

February & March 2018
Around and About



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Apparitions Part 2

I am afraid that my quote at the end of my previous article was quite wrong: it should have said 'The world is stranger than we know' and not 'The world is no stranger than we know.'

These words come from J. B. S. Haldane (1892–1964) and stems I suppose from Immanuel Kant who points out that we don't see the world as it really is, what we see comes filtered and altered through our senses. Einstein read Kant before developing his ideas on relativity. 'I am much moved' wrote Kant 'towards the presence of immaterial beings in this world, to put my soul with them.' (Sammthl. Werke, III, 58).

Kant destroyed the intellectual basis of rationalism and for him, what we'd call an apparition, is a world view.

David Pennal



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Around & About Wicken

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Please note that views expressed in published articles are not necessarily those held by the A&A team.'

Cover Picture

'Mischievous Squirrel' - Terry Clements

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Editor's Note

Well here we are already into February, hope that all your Christmas food is eaten and that any New Year Resolutions are still in action.

*The closing date for copy, early submissions are always appreciated, for the April/May issue of Around & About is: **Friday 30th March 2018***

*Items can be submitted electronically - Word, text, hand written or verbal however you choose to submit please ensure that your name and contact details are included. **Photographs & images** should be submitted separately, e.g. jpg.files.*

Please remember that the magazine is not circulated until the second week of the issue month so any activities for the first 2 weeks of the following magazine should also be submitted.

Would you also note that the turnaround time is tight. In order for the printed copies to be ready for collection on the Friday after the copy deadline the magazine has to be edited, typeset and with the printer at the beginning of the week the copies then have to be collected from the printers, sorted and circulate to the Distributors who then deliver to each household..

Finally a quick request if you contact one of our advertisers please could you mention that you found their details in the Around & About Wicken magazine.

*Thank you,
Merrilyn*

Report from the Parish Clerk

Road closures

There are two road closures in the pipeline you may need to be aware of -

Lower Road - this is due to be closed between the junctions with Hawes Lane and Chapel Lane from 5th March to 12th March. Access to the A1123 will be via Hawes Lane and Chapel Lane.

A1123 - our current information is that this road will be completely closed between Spinney Farm and Stretham from 5th March to 16th March, with access to Stretham and beyond being via Ely. We have been told the entire width of a lengthy stretch of this road needs to be dug out to a depth of at least one metre to allow the underpinning of drought damaged foundations, hence the complete closure.

While the Council can fully understand why it would be unsafe not to close the road in the area of the repairs, it is unclear why the section between Spinney and the Upware turning has been included. As this will cause considerable difficulties for residents of Upware and Kingfishers Bridge, I have been trying to find out if it would be possible to close this stretch one lane at a time and have some form of traffic control. Unfortunately, it's very hard to get hold of Highways, however, I will continue making every effort to get more information and hopefully have the proposed plan adapted to make it possible to access the A1123 from Upware and Kingfishers Bridge.

If there is time, I'll let you know how I get on in the next edition of Around and About, but please remember to check the website www.wicken-village.org.uk for updates.

Kind regards

Susan Woodroffe

Clerk for Wicken Parish Council



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## Village Fete 2017 Accounts

The accounts for last years Village Fete are being finalised and will be published in the April/May edition of Around & About.

Fete Committee

## John's Lament

When you lose a partner it's a terrible thing,  
You are scared to know what the future will bring,  
It's now an empty house where I live,  
Oh dear, I have so much love to give.

Days, weeks, months come and go,  
Love might arrive I just don't know,  
If it does I will grab it and hold it tight,  
This new love I want may be just right.

When you know this new love is for you,  
and your new partner thinks so too,  
Remember the partner you have lost,  
Your new love came at great cost.

This poem is written in memory of my wife Bet, we were married for many years. It will take a good, loving lady to replace Bet, she was the love of my life and died of cancer in July 2011.

