

WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Lest we forget

Armistice Centenary Edition



War memorial in the churchyard of St. John the Evangelist

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

welcome



This edition of Wicken News falls on the very poignant 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. It is only fitting that we remember the sacrifices made by so many, in both World Wars and other conflicts, that allow us to live the lives we do today. We should not underestimate how lucky we are to live in the relative peace that we do, and we should honour those who sacrificed their lives, by ensuring that we do all in our power to keep the world safe from those who would do otherwise.

Looking forward to 2019, thanks to the support of the Parish Council through the Solar Farm Fund and our own fund-raising efforts, we are looking forward to increasing our activities in number and scale. The Wicken Village Community (WVC) is working particularly with WicKids and other village organisations to together build on recent successes. Through the year, ourselves and WicKids will be leading or taking part in nine different activities; we very much look forward to these, but will, along with the other village organisations, need help in organising and making these events successful. It would be great if offers of assistance could be made when necessary. Scarecrows, BBQs, Walks, Talks, Drinks, Films, Music, Sports, “Bumps” and Hunts are all on the list!

Fenlon Dunphy

Chair

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair:	Fenlon Dunphy
Vice Chair:	Will Morphet
Secretary:	Will Morphet
Treasurer:	Nick Plumbridge
Archivist:	Fenlon Dunphy
Wicken News Editor:	Siobhan Eilbeck

Committee:	Petra Spencer-Jones Andrew Edmonson
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(New members always welcome!)

Wicken News is published by the Wicken Village Community (WVC). The opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the WVC.

Letters and contributors are always welcome and need to be in by mid February.

For all enquiries please email wickencommunity@gmail.com

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Our Sports & Social Club needs you!

There is an AGM due to be held at 8pm on Thursday December 13th at the Sports Club, St John's Lane.

Over the last few years Wicken Sports Club has evolved from a pure sports club to one embracing more community activities, e.g. Walking for Health, Craft Circle, Film Club, Seniors Club, etc. While sporting activities are still the key reason for our existence, the other activities are increasingly becoming a vital part of the Club and, as these increase, there is a greater need for volunteers to help run the Club, maintain the clubhouse and staff the bar.

Each year we hold an Annual General Meeting to appoint members to the Management Committee and this includes all the positions from Club Chair down. In particular, this year we are reaching out to the general

community for volunteers so if you would like to get involved whether in an executive role on the Management Committee or simply helping to staff the clubhouse (it can actually be quite fun!) please come along to our AGM.

For those who have yet to join WSC, membership starts at £10 per year for Social Members and there is a small additional fee should you wish to join as a Sporting Member – Skittles, Tennis, Archery, Cricket or Football

Club Structure:

The Management Committee (comprising Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and two representatives from each Club Section - Football, Cricket, Archery, Tennis, Social, Seniors) is responsible for the operation of Wicken Sports Club. The various Club Sections operate



autonomously but within the general rules/guidelines established by the Management Committee.

Vacant Positions:

CHAIRPERSON - Together with the Secretary set the agenda for the monthly Management Committee meetings, chair the meetings, ensure the participation of the various Club Sections and sub-committees in the meetings and guide the Committee's decision making.

SECRETARY - With Chair set the agenda for the Management Committee meetings, advise members of the meetings, take minutes and circulate them to members, receive Club mail and ensure that it is dealt with by the relevant section.

TREASURER - Maintain the Club's accounting books, bank bar and other takings, ensure bar float has enough change, pay suppliers. Coordinate with the Membership Secretary to ensure membership subs are paid.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Keep records of the members in each section of the Club and advise the Treasurer.

If you have any questions about the Club, the AGM or what volunteering entails, please don't hesitate to contact any of the following:

Mick Wootton	01908 542 423	Tennis:	Peter Rutledge	01908 563 798
John Folker	01908 560 318	Cricket:	Dan Cooper	07989 560 663
		Football:	Neil Garrett	01327 811 478



Christmas

MESSAGE FROM THE CURATE

*By
Reverend
Sue
Stanley*

A Christmas Nativity play just wouldn't be the same without a host of small shepherds wearing dressing gowns and tea-towels, carrying a motley assortment of stuffed lambs.

