

April & May 2020

Around and About



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Around & About Wicken

Published six times per year in April, June, August, October, December and February. Circulation 375. Delivered free to every household in the parish. **£1 when purchased**

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Advertising Rates

Small adverts (B&W) are £5.00 per issue.

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Liability to our advertisers for errors and omissions attributable to us is limited to credit or reimbursement of the price paid by them for advertising in the issue in which their erroneous or omitted advertising occurred.

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

Cover Pictures

Cover - Chris Buxton (our 'postie')
Inside Front cover - Kate Amann

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Editor's Note

As you will appreciate there will not be any village activities for the foreseeable future, therefore there is very little content for this issue of the magazine and unless the situation changes significantly I cannot say what will happen to the magazine in the future.

This short edition will only appear online as the printers , along with all other non-essential businesses, are closed.

In the hope that business shut down will not be in place for the entirety of April & May I have left the advertiser details in so, should you need anyone when life takes on some semblance of normality the details will be available to you.

I wish you all the best Easter you can have in the current circumstances. If you believe in prayer pray for our NHS and frontline key workers, our nation; our world, wisdom for our leaders and for the global response in dealing with this virus and for future co-operation.

I hope that we all stay well.

*Take care,
Merrilyn*

Report from the Parish Clerk

Newsletter

As there is no paper copy of Around & About this month, the Parish Council will be delivering a one-page Newsletter informing those that are not electronically connected of what is available to them during this period of Coronavirus restrictions. For those that are electronically connected the following is available and the best way to track what is happening in real time:

Wicken Website

You may have noticed that Wicken has a new website, <http://wicken-village.org.uk>. Thank you to Matt Cannon for all his hard work with this. It has been an ongoing project which was completed at super quick speed in the end. If you would like anything added to the website please email it to me and I will arrange for it to be added (if appropriate!)

Wicken Parish Council Facebook Page

The Parish Council now has its own Facebook page. This will include village news and events as well as having the meeting agenda and minutes.

Cemetery Footpaths and Mortuary Chapel

We were delighted to hear recently that Wicken has been awarded a grant from the Amy Community Fund to help us repair the footpaths and Mortuary Chapel in the cemetery! This is fantastic news and we're really grateful to everyone who wrote letters of support: it's all been worth it! The Parish Council will also contribute monies from the CIL funding we receive from new houses built in the parish.

Of course, with the current restrictions, we're not sure when the work will be able to begin but we'll be in touch with the contractors and will get ahead with it as quickly as possible.

Village Clean Up

The annual Village Clean Up was held on Sunday 15th March 2020. Although the weather was terrible, we had 16 parishioners take part and we managed to collect 12 bags of rubbish. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Foot care in your own home.

Do you need help with - corns, calluses, and verrucas, in-growing toe nails, dry and thickened heels, fungus infections and other conditions.

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Parish Council Meetings

We are currently waiting for guidance from the National Association of Local Councils as to how we hold meetings whilst complying with social distancing. We are hopeful that virtual meetings can be held but we will announce this on the website and Facebook page.

Allotments

We currently have 2 allotments available at the Afterway Allotments along Lower Road. Rent is £6 per annum, this price reflects the fact that there is no water available at these allotments. Please contact me if you are interested in renting one.

Rachel Earl

Parish Clerk

wickenparishcouncil@hotmail.com

Parish Councillors

Cécile Bye	24 High Street	624378
Jim Day	Red Barn Farm	720281
Marc Hawes	Sheep Walk Cottage, Padney Road	624895
Liz Houghton (Chair)	17 Chapel Lane	723157
Peter Rash	6 Butts Lane	07703 555711
Jilly Rogers	4 Butts Lane	721611
Mick Smith	Peacock Farm, Lower Road	
Liz Tory	Maddog Cottage, Upware	722203
Sue Wilson	28 Chapel Lane	721037
Clerk: Rachel Earl	42 Chapel Lane	723619



Wicken COVID-19 - Mutual Aid Support Network -

Hello Neighbour!

If you're self-isolating we can help. We are the Wicken COVID-19 Mutual Aid Support Network, we are all locals living in Wicken.

Looking For Help?

- ☎ Call/Text: 07961737020
- ✉ Email: WickenCoronaVirusHelp@Outlook.com
- 📘 Join our Facebook Group: "Wicken, Ely COVID-19 Mutual Aid Support Network"

We Can Help With...



