

MAY 2021

ISSUE 83

WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



SPRING

EDITION

Spring blossom..... time for a new beginning!



www.wickennorthants.co.uk

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

welcome



We still live in hope that we will soon be able to get back to some form of normality, with a full year of Village activities. I know people are missing things going on in the Village and we are missing running them, but there is also still an air of anxiety about putting events on too soon, both for the volunteer organisers and the participants.

That said, the White Lion is back with us. We have been able to sit outside, whilst gently “chilling” – you can take that whichever way you want. But it has been great to feel that pang of excitement as you down your first pint with a friend in a very long time. Thanks to John and Viv for doing everything they can during a very difficult time.

There is more cheering and shouting drifting across the Village as the sports get going again at the Sports Club. Unfortunately, the Clubhouse is not able to open yet.

There have been questions about a Village Party – to this end, bearing in mind everyone has to feel comfortable, we are hopefully going to put on our normal BBQ at the beginning of September at the Sports Club. Depending on the situation at that time (and the weather) we will be able to spread ourselves out as needs be.

Despite lockdown, we did manage the annual litter pick in March, and somewhat surprisingly we also seemed to collect as much rubbish as ever, including a mattress and the usual bits of cars. Thanks to everyone that came out to help.

Our first contributor to the “call-out” for Authors & Creatives has come forward; see the piece later on Tim Wright and his sketches with charcoal and pencils. I hope this is the start of many more, as we know there are a number of talented people in the Village.

We have a really interesting library of old photos in our archives; two are included in this edition. If anyone can help with identification, we can include the information in the next edition.

Have a Great Summer!

Fenlon Dunphy

Chair

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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
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 mid August.

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

On the cover: Tree in blossom at Wicken Sports Club

MESSAGE FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH

First, a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Lockdown Lent Lunch, including those who did the behind-the-scenes work. The “oggies” went down very well, as did the Wicken apple juice kindly donated by the Syrett family. The fantastic total sent to Willen Hospice was £280, an impressive result.

With the easing of lockdown we have finally been able to re-open the church for worship. We were most fortunate that our turn fell on Easter Day - what better occasion for our return to in-person worship? The vacancy for a rector continues, the recruitment process having been slowed by the pandemic and ongoing discussions between the churches to decide the best way forward. Meanwhile, the Venerable David Painter has very kindly volunteered to support us through the vacancy. As a result, he and the indefatigable ministry team have pulled out all the stops to make sure that we can have a service of Holy Communion at one of the benefice's churches every week, with other, lay-lead services as well. There continues to be on-line worship for those who prefer to remain at home. At St John's, the current pattern is that our service is on the first Sunday of the month at 10am. Further details are on the benefice website <https://www.southcleley-benefice.org.uk/>



www.southcleley-benefice.org.uk/ (which can be accessed via the Wicken website) and at <https://www.facebook.com/South-Cleley-Benefice-1244394382368340/>.

We shall be celebrating Ascension Day in more accustomed style this year. On Thursday 13 May there will be a service at 10.30am, lead by Ven David Painter assisted by Graham Brack. It will be held at the Gospel Elm (corner of Cross Tree Rd and Leckhampstead Rd) unless the weather is so poor we need to take shelter in the church. As I write we are investigating the possibility of providing the traditional cakes and ale – please look out for publicity nearer the time!

As ever, the PCC is working hard to maintain our beautiful, historic church and grounds where something always needs attention. We hope everyone enjoyed the display of daffodils this spring, a cheering sight after a long and difficult winter. You may have noticed that the work to the War Memorial has begun. We hope soon to start work to provide a church path which is both safe and user-friendly.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the church on Monday, 10 May at 7pm. You are very welcome to join us both then and at our services, here and around the benefice.

Tish Gordon-Lee

tish@gordonlee.org
01908 571387



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SPORTS CLUB BACK IN BUSINESS!

Jostling for possession of the Sports Ground as we return, hopefully to stay. Bletchley Shamrocks managed to finish their season becoming Runners Up in the Wharfside Milton Keynes Sunday Football League Division 2; the Junior Football, massive amounts of pent-up energy to get out; the Cricketers lovingly caring for the Square ahead of a “fingers crossed” uninterrupted season; and the Archers stretching those arm muscles!



Preparing the pitch for a summer of Cricket



Dan and his trusty mower

As we move out of lockdown, and looking towards next football season, it is encouraging to see the Shamrocks going from strength to strength. They may have a third Senior Men’s side for next season, and they have now started a Women’s team. Having announced the formation of the Women’s side, within 48hrs they had 30 applicants – the team has already started training at Wicken on Wednesday evenings. Wicken Sports Club also got a good plug on local CRMK Radio as a result.



Bletchley Shamrocks: Runners Up in the Wharfside Milton Keynes Sunday Football League Division 2

*Ronnie Sunderland
(Coach), Mark
Snowden (Manager),
Aiden Knowles (Coach)*





Junior Football taking a minute's silence for the Duke of Edinburgh



Juniors back on the pitch



Junior Football and Cricket practice together



WELCOME HELPER FOR THE CLUB

It has been hard to find tasks in order to complete The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme over the last year. But thankfully for the Sports Club, Emily Latham asked if there was anything she could volunteer to do for us during lockdown. She has been hard at work for her Silver Award, painting and cleaning up the changing rooms. A Win Win! Thanks Emily



Silhouette of a Junior Archer during a club session



Frances Hobbs

!! PLEASE BE AWARE !!

