



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

As I sit writing this article it is snowing again, so I'll be out soon to clear the subway steps. But there are early signs that spring is coming and heralding an end to the cold and darkness of the winter months.

Traditionally spring symbolises new beginnings and fresh hopes for the new year. In many cultures, springtime is when you clean your house in order to sweep away ill fortunes and make way for incoming good luck, a sentiment that I'm sure we can all agree on this year more than any other in recent times!

So let's not just spring clean our homes, but extend it to our streets (as we need all the luck we can get!); the streets that have become so much more important to us over this past year. We start our daily walks and runs on them - socially distanced of course - and they lead us to the many wonderful green spaces that we are so lucky to have on our doorsteps. Our streets have also hosted welcome chats with friends and neighbours as we walk and talk.

Perhaps now is the time for us all to show a little love for where we live? We can all play our part – from picking up litter that blows into our garden, to sweeping and weeding the pavement outside our homes, to doing a litter pick when out on our walks. I know many of you have started doing this already.

Please join us in making the weekend of **Saturday 20th March and Sunday 21st March the Great Wickersley Spring Clean**, getting your street ready to sparkle in the new spring sunshine!

If you need litter grabbers, etc. we have teamed up with RMBC to provide equipment and there are details further in this edition on how to obtain them.

This edition also highlights all the different ways you can volunteer as we start to build 'Team Parish' and bring together all the opportunities there are to volunteer within Wickersley Parish. Many people are already involved, and they will tell you that working with others to improve the village is fun and gives a real sense of achievement as we make Wickersley an even more lovely place to live. I've been out helping our handymen clear snow in the village centre these last few weeks and I know we're definitely in need of more Snow Wardens!

This spring let's look forward to improved fortunes, as the vaccine continues to be rolled out, and that being reunited with our friends and family is more than just a dream.

Clr Sue Ellis, Chair of Wickersley Parish Council



SCAN ME

Join 'Team Parish'

For volunteering opportunities and the chance to get involved in your local community, why not consider joining 'Team Parish' and give back to our wonderful village.

We have opportunities for everyone to get involved, whatever your age, ability or time available.

Sign up today... your village needs you!

QR codes (the fuzzy black and white squares!) have been used throughout this issue to allow quick access to the corresponding web pages mentioned within the articles. If you don't already have one, why not download a free QR reader on your smart phone or tablet from your app store, and start scanning now!

STOP PRESS

Calling the 'Children of Wickersley'... are the Giants back?

Reports are reaching us that the Giants may be back in Wickersley.

Said Cllr Sue Ellis "Readers may remember there was evidence of giants in Wickersley Wood over Easter 2 years ago, when we think they were here looking for the Easter Bunny. I checked carefully last year on my many lockdown walks but there was no sign of them, so I think they may have been isolating. But I've heard a pretty loud whisper that one of them needs some new boots and I know our shoe repairer next to the Post Office has a pair that would fit!! These giants are very careless with their belongings – I saw a giant toothbrush only last week, so I'm pretty certain they are back."

Cllr Peter Thirlwall has told us that he believes these to be friendly giants. Said Cllr Thirlwall "I am absolutely convinced that these are good and friendly giants, as the nasty ones don't brush their teeth. I hope the children of Wickersley will help us find these friendly giants so we can extend a warm Wickersley welcome to them. I would ask children not to touch anything they see, but please take a photo and report any clues or evidence back to myself and Cllr Ellis via the Wickersley Parish Facebook page."



Local children found evidence of the giants last time they visited the woods!

Dates for Your Diary

Please note all dates are preliminary and are subject to change or cancellation dependent upon Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time.

Giants in Wickersley! - From Sat 3rd April

Winthrop Plant Sale - Sat 1st May

Himalayan Balsam Pulling - Sat 8th May

Bluebell Walk - Wed 12th May

Bracken Pulling - Sat 5th Jun

Council Meetings:

Monday 19th April, 6.30pm

Monday 17th May, 6.30pm

Monday 21st June, 6.30pm

All council meetings are currently held remotely. Joining details can be found on our website under 'council meetings' in advance of each meeting.

