



WARESIDE WINTER NEWSLETTER



Wareside Parish Council have produced this no frills online newsletter as a way for Parishioners to keep up-to-date with local community groups. We hope you enjoy reading and would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WARESIDE PARISH COUNCIL

As it's nearly Christmas we thought it appropriate to use the first edition of the newsletter to let you know about a few of the acts of kindness which have taken place recently and to thank those involved. They, like all the groups writing in this newsletter have shown genuine community spirit which is much appreciated. If we have missed anyone out please let us know so we can include them in the next newsletter.

Hopefully, you will all have seen the phone box in Babbs Green, beautifully restored by Martyn Burrige and his team. If not, here is a photograph taken during sunnier weather. They have done a brilliant job. We are planning to install a defibrillator in the new year. This will complement the unit on the village hall and between them they will provide coverage for both ends of the village. Once the second unit has been installed we hope to be able to arrange some additional training in their use for anyone interested. Watch for more on that soon.

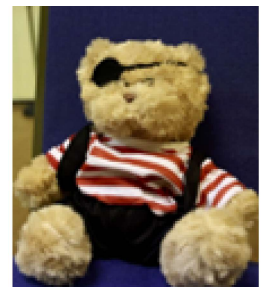
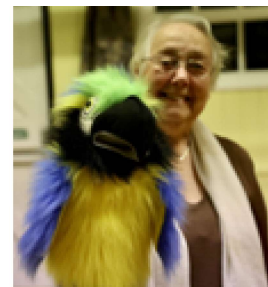


Part of our ongoing management plan for Little Oak Heath is to establish open grassland habitat for the central area. Nicholas Buxton very kindly arranged for this area to be mowed during November and for the mass of hawthorn growth to be removed. Councillors planted saplings along the path to the pond and local tree surgeon Ben Yull volunteered to restake the wind damaged young red oak tree. The fruit trees donated and planted by Colin Peters are doing well, with a couple producing their first fruits this year. We also wanted to mention and thank Charlie Whitfield who responded swiftly, using his carpentry skills, to temporarily repair the playground following another act of vandalism. These have cost the Council several hundred pounds during the course of this year and that, sadly, is money which could have been spent on other projects. If you see anybody vandalising the playground please report it to the Police on 101 and the Parish Council at wpcclerk@hotmail.co.uk.

Lastly, we wanted to mention Larkshill, the area adjoining the village hall car park. The young white cherry tree kindly donated by a parishioner is a very welcome replacement for the old tree near the road which had died and had to be removed. Limited ongoing maintenance is carried out by the Council's contractor but a lot more work is required to reinstate the orchard it once was. Councillors have organised working parties to start on this and more of these are planned for the new year. If you would like to take part, please let us know.

WARESIDE ENTERTAINERS

Our pantomime for 2025 is Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates, written by Pippa Devonshire. Robinson is set a task by sea nymph Coral to find Neptune's trident and rid the oceans of plastic waste. The pantomime features pirates, a wicked squire, who has cheated principal girl Polly and her brother Percy out of their inheritance, a parrot who can only say Friday and a bear called Euston.



Friday February 7th at 7.45 pm
Saturday February 8th at 2 pm and 6pm

Tickets: Adults £10, Concessions £8, family ticket £32 from www.waresideentertainers.co.uk or Judy King on 01920 467223

We are always delighted to welcome new members as performers or back stage help. We meet on Wednesdays in the village hall; call Judy on 01920 467223 for details.



WARESIDE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

In September 2024 Wareside Allotment Association celebrated 10 years of allotmenting on Little Oak Heath. Formed following a request from parishioners to the Parish Council the Allotment Association started with just 10 plots in 2014. Membership grew steadily until in 2020 the area was expanded to cater for 20 plots. Although the take up of allotments varies from year to year the site generally has about 75% being cultivated. Over the years more than 40 villagers have benefited directly from the allotments. Despite 10 years of inflation, renting a plot today is as cheap as it was in 2014. For an annual rent of just £35, and a one off membership of £20 to join Wareside Allotment Association, you get a plot of about 96 square metres and the potential for a whole year's exercise and fresh air!

The allotment year runs from September to August with work in the autumn/winter months generally revolving around preparing for next spring, planning what will be grown where, and sorting out what seeds need buying. 2023/24 has been colder and wetter than usual; and with the consequent lack of pollinators early in the year, the growth rate and yield on many crops has suffered. Runner beans were late, although they did eventually give a reasonable crop. Onions had a tendency to bolt; and despite the aforementioned lack of pollinators there seemed to be more than enough caterpillars on the cabbages late in summer. It's not all doom and gloom; on a brighter note pumpkins and squashes did well. Chard, brussel sprouts and broccoli always seem to survive. I tried growing edamame beans with some success. I have still to improve my carrot and leek sowing to get the correct spacing, but that is for next year.

If you are interested in renting an allotment please contact me at mepryan@btinternet.com.

