

EDITION 87  
MAY 2022

# WICKEN

NEWS



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WICKEN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

# WELCOME



Everything is in full swing for the upcoming Summer Fete on 25 June. We are really hoping for a good turnout, so please let family and friends know what is happening. Activities at the Sports Club and the White Lion – something for everyone! School sports, tug-o-war, circus skills, craft stalls, Scouts display, cream teas, Pimm's bar, ice cream van, hot dogs, burgers, Morris dancers, evening band, and much more. Thanks to Viv Kime for rallying the troops on this.

Also, on 5 June, 3-5pm, we will be holding a Jubilee Tea Party at the Sports Club; food and hot drinks funded by the WVC. Sandwiches, wraps, sausage rolls, cake, tea and coffee; the bar will be available for those wanting something a bit stronger.

The Old Photographs of Wicken has now gone for a re-print and will be available in time for the Summer Fete.

You may have spotted a few unusual vehicles at the Sports Club on the last Wednesday of the last couple of months. The first evening was bitterly cold but for the second one the weather was a bit kinder and an assortment of 41 vehicles turned up from military, to vans and classic MGs, to Americana. It will now become a regular event; see later in this edition. All are welcome; you don't have to bring a car.

We were a bit concerned at the last edition with the need for a new editor, but we are really pleased that Sam Chambers has stepped into the role. So, a new lease of life for the Wicken News and a new perspective.

Hope everyone has a great Summer with a few more trips out and about!

**Fenlon Dunphy**  
Chair

## WVC OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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Chair:	Fenlon Dunphy
Vice Chair:	Will Morphet
Secretary:	Will Morphet
Treasurer:	Yun Watts
Archivist:	Fenlon Dunphy
Wicken News Editor:	Samantha Chambers
Committee:	Petra Spencer-Jones & Andrew Edmondson

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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 2022 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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# St. John's Church Update

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You are warmly invited to all services and events in Wicken and the other churches of the Benefice.

## MAY

Sunday 22 May - 10.00am - Cosgrove - Holy Communion

Sunday 22 May - 4.00pm - Yardley Gobion - Sunday@Four

Thursday 26 May - 10.30am - Wicken - Ascension Day Service – starting in the church, moving to the Gospel Elm and then back to the church for refreshments.

Thursday 26 May - 7.30pm - Potterspurty - Ascension Day Eucharist

Sunday 29 May - 8.00am - Yardley Gobion - Holy Communion

Sunday 29 May - 9.00am - Potterspurty and on Zoom - Morning Prayer

Sunday 29 May - 10.00am - Cosgrove - Service of the Word

## SERVICES AND EVENTS IN WICKEN:

## JUNE

Saturday 4 June – church open

Sunday 5 June – 10am – Holy Communion

Saturday 25 June – church open with floral displays

Sunday 26 June - 6pm – Songs of Praise

## CHURCH/BENEFICE CONTACTS

Tish Gordon-Lee: 01908 571387 tish@gordonlee.org

Marcus Rixon: wickenchurch@btinternet.com

Celina Francklin: celinafrancklin@gmail.com

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

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

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



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2022



Join us at  
Wicken Sports Club  
for Afternoon Tea on  
**Sunday 5th June 2022**  
3pm-5pm  
to celebrate together.

AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED BY THE WICKEN VILLAGE  
COMMUNITY & DRINKS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT THE BAR

# Edwin Mason Brett Bennett

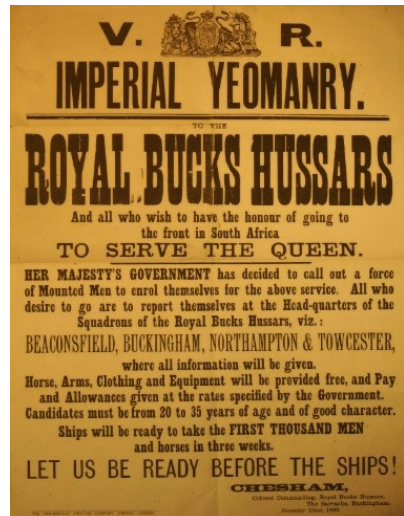
**Our War Memorial has now been refurbished, investigated and written about but it is not the only war memorial in Wicken Church which we should remember.**

