



WRENTHORPE COMMUNITY ASSOC. WRENTHORPE MATTERS

Issue No. 3/2020

November 2020

Welcome: to the Latest Edition of Wrenthorpe Matters. Produced by Wrenthorpe Community Association to help keep you up-to-date with village news; it would normally be delivered by our fantastic team of volunteers to every home in Wrenthorpe - over 3,500 copies - but due to these unprecedented times we are "delivering it to you online" where you will have the option to download and/or print.

COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Firstly we would like to offer our condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one to Covid 19, or any other illness, since March. We, the Wrenthorpe Community Assoc. were very saddened by the loss of a valued trustee, David Arthur, who sadly passed away from this awful disease in April at the age of 81. David was a member of the WCA for many years and his life experiences - an active member of the Unitarian Church, the Liberal Democrats, several choirs, and his work with many charities - enabled him to give us invaluable advice and help over the years. RIP David.

VILLAGE HALL AND VALLEY CRESCENT CENTRE

Once the local Food Bank moved out of the Village Hall at the end of August a special deep clean was done, and a small Working Party began the task of preparing both venues for safely re-opening. By mid-September both were 'Covid-Secure' for the return of our regular users. Due to local Covid alerts from mid-October, and, of course the second National Lockdown, very little progress has been made on resuming former activities but we are pleased that our premises are ready once Government guidance allows.

The Community Association's funds are running smoothly, helped enormously by a Government grant of £10,000 to offset lost hire income over lock down. When the food bank finished, we decided it was an ideal time to get the village hall car park re-surfaced. It looks great, and has been done to a standard that should last for at least a decade.

OUR VILLAGE SHOPS & POST OFFICE

We really need to give a **BIG SHOUTOUT** to our village shops and our post office for their incredible work in keeping us supplied with all the basic necessities during this crisis. We are lucky to have **SUNNY HILL STORES: GILL'S MINI MART: TILLYBODS SANDWICH AND COFFEE SHOP** and last, but certainly not least, **THE POST OFFICE & GENERALSTORE**, which, in the past few weeks, has undergone a very welcome expansion transformation to the general store side of the premises.

THE HUB (Our Local Foodbank)

The HUB is open at Wrenthorpe Methodist Church every Friday 10am to 2pm. (They also deliver parcels on a Wednesday but can't guarantee what hours they are open) They have drop off boxes for food donations at Gill's Minimarket, The bookstall on Danella Grove and the Wrenthorpe Little Library on Bradford Rd. Morrisons, Asda and M&S continue to support them but they rely on the generosity of people in the village, which is just incredible. They are all volunteers, from Admin, to food parcel make up, to delivery. Requests for food parcels have increased by over 25% as redundancies are more commonplace and earnings are down for self-employed and those with cafe or restaurant businesses. If anyone is interested in volunteering please call [07936 619825](tel:07936619825) or contact Nic Stansby, via Facebook.

OTHER PLACES OF WORSHIP

St Anne's Church:

While this is going to be a strange Christmas season, we at St Anne's will do our best to help celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and tell the Christmas story again, whether that happens on - or off-line. We hope that we will be able to meet in person for worship, but whether or not that is the case, our services will continue to be available online. If our in-person Christingle is able to go ahead, it will have to be ticketed (no charge, but first come first served) in order to make sure we can celebrate it safely. You will be able to take part in an online Christingle, and we will have packs to 'make your own Christingle' ready to collect on Christmas Eve morning.

We're also encouraging everyone who wants to get involved in making the village look more Christmassy. We'd like to invite everyone who wants to take part to draw and decorate a star shape, and place it in their window, as a sign of hope - you might like to

write 'HOPE' on it. And if you have a crib scene, why not build it up in the window so that people walking past can take part in it? And look out for an outdoor crib scene appearing in St Anne's garden.

Special Christmas services at St Anne's:

Sun 15th December 3:00 Virtual Carol Service (online)

Sun 22nd 4:00 Christingle (online/in person)

Thurs 24th Dec 4:00 Crib Service (online/in person)

5:30 Virtual Christingle (online)

11:15 Midnight Mass (online/in person)

Follow our Facebook page and look at our posters on the church noticeboard for information about other events. Our in-person services will only go ahead if Covid regulations permit - but if not, they will be available online.

We are also a drop-off point for the Wrenthorpe and Kirkhamgate Food-bank.

The Well Church:

We are doing the following Zoom Calls:

Revive Youth 7pm Mondays

Refresh for Adults Wednesdays

Regroup 4.30pm Sundays

We have a live broadcast @ 5pm Sundays.

We have also developed something called The Well Call. This is in response to Covid 19 for people who might feel isolated because of shielding etc. Anyone can leave their name and number on our answer phone and a member of our team will call back - they just hope that it will help with the loneliness.

For more information please call **01924 291295**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Horticare at Lindhill Nurseries, Batley Road, Kirkhamgate will be not be holding their annual CHRISTMAS FAIR this year, however there will be a Christmas Grotto, and an Outdoor Xmas Store. They are also taking advance orders for Christmas Wreaths. Horticare is a charity based in the village of Kirkhamgate on the outskirts of Wakefield in West Yorkshire. You can email info@horticarewakefield.org.uk or telephone 01924 372433 for more information.