John Bocking

## Parish Councillors

|                        |                                 |        |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Cécile Bye             | 24 High Street                  | 624378 |
| Jim Day                | Red Barn Farm                   | 720281 |
| Rachel Earl            | 42 Chapel Lane                  | 723619 |
| Peter Fuller           | Thorn Hall, Lower Road          | 720602 |
| Jonny Fuller           | 35 Stretham Road                | 723832 |
| Marc Hawes             | Sheep Walk Cottage, Padney Road | 624895 |
| Liz Houghton (Chair)   | 17 Chapel Lane                  | 723157 |
| Jilly Rogers           | 4 Butts Lane                    | 721611 |
| Sue Wilson             | 28 Chapel Lane                  | 721037 |
| Clerk: Susan Woodroffe | 21 Chapel Lane                  | 721857 |

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## Sheila Beloe 1935 - 2017

*Awesome wife, mother and granny went home to Jesus on 29th December. She was at home surrounded by family at the time. She faithfully served her country through her loyal work at the foreign office, in which she travelled the world and was stationed in Berlin, Beirut and Singapore.*

*Sheila married Francis in 1970 and supported him in his vocation as a vicar. Wicken parish was their home for twenty five years and here they brought up their two girls.*

*More recently, diagnosed with vascular dementia, she faced it, as only she would, head on with an acute sense of humour and a true Scottish fighting spirit! An incredible lady who we were privileged to call 'our mum'.*

*A cremation service was held at Carlisle crematorium for the immediate family.*

*There will be a celebration of Sheila's life on April 21st in Keswick for anyone who would like to join us. Memories and anecdotes about Sheila would be welcomed, we will read some out at the celebration.*

*Please contact Ruth and Amy at [beloeecr@gmail.com](mailto:beloeecr@gmail.com)*

*Note: If anyone has anything they would like to send to Ruth & Amy but is unable to e-mail please let me know and I will send on your behalf.*

*Merrilyn (Details on page 5)*

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## From the Vicar's Pen

Dear Friends

Word may already have reached you that this is likely to be my last contribution to *Around and About*, as the Diocese of Ely is in the process of separating the ecclesiastical connection between Soham and Wicken such that I become Priest in Charge of just Soham, and Wicken be grouped with parishes more similar to it than Soham has become since time benefice was formed. You don't need me to tell you that Soham is no longer the 'village' it once was. Its population is over 12K and rising, and the amount of work needing doing both there and in Wicken is too much for one Priest. I am certain that Wicken would be served far better in an alternative grouping.

Thanks to the collaboration of my lay and ordained colleagues, and the ongoing relationship between St Laurence's and Wicken Methodist Chapel, the pattern of services at St Laurence's will continue as usual throughout this transition period. Where possible, visiting priests will cover Communion services, and lay members of our parishes' ministry team will lead non-Eucharistic services.

The service pattern for February until April is as follows:

|                             |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4 February, 10.30am  | The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent<br>Morning Praise                          |
| Sunday 11 February, 10am    | The Sunday next before Lent<br>United Service at Wicken Methodist Chapel          |
| Sunday 18 February          | The 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>United Services at St Andrew's Soham        |
| Sunday 25 February, 10.30am | The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>Morning Praise                              |
| Sunday 4 March, 10.30am     | The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>Holy Communion                              |
| Sunday 11 March, 10.30am    | Mothering Sunday<br>United Morning Praise at St Laurence's                        |
| Sunday 18 March             | The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent<br>United Services at St Andrew's Soham        |
| Sunday 25 March, 10.30am    | Palm Sunday<br>Morning Praise                                                     |
| Sunday 1 April, 10.30am     | Easter Day<br>Holy Communion for Easter Day                                       |
| Sunday 8 April, 10am        | The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>United Service at Wicken Methodist Chapel |
| Sunday 15 April             | The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>United Services at St Andrew's Soham      |
| Sunday 22 April, 10.30am    | The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>Morning Praise                            |
| Sunday 29 April, 10.30am    | The 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter<br>Morning Praise                            |

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## Churches Together in Wicken

### Monthly Service of

### Healing *4.30pm at Wicken Methodist Church*

*Monday 12 February, Monday 12 March, Monday 9 April*

An opportunity to pray for our friends, families, community, the wider world and ourselves, by following a service with a flexible format.

