

EDITION 91
MAY/JUNE 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 end July 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

Contents

- 03 Welcome
- 04 Welcome to our new village signs!
- 06 Church Update
- 08 Coronation Lunch
- 10 Open Gardens
- 11 Ukraine Fundraising Update
- 14 Obituary - John Marchant
- 17 Buckingham Half Marathon
- 18 Childhood Memories - Chapter 6
- 21 Car Meet

WELCOME

We enter a new Carolean era with the Coronation of King Charles III.

The weekend comprised – Saturday 6 May, the Coronation itself – Sunday, The Coronation Big Lunch – Monday, The Big Help Out. Picking up on the Monday theme, it seems appropriate to give a shout out “Thank You” to all those who “Help Out” all year round. Like any community, we in Wicken depend on those who give of their time and energy to keep things ticking along, developing and looking after the Village we call home.

Thanks to all those who volunteer for the Wicken Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Wicken Sports Club, the Wicken Village Community, the Solar Farm Fund Committee, and Wickids. Those who coach and manage the football teams, the cricket teams, the tennis, the archery. Those who cook the lunches for the Seniors Group, organise the fetes, the charity events, the Summer BBQs, the Film Nights, pick litter, contribute and put together the Wicken News. Without all these people putting in the effort, we wouldn’t be the Village we are; Thank You!

Keep the activities going, but more help is always needed!

Fenlon Dunphy
Chair

Welcome to our New Village Signs

Sure everyone has noticed the new Wicken signs at the four entrances to the Village.

In an attractive green with gold lettering and the Northamptonshire Rose. Another project funded by the Wicken Parish Council's Solar Farm Fund.



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>

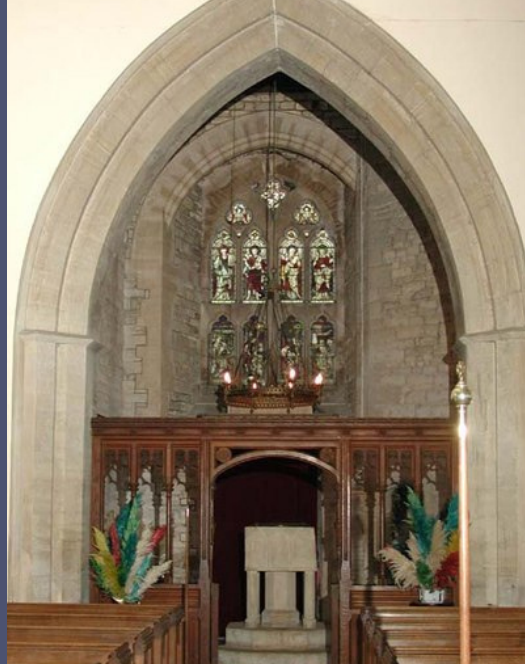
St. John's Church Update

It was wonderful to see the church so full on 7 May when we had a joyful celebration of the Coronation, our Patronal Festival of St John and Ascension Day.

We started at the Gospel Elm, maintaining the ancient tradition and then processed back to the church. This was also our Gift Day and it is not too late to make a donation (details below).

As you can imagine, the costs of upkeep have gone up just like everything else, so anything you can manage in these difficult times is very gratefully received.

While we are still without a permanent Rector, we are kindly looked after by the Ven David Painter and our Ministry Team. Their support is highly valued and appreciated by us all.



We are still working on plans to provide a much-needed w.c. We would like also to provide a modest kitchen so that offering light refreshments would be easier. Another project is to make some relatively small changes which would allow us to keep the church open more often. Naturally, none of this is straightforward with a listed building and progress is often painfully slow as we work our way through the various required applications and procedures. Ultimately, though, we aim to make the church a more accessible and welcoming place for all who visit.



Forthcoming services will be Benefice Holy Communion on 4 June, 2 July and 6 Aug at 10am and on 30 July at 8am.

SERVICES IN SOUTH CLELEY
BENEFICE (POTTERSPURY,
YARDLEY GOBION, COSGROVE,
FURTHO AND 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 07850 108908

Donations to the church for its upkeep may be made by cheque payable to Wicken PCC or by online transfer to Wicken PCC, sort code 30-15-53, account no 02449345. Cash donations may be brought to the service on Sunday or handed to Marcus at Yew Tree Cottage, Cross Tree Road.

We are very grateful for your continuing support – thank you.

