Welcome to Widdington

We welcome you to the Village and hope this information pack will be of use.

This is to add to the information you will get from the Village Design Statement and the current issue of the Village Magazine.

You may also find it useful to purchase a copy of the Newport magazine which details many local services, e.g. surgeries, and transport links.

The award winning Tourist Information Office in Saffron Walden is a mine of information including the timetables of the buses in and out of the Village. Bus timetable also by the bus shelter.

You can also book for Saffron Screen and Saffron Hall.

The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall Social room at 8pm on the first Thursday of each month. There is public participation for the first 15 minutes. Villagers are encouraged to attend, air their views and show support for our Councillors. A list of the Councillors, their responsibilities and contact details are to be found in the Village Magazine.

The Village Hall is used for clubs and other social occasions.

You will see from the accompanying information sheets which clubs are taking place and when. Many welcome new members. As well as badminton equipment we also have netball posts and table tennis tables for Villagers’ use.

There is a small lending library in the social room.

In the Hall car park are two maps. One is an O.S. map showing the area and local footpaths. The other is a map of the Village showing all the houses.

There are also notice boards with information from St. Mary’s Church, the Parish Council and the Village in the bus shelter.

 The **defibrillator** is situated on the wall outside the Hall.

Village Post Office

This is held in the Hall social room from 10.00 -12.00 every Wednesday morning. Among the services offered:

* parcels and postage
* bill payment
* cash withdrawals
* pension payment

Village coffee mornings

We run a coffee morning on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the Village Hall from 10.00 to 11.30. Everyone is very welcome to this social occasion. Widdington is famous for its cakes! If you need a lift to be organised for you we can do this.

St Mary’s Church

Our Vicar is Neil McLeod (540339) and our Church Warden is Sonia Whalley (540066). We are fortunate to be able to keep our Church open twenty-four hours a day for anyone to pop in for quiet contemplation or just look around. There are leaflets about the history of the building at the back of the Church. We have regular music events at the Church so keep an eye open for the fliers.

For all current and benefice services please look at the boards by the Church, the Village Hall or in the Magazine.

The Fleur de Lys Pub.

Chris, Ellie and all the team at the Fleur look forward to welcoming you and your family to the hub of Village life. They offer real ales, real fires, lots of fresh food and most importantly, a really warm welcome so come and join us sometime. There is also a beautiful beer garden and paddock to enjoy on warmer days and a games room with a pool table, darts board, juke box and table football for those who like a little competition with their beer.

The Village Playground is situated at the end of Hamel Way and is for the use of children aged 12 years and under. Chris Rosetti allows use of the field behind the Fleur pub for sports for the older children.

Village Allotments are administered by the Widdington Allotments and Garden Society, (‘WAGS’). These are also situated at the end of Hamel Way. There are currently spare allotments of various sizes to rent. New members are welcome to join WAGS.

 Contact Garrett Devine at garret.devine@btinternet.com.

Priors Hall Barn can be visited Saturdays, Sundays and Bank holidays, between April and end of September, 10am -6pm. More information on this 15th century tithe barn can be found on the English Heritage website.

The Village website can be found at http://www.essexinfo.net/widdington-parish-council

This will give you a good flavour of the Village and its historical background. This is also the website for our Parish Council information.

There is a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Village. You can sign up for regular updates and current information at Widdington.nhw@gmail.com or ‘phone Tessa Firmin on 543284 for more information

The Village Magazine is issued quarterly and compiled by a committee headed by Ken Kemp. You will find a list of useful contacts at the back. New articles are always welcome and can be sent to kenkemp28@btinternet.com

Walden Dairy delivers in the village, for further details see waldendairy.co.uk

Rubbish Collection and recycling.

There are 3 separate bins. Small brown bins for food waste are collected each week. Black non-recycling bins and green re-cycling bins are collected on alternate weeks. Collection days are Tuesdays for the main Village and Wednesdays for Cornells Lane and Church Lane. Days may change for Holidays.

There is a Village Emergency Plan which will come into effect if a disaster occurs. So far we have only had local power cuts and local flooding and nothing that could be deemed a Village disaster e.g. a ‘plane from Stansted coming down.

The Village Emergency co-ordinators are:

Jill Brookman 01799 540850

Robbie Robertson 01799 540847

Sally Brown 07783 955339

Ian Southcott 07885 593433

We hold regular social events such as Christmas Fairs, Flower and Produce Shows and Summer Fetes. An annual Burns lunch for senior citizens is sponsored by the Parish Council.

At all these events we rely on the help of volunteers. We would welcome any help you could offer and it is a good way to get to know your fellow Villagers.

Please contact Jill Brookman (540850) for further information.