

# WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



## Sports Club Update Edition



# WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

welcome



The last issue of Wicken News was titled “Lockdown Edition”. Hard to know what we are in now; maybe we are in Lockdown, maybe we aren’t. Maybe we shouldn’t be going to this country or this part of our own country – peculiar times indeed! Schools hesitant; offices still not returned to; tourists, but the wrong kind; government paying half the restaurant bill; waiting for exam results, but no exams; sport with no crowds; socially distanced cinema and parties... – at the beginning of the year, who would have thought!

The Village and our lives have been strangely silent along with the rest of the country. We would around this time have been holding our regular Village BBQ at the Sports Club, but it has not been possible. We would have been advertising and looking forward to Halloween and other events. Unfortunately, it is looking like we will be losing a whole year of Village activities.

Leaves me somewhat at a loss; what to talk about!

Things are starting to get back to some sort of “normal” – the White Lion is open again, Yay! Sport is on again at the Sports Club and the Church has recently had its first service in about 5 months. See more in these pages. Let’s hope that over the coming months even more normality will return.

## Fenlon Dunphy

Chair

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair:	Fenlon Dunphy
Vice Chair:	Will Morphet
Secretary:	Will Morphet
Treasurer:	Yun Watts
Archivist:	Fenlon Dunphy
Wicken News Editor:	Vacancy
Committee:	Petra Spencer-Jones & Andrew Edmondson

*(New members always welcome!)*

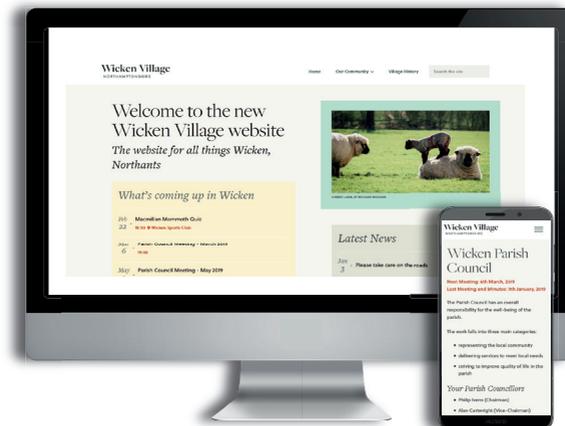
Wicken News is published by the Wicken Village Community (WVC). The opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the WVC. Letters and contributors are always welcome and need to be in by end of October.

For all enquiries please email [wickencommunity@gmail.com](mailto:wickencommunity@gmail.com)

# CONTENTS

- 3 **WAR MEMORIAL RE-DIRECTION**  
Attend the event
- 4 **TENNIS CLUB**  
Number of members increased
- 5 **MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH**  
By Tish Gorden
- 6 **SKY IMAGES**  
By Hazel Dunphy
- 7 **SPORTS CLUB UPDATE**  
How is the sports club managing during this time?
- 10 **WICKIDS**  
Can you help at future events?

Have you checked our website yet?

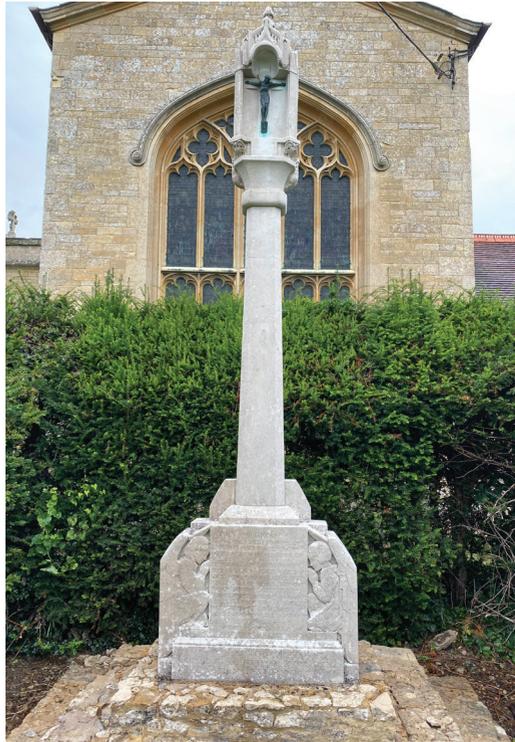


[www.wickennorthants.co.uk](http://www.wickennorthants.co.uk)

