



# **Wreningham Handbook**

**Information for village residents**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to the village of Wreningham. We hope that the information contained in this Welcome Pack, produced by the Parish Council, will help you to settle more comfortably in our village, your new home.

We have collected as much useful, up-to-date and relevant information as possible in this guide, but would welcome any additional suggestions you might have or if you find any errors or omissions!

The civil parish of Wreningham comprises three areas, Penny's Green, Top Row and Wreningham itself. There are currently some 220 households, with a population of 528, according to the 2011 Census.

All of this handbook information, and much more, is on our village website: [www.wreningham.org.uk](http://www.wreningham.org.uk)

## **Village name**

Wreningham is possibly named after “the homestead (ham) of Wrenna’s (Wren’s) people (ingas = the people of)”. Another popular theory is the Witch and the Wren story. It is said that a witch who lived in Wreningham heard that the Witch Hunters were coming for her. She disguised herself as a Wren and got away.

## **Recent history**

**1852:** All Saints Church tower falls down.

**1853:** All Saints tower rebuilt and church restored.

**1860:** Wreningham School opens.

**1879:** Railway started at Wreningham.

**1887:** Queen Victoria Jubilee celebration in village and memento booklet published.

**1904:** Methodist Chapel opened at a cost of £400.

**1939:** Last railway passenger service.

**1951:** Last railway freight service.

**1951:** First village hall, a Nissen hut bought from Hethel airfield, was opened.

**1952:** Beginning of removal of Wymondham/Fornsett railway branch line.

**1953:** Village celebration for coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

**1957:** Village connected to mains water supply.

**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).

**1966:** Lotus Cars came to Hethel Airfield.

**1981:** Conveyance of rectory gardens to the parish council for village use as a playing field and rectory sold by the Diocese as a private house.

**1981:** Current village hall opens.

**1981:** First Wreningham Mardle published.

**1983:** Village Hall Social Club formed.

**1985:** Full drinks licence granted and Keith Skipper officially opened the bar.

**1987:** Bird in Hand re-opened as freehouse and restaurant. The Great Storm leaves its mark on Wreningham.

**1991:** Dr David Bellamy visits village set-aside land (now Long's Wood).

**1994:** Roman coins unearthed on farmland in Wreningham dated 32 BC – 170 AD.

**1994:** Long's Wood planted and public opening by Rosemary Tilbrook.

**1996:** Methodist Chapel closes.

**2000:** Wreningham VC School returned to primary status.

**2009:** Parish Plan published.

**2010:** Village connected to mains drainage.

**2012:** Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Celebration and booklet published.

**2013:** Primary School extension opened.

**2016-17:** Church Road housing development.

**2017:** Parish Council installed Broadband in the Village Hall.

**2015-18:** Superfast Fibre Broadband arrives in village.

## **Local Government**

### **Wreningham Parish Council**

Parish Council meetings are held bi-monthly in the Margaret Preston Room at the village hall on the second Tuesday of the month from 7.30pm. The public are always welcome to attend.

The Annual Parish Meeting is normally held in May.

**Chairman:** Michael Hill, tel: 01508 488379 email: [wrendriff@gmail.com](mailto:wrendriff@gmail.com)

**Clerk:** Nicky Allen, tel : 01508 481986, email: [clerk.wpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.wpc@gmail.com)

## Norfolk County Council

Tel: 0344 800 8020 (Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm)

Email: [information@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:information@norfolk.gov.uk) [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk)

**County Councillor:** Colin Foulger (Forehoe Division)

Email: [colin.foulger.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:colin.foulger.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk), Tel: 07745 163169

## South Norfolk Council

Cygnets Court, Long Stratton, NR15 2XE. Tel: 01508 533633

[www.south-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk)

South Norfolk District Councillors for Ward (Mulbarton & Stoke Holy Cross):

Gerald Francis: Tel: 01603 762127 / 07979 985134,

Email: [gfrancis@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:gfrancis@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

Nigel Legg: Tel: 07932 671540 / evening 01508 578053

Email: [nlegg@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nlegg@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

Vivienne Clifford-Jackson: Tel: 01508 571346 / 07717 296202

Email: [vcliffordjackson@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:vcliffordjackson@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

South Norfolk MP: Richard Bacon

Email: [richardbaconmp@parliament.uk](mailto:richardbaconmp@parliament.uk)

## Faith

### Parish Church (Church of England)

All Saints Church, Wreningham, dates back to the 13th century.

