

EDITION 89
DECEMBER 2022

WICKEN

N E W S



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Wicken News is published by the Wicken Village Community (WVC). The opinions expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of WVC.

Letters and contributors are always welcome and need to be in by mid February 2023 for the next edition. For all enquiries or to make a contribution please email wicken.community@gmail.com

Parish Council Website:
www.wickennorthants.co.uk

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WELCOME

The days are turning short, damp, cold and a bit miserable! There are a lot of challenges at the moment with increasing costs of everything, but most particularly food and heating. As in the pandemic, this is a time to keep an eye out for our friends and neighbours, making sure they are ok and not at risk.

Quite a bit to look through in this edition, which is good. I am sure there are many more stories that village residents could share about past and current adventures – please keep them coming.

Would also be great to have more from the youngsters in the village – what have they been up to; outward bound activities, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, school sports teams etc?

We hope you have a Great Christmas!

Fenlon Dunphy
Chair

Meet our new Landlord & Landlady



We thought it would be nice to introduce ourselves to you all as, so far, we have had nothing but the warmest of welcomes. We are Natasha and Kerr and we are the new Landlord and Landlady of The White Lion.

A little background on us both ... Natasha has run pubs for a number of years and has two grown up children who I'm sure you will get to know as time goes on. She has a love for horses and dogs and is never happier than when she is behind the bar.

A little-known fact about Natasha is that she won a Smart Car on TV.

Kerr has a love for music, plays his guitars in his spare time and even has them next to the fire so he can play from time to time. If you're lucky, you may even catch him playing for you! He also is a single figure handicap golfer, who represented Scotland in the World Golf Foundation Championship. He also likes dogs and Guinness!

We have brought along some staff which we would like to introduce you to....

First is Romilly, she is Natasha's daughter. You will see her behind the bar with a big smile or in the kitchen cooking up a storm. She is a mum of two, a full time student at the University of Northampton and is studying to be a Clinical Psychologist. She is a singer, who you will see performing at the pub now and then.

Next, is Tara. She has been in the catering industry for over 35 years and cooks the best Sunday Roast for miles.

You will also see our two barmaids, Emily and Holly from time to time, two lovely young ladies who are happy to serve you with a smile. Holly is Tara's daughter, who is studying Criminology and Law, and Emily is one of the bubbliest women you will meet. You will never get bored when she is around.

Finally, we have our Ellie. She is from the neighbouring village of Akeley and has been the Sunday waitress for a few years now.

We can't wait to meet you all and hope that you come and visit us soon.



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wicken junction -
Little Hill Farm,
Buckingham Road, Wicken
MK19 6DD

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WICKEN Christmas PARTY



FRIDAY 16TH
DECEMBER
5 - 8 PM

AT WICKEN
SPORTS CLUB

Wicken Village Community warmly invite
you to join us at the village Christmas
party for a friendly and relaxed gathering.

Open to all village residents | Free entrance
Complimentary glass of mulled wine or soft drink
Complimentary finger food, incl. veg/vegan
Kids Christmas crafts | Party games (for those feeling
adventurous) | Open Bar
Prize for best Christmas Jumper, Adults & kids

We do hope that you will be able to join us.

To allow us to plan the catering can you please confirm
your attendance by Sunday 11 December - please email
'wicken.community@gmail.com' to let us know how
many entrance tickets you require.



New rules for dog owners from 1st November

West Northamptonshire Council adopt new Public Spaces Protection Order

Published: 26th October, 2022

From the 1st November, it will be an offence to fail to pick up after your dog, to not have your dog on a lead in a designated area and to smoke in an outside location where it is prohibited. Fines of up to £100 will be applicable.

The full text of the order can be viewed on the Wicken Village website, but the following should be most relevant for residents of Wicken.

- Dogs must remain on leads at all times when anywhere within the Sports Club grounds including on the Sports Field
- Dogs must remain on a lead whilst within the churchyard
- Smoking is not permitted in and around the children's play area

The rules applicable to dog owners regarding picking up after their dog include but are not limited to:

all roads, footpaths, pavements, alleyways and grass verges maintained at public expense as well as any bridleway or other public right of way over privately owned land and all parks and open spaces, including commons, grounds and wooded areas, owned, operated, managed or maintained by the Council or any Parish, Town or Community Council.

