Zimbabwe by Jonathan Siyachitema, Bishop of Harare, attended by churchwardens of Wreningham Norfolk. Past Days in Wreningham published by Mr BK Day. **1998** Wreningham School Centenary celebrations. Neville Howes retired after thirty years as clerk to the parish council. **1999** Death of Irene Gray. Julie Miles became chairman of the parish council. First Art Exhibition held. Installation of the Millennium Clock. **2000** Wreningham VC School returned to primary status. Graveyard extension consecrated by Bishop of Thetford. Millennium mugs distributed to the children. **2001** Retirement of Mabel Ireland, who ran the village sub-post office for 43 years. Death of Colin Spratt. **2002** Death of Gerald Baldwin. Golden Jubilee Memento booklet produced. **2003** Death of Margaret Wilkinson (former churchwarden). Sheldon Durant became chairman of the parish council. **2006** Death of Phillip (Pip) Wilkinson – past village hall chairman and church sidesman. **2007** Diamond wedding anniversary of George & Florence (known as Mabel) Ireland. **2009** Diamond wedding anniversary of Alfred & Marjorie Howlett who have lived at 3 The Folgate since their marriage. Death of Neville Howes (former clerk to the parish council). Parish Plan published. **2010** Death of Rev. Clive Styles (rector of Upper Tas Valley Benefice). Part of the village connected to mains drainage. Village Hall installs a wind turbine. **2011** Golden wedding anniversary of Peter & Gwen Reynolds. Death of Dennis Long of Fir Grove (churchwarden and organist for over 50 years; responsible for Long's Wood). Christine Minns retired as chairman of village hall management committee after 18 years. New church car-park dedicated by Rev. Andrew Good (Priest in Charge). Michael Hill became chairman of the parish council. **2012** Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Memento booklet produced.

## Wreningham as it is in June 2012



Wreningham is a small village about seven miles south of Norwich in the county of Norfolk, straddling the B1113 (formerly known as 'The Turnpike'). It is considered to be in a green belt area so there are no large residential developments although there are considerably more houses than in 1952, and with a housing shortage in the county it is likely that small developments may be encouraged in the near future. Most of the older houses have been altered and/or extended over the past 60 years. Many of the 36 former council houses are now privately owned and the rest are managed by Saffron, a social housing agency. Most of the other houses in the village are owner-occupied although there are a few which are rented. The number of houses has increased over the 60 years but this has been mainly ribbon development and consists largely of detached properties set in their own gardens and backing on to farm land.

Approaching Wreningham from Norwich the first place you come to is the Bird in Hand public house, on the junction with Church Road and owned by Mr D Brake and family. In 1952 this was a traditional local pub, the bar area seating contained settles and drinks were served from a hatch style servery. The pub had a fine bowling green and the main supporters of the pub were the bowls club and darts teams who played in local leagues. Today the Bird in Hand has a high-class restaurant and plans to add overnight accommodation and conference facilities. Church Road leads to the centre of the village; in 1952 there were 12 houses on this road and there are now 41, mostly small properties built in the late 1950s after mains water had been laid on. In 2010 a mains sewage system was installed throughout most of the village. Church Farm is still a working arable farm, the home and business of Mr D Minns trading as HG Minns & Son. The former butcher's shop is now a residential property and the rectory was sold off by the church commissioners and is privately owned.

Turning right off Church Road into Hethel Road there are two small houses being built on what had been the site of SV Harvey & Sons builders yard, and before that it was a blacksmith's. The next major change is to the farmhouse and barn at Elm Tree Farm, both of which are being converted into superior dwellings. At the far end of Hethel Road, Fir Grove is still the family farm of the Long family, trading as VD Long & Son. Part of the farm has been put down to woodland under a grant aid scheme, the development being known as Long's Wood and is open to the public. In 1952 there were 24 dwellings in Hethel Road, including Penny Green (a small group of houses at the end of an unmade up road) and by the end of this year there will be 36, most of which are small to medium in size.



