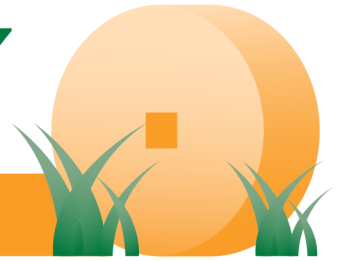


WICKERSLEY

Parish Council News



clerk@wickersleypc.org.uk | www.wickersleypc.org.uk | 01709 703270

Issue No. 49
March 2023

Hello everyone and welcome to our first newsletter for 2023

2022 was a good year for the Parish Council as we got back to normal after the pandemic. We were so pleased to see such high attendances at our events last year, they were so well supported particularly of course our Christmas lights switch on event. The way Winthrop Gardens operates went from strength to strength, and we implemented small projects across our Woodland, Environment and Recreation services.

Looking forward we have some exciting plans in 2023 for the development of our facilities.

In April we expect to complete the refurbishment of the bike track at Bob Mason, together with the provision of a new path along the sports ground. We are also currently out to tender for the provision of improved pathways at Wickersley Park, and a number of other smaller improvements at the Park.

We also expect to be able to announce our new plans for the redevelopment of Winthrop Gardens later this year. Winthrop Gardens has become such a successful venue for Wickersley and we are so proud of what we have achieved and the support we get from our army of volunteers. We do need though to plan for the future and improve the facilities we have.

We also want to build on the success of our events in 2022 by providing a range of events this year, including a Gala in Wickersley Park to celebrate the Kings Coronation. We have been so pleased by the support our residents have given to our events and we expect that to continue this year.

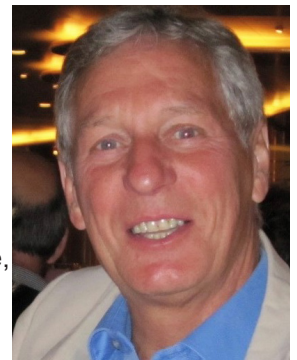
You can read more about our plans in this Newsletter.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our great Parish Team - working in the office, the Community Centre, down at Winthrop Gardens and out on the streets of Wickersley. They are all helped and supported by some amazing volunteers. My thanks and appreciation to you all.

I would also like to pay tribute to Peter Thirlwall who recently retired as a Parish Councillor after 21 years of service. He was instrumental in enabling our Community Centre to be built and we will miss his expertise, enthusiasm and contribution to our work.

Finally, can I also mention the Parish Council precept. We try to limit increases in the precept each year but this year we have been subject to the same cost of living increases as everyone, particularly energy and pay costs. We also need to increase our budgets for health and safety risks and to manage the implications of the Anti-Social Behaviour across the Parish. We have been able to make savings on our existing budgets to offset some of these costs, but we do need to increase the precept to balance our books. The precept increase equates to an average of £7 per household in 2023-24.

Cllr. John Barber, Chair of Wickersley Parish Council



2023 Council Meeting Dates

Dates of Parish Meetings up to the August recess

Monday 17th April 2023

Monday 15th May 2023

Monday 19th June 2023

Monday 17th July 2023

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.

Events Update from Cllr Sue Ellis - Chair

It was a delight that once again our 2022 Autumn events were such a success!



Our annual Scarecrow Building Challenge with the offer of free straw kept quite a number of Wickersley children, parents and a few grandparents busy over the half term holiday! Lots of photos were shared on our Facebook page for all to see – and there's a great one of a very confident scarecrow scaling heights this year!

The Lantern Walk at the end of the half term holiday was incredibly well attended – so many people enjoyed the Sing Along on a lovely Autumn evening in Wickersley Woods.



Our Christmas Lights really sparked for us all this year, lifting our spirits in the cold mornings and greeting us after a hard day's work. The feedback from parishioners was that the lights looked better than ever and they did twinkle away for more hours than ever before!

This is due to our new contractor MP Electrical, a local firm that really did take pride in the job and responded very quickly when an odd string of lights went down – so thank you SO much Mat and your team!

The actual 'Switch-On' evening gave us all the opportunity to meet up with friends and enjoy good music, food and drink.

We couldn't do it without our staff – Jo, Martin and Julie and a host of volunteers including:- Blu Cru providing the entertainment; Jill Venables and her team who provided mulled wine and refreshments in the Community Hall, Martin's grandson Derek, and several of the Parish Councillors. Thanks also to the residents who provided the tree on the Tanyard for all the local children to decorate.