For further details please refer to the website,
www.wickersleypc.org.uk or contact us
clerk@wickersleypc.org.uk
 01709 703270

Vintage Afternoon Tea in a Box

Why not treat yourself or a friend or family member to a Winthrop Gardens 'home delivery' Vintage Afternoon Tea?



Delivered to houses within a 3 mile radius of Wickersley

Must be pre-booked at least 7 days in advance by calling 07397 039 226 or by emailing winthropgardens1@gmail.com

Cost just £10 per person including delivery
 Payment is in advance by BACs transfer

Garden Scarecrow Challenge

Wickersley is a busy and active Parish Council and had a long list of events planned for 2020 - all of which have had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But each time an event was cancelled because it was 'Covid-unsafe', the Parish challenged itself to replace it with a 'Covid-safe' one.

So - in October, because the Woodland Lantern Walk could not take place, along came the 'Garden Scarecrow Challenge' for Wickersley residents and friends, and particularly the Children of Wickersley!

Said Cllr Sue Ellis "I was delighted that so many people took part and I know that there was real appreciation for this event, which was well timed to lift the mood of a dismal and wet Tier 3 half-term holiday! The inventiveness of what was created from just one sack of straw was incredible.

Everyone was delighted to see the first scarecrows appearing, and soon there were over 100 on our streets. It made going for our local walks so much more interesting and exciting!

From all the feedback that I have received, everyone wants the scarecrows to reappear this year and I know many of you already have plans to be even more adventurous with your straw! So, I am delighted to announce that there will be a 2021 Scarecrow Challenge, with bags of straw available for collection on Sat 23rd and Sun 24th October - more details will be in our Autumn Newsletter and on our Facebook page nearer the time."



Beth Lake "My daughter loved making her Doctor Scarecrow to say thank you to the NHS. Thank you for the hay - what a lovely idea!"

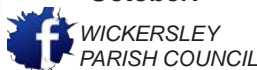
Cerise Walters "Thank you so much for the straw! Our sons have had a great morning creating scarecrow Harry Potter!"

Images of 125 scarecrows were shared on Parish Facebook page



Gavin Gray "A photo of our scarecrow! Thank you for the straw, a great family time together"

Follow us on Facebook to get your alert for straw collection in October!



Carol Szabo "We had a whale of a time making scarecrows and carving pumpkins!"

Libby Williams "Thank you very much for coming up with this fantastic idea"

Great coverage in



Wickersley Community Centre

Whilst the community centre is closed for bookings at the moment, it doesn't mean we haven't been busy planning for the future.

We have completely decorated and carried out other essential repairs to make sure that the centre remains something that we can all be proud of. We have also been thinking about how the centre can be used when we can re-open; foremost in our activities has been the creation of a safe, usable space, which still offers high quality surroundings for different users and uses in the future.



We would love you to safely keep in touch about developments on re-opening, and are asking anyone with an interest in using the space at the community centre to make online enquiries to help us plan our return. Please register your interest by completing the enquiry form on our website, www.wickersleypc.org.uk/wickersley-community-centre or by scanning the QR code:

Please note that current users are already on our list and do not need to complete a new enquiry. We will be providing updates to current and prospective new users of the centre as the Covid situation progresses, as we endeavour to safely bring people back to the community centre when possible.

The library continues to be a key community facility and that is recognised by Rotherham Borough Council, who commenced refurbishments at the site on 22nd February 2021. The re-opening date of the library will be published as soon as it is confirmed, when the click and collect service will resume in line with the easing of restrictions. Again, the works are designed to increase flexibility of the space with more mobile display units so that everyone can use the facility comfortably and creatively, whilst remaining safe.

All of this means that the residents of Wickersley will still have an excellent community centre, complete with library, as life begins to get back to normal, and we look forward to seeing you when this happens.

Cllr Kim Philips, Chair of the Wickersley Community Centre Association

Winthrop Gardens

I'm afraid Winthrop has remained closed to the public due to the Covid-19 restrictions, but our volunteers have stayed busy. Many of our gardening volunteers have continued their work down at Winthrop whilst adhering to the prevailing restrictions and advice. They've done a great job staying on top of things and are now starting on all those spring jobs in anticipation of being able to open and welcome visitors!! We'll be having a Plant Sale on Saturday 1st May and fingers crossed this can be the start to our summer season.

