

EDITION 90  
MARCH 2023

# 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 April 2023 for the next edition. For all enquiries or to make a contribution please email [wicken.community@gmail.com](mailto:wicken.community@gmail.com)

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# WELCOME

Another good full edition this time, thank you for your contributions.

I particularly draw your attention to the Annual Review of the Wicken Sports Club; the club needs the support of the whole community. Like everyone else, the club's costs are increasing and there is essential maintenance to be done; it needs to maintain its income to cover its outgoings. It's all too easy to mourn the loss of something once it has gone; more helpers and more users will keep the club going. Please do consider it for hire and let others know that it is a super venue.

Helpers are also needed to make The Coronation Big Lunch on 7 May happen; see the advertisement later.

Please put the 26 March Litter Pick in your diary. It would be great to see as many, if not more, volunteers as we did on the last pick. It's great exercise and a good opportunity to get together.

Keep your eyes peeled for new Wicken Boundary Signs funded through the Parish Council Solar Farm Fund.

**Fenlon Dunphy**  
**Chair**

## Sports Club AGM

(abridged review of meeting held in January 2023 covering the year to 30th November 2022)

**Wicken Cricket had a good season for 2022, and its new relationship with Buckingham Town CC (BTCC) is proving very beneficial.**

**Alongside the Wicken Saturday side, BTCC are using our Club as the Home ground for one of their men's Saturday teams and also for junior sides playing on Sundays and some Thursday evenings.**

Football is half-way through its 2022/23 season. We have dropped back to two men's adult sides (veteran's and one senior team). It was really disappointing to see after just one season, the new women's team fold. It's almost as if they were victims of their own success. The junior team, after end of season and close season management disruption, have joined with Wicken Shamrocks.

Not too much to report as far as Archery is concerned. They are maintaining their Club use pattern, shooting all year round on a Sunday, weather allowing, and with their Monday and Tuesday evening shoots when the days are longer.

Tennis unfortunately has slipped back further in numbers after a boost during the pandemic.

The social activities were slower to return after the lockdowns; the Film Nights and the Seniors Club have come back, but the Craft Club, although returned, only meet once a month rather than every week as before. We started the monthly Classic Car Meet over the 2022 summer and hopefully that will come back this summer.

The Club has continued to progress maintenance works with financial help from the Parish Council utilising the Solar Fund. The age of the building continues to present maintenance issues that need resolving; the latest being rotten wood rafters in the roof that need to be cut out and replaced.

There is still great demand for sports facilities locally and we are receiving fresh requests on a regular basis, particularly ahead of season. Unfortunately, we turned away requests at the beginning of the football season, only to find we then lost two existing teams. It is still true that most of the sports users come from outside the village, but it is this utilisation that largely funds and keeps the facility available for the village.

As approved at the last AGM, as of 29 November 2022 we have become Wicken Sports Club Limited. We are now Limited by Guarantee with three directors recorded at Companies House.



**The Financial Review to 30 November 2022 shows that we are still recovering from the pandemic, but now also starting to suffer from the economic situation.**

## **Financial Year to 30 November 2022**

Bar takings for 2021 were significantly negatively impacted, as a result of the 9 month closure forced by the pandemic. The 2022 takings have increased to £5,000, however pro rata they have not increased as we would have expected. The net profit for 2021 was just £158 compared to 2022 at approx. £2,300. The better net profit performance for 2022 comes after the need to restock the bar in 2021 following the closed period. We have shown 5% of bar takings as Membership Fees, representing the proportion we ascribe to temporary membership to meet our HMRC obligation.

Sports Income for 2022 was approx. £4,500, compared to £7,800 for 2021, a £3,300 decrease. There was no change in individual subscription fees for 2022. Unfortunately, the Wicken Shamrocks lost the women's football team and one of the men's senior sides for the 2022/23 season. Pitch hire has also reduced by £500. After allocating costs we have moved back into a net Sports loss position for 2022 of £1,900 compared to a profit of £1,200 for 2021. The loss is almost exclusively down to a loss of playing numbers.

