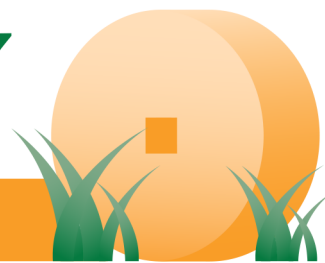


WICKERSLEY

Parish Council News



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October 2022

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

It was with great sadness that we heard about the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, following her 70 year reign, in September this year.

The Parish Council paid tribute to the Queen's life of service to the country and Commonwealth, with a book of condolence at Winthrop Gardens and flowers laid at Windsor Castle on behalf of the Parish Council. Thank you to everyone who signed our book of condolence; the book will serve as a reminder of the place she held in the hearts of Wickersley residents.

Her personal qualities of dedication, selflessness, grace, and a wonderful sense of humour have been extraordinary, and we give thanks for her life.

With regard to Parish matters, since our last newsletter we have celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. From the Parish Council's viewpoint, the centre of our celebrations was based around Winthrop Gardens together with the launch of our new Wickersley Platinum Jubilee Walkway; thanks to Anna Chester, Winthrop Organiser, for all her work on this.

Our events will continue into the winter months culminating in our Christmas lights switch on. There are more details of our upcoming events within this newsletter.

The downside to the summer experience has been the rise in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the early part of summer. Unfortunately, much of this occurred in our parks, woods and grounds. The first point of contact regarding ASB should generally be the police, who have been proactive in terms of additional patrols which have helped reduce ASB. We have developed our own ASB response plan too.

Cllr. John Barber, Chair of Wickersley Parish Council



Cllr J Barber, Chair of Wickersley Parish Council, opened the parish's book of condolence.



Flowers, from Winthrop Gardens, laid at Windsor Castle.

What's Inside

In this edition of the Parish Council newsletter we have:

Page 2 & 3 – Events - a round-up of this year's latest and upcoming events

Page 4 & 5 – Parish Council & Committee updates

Page 6 & 7 – Winthrop Gardens updates & events

Page 8 – Wickersley Platinum Jubilee Walkway & Council meeting dates

HM Queen Elizabeth II



1926 – 2022

On behalf of Wickersley Parish Council and the parishioners of Wickersley, we send our sympathy and best wishes to the King and all members of the Royal Family who have lost a wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Events

Earlier this year we held events in the Wood and the Gorse – the giants returned for their Easter break, and the teddy bears joined us for a tasty picnic. Thank you to those who came along and joined in the fun!

In the coming weeks we have more events on offer and you can find out more about these in this newsletter and on our website and Facebook page. Please like and follow our Facebook page (Wickersley Parish Council) for regular updates and reminders about upcoming events.

Easter Event

Easter saw the giants returning to Wickersley Wood for a weekend break.

They were really messy and left out lots of their things. Huge toothbrushes, pocket watches, knitting, cups, and plenty more of their belongings were scattered around the woods. So we were really glad that dozens of children and their families came down to the woods to find and count the objects and report back to the Parish Councillors. Chocolate eggs were the reward for the children's efforts in helping to locate the giants' belongings. Luckily the giants cleared up after themselves before they headed home!

The young giant told Cllr Sue Ellis that she loves to come back on her holidays to see all the sculptures in our wood.



Teddy Bears Picnic

Lots of young (and older) intrepid explorers joined Parish Councillors and volunteers in July with their teddy bears, to picnic in the Gorse.

The sun shone as they ticked off leaves, twigs, flowers, feathers and more from their scavenger hunt list. Our magic man, Cllr Peter Thirlwall, entertained them with his magic tricks! Then the parachute games began, before all the children and adults blew their bubbles so that swathes of rainbow bubbles were dancing through the trees and branches.

A perfect few hours of simple fun in the Gorse. Thanks to everyone for coming to join us.

