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WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



NEW YEAR

EDITION



www.wickennorthants.co.uk



There is a real feeling of Déjà Vu as I write this. We find ourselves in Lockdown 3 and a National state of boredom. Lockdown fatigue has set in for many, but hopefully as numbers are starting to flatten and come down in the UK, maybe we have seen the worst of it.

As we pass the one year anniversary of the pandemic first coming to our attention and then starting to take hold across the World, we probably reflect in many different ways on how, we as Individuals, we as a Nation, and Internationally have coped with the last year. That view will most definitely be coloured by how we have been impacted and whether we have had direct contact with Covid.

I would not normally make this section personal, but it is a very personal time and it is a time of reflection. My younger sister lives almost as far away as it is possible to be, in Dunedin, New Zealand; as NZ appears to be more or less back to normal, her life seems many times more different from mine than it ever did before, as we see pictures of them out eating and drinking. She has a daughter, working here in the UK as a young newly qualified doctor; she and my brother, also a doctor, have been working in the Covid wards, and my brother almost inevitably caught Covid in the first wave – he is fine now. We know a number of family and friends that have been through hospital and ICU with Covid, but in our case thankfully come out the other side. Far too many others have not been so lucky.

My main reflection on a personal level, apart from the agonising pain that has obviously been brought to so many, is that for us as a family – I have three sisters and a brother; Hazel has three brothers; don't get me started on all the cousins - we are very close and to have gone a year with virtually no physical contact has been extraordinary. But then we have to look on the flip side; our family are very lucky in the various places that we live, are able to get out to exercise and keep fit; and without WhatsApp, Zoom, Facebook etc the isolation could have been a million times worse. So, we may malign much modern technology, but it can also be an amazing medium for good when used properly.

I think we all hope that this year will see some sort of return to normality and, if I may say, particularly for our young people who have enough challenges in front of them without the kind of disruption they are facing now.

Take care everyone and I look forward to the WVC being able to get back to some of its activities!

Fenlon Dunphy

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WVC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair:	Fenlon Dunphy	
Vice Chair:	Will Morphet	
Secretary:	Will Morphet	
Treasurer:	Yun Watts	
Archivist:	Fenlon Dunphy	
Wicken News Editor:	Siobhan Eilbeck	<i>(New members always welcome!)</i>
Committee:	Petra Spencer-Jones & Andrew Edmondson	

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 April.

For all enquiries please email wicken.community@gmail.com

WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Could you be a Councillor?



All town (and many parish councils) in Northamptonshire will have elections on Thursday 6 May 2021, and nominations for election close at the end of March 2021, so all candidates must complete the nomination process by then. These will coincide with elections to the new shadow unitary councils and also the election of the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. Having a combination of elections is useful because it means the costs are shared.

The current Wicken Parish councillors are:

Philip Ivens, Celina Franklin, Alan Cartwright, Marcus Rixon, Andrew Edmondson, Ian Howett, and Neil Gordon Lee (co-opted at the January 2020 meeting)

All will be standing for re-election.

The maximum size for Wicken is seven councillors, however we want to promote candidacy, particularly from ladies given the current gender imbalance. The more people

who stand for election the better. Obviously if we have only 7 people wanting to be councillors then there is no need for an election. Serving councillors and the clerk are keen to encourage a contested election in May, and such an event could potentially add new blood and be healthy, democracy in action!

Clearly a key factor in encouraging people to be candidates is demonstrating the relevance of the parish council. If people think it is just about dog poo bins and waffle, then they are unlikely to want to become a councillor.

If on the other hand they understand that the Wicken Parish Council, in conjunction with the Solar Farm and Local Plan committees, can get important things done which make a real positive difference to people's lives in Wicken then they may well. Recent examples include: the replacement storm drain in Leckhampstead Road, improved mobile reception, reducing speeding (speed camera), street lighting, ensuring development is in keeping with the village via the Local Plan, significant improvements to the Church, Village Hall and the Sports & Social Club.

The Parish Council meets every two months, with the meeting lasting typically 1.5 hours.

So, if you are interested in being a candidate please contact Valda Clapham the Parish Clerk; wickenclerk@outlook.com or 01908 571385

WICKEN LOGO COMPETITION

The WVC and Parish Council would like to invite entries for a Wicken Village Logo. The logo could then be used for various activities of the Village, whether that be in relation to official paperwork, on the website, incorporated in physical projects undertaken, or any other applications.

