
Wickham Parish Magazine
November 2026
Available at Heming & Pages
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Chilled Art

Here is this month's collection of paintings. Marilyn's *Steele Life*, Cee's *Cute Dolly*, Gerry's *Dragon (work in progress)* and Liz's *Koala*. Next we have Chris's *Florence Sunset*, Ann's *Fuschia* and Sara's *Spike the Hedgehog*. Finally we have Yvonne's *Village Café after Van Gogh*, my *Autumn Blue Tit* and Malcolm's *Golden Hill, Shaftsbury*.





















Patricia Fray

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Revd Canon Fiona

As I write this, the autumn colours are glorious, but the nights are definitely drawing in! Despite the very hot summer and 'false autumn' that started in August, we are definitely seeing the turn of the seasons. November is always a time of remembering, whether it's the Saints that have gone before us we remember on All Saints Day (1st November), loved ones we cherish and remember at All Souls (2nd November), or those who have given their lives for our country in the battlefields of time gone by (8th November). Those battlefields sadly still exist, but at Remembrance we come together to thank God for life, and that He is the source of all life, which surpasses death into the fulness of eternal life forever.

All this reminds me of one of the most familiar hymns sung on All Saints Day, "For all the Saints" – the words of which follow this article. It's a fascinating hymn and I encourage you to read about its origin here: https://anglicancompass.com/hymn-guide-for-all-the-saints/

I wonder which Saint you would like to walk in the footsteps of? Would it be Saint Paul – who once persecuted Christians then had a dramatic conversion experience and gave his life to Jesus and spreading the good news over many thousands of miles (on foot!)? Or maybe it's Saint Patrick or Saint David or St Andrew? I dare not mention the Saints football team in my PO postcode (!!) but remember how the football club got its name: it was founded through St Mary's Church Young Men's Association. Who would you like to emulate, whether a Saint or not, and what would you like to be remembered for?

Remembering Jesus is at the heart of our Christian community – who He was, is, and is to come. He is someone worth emulating, and how to do that is written between the pages of scripture. At the end of this month we celebrate Advent – the start of the new Christian year, preparing most importantly our hearts and minds for Christmas, before we even think about unwrapping presents. Advent prepares us for the greatest gift of all time that was given to us to open the door to life forever in the birth of Jesus. Our experiences should change us, and that change, however challenging, should help us to become more rounded and fruitful citizens of earth.

As we remember and look back and celebrate lives well lived, let us look forward in hope to the life promised in Jesus. As we hold those two together let us think about what practical application that can have on our own lives. Peter Johnston, who wrote the article linked above about the hymn, says, "For a moment, the veil between this world and the next becomes thin, and in the final Alleluias, we catch a glimpse of heaven. Let our alleluias give praise to God and may we be inspired by all those saints who have gone before."
With Love,
Fiona and the Ministry Team.



Introducing Liz Morgan, who is a Reader in Training in the Church of England and will be on placement with us in Shedfield and Wickham between November and February. She will help lead various parts of our Sunday services and join in weekday events where possible. Here are a few words she has written for us:

I grew up in Swanmore for the first 7 years of my life, so I have many happy memories of this area, albeit most are from the 1960s!
I am married to Tony and have lived in Locks Heath for almost 20 years, 17 of which I have been the vicar's PA at St John's Church. Prior to that, I was a Police Officer, serving mainly in the New Forest where I lived at the time. People have always been my passion.
In my various churches throughout my life, I have undertaken many different roles, with motherhood and shift work permitting, but my journey to reader training came about from a slow realisation that I was being called by God into doing more. It began quietly with

running a home group, and then leading the Pastoral Care team, whilst becoming more involved in end-of-life support and introducing a bereavement and friendship café, which we hold monthly in our church. We realised that there was a need for more structured support and I trained to lead 'The Bereavement Journey', which comes from the AtaLoss charity. We have helped more than 200 people through the course now, and also supported leaders from other churches to increase this valuable ministry, as I firmly believe that we should always be seeking new ways to share the love of God, and to work together with others, wherever and however we find them.

I care for my 85-year-old mother and also my 96-year-old mother-in-law, who lives with us, so finding time for new ventures is always a challenge, but I take great joy in following the path God leads me on, and I know that all the blessings in my life are from Him. I am grateful for the opportunity to join you for a while, and I look forward to getting to know you all very soon.

Liz







Mothers' UNION 150 years

The MU mantra for October was Caring is sharing – sharing is caring. At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus declared that one of the tasks God had sent him to do was "to proclaim liberty to the captives, to let the oppressed go free" (Luke 4.18). Throughout his life, He continued to reveal in word and action God's love and compassion: God's desire for freedom and justice for all who are oppressed or held captive, whether in physical or spiritual bondage. Jesus' call is one for us all, especially those of us in Mothers' Union, to pray and to work for the liberation of others.

Our meeting on 13 October took place in Prisons Week. A video was played entitled "You're invited" from the website prisonsweek.org and this was the theme for our short worship at the start. Prisons Week wants to see an end to the human suffering caused by crime and imprisonment, for all those affected. It is organised and run by churches and groups from across the Christian community, including the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Prison and Probation Service and 22 others who issue a call to prayer for change where change is needed. It is a leading example of the broadest expressions of the church working together for a common good. For one special week every year, since the 1970s, the world is turned on its head and … prisoners pray for police officers, victims pray for offenders' families, judges pray for prison leavers, prison officers pray for probation officers, crime-affected communities pray for those in prison, and the church prays for them all. This is the Gospel to which we've all been called. It's upside down and front to back. It's where we are required to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and bless those who curse us. When we pray with faith, God often moves us to be the answer to those prayers. All praying together. And if prayer changes things, let's change the world… and pray for those who need something to change. There is lots of information on their website, prisonsweek.org. The feedback given at the meeting was that it was powerful and uplifting.

Last month I wrote about September's meeting whilst on holiday in Greece and omitted a few important bits of information. Firstly, an apology to Jo Wilkes who showed us her Nightingale Cross, which she received on completion of her nurses' training before setting off around the world. Secondly, I forgot to mention that, as in previous years, we had made up Bags of Love for parents and carers of the new Year R pupils at Wickham Primary School.

On Wednesday 18 November we are holding a special fundraising event to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union, started in Hampshire and now active in 84 countries. Everyone is welcome. Come along to our pre-Christmas Bring and Buy Sale in Wickham Community Centre, from 2.00-4.00pm. 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







Services for November 2026

Sunday 1st November: All Saints' Day
Communion (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 10am.

Monday 2nd November: All Souls' Day
All Souls (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 10am
All Souls (St John the Baptist, Shedfield) at 7pm

Sunday 8th November: Remembrance
Holy Communion (St John the Baptist, Shedfield) at 8am
Remembrance Service (St John the Baptist, Shedfield) at 10.45am
Remembrance Service (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 10.45am

Sunday 15th November: Safeguarding Sunday
Communion with Worship Group (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 10am
Evening Service (Chase Church, Waltham Chase Village Hall) at 6pm

Sunday 22nd November: Christ the King
Holy Communion (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 8am
Café Church (St John the Baptist, Shedfield) at 10am
Deanery Anna Chaplaincy Commissioning (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 7pm

Sunday 29th November: Advent 1
Advent Communion (St John the Baptist, Shedfield) at 10am
Advent Carol Service (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 6pm

Sunday 6th December: Advent 2
Communion (St Nicholas, Wickham) at 10am.

From the Registers:

Holy Matrimony	Tyler DOWNIE and Alexandra MIHELL	12th September 2026
Burial of Ashes	Nora MASKELL	15th September 2026
	Peter LUCAS	21st September 2026
	Brian BARRETT	19th October 2026



They say a week is a long time in politics, yet the day I was licensed by the Bishop of Portsmouth, Kenneth Stevenson, as a Lay Minister for the parish of Shedfield, and later Wickham, still feels like yesterday, even twenty-five years on.