Picking up shopping



Posting mail



A friendly phone call



Urgent supplies



Dog walking

Please Note: Items will be left on doorsteps.

COVID-19, aka Coronavirus, is highly contagious. Please avoid physical contact and keep 2m distance - especially if you are in a high-risk group. Let's ensure we're sharing nothing but kindness during these difficult times.



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.



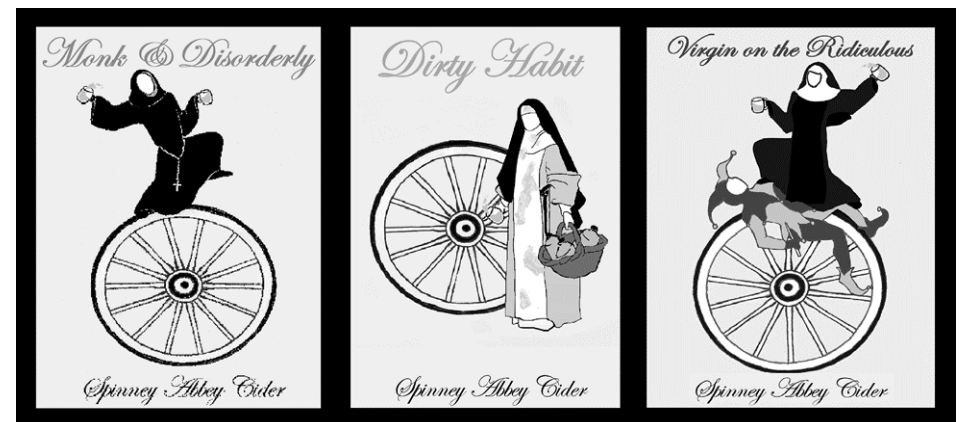
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jonny@spinneyabbey.co.uk

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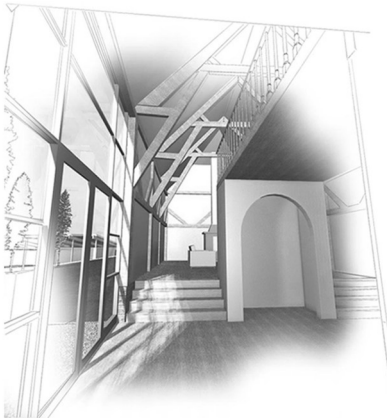
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- See them at the village fete this year
- Why not book them for your own party?
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Phone: Rachel Earl (Clerk to the Parish Council)
for further details on 723619.

Upware Residents Association

Notice to the Upware Residents, due to Covid 19 the residents association
meeting in April is cancelled.

If any resident requires help over this isolation period please let The URA
Secretary know and she will try and get you assistance.

Hopefully this situation will be resolved and we will be able to hold the BBQ
on 19th July.

Please keep safe
Gwynneth Griffiths URA Secretary
gwynneth@fpandp.com
07825999179
Hillside House

Terracycle

Wicken has 3 collecting bins for the Terracycle recycling scheme.

Plastic packaging that cannot normally be recycled will be processed by Terracycle into pellets, which can be used to manufacture new items.

The bins are located at the Methodist Chapel, behind the bike racks.

Currently, we are able to collect the following items:

- ♦ Any brand of crisp packet, including the multipack bags
- ♦ Any brand of sliced bread bag
- ♦ Any brand of sweet biscuit plastic wrapper, including multipack packaging
- ♦ Any brand of confectionery bag or wrapper (see picture for guidance)
- ♦ Pringles tubes

Please do not add anything to the bins which is not on the list, as these plastics cannot be taken by the current scheme. Many thanks for your support and let's keep slimming Wicken's bins!



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Sue Griggs



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The Present Position

Sadly, the Hall is now closed. All the usual activities have ceased, and we are taking the opportunity to deep clean the building. The Trustees will continue to look after the premises and the facility is immediately available should it be required by the Local Authority in connection with the present emergency.

The Future

Although we have lost all our income, we are fortunate that the Hall has sufficient funds to survive for many months, if not years. You can rest assured that the Hall will be there ready to go when the country comes through this awful time.

In the meantime the regular booking slots will be kept for the various organisations until they start running again. If you have a longer term booking it remains unless you wish to cancel it. Similarly, we are happy to take future bookings in the usual way. Booking forms can be downloaded from the website together with instructions and prices.