Social Income and Other Hire Income were again very low for 2022 bringing in, between them, approx. £800 gross, compared to 2021 income of £700. Between them, in 2019 pre-Covid, they brought in approx. £5,000. We made an increased net loss in 2022 of nearly £2,500, compared to a loss of £1,400 in 2021. The increased net loss was as a result of increased utility costs for 2022; this was substantially as a result of waste collection fees catch up to WNC and increasing energy costs.

Our annual rent has remained unchanged at £1,250, but we are overdue a rent review.

We did not have the same level of exceptional items this year within Property Maintenance, but we have needed to continue replacement of out of date fire security equipment. Our concern now is that we are facing substantial repair work to the roof, and the burglar alarm has become outdated and unable to replace parts. Roof repairs could be upwards of £3,000 (that is with control) and if we need to replace the alarm, that will be another £1,000.

To sum up in cash terms, our cash position coming into 2022 was approx. £20,700 and we made a cash loss of £4,700. That meant that we closed 2022 with a cash balance of approx. £16,000.

The Management Committee had previously calculated that “mothball costs” of running the Club would be nearly £5,000 pa, and that we should seek to hold a 2 year emergency fund at all times. With increasing costs that mothball calculation is now £6,000, so we should ideally keep £12,000 in funds at all times. Another year like 2022 will take us below that threshold.

Last year, following the success of gaining Covid grants, we said “It would be wrong to think that we have a windfall to now splurge on a spending spree”. How right that statement was! It is more important than ever that we get ourselves back on an even operational keel, where our income covers our annual outgoings.

### **Other Financial Activity**

Cricket unfortunately suffered the loss of its mobile training net in a storm in early 2022 as one of the cricket screens was blown over onto the net. We were not able to claim under the insurance. With the assistance of WSC, cricket was able to replace the training net at a cost of £2,500 through a West Northants Council Community Funding Grant. This meant that neither cricket nor WSC were out of pocket for the loss.

### **Looking Forward**

The Club is looking to certain actions to improve our position.

- As a starter, the individual annual membership after being held for three years should now increase.

- We need season commitment from teams sooner than has been the case. We could potentially have replaced both lost football teams from the enquiries received if we had not been holding for existing teams. We have already started conversations to address this.
- Each sporting section will carry its own consumable costs.
- A greater commitment to utilising the bar facilities by the individual sporting sections.
- The Seniors Lunch Group are successfully seeking new members and returning to 12 lunches a year.
- The Film Nights, now with more support will also be getting back to 12 films a year and raising the entry fee.

These actions and others will significantly bridge the gap.

In addition, the Club management will commit to increased marketing of the Club facilities for events and functions hire. In the last few years, we have also availed of different grant schemes one off and on-going. Most of the on-going schemes are targeted at specific spend of a capital nature rather than running costs, but we need to continue utilising these where we can. That means we need to keep ourselves up to date with what's available through sporting organisations and local authorities.

The Club also needs the support of the local community to use it as much as it can and to think of it for events. The hire charges are on the Village website at [wickennorthants.co.uk](http://wickennorthants.co.uk)