Last but certainly not least is to say how proud we were of Lola and Jackson, the young people who switched on the lights for us. They have both shown a great deal of courage when faced with some pretty big challenges of late.

We're looking forward to our 2023 events and we have a lot going on!!!

We're particularly looking for people to join our band of volunteers to help us with the forthcoming Gala to mark the King's Coronation on Sunday 7th May. If you have a few hours to spare please get in touch with Jo Whitworth on 01709 703270 or clerkssupport@wickersleypc.org.uk

2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

EASTER EVENT
(WICKERSLEY WOOD)
8 APRIL 2023
LITTER PICK
(WICKERSLEY GORSE)
1 APRIL 2023

MAY

GALA
(WICKERSLEY PARK)
7 MAY 2023
HIMALAYAN BALSAM PULLING
(WICKERSLEY GORSE)
13 MAY 2023

JUNE

HIMALAYAN BALSAM PULLING
(WICKERSLEY GORSE)
3 JUNE 2023
LITTER PICK
(WICKERSLEY GORSE)
10 JUNE 2023
BRACKEN PULLING
(WICKERSLEY WOOD)
24 JUNE 2023

SEPTEMBER

LITTER PICK
(WICKERSLEY WOOD)
9th SEPTEMBER 2023

OCTOBER

SCARECROWS
(WICKERSLEY PARK)
21 OCTOBER 2023
LANTERN WALK
(WICKERSLEY WOOD)
28 OCTOBER 2023

NOVEMBER

XMAS LIGHTS
(COMMUNITY CENTRE)
18 NOVEMBER 2023



Wickersley Parish Council invite you to our



Lunch in the Park



Coronation Gala event

Sunday 7th May 2023

11am – 4pm

Wickersley Park, off Warren Road / off Oak Tree Close,

Food and Fun for all including:-

Live entertainment - Stalls - Refreshments – Hog Roast - Licensed bar
Children's rides ... and much, much more



For more information contact Jo Whitworth on 01709 703270 or
clerksupport@wickersleypc.org.uk



We're delighted to be holding our first Gala since Covid and we're keen to build our 'Events Team' - if you're able to help on the day or in the days before getting things ready

then please get in touch with Jo Whitworth on 01709 703270 or
clerksupport@wickersleypc.org.uk

More information about volunteering opportunities with the Parish are on pages 5 and 9 and on the Parish website

www.wickersleypc.org.uk

Coronation Gala – 'Lunch in the Park'

We're delighted to be holding our first Gala since Covid on Sunday 7th May to coincide with the Coronation celebrations on this special weekend.

The King is keen that communities come together on this day to share food and fun together so we hope you'll join us at our 'Lunch in the Park' gala event in Wickersley Park. Bring your own picnic or enjoy some of the food which will be on offer from our various 'foodie' stall holders.

We already have a 'Hog Roast', stalls with alcoholic, soft and hot drinks, cakes and burgers.

If you're interested in taking a stall please contact

Jo Whitworth on 01709 703270 or
clerksupport@wickersleypc.org.uk

EASTER EVENT

Join in the Fun!!

Wickersley Wood

Saturday 8th April 2023

12 noon to 1pm

Meet at Wood Lane
pedestrian entrance
(nearest Morthen Road)



Please Note: All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Recreation Committee from Cllr Andrew Bates, Chair



The Recreation Ground committee is responsible for the Bob Mason Pavilion and Sports Pitches off Sorby Way, and Wickersley Park off Warren Road.

We are in discussions with Rotherham Borough Council on options for the replacement of the lighting destroyed by vandals in Wickersley Park.

The wheelchair accessible picnic table in the park that was damaged by fire has been repaired, and a temporary repair has been made to the infants slide after an arson attack. In total over £6,000 of damage. We have been advised by the

Police that such destructive activity is criminal behaviour and if you witness it in progress, please call 999 for an urgent response. It is the only way to stamp out this activity.

The Bob Mason pavilion has undergone some minor internal improvements to allow access to toilets for all hirers. Booking the pitches or activity areas are at a nominal fee via the Parish Council 01709 703270. Booking allows access to the toilets and the carpark. A note to nearby residents; if organised groups are playing on the pitches, with locked gates, and cars lining the road, they have not booked, and they are not contributing towards the cost of providing the amenity.

