Wickham Parish Magazine

October 2026

Available in Pages & Heming in the square for 50p



The Taste of Wickham

From an original photo by Denis Boylan

Chilled Art

Here is this month's collection of paintings. Heather's *River Meon*, Paul's *Life Puzzle*, Cee's *Armande Roulin (after Van Gogh)*, Malcolm's *Burrell Steam Engine*, Gerry's *Winter Light* and Sara's *Siamese Fighting Fish*. Yvonne's *Maison Impossible*, Liz's *Cactus Flower*, Chris's *Abstract Flowers*, Ann's *Love in the Mist*, my *Leafy Sea Dragon* and Marilyn's *Seascape*.























Patricia Fray



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Wickham PO17 6HP
(The United Benefice of St Nicholas, Wickham and St John the Baptist, Shedfield)
www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk

Rector
Revd Canon Fiona Grove



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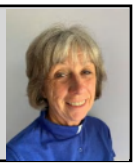
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01329 833 043
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01329 833 805

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info@almahdi.org.uk
07753 813 075

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Chris Cannadine
safeguardingsjbstn@gmail.com
07938 713 283

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Explorers
Mrs Jenny Bunce
1stwickhamscoutgroup@gmail.com
01329 832 555

Dementia Support
Helpline 0344 324 6589
support@mydementiasupport.com
www.mydementiasupport.org

Community Care
To request transport
07880732812
Information only; Heather Oswald
01329 835061 or
Chris Pitt 01329 833659

Hampshire County Councillor
Angela Clear
01329 832 923

Home-Start Meon Valley
c/o Wickham Centre
01329 835 936

Knowle Residents' Association
Chairman Loraine Rappé
07736 300949

Meon Valley District of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Neighbourhood Watch Association
Nigel Prior
Area Coordinator 07960959212
www.hampshirealert.co.uk
www.ourwatch.org.uk

Meon Valley Lions Club
drop us a line via our website
Meon Valley Lions Club (CIO)
Feedback welcome

Parish Clerk
Sophie Thorogood
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01329 553 254

Rowans Hospice Support Group
Eileen Jayne-Wood MBE
023 9232 4085 / 07940 805 431

Royal British Legion
Secretary: David Robinson
gosportdave5@gmail.com
07484 279 060

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U3A
Jim Busby
01329 237 504

Wickham & District Small-bore Rifle Club
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01329 834 242

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Chair: Frank Dixie

Website:wickhamchamber.org.uk
Email:getintouch@wickhamchamber.org.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/wickhamchamber

Wickham Church of England
Primary School Reception
01329 833 065

Wickham Community Garden
wickhamcommunitygarden@gmail.com

Wickham Community Information Volunteers
Jane & Hilary 07814 296 312
enquiries@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

Wickham Community Land Trust
Contact David Peters
07491 674 887
www.wickhamclt.org.uk

Wickham Community Pantry
wickhampantry@gmail.com

Wickham Community Tennis
Sue North
01329 832 016

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Secretary: Matt Gibbison
mattheusgibbison@gmail.com

Wickham Dynamos FC
Secretary Lesley Wilde
theburtbunch@gmail.com
07767 605913

Wickham History Society
Vanessa Burlingham
01329 835 283

Wickham in Bloom
wickhaminbloom@hotmail.com
Facebook; Wickham in Bloom
Celebrating our Village

Wickham Morris Dancers
Mr Eric Bright
30 Wykeham Field
01329 833 927

Wickham Residents Association
Mike Perkins
chair@wickhamresidents.org.uk

Wickham Runners
Facebook: Wickham Runners

Wickham Society
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01329 833 583
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Wickham Speedwatch
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Hello,
What a great start back to the autumn term we are having. I have really enjoyed these first few weeks, as life in the parish has revived after the break of the summer. It has been such a joy to welcome families back to Ducklings, being back in the schools for assemblies, joining in with the crafts on Tuesdays at 10, to name but a few. There seems to be a buzz in the air. For me, autumn is one of my favourite seasons. For me, this is the best season for noticing change. We see this from September as the youngest members of our community move into new academic years, some starting school for the first time, but we see this and feel this keenly in nature.
As you drive around our beautiful benefice, you can't help but notice that the trees are turning, the weather is cooling (slightly), and we have had some well-needed rain. The plants and crops have reached their potential, and harvest time is upon us.
I am fully aware that harvest time comes quicker each year, and crop yield is down from what it should be. I am very grateful for the dedication and hard work that our farmers put in to keep food on our plates.
We live in challenging times, and the need to look out for each other and support one another is key.
So, whilst I get to enjoy the benefits that autumn brings: pumpkin lattes, muddy walks, leaf jumping, and toasting marshmallows, I am mindful that autumn also points to some challenges coming, not least of all the need for some heating to be turned on in the coming weeks. For some of us, this won't really be an issue, but for others, this is a scary prospect.
My prayer and hope this autumn is that we can become a gathered community, each looking out for those around us, aware of each other's needs. I hope that the church may be a place of warmth and welcome to you.
The church in the book of Acts speaks of a community devoted to each other and where need was met. It is a great example of love in action, and Jesus' commandment to 'love your neighbour as yourself' was the foundation.
So may we take up the challenge to be a community where love in action is tangible; may we be a warm and welcoming benefice where everyone feels that they belong.
With love,
Reverend Lindsey and the Ministry Team



The United Benefice of Shedfield and Wickham



Services in the Benefice – October 2026

	8.00am	10.00am	Other
Sunday 4th October HARVEST Trinity 18		St Nicholas, Wickham: Communion	St. Nicholas, Harvest Supper at 6 pm
Sunday 11th October Trinity 19	St John the Baptist, Shedfield: Holy Communion (traditional language)	St John the Baptist, Shedfield: Communion	St Nicholas, Wickham: 6.00pm Deanery Commissioning Service for Revd Jill Phipps as Deanery Support Officer
Sunday 18th October Trinity 20		St Nicholas, Wickham: Communion with worship group (more informal style)	Waltham Chase Village Hall: 6.00pm Chase Church
Sunday 25th October Bible Sunday Trinity 21	St Nicholas, Wickham: Holy Communion (traditional language)	St John the Baptist, Shedfield: Sunday Service	