# WSC FINANCIAL YEAR 2022

|                                    |       |              |             | 2022         |       | 2021        |     |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| <b>Bar Takings</b>                 |       |              | Adj.        |              |       |             |     |
|                                    |       | £5,016.34    | (£250.82)   | £4,765.52    |       | £1,862.02   |     |
|                                    | 5%    |              | £250.82     | £250.82      |       | £98.00      |     |
|                                    |       | (£2,708.95)  |             | (£2,708.95)  |       | (£1,775.87) |     |
| Membership Fees                    |       |              |             |              |       | (£25.92)    |     |
| Bar Costs                          |       | £0.00        |             | £0.00        |       |             |     |
| Zettle Fees                        |       |              |             |              |       |             |     |
| <b>Bar Net Income/(Expend.)</b>    | 46%   | £2,307.39    | £0.00       | £2,307.39    | 48%   | £158.23     | 8%  |
| <b>Sports Income</b>               |       | £5,560.00    | (£1,020.00) | £4,540.00    |       | £7,830.00   |     |
| Sports Expenditure                 |       | (£470.48)    |             | (£470.48)    |       | (£220.87)   |     |
| Mowing                             |       | (£4,404.00)  | £500.00     | (£3,904.00)  |       | (£4,600.00) |     |
| Site Rental                        | 92.5% |              | (£1,156.25) | (£1,156.25)  |       | (£1,156.25) |     |
| Utilities                          | 25.0% |              | (£928.39)   | (£928.39)    |       | (£662.79)   |     |
| <b>Sports Net Income/(Expend.)</b> | 12%   | £685.52      | (£2,604.64) | (£1,919.12)  | (42%) | £1,190.09   | 15% |
| <b>Social Income/Contribution</b>  |       | £717.40      |             | £717.40      |       | £257.50     |     |
| Social Expenditure                 |       | £0.00        | (£163.00)   | (£163.00)    |       | £0.00       |     |
| Site Rental                        | 7.5%  |              | (£93.75)    | (£93.75)     |       | (£93.75)    |     |
| Utilities                          | 75.0% |              | (£2,785.16) | (£2,785.16)  |       | (£1,988.36) |     |
| <b>Social Net Income/(Expend.)</b> | 100%  | £717.40      | (£3,041.91) | (£2,324.51)  |       | (£1,824.61) |     |
| <b>Other Income</b>                |       | £869.00      | (£809.00)   | £60.00       |       | £436.98     |     |
| Other Expenditure                  |       | (£187.50)    |             | (£187.50)    |       | £0.00       |     |
| <b>Other Net Income/(Expend.)</b>  |       | £681.50      | (£809.00)   | (£127.50)    |       | £436.98     |     |
| Site Rental                        | 100%  | (£1,250.00)  | £1,250.00   | £0.00        |       | £0.00       |     |
| Utilities                          | 100%  | (£3,713.54)  | £3,713.54   | £0.00        |       | £0.00       |     |
| Maintenance                        |       | (£1,288.73)  | £309.00     | (£979.73)    |       | (£1,163.94) |     |
| <b>Property Costs</b>              | (51%) | (£6,252.27)  | £5,272.54   | (£979.73)    | (9%)  | (£1,163.94) |     |
| Misc                               |       | (£2,866.26)  | £163.00     | (£2,703.26)  |       | (£989.23)   |     |
| Cost Contribution                  |       |              |             | £0.00        |       | £9,669.21   |     |
|                                    |       | (£2,866.26)  | £163.00     | (£2,703.26)  |       | £8,679.98   |     |
| <b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>           |       | (£4,726.72)  | (£1,020.00) | (£5,746.72)  |       | £7,476.73   |     |
| <b>Total Income</b>                |       | £12,162.74   | (£1,829.00) | £10,333.74   |       | £10,484.50  |     |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>           |       | (£16,889.46) | £809.00     | (£16,080.46) |       | (£3,007.77) |     |
| <b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>           |       | (£4,726.72)  | (£1,020.00) | (£5,746.72)  |       | £7,476.73   |     |
|                                    |       | (39%)        |             | (56%)        |       |             |     |
| <b>Reconciliation Check</b>        |       |              |             |              |       |             |     |
| Cash Movement                      |       | (£4,726.72)  |             |              |       |             |     |
| Diff.                              |       | £0.00        |             |              |       |             |     |
| Bank Balance                       |       |              |             | £15,890.72   |       |             |     |
| Cash Balance                       |       |              |             | £100.00      |       |             |     |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                 |       |              |             | £15,990.72   |       |             |     |

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

## Thank you!

We welcomed super articles for this edition from members of the community - thank you!

If you have historical facts to share with us about life in Wicken or have an idea for an article you would love to see, please do get in touch with us. We would also love to see old photos from life in the village over the years.

Any articles, photos of news can be sent by email to:

wicken.community@gmail.com

We are happy to pop by and collect articles and photos from you if easier.

