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ISSUE 79

WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Lockdown
Edition



www.wickennorthants.co.uk

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

welcome



Well, this is a strange one! 2020 is going to be the year of “self-isolating”, “social-distancing”, “following the science”, “furlough” and many other such phrases. All the result of one single topic that has grabbed the World for the last five months or so – Covid-19 has halted the World as we know it. We may, as a result, never go back to “Normal”.

The other phrase on the lips of every journalist is the “New Normal”, an annoyingly aggravating phrase that really seems to mean nothing at all or whatever you want it to. It is also worth remembering at this time of VE Day Remembrance, as a matter of context, the 80 million who perished in the Second World War.

It is tempting to get very judgmental and philosophical when given a platform to touch on the subject of Covid and the impacts it has had, and I could probably fill this whole edition with my thoughts on the subject – I won’t, that is not the purpose of the Wicken News! Suffice to say, it is a time when we can all reflect on how we run our lives; wider societal concerns – how we care for each other in our communities and in our institutions; equalities – social, religious, gender, ethnic; economic – running to the right priorities; political – fact and fiction; environmental – listening to our planet.

As you would expect, numerous good deeds have been done by many. Communities, including our own, have stepped up to help each other and look out for the more vulnerable – thanks to our own volunteer group, thanks to the pub for helping out with meals. Fund raising activities have been going on across the Nation and the World. The health and care workers, and the extended “key workers” group, have all done an amazing job; they always have, but hopefully they will now gain or regain the respect they deserve.

This Wicken News shows some of the interesting things Wicken has been doing during lockdown; a particular “Well Done” to the Mums and Dads juggling everyday childcare with home education and trying to work at the same time. I, like many many others, either here in Wicken or wider, have been touched by Covid-19, knowing people who have had or still have it to varying degrees, and those that sadly lost the fight; it has disrupted our lives, but we will get back to that “Normal”, whether “Old” or “New”!

STAY SAFE and we all look forward to getting out and about as soon as we can. I, for one, do not get the same buzz out of a beer by Zoom, as I do from one down the Pub or the Club.

Fenlon Dunphy

Chair

On the cover: Rainbow photo by Glenn Martin

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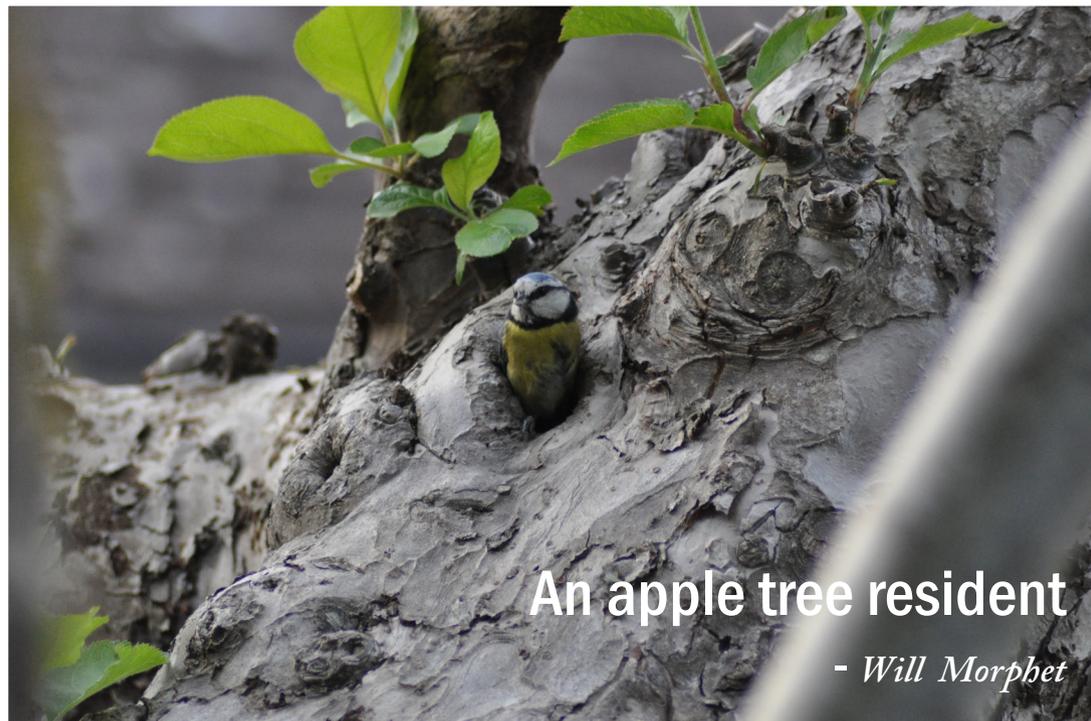
Wicken News is published by the Wicken Village Community (WVC). The opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the WVC. Letters and contributors are always welcome and need to be in by mid August.