PSPO Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places 2022



Vacancy on Wicken Parish Council

Expressions of interest for co-option

Wicken Parish Council is pleased to announce that Andrew Stockbridge has just joined as a new co-opted Parish Councillor. However, we still have a vacancy to be filled by co-option following two resignations.

We are looking for expressions of interest from eligible residents of the parish. In principle, you need to live and/or work within the parish and be over the age of 18. As a councillor representing your community, you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team. Your time commitment is mostly centred around the Council meetings when there are briefing papers to be considered. Councillors are asked to take specific responsibility for certain recurring issues such as playground maintenance or monitoring road repairs to help distribute the workload.

Typically, one or two hours a week would be sufficient to keep up to date with information being given to the Parish Council. The Council meets six times a year to determine how the funds available to it from Council Tax and the Solar Farm should be spent to maintain and enhance the village. The Parish Council is actively involved in any planning issues which affect the parish and we make objections, comments and suggestions where appropriate in the formal process.

Councillors take important financial and policy decisions which will affect the way Wicken evolves sympathetically to its long history.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved then please contact the Chair of Wicken Parish Council, Neil Gordon-Lee, for a discussion.
neilgordonlee@wickennorthants.co.uk

Expressions of interest can be lodged with the Clerk to the Council, John Westlake at wickenclerk@outlook.com

RIP Anthony Oswell

Andrew Bush

With this issue of Wicken News comes the very sad news of the death of one of its past editors Anthony Oswell. Anthony and his wife Sue came to Wicken in the 1980's, living in Leckhampstead Road and were both big contributors to village life.

Anthony was an involved committee member of the Wicken Conservation Society (now the Wicken Village Community) for over 20 years. He was at various times editor of Wicken News and joint Chair. He joined the society very soon after the village amenity group was formed in 1988 and a couple of years later he volunteered to be editor of the News. Apart from a period in the early 90's, when work took Anthony and Sue to Edinburgh, he continued as editor until 2007.

Under his editorship, its size and content was greatly expanded and he was responsible for producing more than 30 issues.

Anthony was always on the look out for interesting articles; using his natural charm and warmth to cajole potential contributors for content on sport, conservation, memories, district council issues, history of the village, recipes, travels, heritage projects and much more.

Anthony was also creative in organising projects and events; always taking an active role whether for a jubilee village party, illustrated talks, or repairing stiles on footpaths.

But even more memorable than all of his varied contributions to the village community was Anthony's ability to get on with everyone, young and old; his warmth, welcoming greetings and conversations with his fellow villagers. He was even engaged with our then teenage son's skateboarding antics outside their house! Possibly especially worrying for Anthony when his precious car was out.



It was very sad to see early onset dementia take over Anthony so soon after his and Sue's retirements. This meant they had to move to Herefordshire for closer family support only this year, and were both much missed in the village.

We miss you Anthony and send our sincere condolences to Sue.



St. John's Church Update

Christmas at St John's, Wicken



Carol Service

18th December at 6pm

Traditional lessons and carols, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Why not start the real Christmas here? – come along to hear the Christmas story and have a really good sing, it'll get you into the festive spirit like nothing else!

Christingle

24th December at 3pm

A gentle pause in the pre-Christmas excitement. Join us and help your child/ren make their own Christingle to take home. Informal and suitable for all ages, including very small children.

Christmas Eucharist

25th December 10am

An opportunity to celebrate what Christmas really means, to thank God for His many blessings and to remember those so much less fortunate than ourselves. This is a relaxed and timely service.

Additionally, on Saturday 24th December 8.00pm, Pottersbury is celebrating the First Mass of Christmas.

Everyone is always most welcome at any of our services, even if you've never come before, here or anywhere else. We don't expect children to be completely still and silent nor mind if they bring something to play with or even fancy a little wander around. Maybe bring one of those exciting new toys to show us on Christmas Day?

We hope to see and welcome you soon.

Why the scaffolding

Every five years, the church is subject to a formal inspection by an architect and the results are given to us in the form of the Quinquennial Report. It is designed to make sure our churches are kept in good order by listing any work needed in order of priority.

Currently we are making repairs to our roof and guttering, expensive but vital work as you may imagine.