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

Join us on

**Sunday 26th March**

# COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



**Meet at Wicken Sports Club entrance at 10.30am.  
Bags provided.**

## Wicken Village Community - Accounts

### Income and Expenditure account

|  | Year ended<br>31 Dec 2021 | Year ended<br>31 Dec 2022 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                            |                           |                           |
| Advertising Revenue                      | £60.00                    | £135.00                   |
| Goodwill payment from NatWest            | £200.00                   | -                         |
| Interest                                 | £0.14                     | £0.23                     |
| Sale of Old Photographs of Wicken books  | -                         | £60.00                    |
| Solar Fund Contribution (Parish Council) | £800.00                   | £800.00                   |
| Village fete sales                       | -                         | £1,114.95                 |
| Village BBQ sale                         | £329.80                   | -                         |
| <b>Total Income</b>                      | <b>£1,389.94</b>          | <b>£2,110.18</b>          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                       |                           |                           |
| BBQ                                      | (£309.77)                 | (£25.00)                  |
| Christmas party                          | -                         | (£158.05)                 |
| Jubilee celebration                      | -                         | (£362.17)                 |
| Notice board repairs                     | -                         | (£600.00)                 |
| Phone repair and book shelf              | (£107.38)                 | -                         |
| Photo books                              | -                         | (£252.79)                 |
| Planting costs                           | (£145.74)                 | (£237.42)                 |
| Printing costs - Wicken news             | (£226.50)                 | (£595.00)                 |
| Village fete - Charity donation          | -                         | (£790.00)                 |
| Village fete costs                       | -                         | (£324.20)                 |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                 | <b>(£789.39)</b>          | <b>(£3,344.63)</b>        |
| <b>Net (expenditure) / income</b>        | <b>£600.55</b>            | <b>(£1,234.45)</b>        |
| Petty cash                               | £375.55                   | £159.50                   |
| Business Reserve account - cash at bank  | £1,710.49                 | £390.88                   |
| Current account                          | £1,742.96                 | £2,044.17                 |
| <b>Total balance as at year end</b>      | <b>£3,829.00</b>          | <b>£2,594.55</b>          |



# St. John's Church Update

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**Turkey and Syria Appeal – all churches in the benefice are raising money for the DEC appeal.**

In Wicken our collection at the service on 5 March will be donated. If you don't see this in time or it's more convenient, please feel free to hand your offering to me (a marked envelope through the door at 46 Cross Tree Rd would be fine) and I'll see it gets included, whenever it may be received.

It was wonderful to see the church so full for the various Christmas services. Thank you to everyone who helped make them both possible and most enjoyable.

By the time you read this, the scaffolding on the church should be gone. The roof repairs took longer than we hoped but they were worth it to keep our beautiful church dry and weatherproof.



You may recall that we have moved our patronal festival (celebrating St John the Evangelist) from early January to May. Two of the other churches in South Cleley Benefice have done the same so they no longer fall in the winter nor come too close to other major services. It means also that we can stick to a regular pattern of worship so Wicken's is always the first Sunday of the month (more details below). We will be combining our patronal service with the Ascension Day festivities, as in most years Ascension Day will be close to the first Sunday anyway (it moves along with Easter) and weekday services tend, understandably, to be quite poorly attended.



This year we have something of a triple whammy as His Majesty King Charles III has chosen our festival week-end for his Coronation!

We plan, on Sunday 7 May, to begin with a brief commemoration at the Gospel Elm and then move to the church to celebrate the unification of the Wicken parishes, our patron St John and our newly-crowned King. There will be some yummy light refreshments to follow but that will still leave time for people to move on to other Coronation festivities.

This service will also be the focus of our Gift Day Appeal when we invite your kind donations towards the upkeep of our church. More details of all of this nearer the time.

### SERVICES IN SOUTH CLELEY BENEFICE (POTTERSPURY, YARDLEY GOBION, COSGROVE, FURTHO AND WICKEN)

We continue to have a service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the 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](mailto:tish@gordonlee.org)  
07850 108908

### FORTHCOMING SERVICES IN WICKEN:

March 5, April 2 (Palm Sunday) and May 7, all at 10am.