The logo should be relatively easy to reproduce in different formats. It needs to encapsulate the Village, but we want the creative inspiration to flow.

You may be aware that there are already some logos in the Village, The WVC has a logo showing the Cross Tree with the circular bench. This captures the centre of the Village with the circular bench signifying the connection of the Community and the Conservation heritage of the Group. The Sports Club has a logo using its initials and WicKids is very much its name and the font style.

Hopefully we will get a good choice of designs and the legacy will be to see the winning design carried forward for many years to come.

Please send your designs through to wicken.community@gmail.com before the closing date of 31 March 2021.



THE TELEPHONE BOX



As most are aware the Telephone Box is looked after by the WVC. We have been mulling over whether it needs a new lease of life, but when this was mooted a number of people came forward to ask us to keep it running as a book exchange.

The Box is due another spruce up, so we hope to be giving it some maintenance and a repaint during the year; maybe having a rethink on shelving. Local residents, Lesley Smith and Pat Old, have volunteered to manage it going forward.

As the Telephone Box is not the Tardis, we need to manage its contents. There have on occasion been box loads of books inside; this is not very inviting for would-be book exchangers and we end up with boxes on the floor with damp books in. We have also found a number of old reference books being left which unfortunately no one really uses anymore with the use of the internet; even some charity shops are no longer accepting them.

So, we would ask that books deposited are kept to novels for young and old, biographies, and that any reference books are perhaps restricted to recent publications.

Thanks for everyone's help and contributions.



New ANNUAL RESIDENT PACK

Responding to a variety of calls for the Wicken Welcome Pack to be reinstated, the WVC is in the process of redesigning the Pack. Going forward, the intention is not just to use it as a Welcome to new residents of the Village, but also to reissue it, probably on an annual basis to the whole Community. This way we will ensure that the information contained is current and updated for new inclusions. The Welcome Pack can then become a standing data reference point supported by the Wicken News on a quarterly basis.

The Pack will have information on the Village history, local organisations, services, trades and shops. It is also a vehicle for advertising.

We would welcome any suggestions or items for inclusion. Please contact us on wicken.community@gmail.com or Fenlon Dunphy on 07769-936790



LENT LOCKDOWN LUNCH 5th March 2021

This year we in South Cleley Benefice (which includes St John's) are unable to hold our customary Lent Lunches, usually held in people's homes. We don't want to miss an important charity fund-raiser so this time, instead of you going out for lunch, lunch will be coming to you!

We'll deliver (in Wicken) a delicious, award-winning, genuine Cornish pasty hot to your door at lunch-time on 5 March, St Piran's Day (the patron Saint of Cornwall). The minimum donation will be £5 per pasty which includes at least £1.50 for our chosen charity, Willen Hospice. The pasties will be available as steak, chicken or cheese and onion. Orders must be placed before 19 February, please. Contact Tish Gordon-Lee 01908 571387 / 07850 108908 / tish@gordonlee.org.

Please support this very worthy cause, you won't be disappointed!

WVC ACCOUNTS UPDATE

- Yun Watts

Wicken Village Community Income and Expenditure account

	Year ended 31 Dec 2019	Year ended 31 Dec 2020
Income		
Advertising Revenue	£90.00	£110.00
Interest	£3.41	£1.48
Sale of Old Photographs of Wicken books	£40.00	£10.00
Scarecrow festival	£1,170.00	-
Solar Fund Contribution (Parish Council)	£800.00	£800.00
Solar fund contribution for bench	£585.00	-
Total Income	£2,688.41	£921.48
Expenditure		
BBQ	(£122.99)	-
Benches*2	(£1,170.00)	-
Charity donation	(£192.00)	(£20.00)
Halloween flyers	-	(£44.00)
Marquee purchase	(£100.00)	-
Photo competition	(£22.99)	-
Planting costs	(£155.27)	(£189.55)
Printing costs - Wicken news	(£249.00)	(£452.50)
Scarecrow festival	(£709.94)	-
Sundry expenses	(£5.62)	(£2.79)
Total expenditure	(£2,727.81)	(£708.84)
Net (expenditure) / income	(£39.40)	£212.64
Petty cash	£212.04	£99.75
Business Reserve account - cash at bank	£1,708.87	£1,710.35
Current account	£1,094.90	£1,418.35
Total balance as at year end	£3,015.81	£3,228.45

BUDDING AUTHORS & CREATIVES

A call out to all those with the “Gift of Words” or other creative skills.

It would be great to showcase those in the Village with these talents in the Wicken News; we know that there are many in the Village, young and older, who love to write, paint and create.