In late autumn we took on an allotment on the adjacent site and look forward to this providing soft fruit and vegetables for sale to customers and jam making!! The small team there have made a great start and would be delighted to welcome a few new members as the work will increase as things start to grow!!

Although the Tea Rooms cannot operate at Winthrop, we have had limited success at our temporary location at the Community Centre when we moved there in the Autumn. I was delighted that we managed to hold a couple of Memory Cafes before lockdown 2 curtailed activities and our café volunteers managed to hold several very successful Mini Christmas Craft Markets. The support we had from friends, customers and supporters of Winthrop was really heartening.

We've continued with our home delivery of 'Vintage Afternoon Tea in a Box' and while we've really appreciated the business I think the 'treat' of an afternoon tea has brought a bit of light relief to many people over the past year.

All our volunteers have done and are doing a really great job – it's a great team to be part of and if you think it might be something for you in 2021 please do get in touch!

Cllr Sue Ellis, Chair of the Winthrop Committee



Winthrop Cupids Surprise Memory Café Friends

The ongoing restrictions meant that Winthrop volunteers couldn't meet up with the lovely people who attend our Memory Café to celebrate Valentines Day.

So volunteers did the next best thing and made doorstep deliveries of 'Valentines Day Cake Boxes and Red Roses' as a surprise treat!! Said Cllr Sue Ellis, Chair of the Wickersley Parish Council "It was so disappointing to miss yet another opportunity to bring together our Memory Café friends due to lockdown 3.

So doorstep deliveries became the order of the day for the fabulous Winthrop Cupids! St Valentine is so fortunate to have such wonderful helpers! And the surprise visits and treats were SO well received, it's humbling to know the difference our volunteers have made with their small acts of kindness."



Festive Family Craft Bags for Charity

Winthrop volunteers were delighted to be commissioned to provide Festive Family Craft Bags for the Haven House project. This South Yorkshire charity works with children and young people affected by abuse.

Said Cllr Sue Ellis, Chair of the Wickersley Parish Council "We have a very talented group of volunteers who were delighted to turn their creative juices to ensuring that the young recipients of these Family Craft Bags had plenty of festive fun to occupy them in the run up to Christmas."



Staying in touch with Winthrop

Follow us on
Facebook @Winthrop-Gardens

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

Subscribe to our e-newsletter



SCAN ME

Volunteering at Winthrop

In anticipation of being able to re-open in late spring / early summer we are keen to expand our team of volunteers. At the moment we have around 60 volunteers, a range of ages, although predominantly in that lovely category - 'retired'! We have opportunities in the Tea Rooms - preparing food and drinks, taking orders, serving, clearing and washing up; in the Gardens there are opportunities to work outside or in the greenhouse on plant propagation and nurturing; on the Allotment there are always a range of jobs - both light and heavier work.

Several of our volunteers also support our monthly Memory Café and weekly Craft Class. There are opportunities to volunteer weekly, fortnightly or monthly with different roles to suit different abilities and preferences. Everyone is looking forward to Winthrop re-opening to the public when it's safe to do so, which makes this a perfect time for you to get involved!

The Winthrop Volunteers are a great team - lovely people, welcoming to new volunteers and fun to be with. Over the last few years we've developed the social side of things for volunteers - theatre and cinema visits, trips out, shared meals, etc. - all that has unfortunately been curtailed over the last year and, like most people, we've had to make do with WhatsApp and Zoom! But when it's safe to do so we're all looking forward to meeting up in person!

So if you are interested in becoming a volunteer and valued part of the team, do please get in touch with Anna Chester on 07397 039226 or email winthropgardens1@gmail.com



Have you got that community spirit and a few hours to spare to join 'Team Parish'??

Covid 19 has had many negatives aspects, but one of the real positives has been the emergence of a strong sense of community within Wickersley, a community spirit from which I think everyone has gained. The key workers in health, care and other front-line services – going the extra mile to help and support us all; the amazing efforts to which so many people went to mark VE75 and decorate our village for the enjoyment of all; the many people who have run errands and delivered those many small 'acts of kindness', and everyone who helped to decorate our Rainbow Roundabout to bring cheer to our whole community – just a few examples of our community pulling together.