I sometimes wonder whether I became a Lay Minister because I heard God's call, or because the call from the then Vicar of Shedfield was simply louder. Many of you will remember how persuasive Geoff Morrell could be! Either way, Geoff played a significant part in a journey which, with God's help, took me through four years of study and eventually to Portsmouth Cathedral in October 2001.

Along the way, I have had the welcome opportunity to develop my ministry alongside Geoff, Shirley Henderson, Bruce Deans, Jane and David Isaac, and now, of course, Fiona. Together with the many curates and associate priests I have worked with, they have supported, encouraged, and at times challenged me. Their support has been invaluable, and I remain deeply grateful to them all.

Of course, twenty-five years in ministry have not been entirely free of mistakes.

Perhaps it was not my wisest choice of words when, after reading the Banns of Marriage for the first time, I thanked the congregation for the "pregnant pause" following my invitation to declare any just cause or impediment why the couple should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony. I also hope I may be forgiven for observing that the difference between the founders of the Mothers' Union in 1876 and its current members is that, while photographs show the founders as stern-faced, strait-laced, and dressed in black, today they no longer wear black.

Thankfully, the highs have far outweighed the lows. One highlight was to serve as Chaplain to the Mayor of Winchester and preaching in Winchester Cathedral at the start of her term of office — a truly memorable occasion. Poignantly, that was to be the last sermon Jane would hear me preach.

On reflection, though, the greatest privilege has been much closer to home: being part of the church families of Shedfield and Wickham, and of the wider Diocese, over these past twenty-five years.

I have been privileged to preach and lead services, to walk alongside families in bereavement, and to conduct funerals with and for them. It has also been a joy to help Lay Worship Leaders, both here and across the Deanery, develop their gifts and ministries as our churches continue to respond to a changing world.

Through all the changes, people, challenges, and opportunities, one constant remains: God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is God who calls us, sustains us, and continues to work through ordinary people like me.

So, as I thank you for the beautifully engraved glass decanter presented to mark these twenty-five years, I also want to thank you for your kindness, friendship, encouragement, and willingness to share this journey with me.

If these past twenty-five years have taught me anything, it is that without God's grace, and, crucially, without you, none of this would have been possible. Thank you for all you have given me, all you have taught me, and all we have shared.

What next? If I were to continue for another twenty-five years, I would have received a birthday card from the King. For now, though, I am grateful to Fiona for granting me a three-month sabbatical from the church rota, giving me time to think through the next stage of my journey.

With love and grateful thanks.

Stephen

Thank you from Revd Jill and Stephen

Revd Jill:

My thanks to all who came to my Commissioning service at St Nicholas last Sunday evening to support me. As the Area Dean, Revd James Hunt, and Assistant Area Dean, our Revd Fiona, commissioned me into the Deanery Support post with a focus on Anna



Chaplaincy with older people and intergenerational activities. It is an exciting role, and I am looking forward to working together and making connections across our Deanery, while still having my feet planted in the Shedfield & Wickham patch! Thank you for your support and encouragement, prayers and gifts, and special thanks to Revd Fiona for organising the lovely service.

Stephen:

I am finding it difficult to write words of appreciation to thank you for last Sunday's gift of the engraved glass wine decanter to mark 25 years of my licensing as a Reader/Lay Minister in this Benefice and beyond. But for now, suffice it to say that this kind gesture made me realise just how worthwhile the last 25 years have been. “Thank you” may be just two small words, but they carry a very deep and heartfelt message to you all.

See page 9





















St. Nicholas Harvest Supper and Entertainment was held on 4th October.

The photos show the stars of the show.

Charity Tractor Run through Wickham.







WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER MEETING – 'Nelson: A National Triumph and a Hero's Sad Return' by Nigel Linger.

Our first meeting of the 2026/27 season featured our second talk from Nigel Linger, a Royal Naval veteran and Director of the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust. He spoke to 68 members and visitors, drawing on the Trust's records to provide fresh insights into Nelson's final voyage. Originally planned as a trilogy, Nigel combined the Battle of Trafalgar and Nelson's return to England into a single talk.

What particularly struck us was the superiority of British gunnery and the training of its sailors, which helped Nelson defeat an enemy fleet with more ships, guns, and men. Nigel explained the crucial importance of mechanical flint gunlocks for firing naval guns, which offered advantages over the slower methods still used by some enemy ships. He also challenged the familiar picture of British crews as inexperienced pressed men, highlighting the importance of professional seamanship and training. His wealth of detail included Nelson's hatter's accounts and sketches — Nelson was clearly a man who loved his hats!

The battle was no quick engagement. Light winds meant that several hours elapsed between the fleets being sighted and the British columns engaging the enemy. Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory, broke through the Franco-Spanish line and engaged the French ship Redoutable. Nelson's bold leadership also exposed him to danger. In full uniform on the quarterdeck, he was struck by a musket ball fired from the Redoutable's mizzen fighting top, fatally wounding him.

The esteem in which Nelson was held by his men was demonstrated when they petitioned Vice-Admiral Collingwood to have Nelson's body returned to England aboard Victory, rather than on the ship carrying the despatches. His body was preserved in a cask of brandy, with camphor and myrrh, for the journey home, and was remarkably well preserved. Later, at his funeral, sailors acting as pallbearers tore the ensign that had covered Nelson's coffin into pieces to keep as mementoes — a moving tribute to their beloved commander.

Once again, Nigel demonstrated his detailed knowledge of Nelson's life and the Battle of Trafalgar.

OCTOBER MEETING

Curator, historian and archaeologist Dr Abigail Coppins presented '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 at Portchester Castle and in towns and villages across Hampshire. Abigail explained how they were captured, how they were treated at the castle, and what happened to them after their release.

See our website and the next parish magazine for the full meeting report.

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER

'The Fareham Area Clay Products Industry: Chimney Pots and More, 1760–1960' by Martin Percival

Just as "Fareham Reds" became a hugely successful product of the local brickworks, Fareham chimney pots were also popular products of the area's potteries during the Victorian era. Recognisable by the distinctive white slip marks around their tops, these chimney pots became a notable feature of local production. Join us to discover more about Fareham's chimney pots, how they were made, and what made them so distinctive.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except for 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 www.wickhamhistory.org.uk

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

WICKHAM'S ROMAN SETTLEMENT KEEPS GROWING

Following the very successful archaeology Open Day on Saturday 19 September, attended by more than 200 local people, Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) very kindly arranged a guided tour for 35 Wickham History Society members on Thursday 24 September.

The excavation is just east of the Wykeham Vale housing estate, where Cotswold Archaeology previously carried out excavations. PCA has identified the line of the Roman road, matching the earlier findings. Fascinatingly, the road is up to 26 metres wide in

places and has also been cut into by pits or postholes. We will have to wait for the post-excavation analysis to discover whether the archaeologists can explain what was happening here! The finds suggest that the settlement extended throughout this area and possibly further east. The evidence points to continued commercial and agricultural activity, with indications of nearby Roman buildings. A further Bronze Age burial and a small pottery fragment provide additional evidence of activity here long before the Romans arrived.



Once again, a huge quantity of pottery has been found, originating from a variety of places, including Shedfield, the New Forest and Alice Holt, as well as France. An intriguing find from Germany has also been linked to a Roman burial.

The excavation is now complete, and we will have to wait a year or so to discover what the detailed analysis reveals about our expanding picture of Roman Wickham. Wickham History Society hopes to invite PCA to give a presentation on its findings. In addition, the long-awaited final report by Cotswold Archaeology on the earlier excavations is due to be published by the Hampshire Field Club in its 2026 volume of Hampshire Studies.