Church Road ends at a cross roads and by turning right you enter Wymondham Road. On this corner is Spratt's Coaches, a family-owned coach company which offers UK wide and continental travel. The coach company offices were at one time the village shop run by the Spratt family. Wymondham Road stretches to the end of the village boundary at High Common where Bernard Matthews has a turkey farm at Glebe Farm, and EG Whiterod & Sons farm High Common Farm. High House, formerly a farmhouse, was sold off from the farm fifteen years ago and has undergone a considerable make over. The farmhouse and barn at Pear Tree Farm were sold away from the land some years ago and converted into private dwellings and further properties built in the farmyard and orchard. In 1952 there were 24 houses, some of which have been taken down and many of the new houses which make up the total to 50 are large executive-style dwellings.

Straight over the cross roads from Church Road is Ashwellthorpe Road where there used to be 14 houses and there are now 29, mostly bungalows and smaller properties, including those in The Folgate, an unmade up lane. The Poplars is now a riding stables and next door are holiday lets based on converted farm buildings.

Turning left from Church Road is Mill Lane. On this side of the central cross-roads is the village sign, erected to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee on what used to be known as the 'Reading Room site'; in 1952 there was a wooden building on the site which contained a snooker table and served as a men's club hut. On the corner of Mill Lane and Ashwellthorpe Road

is Wreningham VC Primary School where there are about 90 pupils, many of them housed in portable cabins as they await funding to build more permanent facilities. Mill Lane continues down to the B1113. There are 23 houses in Mill Lane, whilst in 1952 there were also 23 including the newly-built council houses. The village hall is in Mill Lane; the present building was opened in 1981 and over the years has been altered and extended. Almost opposite is the village playing field; the original land was purchased from the church commissioners and for a time was the home of the local cricket team. This is no longer in existence but the field is enjoyed by the younger members of the community and the school takes advantage of its location just across the road. Various pieces of play equipment have been erected and there is an ongoing programme of improvements in hand. At the other end of the road the old mill site (at one time a wind mill for grinding grain) is now a builders merchant yard for Travis Perkins.



On the other side of the B1113 is Top Row, a road which has expanded from 24 properties in 1952 to the present 44 due to further council housing and some larger private properties being built. The second village shop used to be in Top Row and is now converted into a further dwelling.

On the B1113 is Hill Farm, which is farmed by the Green family, and two other houses. After cost of maintenance forced the congregation to join another chapel, the Methodist Chapel was converted into offices.

The population of the village is still to be surveyed, and there is a good spread of ages. Most households own at least one car. At one time most people went to Norwich to work but with the Lotus factory in the next village, computers making it easier to work from home and a shortage of jobs encouraging people to set up as self employed, there is a diversity of work although this is still very much a commuter village.

The Parish Council, under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Hill, try to carry out the wishes of the inhabitants as set out in the Parish Plan drawn up in 2009; this is shortly to be revised to keep up with the views of the community. They are responsible for maintaining the playing field, passing on the view of the parish on building and development and highway issues



and any other community matters to District or County Council. They have a small budget collected from the community as a percentage of the council tax levied and collected by South Norfolk Council from each household. We have a community watch scheme and hope to develop other community services as and when they are identified.

The village hall is run by an elected committee under the chairmanship of Mr J Bligh. The church of All Saints is part of the Upper Tas Valley Benefice; it is currently without a minister and a permanent rector is being sought. The day-to-day care of the church is in the hands of the very small Parochial Church Council. The Wreningham Fuel Allotments Trust is a registered charity and owns one small parcel of land and has other investments placed with the charity commission. Annual payments are made towards the cost of heating to those in the village considered to be most in need.

In 1952 there were eight family farms, all of them with a small dairy herd and many with pigs, poultry and/or beef cattle as well as growing mainly fodder beet, kale, sugar beet, wheat and barley. Today none of the farms have any livestock although some of the pasture land is let for grazing and the main crops are wheat and oil seed rape with a small acreage of barley.

The village has no shop or post office but there is a daily mail collection service, a daily postal delivery, and a newspaper and milk delivery service. There are still two public telephone boxes, one cash operated and the other by a card. Most of the village is within a 30 mph speed limit. In 2010 much of the village was connected to mains sewerage. The mobile library visits regularly and there is a minimal bus service to both Wymondham and Norwich along with a dial-a-ride service. There are still two bus shelters on the B1113 where the speed limit is 50 mph. Many people are now ordering their groceries on line from a local supermarket which then makes a home delivery at a time to suit the customer. Wreningham has a web-site and for the large number of people who now have access to the internet information is regularly posted on the site. There are also two public notice boards for displaying information.



