

THE  
WRENINGHAM  
JUBILEE MEMENTO



1952 — 1977



## THE QUEEN'S ACCESSION

*King George VI died peacefully in his sleep at Sandringham on 6th February, 1952. His elder daughter Princess Elizabeth with her husband Prince Philip was in Kenya starting a tour which was to take them to East Africa, Australia and New Zealand. On being informed of her father's death they immediately returned to England. She was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June, 1953.*

## WRENINGHAM SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 1977

The week commencing 5th June, 1977 was announced as the date for the main celebrations to be held Nationally.

On Monday, 25th October, 1976 a Parish Meeting was convened and held at the Village Hall at which two committees were elected. The Silver Jubilee Committee, to make arrangements for the forthcoming celebrations in Wreningham Village, consisting of Mrs. M. Fairman, Messrs. H. G. Curl, D. A. Long, H. G. Minns, W. S. Wells, J. Wright and K. Hanton representing the Parish Council. Mrs. McCormick was co-opted as W.I. representative and later Miss Christine Minns to help produce this memento.

The second committee to deal with the possible erection of a Village Sign as designed by Mr. J. Farrant.

The Silver Jubilee Committee met on 3rd November, 1976. D. Long was elected chairman, and W. Wells, secretary/treasurer. Subject to funds being available the committee wished to organise:—

- i) *An Over 60's party.*
- ii) *Childrens sports and tea party.*
- iii) *Adults evening dance or party.*

The amount estimated as required for this was £250 — £300. Notice of the committee's plans were circulated throughout the village. The next committee meeting held on 6th December at Mr. Curl's house decided to approach people in business on their own account, living in the village, for donations as well as making it known that any donations would be welcome, in the hope that all the money required could be raised this way.

Meetings were held at Mr. Curl's house on 18th January, 15th February, 15th March and 19th April, 1977, and further meetings were held on 11th May, 25th May and 2nd June. It was decided that other people be invited to help arrange the various functions. With the co-operation of the Head-teacher (Mrs. Lambert) and the Norfolk Education Committee, permission was given to hold the sports on the school playing-field together with the use of school facilities.

On Sunday, 6th February the 25th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession was commemorated at the 11 a.m. morning service at All Saints Church.

On Sunday, 5th June in custom with churches throughout the country a special church service was held at All Saints. This was a service of celebration and rededication.

Monday, 6th June was a National Spring Bank Holiday and Tuesday 7th June was the official Jubilee Bank Holiday.

On Tuesday, 7th June at 1.30 p.m. a number of children paraded in fancy dress on the sports field while others displayed decorated bicycles, for the judges Miss I. M. Gray and Mr. E. Whiting.

This was followed by a comprehensive programme of childrens sports organised by Mr. & Mrs. M. Craig, Messrs. J. Pruce, I. Foster and J. Wright. In spite of the poor weather the programme was completed after which all the children, parents and spectators moved to the crossroads by the village school. A very large gathering of residents of the village watched the unveiling of the Wreningham Village Sign by Mrs. D. M. Folwell after an introduction by Mr. K. Hanton, Chairman of the Parish Council.

The children then retired to the village hall, which was well decorated with flags, for tea which had been provided by numerous ladies under the co-ordination of Mrs. Fairman and Mrs. McCormick. The National Anthem was sung and then grace was said by Mrs. Craig. All children up to the age of 16 years were presented with a commemorative beaker after tea.

In the evening a social for all ages was held at the Village Hall. Mr. R. N. Bothway acted as Master of Ceremonies and the events included an adults fancy dress competition judged by Mrs. Folwell and Mr. Curl. Many wonderful costumes had been prepared and the judges took a long time coming to their decision:

1st: Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Minns and daughters as Indian Chief and squaws.

2nd: Mr. I. Foster as a reverend gentleman.

3rd: Mrs. L. Farrant as a clown.

4th: Mr. K. Hanton as Old Mother Hubbard.

