DECEMBER 2021 ISSUE 85

WICKEN NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

WINTER

EDITION

www.wickennorthants.co.uk

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY welcome

Splutter, splutter! It is taking time to get things up and running again; understandable nervousness from both organisers and participants. On top of that, all organisations need volunteers to help out and we are all struggling a bit with that, whether it be WVC, Wickids, Sports Club or others.

As a result, we were not able to run a Halloween event this year and won't be able to put on the Kids Christmas Film. Hopefully with less health concerns and more help, it will be possible next year.

On the brighter side, at the Sports Club, the Seniors Lunch Group is back meeting on the second Saturday of the month. They would be happy to have new members; contact details elsewhere in this edition. The Film Nights are also back on the third Friday of each month with some restrictions on numbers.

We introduced an Autumn Litter Pick this year; for whatever reason, it was not particularly well supported but hopefully we will get back on track with our usual Spring one, which always has a good turnout.

You may have noticed that the Phonebox Book Exchange has been spruced up and had repairs where rot had got into the door. It is looking proud in its red again. We are also going to be changing the shelving shortly, so we are able to accommodate more books without them falling on the floor.

Following the last edition's look back at Wicken life in the past, we have another contribution, this time from Albert Pitson. We have had sufficient feedback to justify a re-issue of the Old Photographs of Wicken – more on that in the next edition in 2022.

The WVC wishes everyone in the Village a Very Happy Christmas.

Fenlon Dunphy

Chair

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WVC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Chair:	Fenlon Dunphy
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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 November.

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

On the cover: Photograph by Hazel Dunphy

Wicken News printed by www.palina.co.uk

WEST NORTHANTS CONSULTATION

Housing Growth in Deanshanger Ward

On Thursday 25th November an audience of around 40 residents listened to the plans for a proposed new settlement between Deanshanger, Old Stratford and Furtho. Councillor Ian McCord explained the process behind the West Northants Spatial Options document in which one option is to build 6,055 homes straddling the A5 just north of the A5/A508/A422 roundabout at Old Stratford. Local residents and anyone else who has an opinion on this topic, have the opportunity to express their views during the consultation period which has been extended until 24th December 2021.

Further information and links to relevant documents are on the Wicken website including a copy of the questionnaire and the slide pack which was used by Councillor McCord. If you have any questions or observations then do please contact one of the Parish Councillors.

Check **www.wickennorthants.co.uk** for more information

WICKEN PARISH COUNCIL CLERK VACANCY

If you are interested, please contact Neil Gordon-Lee (WPC Chair)

neilgordonlee@wickennorthants.co.uk or 01908 571387

Closing deadline 31 December 2021

SENIOR CLUB

Anyone new who wishes to join are all very welcome, along with anyone who wishes to volunteer and help – everyone welcomed with open arms.

A lovely social group that meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 12.30 till 5pm for a cooked meal, with bingo, raffle, tote and occasionally entertainment.

For more information, please call Myrtle on 01908 616603

ST JOHN'S CHURCH UPDATE

Planned activities for Christmas and beyond

Here are the church services for December and January as currently planned. (Please keep an eye on our social media, website and noticeboards, where any short notice changes will be published.)

Everyone is warmly invited to all of these services. In Wicken, we're really looking forward to singing some carols on 19 December and to providing a short break from the hurly-burly of Christmas Eve with our Christingle service, which is especially suitable for younger children (and older ones, too!). Our Christmas Day Eucharist (not too lengthy!) celebrates all the joy of Jesus' birth.

We look forward to seeing you, perhaps for the first time. A warm welcome awaits you.

Sunday services and "Specials":

Morning Prayer – 8.45 am every Sunday via zoom*

5th December	10.00am Holy Communion at Potterspury
	for the Patronal Festival of St Nicholas
	4.00pm Celtic Footsteps at Potterspury
11th December	2.00pm Service of Thanksgiving
	for the life of Jan Robinson in Yardley Gobion
12th December	10.00am Holy Communion at Wicken
18th December	4.00pm Carols by Candlelight at Potterspury
19th December	10.00am Holy Communion at Yardley Gobion
	4.00pm Welcome Christmas at Cosgrove
	6.00pm Carol Service at Wicken
24th December	3.00pm Crib Service at Cosgrove
	3.00pm Christingle at Wicken
	6.00pm First Mass of Christmas at Potterspury

Harvest supper at the Church, September 2021

25th December	10.00am Christmas Eucharist at Yardley Gobion
	10.00am Christmas Eucharist at Wicken
	11.00am Family Christmas Morning at Potterspury
2nd January	10.00am Holy Communion at Wicken
	for the Patronal Festival of St John the Evangelist
	4.00pm Celtic Footsteps at Potterspury
9th January	10.00am Holy Communion at Yardley Gobion
16th January	10.00am Holy Communion at Potterspury
	4.00pm Evensong at Cosgrove
23rd January	10.00am Holy Communion at Potterspury
	4.00pm Sunday@Four at Yardley Gobion
30th January	8.00am Holy Communion at Cosgrove

Weekday services:

NIGHT PRAYER – 8.00pm every Wednesday on the South Cleley Benefice Facebook page

CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER – 7.00pm every Tuesday & 5.00pm every Thursday via zoom*

You can subscribe to our weekly newsletter by emailing admin@southcleley-benefice.org.uk

*For zoom connection details please contact admin@southcleley-benefice.org.uk.

Enquiries for Funerals please contact Mary McVay on 01908 542289 or admin@southcleley-benefice.org.uk

Enquiries for Weddings and Baptisms please contact Anne Henson at admin@southcleley-benefice.org.uk

Some of our services may be recorded for later publication on our benefice YouTube or Facebook pages.

