

THE WATFORDIAN

The Newsletter Of Watford Village, Northamptonshire

If you have any suggestions features for inclusion or comments please contact us: watfordian1@gmail.com

Archdeacon Leads Thanksgiving.....

Over seventy people attended a joyful celebration on Sunday 23rd February, to officially mark the re-opening of the church, almost a year since it was closed for renovation. The Archdeacon,



Richard Ormston, (pictured left) preached on the Bible's idea of us as "living stones" of the church, and was lively and entertaining: no stuffy Clergy here thank you! Thanks to all those who came, and those who provided the refreshments afterwards.

Our Vicar, Graham Collingridge, will be taking a well earned three-month sabbatical from 16th March. In his absence other clergy and lay ministers will lead services and be available as required. There are a number of changes to times of church services in Watford over this period:

March 22 nd	3pm: Evening Service (Mothering Sunday)
April 12 th	Easter Day – NO SERVICE
April 26 th	10.45am – Holy Communion (all churches in our Benefice/group)
May 24 th	3pm Evening Service
June 28 th	NO SERVICE
July 26 th	3pm Holy Communion



There are services every Sunday in West Haddon, 9.15am, and Long Buckby, 10.45am during this period (except 26th April – when we meet in Watford).

For further information -contact Pete Jefferson, administrator (stlawrencelb@gmail.com), 07939475949

Looking Back.... 45 Years

The sound of heavy machinery was ringing out in the village as Watford Court was finally demolished. Work had commenced in 1974 to bring down the historic building that had previously been home to the Henley family and had parts dating back to the 16th century. Lady Henley had moved out in 1967 and the building had apparently become a refuge for drug takers, drunks, tramps and vandals. (in Watford Village..... surely not!!!)

The house was first listed as a grade two building of historical and Architectural interest in 1964. In 1970 Lord Henley applied for permission to demolish the house and use the land for housing development, saying "The longer this building remains in its present form the more accelerated will be its decay. I think with reluctance demolition is the only practical answer."



In 1973 plans for the renovation of the building were considered at an estimated cost of over £50,000. But these plans fell foul of rising costs. An inspection by the Department Of The Environment confirmed that the building was in a dangerous condition and the enforced preservation order was lifted.

Demolition commenced in late 1974 the plan being to use some of the resulting stone to build executive houses on the site. The Coach House would also be converted into a private dwelling.

A local resident has asked if anyone has any photos/images of the demolition of Watford Court could she please borrow and scan them.

If you do have any please contact us by email: watfordian1@gmail.com



(Source: Northampton Chronicle & Echo 1972 & 1974)



Defibrillator Installed At Village Hall . . .

Thanks to great fundraising in the village and many contributions a defibrillator has now been installed on the front of the Village Hall. Whilst everyone hopes this apparatus will never be needed there is always a chance that it may make a difference and save a life.



Today's modern 'automatic' defibrillators are relatively easy to use, with clear step-by-step instructions so anyone can use them, from a bystander to a trained professional. The Parish Council are looking to arrange a demonstration and training for anyone interested. Please contact a Parish Councillor if you would like to be included.

Highlights from Parish Council Meeting held on Feb 6th

Street Lighting - LED Conversions – The street lights have been converted to LED. The cost savings will be made over the coming years with the reduction in lighting and maintenance costs.

Flooding Areas in the Village – There are still areas flooding in the village, which NCC Highways have had on their to-do list for many months. The area by the Long Buckby/West Haddon triangle remains a problem, as does the area outside Nene Ind. Est. The Clerk will continue to chase.

Pop-up Pub – Concerns were raised by A Haywood with regards to the pop-up pub with this opening and operating on temporary licences and with retrospective planning applications only just in for the change of use. A Haywood still maintains that this is a listed building following advice given from DDC Planning department.

Tree work being undertaken in the Conservation Area at the old Stags Head. Concerns were raised by B Childs.

Motorway services barriers are in place and closed the majority of the time, apart from around commuter times, it appears. Speeding traffic through the village remains a problem, reports J Powell.

Community Defibrillator & Heated Cabinet Installation – Village Hall – K Cox will install the heated cabinet at the Village Hall; a consumer unit needs to be purchased first. Training will then be provided to the parishioners.

E-Mail from Ian Boyes (NCC Highways) - Replacing the Vehicle Activated Signs – Ian Boyes (NCC Highways) has confirmed that the NCC budget allows for the two signs in the village to be replaced, and this is expected to take place at the start of March. With the PC agreeing additional funds for vehicle activated signs in the 2020/21 budget, this could allow the purchase of a mobile speed camera, which will be able to move around the village and record accurate speed data. K Cox will investigate the costs involved.

Parish Council Elections – Thursday 7th May 2020 – Should more than 7 persons complete the nomination forms then a parish council election will be called. The Clerk has forms available, which need to be submitted by 8th April at 4pm.

Community Speedwatch – K Cox confirmed that training will be provided in September 2020.

Fly-tipping - A couple of incidents have been noticed in Kilsby Lane, these were reported by the Clerk to DDC and they removed the fly-tipping fairly quickly.

Invitation to Thanksgiving Service, St Peter & St Paul Church, Watford: Sunday 23rd February 10:45 – Noted

Planning: DA/2019/1069 – Change of use of the building to a sui generis use comprising an agricultural depot and welfare facility; public house and community use and retention of external flue – **Buildings to the rear of Garden Cottage, Church Street, Watford**

Planning: DA/2019/1070 – Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to outbuilding associated with use of building range as agricultural depot, community facility and public house – **Buildings to the rear of Garden Cottage (The Old Orchard),**

Church Street, Watford No Objections to either applications.

PUBLIC TIME

Support was given by several members of the public for the pop-up pub, which is proving a great asset to the village. There are concerns with the Village Hall Committee and the lack of information provided to the PC, recently the electrics have been changed, and the gas removed, without any notification given. This is a breach of the lease agreement held. They will be asked to attend the next PC meeting. It was asked that news of the installation of the defibrillator at the Village Hall be circulated to residents and the offer of training provided. There is a dog fouling issue around Henley Court; the Clerk will contact the dog warden and ask for additional signage in this area.

The regular church services at St Peter & St Pauls: Holy Communion (4th Sunday), of each month.

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