Services in South Cleley Benefice
(Potterspury, Yardley Gobion,
Cosgrove, Furtho & Wicken)

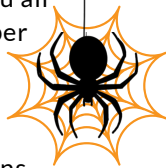
We continue to have one service of Holy Communion a month at St John's, with the other three churches in the Benefice each hosting one of the remaining three Sundays. Where there is a fifth Sunday, we take turns with an 8am service. Details of all the services, including those available online, and other events may be found on the benefice website:

<https://www.southcleley-benefice.org.uk/> . It also gives information about whom to contact for funerals, weddings and baptisms. Please feel free to get in touch with me about services in Wicken if you prefer tish@gordonlee.org
07850108908

**WE WSH EVERYONE A
HAPPY AND PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS!**

Halloween

An incredible effort by you all again this year! Some super displays and impressive pumpkins on doorsteps!



A few of the many creations, and a frightening group of 'treaters' can be seen here for those of you who were a little scared to go out in the dark yourselves that night!





Wicken Shamrock's U12 Juniors Football Team

Manager Mark is very proud to introduce our young players who take part in the Milton Keynes and District Development League. Headed by their enthusiastic Team Coach Aiden and assisted by two very experienced youth coaches Daniel and Craig.

After a slow start at the beginning of the season, only having the minimum number of required players to pick from, the team now has 13 league players with another 2 players training with them on a Monday. The team are now going from strength to strength and each game is improving every time.

Playing in Division 4 in the League on Saturday mornings, their games can be even more exciting than a World Cup game!

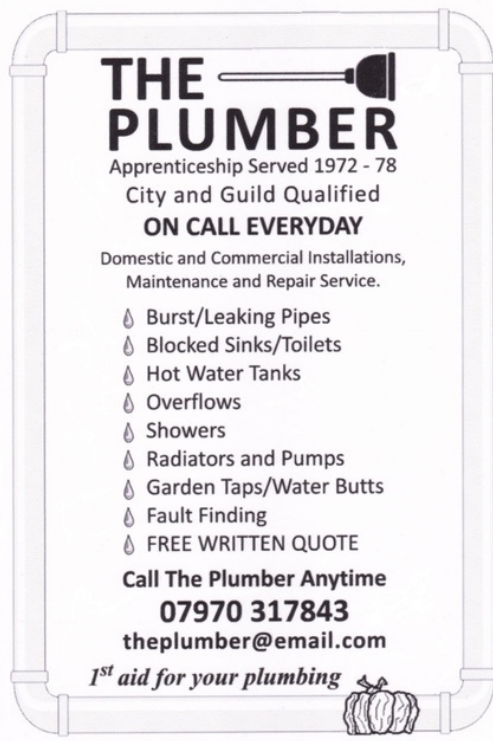
Come along and give the boys some support at their next home game at Wicken Sports Club.

Senior Club

**2nd Saturday of every
month at the Sports Club**

Anyone new who wishes to join is very welcome! We are also always thrilled to welcome volunteers to help. This is a lovely social group that meets once a month to enjoy a meal, bingo, raffle, tote and occasionally entertainment!

**For more information about
Senior Club please contact
Myrtle 01908 616603.**



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Childhood Memories - Chapter 4

John Folker

On reflection 1953 was quite a memorable year in my childhood. A new monarch crowned in June; July, I went to Scotland on a steam train. Sept, I started a new school, October, I saw the Queen in person at Runnymede, that year I also joined the Scouts.

June 3rd the crowning of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This was an incredibly special event, not only locally, but across the nation and of great international significance. Over the previous 20 years huge advances had been made in technology driven I guess by the events of 2nd World War, the need to stay one step ahead. One of the domestic winners was the TV. 12" screen if you were lucky.

Pre-50's the radio was the average family means of entertainment. TV was still a long way from being a general household luxury, but the Coronation did create a surge in ownership of this magical box.

70 years later most children would be disappointed if they did not have one in their bedroom, colour of course and large screen.

Through the 50s and well into 60s black and white only was the order of the day. Now it's many other electronic gadgets. My gran had been bought a telly by my mum's brother Don. So, we all got round to her house to watch. On the days leading up to the Coronation street parties were everywhere, buntings on houses and garden walls. See ours on page 62 "Old photographs of Wicken". Street party on page 55.