Services may be subject to change; please check the Benefice website for the latest information
https://shedfieldwickham.hubb.church

Mothers' UNION 150 years

Growing together in hope – in September, Mothers' Union focused prayers particularly on the Community of the Cross of Nails. This is a worldwide network of some 300 churches, charities, chaplaincies, peace-building and retreat centres, schools and other educational and training organisations, all inspired by the Coventry story of destruction during the Second World War, rebuilding and renewal, and active in reconciliation in their own ways. Their three guiding principles are: i)Healing the wounds of history, ii) Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity, and iii) Building a culture of justice and peace; the latter two of which fit well with the aims of the MU. In the mid-fifties, some time during my first year of life, not long after my father, who was a test pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, was killed in a flying incident, I was taken into the ruins of Coventry Cathedral and held in the arms of the then Bishop of Coventry, Cuthbert Bardsley. He blessed me and prayed for me to live a long and happy life and be a faithful follower of God. For this reason I have always had a soft spot for Coventry Cathedral and was able to visit it conveniently when I was a police officer in Warwickshire. I am still a work in progress, but I would like to think that both Bishop Cuthbert (d.1991) and God are still watching over me.

At our September meeting we were entertained by our own member, Jo Wilkes, who recalled her trip around the world nearly 80 years ago. After passing their nursing exams, she made her way to the USA on a huge passenger ship with a friend. They were first in the East Side of New York, after which they went their separate ways. Owing to the time allowed for her talk, it was a whistle-stop tour, but Jo spoke about visiting various places including Vancouver, then on to Fiji, Australia and New Zealand. She told us amusing stories about using travel vouchers and how passport security overlooked the fact that she didn't have a particular stamp needed in her passport for work or entry into the country. Things were a little different in those days, but we got the impression that an attractive, confident girl like Jo was able to talk her way in! She seemed to find work very easily wherever she went, and she wanted to emphasise how you didn't need a lot of money to travel around the world.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th in St Nicholas Church Room, at which MU Christmas cards, diaries, etc. will be available. In November we are holding a special fundraising event to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union at which everyone is welcome. Come along to our pre-Christmas Bring and Buy Sale on Wednesday, November 18th in Wickham Community Centre, PO17 5AL, from 2.00-4.00 pm. Bring a friend and something to sell if possible, but come anyway to see what we do and buy some gifts.

We will continue working to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities, both locally and around the world. All are welcome to "Join Us and Join In".
Sabrina Gwynn - Tel. 01329 834547




Bell Repair Fundraising
Fancy Dress Dinner
Bells & Bows
Saturday 14th November at Shedfield Study Centre
6:30 for 7:00
Menu:
Stew and Dumplings or
Ratatouille with Crusty Bread
Dessert & coffee
gluten free options available
Bring a bottle
Belles & Beaux
£25
Tickets at:
bookings@shedfield-wickham.org.uk or 01329 832162

Life After Death



Life after death is perhaps not a subject one would normally expect an engineer to write about, and any theological questions raised by the title are probably best directed to the vicar. For me, though, it is about a tree.
At the front of my house there was a magnificent old beech tree, but unfortunately, about five years ago, it started to die. At 200-250 years old, it had enjoyed a reasonable innings, as they say, but I suspect increasing temperatures were what finally did for it.
And when it became clear it wasn't going to recover, I had to get rid of it. But it was such a glorious tree, I wanted to do something more than just cut it off at ground level … but what?

Having seen some wonderful stump sculptures in various places, I thought something of that ilk would be good, but again, what? The 20ft stump (is that a stump?) was tall and slender, and I felt woodland or nature scenes would be too twee (with absolutely no offence intended to any of the beautiful examples I've seen – just not very 'me'!) and too small to see higher up the tree, but I do like dragons – marvellously majestic creatures of myth and legend that appear in almost every culture's folklore and in a vast array of fantasy writing; few creatures are as universally recognisable as the dragon, and they seem to capture the imagination wherever they appear.

Clearly, this project was utterly beyond my ability – with practice and a fair degree of concentration, I can almost draw a stickman – so after a little hunting on the internet, I found some people who specialise in tree-carving. After a little back-and-forth with several carvers, Roger Coolbear of Rusticmania quickly emerged as the clear choice to make my idea a reality. He took my desire for a dragon and came up with some fantastic designs, of which this was the original:

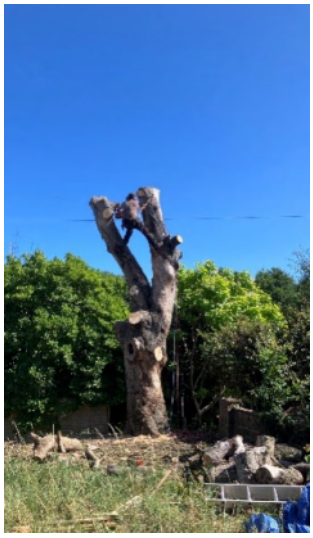


Unfortunately, when Roger inspected the tree, he found that a fair amount of rot had set in deep to one side of the trunk. Rather than declaring the project impossible, with irrepressible good humour and enviable determination, he reworked the design to accommodate the tree's condition while still preserving the original concept, treating every issue as just another design challenge.



As the weather improved and when Roger had finished his other commissions (he is quite rightly in high demand!), he was able to start work.

I spent a considerable amount of time watching Roger work (far more entertaining than doing my own work!) and what struck me most was how much of the sculpture seemed to emerge not from a fixed plan, but from Roger's ability to work with whatever the tree threw at him. About a tonne of hidden nails appeared where none should have been (top tip – don't nail things to trees!) and rot revealed itself in awkward places. Yet each obstacle became merely part of the process. Chainsaws, Demels, chisels and sanders all played their part; sawdust flew everywhere, albeit carefully contained by the tarp. He sculpted and whittled, working with the quirks of the natural grain, and somehow coaxed a dragon from a dead beech.
Even after watching the whole process, I still have absolutely no idea how he's managed to bring the dragon to life. Such talent, skill and artistry!
But the story does not end there. Every dragon deserves a history, and this one is no






exception. I'm planning to put up a board with a short chapter about his life and adventures – all dragons have adventures! – and there'll be a new chapter every month, starting from whenever I manage to write it …

So, life after death? For my tree, an emphatic yes. Once it had died, I simply couldn't bear the thought of it being chopped up for firewood. There is so much in the world that can be reused, repurposed or restored rather than discarded. Instead of becoming firewood and disappearing forever, this old beech has been given a second life. Or rather, Roger has given it one. What was once a dead tree is now a magnificent dragon, and with a little luck it will continue to delight people for many years to come.