## Residents of Wreningham – June 2012

3 Agnew, Kenneth & Jean	4 Fox, Peter & Sheppard, Christine
5 Askham, Paul & Moss, Christine	4 Francis, Mark & Amanda
3 Baldwin, Michael & Christine	4 French, Robert
1 Baldwin, Sheila	2 Fuller, John & Bourthis, Paula
4 Ballantyne, John & Valerie	3 Gibson, Robert & Virginia
2 Barber, David & Patricia	2 Goate, Alan & Sylvia
2 Barker, Geoffrey & Sylvia	2 Goldsmith, Rodney & Kay
5 Bayliss-Brown, Philip & Sara	1 Goldspink, Ellen
4 Billham, Denis & Christine	1 Gooch, Gladys
3 Billham, Bill & Jo	1 Goodrum, Stanley
4 Bligh, John & Jennifer	3 Green, James & Margaret
2 Boakes, James & Young, Pauline	4 Green, Maurice, & Pamela
2 Boyce, Malcolm & Jeannette	2 Greenland, Richard & Maxine
5 Bradley, Steven & Patsy	4 Groucott, Timothy & Leesa
5 Brake, David & Gillian	2 Hales, Melville & Reinbach, Joyce
4 Brighton, Christopher & Susan	2 Hall, Barry & Lucas, Annelies
2 Brinkerhoff, George & Joan	3 Hallas, Douglas & Ruby
2 Buck, David	2 Handford, Brian & Andree
1 Burrett, Dorothy	1 Hanton, Jane Ann
2 Burrow, Louise & Southwood, Jed	2 Hanton, Kenneth & Thelma
2 Bushell, Christopher & Jolly, Elizabeth	3 Harris, Ken & Ly
2 Butcher, Michael & Sally	4 Harvey, Ivor & Elizabeth
3 Butwirght, Christopher	4 Harvey, Nicholas & Valerie
1 Calf, Joan	1 Harvey, Samuel
2 Carpenter, Robert & Ann	1 Henton, Greta
2 Chaplin, Stuart & Valerie	3 Herbert, Michael & Schofield, Christine
2 Collings, Cecil & Elaine	4 Hill, Michael & Gillian
2 Constance, Reginald & Margaret	3 Hobbs, John & Ros
1 Cook, Ralph	2 Howes, Barney
5 Cootes, Christopher & Lisa	1 Howes, Stephen
2 Cox, Timothy & Monica	2 Howlett, Alfred & Marjorie
2 Cracknell, David & Lynda	4 Howlett, Ivan & Lynnette
3 Craig, Malcolm & Lynda	2 Howlett, Rodney & Patricia
5 Crane, Bruce & Claire-Louise	1 Howlett, Trevor
2 Crummett, Graham & Jennifer	2 Hunt, Michael & Cheryl
2 Culver, Laurie & Rita	1 Hurn, Gilbert
4 Day, Harvey & Nicky	1 Hutchins, William
2 Deans, Alex & Cecilia	4 Illingworth, Christopher & Helen
1 Dent, Betty	2 Ireland, George & Florence Mabel
1 Dick, Doreen	4 Ireland, John & Tessa
2 Diskin, Peter & Cheryl	5 Ireland, Norman & Lesley
3 Dobson, Ian & Josephine	1 Ireland, Pamela
2 Dolman, William & Pamela	1 Isbell, Alan
2 Dransfield, Valentine & Ms. E.Bell	2 Jackson, Richard & Irene
1 Duffin, Sally	4 Jarvis, Barry & Brona
4 Durant, Sheldon & Samantha	1 Jenkins, Sarah-Louise
4 Edwards, Ian & Nicola	5 Jones, Colin & Shirley
2 Fairman, David & Mary	3 Keel, Val
2 Ferguson, Thomas & Eleanor	2 Keough, Aaron & Lindsey
2 Fiddy, Alan & Norman, Margaret	2 King, Harry & Maureen
2 Fisher, James & Barbara	1 Kirkman, Peter
2 Foley, Kevin & Nicola	2 Lambert, John & Sayers, Sue
2 Ford, Paul	2 Land, Brian & Ivy
4 Fox, Ian & Beverley	