On the wall on the right-hand side of the church toward the Lady Chapel is an ornate brass plaque that says

*"To the Glory of God and in memory of Sergt. Edwin M.B. Bennett, 37th Company Imperial Yeomanry, formerly Royal Bucks Hussars who died at Bishof, Orange Free State, South Africa on the 16th May 1900. Aged 29 years."*

Edwin Mason Brett Bennett was born on the 25th March 1871 in Beachampton to William Edward and Marianne Bennett. By 1881 the census shows that William was a farmer of 348 acres at Manor Farm in Wicken and employed 7 men and two boys.

Manor Farm was on the site of what is now Pound Close and belonged to the Penrhyn Estate. The census indicates that Edwin had two sisters, Edith and Emma Louise and one brother, Thomas.



Edwin had been a member of the Royal Bucks Hussars before he joined the Imperial Yeomanry on 1st January 1900 on a one-year agreement which might be extended depending on the course of the South African war. He arrived in South Africa on the 10th February and the 37th Company was involved in the Battle of Bishof on 5th April 1900.



The 37th Company on parade in Buckingham 1900

The battle was fought mainly between the British under Lord Methuen and about 125 international troops under the command of Comte de Villebois-Mareuil who had allied with the Boers. The 25 Boers withdrew before the battle started as they believed the ground could not be held. The Comte along with 10 others was killed but his horse was repatriated to the UK. On its death in 1911 the horse was buried next to the war memorial in Latimer, Chesham, Buckinghamshire. The Imperial Yeomanry lost 3 killed.

Edwin survived this battle but stayed in this location as the record shows he lost his life to enteric fever or typhoid. The date of his death on his military record is the 19th May rather than the 16th as listed on his plaque in Wicken Church and on his grave. He is buried in the military cemetery at Bischof.

The headstone at Bischof cemetery

There was a crowded memorial service in Towcester on 27th May 1900 which was attended by his parents and sisters. His brother, Thomas, who had joined the Royal Navy in 1889 aged 17 was at sea at the time of the service. His service record shows he was the Second Mate of the Coromandel running between Bombay and Shanghai at that time.





*Wicken Village Fete*

**25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**1:00PM TO 10:00PM**

**CLASSIC & VINTAGE CAR AND TRACTOR SHOW**

**ARMY VEHICLES**



**£200 CASH PRIZE RAFFLE**

**Splat the Rat - Coconut Shy - Welli Wangling - The Stocks - Photo Shoot - Board Tombola**

**Dog Fancy Dress - Egg & Spoon Race - 3 Legged Race - Sack Race - Tug of War**

**Cake Baking Competition**

**Treasure Hunt**

**Face Painting - Caricaturist - Balloon Modeller**

**Craft Fayre & Stalls**

**'One Foot in the Groove' playing live at the White Lion Pub**

**5:30pm to 9:30pm**

**Pimm's Bar • Cream Teas • Ice cream Van**

**Pork Rolls • Hot Dogs • Burgers**

**For more information or to reserve your own stall**

**Call: 01908 307254**

**Email: [vivienne.kime@gmail.com](mailto:vivienne.kime@gmail.com)**

**[mrs.Tamara.leonard@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.Tamara.leonard@gmail.com)**





## A MESSY SUBJECT....

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### Dog Fouling

Thank you to all residents who continue to clean up after their dogs. We hope that you have also noticed an improvement in the level of mess left in our village.

The problem has not yet gone away however and we are still hearing reports of dogs fouling around our streets. I passed my neighbour's yesterday and saw a lovely pile on their driveway! Not their dog!

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### Village Litter Pick

Thank you to all the residents who came together to collect litter from across the village at the end of March. Beer bottles, coffee cups, crisps packets, fast-food bags, wine bottles and some 'unmentionables' all safely bagged and disposed of!



