

NOVEMBER 2020

ISSUE 81

# WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Winter  
Edition



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

# WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

welcome



By the time you are reading this, I hope we are approaching the last days of Lockdown 2. “Lockdown”, officially the word of 2020 according to the Collins Dictionary, quite frequently with a not very polite adjective attached. When I wrote in the last edition, we seemed to be emerging from the dark with some optimism as the White Lion had reopened and sports were on again at the Club, but all that has come to an abrupt halt again!

The World has had some respite from news of Covid, as we have been watching the soap opera that is the US Presidential election. We’ve had “Stop the Count” and “Keep Counting” coming in equal measure from the same side. Oh, to be a lawyer in America; democracy in all its Glory!

We are pleased to say that we managed a scaled back version of one annual Wicken favourite, the Halloween Pumpkins. Very well done to the various homes around the Village that put an extra effort in to their Pumpkin carving; most of them can be seen later in this edition – they looked great. Also, the plant boxes have been refreshed for the winter; thanks to Sally and Pat.

Although the WVC and WicKids cannot put on the normal Christmas activities, we very much hope that Christmas itself can be as near normal as possible and that all the residents of Wicken get to see as many friends and family as they possibly can. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for 2021.

Happy Christmas!

**Fenlon Dunphy**

Chair

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair:	Fenlon Dunphy
Vice Chair:	Will Morphet
Secretary:	Will Morphet
Treasurer:	Yun Watts
Archivist:	Fenlon Dunphy
Wicken News Editor:	Siobhan Eilbeck
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 January.

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

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# Happy Christmas

*To everyone in Wicken village community*

XX



On the cover: “The Four Elm Trees”, Leckhampstead Road, c. 1935



## ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Work on filling the vacancy following Rev Diane's move to Astwell Benefice is progressing slowly. Unfortunately this type of recruitment always takes time but all the churches in our Benefice are keen to find the right person as soon as possible. Meanwhile, our Ministry team, visiting priests and PCCs continue to do all they can to keep the wheels turning. Here in Wicken, our regular PCC meetings are held via Zoom, the church and grounds are maintained as usual and work continues on our plans to provide a church path which is safe and user-friendly.

Needless to say, the ongoing pandemic has made us adapt what we do. At the time of writing during the second lockdown we have had, sadly, to close the churches once more (except for private prayer) but services are still available online via Zoom and Facebook Live. For further details,

please go to <https://www.southcleley-benefice.org.uk/> and scroll down to "Worship at Home" where you will see the latest version of Pew News. This will include the details you need in order to join the service. These services will continue indefinitely, though of course we are hoping to return to church as well after 2 December. Once this happens, whenever that may prove to be, there will be a service every Sunday at one of the Benefice churches. Again, you will find the details via Pew News as above. Please be assured that all of the churches are following the Covid regulations very carefully so you can feel safe there. In turn, we ask you to remember your mask and to follow the requirements about hand-sanitising and where to sit. Naturally, anyone experiencing Covid symptoms or self-isolating is asked please to stay away and follow government guidelines.

Fortunately we were able to gather in person at the War Memorial on 3 October to commemorate its centenary, the original dedication having taken place on 2 October 1920. We were very grateful to Rev Arthur Hughes, Reader Graham Brack, bugler Martin Mills, Neil Gordon-Lee who organised the event and all who attended despite relentlessly pouring rain. A wreath was laid for every one of the Wicken men named on the memorial, some by their direct descendants. These included members of the Douglas-Pennant family who commissioned the memorial 100 years ago. The wreaths and a collection raised £610 for the Royal British Legion. Although public Remembrance Sunday commemorations were discouraged, Graham very kindly came to Wicken again so that Neil could film him giving

an abbreviated but moving version of the service we would otherwise have held. This was then made available online and ensured the names of the Fallen were read aloud and duly honoured as usual.

We will do everything we can to hold a Christingle service at 3pm on Christmas Eve at Wicken. It won't be quite the same as usual but it will still be a brief interval of peace amid all the last-minute preparations and excitement, an opportunity to reflect upon the real message of Christmas. You'll understand that planning and publicity will necessarily be at short notice so please look out for posters around the village and messages on the Wicken Facebook page. We hope also to hold our annual Patronal Festival of St John on Sunday, 27 Dec.