1	Land, Geoffrey	4	Roberts, Graham & Janet
2	Lawn, Terence & Barbara	3	Robinson, David & Kathleen
1	Leggett, Betty	1	Rogers, Stanley
1	Leggett, Marlene	5	Ronaldson, Richard & Yvonne
4	Leithall, Roger & Lavinia	3	Roper, Pauline
2	Lett, Toni Marie	1	Rose, Darren
3	Linford, Edward & Phyllis	2	Royall, Alan & Cicely
2	Logie, Donald & Jean	4	Rudd, Nigel & Sue
2	Long, Dennis & Pauline	2	Saul, Peter & Preston, Pamela
1	Long, Victor	2	Shingfield, John & Mary
4	Mace, Paul & King, Yvonne	2	Simmonds, Alfred & Gladys
2	Macrae, Ian & Margaret	1	Sisson, Jean
5	Maidment, Patrick & Jill	2	Smith, Don & Jean
2	Martin, Anthony & Mary	2	Smith, Simon & Ann
1	Martin, Ivy	6	Smith, William & Masha
3	Martin, James & Shaista	3	Smith-Hughes, Allen & Jacqueline
1	Mason, Henry	1	Spratt, Gwen
1	Mayfield, Sally	4	Spratt, Richard
2	Merry, Tracey & Ruth	3	Stephenson, Jeff & Sara
3	Miles, David & Julie	2	Sutton, Michael & Jean
2	Miller, Alan	4	Tallent, Brian & Jane
2	Minnis, Stephen & Spurgeon, Joanne	2	Tate, Stephen & Nichols, Christine
1	Minns, Christine	2	Taylor, Adam & Sarah
4	Minns, David & Mutten, Penny	1	Taylor, Maurice
2	Moore, Alan & Irene	1	Tough, Nesta
2	Morgan, Indra	4	Townsend, Geoffrey & Rebecca
4	Morris, Keith & Nicky	1	Turner, Carol
1	Mutten, Gary	1	Wade, Rosalind
3	MacQueen, Alastair & Valerie	4	Wadlow, Trevor & Maxine
2	McCarthy, Jim & Joy	2	Warnes, Diane & Sarah
3	McDaid, Jayne	1	Watson, Irene
2	McGregor, Michael & Valerie	4	Watson, Mark & Catherine
2	McIntyre, Ian & Janet	1	Wells, Beatrice
2	New, Bert & Peggy	3	Wells, David & Daphne
3	Nudd, Dennis & Jan	2	Wells, William & Mary
1	Palmer, Vera	4	Whipp, Edward & Harrison-Whipp, Jill
4	Parfitt, Paul & Lindsay	1	Whiterod, Donald
4	Peachment, Chris & Julie	2	Whitlam, Vera & Yeomans, Brenda
1	Peel, Voilet	3	Whitworth, Philip & Lynda
4	Pegg, Les & Jill	2	Wilkinson, Philip & Margaret
2	Philips, Hugh & Patricia	5	Withey, Ian & Helen
2	Pipe, Arthur & Gwendoline	4	Woodroof, Trevor & Amanda
1	Poll, Beryl	2	Woollard, James & Susan
1	Polley, Margaret	1	Wythe, George
1	Porritt, Olive	4	Wyatt, Roger, & Burdett, Ann
2	Potter, Stuart & Cheryl		
2	Pryke, Graeme & Lain, Bridget		
2	Quinn, Paul & Ann		
4	Rafis, Neil & Janice		
6	Reeve, David & Cutts, Ros		
1	Reynolds, Eva		
2	Reynolds, Peter & Gwendoline		
3	Richardson, Stephen		
4	Riches, David & Anne		
3	Rickaby, Hazel		
2	Ridley, Andrew & Diane		

The figures denote the number of persons in each house.



After her Diamond Jubilee Her Majesty the Queen made this speech:

The events that I have attended to mark my Diamond Jubilee have been a humbling experience.

It has touched me deeply to see so many thousands of families, neighbours and friends celebrating together in such a happy atmosphere.

But Prince Philip and I want to take this opportunity to offer our special thanks and appreciation to all those who have had a hand in organising these Jubilee celebrations.

It has been a massive challenge, and I am sure that everyone who has enjoyed these festive occasions realises how much work has been involved.

I hope that memories of all this year's happy events will brighten our lives for many years to come.

I will continue to treasure and draw inspiration from the countless kindnesses shown to me in this country and throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you all.