I wonder quite what the children make of it when shepherds dressed in such a distinctive way are fairly thin on the ground in rural Northamptonshire!

Despite shepherds having an honourable role in the Bible from Moses, David and Amos who were all working as shepherds when God called them, to the psalmist's claim that 'The Lord is my shepherd', they were generally classed as outsiders.

Their job meant that they were unable to observe Jewish purity laws properly and their nomadic lifestyle gave them an untrustworthy reputation. To have shepherds of all people turning up in the nursery must have been somewhat

alarming for Mary and Joseph!

But they are the ones who God chose to receive this world-changing announcement; 'to you is born this day ... a Saviour, who is the Messiah...'. These scruffy, unwashed shepherds are the ones invited to go down into the town and see this wonder, and the sign given to ensure they find the right baby - that the baby will be lying in a manger - must have been quite a surprise.

This was a birth that occurred in the same poverty and mess in which the shepherds worked, and for a lowly group of shepherds to be the first visitors to the baby Jesus brings into sharp focus the topsy-turvy way of God's kingdom where the last shall be first and the first, last.

Although we are not told of the welcome they received, we are left with the impression that the visit went well; after all, we hear that Mary was left with much to treasure and ponder in her heart.

During the course of the next month there will be several opportunities in

our church to hear again the story of the shepherds and to wonder at how they came to be the very first people to hear of the birth of Jesus. The shepherds, of course, responded eagerly to the message of the angels and approached the manger with awe, before going out; 'glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.' This is a Saviour for people like them, ... and me, ... and you.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas
Revd Sue

See page 18 for the upcoming events at St. John the Evangelist

SING FOR SYRIA
AT
The Carol Service at Wicken Church
Sunday December 16th, 6pm



MULLED WINE • SYRIAN SNACKS

Proceeds for Hands Up Foundation
www.handsupfoundation.org



*Support the
Hands Up
Foundation at
a Carol service
to raise money
for Syria's most
vulnerable people.*

WVC recently sponsored a talk by Neil Gordon-Lee about the 21 men from the Great War whose names appear on the war memorial in the churchyard at St. John the Evangelist in Wicken.

In this article we talk to Neil about his research.

What started you researching the First World War?

I inherited my family archive back in 2016 and discovered my grandfather's War Diaries covering 1915 and 1916. I knew he had been wounded during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 whilst his regiment was attacking Contalmaison. I wanted the details of his contribution added to the huge database set up by the Imperial War Museum called "Lives of the First World War".

So what lead you to look at our memorial?

Having finished the work on my grandfather's records, I happened to be passing the churchyard one day and thought "I wonder who will write up their details on the database?". I realised I had answered my own question.

It was a huge amount of information you gave where did it all come from?

I only have public records to go on but because their name was on the memorial, it was almost certain that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission would have records. This would pinpoint the date they died, where it occurred and details of which regiment they served with. Equally, a lot can be found from the census, birth, marriage and death entries in the Official Register which enables you to build a picture of the family from which they came and their role in the life of Wicken in the early part of the 20th century. Using other resources meant that I could locate exactly where their regiment was on a given day helping to understand the circumstances under which they lost their life. The fact that so much data has been put in digital form meant my research could be done from home or from the library in Deanshanger.

Many people think of the First World War as the Western Front but is it correct that the men of Wicken were serving in many locations?

Indeed, whilst a lot of them lost their lives in France and Belgium, they also served in Mesopotamia (Iraq), Greece, Egypt, Hong Kong and East Africa. It is difficult to comprehend how men from this village, who previously had probably not travelled very far, found themselves trying to cope with fighting a war so far away from Northamptonshire. As it was a

general policy that the fallen were not repatriated, I doubt that many families were able to pay their last respects.

Which of the stories you uncovered affected you the most?

The first was realising, quite early on in my research, that two of the Penrhyn family had lost their lives on the same day, in the same battle but with different regiments. Also, I drew particular attention to the Adkins and Tyrrell families because Mary Adkins lost her two brothers and her husband, whom she married in the church in Wicken in 1914, within the space of a year in 1917. I was shocked to find that Lewis Cooper was quite likely to have been killed whilst trying, with a number of his colleagues, to take the surrender of some German soldiers in September 1914. Lastly, the fate of Alex Barby, whose submarine hit a mine in January 1915, meant he never saw his son who was born that year but only survived for a very short time.