This is for Christians of all denominations and we also welcome anyone who feels they need prayer and have little or no experience of how to pray. We would love to be able to help and to guide you towards a deeper understanding of spiritual healing and wholeness.

If you would like to discuss this or, alternatively, if you would like to leave a prayer request, please refer to the contact details below.

### Tuesday morning

### Bible Study *Tuesday mornings at 10.30am*

An opportunity to explore the Bible with fellow explorers, to ask questions and learn together.

This is for both Christians and for those seeking to know more about the Christian faith in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you would like to know more, please refer to the contact details below.

### Wednesday evening

### Home Group *7.30pm (please contact for venue)*

A small group of Christians meet midweek in Wicken to help each other to grow in faith through sharing and prayer. We are a non-denominational group and we come together for the sole purpose of Christian fellowship and to offer praise and worship to our Lord.

If you are a Christian worshipping outside Wicken please prayerfully consider joining our Home Group for a little midweek nurture and fellowship.

Alternatively, if you are exploring the Christian faith, our group is also a good starting point to hear the gospel and to discuss any issues relating to Christianity in a friendly environment.

We love new people coming along to join us, to breathe fresh life into the group, and it doesn't matter where you are in your Christian journey or if you are just dipping your toe in to see what it's all about.

We would love to hear from you.

**Julie Rash – 01353 722008 – [julie.rash@metronet.co.uk](mailto:julie.rash@metronet.co.uk)**

My hope and prayer is that this change in arrangements for Wicken will prove to be a positive move for the parish. If you have concerns or queries concerning it, however, please do be in touch with the Venerable Doctor Alex Hughes, Archdeacon of Cambridge via:

[archdeacon.cambridge@elydiocese.org](mailto:archdeacon.cambridge@elydiocese.org)

01353 652719.

In the immediate term, the Parochial Church Council of St Laurence's has vacancies for the roles of secretary, electoral roll officer and – from April – Church Warden. Please contact Archdeacon Alex or one of our long-serving Church Wardens, Richard Bramley (01353 721238) or Robert Fuller (01353 720971) if you are interested in stepping into these breaches, and/or in helping St Laurence's in any other way.

With my prayers and good wishes for the future  
*Eleanor*

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The Mobile Library visits every **third Thursday**:



Upware Road, arriving at  
1400 hrs and departing at 1420 hrs.

Wicken Village Hall, arriving at  
1430 hrs and departing at 1500 hrs

For renewals or enquiries please call: 0345 045 5225




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## Coffee Morning

We're well into the New Year and hope you're as well as can be. We sure did have a fantastic time at the Christmas meal with the Elders of the village. Thank you to all who made that time possible and enjoyable... God bless you

We appreciate our Elders and enjoy spending time with you through the year. It was a sad time acknowledging the loss of dear friends.

## 9 February 2018

We meet in the Village Hall to plan the year ahead @ 10:30 am

## Saturday, 10 March 2018

Join us for the Community Breakfast in the Village Hall from  
10 m – 12 noon

Full English, Come with Family and Friends, Give a Donation

## Saturday, 14 April 2018

Join us for Spring Tea in the Village Hall from 3pm – 5pm  
Come with Family and Friends, Have a taste of fresh homemade  
Scones, Sandwiches, Cakes and Give a donation

Contact: Dalene:  
Mobile: 0794 4219537  
Home: 725968

Contact: Liz:  
Home: 968838



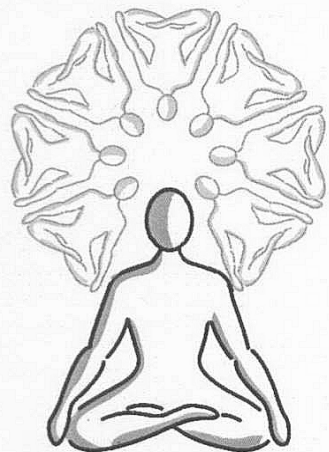
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Telephone: 01273-840960 / 18001 01273 840960 or  
visit opportunities on our website: [www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)



## Swallowtails

Since our last report we have celebrated Christmas with a Party in the Village Hall and our traditional Christmas Lunch at The Five Miles Inn for 76 members and guests.