Earlier in the evening a large fire had been prepared outside the Hall and a lamb was barbecued by Mr. W. Wells. At approximately 9.00 p.m. the lamb was borne in and carved before the large company and consumed along with other buffet food, some of which had been brought by the members themselves, together with drinks brought by those present, which included some very good home-made wines.

This social proved a wonderful conclusion to a good day and as one gentleman remarked, "In true Wrenningham Tradition".

On Thursday, 9th June, a "Happy Evening at the Village Hall" was arranged for the over 60's. This was dinner followed by entertainment. Transport was arranged for those who needed, and donations of food included turkeys from Mr. H. G. Minns, Ham from Mr. H. G. Curl and beer from Mr. J. Wright. The menu consisted of turkey and ham salad with new potatoes, followed by a selection of sweets, sherry and beer. Grace was led by the rector the Rev. H. B. L. Brierly. The after dinner entertainment was given by Mr. H. Harrad of Norwich and Mr. Roger Peacock of Morley. Songs were sung and community singing was led by Mr. K. Hanton with Mr. D. Long at the piano.

Those who attended were:—

Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Smith	Mr. & Mrs. E. Whiterod	Mr. & Mrs. Futter
Mr. & Mrs. F. Chamberlain	Mrs. F. Gammons	Mr. & Mrs. R. Preston
Miss M. Preston	Mrs. R. Haddad	Mr. & Mrs. G. Ireland
Mrs. J. Chapman	Mrs. M. Howlett	Mr. & Mrs. S. V. Harvey
Mr. & Mrs. J. Wiseman	Mr. S. Cobb	Mr. & Mrs. S. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Wells	Mrs. Atkin	Mr. & Mrs. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. A. Howlett	Mr. & Mrs. T. Barber	Mrs. G. Browne
Mrs. M. Land	Mr. H. G. Curl	Mrs. D. W. George
Mr. & Mrs. L. Land	Mr. R. C. Miller	Miss N. E. Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. C. Ford	Mrs. A. Wade	Mr. & Mrs. N. S. George
Mr. & Mrs. J. Keable	Mrs. M. Setcbell	Mrs. D. Folwell
Miss I. M. Gray	Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Minns	Mr. & Mrs. K. Hanton

Those invited but unable to attend included Mr. E. Reeder, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. E. Reynolds, Mr. G. Nicholls and Mr. F. Browne.

Thanks must be expressed to the tremendous number of people who helped to make this such a happy celebration.

*Dennis Long*

Chairman of Wrenningham Silver Jubilee Committee

DONATIONS are acknowledged from:—

<i>W. Asbby &amp; Son</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. N. S. George</i>	<i>Mrs. L. Minns</i>
<i>Mr. G. M. Baldwin</i>	<i>Miss I. M. Gray</i>	<i>Mr. R. Minns</i>
<i>Mrs. T. Barber</i>	<i>Mrs. R. Haddad</i>	<i>Mrs. McCormick</i>
<i>Mr. R. N. Bothway</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. R. Harvey</i>	<i>Mrs. J. Noy</i>
<i>Mr. C. Brighton</i>	<i>Mr. B. Howes</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. B. Pardue</i>
<i>Mr. D. G. Coleman</i>	<i>Mrs. M. Howlett</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. J. Pruce</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. I. M. Craig</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. K. G. Knight</i>	<i>Mr. W. G. Smith</i>
<i>Mr. H. G. Curl</i>	<i>Mrs. J. M. Lambert</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. J. K. Stammers</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. D. W. Fairman</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. D. A. Long</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. R. Stretton</i>
<i>Mr. J. A. Farrant</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. J. M. Marshall</i>	<i>Mrs. E. Vessey</i>
<i>Mr. K. D. Fisher</i>	<i>Miss B. Minns</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. W. Wells</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. C. Ford</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. H. G. Minns</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. E. G. Whiterod</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. I Foster</i>	<i>&amp; Family</i>	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. K. Whiting</i>
		<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. J. Wright</i>