# WAR MEMORIAL RE-DEDICATION

*Saturday 3rd October 2020, 11am*

Approval was received on the 14th August for the planning application to encase the war memorial plinth in a “weathered” York stone. Residents may have seen that the upper part has been cleaned which did not require listed building consent. This has improved the legibility of most of the inscription and made the Cross gleam once more. We have now applied to the diocese for approval of this plan and we understand it will be discussed at a meeting on the 15th September. We are hopeful of a positive result but we are not sure if we will have time to complete the work before the service we intend holding to mark the centenary.



The memorial was originally dedicated on the 2nd October 1920 by the Bishop of Buckingham and we plan to hold a short service to honour the men from two World Wars who gave their lives. In 1920 the memorial was covered in flowers so we think it fitting to mark the centenary with a Royal British Legion wreath for each of the names listed on the memorial. We are hoping that residents will agree to sponsor one or more of the wreaths by a donation to the Royal British Legion. The cost would be around

£20 per wreath. Further information on this will also be circulated via the website and the Wicken Facebook page in due course. However, if you would like to contribute in this way for one of the 24 names then do please let me know on 01908 571387 or [neil@gordonlee.org](mailto:neil@gordonlee.org).

With kind regards  
Neil

# TENNIS CLUB

*Membership numbers have increased*

The Tennis Club has seen something of a revival over the last months. After re-opening following Covid lockdown, we had a high number of enquiries leading to the strongest membership in years. We currently have 33 members comprising 22 adults, 2 youths and 9 under-14. Our members come from Wicken, the surrounding villages and as far away as central Milton Keynes!

It's great to see the courts being used. They are a fantastic village asset and we are fortunate to have them.

In recent weeks we've been undertaking maintenance in the courts. When the weather has allowed, we've been applying preservative to the wooden boarding as it has been a number of years since it was last treated. My thanks to those who kindly assisted, including Peter, Yun, PA, and the Morphet children.

We look forward to seeing the courts continue to be well used. For those toying with the idea of dusting off your rackets it's not too late to play this Autumn!

**If you're interested please contact:  
Will Morphet  
[enquiries.wickenc@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.wickenc@gmail.com)**



*Tennis court maintenance in progress*

# MESSAGE FROM ST JOHNS CHURCH

*By Tish Gordon-Lee*

It was a very strange feeling, back in March, to realise that we had to close the church for an indefinite period and that our usual Mothering Sunday service – less than a week away - was not to be. Still, before long we were set up for services via Facebook/YouTube and then through Zoom. This was a very new experience for us all but definitely felt better than no worship at all.

We always knew that, as a curate (a “vicar in training”), Rev Sue would be moving on to her own parish or benefice. However, at one of the online services we discovered that Rev Diane had decided to seek a change of scene as well. She had been with us for eight years and felt that a different post leading to her eventual retirement would be the right thing to do. Sadly it was, of course, a devastating blow for her that just as her new job had been confirmed, her husband, Jon, died very suddenly. After a period of compassionate leave, Rev Diane came back with just enough time for a final series of services and PCC meetings while packing up, ready for her move. We said good-bye to both Rev Diane and Rev Sue at an outdoor service at Furtho on 23 August. Fortunately the weather was kind and did not disrupt either the service or the presentation of gifts to them both. We wish them every happiness and success, Rev Diane at Astwell Benefice and Rev Sue in the Benefice of Lambfold.

