
A LETTER FROM THE RURAL DEAN

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, easily discerned by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her, she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them and meets them in every thought.

The Wisdom of Solomon 6, 12, 13 and 16.



Where is God? We hear the question asked so often. And every one of us must have cause to ask it ourselves from time to time. But are we prepared to believe that there is an answer, or do we prefer, like Pontius Pilate when he asked ‘what is truth?’, cynically to assume that the answer is beyond our comprehension?

The Wisdom of Solomon, quoted above, teaches that wisdom is a (female) personification of God, who is readily revealed to all who really want to know.

At Christmas, we celebrate the epitome of God’s self-revelation by his incarnation as Jesus, the Christ-child, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Now, as then, however, he may only be recognised through the eyes of faith. Only if we are prepared to discern the incredible reality of God in our midst, shall we realise his presence and learn to trust in the power of his love to make all things new.

The paradox is that although the all-powerful God yearns for us so much that he lived and died for us, yet he will not give us the grace of his wisdom or the joy of his love unless we are prepared to accept them by loving him in return. While God looks constantly for us, we too, need to look constantly for God and to find him in every corner of his creation.

To that end, you might like to make your own, this three-hundred-year-old prayer by Richard Baxter:-

*Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious God for ever.
Amen.*

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that you find fulfillment in the New Year by recognising, accepting and sharing the love of God.

Peter Kelly

The Editorial Team would like to wish everyone a
Very Happy Christmas and New Year
Please contact either Sue Leatham or Neale Fray to subscribe to the
Wickham Parish Magazine
It’s only £4 per year!

HARMONY IN THE CHURCHYARD

I am broaching a very sensitive issue here but I shall gather my courage and continue.

Monuments are clearly a solace to the relatives of those they commemorate and, taken together, they express the purpose of the churchyard as a place where the mortal remains of past generations are reverently laid at peace.

To this end churchyards, and what can be placed in them, are governed by rules laid down by the Chancellor of the Diocese of Portsmouth and in those rules is the reminder that a churchyard is not a private place in which anything is acceptable. Clergy and those who are responsible for churchyards therefore have to tread a difficult path between the rules by which they must abide and the demands of individuals.

The objective is to see a harmonious appearance in a churchyard. This does not mean uniformity but a degree of conformity so that no memorial or tribute on a grave is out of keeping. To achieve that overall sense of harmony and peace we issue guidelines as to what type of memorial stones would be acceptable and it is necessary for us to discourage plastic flowers and trinkets, like toys and lights etc.. In fact those who are entrusted with overseeing a churchyard are permitted, indeed encouraged, to remove such things from any grave. We have not done so yet; we would much prefer those tending graves in the churchyard to respect these rules and remove such items themselves.

So many of the graves in our churchyard are beautifully tended and the floral tributes placed and replaced are most moving. In fact it is always a special experience to visit and tend the churchyard. In view of this it may seem an unreasonable request where only a few graves are concerned but I had reason to visit a civic memorial ground (not in Hampshire) fairly recently where rules were few – the area was home to every shape, size and colour of statue, fountains, lamps,..you name it, it was there. There was no sense of peace or harmony, nor dignity nor reverence. St. Nicholas' Churchyard has all those elements and it is an honour as Churchwarden, to be responsible with others, for overseeing it. I am just asking for your help in keeping it so.

Judy Lucas, Churchwarden

Chaplain's Assistant

Do you have 2-3 hours a week to spare, afternoon or morning, that you may like to use in helping others?

Had you ever thought of perhaps becoming a Chaplain's Assistant at one of the Hospitals?

This is such a rewarding way of giving comfort, friendship and support to others in need.

If you are interested and would like to know more details, please contact me, Di Hemingway-Rice on 01329 835463.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

We assembled at 9.15 am outside the old Whitehall Theatre, eighteen W.R.V.S. members from all over the country. I was the only W.R.V.S. representative from Hampshire.