If you have any queries please ring one of the Trustees.

Best wishes from the Hall Trustees

Current Committee trustees are:

Jean Turner (Chair) T:727054	Stephen Joyce (Secretary) T: 624443
Jack White (Treasurer) T 723342	Sophie Leek T:721681
Caroline Blott T:721480	Jason Clark Sonia Jones T:727140
Pam Joyce T: 624443	Jilly Rogers T:721611 Sue Wilson T 721037

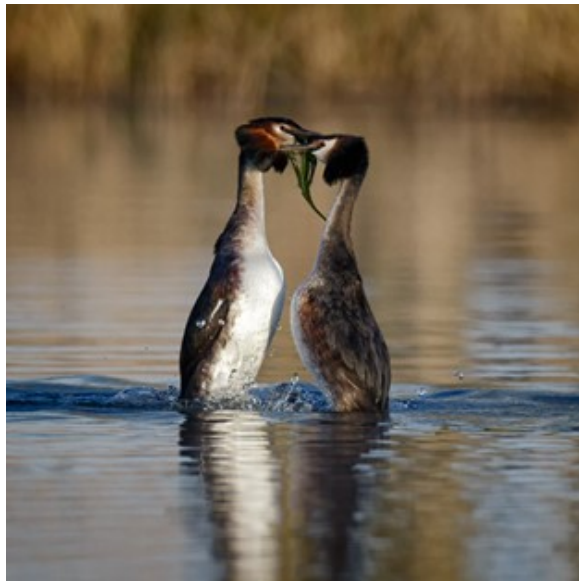
Wicken Fen

The National Trust has recently published its Noticing Nature report in partnership with the University of Derby, which shows that there is a powerful link between how people relate to nature and their happiness. Spring is a great time to get outside and connect with nature, whether it's listening to birdsong, watching clouds or seeing wildflowers. Here at Wicken Fen we'll be seeing returning migrants such as warblers and cuckoos over the next few weeks, the first konik foals will soon be born, and shoots of emerald green foliage will be emerging across the reserve.

When the restrictions have been lifted you can after your walk on the reserve, pop into the new café building to see the improvements. The Docky Hut Café is a great space to relax and enjoy a tasty treat, with a larger seating area and counter; lighter, brighter environment; and a fully equipped kitchen now offering a wider range of refreshments.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve>

Julia Hammond



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Swallowtails

Swallowtails members enjoyed meeting together in February and early March, sharing two meals together one at the Hall, again cooked for us by Sue and one at The Five Miles From Anywhere where we were once again looked after by Lorraine, Dave and staff. Sadly the meal at the Five Miles was to be our last for some while as the planned outing to Nottingham for a boat trip had to be cancelled.

Our other meeting in February saw our members pondering over a general knowledge quiz with a picture round identifying castles and palaces.

We will meet again just as soon as the situation allows.

In the meantime we hope that everyone stays well.

Merrilyn

Wicken Beer Festival

You will not be surprised to learn but will no doubt be disappointed to hear that the 2020 Wicken Beer Festival planned for 16th May has been **CANCELLED**.

Liz Houghton

Wicken Fete & Dog Show 2020

Unfortunately due to the present serious Coronavirus situation it has been decided to **cancel** this year's fete.

Thank you to everyone for all the support you have given and look forward to 2021!

Jean, Sara & Norman

Plastic Bottle Tops

We are NO LONGER collecting Plastic Bottle Tops - thanks to everyone who has helped.

We are still collecting used postage stamps (cut them out of envelopes with half an inch border) and drink can ring pulls.

Sara Rains
Wicken Methodist Church

Celebratory Bike Ride

John Blackwell and Carl Shavitz embark today (Tuesday 31 March) in the last 40 miles of their celebratory bike ride to mark a mile for each of Carl's 80 years! Staying well apart throughout the ride, this is their one piece of exercise for today. And probably for a month!

They're raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and if any one wanted to support them, there's a Just giving page:

justgiving.com/fundraising/Carl-Shavitz

Jilly Rogers





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Coffee Morning

We had our first meeting in February and welcomed 2 new friends. Thanks to Caroline Blott for looking after the finances.

We had plans for the year ahead but sadly have **CANCELLED** our meetings until further notice.

We pray for your safety and well-being, attention to the advice given by the authorities.

Take care of yourself and Stay Home.