MEMORIES OF WICKEN

by Albert Pitson

My Grandfather, Eli Pitson, and my father John Eli Pitson (born 1906) came to Wicken about 1909 from Chilton Candover (Hants) as gardener to the Reverend Hugh Nelson Ward, who was grandson of Admiral Lord Nelson's illegitimate daughter, Horatia. I was born in Wicken Whick, which is now called Ted Coopers cottage, in 1941. I went to Wicken School until I was eleven then went to Deanshanger School, leaving at the age of fifteen to become an apprentice electrician at Wolverton Works (British Rail). My love of woodwork at school led me to making clocks, buying in the movements and brassware, making coffee tables topped with a jigsaw under glass, bird tables and bird boxes.

I spent a long time helping John Tansley re-slate the village hall roof (school). I also spent a period of time with Cyril Eden mowing and looking after the churchyard. I made the church service notice board, but not the sign writing!

www.miltonkeynes.co.uk

thewaywewere with John Taylor

CITY historian JOHN TAYLOR takes another walk down memory lane...

HAVING little desire to voyage beyond the bounds of North Bucks, at school the enforced study of French always seemed rather pointless.

Although a brief interest had once been aroused, when it was revealed that a mademoiselle on the teaching staff had been entertaining the Head Boy to some extra curricular 'French lessons.' However, when rumbled her secondment came to an end, and she was swiftly packed off back across 'la Manche,' tres vite.

As for other French advances, in days gone by these had been chiefly of the Napoleonic kind, and the local villages of Cosgrove and Swanbourne would be the home of two of the Admirals who commanded warships at the Battle of Trafalgar.

As for Wicken, from 1909 until 1928 the rectory became the home of the Reverend Hugh Nelson-Ward, who was the grandson of Horatia, the illegitimate – not that he ever acknowledged this fact – daughter of Admiral Lord Nelson. In great secrecy Horatia had been born at 23, Piccadily, London, in January 1801, and in the early days of the following month her mother, Lady Hamilton, took her to a Mrs Gibson, 'a lady without a husband,' in Little Titchfield Street.

There, in return for a monetary sum, Lady Hamilton asked Mrs Gibson to look after the child, and with this agreed she quickly drove away in a waiting carriage.

In time Horatia would marry Philip Ward, a Norfolk clergyman, and although a 'large and sturdy' family would be the result, more sturdy would be the sensitivities of other family members, since the true parentage of Horatia would cause them great embarrassment.

WICKEN RECTORY: This postcard, although rather faded, was sent by Reverend Hugh Nelson-Ward in 1910 to William Ward

Horatia's eldest son became the rector of Radstock, in Somerset, and it would be there that his son, Hugh, the future rector of Wicken, was born in 1863. Before attending Salisbury Theological College, Hugh had begun his education at King's School, Bruton, and Brasenose College, Oxford, and after various incumbencies he became rector of Wicken in 1909.

There he would keep a large collection of 'Nelsonia,' including a death mask no-one but himself was allowed to touch, and although some of the memorabilia had descended through the family via Horatia, many of the other items Hugh had purchased at auction. In 1928, on the advice of his doctors Hugh retired, and at a farewell presentation, held in the schoolroom one Tuesday evening in April, he received a cheque for £106 15s 6d, as an appreciation from his parishioners. Giving a suitable reply, he said he would be sad to leave, and he sometimes wondered if he had grown too fond of the church that he loved, of the parish that he loved, and of the garden that he loved.

Taking his collection of relics, he moved to 32 Marlborough Buildings, Bath, and there few would know he had taken holy orders, since he preferred to be known as Mr Nelson-Ward. As for his collection of 'Nelsonia,' this he presented to the National Maritime Museum, where in 1939 a special gallery was opened.

Early during World War Two the Reverend's Georgian home at Marlborough Buildings was severely damaged by enemy action, and in consequence, especially in view of his failing health, he decided to move to a private nursing home and guest house at 7, The Circus, Bath.

Retaining only a few possessions, he arranged for the rest to be auctioned, and the sale aroused such interest that in November 1942 even Queen Mary came to view the items.

At the age of 90, the Reverend Hugh Nelson-Ward, a lifelong bachelor, died on Saturday, March 21, 1953, and with his funeral being held at bath Abbey, there he lies buried in the Abbey Cemetery.

MK Citizen Thursday 24 February 2011, supplied by Albert Pitson

The roof repairs on Wicken village hall

The photo of the horse and cart includes myself, Jean Cowley and my sister Jill. Len and Jean Clarke ran the short mat bowls in the village hall. I played cricket for Wicken for a time. I also played badminton, golf and snooker for many years.

I still have a Lord Lambourne apple tree my father bought with us from our old house, Ted Cooper's cottage, to 7 Church Close in 1950, where I still live today.

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NEW TEAM BLETCHLEY SHAMROCKS FC

Wicken Sports Club is proud to be the Home Ground of the newly set up Women's Team of Bletchley Shamrocks FC. Starting just this season, they have been a massive hit so far. Unbeaten to date in their league campaign; played 6, won 5 and drawn 1. They are currently sitting second in the Thames Valley Counties Women's Football League Division 3N with two games in hand over the league leaders due to games being postponed. The team have been unbelievable and have so much potential to take the team and club further.

PHONE BOX RESTORATION PROJECT

The phone box has been undergoing restoration by our resident expert Mark. It was in quite a poor condition with rotten wood and in need of a repaint. The outside is now finished, with the interior to follow.

Our thanks to Mark for giving it a new lease of life, which should last for many years to come.

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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 / petraspencerjones@wickennorthants.co.uk / verityrobinson@wickennorthhants.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

WICKEN SOLAR FARM COMMITTEE

Giles Butterfield (Chair)

email: wickensolarfarm@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

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