How do you think these events impacted on Wicken?

In such a small community of about 260 people the loss of 21 men would have been deeply felt. They would have been many others who would have been conscripted after 1916 but there is little information on the ones who came back, if they were wounded or not and how they coped with civilian life again. I doubt that anything was really the same again and for many of

them trying to contemplate a second war just 21 years later must have been unfathomable.

Why do you think remembering them is so important?

All of the men who fought in the Great War and for that matter in subsequent conflicts have faced the most terrifying situations and so many did not return. Those who gave their lives have helped us to maintain the peace in Europe since 1945 and if the lessons of history are learned, we may continue to do so. To me it is important to realise the person behind the name on the memorial and the family life they had in this village.

What would you like to happen next?

I hope that listening to this detail at one of the three talks we held, will inspire others to ensure the details of their own ancestors, who fought in the First World War, are added to the Imperial War Museum database. There are over 7 1/2 million names listed of which less than 7% have had the full details added so far. As far as the Wicken Men are concerned, I hope to write a book to include the details I found.



Neil Gordon-Lee

Which country
invented the
Fortune
Cookie?



Do goldfish
really have a
three-second
memory?

How did
Google get
its name?

Wicken Village Macmillan Quiz

FRIDAY
22nd February, 2019

Can you
lick your
elbow?

Put the date in your diary NOW
It is going to be MAMMOTH!

More information nearer the time

Could your team become
Wicken Village Quiz Champions?

Which movie
first showed
a toilet
flush?

What is the
plastic tip of
a shoelace
called?

Which animal
swallows
stones for
ballast?

Questions shown are just for fun!

Wicken Village BBQ

2018

A Great Social Day for the Wicken Village BBQ in early September! Hosted at the Sports Club, a Fabulous Feast of BBQ Goodies and Sensational Salads! Thanks to all those who helped make it a success, whether organising, on the food side or the various activities, from Archery to Hook A Duck.

Around 100 people came along to join the fun and help the Sports Club, Church, WicKids and WVC raise over £600 to be shared between them. Kicking for Goal, Toppling the Coconuts, Wanging Wellies and "Messing" the Church!

Building on the success of this and other 2018 activities, in 2019 WVC and WicKids will be bringing back the May Day Scarecrow Festival and adding craft stalls, food and live music at the Sports Club. If you are interested in helping or having a stall at this event, we would love to hear from you.



FUN



FOR



ALL



SOLAR FUND

An update from the committee

A good variety of funding requests were received by the Wicken Solar Fund (WSF) during the August and September grant application period. Everyone is encouraged to pitch their ideas and projects for funding so please don't hesitate to do so during the same timeframe in 2019. Send info to wickensolarfund@gmail.com

Following the most recent meeting of the WSF committee the following village projects are progressing well and, with Parish Council approval, funds have been approved to support the following initiatives.

A sum has been set aside for the street lighting replacement and upgrade project. The aim is to replace the current light fittings with a new, more efficient and reliable LED type. Many of the current street lamps are not functioning, leaving many long dark stretches of road and footpath. Great effort has been made to ensure the lamps give off a warm light, such as is compatible within a village setting, and that the new fittings provide good



light control and distribution. It's anticipated that the new lights might be in place for winter 2019/2020.

Many of you will have visited the updated village website www.wickennorthants.co.uk and seen the new format and revised content. This will continue to grow as more sections are populated with information on key village activities, events and issues. The fund will continue to support website maintenance, hosting fees and development.

WSF will keep the taxi service running that has been put in place to replace the bus to and from Stony Stratford. An initial trail of this was a great success and it is recognised as a crucial facility for the community.

St John's church will receive funding towards an upgrade of the now-outdated and inefficient heating system. This will help to preserve the



condition of the church long-term as well as warming the parishioners.