In early January we held a Fish and Chip luncheon at the Village Hall, 64 members attended.

The committee will shortly meet to plan the next programme.

We always welcome new Members especially those from Wicken, Padney and Upware. We are NOT a Pensioners Club and membership is open to anyone who is free on Wednesday afternoon when we meet fortnightly.

Nigel Davies - Treasurer



Wicken has a shop!

Spinney Abbey has been selling meat from the farm for over 10 years. We started selling our meat from a garage but as sales increased we expanded and in 2012 the new cutting room/farm shop was completed. We sell home reared, grass-fed Longhorn Beef, Gloucester Old Spots Pork, Spinney lamb and wild venison and with low overheads, we keep our prices down. All orders large or small very welcome.



We have a 5\* Food Hygiene rating. We hold an alcohol Premises licence and produce and sell our Award Winning cider from the farm shop. Prices for cider start at £13 for 3 litre Bag-in-Box.



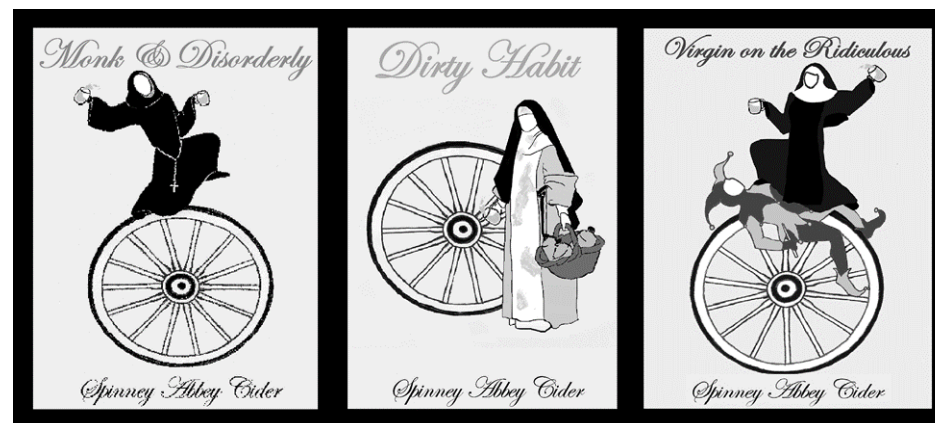
33-35 Stretham Road, Wicken.

Jonny: 07803 132 561

[jonny@spinneyabbey.co.uk](mailto:jonny@spinneyabbey.co.uk)

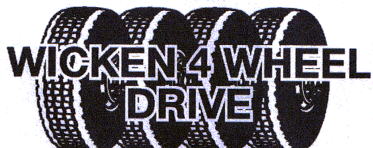
Opening hours: Saturday: 9am – Noon although please phone anytime as we are often there.

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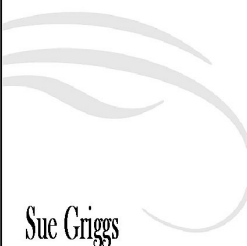
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## SWALLOWTAILS PROGRAMME

Meetings at the Village Hall  
Door Fee £1.00

|            |                                                             |          |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 14th Feb   | Red Theme & meal                                            | 1300 hrs |
| 28th Feb   | Meal at the five Miles                                      | 1300 hrs |
| 14th Mar   | Open Meeting                                                | 1400 hrs |
| 28th Mar   | Easter Egg Hunt & Decorated Egg &<br>Easter Hat Competition | 1400 hrs |
| 11th April | Meal                                                        | 1300 hrs |
| 25th April | Denny Abbey                                                 | TBA      |



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### Accommodation to Let – Wicken, Nr. Ely.

Applications are invited from Wicken residents or adjoining parishes who are in need of affordable accommodation. Applicants should be single ladies over the age of 50.

The bungalow in North Street comprises one bedroom, living room, kitchen, wet room, oil central heating from a communal boiler and parking space.

Weekly maintenance contribution of £90 plus £17 for heating and hot water - total £107.00 per week.