Crumbs at Chesapeake has been crowned Cafe of the Year 2026 *(Image: Google)*



Wickham Community Centre

At our first meeting of the Autumn Programme, members were delighted to welcome Kat Short, Chair of Wickham Community Centre, for an enlightening talk about the Centre and its role and purpose within our community. She illustrated her long-standing family connections within the village and how Wickham and the Community Centre have played a significant part in her life. She joined the board in 2014 and was appointed as Chair in 2020. She also took us 'down memory lane', showing photographs of the construction of the building in the mid-1980s on land donated to the village by Ralph Houghton.

Kat demonstrated to us how the Centre, since opening its doors in 1988, has developed into the community resource that we know today, with up to 1,200 visitors each week. More than 150 organisations use the 11 meeting rooms and services each year. It is home to a diverse range of clubs, workshops, exhibitions and events – from the Taste of Wickham organisers using equipment for their festival, local clubs, societies and groups hiring their meeting rooms and sports facilities, to the Shooting Club, which operates purpose-built facilities at the back of the Centre, which are used for international shooting events. It is a key participant within the Wickham and Knowle Emergency Plan, ready to provide shelter and equipment if required.

The Community Centre is not just a building but a charity that delivers a variety of services funded through grants and donations – for example, the Wickham Pantry and Social Suppers, the Community Garden, Men's Shed and Repair Café that can all be places of sanctuary in times of need, loneliness and financial difficulty. There are also opportunities for recycling with 3,000 kgs saved from food waste via the Community Fridge each year. Over 80 volunteers support the small team of staff to ensure the Centre is well maintained, runs smoothly and provides the services they deliver to a high standard. Kat explained that there are plans to install further solar panels on the roof and include electrical charging points in the car park. She was delighted to tell us of a successful grant application for £17,000 from Asda to improve the toilet facilities and disabled access.

As Ray, the caretaker, said before the meeting – we are lucky to have such a committed and enthusiastic Chair who is willing and able to lead the Community Centre as it continues to be a valuable hub within our community providing recreational, learning, business, and social activities that are accessible and affordable, every day of the week.

Our next meeting is on 10 November 2026 at 7.30 pm when Parvis Daneshva will provide insight into life for ordinary Iranians in a talk entitled 'Iran behind the headlines'. Our meetings are held at Wickham Community Centre starting at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Membership is £8 per annum or £2.50 for a visitor. Please contact Wendy Greenish at wendy.greenish@gmail.com for further information. www.wickhamsociety.org.uk



'A road trip to Remembrance'

Late in September, a group of 15 friends and I visited several sites along the WW1 Western Front. We stayed in Ypres for four nights at a pleasant small hotel.

The weekend on the Western Front in Belgium and France was long and exhausting. It was a profound and humbling honour to visit these locations, prompting reflection at every stage.

I had not realised the scale of deaths and missing during this four-year war between Germany and many nations, including the UK. Most casualties on both sides were aged between 14 and 25.

The graves extend from northwest Belgium through France to the Swiss border. We covered a thousand miles in our minibus, travelling across nearly half of these battlefields, memorials to the missing, and graves of the dead.

The Menin Gate at Ypres was striking and sobering, with so many names engraved across the vast structure. Since its construction, a service of Remembrance and Last Post has drawn hundreds daily at sunset every evening. Visitors from around the world have attended for nearly a century.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge involved another major loss of life from close trench warfare. The Canadian platoons fighting for us lost many lives in this battle, which they ultimately won. Their sacrifice and determination were immense.

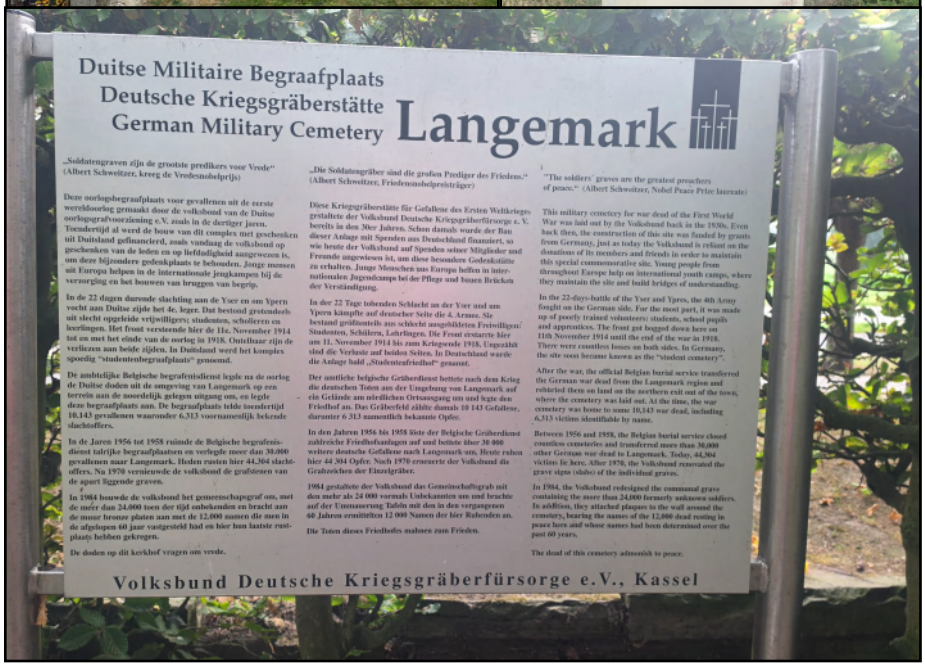
The hand-dug trenches and tunnels stretch for miles.

Some images showed tunnels 35 feet underground, excavated with only a pick and shovel. Hundreds of thousands of man-hours of hard labour were required.









We also visited Passchendaele and several other sites, each prompting similar reflection and revealing huge numbers of dead and missing on both sides.

On our final day, we visited a German cemetery and mass grave that Hitler visited during WW2, evoking haunting and dark memories of tragic loss. I passed through that same gate into the cemetery shown in the photograph of Hitler.

Most of the dead were never retrieved for burial but remained where they collapsed in the mud across the battlefields. The horror and suffering of these servicemen will stay with me.

Nigel Prior
Wickham

Beating the Bounds 2026



On 5th September, the 2026 Beating the Bounds contingent set off from St Nicholas Church,



giving a merry wave to the Team Wickham members who stayed behind to prepare the teas.

We were blessed with sunshine and the bluest of skies, which lifted both spirits and enthusiasm.
The walk celebrates the centuries-old tradition of tracing the perimeter of a parish or manor and marking key points by striking them with sticks. Villagers, particularly youngsters, would take part to ensure that the boundaries were remembered through the generations.
The route we follow is the church boundary rather than that of the civil parish, using the nearest public footpaths. Nevertheless, there are three points along the route where the paths cross the boundary, and everyone enjoys bashing sticks together. The walk follows a section of the Meon Valley Trail, skirts the edge of Wickham Park Golf Course, crosses Titchfield Lane and continues parallel to Biddenfield Lane before descending to Shedfield Common. From there, it threads through Shedfield Common to Turkey Island, then follows the eastern side of Shirrell Heath down to Kingsmead. A leisurely lunch was enjoyed at Hundred Acres before we meandered back via Mellishes Bottom, Wickham Common and Castle Farm Lane to the church.





We were delighted to see both familiar and new faces this year. Suffice it to say, the newcomers were robustly and shamelessly recruited for every volunteer role needed in the village!
Thank you to Bob for carrying out the recce ahead of the walk; there is always something that has changed during the year.
Thank you to Jane, Jane, Becky, Sue and Anthea for serving afternoon tea and baking the cakes — all of which were, of course, delicious!
Thank you to St Nicholas Church for allowing us to use the Church Room.

Nicki Oliver
Team Wickham

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to read the article in Wickham Parish magazine on "Life After Death". As a nearby resident of Wickham Croft, I watched with Fascination the birth of a wonderful dragon, after saying goodbye to the resplendent beech tree.