For all enquiries please email wickencommunity@gmail.com



COVID-19 LOCKDOWN 2020

How have we all been spending our time at home?



An apple tree resident

- Will Morphet

New arrivals at the Manor

The Syrett boys borrowed an incubator and along with some eggs posted from Grandparents in Cumbria, and some of our own we set to hatch some eggs. The boys duly marked them X and O and carefully turned the eggs three times a day. After two weeks the plug socket blew and by the time we realised, the eggs were worryingly cold. We hurriedly found a new socket and kept our fingers crossed.



We did a warm water test for any signs of life within a bobbing egg, but there were none. We almost gave up hope. It was a dark day in our isolation. Then, on Easter Monday Rufus reported a crack in one egg. We were dubious.

Eventually this turned into a tiny hole, and an agonising 24 hours later a chick emerged. Full of the Easter story he - or hopefully she - was named Jesus by the boys. Astonishingly the next day Lazarus, then Miracle appeared. The following

week, on St George's day, the Cumbrian batch produced two more (Saint and George). In what we hope is a positive metaphor for this pandemic, the five are now fighting fit (in spite of the predatory attempts of two cats and a dog).
- Olivia Syrett

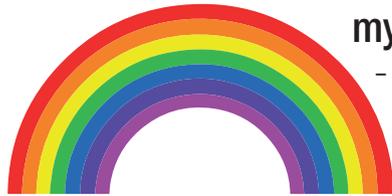
Garden Sports Day

- Eilbeck household



Making Irish Soda bread, the bread of my ancestors

- Fenlon Dunphy



Charity Camping at Rose Cottage



Jemima, who is 12 yrs old, decided on VE Day last weekend that she wanted to show her support for the NHS by raising some money for the NHS Charities Together Association.

Inspired by a couple of old school friends doing a cricket marathon she decided to set herself the challenge of camping in her garden for 30 consecutive nights. Despite the rather cold nights recently she has left the house each night smiling and laden with hot water bottles.

If anyone wants to donate this is the JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/clare-latham4>

-Clare Latham



HOME'S COOL



Lockdown seems pretty endless at the moment. If you have young children at home and are also working it can seem impossible to keep on top of everything, but there are a myriad of resources available online.

After a half term of Summer schooling, which resources have been a big hit with Mums and kids? Here are a few favourites that might provide fresh ideas, entertainment and education as we head into the second half of term.

BBC Bite Size (www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize): If this isn't a firm fixture in your home school day then you are missing out. BBC bite size has tonnes of resources neatly organised into the school curriculum and key stages.

This has to be a top favourite, but there are other great sites out there which are worth a look.

The "Stop Motion" app is available from the App Store and allows kids to create their own movies. Useful for home drama projects.

National Geographic (natgeokids.com/uk): There are games, quizzes, videos and fact files relating to animals, science, history and geography.

Twinkl (www.twinkl.co.uk): Also a firm favourite with a free sign up option for a month. It's jam packed with resources similar to BBC bitesized. Created by teachers for teachers, but now for parents too.

Kodable (kodable.com): Programming for kids. Games and challenges aimed at teaching kids the concepts of coding.

Pobble creative writing (pobble.com): Creative writing for children that they can then publish to the Pobble community. Sign up to receive home learning ideas and activities every week or use pobble365.com for a different picture each day that acts as a start point for creative writing.

Quizlet (quizlet.com/en-gb): Quizlet is a fantastic resource for older children. The site has online flash cards and quizzes for all their subjects.

Cosmic Kids (www.cosmickids.com): Colourful fun yoga and mindfulness routines for kids. A great morning routine to get stretching and moving or to wind down at the end of the day.

Wild Days (wild-days.org): Nature focussed daily activities for kids.

Joe Wicks (thebodycoach.com): Everyone's favourite stand in PE teacher! If you haven't logged in for a morning PE session with Joe Wicks, then it's time to start. Joe hosts a live PE session at 9am every morning on YouTube. There are links to his YouTube channel from his body coach web site.