For application forms contact Michael Siggs on 01206 765138 or P O Box 993, Colchester, Essex CO3 3TQ. [Michael.siggs@btconnect.com](mailto:Michael.siggs@btconnect.com)

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## News from Wicken Fen & Anglesey Abbey

If you've got some spare time on your hands have you thought about volunteering for the National Trust? Here at the Fen we currently have a range of exciting opportunities available including, Cycle Hire Assistants, Boat Drivers (appropriate qualification required), Cooks, Fen Cottage Guides, Family Discovery Guides, Interpretation Volunteer and a Poultry Ranger. If you're interested in any of these opportunities full details can be found at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/find-an-opportunity), or contact our Volunteer Manager, Peter Green, -email [peter.green@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:peter.green@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Hopefully, the worst of winter is behind us now and we can all look forward to enjoying the extra daylight hours. Our policy to 'rest' the paths on Sedge Fen over the winter really seems to be paying dividends. The paths are lush & green rather than a muddy morass, normally seen at this time of year - all bodes well for when we open them again in late spring.

Our new Woodland Walk around the Plantation area on the northern boundary of the reserve is proving extremely popular. We've done a lot of habitat improvement work over the winter, and a special mention must go to two of our Fenman's Workshop volunteers, who have done a fantastic job laying hedges & coppicing.

Unfortunately, yet again we've had incidences dogs attacking & killing wildlife, particularly on Burwell Fen. If you witness any such incidents (especially if you suspect that it's a deliberate act) please contact the Police using 999. If reporting an incident after the event, please call the Police using 101 number, or contact the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274, and we'll forward the information on.

We've some fun events for the February half-term including **Wintry Wild Art** on Monday 12 Feb; **Love Birds** on Wednesday 14 Feb; and a **Beginners & Winter Geocaching Trail** on Friday 16 February. Other events include; **Painting the Fens in Watercolour** (adult event) on Saturday 17 March; **Introduction to Mindful Birdwatching** with Claire Thompson, author of *The Art of Mindful Birdwatching*, on Sunday 18 March. Full details of all events and booking arrangements are available on the Wicken website at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen)

Down at Anglesey Abbey we are celebrating our collections, both in & out the House. Obviously, the main stars are the snowdrops. Our **Snowdrops season** runs from 29 January – 4 March. Besides self-guided walks, there will be weekday **Winter Highlight Walks** with our Garden Guides at 11am & 1.30pm, and weekday tours of the **Specialist Collection** which now numbers over 300 varieties, at 12.30pm.

In the House, the main focus will be Lord Fairhaven's Collection of over 10,000 items ranging from silverware to statues, and tapestries to timepieces (29 January – 25 March). There will be items of silverware not normally seen on public display, demonstrations on how to look after silver, and displays on the importance & how to read hallmarks (including the chance to create your very own hallmark). For those wishing to learn more about Lord Fairhaven,



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## As I Grow Older

*As I grow older with  
each day my Body  
Parts begin to fray  
Around the edges rust  
sets in I fear the worst  
The rubbish bin?  
Now to the Doctor I must  
go to hear what "I don't  
want to know" more  
often and he will say  
to me "It's down to  
wear & tare you see".  
Then, he may prescribe  
a pill or two, a knee  
Cap or a hip that's new  
And as I leave him  
with a sigh. I think  
"Oh dear, the end is nigh."  
I wonder? Will Plastic  
Surgeons remake me,  
I hope a better job than  
he, that "Frankenstein"  
did do and make me  
look like "you know who."*

*Claire Gould*

# Wicken Fen Tiggers!

(Term time only.)



Baby and toddler playgroup at:  
Wicken Mission Hall every Tuesday 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

For children aged 5 and under and their parents or carers  
Relaxed and informal. No need to book, just come along!