**KEEP  
WICKEN CLEAN!**

The bridleways and footpaths are also falling 'foul' of the messy menace called poo. Please remember to take your bags with you and encourage others to do as well. No-one wants to go on a family stroll and tread on stinky stuff!

## THE PLUMBER

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**theplumber@email.com**

*1<sup>st</sup> aid for your plumbing*





## Home Reared Meat & Eggs

Homemade quiches pies & cakes.

Wednesday 10am-2pm

Thurs & Friday 10am-4pm

Saturday 9am-3pm

**FREE DELIVERY ON THURSDAYS**

visit our Website for full details

Mary - 07967814842

On the A422 opposite the  
wicken junction -  
Little Hill Farm,  
Buckingham Road, Wicken  
MK19 6DD

[www.cranleybarnfarms.co.uk](http://www.cranleybarnfarms.co.uk)

## Hire Wicken Sports Club

from £15 per session



- Seating for up to 75 people
- Licensed bar
- Large projector screen
- Well equipped kitchen
- Pool, Skittles and Darts
- Changing facilities



For more information check our website page:  
<https://wickenorthants.co.uk/wicken-sports-club/hiring-wicken-sports-club>

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Follow us on Facebook



## 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.**

## Craft Group

**1st Sunday of every month at the Sports Club**

Craft Group restarted this month at the Sports Club after its covid hiatus. Intention is to meet on the first Sunday afternoon of the month. The June date clashes with the Jubilee celebrations however, so the next dates are 29 May and 3 July - 1st Sunday of the month thereafter.

**For more information about the Craft Group please contact Eleanor Cooper by text message please on 07980 609845.**

## *Senior Club & Craft Group*

### Wicken News Editor Update

We're delighted to announce that Samantha Chambers has joined us as the new Wicken News Editor. Sam has a background in marketing and communications, ideally suited to production of the News. We are very fortunate that she and the family moved into Wicken last July.



## Annual Review

We will try to spend as little time as possible in this report on the problems of the last couple of years with the Covid pandemic. Rather, let's look forward. We have reported on the impacts of the pandemic previously through the Wicken News. Suffice to say we have weathered the storm and we are still here. Some sports clubs have not been so fortunate. Sports numbers are looking good, we are financially sound through a variety of Covid grant applications, and the social side is coming back.

Wicken Cricket managed a full season for 2021, and also saw the return of the Stony Stratford Club utilising our facility as an overflow.

However, the relationship with Stony has been ended and a new 4-year arrangement has been put in place with Buckingham Town CC (BTCC) starting from the 2022 season.

Alongside the Wicken Saturday side, BTCC will be using our Club as the Home ground for one of their men's Saturday teams and also for a junior side playing on Sundays and some Thursday evenings. The season has just got underway with a full programme of games over the summer.

Football is just completing its 2021/22 season with interruption only from weather; back to normal. In addition to the three men's adult sides (veteran's and two senior teams), this season saw the introduction of a new women's team, and a revamped under 11's side. The women's team have been very successful in their opening season, topping their league, as have the juniors.



Archery, which extended its Wicken use over the pandemic, with more outside shooting, has actually decided to keep that going, even through the winter months. So, they now shoot all year round on a Sunday, and then do their Monday and Tuesday evening shoots when the days are longer.

Tennis having got a boost in numbers during the pandemic has now slipped back in numbers.

## WICKEN SPORTS CLUB

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### Annual Review continued....

The Clubhouse, itself, fully re-opened towards the end of 2021. The social activities have been slower to return and certain restrictions have been retained on an ad hoc basis, but the Film Nights, the Seniors Club, and now the Craft Group have all returned. Hopefully this year we will also see the return of the less regular events, such as the BBQ, Macmillan and others.

A new venture, a Classic Car Meet has just been started, meeting on the last Wednesday evening of the month.

The Club has continued to progress maintenance works with financial help from the Solar Fund.