This spring the bike track on Bob Mason is being refurbished with the addition of a stone path leading from the carpark to the bike track. This will make access easier and the footpath to the side of the pitch less of a mud-bath.

Quotations are being invited to tarmac over 420 mtrs of footpaths around Wickersley Park as the current crushed brick paths installed in 2011 are far beyond useful life. If you are a reliable contractor or know of one for this work, please get in touch as above.

Environment Committee from Cllr Pat Beighton, Chair

Carrying on with our bench replacement around the village, in November 2022 we replaced one at Plane Drive and one on the grass outside the Community Centre. The next replacements are the two benches on Morthen Rd, one at the junction of Newhall Avenue and one at Almond Glade – the area around this one is in need of a tidy up and upgrade – but that's another story!

The dead sycamore tree, next to the Mason's / Heritage Garden, that we had to have cut down last year has been replaced by a purple beech. This was planted in Wickersley Park at the end of January as part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II. We hope it will be allowed to grow and flourish.

The Heritage Garden project, formerly the Stephen Shore garden, has gone as far as we can at the present stage.

Our beautiful village clock outside the Three Horseshoes is in need of an internal upgrade and a clean on the outer surface. Although we have it serviced every year, it has been a cause of concern when the clocks change twice a year. This had to be done manually and after investigation and discussion with the company who service the clock, it was decided that the clock needed rewiring and an auto restart unit fitted. This will alter the clock automatically from BST/GMT and will correct the clock following power cuts. If the clock stops due to power failure, the unit remembers the time the clock stopped and restarts it at the correct time once the power is resumed.



Woodland Committee Update from Cllr Mark Scott, Chair

I write this as the birds start to herald that Spring is on the way. Nature might slow down over winter but there are always things to see in the Woods and Gorse. We are planning the works needed for this year now and hope to complete all the maintenance needed to manage the areas to benefit both people and wildlife. You may see some areas that look untidy for a period but this is all part of providing different habitats for both plants and wildlife. For instance we are hoping to take some of the saplings out of the Glade area in the woods in order to preserve the open aspect. Similarly there is a large poplar tree in the Gorse which is reaching the end of its life and needs to be felled soon. Please bear with us during these works and abide by any instructions to stay away from an area.

We continue to plan other smaller jobs and some of these would be much easier with volunteers so please consider if you can spend a couple of hours occasionally helping to keep these valuable spaces clean and managed to enhance nature.

In the meantime, continue to enjoy the sights and sounds of these spaces and refresh your lungs and mind by enjoying the nature we are so lucky to have right on our doorsteps.



Wickersley, Bramley, Listerdale & Flanderwell Neighbourhood Watch Group

You may have heard of Neighbourhood Watch and perhaps seen the distinctive yellow signs on lamp posts around the area, but perhaps you don't know much about the organisation or its aims and objectives.

Neighbourhood Watch is a nationwide charitable movement. Our vision is a society where neighbours come together to create safer, stronger, and active communities. Our mission is to support and enable individuals and communities to be connected, active and safe, thereby increasing wellbeing and minimising crime. Our values are neighbourliness, community focus, inclusivity, proactivity, trustworthiness, and collaboration.

Neighbourhood Watch members are not vigilantes or 'curtain twitchers', but we will cooperate with the police, local authority, and other organisations to prevent and detect crime and improve community wellbeing.

Typically, schemes are organised on a street or area basis, with one member identified as coordinator acting as a conduit for information between members, other coordinators, and other organisations.

Scheme coordinators from Wickersley, Bramley, Listerdale and Flanderwell collaborate regularly on matters of mutual interest, especially local crime trends and crime prevention initiatives. We are keen to expand the movement across the area to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The principal benefit of Neighbourhood Watch membership is the feeling of security which comes from good neighbourliness and knowing that local people 'have your back', but membership also allows access to security advice and equipment, often at discounted prices and the potential for discounted home insurance, so what's not to like about it?

If you would like to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, or perhaps even start your own scheme contact David Buxton at nhwwickersley@gmail.com

Andy's Man Club

My name's Ian and I'm a train driver and I've been going to Andy's Man Club for over 6 months now. I first started going after someone made the decision to end their life in front of my train and the subsequent effect this had on my mental health. Andy's Man Club is somewhere for peer-to-peer support, from other men who have been through, or are going through similar situations. The group has had a massive impact on me and has certainly helped me deal with this traumatic event.