## St. John, the Evangelist - who was he?

By Anna Bayman

**Living in Wicken, near St John's Church I feel challenged to look at the man behind the name.**

John, one of the twelve disciples had a brother James also called to follow Jesus. James and John were the sons of Zebedee and they worked as fishermen.

On one occasion when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, he asked everyone to leave the room where the little girl had just died, everyone except for the child's parents and Peter, James and John.

John described himself as the one whom Jesus loved, and whose shoulder Jesus rested on at the last supper. John had a special revelation whilst in prison on the Isle of Patmos, and this is recorded in the Book of Revelation. It explains where we are today, in the days after Jesus had been killed, buried and raised to life. The days yet to come are hastening upon us and we might like to study this book.

In this age, following from the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit has been sent to fill the believers with boldness and with power. This same power that rose Jesus from the dead lives in each person today who believes and trusts in him.

John also wrote the Gospel of John and three letters known as 1 John, 2 John and 3 John.

Recently at the funeral of John Marchant, a faithful member of St John's, he had pre-chosen that we would sing, 'Onwards Christian Soldiers, Marching as to war'. This is a wonderful hymn about spiritual warfare and very relevant to today's church. Ephesians, chapter 6, verse 12, says: For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. The name John means 'God is gracious' or 'God has been gracious'. A good name for a son!



St. John the Evangelist

Saint John's writings definitely deserve to be studied. He writes passionately about the love of God which in recent times has been watered down and re-defined in many churches. According to John in 1 John 4, verse 10, 'This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.' This blessing is so serious that John, (as with followers of Christ today), was willing to give his life for following Christ. Thankfully it is recorded that he died of natural causes at around age 100.

The 'I AM' statements of Christ are recorded in the Gospel of John. One, which is probably the most well-known is when Jesus says, 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except through me.' Another, spoken with great celebration, at memorial thanksgiving services is: 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.' (John 14:6 and John 11:25)

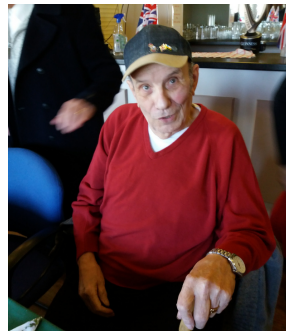
This is a very sketchy article and briefly starts looking at who St John the Evangelist actually was. Please do add your discoveries in the next edition of the Wicken News!





## Seniors' Christmas Party

Thank you Mary for the super photos!



A huge thank you to  
the entire team who  
pulled this event  
together.





## Nice to meet you!

**Do you fancy meeting a new group of enthusiastic friends that you are likely to have a lot in common with, people to talk to about the things that matter to you. Finding such a group may not be so easy, and taking that first step to actually get involved can be equally as difficult.**

But then, there might be a perfect fit right on your doorstep and you never realised it. There are no guarantees of course, but the Over 55's group has been going since the late seventies and currently has around thirty local members, so it is highly likely that you'll know at least one or two people that are part of the group already, which means a welcoming smile would be there the moment you open the door.

Now, some are more enthusiastic than others. You may want to participate but possibly not too much, just now and then perhaps. You never know, after taking that first step you could find yourself suggesting a new event or two, and maybe over time even help to run them.

Whatever you are comfortable with is acceptable as members meet the second Saturday of each month, and over a two course home cooked lunch, chat and share stories. Then afterwards play cards, games, bingo and occasionally run a raffle. You can get as involved as you like, or just sit back, relax and enjoy a glass of wine or a freshly made cuppa in friendly company.

What cost friendship? Not as much as you may think. Annual membership is as little as £1 per month, and only £4 each time you go for lunch. Christmas Dinner is free for members, and as you can see from our gallery of pictures it is a party with first class entertainment, and a dinner that is worthy of at least one Michelin Star!

If you would like to find out more before committing to membership why not come along and meet the gang for lunch the next Saturday you have free.