Christmas Tree Plea

As part of our Christmas lights and decorations, during Covid we added a small tree at the Tanyard for the children of the village to hang baubles on. The schools loved joining in with this and we loved seeing the drawings and artwork on the baubles the children produced.

We were very lucky and grateful that the last one of these trees was given to us free of charge. So this year, if any of you have to cut a pine tree down, and would like to donate it to the village, just ring the Parish Council office on 01709 703270 – and hopefully we will be able to have a 'children's tree' again this year.

Thank you.

Cllr. Sue Ellis, Chair of the Events Committee





LANTERN WALK

FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2022 6pm to 7pm

In Wickersley Wood

Join us on our lantern wander in the woods...

Meeting at 6pm at Wood Lane entrance (Morthen Road end) of Wickersley Wood

Please note all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult



THE SCARECROWS OF WICKERSLEY!

The scarecrow building challenge is back for 2022!
Why not join in the fun and build and display your very own creation...

1. Collect your free straw from Wickersley Park car park - **22nd October between 10am and 12noon.**
2. Build your scarecrow using the collected straw and any other imaginative props or clothing (to give your scarecrow it's very own personality!)
3. Display your scarecrow for all to see!
4. Share photos of your creations on our Facebook page.

There were so many fantastic scarecrows on display around Wickersley last year, and we hope to see even more making an appearance this year!

WICKERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON 2022

SATURDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 5:30-7:30PM
WICKERSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE & LIBRARY

FEATURING

- LIVE MUSIC IN THE CAR PARK
- CHRISTMAS STALLS
- SEASONAL FOOD AND DRINKS
- SANTA'S SLEIGH

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON AT APPROX. 6PM

Anti-Social Behaviour

The level of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Wickersley seems to have grown this summer, and unfortunately much of it has taken place in the facilities we manage - particularly at Wickersley Park but also to some extent at the Gorse and at Bob Mason Recreation Ground.

The ASB we know of included some disturbing examples of threatening behaviour, repeated damage to our playground, damage to bridges and handrails, and vandalism to the newly installed solar lights at Wickersley Park.

We were very grateful for the response from the local police who increased their patrols which helped reduce ASB activity for a while. The police should always be our, and your, first point of call when ASB occurs. We continue to work with the police and get support from the police to help minimise ASB in Wickersley.

The biggest disappointment to us was the vandalism to the solar lights we installed in Wickersley Park. These were installed primarily to increase the safety of residents crossing the park, and we were very grateful that the Wickersley North Ward Borough Councillors funded the lights for us. Unfortunately, all the lights are now out of action, and we are looking at how we may be able to replace the lights in a vandal proof way for the future.

We are also considering the installation of CCTV at Wickersley Park. CCTV can provide a deterrent against ASB but the costs of CCTV purchase and installation are significant and we need to be convinced that the benefits of CCTV would justify the costs involved. There are examples in Rotherham where CCTV has provided a good deterrent, but we have also heard from some Parish Councils that CCTV installation has not proved successful in its aims.

Overall crime in Wickersley is lower than average but our experience this year with regard to ASB has been so disappointing and frustrating. It is also proving a costly issue for us to manage.

Cllr. John Barber, Chair of Wickersley Parish Council

GP Services in Wickersley

Many residents were concerned about the consultation on the possible closure of the Clifton Practice branch surgery in Wickersley Health Centre. In the end the practice decided not to proceed with closure plans, but as a Parish Council we remain concerned about the current and future provision of GP services in Wickersley and we will keep this under review.

GP services across the country are under pressure because of growth in demand and staff shortages. Locally, however, the challenges are even higher because of the population growth in Wickersley and the forthcoming major growth in housing between Ravenfield and Bramley (with Morthen Road surgery also providing GP services in Ravenfield). There needs to be an increase in capacity in Wickersley, not a reduction, and the buildings the services are provided from need improvement and expansion.