The church is usually unlocked each day between about 9am and 4pm and available for anyone to visit.

Wreningham All Saints is one of eight churches in the Upper Tas Valley Benefice,



which comprises the parishes of Ashwellthorpe, the Forncetts, Fundenhall, Hapton, Tacolneston and Wreningham.

Within the Benefice there is a wide selection of styles of service catering for different people's preference.

Wreningham All Saints has a 9.30am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of each month.

**Contact:** Churchwarden is Christine Minns. Tel: 01508 488123

## Other denominations and faiths

**Catholic:** Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, 1 Norwich Road, Wymondham, NR18 0QE

Tel: 01953 603104      Web: [www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk](http://www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk)

**Baptist:** Chapel Road, Carleton Rode, Bunwell, NR16 1RN

Tel: 01953 789899      Web: [www.carletonrodebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.carletonrodebaptistchurch.org.uk)

**Judaism:** Norwich Synagogue, 3 Earlham Road, Norwich NR2 3RA

Tel: 01603 623948      Web: [www.norwichsynagogue.org.uk](http://www.norwichsynagogue.org.uk)

**Islam:** Ihsan Islamic Centre, 17 Chapelfield East, Norwich NR2 1SF

Tel: 01603 622941      Web: [www.muslimsofnorwich.org.uk](http://www.muslimsofnorwich.org.uk)

## Village Hall

Wreningham Village Hall is a charity managed by a group of volunteers as a facility for the benefit of villagers, their families and their friends.

The village hall hosts a wide range of regular events (see below) and offers a range of facilities including the Witch & Wren bar and the Margaret Preston Room, a kitchen, stage, badminton and table tennis.

It is available to hire at very reasonable prices and the hall has been a



venue for wedding receptions, birthday parties, club competitions, quiz nights, pantomimes, exhibitions, dances, concerts, club events and many social gatherings.

To hire, contact Jill Hustler on 01508 481823 or e-mail:

[witchandwren@gmail.com](mailto:witchandwren@gmail.com)

**Address:** Wreningham Village Hall, Mill Lane, Wreningham, NR16 1AN

## **Regular events**

### **Witch & Wren Community Bar**

Located in the Margaret Preston Room.  
All are welcome, you do not have to be a member, just drop in.

First Friday of the month, Family Night  
open from 6.30pm

Second Friday, Fish & Chip Night, Van  
serving from 5.30 to 8pm

Every Thursday & Friday, 8pm to 11pm

[www.facebook.com/groups/witch.wren](http://www.facebook.com/groups/witch.wren)



## **Zumba**

Zumba dance fitness groups usually run:

Monday 6.30-7.30pm and Wednesday 6.15-7.15pm

All in Wreningham Village Hall. £5 per session, pay as you go.

Details from Rachel Evans at [rachel@zumba-norwich.co.uk](mailto:rachel@zumba-norwich.co.uk) or on 07789 748457.

## **Sixties Dances**

Every month on a Saturday night live music from 8pm to 12 midnight, in Wreningham Village Hall. Details and dates contact from Shirley Aldous 07951 864295.

## **Dumplin Country**

Normally held on third Sunday of month in the afternoon, with live country music from local artists.

Doors open at 1pm with music from 1.30 pm until 4.45 pm. Admission on the door £6. Licensed bar, tea and coffee available. Contact Jesse Ponting on 07880 995199.

## Toddler Group

For mums and babies every Friday morning in term time 9am to 11am in Wreningham Village Hall. Refreshments and facilities available.

**Contact:** Katie Loader 07952 185323

## Village clubs and societies

### Bramble Bears Playgroup

Bramble Bears is a sessional term-time only pre-school for two to five year olds running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Ashwellthorpe Village Hall.