Wickham Chamber of Trade

The next Wickham Chamber of Trade Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25th November at 5:30 pm. The venue will be announced soon.































The Taste of Wickham Festival
Photos by Denis Boylan & Richard Cannadine

WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

www.wickhamhistory.org.uk

For those who wish to join, or attend any of the talks, then please get in touch with our membership secretary Vanessa Burlingham on 01329 835283. Alternatively use the contact page on the website



2026 AUTUMN PROGRAMME

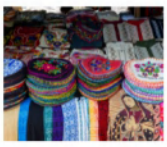
September meeting - For the first meeting of the Autumn programme, we heard 'Nelson: A National Triumph and a Hero's Sad Return' by Nigel Linger. In the second in a trilogy on Nelson, Nigel took us through the last moments of a national hero, his homecoming and the great outpouring of affection from a grateful King and nation following his tragic loss – at the very moment of his greatest triumph: Trafalgar 1805.
See our website and the next parish magazine for the meeting report.

Next meeting: TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER - Curator, historian and archaeologist Dr Abigail Coppins presents 'Prisoners of war at Portchester Castle and in the parole towns of Hampshire, 1793-1814'. During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, thousands of prisoners of war were held in Portchester Castle, as well as towns and villages across Hampshire. Hear how the prisoners were captured, how they were treated at the castle, and what happened to them after their release.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except in December which is the second Tuesday. Annual membership is only £10pp. Visitors are most welcome at £3pp per meeting. For more information and programme updates, please check our website at







Pop along, and treat yourself at our fabulous craft fair. Sunday 1 November 9am - 12pm



Monday afternoon garden club

NEW!

Come along to our new garden club! In addition to our established Wednesday morning garden club, there will be a new, relaxed club on Monday afternoons. For more information, contact Fletch at wickhamcommunitygarden@gmail.com

WICKHAM Community Garden

WICKHAM Community Centre

Mill Lane, Wickham, PO17 5AL
Tel: 01329 833688
E: contact@wickhamcentre.co.uk
FB: wickhamcommunitycentre
www.wickhamcommunitycentre.org.uk

Charity No: 1090544

What's On?

For more information about any of the activities, please see the website, Facebook page or contact the centre by email or phone.



With fabulous stalls, food, drink, a raffle, community projects selling their wares, and, of course, Santa!

Mondays

Homestart Family Sessions
Slimming World
Steady and Strong
Social Suppers
Citizens Advice
Pickleball
Rifle Club
Dog training



Tuesdays

Welcome room and Pantry
Foodbank
Seasons art class
Citizens Advice
SDCA ringcraft
Scallywags dog training

citizens advice

Wednesdays

Garden Club
Men's Shed
Citiens Advice
Karate
Pilates
Badminton
Ukulele
Friendship cafe (monthly)

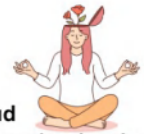


Thursdays

Chilled Art
Rifle Club
Upholstery
Play to the Crowd
Aeromodellers
Meditation



Fridays



Pilates
Badminton
Dance out Loud
Everyone Active circuits class
Jiggy Wrigglers
Phoenix Motorcycle training
Pickleball
Encore Choir

Weekends



Rifle Club
The Serenity Den
Badminton
Athena Fayre (monthly)
Ballroom/ Tea dance (monthly)





Thursday 15th October

The devil is back— and she's brought receipts.

Screening soon, The Devil Wears Prada 2 reunites the iconic, Oscar-winning powerhouse cast! See cinema royalty Meryl Streep return as the ice-cold Miranda Priestly, alongside Anne Hathaway as a matured Andy Sachs, Emily Blunt as a fierce new corporate rival, and Stanley Tucci delivering the sharpest wit in fashion.

Joined by newcomers Lucy Liu and Justin Theroux, the original cast faces a digital world they refuse to bow to. When high-stakes betrayal threatens Runway, Miranda and Andy must form an alliance you won't want to miss. Packed with jaw-dropping style and unforgettable female power, this is the ultimate feel-good night out. Grab your friends and dress to impress!

October Events

10 October
Jeu Jeu La Folie performance
Seeded Destash fair
11 October
Indoor Car boot
Tea dance
17/ 18 October
Mind, Body, Spirit fair
23 October
Stitches comedy club
25 October
Athena fair
30 October
Halloween Disco

Autumn Programme 2026

Meetings are held at the Wickham Community Centre starting at 7.30 pm. Membership is £8 per annum or £2.50 for an occasional visitor. New members and visitors are always welcome.

13 October 2026
Wickham Community Centre
Hear about this vital community resource that we all take for granted!

Kat Short, Chair

10 November 2026
Iran behind the headlines
Learn about the context and life for ordinary citizens in Iran
Parviz Daneshvar,
Wickham Resident

8 December 2026



A Hampshire Midwinter
Find out how Christmas and other midwinter festivals have been celebrated through the years
Erica Wheeler, Author of
'The Little Book of Hampshire'
Joint meeting with Wickham History Society.

For more information visit our website or contact wendy.greenish@gmail.com or 01329 833583
www.wickhamsociety.org.uk

Still celebrating Forest Folk's 25th anniversary this year – really pleased with the feedback we have had and feeling grateful to have such great support.

There will be a Singaround evening on Monday 5th October 2026 in the North Boarhunt Social Club, starting 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome, whether you want to sing, play, recite a poem or just enjoy; it's all very relaxed and friendly. Three lovely evenings to follow for our autumn programme; we will let you know what is happening in 2027 soon.