Happy Easter

For many of us who believe in the resurrection of Jesus on the third day it is Happy Easter.

In this difficult time of the virus affecting so many... let it be a time of reflection to the true meaning and importance of the cross at Easter time.

There's no Jewish way to be saved or Gentile way to be saved. The way of the Cross will give you the answers to your questions... take time to read the Bible.

Dalene Musora

Contact: Caroline Blott
Tel: 721480

Liz Jugg
968838

Dalene
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The Beloes' Bench

On 14th March 2020 there were about 30 people in attendance to honour the memory of Rev Francis and Sheila Beloe who lived and served in Wicken between 1974 and 1999.

Amy Beloe made a speech, and I asked for a copy as I know several people who where unable to be there would appreciate the opportunity to read it:

"Mum and dad did everything together. Sitting on the sofa holding hands, Dad constantly telling Mum he loved her.

They both had their weaknesses but as Mum once said, they 'leaned on each other and this held them up'. Together they were a real force!

Moving from London in 1974 to a small rural setting must have been quite a shock, however they both embraced it and threw themselves into village life. One of the first years in Wicken, Dad joined in the potato harvest (which he loved), although I think he nearly got carried away on the conveyor belt! Mum helped start the 'Around and About' village magazine, and one of the background sounds of our lives was the duplicator which Ruth and I loved to turn the handle to print off hundreds of copies. Soon, it felt like Wicken was part of the family.

The vicarage was an open house and garden and there were summer nights Ruth and I strolled off to bed while other children continued to play in the garden, but it was past our bedtime. The kitchen was a hub of noise and entertainment. The kettle never cooled and there seemed rarely to not have someone sitting at the kitchen table chatting to mum and dad inbetween the phone being answered, the dogs barking and the doorbell ringing. Many meetings were held in our sitting room in the evenings, whether the Parish Council, Fete Committee or Fen Folly planning, they all sounded more like a party from upstairs as we listened to laughter and glasses chinking.

I believe Mum and Dad's time in Wicken was their happiest and know they would have loved to have stayed. After 25 years it was time for dad to retire. Not many people realised how his illness took its toll on us all, but with Mum's support, he worked until retirement age.

The move to Ely was with mixed emotions. Mum loved her new house and a manageable garden, Dad quickly made new friends with the neighbours. They threw themselves into life in Ely.

It soon became clear both Mum and Dad needed extra help. Incredibly, their house sold quickly and a flat came up in sheltered accommodation in Keswick the same week. Again, they threw themselves into life in the housing accommodation, the church and various other community-minded groups. Their tiny flat often had their neighbours in and here, too, the kettle was always boiling for another cup of tea.

Their adventure didn't end here, though, and Mum and Dad's next part of

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their journey was the most difficult, but I would say the most precious time we had as a family. Both fought their separate battles with dementia, both with a indomitable spirit, good humour and great faith. After a truly unforgettable five years Mum died, closely followed by Dad, who have up without his Sheila.

I truly believe they are reunited in Heaven, and are having a Wonderful Time.

I'm just going to read one of Dad's favourite passages from the Bible. This is about Jesus' perfect love. I believe through their cracks, this is what shone out...

If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I knew all the mysteries of the future and knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would I be? And if I had the gift of Faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, without love I would be no good to anybody. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would be of no value whatsoever. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does to demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever.

1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 8

Sara Rains

If anyone has a photograph of the event please can you et me have a copy - we may be able to use it in the future many thanks.

Merrilyn (Editor)



Wicken Horticultural Society

Even though we are all currently living with a great deal of uncertainty, it can't go on forever so, in the spirit of optimism, we are still planning to hold a horticultural show this year, on 18th July 2020 - SAVE THE DATE!!

Getting some fresh air and having something positive to think about is particularly important right now, and working in the garden is a great way to get both. Perhaps you can encourage your stay-at-home children to get involved, giving them a focus as they see things they planted grow and flourish. We have lots of children's classes that involve them being creative (ok, maybe the 'necklace made of pasta' might have to go this year!), so there is a lot for them to do.

We will make a final decision on the show much nearer the date, but whatever happens, your garden will look great, you'll feel a lot better and have some great fresh fruit and veg and cake, so even if it doesn't go ahead you're still a winner!