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
<i>DONATIONS (total given by those listed above)</i>	<b>£271.29</b>	<i>Jubilee Beakers</i>	<b>£60.26</b>
<i>Other Donations</i>	<b>2.13</b>	<i>Photographer</i>	<b>4.50</b>
		<i>Hire of Village Hall</i>	<b>1.50</b>
		<i>Hire of Piano</i>	<b>7.00</b>
		<i>Bunting</i>	<b>19.44</b>
		<i>Insurance</i>	<b>5.00</b>
		<i>Stationery &amp; Printing</i>	<b>6.09</b>
		<i>Various prizes</i>	<b>34.14</b>
		<i>Food, Drinks &amp; Cigarettes</i>	<b>135.49</b>
	<b><u>273.42</u></b>		<b><u>273.42</u></b>

*Other contributions were made to a fund for the village sign. This was organised by a committee consisting of Mrs. D. Folwell, Messrs Brighton, Farrant, Hanton and Turner.*

## The Wreningham Village Sign

The Village Sign which was erected to commemorate the Silver Jubilee was designed and made in the village from English Oak and was paid for by donations from the village.

The sign bears the names of the three parishes which were united in the early 15th century to form the present parish of Wreningham and on the reverse appears coats of arms of prominent families and lords of manors connected with these parishes.

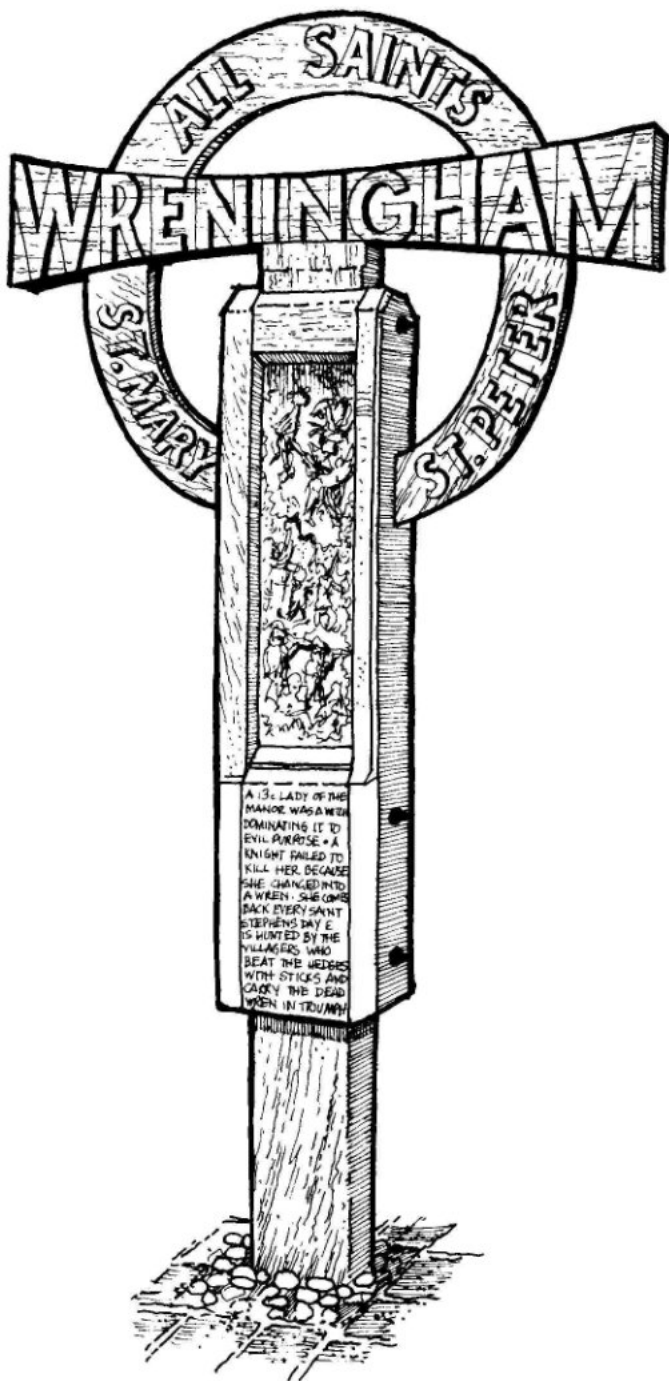
Wreningham Parva, Little Wreningham or St. Mary was held by Ketel the Dane in the Confessor's time but eventually passed into the hands of the Bigods who were to become the first Earls of Norfolk. The de Thorp family were patrons of this parish according to earliest records and the coat of arms of Sir John de Thorp appears on the reverse.