Scratch Junior (scratchjr.org): Children as young as five can program their own interactive stories and games, learning problem solving and design skills along the way.

Supermovers (BBC.co.uk/teach/supermovers): Learn with song and dance. Supermovers offers active learning through song and dance.

The Tate (tate.org.uk/kids): Offers quizzes, craft activities and videos from painting with chocolate to making pop-art.

You may already have favourites in amongst this list, but hopefully there is also something new to try.

-Kate Knight





MESSAGE FROM THE CURATE

By
*Reverend
Sue
Stanley*

Last year in the heady days before coronavirus struck and the country went into lockdown it was a privilege for me to come to Wicken at the end of May to lead a 'Songs of Praise' to celebrate Ascension Day. Ascension Day, which this year falls on May 21st, does of course have a special place in the history of Wicken as it is on this day that the 1587 unification of the two villages which make present day Wicken is commemorated. I thought I would use this space to remind you of one of the readings we heard at that service; an excerpt from 'Wicken' in Arthur Mee's 'Northamptonshire': 'Wicken. It has swallowed up the two twin hamlets of Wyke Dyve and Wyke Hamon, with a brook running between them. Wyke Hamon having lost its church 200 years ago, the village is now one. It has stone houses set in little gardens with an air of great dignity, and the street, garlanded with flowers in due season, leads to the church among the trees. A remnant of the village stocks is by the wayside. The village has a 17th century reading room, and a gabled house (now the

village bakehouse) in which it is said that Laurence Washington lived. The old custom of eating spiced cakes on Ascension Day still survives here, village folk attending service in the church and meeting under an ancient elm to sing the Old Hundredth.'

Sadly due to social distancing restrictions we won't be able to hold the service this year, along with the traditional 'cake and ale' which follows, but I believe the present crisis has certainly proved that Wicken is still very much a united community, shown in the help and support which you have shown to each other.

Ascension Day is, of course, an important day in the Christian calendar. Coming forty days after Easter it is when the Church remembers Christ's ascension to heaven and although it does appear to be a departure it is a necessary stage in bringing Jesus into direct relationship with all humankind. In ascending to heaven, Jesus is not leaving us but taking humanity into God's presence, paving the way for the sending of the Holy Spirit - remembered ten days later at Pentecost. It is Christ's presence through his Spirit which means that he can be eternally present with each and every one of us, uniting us with each other, and with God.

God bless

Revd Sue

DRONE IMAGES

Looking at our village from above



"I did it to alleviate the boredom of lockdown and give residents the opportunity to see their village from above on a beautiful day."

-Luke Wynder

Created by Deanshanger resident Luke Wynder and shared on Facebook, Luke has taken many images of Wicken from the sky, these are just 2 of them.

VE DAY CELEBRATION

75 years since victory in Europe was declared by Winston Churchill. Although it wasn't the day that we expected to have, people made the most of it.





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The sunny weather helped everyone enjoy the VE Day decorations



CANADIAN DAY CELEBRATIONS IN WICKEN

A look back at our villiage history

A unique Canadian Military Vehicle Rally took place at Wicken, Northamptonshire on June 6th and 7th 1992 in aid of Wicken Church and the Royal British Legion. The theme was Canadian units travelling to Embarkation for the D-Day Invasion (a Canadian Unit actually left this area on June 5th, 1944).

On display was the largest collection of ex-Canadian World War II military vehicles assembled for public view in recent years. In the evening there was a successful 1940's dance in the charming Wicken Village Hall which was used for similar functions during World War II.

Exhibitors arrived from countries as far away as Holland, Switzerland, Scotland and the North of England.

One local Wicken resident recalled that he had landed on D-Day on the Canadian Sector in Normandy exactly 48 years to the day, with a Canadian Scottish Unit. One of the vehicles present was John Marchant's authentic Chevrolet Radio Truck which had served with the same Unit and evoked memories of that memorable day. Other vehicles ranged from 8cwt to 3 ton General Service Trucks, a C15TA armoured truck and a C60S breakdown truck with Garwood recovery equipment.

The cost of fuel for these long distances came to over £200 for each vehicle. The prize for the best vehicle went to G. Maskell of Sunderland with his GMC C15TA Armoured truck and Canadian Polsten Anti-Aircraft gun, 2nd was J. Malpas with a Ford F8 of 1940.

Tom Bewick from Aberdeen gave the villagers a fright with a Bofous behind his Ford F60S, but when he came to the dance in his kilt the local ladies were queuing to dance.