After a quick visit to McDonalds in Trafalgar Square to avail ourselves of their 'facilities' we passed through airport type security at the top of Whitehall. We were ushered into Column 4 Section M 18 immediately behind The Salvation Army and alongside the retired members of the Fleet Air Arm. They kept themselves warm from hip flasks and amused us greatly with their banter. We stood for about 2 hours but had a large T.V. screen near and good loud speakers so were able to watch the wreath laying and to partake in the service.

We moved off about 11.30, down Whitehall, past the Cenotaph, through Parliament Square, into Birdcage Walk to Horse Guards Parade where the Prince of Wales was taking the salute. We waited there before dispersing about 1.30 after the final National Anthem. We were all amazed at the size of the crowds; there were tens of thousands of people of all ages standing 10-12 deep clapping and cheering along the entire route. It was a very moving experience and I felt very proud to have been able to take part.

Jo Wilkes

PARK PLACE PERSPECTIVES



THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The final part in a series of articles on the life and legacy of St Francis, by Andrew McMahon, ofm.

Traditions and Legends about St Francis

Inevitably traditions and legends grow up around the lives of outstanding men and women, and Francis is no exception. Legends are legends and we have no way of knowing if they are true or not - but the traditions and legends do indicate the regard in which such people are held by ordinary folk.

The Wolf of Gubbio. A wolf was ravaging the countryside around Gubbio and the men were hunting it. Francis was asked to help and went out in search of the animal. Eventually he found it, spoke to it and it followed him meekly back to Gubbio. Miraculously it wasn't slain immediately, but thereafter never harmed any other animal and lived and died in Gubbio.

The Dove. A young boy was offering a dove for sale. Francis bought the dove from him and set it free. In the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, near Assisi, there is a statue of Francis holding a basket and two resident doves fly in and out of it !

The Blessing of St Francis. Brother Leo was at a very low ebb and doubted his vocation. Francis wrote him a "Blessing" based on the scriptural blessing. "May the Lord bless and keep you in his love; may the Lord make his face to shine on you; may He be gracious to you, lift his countenance upon you; may the Lord give you all his peace and joy." Leo recovered his faith !

The Doubting Peasant. Francis, seriously ill, was travelling with his brothers to La Verna. They stopped a peasant and asked to borrow his donkey for him to ride on for the last part of his journey. The peasant asked who the man was. A brother said " This is Francis of Assisi". The peasant said to Francis "I hope you are as holy as they say you are!"

God's Troubadour. At the time of Francis the concept of "Courtly and Chivalric Love" was at its height. The legend of the Round Table was popular; wandering Troubadours travelled the countries of Europe. Francis saw himself betrothed to Lady Poverty and sang songs to her about his love.

The Canticle of Creation. Francis wrote the "Canticle" in 1225, which is seen as the first exposition of the concept of respect for the environment.

*Be praised most high Almighty Lord, yours
the blessings and glory be.
Only honour belongs to you, for all eternity.
Be praised Lord of the creature world
and first Sir Brother Sun, who through the
day the light you give reflects you O holy
one.*

*Be praised through Sister Moon and Stars,
bright and precious they shine above.
Through Brother Wind and all weathers too,
be praised O Lord of love.
Through Sister Water Lord be Praised, for
fair and chaste is she.
And Brother Fire that lights the night, so
strong and bright is he.*

*Be praised through Sister Mother-Earth, for
she sustains and guides our way.
And yields so many fruits and grass, and
flowers to brighten our day.
Be praised through all who pardon give, for
love of bearing their pain.
Blessed are those who work for peace, they
shall not suffer in vain.*

*Be praised through Sister Death of flesh,
from whom no living man can flee.
Woe to those that she finds in Sin, but those
in grace she sets free.
Be praised Lord of the creature world and
first Sir Brother Sun,
Who through the day the light he gives,
reflects you O Holy One.*

Two Park Place dates for your diary:

4th December, 10am to 4pm - "*Advent people in their world turned upside down*" to be led by Dr. Anand Chitnis

11th December, 5pm - Advent Carol Service

FROM THE METHODIST MINISTER

'The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned'

These words of the prophet Isaiah are a traditional part of the church's celebration of Christmas and as usual will be read at carol services all over the country this year. It is difficult for Christians not to read these words and those that follow about a child who is 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' and not think of Jesus. But for the original author the words were not so much about a future Messiah but about hope in the present. You cannot escape the present tense.