Andy's Man Club is free, held at 7pm every Monday (except Bank holidays) and there's no judgement.

The two clubs in Rotherham are at Brinsworth and Wath Manvers – full details of locations can be found at www.andysmanclub.co.uk



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:

- Winthrop - Café
- Winthrop - Gardening
- Newsletter Delivery
- Snow Clearing
- Help at Events
- Litter Picking
- Wood Watcher (reporting any issues within the woodland areas)
- Consultation (on Parish Matters)
- Join Team Gala 2023

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!

Please pop your form through our Parish letterbox – 286 Bawtry Rd, Wickersley S66 1JJ or drop an email to Jo Whitworth, our Asst Parish Clerk clerksupport@wickersleypc.org.uk



WICKLERSLEY CC

ROOM HIRE

The Centre has a large function room and a smaller meeting room, both available for regular or one-off hire.

FUNCTION ROOM

The bright and modern function room is perfect for parties, conferences, fitness classes, social groups and offers:

- A sprung beech wooden floor
- Fully programmable air conditioning
- A fully equipped kitchen
- Tables and chairs
- Toilet facilities

MEETING ROOM

The meeting room is perfect for business meetings and smaller group activities, and can fit approx. 16 seated around tables. Tables can also be removed if required, for the space to be used more flexibly.



FEES

Function room from £15 per hour Meeting room from £10 per hour
 For more information contact us by email at clerk@wickersleypc.org.uk or by
 telephone on 01709 703270
 A contact form can also be completed at www.wickersleypc.org.uk

**Wickersley Community Centre
& Library**
 286 Bawtry Road
 Wickersley
 Rotherham
 S66 1JJ





COMMUNITY CENTRE

WHATS ON

Monday Tuesday Wednesday

10:00 Yoga (Yoga with Jodie)
 14:00 Card Games (RU3A)
 18:00 French (RU3A)
 18:00 Zumba with Amy
 19:30 Yoga (Janet Cromack)

10:00 Spanish (Andrea Taylor)
 10:00 Pilates (Pilates with Georgina)
 18:00 Tai Chi (Chris Heczko)

10:00 French (Andrea Taylor)
 14:00 Wickersley Ladies Club
 18:00 Yoga (Yoga with Jodie)
 19:00 AA meeting
 19:00 Wickersley Youngstars

Thursday Friday Saturday

10:00 Adult Ballet (Silver Swans) with Lucie
 11.15 Musical Theatre Class with Lucie
 18:00 Get Healthy Rotherham—Weight Loss Clinic
 18:15 Karate (Rotherham JKA Karate Club)
 19:30 Meditation (Bob Banks—Kadampa Meditation)
 19:30 Hatha Yoga - (Jenny Atkinson Yoga)

09:30 Pilates (Pilates with Georgina)
 10:30 French (RU3A)
 12:45 Little Movers (babies)—Alexa
 13:45 Little Movers (toddlers) - Alexa
 16:00 Dance (Kristina's Dance Academy)
 18:00 Chair Yoga with Jenny
 19:00 Whist Club

07:30 Weight Loss (Lisa Dodds—Find Your Weight)
 10:00 Yoga (Yoga with Jodie)
 11:45 Karate (Rotherham JKA Karate Club)

Sunday

10:00 Zumba with Georgia

Yoga with Jodie Web: www.yoga-with-jodie.com Email: yogawithjodie@hotmail.com	Rotherham U3A Web: u3asites.org.uk/rotherham/groups (Group contacts can be found on website)	Tai Chi—Chris Heczko Email: chrisheczko@aol.com Tel: 07403568081	Kadampa Meditation—Bob Banks Web: www.meditationsheffield.org.uk Tel: 01142661142
Language—Andrea Taylor Email: ataylor@tuition@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 07542048124	Yoga—Janet Cromack Tel: 07535096202	Karate—Neil Hirst Email: rotherhamjkako@gmail.com Tel: 07933028503	Find Your Weight with Lisa Dodds Email: lisa@findyourweight.co.uk Tel: 07742339627
Pilates with Georgina Email: babyg1756@icloud.com Tel: 07725367664	Little Movers—Alexa Email: rotherham@littlemovers.net Tel: 07846633900	Silver Swans—Lucie Email: info@dancewithlucie.co.uk Tel: 07340 404830	Kristina's Dance Academy Tel: 07731 438615
Wickersley Ladies Club Tel: 01709 543496 (Pat)	Hatha Yoga—Jenny Email: mamahathayoga@gmail.com Tel: 07886374119 Facebook: Jenny Atkinson Yoga	Zumba with Amy Email: amykayleigh@hotmail.com Facebook: Zumba with Amy Cantor	Zumba with Georgia Zumba_georgiaransford