Cllr. John Barber, Chair of Wickersley Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

Back in May this year, Wickersley Parish Council were delighted to announce that the residents of Wickersley overwhelmingly voted to support the adoption of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan. Of the 1811 votes cast, 80% were in favour, which means that Rotherham Council have now adopted the plan so that it's policies have to be taken into account when planning applications are determined.

It also means that more of the money paid by developers to Rotherham Borough Council, in the form of a Community Infrastructure Levy, will be passed to the Parish Council for investment in local projects for local people.

The Neighbourhood Plan and background information can be viewed on the Parish Council website at www.wickersleypc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan.

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



Scan this QR code to access the web page from your mobile device:



Recreation Committee



Bob Mason pavilion has undergone an interior redecoration courtesy of the Probation Service, and new doors have been fitted to the changing rooms and toilets. We have started a programme of encouraging commercial profit-making sports and fitness organisations to book the playing fields, which includes access to the car park and toilets. This comes at a small fee for a usage permit and access key. It is hoped that this will alleviate some of the parking issues experienced on Sorby Way, by encouraging groups to officially book the facility with access to the car park, rather than trespass as they are currently doing. The Parish Council will be issuing summonses to repeat trespassers who are conducting commercial activities without approval or authorisation by booking space through the Parish Council offices.

The period of very dry weather has not been kind to the football pitches, and an earlier than normal start to the season brought about by the November FIFA World Cup, is not helping matters. We ask all users to keep off the heavily worn areas over the next few weeks to allow the pitches time to recover.

Wickersley Park is blighted by vandalism and other forms of anti-social behaviour. All of the lights installed have been torn down at significant cost to Wickersley residents. Graffiti and smearing of food stuff over play equipment is such a mean-spirited attack on play equipment intended for the use of children and is labour intensive to clear. This is just not acceptable behaviour in any community. The Parish Council is working with the Police and RMBC to combat this behaviour and we welcome any information that will lead to a prosecution of these thoughtless, selfish offenders.

Cllr. Andrew Bates, Chair of the Recreation Committee

Environment Committee

Continuing our plans for upgrading areas of Wickersley, the latest bench to be replaced was at the junction of Northfield Lane and Bawtry Road, opposite Wickersley roundabout.

The much bigger project of renovating the area known as the Stephen Shore Garden, between the Masons Arms and the telephone exchange commenced earlier this year, most of the groundwork being carried out by local councillors and volunteers. The large grindstone now in a prime location in the centre of the village was donated by a local resident in December 2021 and was collected from his garden, cleaned and restored by a local stone mason, who also made a handsome stone plinth that shows it off to the best advantage. The renovated area is now renamed the Platinum Jubilee Garden to commemorate the Queen's 70th Jubilee. The cleaned and restored Stephen Shore memorial plaque has been re-sited within the garden.



A tree survey was carried out on the large sycamore trees between the garden and the Masons Arms, the largest tree which is healthy, had some lower branches taken off. The smaller sycamore had died and planning consent was gained from RMBC to remove it. Part of the conditions applied was that we replace with a tree of 12-14cm girth; we are planning to replace this tree by planting a replacement in Wickersley Park. This also chimes with the Queen's Green Canopy programme. The three smaller sycamore trees in the garden, nearest the pavement have had their crowns lifted, in hope that it will improve the soil underneath.

Although we did not have an official opening for the Platinum Jubilee Garden as this project was ongoing, it was interesting to watch it develop over the months and hear the positive comments from local residents. That's not the end of the story for this area, as we have ongoing plans over the next few years.

The refurbished benches in the Platinum Jubilee Garden look very smart in their Wickersley colour livery. A decision was made not to replace them, but to have them cleaned up and repainted. They certainly make a colourful addition to the garden, as do the Wickersley boundary markers at both ends of Bawtry Road.

