



Welcome to the latest issue of our Parish Newsletter

On behalf of the Parish Council can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Christmas Lights Switch on always feels like the start of Christmas in Wickersley. This year once again the event was very popular with great entertainment and more stalls to visit than ever.

We have included some pictures of the 'Switch On' on page 2.

The Parish Council is now looking forward to 2024. We have recently appointed a number of new councillors, who will all bring new skills and ideas to the Parish Council.

One of our main initiatives at present is the development of a new business plan for Wickersley Parish Council. We are looking at a longer term strategy for our work, and want to produce a three year detailed business plan setting out our aims and objectives through to 2027. A little more about this on page 7.

Within the newsletter you will also see that we would like to continue to grow the number of volunteers we have to help us provide our services.

Volunteering is a great way to serve your community so please consider if you can help - volunteering can be a very rewarding activity!



Parish Council Meetings

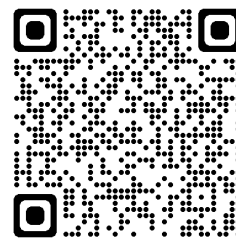
Parish Council meetings are held at Wickersley Community Centre, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, S66 1JJ on the third Monday of each month, except August.

Meetings commence at 18:30.

Local parishioners are welcome to attend council meetings to raise questions and hear local community matters being discussed.

Agendas are available on the Parish Council website ahead of each meeting, www.wickersleypc.org.uk/council-meetings

For more information contact us on 01709 703270, or email clerk@wickersleypc.org.uk



Meetings Dates for 2024

15th January 2024

19th February 2024

18th March 2024

15th April 2024

20th May 2024

17th June 2024

15th July 2024

There is no meeting in August

16th September 2024

21st October 2024

18th November 2024

9th December 2024

EVENTS

On Saturday 18th November Wickersley Parish Council again lit up Wickersley with the annual Christmas Lights event. There were children's rides, a brass band, entertainers singing Christmas carols and songs to get everyone into the Christmas mood, and of course stalls with things to buy as well as plenty of food and drink. The lights were switched on by two children from our local schools who were proud to tell me that they had been chosen to represent their schools. The event is planned months in advance and is the result of much hard work not only by our staff, but also the parish councillors, all of whom are volunteers. There are so many people to thank for their support, for instance, the Catholic Church who allowed us to use their car park, the Methodist Church for hosting Father Christmas's visit, and of course Mat Orton for the amazing display of lights, and who will be working all through the festive season to do his best to keep them on.

A very big thank you to everyone who gave of their time to make this event such a great success and Seasons Greetings to you all.

CLlr Christine Grimes, Chair of the Events Committee



Easter Event

Easter Saturday - Saturday 30th March 2024
12noon - 1pm

Meet at the Wood Lane pedestrian entrance to
Wickersley Wood, entrance nearest Morthen Rd

Easter fun in this very special wood!

All children should be accompanied by a
responsible adult



Wickersley's 'Mr Lights' -
Mat Orton

Wickersley Methodist Church

Hello from Rev Dr Andrew Fox.

I have recently moved to Rotherham from Shetland (not to avoid murderous hitmen- in case you watch the BBC crime drama!) and am looking forward to sharing in my first Christmas here. As ever, Wickersley Methodist Church are looking forward to sharing with our community in celebrating the good news of God's love which we believe came to us in Jesus. By the time you read this we will have helped with the evening of the Christmas lights switch on, and we have lots more in store for December.



Christmas Events

Sunday 3rd December at 10.00am - Our Sunday service will include a Gift Service (where items are donated to share with others in need locally)

Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm- Candlelit Carol Service

Friday 8th December at 1.30pm Forget-Me-Not Memory Café Christmas Party

Wednesday 20th December at 2pm Northfield Lane School Year 6 Christmas Assembly (parents & children only).

Friday 22nd December 10am - noon Coffee and Carols with The Wickersley School Singers

Christmas Eve 10.30am Morning worship and 3.00pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day at 10am Celebration led by church members.

New Years Eve at 10.30am United worship. We will be joined by members of other local Methodist congregations.

We hope you have a peaceful and joyful Christmas and you are most welcome to join us in our celebrations.



St. Alban's Parish Church, Wickersley

Advent and Christmas is the time when the church looks forward to and then celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, born to be the Saviour of the world. During this season the following special services will held at St. Alban's, and all are welcome to participate. Normal services will also be held unless otherwise announced. More details can be found on the church website - www.saintalbanwickersley.org.uk

Sunday 3rd December - start of Advent, the season when we prepare to welcome Jesus.

4.00 pm The Christingle Service Advent service for adults and children celebrating Jesus the Light of the World.

6.00 pm Light in the Darkness Hymns and Readings for Advent.