Behind a brass band the Canadian flag was paraded through the village on Sunday June 7th by a Toronto born lady at the head of a parade which included members of the British Legion, Veterans and Scouts and a number of Canadian vehicles. There then followed a Church service and last post in the rally field which was conducted by Canadian born Arch-Deacon Marsh (retired) of Northampton, England.

FROM OLD STRATFORD

In Commemoration of OPERATION OVERLORD and the D-DAY INVASION, 1944

CANADIAN MILITARY VEHICLE RALLY

to be held at:
WICKEN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
(Wicken Village is between Buckingham and Stony Stratford on the A422)

June 6th – 7th, 1992

OPEN:

Saturday June 6th — 2.00pm — VEHICLE DISPLAY
 Evening — A 1940s DANCE —
to be held in the Village Hall, the same location that was used for similar functions during WWII.

Sunday June 7th, — 10.30am — CHURCH PARADE and PRESENTATIONS
 11.00am — CHURCH SERVICE

THEME: Canadian Units Travelling to Embarkation for the D-Day Invasion, 1944.
(A Canadian Unit actually left this area on June 5th, 1944)

SEE THE MILITARY VEHICLES RE-EXPERIENCE THE FEELINGS OF THE EVENT

EXHIBIT ENTRY: £5.00 per Vehicle — includes up to 6 Free Passes for Crew
 PUBLIC ENTRY: ~~£2~~ Adults £2

Activities being held in aid of Wicken Church, and the Royal British Legion.

Donated by STR Printers, Deanshanger. Tel: (0908) 562325

Memorabilia from 1992 provided by John Marchant



WICKEN NATURE

Wildlife enthusiasts Brian & Gina Lloyd share some of their recent photographs



1.



3.

1. **Yellowhammers** and 2. **Skylarks** are all year residents of Wicken and are busy singing to attract a mate and mark their territory at the moment. 3. **Whitethroats** are doing the same, but are summer visitors from Africa. They have come a long way to experience the delights of Wicken. The concrete road is a good place to see them all.



2.



4.



5.



6.

4. **Orange Tip** is one of the earliest butterflies to hatch and has been around since early March. 5. **Holly Blue** has been around for a couple of weeks and is the small blue butterfly flying along the hedgerows. 6. **Peacock** is different as it hibernates as an adult and comes out on sunny days from late winter onwards and can be seen sunbathing on the roadside.

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<https://wickenorthants.co.uk/wicken-sports-club/hiring-wicken-sports-club>

Follow us on Facebook



Possible dates for your Diary....

(Your guess is as good as ours!)

JUNE

Sunday 21st
Wicken Church
9.30 AM
WICKEN PRAISE -
SONGS OF PRAISE

JULY

Sunday 19th
Wicken Church
9.30 AM
WICKEN PRAISE -
BELLRINGING

If you have any Wicken activities that you would like listed on this page please email: wickencommunity@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 6th
Wicken Sports Club

WVC SUMMER
BBQ

Sunday 20th
Wicken Church
9.30 AM
WICKEN PRAISE -
PET SERVICE

Friday 25th
Wicken Sports Club

VILLAGE COFFEE
MORNING



Pork, lamb and Beef

Homemade quiches & cakes,
locally made Jams, Chutneys, Oil
Fresh Farm Eggs and Honey

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COMMUNITY LARDER

Helping people in need during this pandemic



As part of the joint Emergency response the Community Larder is available in the villages and towns in Northamptonshire for a weekly box of available store cupboard and fresh items currently at no cost. Working in partnership with national and local charities including the 208 local foodbanks arranging urgent supplies for emergencies. Coordinated and delivered by volunteers in each community. Supporting the Coronavirus effort keeping people safe and well at home, protecting the NHS and fighting the spread of the virus. Food is redistributed by FareShare from the food supply chain to prevent waste. The Community Larders are not means tested anyone can enquire.

To apply for membership contact miranda@sofea.uk t. 07974 919221 or complete the on line form on Facebook @sofea.northants – we are working every day during the crisis.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sofeacommunitylarder>

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YOUTH 14-18 MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL

£7

YOUTH U14 MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL

Wicken is just beyond Deanshanger, and not far from Buckingham and Milton Keynes. The Wicken Tennis Club has two courts in a beautiful sleepy village, plus access to the Wicken Sports Club. Download the membership form at wicktennis.co.uk