**We wish everyone a happy and joyful Christmas**

*Tish Gordon-Lee*



*Wicken War Memorial  
2nd October 1920*



**If you need information or help, please contact one of the following people:**

*Tish Gordon-Lee: 01908 571387 / 07850 108908 / tish@gordonlee.org,  
Celina Francklin: 07967 155589 / celinafrancklin@gmail.com  
Marcus Rixon: 07967 155589 / marcus.p.rixon@btinternet.com*

**To make enquiries about funerals, weddings or baptisms, please contact:**

*Mary McVay, email: mary.mcvay@btinternet.com or tel: 01908 542289.*

# Halloween in Wicken

...This year's displays were a feast for the eyes.....



# Halloween Continued

...with all the Scary photos...



## SOLAR FARM FUND COMMITTEE

Your chance to have a say in the way future funds are spent

The SFF Committee is responsible for receiving, appraising and collating proposals and project ideas from the Village residents and organisations, in order to make funding recommendations to the Parish Council on how Solar Farm Funds might be spent to support various facilities, projects, and service provision in the Village. It was set up as a good governance sub-committee to the Parish Council. Until recently there have been seven members of the Committee, but one of our number has just moved away.

The SF funds have been used for a variety of projects since its inception, from the defibrillator in the pub car park to a new boiler for the Sports Club, the village taxi, the speed monitors, the lighting, general maintenance, and many others.

We are looking for a new recruit, or recruits, to the Committee. We would like to encourage wider participation; there are more young people in the Village and it would be good to see representation from the next generation. That is not to preclude anybody from putting their names forward. **If you want to apply, you can use the WVC email ([wicken.community@gmail.com](mailto:wicken.community@gmail.com)) and we will forward on.**



## POSTCARD FROM PORTUGAL

Having moved out of Wicken in September I really didn't want to give up my role as the editor of Wicken News. So, here I am, putting together the winter edition in rural Portugal. Today's temperature is 20°C, it's very quiet and there is not a cloud in the sky.

This magazine has been something that I have enjoyed working on in the last few years and has been a welcome distraction through some difficult times. It is now a way for me to still feel connected to a lovely village which has lots of fond memories for me.

Siobhan x

# WHO CARRIES THE BURDEN?

*A letter from Wicken resident Cassandra McNeir*

Recently I needed an answer to a question that had been puzzling me for some time. I thought it would be within the responsibility of our Parish Council, so I pounced on a passing neighbour (socially distanced, of course) who I thought was on the Parish Council. I was correct about that but not about where to seek a reply to my query. I was referred to another group (that I didn't know existed) and then onto yet another group unknown to me and in the end, I got a sort of half-answer to my puzzle.

That exercise set me thinking.

My husband Leo and I have lived in Wicken for over twenty-six years and it seems to me shameful that I know so little about who does what and why.

Good governance is continually stressed currently and espouses public accountability and transparency, but my attempts to find information has proved how difficult it is to discover these groups and their responsibilities.

There is the **Parish Council**, for instance and under its auspices there are groups that have overseen matters such as District Council planning issues, village play equipment, peripatetic speed monitor, village taxi and the solar farm funds.

Independent of the council there is a group called Wicken Village Community that publishes and distributes **Wicken News**

**Neighbourhood Watch**

**WickKids**

**Sports Club**

I understand there are informal groups, too. There is certainly the miraculous group that raises enormous sums for the Macmillan fund; there is a group that meets to do crafty things over a cup of coffee; there is also a group of ghostly and mainly unidentified bulb planters whose endeavours yield beautiful blooms for us each year, and there have been stone painters as well who placed them along the roadside to surprise and make us smile. We all owe gratitude for the cheer they have brought us. Thank you.

Information about these groups is probably available if you know where to look, but that is my point. **IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.**

I believe a small information sheet with names and contact details would be very useful for us all and, who knows, it might encourage more of us to participate and share the responsibility.

I am happy to continue my search for the contact details of those who strive on our behalf and will assemble a one-stop list. Perhaps it could be circulated with the next Wicken News so if you run or participate in activities not mentioned here please pass on the details.