For more information or to book a visit, call 07847 225093 or email: [bbsupervisor01@gmail.com](mailto:bbsupervisor01@gmail.com)

### Last Wednesday Coffee Morning

It's the "last Wednesday in the month Coffee Morning", 10-11.45am in the Margaret Preston Room, Wreningham Village Hall.

Come and meet your neighbours old and new. Have a chat over a coffee and bacon roll. All welcome.

**Contact:** Jean Lambourne 01508 481947

### Wreningham & District WI

The Wreningham and District Women's Institute meets at Ashwellthorpe Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm. The President is Shirley Moss on 01508 489460. All are welcome to come and enjoy a varied programme of talks and demonstrations.

### Wreningham Heritage Group

A group which aims to pull together and preserve for future generations the many sources of historical information – oral, written, pictorial and filmed – about the village. They plan to help create an ongoing record of parish life for future generations.

The meetings are open to anyone who would like to know more or to join as volunteers.

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of alternate months, starting in January, at 7pm in the Margaret Preston Room, Village Hall,



Wreningham

**Contact:** Jean Lambourne 01508 481947

## **Facilities**

### **Wreningham Fuel Trust**

The Wreningham Fuel Allotments Trust is a charity with a small parcel of land and some investments placed with the Charity Commission. Its Trustees consider requests for financial assistance from villagers who experience difficulties or hardship associated with energy use in their home. If the Trust has surplus funds in any year, the Trustees offer payments to some of our elder villagers. To apply, or to recommend another villager, for assistance contact the clerk — Christine Minns on 01508 488123.

### **Village Oil Purchase Syndicate**

This scheme has some 30 members who combine their oil requirements to obtain cheaper heating oil through a bulk order every three months (First of Feb, May, Aug, Nov). For details contact John Knight, email [johnknight11@btinternet.com](mailto:johnknight11@btinternet.com) or ring 07961 705154.

### **Playing Field**

The village Playing Field, near to the Village Hall, is open for all residents to use, free of charge.

Facilities include a small football pitch with goals and nets, a small skate park with quarter-



pipes and ramps, a zip wire, a basketball net and hard area, swings and play equipment for small children, a youth shelter and benches.



## Reading Room

Opposite the school, this small triangle of land has a bench, the village sign and one of the noticeboards. Here you can sit in quiet contemplation and watch the world as it passes by.

## Long's Wood

Long's Wood lies to the north of the village. Its 70 acres of maturing, native species, woodland is a much-loved space where villagers walk and observe nature. It has permissive access for the public. Access points include: a small car park on Wymondham Road; the Ketts Country footpath



near the railway bridge on Wymondham Road; the footpath from Hethel Road heading west. [www.facebook.com/longswoodwreningham](http://www.facebook.com/longswoodwreningham)

## The Bird in Hand

This pub is at the junction of Church Road and Norwich Road (B1113). It has a restaurant and eight rooms for B&B. It hosts a wide range of events during the year including live music, quizzes and seasonal events

**Address:** Church Rd,  
Norwich NR16 1BJ, tel:  
01508 489438

[www.birdinhandwreningham.com](http://www.birdinhandwreningham.com)



## Royal Mail

There are two post boxes in the village: one in Top Row (collection 9am); the other in Ashwellthorpe Road near the school (collection 4pm).

## Public Telephone

There is no public telephone in the village.

## Swap Box

The telephone box on Ashwellthorpe Road is owned by the Parish Council and has been converted into a Swap Box facility offering a free library of books, games, DVDs, CDs. Please feel free to help yourself and perhaps supplement it with an offering of your own.



## Broadband

Most of the village has access to superfast fibre broadband. Varying speeds are available depending on where you are and whether your line has been connected to one of the two BT cabinets in the village.

The Parish Council has implemented a wifi hub in the Village Hall with download speeds of 70 Mbps and upload speeds of 20Mbps. It is currently free to access within the Hall, or very close by outside it.

## Bottle Bank

There are two bottle banks in the village: at the Bird in Hand, and in the Village Hall car park. The latter is a village recycling project. The money from the recycled glass provides a useful income for Village Hall funds. Please use it for disposing of your redundant glass.