METHODIST MUSINGS

Isaiah 9 talks about a child that has been born and this child, (this royal child), is a sign that all is not lost, that there is light and hope to be found among the grim darkness that threatens to overwhelm.

As we approach the end of 2005 it is easy to identify with Isaiah's themes of a 'darkness' and 'death'. Not long ago a survey indicated that nearly 10% of the British population never watches, reads or listens to the news. Given the depressing content I am not surprised. The optimism of the 1960's, with its heady hopes of changing the world seems remarkably old fashioned 40 years on. In 2005 we have rather more limited ambitions of self fulfilment and the accumulation of wealth. Somewhere along the way the darkness became impenetrable and just too difficult to confront. Looking for signs of hope in the churches is just as difficult. We know some of the statistics and we see the evidence of our own eyes that things are in a bad way. A while ago The Times newspaper ran a headline 'Stuck in the past, losing members and ageing fast' and there are far worse things that might have been said about the church in Britain.

Many, many years after the prophet spoke about a people 'walking in darkness' and 'living in the land of the shadow of death', his words have a strangely contemporary ring. Yet of course, the prophet's message was essentially one of hope and optimism - a child had been born and this signified hope for the nation. And today amid the gloom and the depressing realities of life lights still shine. In the world and in the church there are always signs of hope which speak of new possibilities and new direction. Too easily we overlook those whose example is inspiring and those movements (like the campaign to cancel third world debt and fair trade) which bring joy to peoples lives. As for the church, it might be declining in Europe but it is growing at a phenomenal rate else where. There is no need to be swamped by the darkness, there is still hope for the world - lights still shine. Christmas and the coming of Christ underline this message of hope in a way that few things can. For if God has come to us in Jesus it surely suggests that he cares about this planet and its people. Indeed, the usual Christian interpretation is that Jesus birth indicates something of the extraordinary love that God has for the world. And while God continues to hold the world and the church in loving affection there is hope. With this kind of light, even in the midst of terrible darkness, there is room for optimism and a better tomorrow.

There will be a Carol Service at the Wickham Methodist Church on Sunday, 18 December at 10.30 and includes Holy Communion. This will be the last service in the church.

Stephen Wight

As the year draws to a close it is inevitable that we look back as well as forward. Personally 2005 has not been a good year and I trust 2006 will bring better things. On a broader front I feel sadness that the Wickham Methodist Church has been finally sold (subject to contract). I know it was inevitable given all the circumstances, but yet another Christian place of worship has closed its doors, or soon will do so. Like me, many of you felt more than a little uncomfortable in seeing the For Sale sign go up, and now the Sold sign is displayed. It is the end of an era in the village of Wickham.

I heard that someone in the village said they were disgusted and very angry that the Church has been put up for sale.

My answer to that is, it is not the people who attend the Wickham Methodist Church who are responsible for its closure, it is those who stay away. To those who are angry, I ask, what have you done to save the Church from closing? I have used this Magazine several times in the past few years to inform the people of this village of the situation at the Church. Use it I pleaded, or you will loose it.

If there had been enough people in the village prepared to attend on a regular basis to make keeping the Church open for worship viable, it would not have needed to be closed. How we would have loved to have kept the place open, how often have we dreamt of families and young people coming along to inject fresh ideas and inspire lively spiritual worship, how we longed to see people coming along to take over the responsibilities of office, to climb ladders to change light bulbs, and to participate in worship. I feel so sorry for those who for years have struggled to keep Wickham Methodist Church open, but anyone who knows the full story will realise it is no longer possible.

There are urgent repair costs to be met for maintenance of the building, the outside of the chapel is in need of repair and painting, the toilets are not up to the government guidelines for public buildings, and the heating system needs upgrading. I know grants are available to help in such circumstances but there has to be a will and energy to see such programmes put in to place and most of the costs would still have to come from the Methodist Church. We are an ageing congregation, all living on fixed income and pensions. Only five people in the village attend worship and two of us may well be moving from the village in the near future. Even if we could wave a magic wand and have all the costs met and the work done, it still would not increase the congregation or the weekly giving.