July, I travelled with Mum, her youngest brother Ken, and Wally to visit his dad and Granddad in a small hamlet in Fife, Scotland called Pitscottie, about six miles west from St Andrews. What a journey! We did not have a seat, but travelled in the corridor taking turns to sit on the suitcase until we reached Crewe. This is where we had to change trains for Edinburgh. This time we did manage to get a seat.

We reached Edinburgh early morning then on to Cupar in Fife on another train across the iconic Firth of Forth rail bridge. Our accommodation was in a crofter's cottage, sadly lacking in basic amenities, but I enjoyed every minute we were there. From swimming in a small stream (a Burn in Scotland) with the local children, picking tattie's (potatoes) and rasbs (raspberries), visiting St Andrews, and walking across the famous golf course. Wally was so proud to be able to introduce us to his family and show us the local area, home of golf, city of St Andrews, & quaint fishing villages along the coastline.

Thinking back, I can't feel my mum had the same enjoyable experience, but as always, she would not stop me having fun. I still can't believe I got my way on our home bound journey. One of the locals in the village had a set of old pram wheels, and I desperately wanted them to build a new go cart, so they were part of our homebound luggage, including axles and mudguards. How spoilt was that! I will tell you more of this go kart and other self-constructed gadgets in further editions.

Early September, with 3 or 4 more Wicken mates we were all off to start big school at Deanshanger (Secondary Modern) this was the school on the green. It is still there, but is now a junior school. What a jolt to my ego, I was no longer "leader of the pack"; a group of fresh Deanshanger school mates that were all well familiar to larger classes. Getting on for 30 in each class, the Wicken kids had been used to no more than that number in the whole school, all taught by one teacher. I found myself along with the others sadly lacking in some aspects of a bigger organised school. We now had a "Form Master" and a "Headmaster" who had a no-nonsense reputation, along with a cane.

So, lack of supervision at lunch time I am afraid we may have run a little wild around the village at lunch time. The local children were confined to their school playground. Back at Deanshanger school, the perimeter of our playing field at the back of the school was the Buckingham arm of the Grand Union canal, in frosty weather this would freeze over.



Wicken School Circa 1953

Names from left to right. (As I remember them, I will be glad to amend if necessary)

Back row. Mrs Lees, Head Mistress, Oliver Bunker, Stella Odham, Joan Birdsey, Doreen Walton, Janice Case, Brenda Jones, ?????????, Peter Tansley.

Middle row. Bobby Errington, Brian Green, Roy Pitson, Albert Pitson, Arthur Gray, Terry Cashmore. John Folker, Keith Pitson, Tony Walton, Michael Green.

Front row. Josephine Ivens, Tony Green, Marilyn Errington, Alan Gray, Lesley Tansley, Richard Ivens, ??? Portlock? Derek Bunker, Margaret Birdsey, Leslie Holt, Constance Emerton,

Although out of bounds, a few of us just had to try our skills at skating. Spring 1955, I was lucky enough to be selected to travel to Wenduine in Belgium to play a local side at football, not that we won but it was my first experience of going abroad.

One of my new mates was in the Scouts at 2nd troop Stony Stratford. He encouraged me to join. So off to Stony on a Friday evening became a regular trek. Before my initiation, I like all others had to be able to recite the Scout Law & Scout promise, and of course the National anthem, this done I soon became an established Scout getting promoted to a patrol 2nd, never making it to patrol leader. Our HQ was a long attic room above some garages at the back of the Cock Hotel.

Along with learning all the usual skills of woodcraft, tent erecting, fire lighting, knot tying, first aid, and many other activities, we regularly played rough and tumble games, one being British Bulldog. This started with one Scout being chosen to take on the rest of the troop. All but this one would start at the end of the hall. The object was to get to the other end before getting captured by the one in the middle.

Once caught you joined the middle group. So eventually you ended up with all being caught, except for one who would be crowned the winner. Through the summer months occasionally we would push the trek cart on Friday evening to the official north Bucks' site at Cosgrove quarry. Erect the tents and spend the weekend playing search and rescue games unless you were on "jankers", this meant preparing and cooking, plus washing up after.