Like the wise owner of the garden, I, too, in Wickham Croft, had to say farewell to a stunning Liquidambar tree in our garden, when it had to be felled as it was no longer safe, with branches falling off and endangering nearby people. I do know what it is like to lose an old friend.

Sadly, none of us thought of my neighbour's lovely idea when our tree was felled, so we have no commemorative statue. We do have a new tree in its place, standing in a wild garden where hibernating insects find refuge, so we do have a memorial of sorts.

Thank you, Roger, for all your hard work in near-volcanic temperatures through the recent summer. It is much appreciated, and to our kind neighbour for his idea.

Ruth Wiffen.

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.

Macmillan Coffee Morning at South Downs Funeral Service

Lovely morning with different people dropping in for coffee and cake. We had a Raffle with over 20 prizes; the 1st prize was a night in a hotel, kindly donated by The New Place Inn, and most of the other prizes were donated by members of the Wickham Chamber of Trade.

The day raised £185.20, all for this great cause. We thank everyone in Wickham for their support.

Pam & Jenny





Mindful Stitchers

The Christmas Church decorations are underway. We have been allocated a window for our display and so far we have made plans for quite an adventurous window. Much discussion has flowed across the table and decisions made, (till we next meet) - now comes the work. Opportunities for our stitching and pictorial skills, rich fabrics and embellishment!

If you would like to join a group interested in a variety of crafts we meet monthly in the Shedfield Study Centre on the 3rd Tuesdays at 2pm.

Please contact : Jennifer Wilks 07791203880 or Sarah Weston 07814572341

FLOWERS BY RACHEL HAS MOVED

FLOWERS BY Rachel

After a great nine months in Wickham Square, Flowers by Rachel has now moved to Shedfield Equestrian Centre. This larger unit will provide space to host more floral workshops and also the opportunity for others to host craft-related workshops. There is free, easy parking on site, plus other shops and businesses to visit. Do drop in next time you're passing.

for more information ring 07946 363556







St NICHOLAS CHURCH FLOWERS

Do you enjoy flower arranging and, if so, would you be willing to join the village Church flower arranging rota? Several of us take it in turns to decorate St Nicholas Church and it would be wonderful if you could join us. It's fun and fulfilling and your involvement would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested and would like to chat about what's involved, please get in touch with Jane Buckle by mid-November on 01329-832517



Craft Fair

Sunday 1 November

9am - 12pm

Come along to our over 65's Lunch Club

Enjoy a home-cooked meal and friendly company at our monthly Lunch Club.

Next date is Monday 16 November Please pass the invitation on to someone who might enjoy coming along. contact the centre for more information.

WICKHAM Community Centre

Mill Lane, Wickham, PO17 5AL
Tel: 01239 833688
E: contact@wickhamcentre.co.uk
FB: wickhamcommunitycentre
www.wickhamcommunitycentre.org.uk

Charity No: 1090544



Thank you ASDA Foundation,

We are delighted to have been awarded over **£17,200 by the Asda Foundation** towards our accessible toilet refurbishment and rear door improvements. This support will help improve facilities for people using the centre.



Stalls, food, drink, a raffle, community projects selling their wares and, of course, Santa!

Planting for Spring

Bulb Planting with Wickham Primary School



Planting for a colourful spring Community Garden volunteers and others from across the village joined pupils at Wickham Primary School to plant bulbs, bringing a splash of spring colour for pupils and village residents to enjoy.

WICKHAM Community Garden

Help us grow together

Our Garden Club is raising money for a new accessible path in the polytunnel so more people can enjoy gardening together.

We are hoping to raise £6,000 to build a completely accessible and wheelchair friendly path through the polytunnel and its surrounding area.



The community garden is enjoyed by thousands of people every year

If you are able to help, please use the smartcode or pop into the centre.

THANK YOU

Garden clubs: Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings.
wickhamcommunitygarden@gmail.com

Wickham Flicks

Longtime retired couple Stella and Gerry realize that their relationship has reached a crossroads while on holiday in Amsterdam. After so much time and so many memories, long-held promises and deeply concealed wounds threaten to come to light and force them to confront their future.



WICKHAM Flicks

Enjoy our monthly community cinema.
Next film - Midwinter Break
Thursday 19 November, doors open at 7pm
New volunteers are welcome.

BISHOP'S WALTHAM FESTIVAL – MID WINTER FUN

In a double bill of superb comedy theatre, we are delighted to present two great shows to lift the winter blues.

On Saturday 6th February we welcome back Rain or Shine Theatre Company to present Dracula: Totally Batty. The Company sink their teeth into winter with a gloriously funny, delightfully chaotic, and



irresistibly fangtastic new adaptation of Bram Stoker's Dracula. From the same team that brought you Pickwick and Agatha Appleton, Dracula promises scares and laughs galore. It's 1897. Count Dracula, tired of quiet evenings of cape-swishing and light Transylvanian snacking, decides to move to London and turn his whole afterlife upside-down.



Perfect for families, friends, and anyone who enjoys their vampires with a hearty dose of humour, Dracula: Totally Batty promises big laughs and bold performances with Rain or Shine's trademark comedic style providing a cosy evening of fun.

Then for your pre-Christmas dose of family joy and silliness, join us on Saturday 12th December when we present Aladdin, a traditional pantomime for the whole family. Packed solid with comedy, excitement and adventure. Cheer our hero ALADDIN and boo the evil ABANAZAR. Roar with laughter at the antics of WISHEE WASHEE and WIDOW TWANKY and gasp with amazement when the GENIE appears. It's all good old-fashioned fun that you would normally only see in a top-line theatre.
Tickets for both shows available at www.bwfestival.art and at Willow Pet Supplies in the High Street (opposite the Co-Op!).

Finally, don't forget, we will be recreating the party atmosphere from our June festival Brewhouse stage. With local DJs and real Christmas party vibe. On the evening of 12th December after Aladdin. Visit our website for all the details – www.bwfestival.art.

Meon Voices

unwraps a sparkling Christmas Concert programme

Saturday 12th December, 7.30 p.m. at St Peter's Church Bishop's Waltham
From O Magnum Mysterium, through John Rutter's exquisite Angels' Carol and Carl Schalk's Before the Marvel of this Night, to Jingle Bell Rock and Winter Wonderland, the Meon Voices promise a soul-stirring and exhilarating Christmas Concert this year.
Musical Director Emma Dean says: "We have selected some compellingly complex pieces which reward both singer and listener, alongside some songs with enduring charm, and others that brim with energy and good humour. We are excited about singing for you."
The concert is free to attend, and there is no need to book, but it's wise to get to St Peter's Church Bishop's Waltham at 7 p.m. when the doors open, in order to get a good seat. The choir holds a retiring collection in aid of charity, and refreshments are provided.
For any further information, please email Chair Jane Vose on janevose@icloud.com or 07850 717705 or Secretary TraceyTudball, traceytudball@yahoo.co.uk or 07774 694453.