Coronation Lunch for the benefit of Willen Hospice

What a turnout at the former Village Hall, over 80 residents, friends and neighbours came together to share lunch and celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

It was truly a remarkable event, and in the warm Sunday sunshine everyone sipped cool fizz, and drank beer, wines and cordials. In keeping, a variety of tasty Quiches were produced by Cranley Barn, Hartwell's of Towcester supplied Coronation Chicken and Pork Pies, and Wicken's own talented cooks produced an array of salads and accompaniments.

After toasting the King, practically every pudding you could imagine carried to the Hall by those attending was dished up and thoroughly enjoyed.

Thanks to the organisers for putting on this event and to the Wicken Parish Council Solar Fund for its financial support





An Invitation to Open Gardens at The Old Rectory Wicken

William and Celina Francklin's garden is open for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 28th May from 2-5pm.

There will be teas available and the church will be open. Dogs are welcome.

Adults £5 children free.

The Old Rectory
Cross Tree Road (junction with
Leckhampstead Road)
Wicken
Northants
MK19 6BX

WHAT 3 WORDS LOCATION:
hills.ending.continued

There is more information at
www.ngs.org.uk

The NGS provides critical support to nursing and health charities including;

- Marie Curie
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Hospice UK
- Carers Trust
- Parkinson's UK
- The Queen's Nursing Institute



CAKE NEEDED PLEASE!

Celina would very much appreciate donations of home-made cakes for the teas.

If you can help, please contact Celina at celinafrancklin@gmail.com or, if you have her telephone number, please feel free to give her a ring.

Many thanks



Ukraine Fundraising Update

By William Francklin

The background to my expedition to Ukraine began when I saw a friend, Paul Parsons, who lives near Blakesley. He told me in February that he was taking 2 pick-up trucks out to Ukraine later in the month. I said to him if he organises another trip I would be keen to be involved. As it happened he started planning his next trip before he returned home. We began fund raising shortly thereafter.

The fundraising went as well as we could have hoped for. The village of Wicken was very generous in supporting this project.

We had 7 drivers with 3 Mitsubishi L200 trucks and a retired NHS ambulance. We drove 1350 miles to Lviv, all of which were filled to the gunnels with humanitarian aid. The list included 350 lifesaving tourniquets, 137 emergency stretchers, 550 specialist blood clotting packs, 300 bullet wound chest seals, in all more than 2000 major trauma wound dressings and thousands more hospital grade items. In total we took some 4000 units.

We also took 100 mobility aids for the wounded along with a plethora of other products. Importantly all of the products had been especially requested from front line battalions.

Trips like this don't happen without considerable planning. Steve Challen of the Tove Benefice was chief buyer and general factotum organising a multitude of tasks of great importance. Oleh Nadya translated all forms where needed from Ukraine to English. Paul Parsons collated all information, planned the route, insured the vehicles, ticked the legal boxes, and was all around great team leader.



We left Towcester early on Saturday, 1st April. We traveled through France, Germany and Poland and reached Ukraine at lunch time on the third day.

On our first morning in Lviv we met the extraordinary Anastasia (67th Brigade) a Bakhmut medic whose job it is to take the badly wounded from the front line and stabilise them before their trip back in the hospital train. For those with a strong stomach we can send you a video which gives you a feel for this very tough environment and basic working conditions. You can also see the first aid packs that the ladies in Lviv make in their spare time. (We saw first-hand the comradeship this created with the 3 ladies we met who all had husbands fighting on the front-line).

Anastasia is a mother of 2 young daughters, who she hadn't seen since December. She received a truck (resprayed green and en route in a few hours) which was full of trauma supplies as requested (her last truck had been destroyed). Her message was that most of the good equipment comes as humanitarian gifts from abroad and saves lives. She wears a helmet and body armour both made in the West.

We then met 3 veterans who had fought in Mariupol, Kreminna, and Bakhmut.



They were very keen to explain the Ukraine Government does its best to supply the everyday needs of munitions, but it doesn't have the resources to supply everything. They did complain about the form filling for supplies and then recording how much ammunition was used at each engagement. The Mitsubishi trucks were vital to their transport needs for which they were very thankful. When we told them they were over 10 years old they smiled and said, 'new trucks, how wonderful'!

We met with 3 nurses from the hospital train which runs between the battlefield and the main hospitals. They were equally enthused about the importance of the extra western products and spent some time inspecting wheelchairs and walking sticks.