Winthrop Gardens Update from Cllr Sue Ellis, Chair

Winthrop already has an exciting programme of events for 2023!

Our Open Day and popular 'Bake Off' in April, Vintage Afternoon Tea to celebrate the Coronation in May (already fully booked), Ladies Day in June, Yorkshire Day in August and a series of Festive Afternoon Tea events already planned for November and December along with our Festive 'Pop Up Cafés' and Craft Fairs!

If you're interested in any of our events please get booked in early to avoid disappointment.

People support Winthrop in so many different ways:— being one of our lovely customers, donating items to our 'Curiosity Corner', advocating on our behalf and sharing information about our events and activities, following us on Facebook and sharing our posts, keeping Anna supplied with jam jars and of course - joining our Volunteer Team (more details below).

Winthrop Memory Café

We're rightly proud of our Memory Café and the volunteers who run these twice monthly events for people living with dementia and their carers. This is a very popular service with a short waiting list giving priority to those with a Wickersley or Winthrop connection. Enquiries and more information from winthropgardens1@gmail.com

Christmas was party time for our lovely guests who were fortunate to be entertained by the U3A Ukulele group led by Anne Saunders and the fabulous St Albans Primary School Choir. And Mother Christmas found time for us in her busy schedule!!

Much appreciated donations given to the Winthrop Memory Cafe

2023 has started well for the Memory Café as we received two very generous donations. The first from the family of the late Brian Lee who had brought his wife to our regular Memory Café until his unexpected death. His daughter, Debbie, told us how much they had both enjoyed and looked forward to their visits. Our gratitude also goes to the Wickersley WI who have also made a very generous donation to enable us to continue with the much-needed work to support people living with dementia and their carers. Thank you from us all.



The great strength of Winthrop is its fabulous team of Volunteers - working hard in our Gardens, Cafe and Allotment and also supporting a range of other activities - the weekly Craft Class and Walking Group and our twice monthly Memory Café and we also have volunteers doing 'home baking and crafting'. So - a variety of ways in which to get involved!

As we approach the better weather when things get busier, we are looking to grow our Cafe Team - so please get in touch if you'd like to join the team!

We're also looking to recruit a couple of 'Home Bakers' to ensure we can have a selection of home-made cakes available for our lovely customers. Lots of people love baking but don't because the temptation to eat them is too great - bake for Winthrop and we can solve that problem for you! There is a bit of paperwork to sort out and a process to go through but if you are interested please get in touch to find out more! It could be one cake a month or one a week - and of course, we'll reimburse you for the cost of the ingredients!

There's also a social side to volunteering with Winthrop – this year for example we have three coach trips planned – to the Houses of Parliament in May thanks to the good offices of John Healey MP, to RHS Bridgewater in July and to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular in November – our volunteers always get the first opportunity to enjoy these trips with any spare places being offered to customers, friends and supporters of Winthrop. Other social activities include:- volunteer 'Get Togethers', lunches out, cinema and theatre visits – Volunteers like to have fun!!!

No particular experience is required to volunteer with us, as we'll always help you learn the ropes! But energy and enthusiasm are key!

So - if this is something that might interest you then please get in touch!

Call Anna Chester on 07397 039226 or email winthropgardens1@gmail.com

More information about Volunteering at Winthrop can be found on our website www.winthropgardens.co.uk



Winthrop is open to the Public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10.30am – 3.00pm and 4.00pm from 1st April

If you've not yet found time to visit us you can find us on Second Lane, off Morthen Rd with on-site parking for those with a Disabled badge and a large customer car park just beyond our main gates with access into the gardens.

Winthrop is on the route of many popular Wickersley Walks – there's a lovely one coming down from the village through the woods and across the field – with a very helpful sign for Winthrop!