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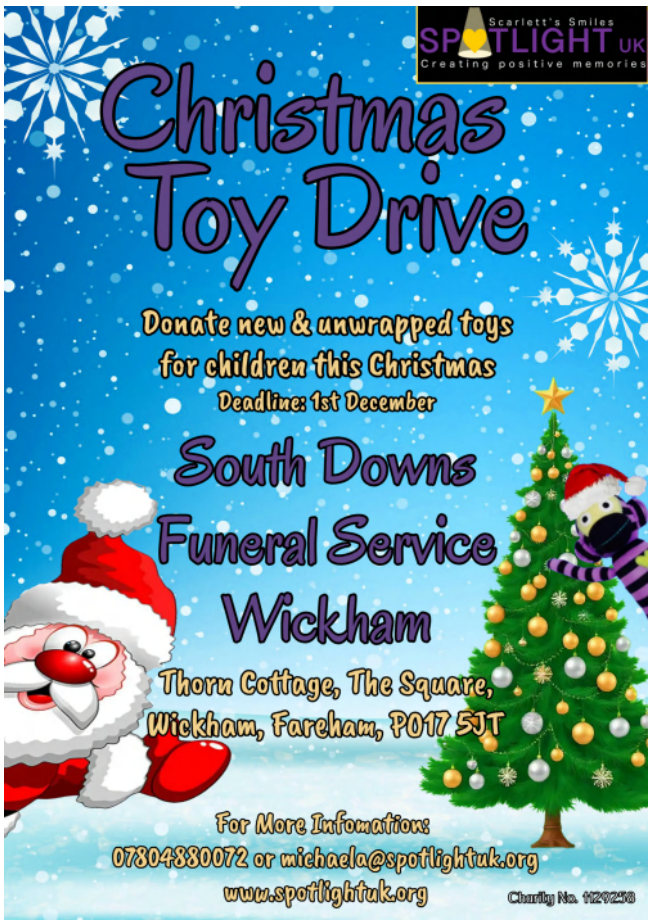
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Venue: The Concorde Club, Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 9HQ

Date: Sunday 8th November

Doors open for lunch: 12:30 PM

Concert starts: 2:00 PM

Show + Dining £32pp (2 course Sunday lunch plus coffee)

Show (non-dining) £17pp

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Wickham Community Care

***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!

***Urgently Needed: More Drivers.**

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

U3A
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Good day. We continue our lecture series in our new hall.
On 3/11/26, Alan Abbott, our distinguished Treasurer, will be talking about "Route 66", the famous USA road route, which he drove recently.
On 17/11/26 Martin Letts will help us discover what "Working and Wandering in Australia" is all about. Many of us have visited Australia, but maybe not wandered too much?
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



Waltham Chase Flower Club

Our next meeting is at Waltham Chase Village Hall
Wednesday 25rd November 2026 at 2 pm
Graham King will create floral arrangements
"A Magical Christmas"
Competition: 'A White Christmas'
Visitors are always welcome
For more information, please contact:
Marjorie Read 07771897147 or Sue Roger-Jones

Denis Boylan Interesting snippets

After 1066, thousands of English peasants were driven out of their homes by French invaders and were obliged to live in the forests. They were banned by their French masters, under pain of death, from using timber for fires to keep warm.
Their only option was to 'steal' wood from trees using a Billhook or shepherd's crook.

Hence the term, 'By hook or by crook!'

The Havant Orchestras – November Concerts

The Havant Orchestras invite you to two special concerts in November.

Mozart Masterpieces: Havant Chamber Orchestra

On Sunday 22nd November 2026 at Hayling Island Community Centre at 4.30pm, join Havant Chamber Orchestra and our conductor, Robin Browning, for an afternoon devoted to Mozart's brilliance and variety.

Some composers seem to belong to every age, and Mozart is surely one of them. His music can be sparkling and mischievous, graceful and intimate, full of theatricality one moment and profound beauty the next. Like the many portraits on our gallery wall, there are countless ways of seeing Mozart, but his extraordinary voice remains unmistakable.

The concert begins with the exuberant overture to a comic singspiel, The Impresario, before immersing us in the warmth and lyricism of one of Mozart's most beloved works, the Clarinet Concerto in A Major, played by our talented soloist, the clarinettist, Rob Blanken. We finish the evening in grand style with Mozart's brilliant 'Linz' Symphony no. 36.

Tide and Tempest: Havant Symphony Orchestra

A week later, on Saturday 28th November 2026 at Oaklands School Concert Hall, Waterlooville, at 7.30, prepare to be swept away by a concert inspired by the power, mystery and ever-changing moods of the sea.
Under the baton of Ben Querishi, the evening begins with Wagner's dramatic Flying Dutchman Overture launching us into a world of storms, legend and relentless waves, before Britten's Four Sea Interludes paints the sea in all its shifting colours — from eerie stillness to crashing tempest. Then set sail for distant shores with Rimsky-Korsakoff's dazzling Sheherazade, where exotic melodies, swashbuckling adventure and richly coloured orchestration bring the tales of the Arabian Nights vividly to life. From dark and turbulent waters to shimmering horizons, Tide and Tempest promises an exhilarating evening of orchestral storytelling. Batten down the hatches — this is one voyage you won't want to miss!

Tickets for both concerts are available to purchase from TicketSource via our website havantorchestras.org or via telephone 0333 666 3366. Seats are going fast, so booking early is recommended!

FOREST FOLK

NORTH BOARHUNT VILLAGE HALL PO17 6DD
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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 2nd November 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.

On Monday 23rd November, acclaimed Edinburgh singer-songwriter Ross Wilson, the creative force behind Blue Rose Code, brings his new show East Of Eden to Forest Folk. Over the past decade, Wilson has built a reputation as one of the most compelling live performers on the UK roots and folk circuit. His music draws from Scottish folk traditions,



soul, jazz and singer-songwriter storytelling, earning praise for its emotional honesty and powerful live delivery.

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



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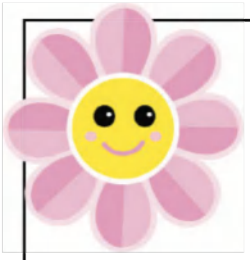
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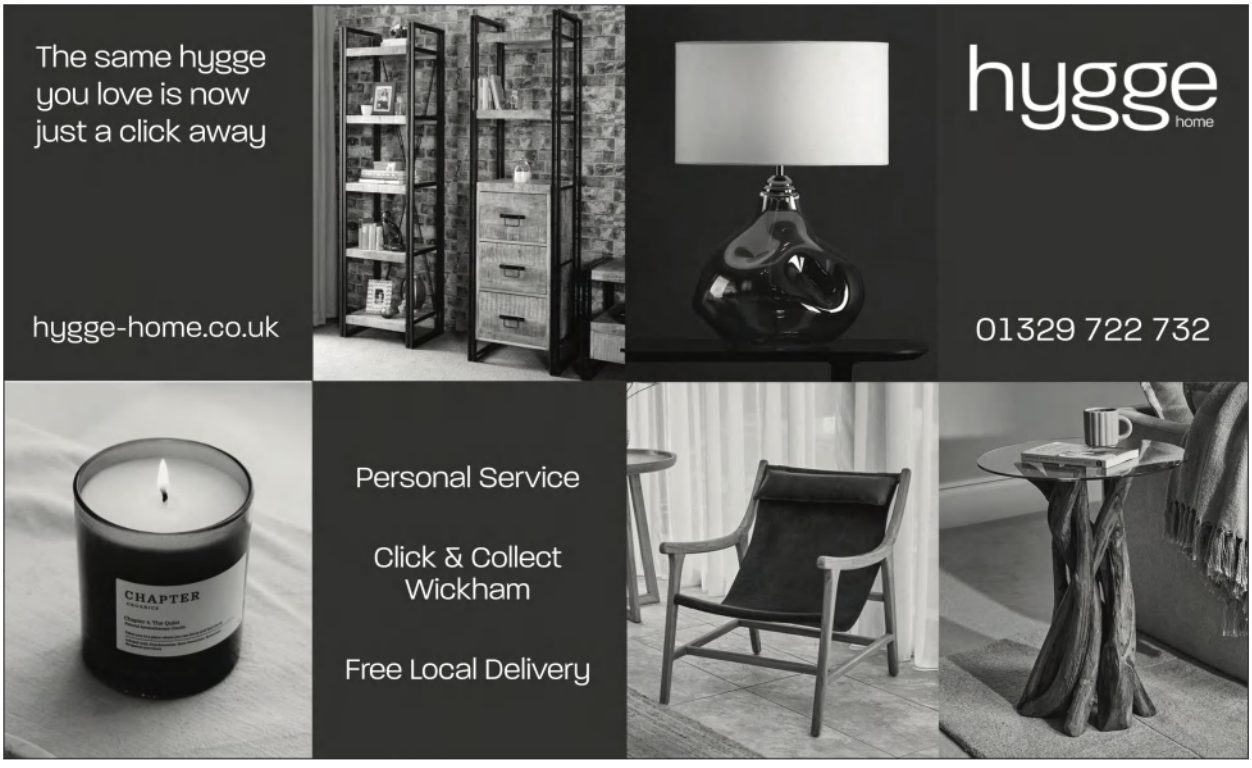
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PORTSMOUTH AMATEUR DIARY