The building is at an age where there are increasing maintenance issues that need resolving; the latest being some rotten wood rafters in the roof that need to be cut out and replaced. It would be good to give the building a spruce up with some fresh paint and a bit more colour.

There is still great demand for sports facilities locally and we are receiving fresh requests on a regular basis. 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.



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## Midweek Car Enthusiasts Gathering

There was a super turn out for the March and April events held at the Sports Club - 41 vehicles in April! Thank you to all the enthusiasts who brought along their cars and thanks to Cherished Vehicles Insurance Services for organising this monthly event.

# *Classic Wheels in Wicken*



The meet will take place on the last Wednesday of every month between 6pm and 8pm.

Donations collected each month are going to Willen Hospice - in April they collected £243.80.

Thank you!

Whether you have a car to bring or not, it's a super event for residents to pop along to.

Next date for your diary is:

**Wednesday 25 May**

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## Childhood Memories - Chapter 2

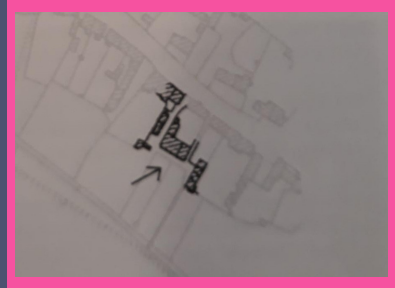
John Folker

Again, ref to Old Photographs of Wicken will greatly enhance the understanding of the following.

1947, Rectory Corner, home for most of my first 5 young years. It was obvious that this home could not accommodate two extra adults returning home from service to King and country.

Fortunately for mum and me a local farmer had the solution. He had three tied cottages two of which were vacant, and he had the need for more labour. To fill this labour shortage, he had offered employment to two young Scots from Fife. The deal was that we were offered one cottage and the two new Scots got the other. On condition that mum looked after their domestic needs. Mum agreed and we moved into numbers 2 & 3 the Jetty, Cross Tree Rd. Mr & Mrs Garner were living in no 1, later to be joined by a returning conscript called Earnest Webster, he had, I believe, been serving in Jerusalem.

### The Jetty

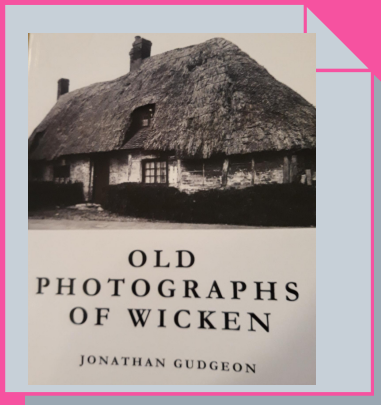


Along Cross Tree Rd there is a public footpath leading down to the brook, between No 38 and 44. Halfway down this path, it slightly bends to left and then back right continuing down to the brook. At this "Z" bend on the right was 3 terraced thatched cottages facing the brook with 3 terraced barns to the left running parallel to the path.

Amenities at the cottage were very similar to Rectory Corner, no electricity, no water on tap, and no bathroom. Our toilet was at the bottom of the garden back-to-back for no's 2 & 3. The Garner's loo, at the end of 3 adjoined barns. Water was taken from one of the many village pumps. The nearest for us being in Cross Tree Rd at left hand end of what is now called The Old Bakery.

On block plan (in Jonathan Gudgeon's book). The three cottages in the centre and barns to the right. To the left is the end of what is now called The Old Bakery, at that time Mr & Mrs Foddy lived-in right-hand end of the bakehouse and Mr & Mrs Wrighton in the bake house. Where No 38 Cross Tree Rd now stands, was Mr Foddy's walled garden. The original thatched cottage that was here was demolished circa 1937.

Although we had water from the pump, Mr Foddy was taking it from a well to right of our garden and did so until his dying day. The well is still there and can be seen in the rear garden of the new house at No 38 Cross Tree Rd.