We handed over the ambulance to the Police brigade who were driving it straight to Kherson with its extra supplies. Before it left, the senior Priest from the church gave it a full blessing and doused it and us with holy water.

In Lviv the sirens went off twice. No one took any notice. It's a remarkable place with delightful architecture left over from being an outpost of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Rebuilding, street upgrades, repainting and tree planting all continued even though there was a war. On the streets there are very few men. The ladies we met had started micro enterprises making equipment for the troops or driving supplies to the front. Keeping busy seems a good way to stop them thinking about the risks of their 'boys' on the frontline. We were humbled by their fortitude.



The question which we all asked, was do we make a difference?

Alternatively, is your money being well spent and having a positive effect? The answer is unquestionably yes. There are a lot of micro efforts like ours both within Ukraine and from outside which all go to help create something very important. The message was clear, better quality western products save lives of the wounded and are very important to the effort.

Micro entities like ours have the great advantage of being able to fulfil requests very accurately without fuss and form filling, bypassing the usual channels enables us to provide the requested aid directly. Requests to us are sent from the brigades on the front line to trusted friends which are then relayed again to support groups in the UK.

Paul Parsons is organising a 3rd trip to Ukraine in August

Obituary

John Marchant 1927 - 2022



John Marchant passed away on Christmas Eve 2022 at the age of 95 and was buried in the family plot at St John The Evangelist, Wicken in January 2023.

John's family is a farming dynasty which stretches back some 400 years. The family connection with Wicken dates from when his grandfather, Jeremiah, came to Little Hill Farm in 1870 with his wife Sarah and five children; Ann, Rose, William, Robert and Frederick.

John's father, Robert, was educated at the village school in Wicken and married Lily Deverell in 1923. John was born 4 years later on the 25th July 1927 and was baptised in Wicken Parish Church.

Both Robert and Sarah were lifelong members of the church in Wicken with Robert serving for 38 years on the Parochial Church Council and as a sidesman. Lily served for 50 years on the PCC, as Church Warden and Verger. This meant cycling a four-mile round trip to the village.

John attended the village school between 1933 and 1936 being taken there in the beginning by either his mother and father on their bicycle or in a horse and cart. He then went on to school in Buckingham and subsequently Towcester.

Sadly his sister, Mary, died when she was just under three years old in 1933 and is buried in Wicken churchyard.

John was a leading light of the local Young Farmers Club entering ditching and hedge laying competitions in the 1940s and acting as Quiz Master for an event in 1953. At this time John was Chair of the Potterspury Young Farmers Club.

John even made the Wolverton Express in March 1945 for winning first place in a fancy dress contest at which he wore his grandfather's Royal Bucks Hussars uniform.

In October 1954 John married Frances Skevington in St James's Church in Paulerspury and lived at Little Hill Farm. They had two children Janet and David. Both were baptised in Wicken church and Janet was married there in 1983 to David Butowski.

John followed in his parent's footsteps serving for 60 years at Wicken Parish church as a PCC member, Churchwarden and Verger up until 2017.

John invested a lot of time and effort into projects for the Church including restoring the 1924 funeral bier to full working order which was used to carry his coffin from the church to the churchyard at his funeral.

John also moved the 300-year-old turret clock from the bell tower so it could be restored to working order. It is one of the few remaining examples in the country of such a mechanism. John also repaired the bell on the Old Village school which had fallen down around 1997 to full working order.



John left Little Hill Farm in 1969 and moved to Old Stratford. Later he lived at Knotwood Fields Farm between Deanshanger and Cosgrove where he kept an eclectic collection of military vehicles. He started collecting surplus army clothing and vehicles because of their practical use on the farm but his interest developed from there.



One of John's great passions was military history and he began collecting Canadian Second World War vehicles. He was a leading light in the preservation of historical items starting the first register of Canadian ex-military vehicles. His first acquisition was in 1947 when he bought a Bren Gun Carrier from a local farmer for £15.00. He had a particular interest in tracked vehicles but owned a variety of types which he could store and use on the farm.

John also took some of these vehicles on historic runs to the Continent and Ed Storey from Ottawa reminisces online (Maple Leaf Up) about trips he took with John between 1984 and 1986. John donated one of his trucks, a rare Ford F60S 3-ton truck, to the Base Borden Museum in Canada.

There were many attendees at his funeral who knew John through these classic vehicle events and made the trip to Wicken, some of them even arriving in their classic military vehicles.