It is hoped that you will also support these productions by local societies.
For a full listing and further details, visit the Amateur Diary website at

NOVEMBER

12-21 THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
BENCH THEATRE COMPANY

The Spring Arts And Heritage Centre, East Street, Havant PO9 1BS 023 9247 2700

7.30pm with Saturday matinees at 1.30pm.
A play adapted for the stage by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette, based on the novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. What could have frightened Sir Charles Baskerville to death? Is it a supernatural Hound from Hell, or a diabolically clever murderer? Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson will investigate

13-15 DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.
FAREHAM MUSICAL SOCIETY YOUTH THEATRE

Crofton Hall Theatre, Crofton Community Centre, Stubbington Lane, Stubbington PO14 2PP 01429 662821

7.30pm on Fri, 2.30pm and 5.00pm on Sat; 2.30pm Sun.
A musical with Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and Book by Linda Woolverton.

18-21 SPAMALOT
PTG - PETERSFIELD THEATRE GROUP

Festival Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield GU31 4EA 01730 779296

7.30pm with Sat Matinee at 2.30pm.
A musical ripped off from the motion picture Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

18-21 TITUS ANDRONICUS
SOUTHSEA SHAKESPEARE ACTORS

The Station Theatre, Station Road, Hayling Island PO11 0EH 0333 666 3366

7.30pm. A play by William Shakespeare. A rare chance to see Shakespeare's most bloody play!!

19-21
JAILBIRDS
WING IT THEATRICAL SOCIETY (FORMERLY HIGHBURY PLAYERS)

Bedhampton Community Centre, 21 Bedhampton Road, Bedhampton PO9 3ES 07518 643621 from 5th October

7.30pm. A comedy by Colin Barrow.

20-28 ELF THE MUSICAL
BENCHMARK MUSICAL THEATRE

Theatre Royal, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth PO1 2DD 023 9264 9000

7.30pm and at 1.30pm and 6.30pm on Saturdays. A musical with Music by Matthew Sklar, Lyrics by Chad Beguelin and Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin.

24-28 ENTERTAINING ANGELS
FUNTINGTON PLAYERS

Funtington & District Village Hall, Southbrook Road, West Ashling PO18 8LD funtingtonplayers@gmail.com

7.30pm with Sat Matinee at 2.30pm. A play by Richard Everett. This witty, perceptive play is about grief, regret, family miscommunication, and buried secrets that surface too late.

26-28 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
SWANMORE AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Swanmore Village Hall, New Road, Swanmore SO32 2PF 01489 894955

7.30pm with Sat Matinee at 2.00pm. A pantomime by Ben Crocker.

Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society



On 1st October, members Pip Smith and Dawn Blight explained how photographers can create impressive animal images without travelling abroad or spending long periods waiting in the wild. Using a wide range of example images and several stunning prints, they highlighted the many photographic opportunities available at zoos and wildlife parks across the UK. They also shared practical advice on photographing animals through glass and other barriers. Members warmly appreciated the tips, with several suggesting that a Marwell membership might now be on their wish list.

Coming up:

The final competitions of 2026 begin with the 'Documentary' and 'Set of Three' Awards at the end of October, followed by the year's last League competition in early November. The results will be shared in the next issue of this magazine.

On 3rd December, member Matthew White will present his 'photographic journey': a 20-year retrospective of his development as a serious photographer. Through selected images and projects, he will explore the evolution of his work and share the personal stories and experiences behind the pictures.

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.



Vicennial
Matthew B White

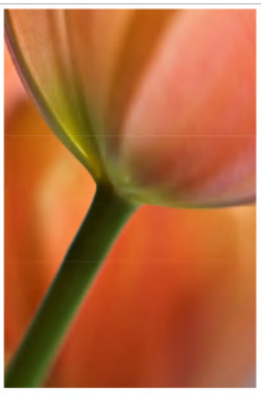
Thursday 3rd December at 7:30pm

"A photographic auto-biography once every 20 years"





Matthew is a (hopefully) experienced photographer sharing a 20-year photographic autobiography. His talk traces his journey from his photographic origin story through two decades of serious work, showcasing selected images and specific projects from along the way—as well as sharing the personal stories and experiences behind them.



St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1EE
Non-members are welcome (entry fee £5).



Bishop's Waltham Photographic Society

bishopswalthamphotosociety.co.uk

FAREHAM ROTARY TEAM BRINGS COLOUR TO WEST STREET PLAYGROUND

Shortly before the recent opening of the new West Street playground, a team of Fareham Rotarians donned their gardening gloves to bring the final touch of colour to the installation.

In a matter of hours, the planters that form the boundary of the playground were filled with a selection of hardy plants and grasses that will withstand the extremes of British weather.



The play area, created by Fareham District Council, is nestled among the cafes and businesses which dot the West Street shopping precinct. It aims to provide a family- and wheelchair-friendly space with seating and a range of play equipment for children aged 3–12 of all abilities, including a “spinner bowl” and “sunflower swing”, along with communications boards to support those with visual and language needs.

Fareham Rotary President Bob Mussellwhite commented: “Most of our club members are keen gardeners, so we were happy to be of service to the community with this project."

For further information, please contact:

Kat Whittaker
Media Communications
farehamrotaryclub.pr@gmail.com

BISHOPS WALTHAM GARDENING CLUB DECEMBER 2026

If you think Winter is a time of year when we gardeners put our feet up, then think again! There’s always something to do, so here are a few tips. Thompson and Morgan have kindly listed them for us.

1. Insulate your outdoor containers from frosts. Use hessian or bubble wrap held in place with garden twine.
2. Prevent containers from becoming waterlogged by raising them off the ground for the winter using bricks or 'pot feet'.
3. Encourage hungry birds into your garden by investing in bird baths and bird feeders. Our feathered friends will keep garden pest numbers down and bring joy on a bleak winter’s day.
4. Protect roses from wind-rock by pruning them by one-third to half their height. This will stop them swaying in strong wind and prevent roots from coming loose in the soil. Remove fallen leaves from around the base of any rose bushes which suffered from black spot or rust this summer, to reduce the chance of reinfection next year.

- Continue to lift dahlia tubers, gladiolus corms and begonia tubers to store dry over the winter months. Remove the dead foliage before storing. Owing to winters being generally less cold, many of us leave the tubers ‘in situ ’, but if you do, cover them with a good layer of soil/compost/manure to protect them from the worst. The Begonia tubers will, however, need lifting. Store them upside down so that any moisture in the stems doesn’t stay and rot the tuber.
- Cut back the yellowing foliage of herbaceous perennial plants, and lift and divide overcrowded clumps to maintain their vigour.
- Cut a few stems of holly with berries for making Christmas garlands. It’s early, but now’s the time to do it before the birds eat all the berries. Stand them in a bucket of water in a sheltered spot where birds can't take them.

Give the garden a general clean-up and plant tulip bulbs now. They look superb in pots and troughs and, as they can be planted fairly close together, give a striking display just when we need cheering up!

www.bwgc.org.uk/Whats-On/ ; Facebook

Swanmore College

A busy start to the new school year!

It's hard to believe we're already at the end of our first half-term! The new academic year has certainly got off to a flying start at Swanmore College, with plenty happening both in and out of the classroom. From welcoming new faces to celebrating some brilliant achievements, there's been lots to keep us busy.