We have a soft play area  
just for babies, age appropriate toys, a  
large area for ride-on toys, climbing and sliding etc.  
We have weekly craft and art activities and singing  
and dancing at the end of each session. We also

have tea, coffee, juice and toast!!  
Under 12 months: 50p  
Over 12 months: £1.50  
50p for each additional sibling.  
For more info please contact:  
Elsbeth 07814618350,  
Jo 07834151468



the Collector, we will be running **Behind the Scenes Tours** every Tuesday at 12noon, and **Timely Tours** looking at his collection of clocks on Wednesday's at 12noon.

Finally, a quick reminder that both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen will be running **Cadbury's Easter Egg Hunts** over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend, Friday 30 March – Monday 2 April. Trails are £2.50 per child (normal admission applies). You can just turn-up at Wicken, but advance booking is strongly recommended at Anglesey Abbey. Please see the individual property websites for further details.

Howard Cooper

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## The Magnificent Seven

It was a happy gathering and a seasonal one as the foundation members of the Wild Choir met outside The Maid's Head at 6:00 pm on Monday 18th December for their musical expedition to sing carols to those in our dear village who are its wisest and most revered citizens

Everywhere we were greeted with a kindly, restrained enthusiasm and, as our carols rang out across the frozen earth, who could forbear not to recollect all those past generations of carollers who had traversed the village before us over the centuries at this hallowed time? Were their happy souls walking with us as seemed to hear occasionally other ethereal voices joining us and the diminishing and fading away? Only to join us again at our next visitation! A strange fancy! But we remembered Hamlet's words 'How holy and how gracious is this time?' and the wisdom writer when he says 'For whilst peaceful silence enveloped all things and that night was in the midst of its swift course, Thine Almighty Word leapt down from heaven like a stern warrior into the midst of a doomed land!' And then there were those three trees on the low sky and the old grey horse galloping away! Let's not forget him.

So, thank you Jean, Julie, Sophie, Glenis, Jilly, Dawn and David, the magnificent seven and may the Design of the Great Love never die.

Thanks also to Clifford and Pauline who entertained us for quite a long time after our traversing was done—did we have to be asked to leave? I cannot quite remember!

David Pennal

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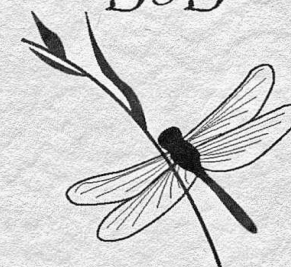
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## Reporting Non-Emergencies Online

Non-emergency situations can now be reported to the police online if people would rather do so than call 101.

In October last year Cambridgeshire Constabulary re-launched their website with added functionality to report non-emergencies via specially designed forms or a live webchat.

The live webchat option enables people to communicate directly with a member of staff in the control room, just as would be the case when calling 101. Online forms are processed in the same way as a call and the person reporting can expect a response within 24 hours.

Due to the high level of demand there are often queues when calling 101. Reporting online is quick, easy and free of charge.

Superintendent James Sutherland said: "In the digital age people are doing more and more online. I'm pleased that our website now has increased capability to allow people to contact us in this way.

"The system went through a thorough testing process and has been used successfully thousands of times since being introduced.

"Feedback from a recent survey suggested that some people wanted to communicate directly with a person rather than submitting an online form. The webchat function allows people to do exactly that.

"Reports submitted online are treated in the same way as when people call 101 and will receive the same outcome."

To view the online reporting section of the constabulary's website visit [www.cambs.police.uk/report/](http://www.cambs.police.uk/report/). The live webchat function is available by clicking on the green icon on the bottom right of the page.

James Sutherland

## Upware Residents Association

### Future Dates

#### Upware Residents Open meeting

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 7:15 pm  
In the Function room at The 5 Miles  
Picnic In The Park

Fundraising Event on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July  
Venue: Land behind the EA car park  
Time T.B.C.

Bring your own blanket, chairs and picnic  
Games and Activities will be organised by the URA.

#### Christmas Fayre

Fundraising Event On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
12 - 4 pm Venue: The 5 Miles  
Further information will follow  
[www.upware.org.uk](http://www.upware.org.uk)

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### Bookings for the Village Hall

The Village Hall has excellent facilities and there are generous discounts available for villagers. The website [www.wickenvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.wickenvillagehall.org.uk) has full details of rents, facilities and availability. To book the Village Hall please check the Hall diary on the website for availability, contact one of the committee members (preferably Jean Turner chairman) to reserve the date, then download the booking form, complete it and drop it into Jean.