Please ring 07785 276169 or 07976 713949 for tickets / further information, or email info@forestfolk.co.uk. Do sign up to our email list for regular updates on events at Forest Folk.
Concert evenings are held in the Village Hall and start at 8 pm, with doors to the hall open at 7.30 pm. The bar will be open from 7 pm, serving beers, lagers and soft drinks, etc. There is a car park behind the hall; otherwise, please park carefully in the lane, being considerate to our neighbours. Many thanks.
Keep safe, and we hope to see you soon.
Charles Gale, Forest Folk
www.forestfolk.co.uk



Breabach
19 October2026



Blue Rose Code
23 November2026



Man The Lifeboats
14 December2026

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2026

Sunday 25th January	Sunday 26th July
Sunday 22nd February	Sunday 30th August
Sunday 29th March	Sunday 27th September
Sunday 26th April	Sunday 25th October
Sunday 31st May	Sunday 29th November
Sunday 28th June	December Closed

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2026

SUNDAY	20th	SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY	11th	OCTOBER
SUNDAY	8th	NOVEMBER
SUNDAY	13th	DECEMBER

2027

SUNDAY	10th	JANUARY
SUNDAY	14th	FEBRUARY
SUNDAY	14th	MARCH
SUNDAY	11th	APRIL

9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Hot and Cold Refreshments available

50p Admission - Children Free (accompanied)

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33rd Wickham Charity Beer & Cider Festival

3rd October 2026 at Wickham Community Centre
Afternoon Session - start 11:00 – end 16:30
Evening Session - start 17:30 – end 22:30

Expect more than 25 Ales/Kegs plus 8 Ciders

Food will be available during both sessions, and we'll have great entertainment during the evening featuring 'CARPET DAMAGE' supported by Ben Haselip

Check out our Website for all the information you'll need at www.wickhambeerfestival.co.uk Follow us on Facebook and don't forget to tell your friends

Get yor Tickets from: www.wickhambeerfestival.co.uk or www.ticketsource.com

Prices (including Festival Glass and Programme) :

Saturday Afternoon Session:	**£ 9.00**
Saturday Evening Session:	**£12.00**
All Day Saturday Ticket:	**£14.00**

And the Charities we'll be supporting are:

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE

The Rainbow Centre

Ickle Pickles

Quiz NIGHT

UNE SOIRÉE FRANÇAISE

THE SQUARE COW

WICKHAM

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026

7PM | QUIZ TO START AT 8PM

Le Menu

Bœuf Bourguignon
slow-braised beef, red wine

Ratatouille
rich tomato & garlic sauce, fresh herbs

served with fresh baguettes

£15 PER TICKET
MEAL & QUIZ ENTRY INCLUDED

Bring your own team, buy your drinks at the bar, and stay for a music round that might just get everyone up dancing.

Open to all – the more the merrier!

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Wickham Twinning Association

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***What/Who is WCC?**

A group of volunteer Wickham residents who take local residents to medical and other appointments that could not be attended on foot because of age or infirmity, or by public transport—because there often isn't any!

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Hospital and other medical appointments are increasing.
Do you have any time on your hands? Want to help your local community? Just a few hours a week would make all the difference.

Your car expenses are reimbursed by patients, who are always grateful, and they pay a recommended donation for each journey to fund this vital service.

If you think you could offer any time...all that's needed is...a car, a current driving licence, and a yearning to assist another villager in need. Just a few hours a week could make all the difference to the continuing viability of our driving team.

A DBS check will be given, as will added vehicle insurance whilst performing the volunteer task... for more information, please call

Heather Oswald 01329 835061 or
Chris Pitt 01329 833659

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Good day. We had our first meeting in our new venue today—Swanmore Village Hall. It has a stage, a fitted projector and screen, comfortable seats, and ample parking. We are delighted with it, especially as our first lecturer, Paul Lillie, gave us a history of the Beatles accompanied by a painting of the Beatles, which he later auctioned for our benefit...and music to boot. He attracted a much bigger audience and several new members. So…

For October, on 6/10, John Landaw is lecturing on "Eye Disease." This will be particularly relevant to our group as he is covering recent advances in cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration. John is well known in the Wickham region as a raconteur and all-round good egg!

On 20/10, Brian Sutton is talking on "Charles Dickens—it was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Brian is an accomplished speaker and has lectured to us before.

On 3/11/26, Alan Abbott, our distinguished Treasurer, will be talking on "Route 66", the famous USA road route, which he drove recently.

On 17/11/26, Marin Letts will help us discover what "Working and Wandering in Australia" is all about.

We now meet at Swanmore Village Hall. New Road, Swanmore SO32 2HF. Just opposite the Swanmore College and on a bus route.

Everybody is welcome. Guests will get an especially warm welcome. (Guests pay £2 to defray speaker costs.) Tea and biscuits are provided after the talk, and we always have pre-loved books for charitable sale. All lectures start at 2 pm.

Lyndon (programme organiser)
Contact: 07881991763
Or lyndonplmr@gmail.com
Website: southeast.u3asite.uk

WINTER DELIGHTS

After the fabulous events at The Palace over the summer, the Festival team are delighted to present yet more great entertainment this winter.

Once again, in partnership with Chaplin's Pantos, we are thrilled to bring you Aladdin, a traditional pantomime for the whole family. Come with us on a spectacular journey across time and space to visit the magical City of OLD PEKING! Packed solid with comedy, excitement and adventure, children will love to cheer their hero ALADDIN and boo the evil ABANAZAR. They will roar with laughter at the antics of WISHEE WASHEE and WIDOW TWANKY and gasp with amazement when the GENIE appears. All this is brought to life by a cast of five top entertainers from the world of PANTOMIME (playing eight character parts). It's all good old-fashioned fun that you would normally only see in a top-line theatre.
We very much hope you can join us on Saturday 12th December in The Jubilee Hall. Doors open at 1.30 pm; the show starts at 2.00 pm. Tickets available at www.bwfestival.art and at Willow Pet Supplies in the High Street (opposite the Co-Op!).
On that same evening, we will recreate the party atmosphere from our June festival Brewhouse stage, with local DJs and a real Christmas party vibe. Visit our website for all the details – www.bwfestival.art.