So to harness this sense of care for and within our community, the Parish Council is launching 'Team Parish' – our co-ordinated approach to bring together all those who already volunteer with the Parish, and to share existing and new opportunities so that everyone who wishes can get involved. We hope there is an opportunity for everyone!

Activities like regular volunteering at Winthrop – in the tea rooms, gardens or on the recently acquired allotment; joining our delivery team to get the Parish Newsletter to every household three or four times a year; or maybe you'd like to join our Woodland Volunteer Workforce which meet monthly to do minor repair and maintenance work to keep our local woodlands looking so good! Can you wield a snow shovel and become one of our Snow Wardens, helping to keep our main pedestrian routes free of snow?

Alongside our 'Spring Clean' campaign we are also looking to identify people who will become regular litter pickers. I know many people already do a great job here but if more people took to their regular village walk with gloves and a carrier bag, those many hands would make for a much cleaner village!

During the last twelve months many people have told us how much they've enjoyed walking around Wickersley – finding new places, learning about local history, finding the sculptures, etc. – so to take this a bit further we'd like to recruit local people who would volunteer to organise and lead a village walk – could you become one of our Walk Leaders?

Occasional volunteers also join us on our annual Bracken Walks and help us with Himalayan Balsam pulling!

Any of this sound interesting? Please let us know via the sign-up form on our website (www.wickersleypc.org.uk/volunteering-form), by scanning the QR Code on the front page of this newsletter or by completing the form on this page and popping it in our letterbox outside the Community Centre, 286 Bawtry Road.

CLlr Sue Ellis, Chair of Wickersley of Parish Council



Volunteer Registration Form

Name: Contact Number(s):

Email Address:

This would be our preferred method of communication

Address:
Including postcode

Please let us know which type(s) of volunteering you would be interested in:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winthrop - Café | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Clearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Volunteer Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winthrop - Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Watcher (reporting any issues within the woodland areas) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winthrop - Allotment | <input type="checkbox"/> Help at Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation (on Parish Matters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Litter Picking | <input type="checkbox"/> Providing Local History Knowledge |

What other volunteering services could you provide?

If there is something not listed above which you feel you could offer your local community (maybe you have a particular area of expertise which could be utilised), please let us know!

Spring Clean!

I think we've all appreciated our play areas, our sports fields, our woods, our lanes and our streets during this last twelve months – we've walked them, some of us have run them, and we've all enjoyed them! And to make sure they are there for us over the next few months we're inviting everyone to join us in our 'Wickersley 2021 Spring Clean!' We can all play our part – from picking up litter that blows into our garden or is dropped outside our house, to sweeping and weeding the pavement outside our homes, to taking gloves and a carrier when we go out for a walk and filling a bag to take home, to doing it in a bit bigger way with a litter grabber, hoop and a black sack!

So, will you join in for our big push over the weekend of Sat 20th and Sunday 21st March – the first days of spring, and just the time to clear the cobwebs away – inside and out!

This year, due to Covid 19 and lockdown, we can only do these activities with people from our own household or with one other person – but in the future, when it is safe, we're keen to run 'Community Spring Cleans' in which everyone can get involved. So if you're keen to work with us to keep Wickersley clean and tidy then please sign up as a 'Litter Picker' and we can keep you informed about our plans.



Marie Woodhead and Debbie Thackeray have been community litter picking since November 2020, having seen just how messy local streets have become. Said Marie "Debbie and I now go out for a couple of hours at a time and are regularly filling 8-10 black sacks with rubbish of all sorts – fast food containers, empty drinks cans, face masks etc. We live in a lovely area with some great places to run and walk to and it's so frustrating that the enjoyment is spoilt by all this rubbish. I'd really encourage anyone else who feels like me to get involved in this campaign and let's all give Wickersley the Spring Clean it deserves!"



Making a start, keeping Wickersley Woods tidy – John Healey MP and Parish Council Chair, Sue Ellis doing a bit of walking, talking and litter picking!