Wicken Horticultural Show Committee

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Where Do Things Go

*How things vanish
When you live on your own?
There is no one to take them
If you're all alone!*

*Inanimate objects
How can they fly?
Where do they go to
Where do they lie?*

*Why isn't my book
Just where I left it?
Where is that letter
I've only just read it?*

*There must be a reason
Why objects take walks
They really can't vanish
Or soar like the hawks.*

*There's no one to blame
When it is only just me
I think I'll give up
And just make some tea!*

By Masie Dance

*From the Waitrose Free Paper
Submitted by Martin Hopkins*

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A fenman's work on Wicken Fen was guided by the season, and the weather.
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Life On The Fen

*We live by the lode, working out on the fen
It's a hard life but mostly we're happy
We're scything and catching, and cutting the peat
To put bread on the table for the family to eat*

We're all down the fen where there's turf to be dug
The men cut and barrow - it's tough
The girls and the youngsters, they quarter and stack
Then it's loaded on lighters and we haul it all back

The season is short, the pumps have been busy
Lifting the water away from the pits
The diggers work hard a-loading the saddle
Blighted by midges and having to paddle

*We live by the lode, working out on the fen
It's a hard life but mostly we're happy
We're scything and catching, and cutting the peat
To put bread on the table for the family to eat*

Life's tough for a fenman as many will tell
Our tasks being guided by the season
There's no point in a grumble – we just get stuck in
It's a life that we treasure for good reason

*We live by the lode, working out on the fen
It's a hard life but mostly we're happy
We're scything and catching, and cutting the peat
To put bread on the table for the family to eat*

Neil Ford
Ely, Cambridgeshire

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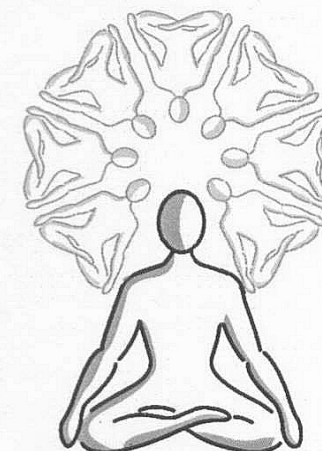
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Make Your Garden More Hedgehog Friendly

1. Hedgehogs travel about a mile each night so need access to lots of gardens! Leave a 5in (13cm) square gap in boundary fences or walls.



2. Keep a corner of your garden wild to offer shelter, protection and natural food.

3. Provide fresh water in a shallow dish and food such as meat-based pet food for hedgehogs, especially during long dry spells.

4. Before strimming or mowing check areas thoroughly for hedgehogs and other wildlife.

5. Pesticides and slug pellets can harm hedgehogs and damage their food supply chain so try not to use them in your garden.

6. Bonfires make good homes for a hedgehog, please re-site the materials just before the fire is to be lit checking for wildlife and pets before lighting.

7. Dispose of litter responsibly. It can cause injury or starvation if hedgehogs get trapped in discarded rubbish.

Celebrate VE Day in Wicken, Padney & Upware!

Celebrate VE Day in Wicken and Upware!

Friday 8th May is a special bank holiday to celebrate VE Day. It's really unlikely that we'll be able to gather together in the current circumstances so we'd like to invite every household to take part in the celebration by decorating your house and garden by:

- ◇ Making bunting
- ◇ Making a big butterfly (inspired by the Wicken sign)



You can use pretty much anything you can get your hands on! We'll all need to be inventive but we can still celebrate the end of World War 2 !

If you need any more information see the Wicken website:

<http://wicken-village.org.uk/>

and the Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/wickenparishcouncil) search for Wicken Parish Council (Cambridgeshire)

Jilly Rogers

Village Speeding

It's strange, so much quieter, almost eerie living on the main road to have a significant reduction in the volume of traffic, although this is not true of the number of lorries, if anything it seems there are more using the road as a cut through!

However more concerning is that the fewer vehicles the greater the speeding.

Having taken a regular daily walk over the past 2 weeks or so passing the flashing speed monitor at our end of the village, (coming in from Stretham), it would seem that 40 mph is now very the much new 30 mph.

It's now regular for vehicles to record speeds in the high 30's into the low 40's but then along came a 53 mph, a new record we thought but how wrong could we be the current highest now stands at 59 mph with not even a touch of the brakes as it passed the sign!!!!

What more can be done to educate drivers that these speed limits are there to protect the residents and our village environment.

Merrilyn