### Regular Events in the Village Hall

|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b><br>8 - 10 pm                                               | <b>Samara Ballet School</b>                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>9.30-12noon<br><br>Afternoon & evening                 | <b>Fen Tiggers:</b> Baby and toddler playgroup<br><br>*****Available for Hire*****                                                                                 |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>Alternate<br>Wednesdays<br>Lunch time/2pm<br><br>7pm | <b>Swallowtails:</b> for all those wanting to get to meet people in the village and enjoy varied activities together<br><br><b>Wicken Coronation Band practice</b> |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>7-8pm<br>8-9pm                                        | <b>Pilates - Mat, Ring and Band work - Mixed Ability</b><br><b>Zumba for all</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>Friday</b><br>2 pm - 4pm<br>4 - 9pm                                   | <b>Art Class</b><br><b>Samara Ballet School</b> Ballet and Tap Dancing lessons for all ages and abilities.                                                         |

Village Hall Committee Trustees

Current Committee trustees are:

**Jean Turner (Chair)** T:727054    **Sophie Leek (Secretary)** T:721681  
**Jack White (Treasurer)** T 723342    **Caroline Blott** T:721480    **Jason Clark**  
**Carol Clay** 721555    **Sonia Jones** T:727140    **Jilly Rogers** T:721611  
**Sue Wilson** T 721037

### Holidays

Bet and I had a holiday at Morecambe Bay the year the Chinese cockle pickers didn't notice the sea coming in around them, most, if not all of them were drowned.

Last year I went again on a coach holiday, being alone is horrible but I soon made friends with a couple, sally and Darren, from Haddenham, they are lovely people and they invited me to be with them every day.

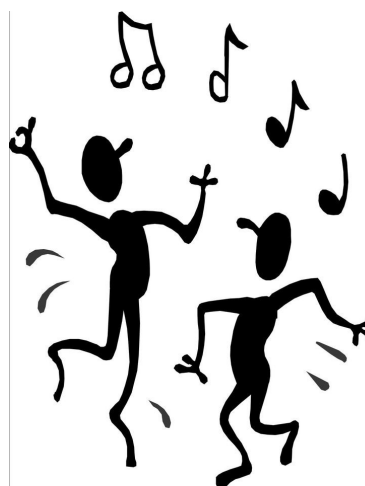
Our driver took us out from 0900 - 1700 hrs each day, he took us on small roads around the hills of the Lake district, we went to the highest point in the Lakes. I must say I loved our days out.

Dinner time on our first day another coach arrived and with the exception of the driver and two husbands they were all ladies. After dinner the hotel put on a singer with his own music machine, a different singer each evening. I asked the singer to play rock, my favourite music. Now you don't have to be a dancer for rock, just let your body do whatever it wants. So I went to the centre of the dance floor and di my 'can't dance' bit, to my amazement ten of the ladies, all Welsh got up and formed a circle around me, we had rock music for thirty minutes until the singer needed a break. All the ladies thanked me with a hug. I was worn out and needed an hours rest which I spent with my Haddenham friends. The singing and dancing happened every evening on the last evening all the ladies thanked me warmly and their leader said it was bets holiday ever.

On one evening I asked one of the ladies where they all came from she replied that they were all sheep farmers wives and they have one week away each year without their husbands.

I loved my holiday, I loved my Welsh friends and I loved my two new Haddenham friends. I booked another holiday whilst on the coach home so I'll be going to Snowdonia with sally and Darren in November, I can't wait.

What a holiday, I shall remember it forever.



Whenever I am holiday I ask for Pretty Woman to be sung and generally they do. On many occasions I have been known to start the dancing and on one occasion, in Weston Super Mare, it earned me a pint from the singer during the interval to show their gratitude for getting the dancing going and asking me to start off the second half. He needn't have worried as an American lady pushed me onto the floor, she was a much better dancer than me. The 'crowd' cheered us on. I thanked her husband for lending me his wife.