The village defibrillator is mounted on the wall of the porch to the White Lion. Check the website for the access code and location www.wickennorthants.co.uk/village-defibrillator It needed a new battery so that's been replaced the device checked over.

Deanshanger Primary School has been on a fund raising mission to reach a target of around £60,000 for a total refit of the school kitchen. With so many children in Wicken attending the school we are delighted to make a contribution towards the fund which has already achieved over £40,000 at this point.

As you arrive in Wicken from all directions, you may have noticed that the WICKEN signs at the village entrances are looking rather tired.

Progressively these will be replaced by something more in keeping with our rural setting and more pleasing to the eye.

In a matched funding effort with Wicken Village Community (WVC) a contribution will be made by the WSF towards two memorial benches, in memory of Bob Clapham and Cyril Eden, to be placed on the wide grass verge at the intersection of Larks Lane and Leckhampstead Road. Next time you are out for a stroll, take a seat and enjoy quiet, reflective moment or two with a great view over the village.

WSF will continue to top-up funding towards additional village maintenance beyond that which South Northants Council undertake, grass cutting, weed killing, strimming etc.

WVC and Wickids will expand their activities and events during 2019 and the WSF is pleased to contribute towards their expenses. The Scarecrow Festival was really popular and well supported in 2018 and we wish them every success with this and other initiatives in 2019.

Wicken is really fortunate to have this funding from the solar farm and the WSF looks forward to bringing you further updates in the spring on progress of these village and community enhancement projects.

The White Lion at Wicken

Good Food - Good Wine - Good Beer

John & Viv offer a warm Welcome

*Home-cooked food Menu changes monthly to reflect
the seasons, local suppliers used*

*For Birthday Parties or Special Occasions Buffets are
available*

Opening Hours

<i>Tuesday Wednesday Thursday</i>	<i>6pm to 10pm</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>12 noon to 2:30pm, 6 pm to 11pm</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>12 noon to 11pm</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12 noon to 8pm</i>

Food Served

<i>Tuesday thru Friday</i>	<i>6:30 to 9pm</i>
<i>Saturday Bar Menu</i>	<i>12 noon to 2.30 pm</i>
<i>Saturday Full Menu</i>	<i>6:30pm to 9pm</i>
<i>Sunday Lunch</i>	<i>12:30pm to 3pm</i>

Contact Us on 01908 307254

CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE

Tuesday 11th December @ 6.15-7.45pm

Meet in White Lion Car Park

All welcome to help take some festive cheer around the village to our friends
and neighbours who are less mobile

Singing to continue after 8pm at The White Lion

Collection throughout the evening to be shared between two charities

Mulled wine offered by John and Viv

MACMILLIAN COFFEE MORNING

27 September 2018

Announcing the Winners

Cakes

- 1st Prize: Brenda Folker
- 2nd Prize: Akeley Wood School
- 3rd Prize: The White Lion Pub

Biscuits

- 1st Prize: Daisy Morphet
- 2nd Prize: Rufus Syrett
- 3rd Prize: Kit Syrett

£715 Raised!



Deanshanger Primary School

As a Seasonal Gesture,
Deanshanger Primary School
would like to invite
Senior Citizens of the village
to our
Christmas Lunches
on
13th or 14th December 2018
at **12 o'clock**

This event is free of charge,
however, places must be reserved
in advance and numbers will be limited.
Please call the school office on
01908 268920 to reserve your place!

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**

The invitation features a festive border with holly leaves and berries. At the top, there are three illustrations: a roasted turkey, a willow tree with a red bow, and a Christmas pudding. The text is centered and uses a mix of black and red fonts for emphasis.



*Photos of
the entries,
winners and
the great day
that was had
by all!*



Wickids

SPOOKY NIGHT

The 31st of October was a very unusual Wednesday evening in Wicken



Lots of houses decorated again this year for the children to take part in a "Trick or Treat" around the village. The Spooky groups returned for hot food and crafts in the Sports Club. As it is only the second year that Wickids have organised a Halloween event we were impressed with the turnout and the efforts of the village. There were vast amounts of sweets consumed and some great costumes!