And for those who enjoy 'walking and talking' there's our increasingly popular Wednesday Walking group – every Wednesday, open to ALL, meeting at 10.30am at Winthrop and generally doing a circular walk returning to Winthrop for refreshments. Lots of information on the Wickersley Walks Facebook page.

Staying in touch with Winthrop

Facebook - @WinthropGardens
Website – www.winthropgardens.org.uk –
where you can sign up for our regular e-newsletter giving details of everything going on at Winthrop!
E-mail – winthropgardens1@gmail.com
Tel – 07397 039226



EVENTS



THE GREAT WINTHROP BAKE OFF

SATURDAY 29TH APRIL 2023
11AM - 4PM

Winthrop Gardens, Second Lane
Wickersley, S66 1EE

**Open to everyone, with an Under 14 and
Over 14 age band**

Classes: Cakes; Scones and Biscuits; Buns and
Cupcakes; Preserves - Jams, Jellies,
Marmalades, Pickles & Chutneys

Our Tea Rooms will be **OPEN** and serving
refreshments with tasting of 'Bake Off' entries

Free admission - All welcome
Please walk down if you can!

AFTERNOON TEA FOR LADIES DAY

(FOR THOSE LADIES TOO BUSY TO GET TO ASCOT!)

Thursday 22nd June 2023
2.15 for 2.30pm

Wickersley Community Centre,
286 Bawtry Road, Wickersley, S66 1JJ

Cost £15pp

Reserve by calling 07397 039226.
Places confirmed on payment in full at
Winthrop - CASH only please.

Anyone who'd like to buy or borrow a hat
for this occasion please pop down to
Winthrop the week before!



YORKSHIRE DAY



1ST AUGUST 2023

This year Rotherham is hosting Yorkshire Day,
and Winthrop will be joining in!

Tuesday 1st and Wed 2nd August;
Yorkshire Day Afternoon Teas will be served.

Cost £15pp

Reserve by calling 07397 039226.
Places confirmed on payment in full at
Winthrop - CASH only please.

Flat caps and mufflers if you have them!

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Northfield Lane

Lent lunches, a joint effort between ourselves, the Methodist church and St Alban's are being served at Blessed Trinity on the Thursdays of Lent from 12-1pm.

The last lunch will be at St Alban's Barn on Maundy Thursday 6th April. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

Father Richard Gomersall is the resident priest at Blessed Trinity and he can be contacted on 01709 546441.

He writes "We all look forward to the Spring, as it is a time of new birth and the weather is hopefully getting warmer. The trees and bushes start to sprout and the plants you thought had died appear through the earth.

At Easter the Church not only commemorates the shedding of Christ's life on the Cross, but the glorious resurrection of the Son of God, New birth for the people of God."

Our Easter Services are:-

Thursday 6th April Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper 7pm

Friday 7th April Good Friday Passion of the Lord 3pm

Saturday 8th April Easter Vigil and renewal of baptismal promises 7pm

Sunday 9th April Easter Sunday 9.30am

All are welcome to join us.



St Alban's - Wickersley

Easter and the Gift of New Life

What do you write in your Easter cards? How about 'Chocolate is for life, not just for Easter!' Amen to that, we can never have too much chocolate, whether they be bars or Easter eggs.

Alternatively, we could write something more traditional, such as 'New life is possible because of Easter!' Being traditional does not mean we have to avoid chocolate. On the contrary, eggs are symbols of new life - the purpose of Easter eggs is to remind us of the resurrection life made possible because of Easter. The Bible reassures us that because Jesus died and rose again, the power of death has been broken and resurrection life is available to everyone. 'We believe that Jesus died and rose again - and so it will be for those who died as Christians, God will bring us to life with Jesus.' (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18). Easter proves that not even death can separate us from the everlasting love of God!

I hope that this Easter we will each enjoy the gift of at least one chocolate Easter egg, as together we celebrate the gift of resurrection life.

Peter Hughes

Wickersley Methodist Church

Easter is almost here! Are you looking forward to a chocolate egg, a family gathering or a long weekend break somewhere? Many may be hoping, but the reality will look different! For some there won't be chocolate or family meals, just a growing reliance on Foodbanks. For many there won't be short breaks just the ongoing concern about making ends meet. For others there won't be a rest, just more days lacking purpose!