### **Can You Spare TWO Hours?**

For **ONLY Two** Saturdays in the Year?

#### **Can you?**

Shop for and cook a tasty meat and two veg lunch? Provide a yummy dessert or pudding?

Leave a kitchen sparkling after dishing up?

#### **Are you?**

Keen to work in your community?

Friendly, fun and outgoing?

Make a gang of lively pensioners even more happy?

If you would like to get involved we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Just call: Mary Clarke 01908 571323**

Or email: [maryanneclarke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:maryanneclarke@hotmail.co.uk) or [annienicks@gmail.com](mailto:annienicks@gmail.com)



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# The Coronation Big Lunch

## Sunday 7th May

Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship.

If you would like to get involved in the fun and help organise this event for our village contact [annienicks@gmail.com](mailto:annienicks@gmail.com)

The Big Lunch is an idea from the Eden Project, made possible by The National Lottery, that brings millions of people together annually to boost community spirit, reduce loneliness and support charities and good causes.

See more here:

<https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch>



## Childhood Memories - Chapter 5

John Folker

If you have the book “Old Photographs of Wicken” by Jonathan Gudgeon it will help. I will refer to relevant pages as the script goes on.

Before I go rabbiting on, I must thank Jessie Eden for naming the two missing names in school photograph, last edition. Top line, one in from right Patricia Phorbes, bottom line five in from right Lyn Portlock.

Now where do I start, my teenage years. I had left secondary modern and gained a place at Wolverton Science and Art Institute locally known as “The Tech”. I was hopefully on my way to reaching my goal, to have a technical design related career. My mum and her brothers were thrilled that I had eventually secured an education that should take me to a rewarding future. Something they had all wished for.

Starting at The Tech was initially as daunting as my previous school move. I was now among a chosen few and I must admit I was at that moment in the lower half. Tech as the name implies was biased towards the technical part of education. Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Engineering Drawing, Woodwork and Metal work, along with the obvious other lessons Maths, English, Geography, and Physical exercise etc. In those days it was an all-male class. There was a girls' side, but they concentrated on office management, domestic science, fashion design, etc. We were also segregated at break and lunch times. All this would not be politically correct now but, as always, boys and girls found cracks in the segregated policy, so it was not as bad as it sounds. Tech led me at the age of 16 to starting a technical apprenticeship at “Cranfield College of Aeronautics”. After the first 12 months of basic training I was offered a place in the newly created “Advanced School of Automobile Engineering”. I thought it's up to me now to take it further.

However, before I elaborate on my later teenage years, I still must ramble on about life in Wicken in the early 1950s. As I have said before I was always crazy about all things mechanical, and slowly understanding how things worked, building rubber powered balsa wood aeroplanes and small boats powered in the same way. I was also given a small jet motor consisting of a compressed flammable tablet about the size of a thimble. This was pushed inside a short aluminium tube and ignited by a rapid burning fuse (Jetex 50?). When lit, it lasted about 30 seconds, but was sufficient to hand launch a model plane.

However, with limited pocket money the craze had its drawbacks. Bicycles and go karts were still our main fun machines. Around the early 1950s a bicycle craze called Skid Kids was sweeping through the area. At that point I had not appreciated the craze had started on bomb sights in London, which I discovered by recent research. Teams of around 8 young men would challenge other villages to race, usually on a Friday evening, around a 220yd oval grass track. This went on through the summer months ending with a winning village being presented with a cup. Our track was on the village green but then got transferred to the Sports Club ground. I was not old enough to take part but did enjoy racing around the track with other mates when the track was not in use.



Pic: Me on bicycle supported by Keith & Roy Pitson. My feet could not reach the pedals. Note, cow horn handlebars. Two bent chrome rods going from center stocks to front wheel spindle (reinforcing front forks). Fixed single speed rear sprocket. A push-start was necessary for take-off. Each club had a dedicated colour for their bikes, Wicken Wizards, which was yellow.