Cllr Christine Grimes cleaning up local street signs.

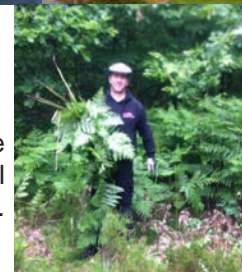


Examples of Volunteering in Wickersley

Winthrop Gardens has a team of around 60 volunteers in the tea rooms, gardens and on the allotment.



The Woodland Volunteer Workforce do amazing work in Wickersley Wood and Wickersley Gorse – jobs like repairing gates and fences.



Keeping on top of the bracken in Wickersley Gorse – local resident Ian Postlethwaite on the annual bracken walk.

"Volunteering allows me to give a bit back to my community. It's also a great way to meet new people and fun when we get together socially."
- Winthrop Volunteer

Our pledge to you if you sign up as a member of 'Team Parish'

Wickersley Parish Council places a huge value on the commitment and contribution of all volunteers involved in activities across the Parish. We will always ensure volunteers are welcomed and given a proper introduction to their volunteering role. We'll take care of you and make sure your volunteering can be done safely. We will appreciate the work our volunteers do to enhance what we can achieve as a Parish Council and we won't take anyone or any contribution for granted.

Q&A

How do I report large items of rubbish?
Easiest way is on-line www.rotherham.gov.uk/street-care-cleaning or via 01709 336003 (but there can be long waits!)

How do I get a litter grabber, hoop and a black sack?
Contact Wayne Munro-Smith www.rotherham.gov.uk/litterpick

Will someone take away black sacks I've filled?
It's Wayne Munro-Smith again!
– www.rotherham.gov.uk/litterpick

Environment Committee

The parish council hopes that you all enjoyed the Christmas lights and that they brightened up a very dark time of the year. We are still having to spend our time close to home and doing this can be a real challenge to our positivity, but I recently read that an open mind and positive thinking is helpful in the situation we find ourselves. Now, in 2021, we need to rediscover positive thinking and balance as never before. We look forward to spring and new growth and the longer daylight hours will be so beneficial to us all.

Has anyone spotted the new bench?

The latest addition to our bench replacement programme was installed mid-January on Morthen Road at the junction with Wood Lane, by our handymen John & Mick. We hope it is used as much as the benches around the Tanyard. We will be continuing with our program of replacing wooden and metal benches when necessary with recycled plastic benches that are sourced from a company in Derbyshire. I first saw these benches on the Thames riverbank in Hurley 4 years ago and visited the factory where they are manufactured and was so impressed with their ethics, I recommended them to the parish council.



We are progressing with our plan to refurbish the small area opposite the Co-Op on the Tanyard. By the time this newsletter is delivered we hope to be further forward with the plans, and this may be somewhere we incorporate further seating within the village centre.

Finally, our sincere thanks must go to our superheroes John Needham and Mick Sketchly, our handymen who keep our Wickersley environment so clean and tidy.

Cllr Pat Beighton, Chair of the Environment Committee

Events Committee

The two big events covered by the Events Committee are the Summer Gala and the Christmas Lights switch on, both of which we had no option but to cancel last year due to the pandemic.

The community responded magnificently to our plea in the October 2020 newsletter to put up as many lights as possible around Wickersley village. It was truly a pleasure to walk around the streets in the evening enjoying the colourful decorations on houses, in gardens, round garages and in windows. A big thank you to everyone for providing festive cheer!

We would normally start the Summer Gala plans as soon as Christmas is over, but until the current restrictions are lifted we are certain that you will understand that we cannot plan for a gala this year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Parish events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Cllr Pat Beighton, Chair of the Events Committee

Recreation Ground Committee

We are continuing with plans to improve Wickersley Park. The next two items on our list are the resurfacing of over 420mtrs of foot paths, and the installation of solar powered lighting along the central path running between Warren Road and Oaktree Close.

At Bob Mason we are hoping to provide a stable footpath surface, refurbish the bike track, and move the second playing pitch by 5 metres to create a more level, playable pitch.