If you feel you want to share a short story, a painting or drawing, maybe a photo of a sculpture, please drop us a line at

wicken.community@gmail.com

WICKEN IMAGES



Fallen tree limb, 26th December



Santa's float



Flooding, 23rd December



Sheep image



Misty field



Pork, lamb and Beef

Homemade quiches & cakes,
locally made Jams, Chutneys, Oil

Fresh Farm Eggs and Honey

Visit our website or ring for opening
times - delivery available

Mary - 07967814842

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

www.cranleybarnfarms.co.uk

VILLAGE LITTER PICK 2021



WVC normally runs the Village Litter Pick in March each year. It is always well supported by all across the Village. We have to do it a bit differently this year as we are not able to gather in the same way.

The Litter Picking usually splits into the roads going out of the Village:

- Wicken Park Road (up to the A422)
- Leckhampstead Road (up to the Leckhampstead Village sign)
 - Whittlebury Road (up to Wicken Toys)
 - Deanshanger Road (up to Dagnall Farm)
 - Wicken Sports Club (for families)

This year we would like it if people could volunteer by email to

wicken.community@gmail.com

letting us know where they are going to do their litter picking, so that we can organise and redirect if needs be. Sundays mornings are usually best as the roads are quieter, so we would suggest either the 14th or 21st March.

Thanks for your help!

WHICH BIRDS ARE CURRENTLY VISITING OUR VILLAGE?

Photographs supplied by Brian & Gina Lloyd



1. FIELDFARE

A thrush which comes here from Scandinavia for the winter. Goes around in large flocks and is often on the sports field.

2. LONG TAILED TIT

A delightful little bird. Goes around in small flocks in the hedgerows. Will come into gardens on peanut feeders.

3. PIED WAGTAIL

A handsome little bird. Often on the sports field. Again will come into gardens.

4. REDWING

Another Scandinavian thrush here for the winter. Associates with its cousins, the Fieldfare, in large flocks.

Hire Wicken Sports Club

from £15 per session



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

Taking bookings after lockdown

For more information check our website page:

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

Follow us on Facebook



WICKEN ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)

Parish Clerk - Valda Clapham - wickenclerk@outlook.com

Neil Gordon-Lee (Chair) - neilgordonlee@wickenorthants.co.uk

Alan Cartwright (Vice-Chair) - alancartwright@wickenorthants.co.uk

Other Councillors Contacts

celinafrancklin@wickenorthants.co.uk - marcusrixon@wickenorthants.co.uk
andrewedmondson@wickenorthants.co.uk - ianhowett@wickenorthants.co.uk

philipivens@wickenorthants.co.uk

WICKEN CHURCH

Tish Gordon-Lee – tish@gordonlee.org

Celina Francklin – celinafrancklin@gmail.com

Marcus Rixon – marcus.p.rixon@btinternet.com

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY (WVC)

Fenlon Dunphy (Chair) & Will Morphet (Vice Chair)

email: wicken.community@gmail.com

WICKEN SPORTS CLUB

Fenlon Dunphy (Chair) & Will Morphet (Secretary)

email: enquiries.wickensc@gmail.com

WICKIDS

Petra Spencer-Jones

email: wickidsclub@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Team Sergeant: Michaela Simons

email: micki.simons@northants.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Team Coordinator: Katrina Heath

email: katrina.heath@northants.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 101

Neighbourhood Watch Team

email: NeighbourhoodTeamSouthNorthants-Towcester@northants.police.uk

Wicken Coordinator: Caroline Butterfield

email: wickenw@gmail.com

SENIOR CLUB

Group of around 40 elderly citizens from the area, who normally meet once a month, on a Saturday, for a lunch & afternoon entertainment at Wicken Sports Club. At the moment, not possible because of lockdowns, but hopefully we will get back to it.

They all appreciate the hospitality, but 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.

Any queries, contact Myrtle Tanner on 01908-616603

You are invited to join the
**MACMILLAN MAMMOTH
VIRTUAL QUIZ**

This year the Wicken Macmillan Mammoth Quiz is virtual making it a fun and easy way to connect online with friends and family and help raise vital funds for people living with cancer

Friday 26th February

6:30pm for a 7pm Quiz Start

£10 per adult

If you, your household or your own virtual team would like to take part email Sally
- sasmill@aol.com -
with your team numbers to receive full details

**Hurry, Places are Limited
Quiz Entry Deadline 19th February**