In the vein of openness in case anyone wants to pass comments on my viewpoint they can be sent to Wicken News but if you wish to do so directly I am Cassandra McNeir and my contact details are **cass@cassandramcneir.co.uk** and - if you have been - thank you for reading.

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## WICKEN NEWS EDITORIAL COMMENT:

*We certainly encourage all sharing of information and activities participation; we welcome feedback as above. The Wicken News is indeed published by the Wicken Village Community (WVC), who also organise and fund various other activities around the Village, along with other Village organisations, such as the Scarecrow Festival, September BBQ, Litter Pick, Planters and Bulbs,*

*Telephone Book Exchange, the Halloween and Children's Christmas festivities. We*

*regularly carry information on the activities of the Wicken Sports Club, WickKids, Neighbourhood Watch and the Solar Farm Fund. The WVC is the whole Wicken Community; the Committee representing the WVC is shown on Page 1 of this News along with our email contact details.*

*All the other organisations have "pages" on the Village website [www.wickennorthants.co.uk](http://www.wickennorthants.co.uk) with contact details and from time to time include information in the Wicken News, but we are happy to include a regular contact sheet within the Wicken News going forward (see page 14). Hope this helps.*

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## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY



*Song Thrush*



11 *Long Tailed Tit*

"Photos of birds that will come into Wicken gardens especially if you put out food or have shrubs with plenty of berries."  
Brian & Gina Lloyd

# COMPETITION TIME!

Put your knowledge of trees to the test

You may not have taken particular note of the small group of trees on the right as you enter the Sports Club driveway. For a number of years, it has been expanding, in need of a good trimming. This it has now had, as is evident from the copious clusters of cuttings, which we hope may become hedgehog nests and will certainly encourage other wildlife. My thanks to John Folker for his assistance.

We are now looking to establish a path through the copse. We will also be planting bulbs, including crocuses, anemone, bluebells and daffs. A job for next year.

PA Watts, professional gardener and village resident who kindly gave his thoughts on how we could make the copse an interesting place to visit, has pointed out the variety of trees in such a small area.

So..... for those wishing to take an arboreal aptitude test, the competition is to name the different tree types in the copse.

Winners will be listed in the next News (unless, of course, you do not wish to be).

**Please submit your answers to: [enquiries.wickenc@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.wickenc@gmail.com).** Good luck!

Whilst visiting the copse, you will find what we understand to be a very old shallow watering trough.

Before and after photos shown below. As this was done over a few weeks, there has been some leaf loss...



*Before*



*After*



*Before*



*After*

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

Follow us on Facebook 

## WICKEN ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

### PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)

Neil Gordon-Lee (Chair) & Valda Clapham (Parish Clerk)  
email: [wickenclerk@outlook.com](mailto:wickenclerk@outlook.com)

### WICKEN CHURCH

Tish Gordon-Lee – [tish@gordonlee.org](mailto:tish@gordonlee.org)  
Celina Francklin – [celinafrancklin@gmail.com](mailto:celinafrancklin@gmail.com)  
Marcus Rixon – [marcus.p.rixon@btinternet.com](mailto:marcus.p.rixon@btinternet.com)

### WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY (WVC)

Fenlon Dunphy (Chair) & Will Morphet (Vice Chair)  
email: [wicken.community@gmail.com](mailto:wicken.community@gmail.com)

### WICKEN SPORTS CLUB

Fenlon Dunphy (Chair) & Will Morphet (Secretary)  
email: [enquiries.wickensc@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.wickensc@gmail.com)

### WICKIDS

Petra Spencer-Jones  
email: [wickidsclub@gmail.com](mailto:wickidsclub@gmail.com)

### SENIOR CLUB

Myrtle Tanner  
Tel: 01908 616603

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Team Sergeant: **Michaela Simons**  
email: [micki.simons@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:micki.simons@northants.pnn.police.uk)  
Neighbourhood Team Coordinator: **Katrina Heath**  
email: [katrina.heath@northants.pnn.police.uk](mailto:katrina.heath@northants.pnn.police.uk)  
Tel: 101

### Neighbourhood Watch Team

email: [NeighbourhoodTeamSouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk](mailto:NeighbourhoodTeamSouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk)  
Wicken Coordinator: **Caroline Butterfield**  
email: [wickennw@gmail.com](mailto:wickennw@gmail.com)



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