Even without such relentless hopelessness, there may be other troubles casting a shadow; health problems; anxiety about future care; worries about affording to retire; concerns about the prospects of children and grandchildren! We want things to be different, but we pin our hopes on the wrong things!

As Easter approaches, we're reminded that pinning our hopes on politicians, our health or being optimistic won't change things. But the events on a Jerusalem hill and in a garden nearby two thousand years ago can! The Bible says, when women ran to the tomb where Jesus was buried, they were anxious who would roll the stone away. But when they arrived, it had been moved! An empty tomb meant Jesus was alive!

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus are historical facts, witnessed by countless people and these events can change lives today. Whatever stones hem you in, whatever long shadows hang over you, whatever crushes your hopes, Jesus can breathe new life into you and your situations and give hope for the future because he is "the resurrection and the life." Why not join us to celebrate this truth this Easter at Wickersley Methodist Church?

Revd Gill Newton, Minister, Wickersley Methodist Church



The Origins of - GILL CLOSE, WICKERSLEY

As I continue to pedal my bicycle around the roads of South Yorkshire and North Nottinghamshire, as I have done for many decades, I often ride with fellow cyclists who tell me that they come from my original home village of Wickersley. I always tell them that I am a Wickersley lad myself having been born in Listerdale Maternity Home and lived in the village of Wickersley for the first 26 years of my life.

A question that I always ask them is - do you know the road Gill Close in Wickersley? I am pleased to say that they all do and I was delighted when one gentleman even told me that Gill Close is where he grew up and where his parents still live.

But I am sure that there are a good number of newer Wickersley residents who are not aware of the origins of some of the road names in their village.

In the 1970's the village was expanding and the development of the once small agricultural village was continuing at a pace. Houses and bungalows were built off Morthen Road and new names for the roads were needed.

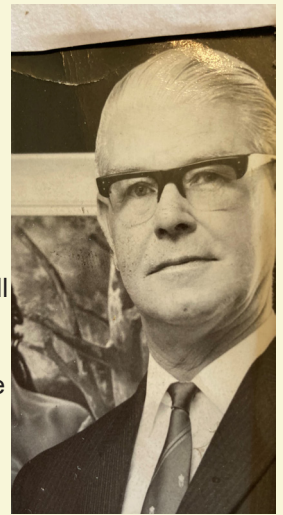
When the Wickersley Parish Council of the day was looking to name these roads it decided that it would be appropriate to honour local people who had made a significant contribution to village life and who were no longer with us.

One road was named after the Vicar of Wickersley Sorby Briggs (Sorby Way), one after Wickersley Parish Councillor Martin Almond (Almond Glade), another after Wickersley Parish Council clerk Bernard Avill (Avill Way) and one after my father Eric Gill (Gill Close).

My Thrybergh born dad was certainly well qualified to be included among those honoured as for many years before his sudden death in June 1975 at the age of 65 he was well known for his dedicated and unfailing service to the local community. For many years my dad was treasurer and secretary of Wickersley Agricultural Show Society, a governor at Wickersley Comprehensive School, chairman of Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club, an Independent village councillor and chairman of Wickersley Parish Council. He was also chairman of the fund to raise money to build Wickersley Village Hall and he officially opened the building on its completion in 1974. At his funeral service at St Alban's Parish Church tribute was paid to him by the then Vicar of Wickersley Reverend Metcalfe. He said that the large attendance was an indication of the great part this friendly man had played in local community matters. He added that as a Wickersley Parish Councillor my dad had worked with energy, devotion and understanding for the welfare of Wickersley and that the Village Hall for which he had worked so hard stood as a memorial of his concern for the welfare of life in this neighbourhood.

My Mum and Dad are buried in the churchyard at St Alban's Parish Church, as are my Grandma and Granddad. Whenever I go over to Wickersley and I see the Gill Close nameplate it fills me with great pride that a road in Wickersley is named after my Dad and that his name is remembered long after he has gone.

DONALD ERIC GILL – proud Wickersley lad.



Gloria Martin - 04/08/1928 - 04/11/2022

Gloria Martin moved to Wickersley in 1982 with her husband Doug. They had been brought together by their nursing vocations and had travelled the world together as working nurses. More latterly Gloria had found she had a talent for setting up new residential homes for the elderly and this is why she came to Wickersley, to set up and oversee the new Churchfields Residential Home. When this was successfully up and running Gloria felt she could then retire and enjoy life on Cherry Tree Crescent with Doug.