Sunday 17th December - 6.00 pm Carols by Candlelight Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas.

Friday 22nd December 12.30 pm Carols in the Churchyard, Carol singing for the community outside the church, with Christmas Café and festive treats.

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

3.00pm Children's Carol Service including nativity enactment.

11.15pm Midnight Communion The first Holy Communion of Christmas. A peaceful and awe-inspiring service whose symbolism points to the real reason for Christ's birth - His death and resurrection for us.

Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.00 a.m. All-age Christmas Day Service Celebrate Jesus' birthday together. Everyone is invited to bring and show one of their presents. The service will last under an hour.

Sunday 7th January 6.00pm Epiphany Carol Service Marking the visit of the Magi to Jesus.



Peace and goodwill to you all this Christmas

Volunteering Opportunities with Wickersley Parish Council

Thinking ahead to a New Year with new opportunities and the opportunity to do some new things and maybe set yourself a new challenge or two??

We'd like to share some of the Volunteering Opportunities there are to enable our Parish of Wickersley to grow and develop. The voluntary work in our Parish is led by our team of Parish Councillors who are at the heart of the village activity, and all are volunteers working with real determination to maintain and develop services, right across the village, and to get you the best possible value for your parish precept.

There is the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor as there are elections in May - lots more information about how you can find out more on the next page.



Link for more information
about volunteering

Could you be a Parish Snow Warden?

It's that time of year when we have to expect snow! The Parish has a plan of key pavements and paths, mostly in the centre of the village, which are a priority for clearing and keeping clear when there is excessive snow and ice. The parish handymen lead on this activity, but volunteer snow wardens give extra support to get the job done quickly, for the benefit of all.



Volunteers can sign up as Snow Wardens with Rotherham Council, who will provide 3 bags of rock salt, snow shovel, gloves & a high viz vest to each volunteer. These are re-stocked upon request.

More detail here: www.rotherham.gov.uk/winter-roads/snow-warden Please let us know if you sign up!!!

Are you a regular visitor to Bob Mason Recreation Ground or Wickersley Park?

The committee which looks after these amenities would like to recruit a small team of 3 or 4 volunteers. Ideally people who are very frequent visitors, who share our interest in the facility and could be our eyes and ears 'on the ground' and report issues to the Parish Council when needed - broken glass or equipment, vandalism, place litter in bins as found.

Might you be able to help??

If so, please contact the Clerk to register your interest.

Winthrop Gardens

Winthrop Gardens is a very special and much valued community asset run by a great team of amazing volunteers - delivering great services, events and activities for the people of our village.

If you'd be interested in volunteering in either the Café or the Gardens, we can assure you of a great team welcome - plenty of laughter and fun, fresh air and at least 5,000 steps a day!

Can we tempt you?

Contact Anna Chester, Winthrop Organiser on
07397 039226
or email winthropgardens1@gmail.com



Volunteering Opportunities with Wickersley Parish Council

Wickersley Parish Councillors

Wickersley Parish Councillors are crucial and central to the work of the Parish Council - together they make the decisions that affect our parish. If you have a passion for your community, would like to help shape Wickersley for the future, and have a few hours to spare - then why not consider becoming a Parish Councillor?

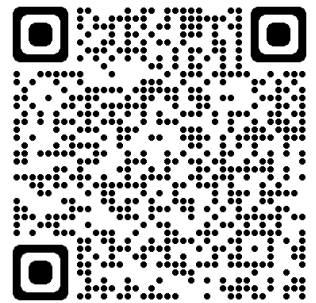
ELECTIONS 2024

In May 2024 local elections will take place for both Rotherham MBC wards and for Parish Councils. Wickersley Parish Council appoints 16 councillors, nine to represent the Wickersley North Ward and seven to represent the Wickersley South Ward.

These elections are administered by Rotherham MBC and the arrangements for nominations to be a Councillor will be announced in early 2024 and will be on the Rotherham MBC website.

As a Parish Council we hope all available seats will be filled.

Anyone who would like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor can contact our Parish Clerk for an informal chat or would be most welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting which are always open to members of the public. Meeting details are on the front page of this newsletter and on our website www.wickersleypc.org.uk/council-meetings



RMBC Elections page

Keeping Wickersley Clean and Tidy



We all take great pride in our Village and our handymen work very hard to keep everywhere clean and tidy. But there are parts that even they don't have the time to reach and this is where our volunteer Litter Picking teams come in!

There are Litter Picking events on average once a month and usually at weekends. There's a great sense of community spirit from those involved and great pride when it comes to the sack count at the end

So could you be a Litter Picker?

It's a great way to get your steps in!