Changes in the maintenance schedule are set to provide two 5-a-side marked pitches for casual knock-about games at both Wickersley Park and Bob Mason during summer months, in an effort to re-engage grass roots football when we emerge from the Covid crisis.

We will dedicate certain areas at both facilities to receive fewer grass cuts to help with plant diversity and encourage wildlife. We have also included for more boundary maintenance, particularly at Wickersley Park.

We ask residents to report any anti-social behaviour issues to the Police. The perception that "it does not achieve anything" is incorrect. It builds the case for action with facts not hearsay. As a Parish Council we have concerns for the entire village. Resolving a particular issue occurring in one part of Wickersley by moving it to another part of the village, for it to return again, is a short-term fix. Anti-social behaviour must be solved by addressing the cause not the location.

Cllr Andrew Bates, Chair of the Recreation Ground Committee



Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan

The Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan has taken a big step forward in recent months. All local residents and businesses were invited to view and comment on the draft Plan and accompanying Design Code during December and January. Thank you to everyone who did so - your contributions are vital to ensure the policies truly reflect local aspirations for how Wickersley should develop in the years ahead.

We are pleased that the policies in the draft Plan were supported by the majority of respondents with some suggested modifications being put forward, which are now being carefully considered along with any objections received. The Plan will be amended to take account of these representations and those received by Rotherham Council and interested organisations.

The next stage will be submission of the modified Plan to Rotherham Council, who will then publicise it, before passing to an independent examiner to assess whether it meets a number of 'basic conditions' along with other Government requirements. The Plan will then proceed to a referendum when all local people can vote on whether it should be adopted.

If adopted this will be an important document to be taken into account when planning applications are decided, and to ensure all new development respects the particular characteristics of our local area.

The draft Plan and Design Code can still be viewed on the Parish Council website, although the consultation period is now closed.

Cllr Maggie Godfrey, Chair of the Planning Committee & Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Woodlands Committee

In these unusual times, it is in our local areas that we look to find the opportunity to feel a little more normal again. I know I value the open spaces and the opportunity to spend time outdoors locally even more these days. Wickersley Woods and The Gorse have always been popular spaces, but they seem to be attracting even more people now. I'm glad to see them being enjoyed.

This use means we all need to work hard to maintain them, and this, in part, is as simple as taking home your litter and cleaning up after your dog. However, I do recognise that there are some areas that could be improved. We rely heavily on a group of volunteers who do much of the work to keep the areas tidy and accessible. Unfortunately, during the restrictions we are all living under, this work has been severely curtailed and there are some areas where the vegetation has grown rapidly and is narrowing paths. We are looking at prioritising some of these areas for immediate attention, as well as identifying areas to concentrate on as soon as we are able to undertake wider work again.

We have also commissioned work to replace the lower bridge in The Gorse; the old bridge has suffered as the bank has eroded and we are going to re-position the new bridge to try to avoid this happening again. Additionally, we have continued with our programme of sculptures for the Wood. A new insect-themed bench is ready and waiting for installation, though this has been delayed due to some access difficulties caused by the wet weather.

Please feel free to contact us with any queries you have about the Wood and Gorse, including any issues you notice while out and about. In addition, if you want to take part in some varied and enjoyable local activity, please consider volunteering with us to help maintain our local area.

Cllr Mark Scott, Chair of the Woodland Committee



Budget

This past year has been financially particularly difficult for many of you and for the Parish. Our village has become even more important to us all, as our lives seemed to have shrunk to where we live. For this reason the Parish felt it was especially important to continue with the improvements to Wickersley Park, the planting of the flower beds and hanging baskets, and events such as the Christmas lights switch on.

The Community Centre, Wood, Gorse and Winthrop still had to be maintained. But of course we have been, and this will continue into the next financial year, unable to raise income from the hiring out of the Community Centre and generating income at Winthrop Gardens.

The hard work of all the staff, councillors and volunteers will continue to be opportunistic and creative in serving our parishioners and providing all the services that you have come to expect. To achieve this and to set a balanced budget, we need to raise the Parish precept marginally, by around 24 pence per month (based on a band D property). We hope you understand and feel that the Parish continues to provide good value.