**Back in print and on sale at  
the Wicken Fete**

## **Jock & Wally**

Jock & Wally arrived soon after we had moved in, Jock whose name was Andrew and Wally whose name was William. Both being Scots the name Jock was obvious; however, it was later explained to me that Wally came about as with his broad Scottish accent he introduced himself as William, but Mum thought he had said Wallyam. For ever more called Wally. We all quickly became friends. Mum doing their domestic chores and cooking meals for them both on return from a hard day's work on the farm. In return they were both keen to lend a hand in making both houses more habitable and with the help from mum's brother Don who had now returned from the Navy and her younger brother Ken also keen to help. They quickly transformed the cottages into cosier homes. Within a couple of years or so we had water on tap but no waste system, we had basic electricity, but we still had the wooden seat and bucket for basic toilet requirements, and this was to remain like that until we were eventually rehoused in around 1960.

Back to circa 1949 things had moved on, Jock was keen to better himself and found new employment in Leighton Buzzard later moving all the way to London, such was his ambition. Wally was not so ambitious and had settled into a routine of farm labouring and tending our gardens, and all the others domestic chores of house maintenance. That was an endless task of painting, decorating, constantly re-patching our thatched roofs that were steadily but surely decaying, finding wood for the fires, and the thankless task of loo buckets emptying. I was quickly learning all these things and Wally was keen to help mum and show me the ropes.

We were now entering a new decade 1950. Mr Davis of Home Farm who had set on the two young Scots was moving to a farm at Leckhampstead. So Wally was transferred to Mr Cashmore, at Glebe Farm. The farm now demolished although I think the cowshed remains in the back garden of no 28 Leckhampstead Rd.

Over the last three years although I was too young to notice the relationship between Mum & Wally had taken on a closer understanding.

Uncle Don, Ken and Wally were now busy turning the two cottages into one by adding a through door. I was too keen to watch this breakthrough not appreciating the finer details of this event. Although I do remember the stone dividing wall seemed extremely thick unlike modern cavity wall. It also to everyone's surprise contained a thick oak beam that had to be sawn through, at the last few strokes of the large crosscut saw there was a loud crack as the two halves sprung apart (it must have been like when Britain met France under the channel). All this work was being carried out without any planning permission or health and safety rule. That's the way it was.

I was now going on nine having been at Wicken school for 4 years, gone beyond basic maths and reading now serious learning however basic English spelling was giving me problems. I was too inquisitive to understand how things worked and how the world went round to bother about spelling and grammar. (Something that has bugged me for the rest of my life, now too old to care) I was to have a rude awakening at my next two schools.



## WICKEN ORGANISATIONS & CONTACTS

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### PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)

Parish Clerk - wickenclerk@outlook.com  
neilgordonlee@wickenorthants.co.uk  
alancartwright@wickenorthants.co.uk  
ianhowett@wickenorthants.co.uk  
philipivens@wickenorthants.co.uk  
vivkime@wickenorthants.co.uk  
petrascencerjones@wickenorthants.co.uk  
verityrobinson@wickenorthants.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.....

## Wicken Wheels

Wednesday 25 May  
6.00pm - 8.00 pm  
Sports Club

## Ascension Day

Thursday 26 May  
10.30 am  
St John's Church

## Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday 5 June  
3.00pm - 5.00 pm  
Sports Club

## Wicken Village Fete

Sunday 25 June  
1.00pm - 10.00 pm  
Sports Club &  
The White Lion



# Wicken

## TENNIS CLUB

[wickentennis.co.uk](http://wickentennis.co.uk)

**£30**

ADULT MEMBERSHIP  
ANNUAL

**£15**

YOUTH 14-18 MEMBERSHIP  
ANNUAL

**£7**

YOUTH U14 MEMBERSHIP  
ANNUAL

Join Wicken Tennis Club for  
the 2022/2023 season

Wicken Tennis Club has two great courts with brand-new nets, opposite the Sports Club. Download the membership form at [wickentennis.co.uk](http://wickentennis.co.uk)