We started September with some fantastic news, celebrating an excellent set of GCSE results from our Class of 2026. An impressive 80% of pupils achieved grade 4 or above in both English and Maths, while 30% of all GCSE entries achieved grades 7–9, well above the national average of 22%. A wonderful achievement for our pupils and staff!

We've also had some exciting visitors. Award-winning children's author Matt Oldfield joined us for Literacy Week, meeting pupils, sharing stories and signing books. For National Poetry Day, local poet Graham Langley visited and even wrote a bespoke poem entitled Wonder. Science got its moment in the spotlight too, with an action-packed Education Roadshow exploring the surprising science behind everyday materials.

Beyond the classroom, our Junior Debating teams swept the board at the Portsmouth Grammar School Debating Festival, 47 pupils successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, and a group of pupils enjoyed the unusual experience of exploring HMS Prince of Wales, one of the Royal Navy's flagship aircraft carriers.

Closer to home, it was lovely to welcome so many local families to our Open Evening in September. The College was full of prospective pupils exploring classrooms, trying activities and getting a feel for life at Swanmore. Our Careers Fair was another busy evening, bringing together local employers, colleges, universities and training providers to help our older pupils and their families discover what might come next. A big thank you to everyone who gave their time to make these events possible.





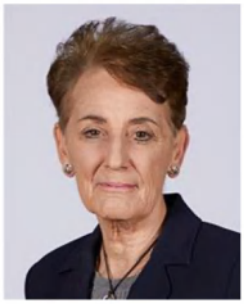
We're also proud to be leading a local road safety campaign, working alongside our Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to help keep everyone safe on our roads. With the darker evenings drawing in, we're sharing practical advice on everything from scooter safety to staying visible and being aware of traffic. Road safety affects us all, and we're keen to get the whole community involved. Whether you're a pupil, parent, pedestrian or driver, we all have a part to play in making our local roads safer.



And there's plenty more to come! As we head into the second half of the Autumn term, we'll be marking Remembrance Day, giving pupils the chance to come together, reflect and pay their respects. Then, before we know it, the festive season will be upon us, bringing Christmas dinners, our Winter Evening with the Arts showcase and plenty of celebrations before we welcome 2027!

Thank you to all our neighbours, families, local businesses and community partners who have supported us so far this year. We hope you've enjoyed this little glimpse into life at Swanmore, and we look forward to sharing more news soon!

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE – WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



Cllr. Angela Clear
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aclear@winchester.gov.uk



Cllr. Neil Cutler
07814 015128
ncutler@winchester.gov.uk



Cllr. Chris Chamberlain
07727 232253
cchamberlain@winchester.gov.uk

With no significant updates to provide on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) at the time of writing, our update this month focusses on some of our broader activities across the Winchester District – as well as some more local updates on grant applications that are now available within the community. As always, our contact details are at the end of this update – please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any queries or issues.

SOLAR MILESTONE – 100 HOMES UPGRADED

A project by Winchester City Council to reduce its council homes' carbon emissions and help save its tenants money on their bills has reached its latest milestone, with new solar panels and storage batteries now installed on 100 homes. The council has been working with Whiteley-based solar energy company UPOWA to install the energy-saving technology, with another 179 installations already planned for the coming months.

The 100th installation comes 8 months after the start of the programme, with the panels installed so far estimated to generate an average of 2850 kWh of electricity per year per property, enough to boil over 14,000 kettles. The technology will also help reduce carbon emissions for each property by around 400kg per year on average – roughly the same annual amount as 19 established trees.

Winchester City Council tenants are also benefitting from the upgrades, with early results indicating that an average of 80% of tenants' electricity needs are being met by the new systems. After a year of operating, the money saved will be split 50:50 between the tenant and the scheme's ongoing maintenance costs – with tenants expected to save £330 on their bills each year on average.

The council's approach to shared savings has been recognised nationally, with the scheme being shortlisted for two separate awards. The project is also part of a larger programme of work to make council homes more energy efficient, with a range of energy-saving measures being installed across council homes across the district, including roof and cavity wall insulation and ventilation upgrades.

UP TO £200,000 AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding is designed to support new or improved local facilities in areas where development has increased the demand for them. In recent years, successful CIL Applications have been used locally to support improvements to Wickham Community Centre (£30,000 in 2005), the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA – £30,000, earlier this year) at Knowle and most recently to part-fund sports facilities.

The second round of applications in 2026 opens on 1st November, with grants of between £10,000 and £200,000 available to local councils and other eligible organisations across the Winchester district (excluding the South Downs National Park area).

If you're aware of a project that could benefit local residents, or you work with community organisations that may be eligible, now is the time to start preparing an application.

Details about the funding, the assessment criteria/ process and how to apply can be found here: https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/apply-for-cil

DISTRICT SMALL GRANT SCHEME OPEN TO APPLICATIONS

In addition to the CIL applications above, small grants of up to £700 are available to community groups and organisations across

the district through our Small Grants Scheme. The scheme is there to provide small-scale one-off funding for projects that help to create stronger, healthier, thriving communities – it was a similar scheme that was used recently to support the Ladies Cricket Club in Shedfield, as reported last month.

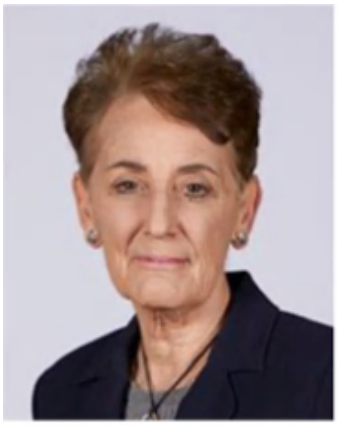
Local councils aren't eligible for small grants themselves, but local not-for-profit groups are. They can apply using the link below or get in touch with our Grants team at grants@winchester.gov.uk to learn more. https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme

We continue to work hard on residents' behalf, so please do let us know if you have any concerns, queries or issues. We're always just an email or phone call away.

Angela, Neil & Chris.
Winchester City Councillors

County Councillor's Update for Wickham

Local roads, parking and community services
By Angela Clear, Hampshire County Councillor



Wickham is fortunate to have a strong and active community, but I know that residents continue to have concerns about the condition of local roads and the way traffic and parking affect daily life in the village.
Road maintenance remains a priority. Potholes, damaged surfaces, blocked drains and worn road markings can all create inconvenience and, in some cases, genuine safety risks. I will continue to press for reported defects to be inspected and addressed according to their urgency, while making the case for sensible preventative maintenance rather than waiting for roads to deteriorate further.

Parking in Wickham Square

Parking in and around Wickham Square requires a careful balance. The Square must remain accessible to residents, visitors and customers of local businesses, while allowing buses, delivery vehicles and emergency services to pass safely.
I am particularly concerned when vehicles are left in the middle of the road or in positions that narrow the available carriageway, obstruct sightlines or make it difficult for larger vehicles to get through. Enforcement officers are on the case and have issued tickets where vehicles have breached the restrictions. I am also hopeful that the white lines in the Square will be repainted very soon, making the parking arrangements clearer for everyone.

Supporting our community

County Council services touch many parts of everyday life, including highways, public transport, libraries, adult social care, support for children and families, and services for older and disabled residents. These services face continuing pressure, so it is important that people know where to seek help and that local experience informs decisions. Please continue to report highway problems through Hampshire County Council's online reporting service, as a recorded report provides the clearest route for inspection and follow-up. If an issue is persistent or particularly serious, please let me know so that I can raise it with the appropriate team.
I will keep working with residents, Wickham Parish Council, local businesses and council officers to seek practical improvements. Not every issue can be resolved immediately, but clear evidence and constructive local feedback strengthen the case for action.
Thank you to everyone who gives their time to local groups, supports neighbours or helps keep Wickham welcoming. Please continue to share your concerns and ideas with me.