## Clothes Bank

A clothing bank is located just outside the school entrance and accepts towels, blankets, household linen, shoes, trainers and handbags as well as adults' and children's clothing, including underwear and accessories.

Items should be placed in plastic bags, please tie shoes together in pairs. The bank is run by the school in conjunction with the Salvation Army who receive half the proceeds raised.

## Hard to recycle items

Hard to recycle plastics such as pet and bay food packets, biscuit wrappers and crisp packets can be recycled through the TerraCycle scheme to raise money for the PACT Animal Shelter through Val Keel at Atherstone House, Wymondham Road, Wreningham or ring 01508 488231.

## Refuse Collections

Refuse is collected by South Norfolk Council very early on Wednesday mornings. Standard and recycling collections alternate every other week. Brown bin, garden waste, collection is every other Friday.

More details at [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk)

## Mobile Library

An NCC Library Service van visits Wreningham once every four weeks on a Monday. It stops for 15 minutes at Stevens Lane, Top Row (from 4pm) and at the Village Hall car park (from 4.25pm).

**Contact:** 01603 222303 or e-mail: [central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:central.mobiles.lib@norfolk.gov.uk)

## Wymondham Library

Back Lane, Wymondham, NR18 0QB. Email: [libraries@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk)

## Education

### Wreningham VC Primary School

#### Headteacher:

Rob Jones

Ashwellthorpe Road,  
Wreningham, NR16  
1AW.

Tel: 01508 489355,



Email: [office@wreningham.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@wreningham.norfolk.sch.uk)

[www.wreningham.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.wreningham.norfolk.sch.uk)

## Wymondham High Academy

Daily coach service runs from the village.

**Address:** Folly Road, Wymondham, NR18 0QT

Tel: 01953 602078, email: [office@wh-at.net](mailto:office@wh-at.net)

[www.wymondhamhigh.co.uk](http://www.wymondhamhigh.co.uk)

## Information

### Village website

Run by the parish council, [www.wreningham.org.uk](http://www.wreningham.org.uk) provides information about activities in the village, including events organised by village groups, the Parish Council, the village hall, the school, South Norfolk and Norfolk Councils. It also contains a lot of useful information about the village. Send material for posting to [info@wreningham.org](mailto:info@wreningham.org)

### Facebook Page

A page for latest news, information and items of interest about Wreningham. Visit: [www.facebook.com/LoveWreningham/](https://www.facebook.com/LoveWreningham/)

### Village Newsletter

Wreningham Mardle – a free bi-monthly newsletter for the whole village, produced by the Village Hall Committee. Delivered to every home in the village.

### Benefice Newsletter

Produced by the Upper Tas Valley Benefice of the Church of England (includes Wreningham) once every two months. It contains news relating to the CoE community and is available for a small annual fee.

**Contact:** Christine Minns, Churchwarden on 01508 488123.

### Noticeboards

Three noticeboards at Penny Green, Reading Room and Top Row are managed by the Parish Council. Email: [clerk.wpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.wpc@gmail.com)

A noticeboard on the front of the village hall is managed by the Hall

Committee. Email: [witchandwren@gmail.com](mailto:witchandwren@gmail.com)

There are also three noticeboards at All Saints Church. Contact church-warden Christine Minns on 01508 488123.

## **Public transport**

### **Buses**

Daily bus services run between Wreningham and Wymondham (one a day) and East Harling – Wreningham – Norwich (two or three a day).

Details at: <https://bustimes.org.uk/localities/E0048861>

Flexibus is a 'ring and ride' service which anyone can pre-book and use (fully accessible). There is no fixed timetable. A Flexibus operates between Wreningham and Wymondham. Tel: 0300 1231145.

### **Trains**

Nearest station is at Wymondham: Station Approach, Wymondham, NR18 0JZ.

### **Gritting**

The only road in Wreningham which is gritted by Norfolk County Council in icy weather is Church Road from the B1113 (Bird in Hand pub) to the school crossroads. The parish council have installed a gritting bin, kept filled by NCC, on the edge of the Reading Room by the school.