Have a Happy Christmas and New Year

Mike Ryan - Wareside Allotment Association

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

As Noddy Holder says clearly and raucously, "It's Christmas!" Strictly speaking, it's not even Advent as I write, but by the time you read this, we'll be just about hearing his dulcet tones on the radio and in the shops, so I figure now's a good time to mention the "C" word. Advertisers have, of course, been busy getting us ready for it for some time, so it's hardly new. Maybe you've heard the bubblings of controversy over the Boots advert. Maybe you are secretly hoping that Dawn French's Christmas fairy will help you with your Christmas shopping, decorations and catering, too... Or maybe, like loads of people, you're wondering what on earth the John Lewis advert is about!

It seems to me to be the story of a woman wandering through the shop, like we all do at this time of year, trying to find a suitable present for her sister. As she goes, everything she touches or sees calls to mind a memory of the life they have shared – some of those memories are very happy; some are quite sad; some even hurtful. To some extent, all of life is captured in the advert. Eventually, she finds what she believes is the right gift. Her sister, waiting in the cold outside the store asks, "What took you so long?" "You!" is the smiling response before they walk off together.

There's something quite appropriate in taking a long time to choose a present for someone if this is a sign of careful thought being exercised. That's what underpins this advert. Anyone can buy a box of chocolates, and most people would be pleased with them, but we all (hopefully) try a little harder than that for our nearest and dearest, aiming to get them something they really will treasure. Now this is not a Christmas gift story, but I was really pleased to hear my daughter's delight that her now fiancé bought a ring that they had seen in a shop several months previously and that she had said she really liked. He had listened carefully to her in the first place (that bodes well for their relationship!), and then he had gone to the trouble of travelling back to the shop to purchase it on a separate occasion so it could be a proper surprise. She was really pleased. The ring was valuable enough. The care that went into its selection made it even more precious. It was chosen out of love and in the sure knowledge that it would be received with joy because he knew her and her heart's desire.

One of the things that the priest says to the couple in their wedding service, just before they make their vows, is that God knows all the secrets of our hearts. Jesus said that every hair on our head is numbered. We are intimately and perfectly known by God – he knows us better than we know ourselves. Like the woman in the John Lewis advert reviewing the good and bad memories of her sister, God knows us, warts and all, so his present to us is perfect. No expense has been spared; he has given us himself – the king of heaven laid in the straw of an animals' feeding trough.

This Christmas, if you feel at all lost or unlovely – if you feel that no one would really like you if they could see beyond the persona you present – know that God sees perfectly, and he loves you perfectly. The child wrapped in swaddling cloths is a gift of love for you.

May you unwrap the greatest ever gift of love this Christmas,

Mark Dunstan **Details of Church services can be found at waresidechurch.org or hwwchurch.org.uk**

WARESIDE VILLAGE HALL

Wareside Village Hall celebrates its 100 year anniversary next year! The Village Hall Committee plans to celebrate this milestone, so keep a look out for notices.

Regular bookings at the Village Hall

- Wednesday - 8pm - Wareside Entertainers
- Every month on the third Thursday - 7.30pm - Wareside Parish Council
- Friday - 10.30am - 11.30am - Pilates with Hannah

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- The Chequers Pub village Christmas meal - Friday 13th December and Friday 20th December
- Quiz night at the Chequers Pub - teams of 6 maximum, £5/head, 8pm start.
Monday 6th January *Monday 17th February* *Monday 17th March*



MUCH HADHAM HEALTH CENTRE

I am delighted to announce that the Health Centre has been awarded!

As the African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." This achievement truly reflects our team effort. A huge thank you to our dedicated staff, doctors, and, of course, you—our wonderful patients. Enough back-slapping! Now, let's hand over to Bonny Hall, our Nurse Practitioner, for some wise words.



I'm Bonny, lead nurse/ANP at Much Hadham Health Centre. I joined in 2021 and quickly saw that teamwork is essential to our success. My calling to nursing came in the early 80s, but not without a detour. After a brief, ill-fated career as a legal secretary—where I earned the dubious title “Tippex queen” for my overzealous use of correction fluid on posh, pale blue letterhead—I was politely nudged out of the legal profession. I started nursing training in Enfield and qualified as an RN in 1984, working on a surgical and gynaecology ward. After a few years and starting my family, I moved into general practice in 1996 at an innovative clinic with a minor operating theatre. Fast forward, and I've been in general practice for 28 years now. And yes, I'm still learning every day, which I think is one of the best parts of this profession. I'm passionate about education and training. I work one day a week as a Nurse Education Lead, and our team at Much Hadham supports student nurse placements, helping them gain insight into primary care. My role involves diagnosing, managing, and treating long-term conditions and minor illnesses, which helps improve patient access and allows GPs to focus on more complex needs. Practice nursing is incredibly rewarding, offering the chance to build relationships with patients and families, work autonomously, and be part of a multidisciplinary team.

As this is the last edition before Christmas, I would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year! Andrew - Practice Manager

LOOK OUT FOR THE NEXT SPRING NEWSLETTER IN MARCH