We all enjoyed the novelty of campfire cooking and especially good camping evening activities, including campfire singalongs. I am sure some our readers will know of the horrible songs sung by Scouts. Sunday evening pushing all the gear back to Stony unloading, storing, and the weary bike ride home.



Our house decorated for the Queen's coronation 3rd June 1953
No 2 & 3 The Jetty Cross Tree Rd.
Demolished circa 1962
House to the left is back of the property now called The Old Bakery.

Born to Run

Mark Knight

It's official: I am middle aged. I know this because over a few beers with work colleagues earlier this year I agreed to take part in the London marathon. A clear sign of a mid-life crisis.

I don't have the money for a new sports car and not even my wife wants to see me in spandex, so cycling was off the table. Short of climbing some big hill somewhere across the globe the London marathon was the next obvious choice. Thousands of people do it every year, 'how hard could it be?'

To set the record straight, I am no Pheidippides. He is the soldier who in 490 B.C covered the 26.2 miles (42.195kms) distance from Marathon, Greece to Athens to bring news of a Greek victory over the Persians... he collapsed and died from his exertions!

Back in March I managed two laps around the field at the bottom of my drive (c. 2.5km) and nearly passed out. The concern on my Labrador Chuck's face as I lapped my drive was quite a sight to behold but by the end of May I had increased my distance to around 10 circuits. With only 4 months until race day I knew I had to venture further afield and quite honestly running laps was starting to make me feel like my daughter's hamster 'Nibbles' on her wheel.

Knowing that Whittlebury Hall was around 10kms from home and with the weather improving I figured that if I could get that far it wouldn't be a bad place for a rest, a massage or few G&Ts before attempting to get home (or calling my wife to pick me up).

By the end of July, I was able to run beyond Whittlebury Hall and out towards Towcester and felt some reassurance that I might actually be able to do this thing. Although I will admit that on one occasion my lovely neighbours Richard and Ruth found me collapsed on the side of a road and offered to drive me home.

I'll blame the heat wave we had. The inevitable ham string injury plagued my efforts in August but taught me the importance of stretching, using energy gels and electrolytes. These things together with a good pair of running socks are my tops tips for anyone contemplating a marathon.

October 2nd was game day and I was filled with equal measures of anxiety and excitement. I had been telling myself for over 20 years that 'one day' I would run a marathon. At 50 I was starting to think time may be running out.

Printing my name on my running shirt was a golden moment. The crowds and energy from everyone on the day were mind blowing. The live bands and cries of 'come on Mark you can do this' filled me with determination.



I had several goals on the day: survive, break 5 hours and don't get overtaken by a six-foot Big Ben.





As I crossed the line with severe cramp after 4 hours and 42 minutes a chorus of emotions washed over me. I had achieved my goal and raised nearly £6,000 for Spinal Research for good measure. For anyone thinking of doing it I can't recommend it enough.

The sense of achievement, the support you receive on the day and being part of an 'elite club' is something to be proud of. The medal for completing the run is also very cool. Perhaps Springsteen was right after all. Maybe we really are 'Born to Run'.

Next year the Lisbon or Berlin marathon, I think...

Wicken Sports Club needs you!

The Club has a small team of volunteers and, whilst the day-to-day sports operations are well established, we have a number of initiatives and on-going activities on the social & general side for which we do need support.

These include:

- Organising social activities.
- Annual bulb planting & hedge/tree trimming.



- Clubhouse woodwork re-paint project (it is getting a bit faded in places).
- General help and ideas generation.

If you would like to get involved or for more information, please speak to Fenlon, Neil or Will, or email us at scwicken@gmail.com.



OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF WICKEN

JONATHAN GUDGEON

Available now 'Old Photos of Wicken'
publication, at £12 each.

Please email wicken.community@gmail.com to
order your copy.

WICKEN ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)

Parish Clerk - wickenclerk@outlook.com
neilgordonlee@wickennorthants.co.uk
ianhowett@wickennorthants.co.uk
philipivens@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

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

WICKEN SOLAR FARM COMMITTEE

Giles Butterfield (Chair) – wickensolarfarm@gmail.com

Coming Up.....

16 December

Wicken Christmas Party

Wicken Sports Club
5.00pm - 8.00pm

26 January

AGM

Wicken Sports Club
8.00pm

24 February

Macmillan

Quiz Night

Wicken Sports Club



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