Finally, save the date for a return to Bishop's Waltham of Rain or Shine Theatre presenting "Dracula; Totally Batty" on 9th February, an hilarious retelling of the Dracula myth for the whole family. More details in the next edition of the magazine.

The Unfriend by Steven Moffat

Curdridge Amateur Drama Group present an amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books 26th-28th November at the Reading Rooms Curdridge

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Tickets on sale from 9th September - More details at www.curdridgedrama.co.uk
Curdridge Drama meet for rehearsals Mondays & Thursdays 7.45 pm at the Reading Rooms. If you would like to be involved in our production, why not come and meet us?
We are also holding some Play Readings. These are not auditions, simply a chance for people to read and enjoy a play. The next evening will be at the Reading Rooms on 24th September at 7.30 pm. Please let us know by emailing contact@curdridgedrama.co.uk if you are going to join us, so that we can contact you in the event of a last-minute change to our schedule.

Bishops Waltham Gardening Club

Pruning might seem an easy task, but it's so easy to make a mess of it if you don't know how to do it properly. That's why we have invited CHRIS BIRD to lead our 'Speaker Event' on Wednesday, 25th November. Chris has such experience in horticulture that this has got to be an event full of anecdotes and excellent advice.
Early in his career, Chris worked as a junior foreman at Hilliers Nursery. In 1986, he embarked on his career as a Lecturer in Horticulture at Sparsholt College, where he continues to inspire students today.
Chris has a lifelong interest in plants and has worked with many organisations, including Plant Heritage, RHS, and National Trust. Since 1998, he has co-ordinated Sparsholt College's display gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show. His results include seven gold medals and four best-in-category awards, a testament to his guidance and skill. He has been described as a dedicated lecturer, passionate about horticulture, and student-focused. He is also funny, knowledgeable, and extremely hard-working.
At: St Peter's Church Hall, Free St., Bishops Waltham, SO32 1NS
Open at 6.45pm for a 7.00 pm start.
Tea/Coffee etc. available.
Raffle. Members free; Visitors £2.
www.bwgc.org.uk/Whats-On/ ; Facebook

SAINT FRANCIS AT A WORKBENCH IN PAISLEY

By Fiach OBroin-Molloy, maker and beekeeper at Paisley Honey



With the feast of Saint Francis approaching on 4 October, I have been thinking about what it means to make something inspired by him. Eight hundred years after his death, my own response has taken shape at a workbench in Paisley.

I am a beekeeper as well as a maker, and the two kinds of work have more in common than might first appear. Both require patience and close attention: to the life of a colony, the character of a stone or the feel of a finished piece in the hand.

For this collection, I designed a Tau cross showing Francis with his arms outstretched among birds. A small bee provides a quiet connection with the hives I tend in the west of Scotland. I paired the cross with green jade and antiqued brass, choosing materials with a natural warmth that I hope will grow more familiar through being handled and used.

Francis is often remembered for his affection for animals and the natural world. Yet his love of creation grew from a life centred upon Christ. I wanted the cross to hold those things together: the birds and the bee surrounding the figure of Francis, with the shape of the Tau remaining at its heart.

The collection includes 33-bead Anglican prayer beads, made according to their established pattern of prayer. I assemble them by hand as objects intended for use - in prayer, in stillness and during all the ordinary moments when we find ourselves needing to begin again.

Saint Francis collection: paisleyhoney.com/saint-francis-collection

Mindful Stitchers

Here we are in autumn again. The Mindful Stitch group continues to meet monthly on the third Tuesday afternoon at St John's Study Centre, Shedfield.

We vary our activities considerably, and at our next meeting we will be attempting some printing. Meanwhile, we are taxing our brains about decorating a window for the Christmas season in St John's.

If you would like to join a group interested in a variety of crafts, we meet monthly in the Shedfield Study Centre on the third Tuesday at 2 pm.

Please contact : Jennifer Wilks 07791203880 or Sarah Weston 07814572341



Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

Our 14th Annual Exhibition was held at the United Free Church, Bishop's Waltham, from 10–12 September. More than 350 visitors attended, helped perhaps by the earlier September dates and better light levels.
The Preview Evening welcomed members, familiar faces, and invited guests. The Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Jamie Scott, opened the exhibition and praised the value of community groups sharing skills and supporting one another. He also presented the Junior competition awards. Finley M won the under-11s category, while Esme S won the 12–16 category. Congratulations to all who entered.
Visitors chose their favourite image from 95 print entries, two panels, 63 digital slideshow images, and 18 camera phone pictures. A total of 282 votes were cast, with Rob Day's 'Just Girlin' named the winner.

Exhibition Co-Ordinator Nicky Higgens thanked all members who contributed, noting that the exhibition showcased the breadth and quality of the Society's photography. Visitors clearly appreciated the variety, with every printed entry receiving at least one vote and many photographers gaining support for several images. Feedback was very positive, and the exhibition's success reflected the care, effort, and shared work of everyone involved.
Coming Up:
On 1st October, members Pip Smith and Dawn Blight will explore how impressive animal images can be created without travelling abroad or waiting for long periods in the wild. Their presentation will focus on the many opportunities available at zoos and wildlife parks across the UK, showing how these settings can still produce striking and rewarding results.
If you have recently acquired a new camera or want to rekindle your hobby or even find out how to improve your skills using a camera phone, Bishops Waltham Photographic Society will welcome you and help you with your photography. Why not come along to one of our meetings (free of charge) as a taster?
We meet once or twice a month at St. Peter's Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. Always on the first Thursday, then other Thursdays depending on our calendar. Please take a look at our website at www.bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk or drop an email to info@bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk for more information.