Each village had a club name: Wicken was Wizards, Deanshanger - Moon Rakers, Akeley - Acorns, Wolverton - Wasps, New Bradwell - Corner pins. I think Cosgrove, Yardley Gobion, Castlethorpe, and Hanslope had teams, but I can't remember one from Stony Stratford. What I do find frustrating, I can't find photographs, but I am convinced they are lurking in local draws or attics. Can anybody help? I have found some evidence on a Deanshanger Web Site and plenty in and around London.

Now on to push go-karts, most boys had one, but I was determined mine would be the best, hence the wheels from Scotland. I must confess that a few gardens got raided looking for suitable construction wood and other bits and pieces. Apart from pushing one another round the village, my personal challenge was to start at the highest point on Leckampstead Road, and with one good push-off, make it to the Cross Tree. I don't think it was ever achieved. In those days the road at Rectory Corner was a very sharp bend including a slight uphill section (See p145 plan B & p150) looking down towards Rectory Corner.

Just out of interest, the four small children in the top photo on p150 are my grandmother's brothers and sisters, my great aunts and uncles. Their mother Mary Ann Barby, thought to be the photographer, was my Great Grandmother. The house at 1 Leckhampstead Rd (Rectory Corner) was my maternal ancestral home.

Getting back to Go Karts, I was convinced well lubricated wheels, a streamline shape and good weight distribution was the secret. That's enough of Go Karts.

The village was a veritable gold mine of adventure playgrounds. To name a few, the Timber yard, the butcher's yard, Stable yard, Bunkers yard, the fishpond and brook, Wicken Woods, and three quarries. In the winter the dip in the ground in the field bordered by Park Lane and Lark's Lane was the best for a sledge run. I will try to describe all these in more detail seen through the eyes of a young adventurer.



Rectory Corner

Pic: 1 Leckhampstead Rd (Rectory corner), note sharp bend to the right behind house heading for Cross Tree. My home for the first five years of my life until we moved to the Jetty in 1947. Leaving my grandma and mums, other brothers and sisters. House block demolished circa 1958.

The Timber Yard. This is where nos 2A & 2B Church Lane now stand. It was, as the name implies, the place where Wicken Park estate would store all the necessary timber for estate use. The yard was in the form of a quadrangle with lean-to sheds around 3 sides, a gate at the drive between Ivy Cottage and No 4 Church Lane. An end view of the barn at the back of the yard can be seen on p94 looking down the school playground. However, I can't remember that barn being there. A large vertical circular saw mounted on a frame was in the middle of the yard, powered by a belt connected to a tractor pulley. I can vaguely remember seeing it in motion, but the estate was now in the hands of the Merchant Venturers.

The script on p94 does mention a saw pit. Wattons from Silverstone were now felling most of the large trees and taking them back to their own premises, so the yard was more-or-less abandoned and consequently it was on the list of play areas. For a short period, it was parking for a small fleet of removal vans.

At that time John Marchant (John RIP) did appear to have authority over it. In later years, I and others used the lean-to sheds for parking our cars ("Old Bangers") at a weekly rent paid to John.

This yard was officially out of bounds, but irresistible for hide and seek, or just clambering about. "Health and safety" - what's that all about?

The Butchers yard, again the name gives you a clue. This was located where Heriot House is now. 6 Leckhampstead Road. See p151; beyond this was the fishpond, now in the garden of Heriot House. The butchery part of the plot was closed before the war, it was again originally all part of the Wicken Estate. Again, see p151, top picture and script relating to its previous use. Mr Tombs the milkman was now using the old buildings for bottling and storage. The fishpond was particularly attractive for catching frogs, newts and bully heads, and for spotting insects and birds. When frozen over in the winter it was our favourite place for ice-skating. In those days the pond was separate from the Butchers Yard. The footpath on the north side of the brook was as it is now, but no laurel hedges or border garden fence, just open scrub land to the north and brook to the south, leading into a small pasture both sides of the pond linked by a concrete bridge at the west end.

There were many other ponds around the village, most sadly now filled in, but this was our favourite.