John was just a teenager through World War 2 but it was obvious he had a deep respect for those who had fought in both wars. John will be remembered for reading out the list of names on the Wicken War Memorial at each Remembrance Sunday service.

In 2007 John arranged an event in the old Village School where he showed his collection of artefacts found around Wicken. This included a neolithic hammer found in the River Ouse on Little Hill Farm, an intact Roman brooch found in a ditch near Furtho Pit, part of a mammoth tusk and more Roman remains found at the site of Elizabeth Woodville school which is built on the site of a Roman Villa.

John's love of history and the village of Wicken, most especially the Parish Church, will be long remembered.

Neil Gordon-Lee

Buckingham Half Marathon

Approximately 230 fun runners came through Wicken on Sunday 14 May taking part in the Buckingham Half Marathon.

We were around about the 5 mile mark, so still looking fairly fresh and chatty.



COMMUNITY LITTER PICK



Thank you to all who volunteered to litter pick throughout the village at the end of March.

It was a very successful morning.

Childhood Memories -

Chapter 6

John Folker

The Woods

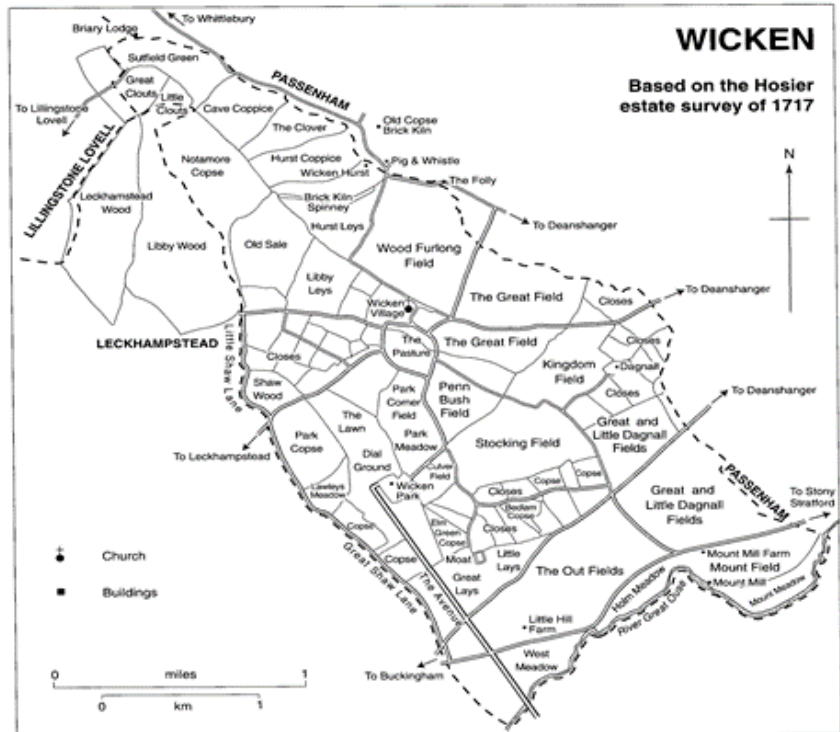
The most notable and regularly visited was Wicken Wood adjacent to Leckhampstead Wood. At that time, I was unaware of the geographical implications of Wicken Wood. I now know that the south-westerly section is actually in Buckinghamshire, and therefore out of the bounds of Wicken Parish. This section of the Wood was called Lilby (Libby)-wood.

It is separated from Wicken Wood by the main riding running through the middle. This riding is the county boundary Northants/Bucks. (See adjacent map dotted line is parish and county boundary). Also what I now know as Wicken Wood was called Notamore and the very top end still in the parish Great & Little Clouts. I know this map is from 1717 but the county or parish boundaries I am sure have not changed. I appreciate I am now going back way before my time, but I do find this map intriguing. Note the track going off due west from bottom of Leckhampstead Road.

Also, what is now Park Lane is not going out to the A422, but diverts left to link with a track running beyond Sparrow Lodge then crossing the A422 at what I assume is Mount Mill. Also, I would like to know more about the very straight avenue going southeast from Wicken Park, crossing A422. Sorry! I digress going back many more years than my childhood, but I do find it fascinating.