BW Photo Society_Junior Winner 12 Category_ Esme S with Serenity'



Public Vote Winner Rob åDay with Just Girlin'


BW Photo Society_Junior Winner U11's Category_Finley M with Waterfall at Welcombe Mouth


BW Photo Society 2026 Exibition_junior photo competition winners





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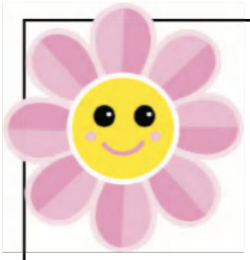
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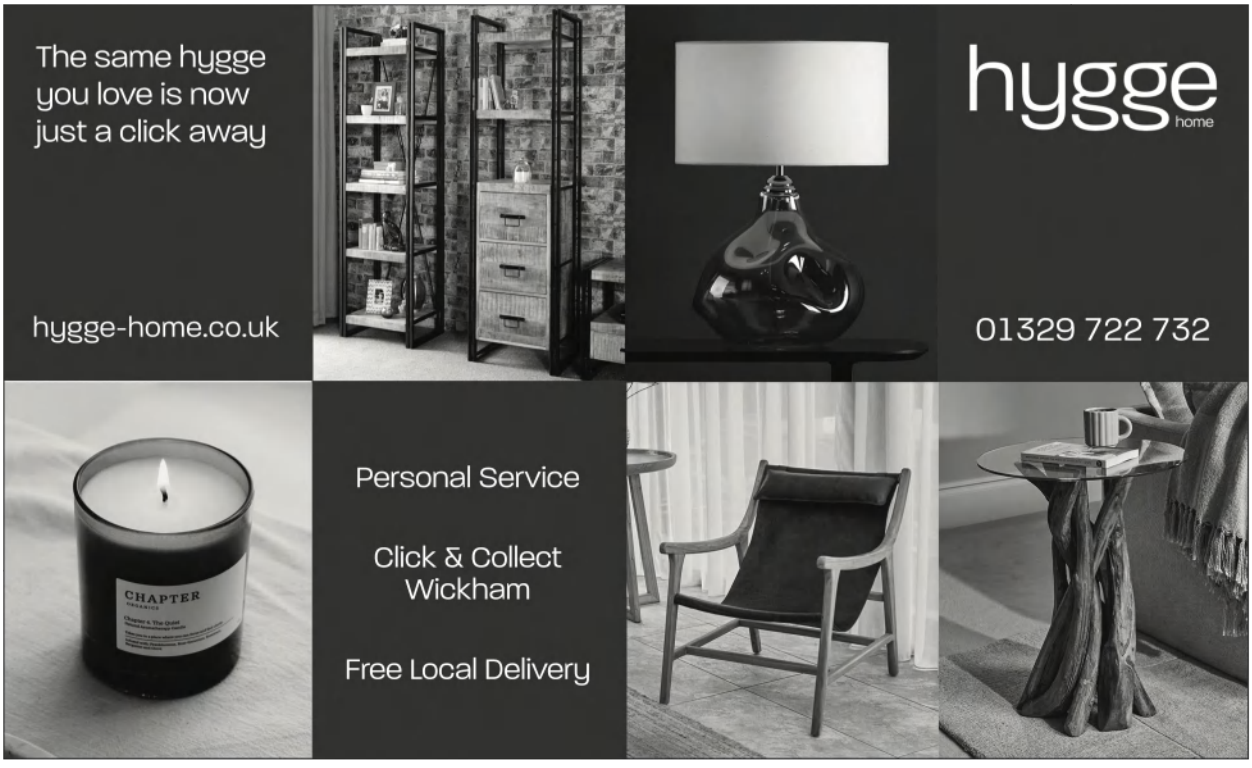
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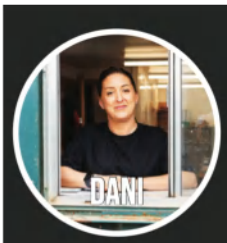
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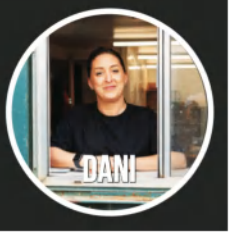
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Some Observations by Denis Boylan

In WWII, when Japan declared war, the US authorities rounded up all Japanese-born residents living in California and sent them to internment camps.
A retired local man, Bob Fletcher, soon realised that his Japanese neighbour's homes and garden plots were falling into neglect. He took it upon himself to upkeep the properties and tend their fruit gardens. An act not shared by many of his US neighbours.
After the Japanese surrender in 1945, when the Okamoto, Nitta and Tsukamoto families were released and returned home, they discovered that their homes and garden plots had been well cared for, and Bob Fletcher handed them balance sheets of annual fruit sales and bank books showing the annual profits of the sales.

Neighbours, eh?

Gander 2001

Following the New York Twin Towers attacks, the US Aviation System suspended all incoming transatlantic flights and gave orders for inbound flights to divert to Gander, Newfoundland.
US Air traffic control ordered Gander to contact incoming aircraft and issue landing instructions. There were 37 inbound aircraft with 6,000 passengers and 467 flight crew.
US-bound flights would be suspended for several days.
Gander has a population of about 10,000. Hotel space was limited. There would be an obvious passenger and air crew accommodation problem.
Gander local Radio issued a plea for any local residents with any spare accommodation to come forward.
Within an hour there were dozens of station wagons, pick-ups, private cars and trucks lining the airport approach.
Every incoming passenger and flight crew member was found a bed.....for several days.
Neighbours, hey?

Some years ago a late snowstorm saw police close Hoad's Hill and they directed stranded drivers to St Nicholas Church room. When it was full, phone calls were made and the 'overspill' were found accommodation with local residents.
Yes, neighbours!

Wickham Fire Station

Not all residents of Wickham are aware that the Wickham Fire Station is manned by local on-call firefighters. During the recent New Forest fires, they attended many call-outs, both in the N.F.and around Hampshire, attending incidents and also relieving other stations engaging the recurring heathland fires.
On three occasions during the summer, Wickham were mobilised to the Isle of Wight to assist with ongoing incidents including relief crews for deployed stations.
In all, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service logged an astonishing 10,000 man-hours tackling the New Forest fires, with 176 appliances from 45 different HIWFRS stations.
Well done, boys, feathers in caps!

Old village story

The old farmer's horse breaks free and runs away. His neighbours sympathise and he mumbles, 'maybe'
The horse returns with a wild stallion, his neighbours congratulate him on his good fortune, and he mumbles, 'maybe'
His son breaks his leg trying to tame the stallion. His neighbours rally to offer their commiserations and, of course, he mutters 'maybe'
Then the army arrives to conscript men for the war but excuses the man with the broken leg.
The old man smiles!