Nelonde St. Peter has also been called Newland, Nayland and Nailng and in Domesday was called Eiland, or the land at the eye or island. This parish was united to Little Wreningham on 7th April, 1406. The Bigods also held this but the parish also contained the site of Nerfords Manor where the ancient family of Belhouse resided. The arms of the Belhouse family appear on this portion of the sign. This church was demolished at the time of the Reformation and was situated between Wreningham and Ashwellthorpe.

Wreningham Magna or Great Wreningham had three manors in it, the Manor of Belhouse Hall, Nerfords Manor, the site of the manor house being in Nayland Parish and the manor of Moignes or Money's. This parish was united with the previous mentioned parish in 1414 to form Wreningham All Saints as we know it. On the back of this portion of the sign are the coats of arms of the Bigods, the le Moigne's and the de Nerfords.

The sign also bears the following legend and a carved panel depicting it:—

*"A 13th Century Lady of the Manor was a witch dominating it to evil purpose. A knight failed to kill her because she changed into a wren. She comes back every St. Stephens Day and is hunted by the villagers who beat the hedges with sticks and carry the dead wren in triumph."*



## NOTABLE EVENTS IN WRENINGHAM DURING THE 25 YEARS 1952 – 1977

(These facts have been compiled as accurately as the information would allow. We apologise for any errors or obvious omissions).