If you're interested please get in touch with Jo our Assistant Clerk and she'll explain more about how things work and how you get your 'litter picking kit'

Call Jo on 01709 703270 or email her clerksupport@wickersleypc.org



Seasons Greetings to all our very special volunteers, customers, supporters and friends

Winthrop Update from Chair, Cllr John Barber

It's been another busy year for Winthrop! We are so fortunate to have a great team of 80+ volunteers who work so hard in the Café, Gardens and supporting us in the delivery of an increasing number of regular activities and special events. At the moment our Volunteers are busy with Festive Teas and Pop Up Cafes and Craft Fairs at the Community Centre. At this time of year it's also good to reflect on our fabulous customers and friends who support us in so many ways. Most of you will know that we have a number of buildings at Winthrop which are well past their best. As a first step to sorting this out we're delighted that we've just got planning permission for a replacement Café building.

Wickersley Ladies Club generous donation to the Winthrop Memory Café

The Wickersley Ladies Club have always been great supporters of the Winthrop Memory Café and their support and generosity continues. At their October meeting it was a huge surprise to receive a cheque for £1000 for the Winthrop Memory Café.

Said Winthrop Organiser, Anna Chester *"This hugely generous donation reflects a lot of hard fundraising work and we are enormously grateful for it. Our now twice monthly Memory Café is popular, really well attended, thriving, with a short waiting list and is meeting real need in our community. Recently we've also started a Carers Support Group. Anyone who has or is caring for someone living with dementia will know what a challenge it is. But with support, especially from those in a similar position, it can be just that bit more manageable. And it's with the support of people and groups in the community – just like the Wickersley Ladies – that we can do all this. Thank you all so very much."*



Winthrop's Terrific Ten

Ten of our amazing volunteers have been knitting for 30 mins each day in November to raise money for Dementia UK to fund 'Admiral Nurses' who support those caring for people living with dementia.

They've got through many balls of wool, knitted in some unusual places and produced Christmas toppers for the many, chocolate oranges which are being sold to raise funds for our wonderful Winthrop!!

At the time of writing they've raised an amazing £470



It's not too late to support them
www.justgiving.com/team/WinthropsTerrificTen

Winthrop will close for its Festive Break on Thursday 14th December and re-open on Tuesday 30th January

A New Business Plan for Wickersley

All Parish Councils are required to put in place three year business plans setting out their aims, objectives and plans for the future.

Our current business plan focussed on implementing the Wickersley Park strategy, the redevelopment of Winthrop Gardens and a range of smaller community projects .

At Wickersley Parish Council we are currently developing our new business plan to cover the period 2024 to 2027. We want to do this in the overall context of our longer term strategy for the services we provide, and reflecting the Neighbourhood Plan we already have in place.

We expect to have made progress on this over the next few months to the extent that we can communicate and consult on this by April/May 2024. We hope when we do this you will be supportive of our plans and will let us have your views and comments on our proposals.

Cllr John Barber, Chair, Wickersley Parish Council



Wickersley Walking Festival

1st April 2024 - 19th June 2024

The Parish was all geared up for its first Walking Festival in early 2020 until Covid struck and unfortunately, just as all the leaflets arrived, it had to be cancelled!

So - we're going for it again in 2024!

We're making great progress on what we hope will be a Walking Festival with something for everyone, with the opportunity to walk in parts of Wickersley you may not have visited before and learn more about the rich history of our village. Already lots of people and groups have agreed to take part and so far we have 30 walks planned.

So far we've got several Family Walks with activities including a 'Clay Faces' Walk and a walk in Wickersley Wood finding the sculptures, Guided Walks for those with visual and / or hearing problems, Walking and Pilates, Toddles Waddles, a disabled / wheelchair friendly walk, several walks designed to see the fabulous local bluebells, a 'Memory Walk', a walk picking up the many historical features of Wickersley, a 'Find your Weigh' sponsored walk to raise funds for Rotherham Hospice, a May Day themed Walk Sculptures with more to come!

All thanks to the great support from local walking groups and organisations

If you're part of a group that would like to take part, or you have an idea for a walk which you'd like to suggest or, even better, organise for us - then please get in touch with Anna Chester, Winthrop Organiser on 07397 039226 or email winthropgardens1@gmail.com.

There will be walks for all ages, abilities and levels of fitness.



A Christmas Quiz for everyone which works SO much better if you 'SING' the answers together as you work them out!!

1	 	S N
2	  	H T H A S
3	   	O I R D C
4	  	G R Y M G
5	  	T H A T I
6	 	L D
7	  	D T H
8	  	T T D O C
9	  	T F N
10	  	O H N
11	  	W S W
12	  	J B

Seasons Greetings to you all with every good wish for a happy and healthy 2024