DB

Meon Voices

Concert preparation with a magical Christmas in mind

The autumn term is well underway as Meon Voices prepares its popular Christmas concert with weekly practices in Bishops Waltham's United Free Church every Monday night from 7.30 p.m.
Musical Director Emma Dean says: "I am excited by the warm community spirit that emanates from this talented and committed group of people, and by everyone's dedication to creating an outstanding sound together. We have a seriously good, diverse programme this year, with old favourites and new challenges that we know you will love."
If you are interested in joining Meon Voices, you are invited to put your name down on the waiting list. You don't need to audition, nor be able to read music, although it helps; there is lots of support, learning and above all, camaraderie.
Please email Chair Jane Vose on janevose@icloud.com or 07850 717705 or Secretary Tracey Tudball, traceytudball@yahoo.co.uk or 07774 694453.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE – WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

As we head into Autumn, our first update regards a recent Central Government announcement on Local Government Reorganisation. At the time of writing, we only have a limited amount of information regarding the announcement, which we've summarised below. One of the key aspects that has been confirmed, though, is that the local elections, planned for next May, will go ahead – with candidates standing for the existing Winchester City Council Wards / District. We'll of course keep you updated, as we receive more information in our next update.

GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION DECISION

On 7 September, the government advised us that its decision on Local Government Reorganisation for Hampshire (alongside four other areas announced in March) has been withdrawn.
The government has said this decision follows legal advice and will allow it to review the evidence and consider how the proposals meet the ambitions of the new government. At this stage, we do not have any further detail about what this means for Hampshire, the timetable for reorganisation or the next steps, although the government has indicated it intends to do a rapid review.
The government has confirmed that local elections to the current councils will now go-ahead next May. We'll keep you updated as we learn more.

ANOTHER LOCAL FLY-TIPPING PROSECUTION

Winchester City Council has successfully prosecuted a man of a fly-tipping offence in the Winchester district after the incident was captured on camera.
38-year-old Jamie Ace Flynn pleaded guilty at Basingstoke Magistrates Court on Friday 21 August 2026. Parish Council surveillance cameras captured Mr Flynn, a resident of Wardown Crescent in Luton, fly-tipping rubbish from the boot of a vehicle in a public car park at New Road, Swanmore on the afternoon of Monday 24 October 2022.
Mr Flynn, the registered owner of the offending vehicle, failed to co-operate with our investigation until he was interviewed for an unrelated matter in March 2024.
He was sentenced to pay a fine of £600, a victim surcharge of £240, and prosecution and clear-up costs of £400, making a total to pay of £1,240.

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL GRANT HELPS LOCAL LADIES CRICKET CLUB

Our Grants Team has been able to help the new Shedfield Sixers Cricket Club to purchase essential equipment and launch their club.
The club said: "We're incredibly proud of what we've achieved in our first year as a club. Thanks to the support of this grant, we've created a fun, welcoming environment where women and girls aged 12+ from across the local area can come together, get active and enjoy cricket. We now have 36 members of all abilities.
"Whether someone has played cricket before or is picking up a bat for the very first time, everyone is welcome."
Could a small community grant help your local organisation? We currently have two grant schemes that are open for applications: https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations

UPDATED BIN COLLECTION CALENDARS

You'll soon receive your new bin calendar through the post, if you haven't already. It is specific to your address and a handy reminder of:

- Dates for your general waste, recycling, glass and food waste collections
- Garden waste collection dates (whether you subscribe to this service or not)
- Changes to your bin day due to bank holidays
- Dates for Christmas tree collections

All this information is also available by simply entering your postcode on our website www.winchester.gov.uk/bin-calendar
Why not sign up for bin day reminder emails at www.winchester.gov.uk/bin-day - we'll email you the evening before to remind you to put your bins out for collection.

Angela, Neil & Chris.
Winchester City Councillors

Hampshire County Councillor Report

I hope everyone in Wickham has enjoyed the end of summer. This month I would like to share a brief update on matters being considered by Hampshire County Council and on work affecting our local area.

Highways and transport

Road condition and traffic remain important concerns for residents. Southwick Road in Wickham is currently listed in the County Council's planned maintenance programme. Mill Lane is subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for 18 months while work continues on the embankment. The white lines in Wickham Square are due to be repainted, and additional enforcement will be on hand to deter illegal parking in the middle of the road. The M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme has also reached a significant stage, with the new junction due to open in phases from mid-September. Residents are encouraged to allow extra time while new arrangements settle and to check the County Council's travel information before setting out. Please continue to report potholes, drainage problems and damaged signs through the Hampshire Highways reporting service; clear locations and photographs are particularly helpful.

County services and finances

The County Council continues to face substantial financial pressures, particularly in adult social care, children's services and transport for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Its 2026/27 budget totals £3.3 billion and includes £40 million of planned savings. Protecting essential services and ensuring good value for residents remain central priorities, and I will continue to press for decisions that recognise the needs of rural communities such as Wickham.



Education and support for families

Investment in provision for children with special educational needs remains a welcome priority. The County Council recently announced progress towards more than 80 additional specialist places across Hampshire, alongside funding intended to create a further 120 places in Gosport and the New Forest. Increasing suitable local provision can help families and reduce the need for lengthy journeys.

Local government reorganisation

The Government has announced that it will review its previous decision on local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the wider Solent area. The process is therefore continuing to develop. Whatever structure is eventually agreed, my focus will remain on protecting accessible services, maintaining a strong voice for communities, and keeping residents informed.

Keeping in touch

Please do contact me if there is a County Council matter with which I may be able to help. I am always pleased to hear from residents and to raise local concerns with the appropriate officers. For urgent hazards on the highway, please use the County Council's online reporting service so that the matter enters the operational system without delay.