The Archery Club are concerned at the number of people wandering across their line of sight. The area of the Sports Ground behind and to the sides of the targets is not available to anyone whilst the Archers are shooting. This is for safety reasons; the arrows can carry some distance passed the targets. Notices have now been erected warning of the danger. The Archers are normally at the Sports Ground on Monday and Tuesday evenings, and quite often on Sunday afternoons.

**JOIN
NOW**

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wickentennis.co.uk

£30

ADULT MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL

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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 wickentennis.co.uk



AN UPDATE FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has recently been appointed in an uncontested election delayed for a year because of Covid. The new Councillors will be Alan Cartwright, Ian Howett, Philip Ivens, Viv Kime and myself. Three Councillors did not seek re-election and I would like to offer the Council's thanks to Celina Francklin, Marcus Rixon and Andrew Edmondson for their dedicated service over the past years to our community.

The new Parish Council will take office on the 10th May and will meet on the 19th at the annual general meeting and begin work on several ongoing projects.

The most pressing task is to move forward on the installation of the remaining nine street lights within the village following the decisions by the Council taken at the extraordinary meeting on the 31st March. The minutes set out the steps to be taken to finalise the costs of the preferred option which will be published in due course.

The Council also intends to publish its policies and procedures on the village website over the next few months. A Local Authority is obliged to be transparent about how it reaches decisions and to declare the rules it follows to do this. This provides information to residents

so that the Council may be held to account.

The previous Council agreed to increase the precept, the sum of money received from West Northamptonshire Council (which replaced South Northants Council on 1/4/2021), to ensure that we have sufficient funds to meet committed regular expenditure without dipping into solar farm funds. The financial policy will be published and there will be regular updates on our performance against the budget which was set for 2021/2022.

The Solar Farm committee, as a sub-committee of the Council, has some heritage projects under development which the Council will be able to consider funding once the current round of projects has been completed and the Solar Farm has sufficient funds available.

We all hope that the country's exit from Covid restrictions will allow the Council to meet once again in person rather than virtually and we look forward to members of the public being able to join us.

If anyone has questions or issues then do please contact our Parish Clerk, Valda Clapham, at wickenclerk@outlook.com

Neil Gordon-Lee



Sports Club Coppice - Recently cleared by Will Morphet & John Folker



BUDDING CREATIVES

Wicken resident, TIM WRIGHT tells us about his creative hobby....

“ I’ve lived in St John’s Lane for the last 28 years and one of my favourite pastimes is sketching with charcoal and pencils.

I’ve always dabbled with art and started sketching more seriously two years ago. In this time I’ve completed over 500 sketches.

I store digital photos of these sketches on Pinterest where anybody can view, copy or print them free of charge. I’m adding new sketches to the site every week.

The link below will take you directly to my Pinterest page. I also show my latest sketches on Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/wright3986/tj-wright60/> ”



MACMILLAN MAMMOTH
VIRTUAL QUIZ



FEBRUARY 2021



£550 raised!

Due to lockdown the Macmillan Quiz was held online this year, but still attracted ten teams of varying sizes from our village. Major thanks to the twenty-eight participants for joining in.

Despite some qualms about putting everyone at the mercy of Microsoft Teams, Annie and Sally managed the event that took off with only one minor glitch in the beginning.

The competitors enjoyed lots of laughter, easy access to food and drink. All were in fact happy winners. The method and style of our virtual quiz has provided some exciting ideas about how the quiz maybe run in the future. Watch out 2022!

Thanks also to several households who gave donations to Macmillan whilst not taking part themselves.

In total you all raised £550 for Macmillan Cancer Support, a fantastic response (almost a record in such uncertain times) from such a small village.

Thank you all.



Sally Miller and Annie Nicholas

CAN ANYONE TELL US ABOUT THESE OLD WICKEN PHOTOS?



A Village Wedding

Do you know those in this photo? We believe the lady in the middle of the back row was Ann Foddy's mother



Radio 4 Archers cast play cricket at Wicken

Does anyone know the year and why they were playing here?

WHICH BIRDS ARE CURRENTLY VISITING OUR VILLAGE?

Photographs supplied by Brian & Gina Lloyd of Spring migrants which are now around Wicken in the hedgerows and patches of woodland



1. CHIFF-CHAFF

A small rather non-descript warbler. It is onomatopoeic, i.e. it sings its own name. One of the first migrants to arrive, here in early March.

2. BLACKCAP

A rather handsome bird. The male is various shades of grey with a black cap, hence its name! The female has a brown cap. Sits on the top of a tall hedge or small tree singing a sweet melodic song. Another warbler, often called “the poor man’s nightingale.”

3. CUCKOO

Another bird that calls its own name, a familiar sound to many, but seen by far fewer, especially now as, like lots of birds, it is becoming rarer.

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- Changing facilities



For more information check our website page:

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

Follow us on Facebook



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

WICKEN ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)

Parish Clerk - Valda Clapham - wickenclerk@outlook.com /
neilgordonlee@wickennorthants.co.uk / alancartwright@wickennorthants.co.uk
ianhowett@wickennorthants.co.uk / philipivens@wickennorthants.co.uk /
vivkime@wickennorthants.co.uk

Roles and responsibilities to be decided at 19 May AGM

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: wickennw@gmail.com

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