The Stables & yard partly now called the Pub yard. In the 1950s the White Lion had houses attached to both sides. See p22/23&25. These were demolished in the 1960s. The stables and yard are clearly visible on the left of the pictures, notice the brewery sign on the stable building wall. The main block of the stables is now a private residence and part of the stables and yard are now the car park and outside pub seating area. In the 1950's I am not sure if it was officially part of the pub premises, but I do recall the large advert for Phipps Brewery painted on the stable wall.

They obviously were stables, but for travelling people I don't know. I can't remember any horses being present, although the text on p22 would suggest they had been used by the Penrhyn family for pony and trap.

My most vivid memory from that time was of the village allotment association; potatoes, and maybe onions, were bought in bulk and stored in the loft (first floor of the stables, presumably this was originally a hay loft) then in early spring were distributed among the allotment holders. It could have also included pea and bean seeds.

The memory that for some reason is clear in my head, is on distribution weekend the potatoes in large sacks would be lowered by block and pulley

from a door opening on the first floor now an upstairs window of the "The Stables". All the local allotment holders would be eagerly awaiting their share, ready to be getting planting for the coming harvest.

While on allotments, each plot would be delivered with a cart load of farmyard manure, horse muck if you were lucky. People would also scoop this up from passing horses. You just had to be quick of the mark.

One more yard comes to mind. Bunkers yard (Row) See p54 picture and script. My recollection of this yard was the derelict house foundations of the top 3 or 4 houses. This area was perfect for off road go karting and bicycle riding (this must have been like the London bomb sites mentioned earlier but on a village scale). The remaining house was soon to become our youth club. That was originally at the reading room. I can remember the billiard table being dismantled and moved to the one remaining house in Bunkers yard.

This all happened after two or three adults had made modifications to the accommodation. This period was at the start of skiffle, rock and roll, and pop music. I can remember we all thought we were budding group players, trying to make music from washboards, old oil drums, homemade flutes and anything that twanged.

None of us made the big time. However, two of our mates the Cashmore boys were having private music tuition, and I think did for a time play in local bands. I can remember trying to blow Terry's trumpet, getting excited when I did manage an audible sound, nearly busting a blood vessel in the process. We could only dream. (Maybe I will go into making flutes from fresh elderberry shoots, another time).

That will do for now, still to come, farmyards, woods, quarries, more ponds, small village businesses, local characters, allotments. Anything else that springs to mind.



John on his bike along Brook Bridge

End of Chapter 5

## 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.** This information was first published in the December edition of Wicken News. This is a polite reminder.

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



## The Village Elm Tree - 'Gospel Elm'



Planting of the new Gospel Elm by Jack Green (Parish Council Chairman), Reverend Peter Townsend (on the left) and Brenda Folker, who organised the funding of the new elm through the local Horticulture Society.

The original Gospel Elm, seen in the background in a decayed state, was planted in 1587 to commemorate the re-uniting of the two parishes Wick Dive and Wick Hamon. For newcomers to the village, the Gospel Elm stands at the junction of Leckhampstead Road and Cross Tree Road. A long-standing tradition is to gather at the tree at 11am on Ascension Day (18th May this year) and sing the 'Old Hundredth hymn' (All People That On Earth Do Dwell).

See you there!

Brenda Folker

## WICKEN ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

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### PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)

Parish Clerk - wickenclerk@outlook.com  
neilgordonlee@wickennorthants.co.uk  
ianhowett@wickennorthants.co.uk  
philipivens@wickennorthants.co.uk  
petrascencerjones@wickennorthants.co.uk  
verityrobinson@wickennorthants.co.uk  
andrewstockbridge@wickennorthants.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.....*

**26 March**

**Community  
Litter  
Pick**

Wicken Sports Club  
10.30am

**7 May**

**The Coronation  
Big Lunch**

**18 May:**

**11.00am**

**Ascension Day  
Meet at the  
'Gospel Elm'**





# OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF WICKEN

JONATHAN GUDGEON

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

Please email [wicken.community@gmail.com](mailto:wicken.community@gmail.com) to  
order your copy.