WRENTHORPE PRE-SCHOOL

Due to the current situation, we will, unfortunately, be unable to have our usual open morning. However, please see our website www.wrenthorpepreschool.co.uk which has lots of information and photos of our setting. Please be aware that we require any application forms to be completed and received by us by the end of January 2021 for your child's entry to Pre-school in September 2021.

WRENTHORPE NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM

The Forum would like to give an update on what has been going on since the first lockdown;

- Food Bank - Some of our members have been actively involved in the Wrenthorpe and Kirkhamgate Assist activities which was originally at the Village Hall but has now moved into the Methodist Church Hall.
- Wrenthorpe Park - Our projects from community consultation of the upgrading of the Parks old tennis courts to a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and new tennis court, along with the renewal of the park pavilion and possible café are still progressing. The details have been discussed with the Leader of the Council and were received favourably. COVID-19 is unfortunately slowing progress.
- Draft Neighbourhood Plan - Is still progressing. The production of this important document is complex in that it has to be in line with Planning Law and needs to reflect the character of the village and the aspirations of its residents as identified in meetings and open afternoons over the last twelve months or so. If anyone has any specialist knowledge of Planning or you would like to help generally, any assistance would be most appreciative.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 Monies - We have raised issues with the elected Councillors of our Ward in respect to the above monies from the four new housing developments in Wrenthorpe, as it appears that the money may be spent in other areas of 'Ward 21 - Wrenthorpe and Outwood West' and not here. We are keeping the Leader of the Council fully informed with respect to these issues

and have been fortunate enough to have had a meeting with her discussing in detail these various issues. This is an ongoing process.

- Wrenthorpe Little Free Library - Following some community consultation, we tried to adopt the phone box on the junction of Wrenthorpe Lane and Sunny Hill Crescent from BT for a Free Library. Unfortunately, BT have changed their policy and it can only be adopted to house an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Working with Wakefield Little Free Libraries and the Community Association we are looking at the possibility of purchasing a 'red' telephone box and locating it in the memorial garden at the side of the Village Hall. What do you think?
- Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) - Working closely with the Community Association and the Community Heartbeat Trust we are progressing with the adoption of the last two phone boxes in the village which BT are wanting to dispose of. This is to house AEDs similar to the one already located at the Methodist Church Hall. One phone box is located on Wrenthorpe Road close to the Park entrance and the other is at the junction of Wrenthorpe Lane / Sunnyhill Crescent which gives better coverage of the village. Currently, we have applied for funding through the Council to purchase two AEDs and cabinets. If you would like to be involved in the regular checking of them, please get in touch.
- Revised Forum Constitution - This has been accepted by the Council and aligns with the Charity Commission requirements. The intention is to circulate it to all members soon for it to be hopefully accepted.
- Planning Application 20/02314/FUL, 5G Telecoms Mast Upgrade - This current application is to upgrade the 4G telecoms mast located on Trough Well Lane to 5G.

- If you have any concerns regarding possible health risks of 5G or any general comments the closing date is Friday 27th November 2020. Go to:

<https://planning.wakefield.gov.uk/online-applications/> and type the application number.

- Green Belt Threat - The on-going issue of the use of a farm for non-agricultural activities is still ongoing with Wakefield Council Planning Enforcement. We understand the department is short of staff and cases are taking longer to investigate.

- Draft Wakefield District Local Plan 2036 - Wakefield Council is currently undertaking consultation on the publication of this draft document. This consultation follows on from the Initial Draft consultation, which took place in January to February 2019. It comprises of three documents;

- Volume 1 Development Strategy, Strategic and Local Policies;
- Volume 2 Settlement Specific Policies; and
- The Local Plan 2036 Sustainability Appraisal Report.

These can be found on their website at

https://consult.wakefield.gov.uk/portal/spatial_policy/lp2036/pd2020/ and the closing date for comments is the 31st December 2020. A site you may be interested in which is only just outside the Neighbourhood Area Boundary is;

- LP1441, a traveller's site at 55 Lawns Lane, Carr Gate;

https://consult.wakefield.gov.uk/portal/spatial_policy/lp2036/pd2020/vol2/vol2pointId=s15433295699031#section-s1543329569903

If you would like to help with any of the above or to make Wrenthorpe a better place to live why not become a member of the Forum. Contact the Secretary at peter.bennett24@btinternet.com or visit the website at <https://wrenforum.org.uk/>

WRENTHORPE ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY (WRENS)