Cllr. Pat Beighton, Chair of the Environment Committee

Woodland Committee

The weather this year has been particularly dry and along with some extreme heat it has caused stress to plants and wildlife. However, the Wood and Gorse have come through strongly and shown the benefit of such spaces in our local area; some welcome shade and shelter in all weathers.



Whilst there have been some isolated incidents, most people have used the areas considerably and we thank you for that. As you read this, we are gathering your views following the launch of our consultation on the management plan for the Wood and Gorse for the next few years. The document is available on the parish website and all views are important.

Finally, if you enjoy these green spaces then please consider offering to volunteer and help maintain and preserve them for all to enjoy in the future. For further information or to register your interest in becoming a volunteer, please email clerksupport@wickersley.pc.org.uk, or telephone 01709 703270.

Thank you.

Cllr. Mark Scott, Chair of the Woodland Committee

Winthrop Gardens

It's been a busy few months for Winthrop and the fabulous team of volunteers. I think the highlight of 2022 for Winthrop has probably been the Platinum Jubilee and the various ways in which volunteers, friends and supporters came together to mark the historic occasion. It was fantastic that we, and the country as a whole, had the opportunity to celebrate the milestone along with the Queen, and show how much her 70 years of service was valued and appreciated. I was really proud of what we achieved with the Platinum Jubilee Walkway – a lasting memory of the Platinum Jubilee and a walk that everyone in Wickersley can enjoy!

Our garden volunteers have worked incredibly hard over this very challenging summer with excessively high temperatures and absence of rain! But our gardens have remained a green oasis and received so many positive comments from visitors. The Winthrop allotment has also been very productive, and we're delighted to be harvesting 'tayberries' and having them available for all to try on our produce stall.

We were delighted and very proud that Winthrop Organiser, Anna Chester, was invited back to do another cookery demonstration at Rotherham Show – she's a natural!

As we enter autumn, the Winthrop team are already working behind the scenes getting ready for the festive season. Our volunteers will be hosting festive afternoon teas, pop up cafes and Christmas craft markets.

And thinking ahead to 2023 - Winthrop's 8th year of operation under the ownership of the Parish Council - if you're a member of a group which might like to visit Winthrop, for a tour of the gardens and a cream tea, then do please get in touch. Winthrop is a real gem and we relish the opportunity to share its delights.

Cllr. Sue Ellis, Chair of the Winthrop Committee

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Following the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II, it is with even greater pride and affection that we look back on the events celebrating her Platinum Jubilee earlier this year.

Winthrop launched a **Platinum Jubilee Recipe Book** back in April, with a taster event to mark the launch. The recipes were contributed by volunteers, supporters and friends of Winthrop with some very interesting and creative bakes - many with a royal or Jubilee theme. In early May we sent a copy of the book to the Queen with our compliments and best wishes, and were delighted to have received a reply from Her Majesty.



Various other events were held to mark the occasion, including an **Afternoon Tea Fit for a Queen**, Winthrop Memory Café's **Platinum Jubilee 'Street Party'**, a **Right Royal Jubilee Bake Off**, and the launch of the **Wickersley Platinum Jubilee Walkway**, more about which can be found on the back page of this newsletter, on the Wickersley Parish Council website, or by visiting Winthrop Gardens.

Winthrop Festive Events

Once again Winthrop will be hosting a series of festive events at Wickersley Community Centre, in the heart of the village. Said Winthrop Organiser, Anna Chester, "Our Festive Afternoon Teas are really popular and sell out very quickly, so I'd urge anyone interested to pop down to Winthrop to book their places! Places can also be reserved by calling 07397 039226. Our Christmas Craft Fairs are also well worth a visit - lots of hand-crafted gifts at very reasonable prices alongside our popular jams and chutneys stall."

Festive Afternoon Teas are £15 per person and comprise sandwiches, warm savouries, freshly made scones with clotted cream and jam and a selection of festive cakes, with tea and coffee as required. And as always there's plenty of festive fun and cheer!