Gloria had a great sense of service and after retirement soon joined the Parish where she served for 16 years before stepping down in 2011. During this time, she became the Chairperson of the Environment Committee and was involved with the establishment of the Bowling Green and the installation of the Wickersley Clock. Alongside Doug they were enthusiastic supporters of the twinning of Wickersley with the German town of Ohringen making long-standing friendships along the way.

Gloria also served as a Governor on Northfield Lane School for 8 years and was a member of the Labour Party where she presented her views with vigour and a passion.

Gloria's life had always been lived with a care for others and a real sense of community.



Wickersley Park to Silverwood Lagoon

Starting Point:

Wickersley Park

Description:

Transformed site of Silverwood pit with glorious views on a clear day.

For: Walkers who can cope with slopes that may be muddy

Parking: Inside Park entrance accessed between 42 and 44 Warren Road.

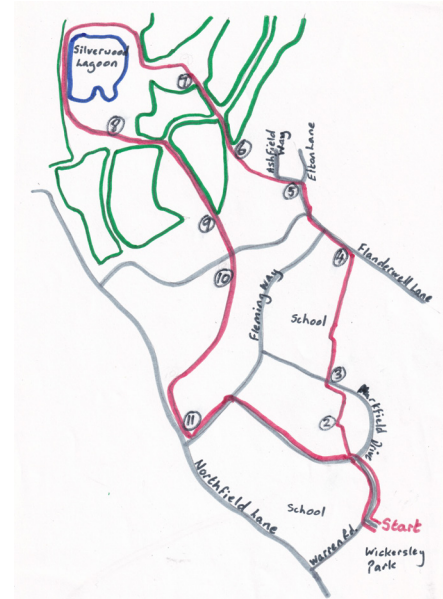
Wickersley Walk 3

Distance: 3 miles

Time: 2 Hours

Details:

1. Exit Wickersley Park, turning right onto Warren Road and continuing to Markfield Drive. Cross to Lawrence Close.
2. Exit at the top left corner and take diagonal path to Reynolds Close. Turn left onto Markfield Drive.
3. Cross and take the footpath on the right after the bus stop. Follow the footpath along the side of Flanderwell School then continue straight on to Flanderwell Lane.
4. Turn left onto Flanderwell Lane then bear right onto Elton Lane.
5. Turn left onto Ashfield Way and take the footpath straight on as the road turns right.
6. Follow the path behind the gardens but at the corner go straight up the slope and on a wide path through the wooded area.
7. When you emerge into a more open area cross a shallow ditch then turn left towards Silverwood Lagoon. As you leave this open area take the path to the right to circuit the lake anticlockwise.
8. Before completing a full circuit take the wide uphill path. At the top continue with the woodland now only on your left.
9. Continue on this line until reaching Flanderwell Lane and cross carefully to the Ruby Cook Recreation Ground.
10. Cross the car park and take a path round the top, past the playground. Continue to the end of the houses where the path turns left to run parallel to Northfield Lane.
11. Turn left onto Fleming Way then right onto Markfield Drive. Continue to Warren Road now down steps on your right and retrace the route to the starting point.



A small memory of Wickersley in a town in Baden-Wurttemberg Wickersley – still in touch with its German twin!

For about 40 years, Wickersley maintained a close relationship with a beautiful German town, Ohringen. It began as a partnership between Wickersley Comprehensive School and Ohringen Sports Club. It was organised by dedicated staff of both organisations as a cultural exchange whereby young people were hosted during the summer by families, and excursions, games, activities arranged. My 3 children were 'paired' with their German partners aged 11 and visited their Ohringen 'families' or hosted their 'buddies' every year thereafter.

Life-long friendships resulted for them and for my husband and I who have continued our 'senior exchanges' with their parents ever since. Wickersley and Ohringen councils were officially 'twinned' for some time, and there is a roundabout in Ohringen called 'Wickersley' and a display cabinet with photos and news about Wickersley in the Ohringen Town Hall.

2023 is our turn to travel to Germany in time for the Ohringen Wine Festival. Our welcome will be very warm, with many residents talking fondly of their time spent in Wickersley. If you wish to send a message to your Ohringen friends we will be happy to take it.

Sally Underwood