Let's get back to my childhood memories. As I know it, Lilby (Libby) corner is the sharp right hand bend as you leave the village on the Whittlebury road. Leaving the road, at this corner you carry on along the bridleway (Concrete Rd) to the northeast corner of Wicken Wood. This was our favourite location for a good game of Cowboys & Indians and general honing of our woodcraft skills.

Cutting well-chosen sticks for bows and arrows and sling shots. On family walks we would be gathering flowers and hedge row fruit, spotting rare wildflowers, birds, and butterflies. Wildflower gathering is now a no-no. During long summer days we could be up the woods all day oblivious of time.



For a couple of seasons while I was still at Wicken School, we would get paid for gathering rose hips for the commercial making of rose hip syrup. This was a government sponsored appeal to improve the health of youngsters. Rose hips having 1000% more vitamin C than oranges. I am not sure if it is now sold as rosehip syrup, maybe by a fancier name, could be Delrosa. I think we got 1p per lb (old money). And to encourage more gathering some form of badge if you collected over a certain amount.

Other woods on our playground list were Park Copse, Jacks Copse, Rabbit Wood, Bedlam Copse. Other wooded areas seldom visited, Little & Great Oaken Copse. At the back of my mind, I think I was scared of going this far from home by a story of wild horses breathing fire inhabiting this area.

Another obvious attraction to young teenage boys were ponds. Various ponds were around the village some have now diminished in size, others have been filled in. Maybe it's time these were re-established. Our favourite was the one called the fishpond that I have mentioned a few times previously, but there are two more that stick in my mind.

One is in the field called the lawn; this is still there but a little overgrown and off the beaten track. The other was in the field called Shaw Wood, although I can't remember this ever being a wood in my lifetime; however this pond has totally disappeared. The reason that both these ponds stick in my mind is because I have fallen in headfirst in both trying to snaffle ducks eggs by crawling along low lying branches.

Unfortunately they bend the further you move along them and particularly if they are willow have a habit off snapping off without warning. I am a little wiser now.

I know this is not the right thing to do but try telling that to a boy in the early 1950's thinking he is helping with the breakfast budget.

Another pond that is still in existence is the Moat, again a little overgrown, not sure of the relevance of the name, but the pond can be seen from Park Lane road just beyond the Rabbit Wood on the left. The road floods here during periods of heavy rain fall. (For all the pond references above see map).

This is for our very young readers, "The fairy letter box".

Again, along Park Lane leaving the village beyond the turning to Wicken Park School; as you go up the hill to the top, on the left is thick hedge bordering Stocking Field. In this hedge was a small may tree about eyelevel to a six/seven-year-old with a vertical crack in the trunk about the size of a letter box. I was told this was a Fairy letter box and if I posted a letter to Father Christmas then I might get lucky on Christmas morning. So, for a few years in early December this would be our Sunday afternoon walk for me to post my letter. I can tell you all this worked like magic.

WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

The Wicken Car Meet is back for 2023. First meet was on Wednesday 26 April and will be held on the last Wednesday of each month at 6pm throughout the Summer at the Wicken Sports Club - bar open.

Next meeting 31 May.

The owners love chatting about their cars; would be great to see some Wicken garage treasures come along.

It is usually a fairly eclectic mix; last time ranging from Minis to a Jag E-type, a couple of military Jeeps and the family Citroen from the 1970's.



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It's beginning to sound a bit like summer. The football season will soon be over, and your weekends will be empty.

You've heard all about the resurgence of English cricket - "Baz Ball" - under Baz and Ben, and just like the Bank of England your interest rate is rising.

Our offer:

- a classic village cricket club, born in 1849 and still going strong, with great facilities in a beautiful setting.
- an eclectic mix of grumpy old men and willing youngsters, 'knowledgeable' Millennials, Cricket Badgers and IPL converts whose idea of playing themselves in is to take a guard trying to smash the first ball into next week.
- a club that plays league cricket on Saturdays and is starting a friendly team on Sundays

But we're missing something.... **YOU!**

Win or lose, we ALWAYS have fun. We secured promotion last season, so now we're looking for new (or old) players to help us grow and play in either league and friendlies throughout the summer.

If this sounds like you, then why not drop us an email at wsc1849@gmail.com or come along to a game at St John's Lane to see us in action.

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
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.....

28 May

Open Gardens at The Old Rectory

2.00pm - 5.00pm

31 May

Car Meet Sports Club

6.00pm

Next issue: September



OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF WICKEN

JONATHAN GUDGEON

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publication, at £12 each.

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