Pop Up Café and Christmas Craft Fairs - a great opportunity to catch up with friends and get a few stocking fillers at the same time! The Winthrop crafters are already busy making gifts, jams and chutneys. There's also a new design of chocolate orange toppers this year!



Soup in Support of Ukraine

Working in partnership with the Parish Council, Winthrop volunteers ran two sessions of 'Soup in Support of Ukraine' earlier in the year. The sessions had great community support and were very successful, raising a fantastic £1210!

Our donation was sent via UNHCR (the United Nations Refugee Agency) which match funded our donation – so all our efforts actually contributed £2420.

Since then, many individuals and families from Ukraine are now living locally and are being helped and supported by local people in a variety of ways. The Winthrop volunteers recently gave a local Ukrainian family cash help towards school shoes and school uniform.

Dates for your Diary

All Events are at Wickersley Community Centre

Tuesday 15th Nov	Afternoon Tea with Christmas Flowers Demonstration
Wednesday 23rd Nov	Festive Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 29th Nov	Festive Afternoon Tea
Wednesday 30th Nov	Pop Up Café & Christmas Craft Fair 10.00 - 12.30
Wednesday 7th Dec	Festive Afternoon Tea
Tuesday 13th Dec	Festive Afternoon Tea
Wednesday 14th Dec	Pop Up Café & Christmas Craft Fair 10 - 12.30

For further information please contact Winthrop on 07397 039226

Winthrop at Rotherham Show

This year's Rotherham Show was a great success; blessed with excellent weather, thousands of people enjoyed the occasion right across Clifton Park. It was a real credit to all involved.

Winthrop sponsored 5 classes in the 'Made in Rotherham' tent - scones, jams, chutneys and 'A Right Royal Bake' children and adults. Elizabeth Harwood, Winthrop's Wednesday Walk Leader also won prizes in several classes, and won the Adult Star Baker Apron which was presented to her by the Mayor of Rotherham in the presence of Rahul Mandall - Rotherham's Great British Bake Off winner!



Winthrop Organiser, Anna Chester, provided a cookery demonstration in the demo kitchen for the second year running. Hosted by Sile Sibanda from BBC Radio Sheffield, this year Anna opted to demonstrate the amazing 'three ingredient' lemonade scones with raspberry and redcurrant jam.

The Wickersley Platinum Jubilee Walkway



Wickersley Parish Council is delighted that the Wickersley Platinum Jubilee Walkway, launched on 1st June 2022, is one of only two such official Walkways curated to mark the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The second Walkway is in Birmingham.

The Platinum Jubilee Walkway is 7km long (4.35 miles). The 7km length of the walk represents the 7 decades of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. The circular route, starting and finishing at Winthrop Gardens, takes in many of the key landmarks in Wickersley and is a great way to learn more about the village of Wickersley. This walk will take approximately two hours.

There is also a shorter, 'Heart of the Village' walk of 3.7km (2.3 miles) which takes about an hour and is more suitable for those with pushchairs or mobility issues.

The Wickersley Platinum Jubilee Walkway was launched on Wednesday 1st June with 70 walkers – one for each year of the Queen's reign – including members of the weekly walking group, Winthrop volunteers, Parish Councillors, local MP John Healey, customers, friends and supporters of Winthrop.

Walk leaflets can be collected from Winthrop or downloaded from the Wickersley Parish Council website, where there is a lot more information about the Walkway.

The bronze commemorative plaque will soon be permanently installed at Winthrop Gardens to mark the start and finish of the walk.



Council Meeting Dates

Dates of the remaining Parish Council meetings for 2022 are:

Monday 17th October 2022

Monday 21st November 2022

Monday 12th December 2022

Council Meetings are held at Wickersley Community Centre, 286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, S66 1JJ and commence at 18:30.

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

Agendas and meeting papers are available on the council website (www.wickersleypc.org.uk/council-meetings) ahead of each meeting.

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