John Bocking

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## **Preloved sale: Saturday 5 May**

Our Preloved sale will feature crafts, jewellery, home-made goods, bric-a-brac, and pre-loved stalls. So if you have anything to sell, book a table for just £6.

It's up to you how you sell things: just rent a pitch.

**Contact Jean to book a table on 01353 707054**



## **Horse racing night**

**Saturday 9 June**

Come and enjoy the fun of the race track from the comfort of your own Village Hall! There will be races to bet on and a de lux ploughmans supper included in the ticket price of £10. Doors open at 19.00 hours.

Watch out for more information!



## **Save the date!**

### **Picnic round the pond**

We'll be organising our ever-popular Picnic round the Pond on Sunday 5 September. Wicken Coronation Band will be playing your favourite tunes and there will be lots of new attractions.



We'd love to see more residents coming to events in the Hall and it would be good to have **YOUR** ideas for things that would attract you.



## **A new look for the Hall**

Many of you will have noticed that the Hall has been redecorated. Lots of people have said how much they like its new, fresh look. At the Easter break, we will arrange for the extension area to be re-painted so that the whole Hall shares the new look.



## **THANK YOU...**

To **Sue Wilson** for master minding such a successful Christmas Dinner in December. Over 70 people gathered with friends and neighbours to celebrate the festive season and to enjoy a delicious home cooked dinner. And thank you to the **Rock Vox choir** for entertaining everyone so well.



## VILLAGE DIARY

|          |                      |           |
|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 9th Feb  | Coffee Morning       | see p. 37 |
| 15th Feb | Mobile Library       | see p. 12 |
| 10th Mar | Community Breakfast  | see p. 37 |
| 30th Mar | A&A Copy Deadline    | see p. 5  |
| 14th Apr | Spring Tea           | see p. 37 |
| 25th Apr | URA Open Meeting     | see p. 28 |
| 5th May  | Spring Fair          | see p. 2  |
| 12th May | Wicken Beer Festival | see p. 41 |

For Wicken Fen activities see page 18

Parish Council Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 1930 hrs.

Wicken Windmill is open whenever the sails are turning.

### ADVANCE DIARY DATE:

|                        |               |           |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Horse Racing Night     | 9th June      | see p. 22 |
| URA Picnic in the Park | 8th July      | see p. 28 |
| Picnic Around the Pond | 5th September | see p. 22 |
| URA Christmas Fair     | 9th December  | see p. 28 |

## VILLAGE DIARY - weekly

|           |                                |                 |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday    | Service for Healing            | see p. 38       |
| Tuesday   | Fen Tiggers                    | see p. 30       |
| Tuesday   | Bible Study                    | see p. 38       |
| Wednesday | Swallowtails                   | see p. 14       |
| Wednesday | Wicken Coronation Band         | see p. 22       |
| Wednesday | Home Group                     | see p. 38       |
| Thursday  | Pilates & Zumba                | see p. 22       |
| Friday    | Art Class                      | see p. 22       |
| Friday    | Samara Ballet                  | see p. 22       |
| Sunday    | Church Services (Anglican)     | see p. 10       |
| Sunday    | Methodist Church Services      | weekly 1030 hrs |
|           | For details of United Services | see p. 10       |

To help keep the Village Diary as informative as possible please let me have details of any weekly/monthly activities or any planned events as far in advance as possible. Hopefully this will aid planning for Village activities and avoid clashes.

The final copy date for articles for the October/November issue of Around & About is:

### FRIDAY 30th MARCH 2018

For further details please refer to Editor's Note on page 5 - thanks.

ED

### Bus Times - Bus 117 - Thursday Service Only

|                   |      |                   |      |
|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Upware            | 1040 | Ely Market Street | 1355 |
| Wicken Church     | 1047 | Stuntney          | 1401 |
| Soham High Street | 1058 | Barway            | 1410 |
| Barway            | 1110 | Soham High Street | 1422 |
| Stuntney          | 1119 | Wicken Church     | 1433 |
| Ely Market Street | 1125 | Upware            | 1440 |