Greetings from Wickersley Methodist Church

We are living in strange times but while we remain 'locked down,' we are never 'locked out' of God's love. I have seen so many exciting examples of people finding new innovative ways to practise their faith, demonstrating God's love in action.

We have Zoomed, Facebooked, emailed, Twittered, phoned and even written letters! The Christians amongst us have added prayer to the list.

Our church's aim is to return safely to Sunday worship on Easter Sunday - 4th April 2021, dependent on Government and Methodist guidelines at the time. We aim to have 2 half hour services beginning at 10.00am and then 11.00am.

See what is happening and keep up to date by visiting us on Facebook and the Rotherham Methodist Circuit website.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths. *Proverbs 3:5-7*

Please keep safe and well.
Blessings.

Pastor Wayne Ashton (Wickersley Methodist Church)



Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

As I write this in the middle of winter there are signs of bright sunshine but with little warmth. The virus has kept us all inside where hopefully it is warm but I suggest so different from the warmth of a summer sun.



As we look forward to celebrating Easter shortly, let us feel again the joy and wonder of the risen Christ. After the uncertainty, lack of holidays, and distress of seeing those we love suffer and unfortunately some die, we need the certainty that image of the self-giving of Jesus on the Cross and the joy that comes from knowing that God in his love for us raised Jesus from death and holds out that promise to us.

Details of our Holy Week and Easter Services can be found on our website www.blessedtrinitywickersley.org

May you all have a happy and holy Easter.

Fr Richard Gomersall (Blessed Trinity Catholic Church)

St Alban's Wickersley

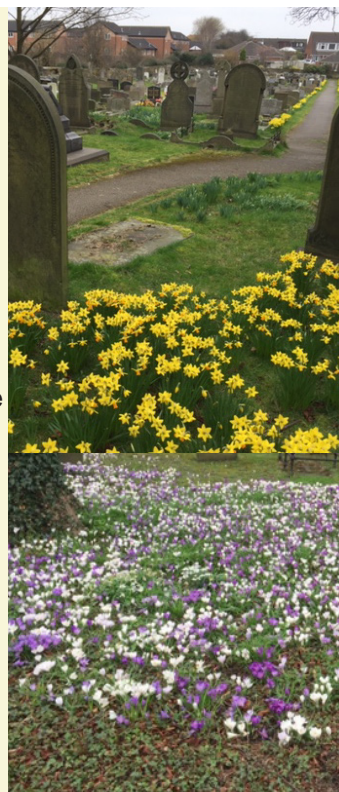
The Easter Hope

I wondered what to write as a means of encouragement during these strange and difficult times as Easter approaches. Then I recalled the words her Majesty the Queen spoken to us last Easter when our pre-vaccine circumstances were darker than they are now. They still have the power to encourage us:

'This year, Easter will be different for many of us, but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that Coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be - particularly for those suffering with grief - light and life are greater. May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future'.

Wishing you a happy and blessed Easter.

Peter Hughes (St Albans Church)



Holy Week and Easter Services at St Alban's Church

Sunday 28th March
6.00pm Palm Sunday Commemoration

Maundy Thursday
10.00am Holy Communion

Good Friday
10.00am Family Service
2.30pm Meditation at the Cross

Easter Day
9.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm Evening Praise

Local Landmarks

In the first of our features on 'Local Landmarks' we'd like to introduce you to...

Wickersley 'Dame' School

This is a fascinating local landmark which can be found at the rear of Sorby's hairdressers and can be accessed from Morthen Road on a narrow footpath which links through to Sitwell Terrace. It actually looks more like a coal shed or outhouse, but it was in fact the Wickersley Dame School.

'Dame schools' were small, private schools run by working class women, and occasionally men. References to dame schools can be found from the 16th century onward. They were the precursors of nursery, or infant, schools in England and survived into the 19th century. The school was frequently in the teacher's home, in which the children were taught the alphabet and some reading from the New Testament, and given household chores.

The story goes that the larger door was for the teacher and the smaller door for the children. When a child was too tall to enter through the small door, standing upright, then they were deemed 'big enough' for work! Why not include a visit to this landmark on one of your walks - and if you have children or grand-children with you, they might like to see if they'd still be small enough for school, or tall enough to be heading out to work! It might give everyone a different perspective on home schooling!!