WickKids

Presents

**A CHILDREN'S
FILM MATINEE**

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018

AT

WICKEN SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Bring a
cushion or
beanbag

Licensed
Bar

ARRIVE AT

3.30PM FOR A 4PM SHOWING

*Enjoy a Film with Pizza, Popcorn
& Christmas crafts*

CHILDREN £3.50 / ADULTS £1.50

Adults must be accompanied by children

EMAIL: WICKIDSCLUB@GMAIL.COM  **MESSAGE US @WICKIDS**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has a section on the new Wicken Northants website, and I will be updating this with relevant news as it comes in.

Wicken is thankfully a low crime

village. However we can all play our part in keeping the village and its residents as safe as possible. Keep in touch with our older neighbours who live alone and may feel isolated. Also, if you notice suspicious or unusual activity, please report it to the police.

Our contact for South Northants district is PS Mikki Simmons.

Tel: 03000 111 222 / Email:

NeighbourhoodTeamSouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk

Sue Oswell, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

Email: susanoswell17@gmail.com

SPEED MONITOR

The overall objective of this project is to encourage drivers to keep within the speed limit by displaying their speed, thus making Wicken's roads safer for everyone.

The unit logs a vehicle's speed, location, date and time, clearly providing information highlighting any speeding incidents, and enabling us to request police involvement to set up a speed trap as necessary.

It was installed a year ago at a cost of £3500 courtesy of the Solar Farm Fund. Speed camera volunteers are Will Morphet, Ian Howett and Andrew Edmondson. There are five mounting poles within the village (Deanshanger Road, Whittlebury Road, Wicken Park Road and two in Leckhampstead Road). These sites were recommended by Northamptonshire Highways after an initial site visit. The unit stays on

each location for about 6 weeks, to maximise its effectiveness.

The data is downloaded on a regular basis and reviewed by the speed monitor team and the Parish Council. Villager feedback so far is overwhelmingly positive.

Looking at the data so far, the vast majority of drivers are keeping to speeds below the 30 mph limit, although some speeding problems have been highlighted.

It is noted that the amount of speeding at all the sites declines in the weeks after the unit is installed, which is exactly what we would hope for.



Dates for your Diary....

DECEMBER

Sunday 9th Sports Club 3.30pm Childrens Film Afternoon	Thursday 13th Sports Club 8pm Sports Club AGM	13th /14th Deanshanger Primary School 12noon Seniors Christmas lunch - Must book	Sunday 9th Sports Club 3.30pm Childrens Film Afternoon
Sunday 16th Wicken Church 6pm Village Carol Service 'Sing for Syria'	Monday 24th Wicken Church 3pm Christingle (shepherds and angels particularly welcome!)	Tuesday 25th Wicken Church 9.30am Family Holy Communion for Christmas	Sunday 30th Wicken Church 11.00am Patronal Festival of St John the Evangelist
Tuesday 11th White Lion Car Park 7.45pm Carol singing around the village	JANUARY Sunday 20th Wicken Church 9.30am Wicken Praise (and every third Sunday monthly)	FEBRUARY Friday 22nd Macmillian Quiz	<i>If you have any Wicken activities that you would like listed on this page please email: wickencommunity @gmail.com</i>

WICKEN SENIOR CLUB

Group of around 40 elderly citizens from the area, meeting once a month for a lunch & afternoon entertainment. Facilities and food provided by WSC. They all appreciate the hospitality, but we are seriously in need of more help to provide food. They in turn do their bit by supporting other club functions. If any village resident over 55 would like to become a member, you would be made very welcome.

Lunch and entertainment programme until end 2019: 15 Dec, 19 Jan, 9 Feb, 9 Mar, 6 Apr, 11 May, 8 Jun, 13 Jul, 10 Aug, 14 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov, 14 Dec

All dates are Saturdays. Any queries, contact Myrtle on 01908 616603. Senior Section.

CHRISTMAS TREES

- HOME GROWN •
- CHRISTMAS WREATHS •
- LOGS AVAILABLE •

Culleys
The Old Dairy
Fox Mere Barn
Foscote
(Leckhampstead to Maids Moreton Road)

Delivery or Collect
Available Every Day
9am - 6pm

01280 822150