Angela Clear
01329 832 923
Mobile: 07443 858572

Wickham and Knowle Parish Council



Cllr Craig Manuel
Chair - Wickham & Knowle Parish Council
cllr.craig.manuel@wickhamknowleparish.gov.uk



Hampshire Association of Local Councils – Clerk of the Year 2026

Huge congratulations to our Parish Clerk, Sophie Thorogood, winner of the prestigious 'Clerk of the Year' award at the Hampshire Association of Local Councils awards on Saturday! It was a real pleasure to be there to see Sophie receive this well-deserved recognition.
Since joining Wickham & Knowle Parish Council in May 2024, Sophie has transformed the Council through her outstanding leadership and dedication. From achieving two consecutive 100% audit results to helping bring exciting community projects forward, with work now underway on the long-awaited new sports pavilion at Wickham and progress being made on a new country park at Mill Lane and an extension to Knowle Hall, Sophie's impact has been exceptional. She has also modernised communications and helped bring Wickham and Knowle closer together. Her approachable and engaging manner has been warmly welcomed by residents, who value the opportunity to speak directly with her and share their views and ideas about the community.

Well done, Sophie! We are incredibly proud of you, and it's wonderful to have the Clerk of the Year right here in Wickham & Knowle!

Engaging with our Community

As Chair of Wickham & Knowle Parish Council, I believe it is important to get out into our community, listen to residents and build relationships with the people and organisations that make our parish such a special place to live.



Above: Left: Nigel Prior (MVNHW) / Middle: Cllr Craig Manuel / Right: Cllr David Evans

Recently, I held a drop-in session in Wickham, giving residents the opportunity to raise local issues, share ideas and discuss matters that are important to them. Thank you to everyone who came along and to Meon Valley Neighbourhood Watch for joining us. I would also like to thank The Square Cow for kindly hosting the session
I have also met with Wickham Chamber of Trade to discuss how we can support our fantastic local businesses and help Wickham continue to thrive as a destination to shop, eat and enjoy. Our independent businesses are a vital part of village life, and working together to support them is important for the future of our community.

Alongside this, I recently visited Boarhunt Parish Council to learn more about their community projects and exchange ideas on how our neighbouring councils can work more closely together. Building these relationships allows us to share experience, learn from one another and explore opportunities that could benefit residents across our wider area.

I will continue to make time to meet residents and listen to your views, with further drop-in sessions planned for both Wickham and Knowle. I would encourage you to come along when you can. Whether you have a concern, an idea for a community project or simply want to find out more about the Parish Council's work, your views matter and help shape our priorities.

The demolition of the old pavilion is complete and the site has been cleared, marking an important milestone in the

journey towards a new pavilion for Wickham. Following a review of the plans, the Parish Council has identified a small adjustment to the building's position that would improve the facilities for both players and spectators. This change requires approval from Winchester City Council's planning team before work can progress.

Once approval is secured, the foundations can be laid and the construction of the new pavilion can begin to take shape. We look forward to sharing further updates as this exciting project progresses!

Wickham Flooding Mitigation Proposal

For those residents who have been following the impact of the February flooding in Wickham through our Planning & Highways Committee meetings, the Parish Council has been working on a flooding mitigation proposal for Wickham. This document has now been fully approved and the Council will now be engaging with key stakeholders to move this project forward.

A copy of the proposal has been uploaded to our website for residents to view and can be found on the following page: https://www.wickhamknowlepparish.gov.uk/our-community/wickham-flooding-mitigation-proposal/

Preparing for the Unexpected

The Wickham Community Emergency Plan has been developed to help the community prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies that may affect Wickham and the surrounding area. It outlines key actions, local resources and sources of information to help protect residents, support those who may need assistance and ensure the community can work together effectively when an emergency occurs. A redacted version of this document can be found on the Wickham and Knowle Parish Council's website: https://www.wickhamknowlepparish.gov.uk/our-community/emergency-plans/

Being prepared for an emergency, such as a power cut, severe weather or disruption to water supplies, can help keep you and your family safe and comfortable. We recommend putting together a basic emergency kit at home, including essential supplies such as torches, a radio, bottled water, non-perishable food, first aid items and any medication or specialist supplies you may need. You don't need to buy everything at once – you can build your kit gradually over time, adding items whenever you can.

What to Include in Your Emergency Kit:

- Lighting: A battery-powered or wind-up torch is safer than candles.
- Phone charging: A portable power bank to keep your mobile phone charged.
- Keeping informed: A battery-powered or wind-up radio for updates during a power cut. A car radio may also be useful but stay indoors if severe weather makes going outside unsafe.
- Batteries: Spare batteries for torches and radios, plus backup power for any essential medical equipment.
- First aid: A first aid kit containing items such as plasters, bandages, sterile dressings, antiseptic, eyewash, gloves, medical tape, a thermometer and tweezers.
- Hygiene: Hand sanitiser and wet wipes in case your water supply is disrupted.
- Drinking water: Store bottled water for everyone in your household. The World Health Organization recommends at least 2.5–3 litres of drinking water per person per day for survival. Around 10 litres per person per day allows for additional basic cooking and hygiene needs. Remember to consider extra supplies for babies, medical needs and pets.
- Food: Stock non-perishable food that can be eaten without cooking, such as tinned meat, fruit and vegetables. Remember to include a tin opener and food for pets.
- Baby essentials: Keep supplies such as nappies and formula milk. Ready-to-feed formula can be particularly useful if you cannot boil water or sterilise bottles. Rather than buying all the items at once, you could just add to your emergency kit when you are able and build it up over time.

Mill Lane: Update on the One-Way System

The Parish Council understands residents' frustrations and concerns about the one-way system on Mill Lane, which was introduced by Hampshire County Council (HCC).

I have raised residents' concerns with County Councillor

Angela Clear, who confirmed that the repairs required to the damaged road and collapsed ditch are substantial and costly and that funding is not available for the full remedial works. The adopted Winchester District Local Plan 2020–2040 identifies future highway improvements associated with the allocated Mill Lane housing development, including road widening and the relocation of the ditch. HCC has been unable to provide a longer-term timescale for the full improvements, which is subject to funding and the delivery of the allocated development.

However, there is some positive news for residents. By the time this newsletter is published, the repair work to the damaged road and ditch, scheduled for 22nd of October, should have been completed and, weather permitting, Mill Lane is expected to have reopened to two-way traffic on Saturday 24th of October.

The Parish Council will continue to raise residents' concerns and seek updates on the situation.

Wickham in Bloom Strikes Gold – Twice!





Wickham in Bloom

has achieved an outstanding double success, winning Gold at both the South & South East in Bloom Regional Awards and the national Britain in Bloom Awards! This fantastic achievement recognises the hard work, dedication and community spirit that go into making Wickham such a beautiful place to live, work and visit.

From colourful floral displays and thoughtfully maintained planters to the care and attention given to our village streets and public spaces, this success is a testament to the commitment of the Wickham in Bloom team and the many volunteers who give their time and energy throughout the year.

Wickham and Knowle Parish Council is proud to support this work and awarded Wickham in Bloom a £2,500 grant in May 2026 to help support its valuable contribution to the village. The Council would like to congratulate Chair Heather Reid, her team and everyone who has contributed to this wonderful achievement.

Thank you to all those involved for helping to make Wickham a more colourful, welcoming and beautiful place for residents and visitors alike. Two Gold awards – one very special village!

Save the dates – Wickham and Knowle events:

- Sunday 8th November – Remembrance services in Wickham and Knowle

- Saturday 14th November – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance – CPR training, to be held at Knowle Village Hall at 2pm. Free to attend. Register with business.events@wickhamknowleparish.gov.uk for your place.

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

- Friday 4th December – BINGO – Knowle Village Hall 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

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

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