## **Health**

### **Nearest doctors**

Mulbarton Surgery: The Common, Mulbarton, NR14 8JG. Tel: 01603 977477. [www.mulbartonsurgery.co.uk](http://www.mulbartonsurgery.co.uk)

The Windmill Surgery: London Rd, Wymondham. NR18 0AF. Tel: 01953 607607. [www.coastaldocctors.co.uk/windmill](http://www.coastaldocctors.co.uk/windmill)

Wymondham Medical Centre: Postmill Close, Wymondham, NR18 0RF. Tel: 01953 602220. [www.wymmed.co.uk](http://www.wymmed.co.uk)

### **Nearest dentist**

Mulbarton Dental Surgery: The Common, School Lane, Mulbarton, NR14 8AE. Tel: 01508 578889.

## Nearest vets

Wymondham Vets, Tel 01953 600066, [www.wymondhamvets.co.uk](http://www.wymondhamvets.co.uk)

Chapelfield Veterinary Partnership, Long Stratton 01508 530686 and Wymondham 01953 601239, [www.chapelfieldvets.co.uk](http://www.chapelfieldvets.co.uk)

Three Rivers Veterinary Group – Norwich Road, Mulbarton, NR14 8DE  
Tel: 01508 570960, [www.threeriversvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.threeriversvetgroup.co.uk)

Wymondham Vets, 11 Market Place, Wymondham, NR18 0AS

Tel: 01953 600066, [www.wymondhamvets.co.uk](http://www.wymondhamvets.co.uk)

Chapelfield Veterinary Partnership, Post Mill Close, Wymondham, NR18 0NL. Tel: 01953 601239, [www.chapelfieldvets.co.uk](http://www.chapelfieldvets.co.uk)

## Defibrillator

A heart defibrillator is located on the wall of Wreningham Village Hall facing the car park. Address: Mill Lane, Wreningham, NR16 1AN.

Anyone can use it, no training needed. Ring 999 for code to open defibrillator box and access it for immediate use.



## Parish Footpath Warden

Mick Ryder is the Parish Footpath Warden and is responsible for:

- Ensuring that landowners and the highways authority maintain the footpaths within the Parish
- Advising on the use of the footpaths
- Working with The Ramblers and Local Authority to ensure that problems and issues are addressed

If you are out walking on a footpath and discover a problem such as a missing sign or an obstacle on the path, please report it to Mick by email at [wrenfpwarden@yahoo.com](mailto:wrenfpwarden@yahoo.com) or talk to a Parish Councillor who

will raise the matter with him.

You can go online to view the local footpaths in Wreningham at <http://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>

## **Other contacts**

**Police:** non-emergency number: 101

**Anglian Water:** 0345 145145

**UK Power Networks** (electricity emergencies): 0800 3163105

[www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk)

**Norfolk County Council Social Care team:** 0344 800 8020

**Citizens Advice Bureau** (Wymondham): 14 Middleton Street, Wymondham, NR18 0AD.

Tel: 03444 111 444, Email: [public@ncab.org.uk](mailto:public@ncab.org.uk)

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

**Nearest Leisure Centre:** Wymondham Leisure Centre, 25 Norwich Rd, Wymondham, NR18 0NT.

Tel: 01953 607171

Email: [wymondhamlc@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:wymondhamlc@s-norfolk.gov.uk)

[www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/wymondham-leisure-centre](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/wymondham-leisure-centre)

**Nearest Post Office:** Mulbarton Post Office, inside Budgens, 45 Birchfield Lane, Mulbarton, Norwich NR14 8AA. Tel: 01508 570797

**Nearest Supermarket:** Co-op, Cuckoofield Lane, Mulbarton, NR14 8BA. Open: 7am–10pm (Sundays 10am–4pm)

**Newspaper deliveries:** KBS Norfolk Ltd. Tel: 07731 972415

**Milk & More deliveries:** Mon/Wed/Fri. Tel: 0345 606 3606

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### **Last updated March 2020**

Any comments, corrections or additions to:

[keith.morris@networknorwich.co.uk](mailto:keith.morris@networknorwich.co.uk)