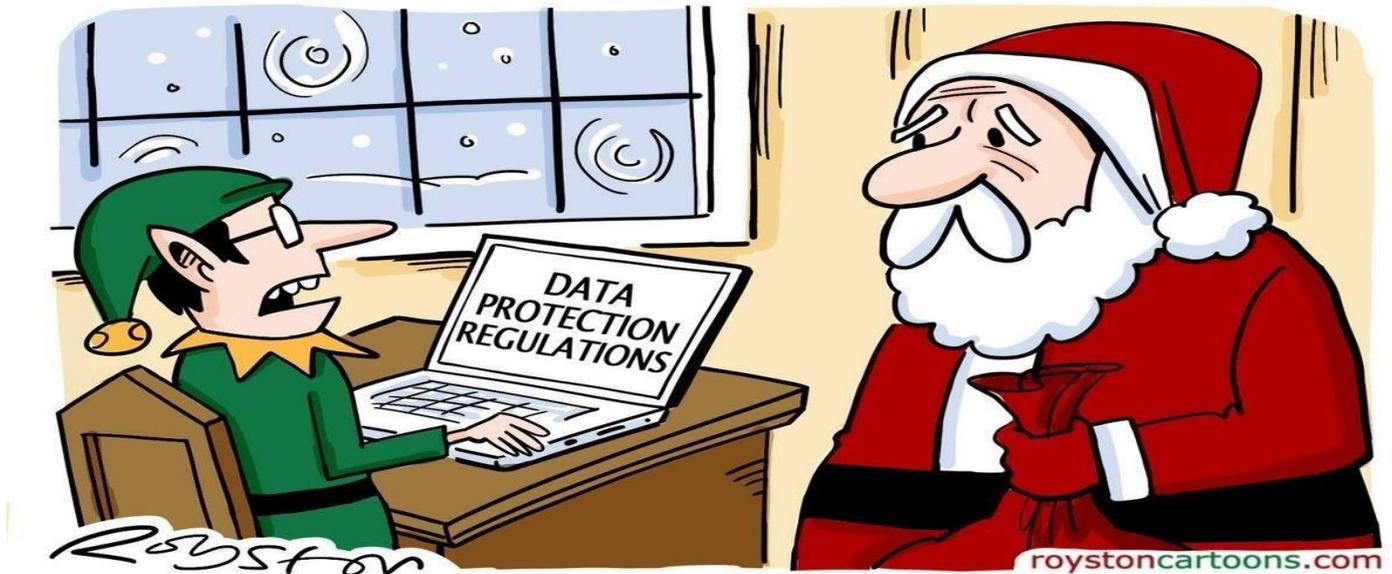
WRENS have been busy during the year maintaining the various planters in the village and flower beds in the park, including creating the new garden area at the side of Gills Mini Market. Himalayan Balsam has grown in abundance this year and members have done a fantastic job, under the circumstances, of keeping on top of this alongside the becks. We have undertaken several 'Sunday Spruces' in the village, which have been well supported and appreciated by residents. When it was safe to do so, we held a couple of activity days in The Meadows, clearing paths, supported by WMDC's Countryside Officer. Over 1,000 bulbs have been planted in various places which will provide some glorious colour next Spring. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions, we have not been able to do some of our planned activities this year, i.e. our regular litter picks, but we are hoping these, along with other activities can resume in the New Year. In order to bring a bit of cheer, we will be putting the Christmas lights up at the beginning of December and will continue to post regular updates on our Facebook page. Last but not least we are pleased to announce that WRENS have been nominated, in recognition of the work they do within the village, for the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. This is a great achievement and we look forward to finding out next year if we have been successful.

OUR LOCAL UNSUNG HEROES!

Many of you will know Margaret and Roy Mitchell, who, in February, were nominated and then selected as 'unsung heroes' for all the work they do in the Wrenthorpe Community. Congratulations Margaret and Roy and well deserved. Although Covid 19 restrictions have curtailed their activity, in normal times you'll find them running the indoor bowling club at the Village Hall which they set up for the Community Association. They also help to make sure that everything runs smoothly at the Wren café on Wednesdays at Valley Crescent Centre. Margaret was key in getting the flourishing ukulele club started and still helps in its organisation, as well as playing. They are also both on the committees of the Gardening Club and Village Singers. Margaret has been the chairperson of the Community Association for over 10 years and Roy is also one of the directors and organises maintenance and repairs for the Association. He has had many calls that have dragged him out, morning, noon or night to sort out leaks, power cuts and other problems. When the proposal for community defibrillators came up, Margaret and Roy immediately backed it enthusiastically. Both of them work hard, attending meetings, preparing for and helping at events, coming early to set up, joining in with clearing away, running raffles, serving teas and coffees and always with a welcoming smile and a cheery word. They really care about local people. Margaret and Roy have recently received their award from the Community Foundation Wakefield District but unfortunately because of Covid did not get to have dinner at the Cedar Court in May. Instead there will be a virtual event in November hosted by Harry Gratton available to watch on line.

AND FINALLY ...

We wish you a happy time over the winter and Christmas period and if you think you've got problems with Track and Trace, think of poor Santa!



"You must contact everyone who's ever been on on your naughty/nice list"

Wrenthorpe Community Association is a charitable company (no: 1130464). You can read more on our website: www.wrenthorpecommunity.org.uk or on our Facebook page. Editor: Dawn Greenwood on 01924 366642 or email drg1.wca@gmail.com