It is simply bad luck that we are now

faced with the “double whammy” of a vacancy during the pandemic. However, we are most fortunate in South Cleley Benefice to have a dedicated ministry team who will help us keep the wheels turning, together with guest priests who will ensure one Holy Communion service each week, either here or at Potterspur, Yardley Gobion or Castlethorpe. Meanwhile, online services will continue for those who are still shielding or simply do not wish to enter a public building. We are in the process of arranging other services in all the churches – more information will be available soon. Please see the village Facebook site, the village website or the church notice board for more information.

A group of representatives from each of the PCCs is currently meeting to make decisions about the appointment of a new Rector. We do not know how long it will take to fill the vacancy but we are doing our best to get the recruitment done as quickly as possible.

**To make enquiries about weddings or baptisms, please contact Mary McVay, email: [mary.mcvay@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.mcvay@btinternet.com) or tel: 01908 542289. For general queries about Wicken church, please contact Tish Gordon-Lee ([tish@gordonlee.org](mailto:tish@gordonlee.org) / 01908 571387), Celina Francklin ([celinafrancklin@gmail.com](mailto:celinafrancklin@gmail.com) / 07967 155589) or Marcus Rixon ([marcus.p.rixon@btinternet.com](mailto:marcus.p.rixon@btinternet.com) / 07967 155589).**

**The benefice website is <https://www.southcleley-benefice.org.uk/>**



**HAZEL DUNPHY**

*Some portraits of recent impressive skies in the village*



**Everyone knows things need to be done a little differently this year!**

One thing's for sure - you can't beat a good cuppa!

For those who would like to do something or take part we can only encourage you to do so in your own environment or bubble to raise funds. Here's a few ideas that might inspire you:

**Share Your Skills for a Donation**

If you've got a secret talent - whether it lies in knitting, dancing, baking or anything in between, now's the time to share it in exchange for donations from neighbours or friends.

### What's Coffee Without Cake

Have you got baking skills that everyone drools over? How about sharing your secret recipes for donations, or auctioning off a cake? You could arrange a safe, special doorstep delivery.

### Win a Prize!

Share your photos of your own fundraising with us and you could win your own afternoon tea treat. And, for those little champions that might enter could win a kids adventure!

**Donations to Mary: 4 St John's Lane  
Tel: 01908 571323  
Photos to Annie: The Stables, Deanshanger Rd  
Email: [annienicks@gmail.com](mailto:annienicks@gmail.com)**

**\*This is Macmillan's Date, chose any day in September**

**WICKEN VILLAGE  
COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**

# SPORTS CLUB UPDATE



*Like the rest of the Country, WSC shut the doors and switched the lights off in mid-March. It all felt very surreal; everyone wondering “what does this mean?” Well, for the Club, it certainly meant a number of months of silence, with the only noise being the slightly less frequent mowing of the grass.*

Effectively this curtailed the end of the Football season, delayed the starts of the Archery, Cricket and Tennis. We are happy to see, and no doubt the Village has heard, that they have all come back, but in a new Covid World. The return has been staged, and still is; Football and Cricket were initially allowed back just to train, but after some weeks that has progressed to the ability to actually have matches. “Bubbles” have applied to all the Sports and numbers have been limited. Archery have staggered times and have marked out “safe stands”. All credit to each of the Sports and the individual Teams, who have worked hard to adapt to this new way of thinking. The Management team have also had to get to grips and understand the rules put out by each of the governing bodies to be able to come back safely. All have very strict log-in rules in order to “track and trace” if needs be.



*Each Sport and Team has had to put together a Risk Assessment for their Covid activities and then itemised the risk mitigation procedures put in place. The WSC Management has then signed off on these.*

At this time, the Clubhouse has not been re-opened to either sporting or social activities; so, Cricket and Football have to turn up ready to play and head home straight after their matches. As we approach the start of the Football season, it remains to be seen how well this works as the weather becomes less favourable.