With best wishes,
Cllr Angela Clear
Hampshire County Councillor for Southern Parishes
Home: 01329 832923
Mobile: 07443 858572

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is now at a key point in its development.
The first full draft of the Plan has been written over the summer and is now being reviewed by the Steering Group. This substantial document covers many of the key issues facing our community that are relevant to future planning decisions. We are not allowed by the rules to address some issues, such as roads and traffic, which are the domain of Parish, City, and County Councils.
Once we are content that it is ready, our draft Plan will be submitted to Winchester City Council (WCC) for "screening", through which they will assess the environmental impact of each of the policies in the Plan. WCC will send a "screening report" to Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England. These agencies will read that report alongside our draft Plan to determine if a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), or both, are needed. This screening ensures that the implications on the environment, including protected wildlife, are properly considered.
Our work is carried out within the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which has just been updated (August 2026). With changes to planning regulations and the uncertainty over the future structure of local government, we must ensure that our own Neighbourhood Plan is delivered on time and with the right content if it is to have the impact we need.



In due course, all residents of the parish will be consulted formally on the Plan, which then has to be approved through a referendum. Your support is vital, and I will continue to keep you informed as we progress.

Philip Greenish
Chair of the Wickham and Knowle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

A Neighbourhood Plan is:

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the local planning authority
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place

For more information, go to: neighbourhoodplanning.org or Neighbourhood planning - GOV.UK. Notes of meetings and survey results are on the Parish Council website: (https://www.wickhamknowleparish.gov.uk/the-council/neighbourhood-plan/

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has 15 members with both Wickham and Knowle well represented. It reports to the Parish Council and has the support of a small, specialist consultancy.

Wickham and Knowle Parish Council



Cllr Craig Manuel

Wickham Recreation Ground Pavilion

Work on the sports pavilion at Wickham Recreation Ground started on the 26th of August 2026, with the first tile being removed.
As mentioned before, please help us keep the site safe during the works period.

- Please limit car parking at the recreation ground from Monday to Friday.
- Do not park in the corner of the recreation ground, which must remain clear for site access.
- Please be aware that large vehicles may need to enter and turn in the car park for deliveries and waste collections.
- Follow any instructions from contractors while work is underway.

Thank you for your patience, support and cooperation while this exciting project gets underway!

Questions or concerns? Please contact the Parish Clerk on 07770 246293 or



clerk@wickhamknowleparish.gov.uk

Supporting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

The Wickham Colour Run in July raised £282 for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, with £2 from every ticket sold donated to the charity.

Following the event, Parish Clerk Sophie Thorogood and Business and Events Manager Victoria Glenister were invited to tour the Air Ambulance facilities. They were given a fascinating insight into the charity's vital work and the challenges involved in providing its life-saving service.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance brings specialist doctors and advanced paramedics directly to seriously ill and injured patients, using both a helicopter and an emergency response vehicle. The service responds to an average of seven incidents every day, including cardiac arrests, road traffic collisions, falls and assaults, operating 365 days a year, day and night.

It costs approximately £17,750 every day to keep this essential service running! The charity relies entirely on the generosity of the communities it serves, making every donation and the support raised through events such as the Wickham Colour Run, hugely valuable.



Thank you to everyone who took part and helped support this important local charity.

Knowle Picnic on the Green

The Parish Council would like to thank the Knowle Residents' Association for all their hard work in organising this year's Picnic on the Green, which

was enjoyed by many.

A special thank you goes to the local businesses in Wickham and Knowle who generously donated raffle prizes, helping raise funds for Hounds for Heroes, a UK charity providing specially trained assistance dogs to physically disabled serving and former members of the Armed Forces and Emergency Services.
Thank you also to everyone who came along, the stallholders and performers (The Courtiers and Danny Jay) for helping to make it such an enjoyable day. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.







Taste of Wickham

The Parish Council was pleased to play its part in supporting this year's Taste of Wickham, providing grant funding towards this much-loved community event.

It was wonderful to see Wickham buzzing as our community came together to enjoy delicious food, local produce, live music and entertainment and, of course, plenty of smiles!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, stallholders, performers, organisers and local businesses who helped make the event such a success and to everyone who came along and supported the day.

Taste of Wickham was a fantastic celebration of our vibrant community and the wonderful people, businesses and organisations that make Wickham such a special place to live, work and visit.

Celebrating Our Twinning with Villers-sur-Mer

Wickham was delighted to welcome Chair Gladys Vgt and family from our twin town of Villers-sur-Mer, France, during this year's Taste of Wickham Festival.

During her visit, Wickham & Knowle Parish Council Chairman Craig Manuel gave Gladys a tour of the beautiful Wickham Water Meadows and joined her in completing the Wickham History Trail, exploring the village's rich heritage and character.

The visit also included a traditional English meal at The Square Cow, where Gladys was joined by

Helen Manuel, Chair of Wickham Twinning, Councillor Leah Greenbank and Parish Council Chairman Craig Manuel. The meal provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the long-standing friendship and cultural links between our communities.

The visit highlighted the strength of the twinning relationship between Wickham and Villers-sur-Mer, which continues to bring people together through shared experiences, friendship, and community spirit.

Speaking about her visit, Gladys said:

"You know how much I love Wickham 😍
The atmosphere, the charity shops, the antiques, the pubs. Today reminded me of the Jubilee in 2022 with all the people in the square 🥰
Happy to have seen so many people I've known for such a long time through the twinning. Looking forward to coming back in May 2027 with the twinning group."

We thank Gladys for joining us and helping make the Taste of Wickham Festival even more special. We look forward to welcoming our friends from Villers-sur-Mer back to Wickham in 2027 and continuing this wonderful partnership for many years to come.

Save the dates – Wickham and Knowle events:

Friday 9th October -
Quiz – Knowle Village Hall

Friday 16th October -
BINGO – Knowle Village Hall



First tile removal – In attendance - Graham Baker (Baker Newman Building Limited), Cllr Nic Holladay, Business and Events Manager Victoria Glenister, Parish Clerk Sophie Thorogood, Cllr Malc Burt, Cllr Craig Manuel, Kevin Newman (Baker Newman Building Limited)
See Wickham Recreation Ground Pavilion

Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Activeme 360 Football Coaching – Wickham MUGA

·Friday 30th October - BTD Coaching Halloween Fun Day – Knowle Village Hall

·Sunday 8th November Remembrance services in Wickham and Knowle

·Sunday 29th November – Wickham Christmas Light Switch On – Wickham Square

·Sunday 6th December – Knowle Christmas Carol Service – Knowle South Square



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