**1952** FEB. Commencement of taking up part of Wymondham/Fornceet railway branch line, most removed by 1957 when land rejoined to adjacent farms. Work on this commenced 3rd September, 1879. Opened 2nd May, 1881, the last passenger service was 10th September, 1939 and final freight service 4th August, 1951. The road bridge at Hapton was rebuilt in 1920 replacing a wooden structure. The original was destroyed by the 1912 flood. Mains electricity connected to village hall (nissen-hut from Hethel airfield opened 1951). Pantomime 1952 lighting by tractor and dynamo. Village contribution sent to Lynton and Lynmouth flood relief. **1953** Village celebration on 2nd June for Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Nurse Reeder dies suddenly, also Victor Long Snr. **1954** Manorial rights comprising manorial documents and Court Books of Ashwellthorpe and Wreningham sold at auction in London – part of Beaumont collection since 1919 – now in possession of member of the Wilson family. Retirement of Canon Ernest Scott Fardell, M.A., rector Ashwellthorpe and Wreningham 1896-1954. Floor of gymnasium at Hethel airfield fitted in village hall. Death of Marjorie Long (Red Cross, W.I., Church Council). **1955** Death of Canon E. S. Fardell, funeral service by Bishop of Norwich, Bishop Herbert. Rev. J. B. Gordon became rector. Large section of Rectory demolished (servants quarters) and house modernised. Death of Burton Bullimore Long donor of site for village hall. **1956** Last village pantomime produced. Death of Mabel Long, church organist for 57 years, also James Quantrell. 50th Anniversary of Methodist Chapel. **1957** Mains water supply connected to village. Mr. Ted Barber headmaster, left Wreningham school – pupils 5-15 years – also clerk to Parish Council 5 years. Miss Joan Balls (now Mrs. Lambert) appointed headmistress, still in office. Post Office moved from Mrs. K. Folwell (1951-57) to Mrs. G. Ireland (to present day). James Wiseman retired as village postman due to ill-health and gave up care of graveyard after almost 50 years. Mr. L. Bateman now postman. Miss Rosetta Bell retired from Sunday School teaching after nearly 50 years. First edition of Ashwen monthly magazine produced. Replacement pipe-organ installed in All Saints church from Brocklebank Institution Chapel by Storr of Costessey. Old organ now in Lincoln Cathedral came originally from Tacolneston. Death of Simeon Howlett (Bird-in-Hand) and John Aves (Sheep Dresser). Neolithic stone axe-head dating from 1800 B.C. found on farm at Fir Grove, now on loan to Castle Museum, Norwich, together with further specimen found later in same area – origin of former Whinsill, Northumberland, the latter Langdale, Westmorland. Major Fletcher left Ashwellthorpe Hall. Home of Lords of the Manor from 16th century (The Knevets) till 1917, Lady Berners. Now Holiday Home for invalid tricycle association. **1958** School children over 11 years transferred to Secondary Modern school at Wymondham. 22nd February very heavy snowfall. Death of Mrs. M. E. Newnham (headmistress of village school over 20 years until 1948). Mrs. Bateman (shopkeeper) died. **1959** Mrs. D. George retired as infant teacher, later returned until 1969. Batemans shop on top row sold to Bearmans. **1960** Golden wedding of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Bothway. **1961** Rev. J. B. Gordon left parish. Charles Spratt (grocer) died. **1962** Rev. Geoffrey Whitehead succeeded Rev. Gordon. Church youth club called "Pathfinders" started, meeting in rectory stable block. Mr. & Mrs. Percy Coleman left village to take charge of Methodist home for elderly at Bury St. Edmunds. He was chairman of Parish Council for 25 years. Mr. James Marsham died. Mrs. E. Quantrell died – past organist of Tacolneston and Music Teacher. **1963** Tom Brighton closed village butchers shop. "Home Guard" club officially disbanded. William and Susan Ireland 50th Wedding Anniversary service 12 of their 13 children, all born in village, were present with their families. Severe and prolonged frost Jan-March. Frank Aldridge left the mill – in Aldridge family for over 40 years, milling finally ceased 1964/65. Alfred Howletts shop closed. **1964** Wreningham and District W.I. celebrated 21st birthday. Mr. & Mrs. George Preston and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Brighton celebrated diamond weddings – both couples received telegrams from Her Majesty the Queen. Concert with Carols in the village church by the Broadland Singers from Norwich. **1965** Publication of Anglican Hymn Book, Rev. Whitehead on compiling committee, this book is used in All Saints Church today. Mr. & Mrs. Horace Folwell a Golden Wedding anniversary. Mr. William Hill postmaster until 1951 died. Mr. G. A. & Mrs. (Dr.) G. Lawrence emigrated to Nova Scotia. **1966** The "Reading Room" (Home Guard H.Q. & First Aid point 1939-45 & club room) taken down, amenity garden area created (now site of village sign). Methodist Chapel celebrated 60 years in present chapel. Lotus cars came to Hethel airfield. Visit of Faith Mission to Wreningham. Football team entered Norwich and