You can read more about this and other local landmarks in the Local History section of the Parish website - www.wickersleypc.org.uk/village-history.



SCAN ME

Composition of Wickersley Parish Council

Cllr John Barber

*Vice-Chairperson (Parish Council),
Chairperson, Finance Committee*

Cllr Andrew Bates

*Chairperson, Recreation Grounds
Committee*

Cllr Pat Beighton

Chairperson, Environment Committee

Cllr Emma Boswell

*Cllr Susan Ellis Chairperson (Parish
Council)
Chairperson, Winthrop Gardens*

Cllr Alan Gibson

Cllr Maggie Godfrey

*Chairperson,
Planning Committee & Neighbourhood
Plan*

Cllr Christine Grimes

Cllr Naveen Judah

Cllr Barbara McNeely

Cllr Kim Phillips

*Chairperson, Wickersley
Community Centre Association*

Cllr Ronnie Postlethwaite

Cllr Mark Scott

*Chairperson,
Woodlands Committee*

Cllr Peter Thirlwall

*Chairperson,
HR
Clerk Carol J Lavell, CILCA
clerk@wickersleypc.org.uk*

Contact: Wickersley Parish Council

Wickersley Community Centre
01709 703270

Find us on
facebook

@WickersleyParishCouncil

The next council meeting will take place on Monday 19th April 2021 at 6:30pm, via Microsoft Teams
For more information please visit the council meetings section of our website or contact us.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Wickersley Parish Council	01709 703270	National Domestic Abuse Helpline	08082000249
Rotherham Borough Council	01709 382121	Rotherham Hospital	01709 820000
Children/Young People Social Services	01709 336080	NHS Advice Line	111
Adult Social Services	01709 822330	Police (Non-Emergency)	101
National Domestic Abuse Helpline	08082000249	(eg. for reporting anti-social behaviour)	
Rotherham Hospital	01709 820000	Highway/Street Emergencies	01709 336003

Wickersley Walks

Many people enjoy regular walks around the village, and we appreciate how important these local walks have been during the Covid-19 restrictions. So we've decided to include a local self-guided walk in each future edition to introduce you to different parts of the village.

We think this first one - the Winthrop circular via Slacks Lane and Wickersley Wood - will be known to many of you, but maybe not to all? Our thanks to Glenna and Mick Briggs who are working with us on this project.

If you have a favourite local walk then please let us know! We can then work with you to develop a map and guidance which can be shared through this regular newsletter, on the Parish website and on the Wickersley Walks Facebook page.

Winthrop Circular via Slacks Lane, Wickersley Wood

Starting Point:

Winthrop Gardens
Second Lane
Wickersley
S66 1EE

Description:

Fields and woods around Winthrop

For: All walkers

Parking: There is parking at Winthrop Gardens but please do not leave your car without first checking what time the car park(s) will be locked. There is alternative parking on Slacks Lane (point 5 on the map)

Details:

1. Turn left as you exit Winthrop Gardens.
2. When the tarmac road finishes, carry straight on along the field edge with the ditch on your left.
3. At the corner of Kings Pond wood turn left. Cross footbridge over stream carefully.
4. At Slacks Farm bear left onto minor road.
5. At the top of Slacks Lane turn left to take field path behind houses to Wood Lane.
6. Enter Wickersley Wood and follow main paths to southern corner. Look for direction post to Winthrop at raised mound and exit wood here.
7. Take field path to Second Lane where Winthrop is to your left.



Wickersley Walk 1

Distance: 2 miles

Time: 1 hour



Winthrop Open Day and Plant Sale

May Day - Saturday 1st May
10am - 4pm

Add the date to your diary and pop down to Winthrop for our plant sale!! We have some fantastic perennials for sale and will also have preserves, craft stalls and whatever else the rules at the time permit!

And we've plenty of 'Hotlips'!!

If you have any plants, seedlings or 'splits' to donate to our very worthy cause we'd be delighted to receive them!

Just call 07397 039226 and we can arrange to collect.