Some good news – going into the Football season, MK Porto have changed their name to Bletchley Shamrocks and for this season have two full teams playing with WSC as their Home venue. MK Wanderers Under-10 Raptors team, having tried us out at the end of last season, have now adopted WSC as their Home Ground for the coming season. Wicken Veterans are still going strong, but unfortunately the Under 15 side has now disbanded. An unexpected boost from Covid frustration seems to have been a tripling of membership for the Tennis.





# WickKids

*Can you help out with our future events?*

As you may know at “Wickkids” was set up 4 years ago to run events for children in the village and local area. The aim of the group initially was to bring children together and over the years we have run many successful such as Easter Egg Hunts, Summer Sports days and Christmas Film Nights. Last year we joined forces with “Wicken Village Community” so that we can continue bringing entertaining and fun events to the Village. It is fair to say that Lockdown has put pay to our plans this year but we hope to back in the future. Unfortunately two on the founder members have moved away and we find ourselves down on members. We would really like to continue “Wickkids” but can’t do without your help. If you feel you would like to join our group either as a full time member of just on an ad hoc event only basis then please get in touch. Part of the pleasure of living in beautiful Wicken is its community spirit and I would like see that continue!

**Petra Spencer-Jones**  
wickidsclub@gmail.com



*In this time, we have also been able to organise a number of the refurbishment activities to get underway, although we haven't been able to actually get them done with restricted access.* In the coming months we are; replacing the oven and hob in the kitchen; replacing the boiler and hot water tank; making some improvements behind the bar; weed and feed to the grounds; aerating the football pitches; and putting some more protective railings along the driveway. A number of these have been financially helped by the Solar Farm Fund. We do desperately need more volunteer help – as Covid rules hopefully ease, with the greater activity, particularly from Football, we are going to need more hands to help behind the bar and in the kitchen.

There will definitely be more to report in the next Wicken News!



# Hire Wicken Sports Club

from £15 per session



- Seating for up to 75 people
- Well equipped kitchen
- Licensed bar
- Pool, Skittles and Darts
- Large projector screen
- Changing facilities

**Taking bookings for after lockdown**



For more information check our website page:

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

Follow us on Facebook

## CORRECTION

*Photo of Skylarks from Wicken Nature article in Edition 79 - May 2020 should have been the following image:*

### WICKEN NATURE

Wildlife columnist Brian U'Grove Lloyd shows some of their recent photographs



## 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 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 currently suspended; normally second Saturday of the month. Any queries, contact Myrtle on 01908 616603.

## THE PLUMBER

Apprenticeship Served 1972 - 78

City and Guild Qualified

**ON CALL EVERYDAY**

Domestic and Commercial Installations, Maintenance and Repair Service.

- Burst/Leaking Pipes
- Blocked Sinks/Toilets
- Hot Water Tanks
- Overflows
- Showers
- Radiators and Pumps
- Garden Taps/Water Butts
- Fault Finding
- FREE WRITTEN QUOTE

Call The Plumber Anytime

**07970 317843**

[theplumber@email.com](mailto:theplumber@email.com)

*1<sup>st</sup> aid for your plumbing*



On the A422 opposite the wicken junction -  
Little Hill Farm,  
Buckingham Road, Wicken  
MK19 6DD

**NEW OPENING HOURS—THURS,  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9AM—6PM**

## Pork, Lamb and Beef

Homemade quiches & cakes,

locally made Jams, Chutneys, Oil

Pick up Fresh Farm Eggs and Honey daily

Mary - 07967814842

[www.cranleybarnfarms.co.uk](http://www.cranleybarnfarms.co.uk)

# Wicken TENNIS CLUB

[wicketennis.co.uk](http://wicketennis.co.uk)

**£30**

ADULT MEMBERSHIP  
ANNUAL

**£15**

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 [wicketennis.co.uk](http://wicketennis.co.uk)