District Sunday League. **1967** Mr. Bob Hanton retired as church warden after 28 years. Miss Pansy Rowe gave up teaching Sunday School after more than 50 years. Death of Herbert Bothway. **1968** W.I. celebrated Silver Jubilee, still has 8 of founder members, jubilee commemorated by seat in amenity garden (seat constructed by local craftsman). Mr. & Mrs. Capps (Mrs. Capps was one time parish clerk) moved to Wymondham. **1969** Village Drama group formed. Rev. & Mrs. G. Whitehead left and Rev. Henry Brierly was installed as rector. Mr. Hugh Howes (village blacksmith) died suddenly. Mr. Neville Howes appointed Parish Clerk. **1970** Parish Council agreed to take over responsibility for Reading Room site. Mr. Leonard Bateman died (shopkeeper and harness-maker). **1971** Mr. Horace Folwell (one time chairman of District Council) died. Mr. A. Woods, then Chief Planning Officer for the City of Norwich moved from village (one way system of today in Norwich developed during his time in office). Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ireland and Alan emigrated to New Zealand. The marsh (charity land) letting changed from annual grass-feed let to agricultural tenancy due to poor demand owing to bad condition. **1972** Miss Pansy Rowe and Miss Minnie Long passed away (Miss Long lived all her 84 years in village, both played an active part in church affairs). Mr. Bob Nichols, church bell ringer died. **1973** Mr. Bob Hanton, past church warden, died. Miss I. M. Gray retired as schoolteacher after 24 years. Status of village school changed from C. of E. "Aided" to "Voluntary Controlled". **1974** Wreningham team ministry proposed to comprise parishes of Wreningham and Ashwellthorpe, Fundenhall, Tacolneston, Bracon Ash and Hethel. Rev. H. Busk inducted as team vicar. Jon Pertwee (actor Dr. Who) stayed in village while working at Theatre Royal, Norwich. Death of Mrs. G. Bothway. Bearmans shop closed. **1975** Mr. J. Farrant invited to suggest a design for village sign. The church organ completely overhauled by Boggis of Diss. **1976** Dry hot summer. Ox-roast at Fir Grove. Miss Rosetta Bell died. Mrs. Edith Hill died. All postal deliveries now from Mulbarton. **1977** Mrs. May Howlett celebrated 50 years as landlady at Bird-in-Hand public house. Mr. & Mrs. James Wiseman celebrated golden wedding. Mr. James Wiseman died. New electronic organ installed in Methodist chapel. Mr. & Mrs. R. Douglas left village (having assisted many organisations)

## WRENINGHAM AS IT IS IN 1977

The population of Wreningham today is 491 living in 174 houses, most of which are on mains electricity and water. The total area of the village is 1,542 acres. The gross rateable value is £35,716.

We no longer have a village grocers shop or butchers shop but most families own a car and there are also daily buses both to Norwich and Wymondham. The village hall is still a wartime nissen hut but it is hoped to replace this with a new building soon. Mr. D. Long has been treasurer for the village hall committee for the whole of the last 25 years (since 1950). There are 2 public telephone kiosks, one near the school and the other on Top Row. Two bus shelters have been built on the Norwich/New Buckenham B1113 road, one at Mill Corner and the other at the end of Church Row. "All Saints" church is in good repair and services are held each Sunday. Rev. H. B. L. Brierly lives at the rectory and with team vicar Rev. H. Busk at Bracon Ash, is responsible for a group of Parish churches (Wreningham with Ashwellthorpe, Fundenhall, Tacolneston, Bracon Ash and Hethel). The Methodist chapel situated on the B1113 also has a regular attendance. The village sub-post office is run by Mrs. Ireland on Top Row. Mr. K. Hanton has been Parish Council Chairman for 16 years.

Mr. C. Spratt has a coach hire business, Mr. R. Harvey and Mr. M. Fox are both running builders firms, Mr. W. Wells has a timber craft business. The mill is now run by William Ashby and Son Ltd. as a builders merchants. Mr. & Mrs. I. Foster are wood turners and Mrs. Harvey has a hair dressing salon. The village has 2 market gardeners, Mr. D. Fairman on Top Row and Mr. G. Baldwin in Mill Lane, where he took over from Mr. K. Betts. The Coleman family have been the village dairymen all this time.

The Bird-in-Hand is still a thriving public house having both a mens and womens bowls team and a darts team. There is a village football team in the Sunday League, a drama group and a very strong W.I. As from September this year the village school will be catering for 4 - 8 year olds from a number of villages around.

The farmers in the village are:—

Mr. J. Peel — *Hill Farm*  
H. G. Minns & Son — *Church Farm*  
Mr. P. Saul — *Elm Tree Farm*  
V. D. Long & Son — *Fir Grove*  
Mr. W. G. Smith — *Pear Tree Farm*

Minns Bros. — *High House Farm*  
E. G. Whiterod & Sons — *High Common*  
Bernard Matthews Ltd. — *Glebe Farm*  
Mr. R. N. Bothway — *The Poppars*