So to all those people in the village who felt pain at seeing the For Sale and Sold notices go up on the Chapel, I can tell you it hurt those faithful souls who have strived to keep the place open in recent years a lot more.

Our final service will be a Carol Service on Sunday Morning 18th December at 10.30am. Why not come and join us for this final act of worship in our lovely old Chapel? The final Coffee Morning will be Thursday December 15th. 10.am.

Herbie Taylor

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please look out for the Sunday School's Crib: it will be in various shop windows around the Square during Advent.

Also, please come and join in the rehearsals for our Christmas Eve Children's Service - rehearsals at 9.45am for one hour every Sunday up until Christmas.



Fiona Knight

KNOWLE VILLAGE CHURCH

Just like all the other churches in the area, the Church at Knowle Village is planning its Christmas celebrations.

As always, we have our pre-Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 6p.m. with light refreshments to follow, and for the second year running, we are holding a Christmas Eve Midnight Mass starting at 11.30p.m. (As many of you will know Bishop Kenneth will not be able to attend our carol service this year, as he is being treated for Leukemia. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this time.) We shall be taking a collection, after the carol service, as in previous years.

This year it is in aid of the Blue Peter Appeal supporting Childline. As well as welcoming any monetary donations they are also collecting old and foreign coins as well as old mobile phones. This will go to help keep Childline running, providing scared and lonely children a place to turn for comfort and advice.

Our usual 2nd Sunday service is 11th December at 10a.m., and our first service of the New Year is 8th January 2006.

Christians aren't the only ones who celebrate at this time of year.

On the 8th December it is Bodhi Day. This is the day that Buddhists believe Siddhartha Guatama (the

Buddha) finally gained enlightenment, while sitting under a Bo tree.

He had spent six years wandering, fasting, praying and living the life of an ascetic, without any success in reaching the level of understanding he hoped for, so he sat down under the tree, and decided to stay there until he had. He stayed there for a week and on the eighth day was enlightened.

This year 26th December marks the first night of Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights. This is a Jewish celebration that commemorates the victory of Judas Maccabeus over the Greeks, and the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem, after its desecration, in 165BC. The festival lasts for eight nights, with a candle being lit each night to retell the miracle of the temple lamp that burnt for eight days on one days worth of oil.

Hanukkah starts on the 25th day of the third month of the Jewish calendar and, therefore, moves around in relationship to our Gregorian calendar. (Some scholars believe that the early celebrations of Christmas may well have been linked to the celebration of Hanukkah.)

In fact, a lot of Jewish and Christian festivals coincide. Passover is linked with the Eucharist and often falls close to Easter, and Pentecost is another name for the Jewish festival of Shabuoth, which celebrates the Spring harvest as well as the revelation of the Law at Mount Sinai (the Ten Commandments).

As Christians our faith has a rich heritage, and it is important for us not to forget it. After all Jesus was Jewish.

All are welcome to celebrate His birth, with us, at Knowle Village.

Have a Blessed Christmas

Deborah Casper

THE MOTHERS' UNION



The speaker arranged to be with us in November unfortunately was not able to come so two of our own members filled the gap. Because we have been encouraged, by the Diocese to take note of some of the things the Mothers Union is doing worldwide, and also by the Deanery to pass on to members some of the things it is doing, our two speakers decided to make this the main part of our meeting.

Each year our Diocese organises a holiday for families who, because of their circumstances, would not be able to have one. This is called "Away from it all" or AFIA. The holiday which the Portsmouth Diocese organised this year was reported in

Encompass, which is a countrywide Mothers' Union magazine. These holidays are run entirely by MU members. Another task undertaken in the Diocese is helpers going to the Roberts Centre to supervise visits by estranged parents and children. A prison in our Diocese has an area where children can be looked after whilst one parent is visiting the other - this is another work undertaken by MU. There are so many other projects which aim to fulfil the MU motto "Christian Care for Families World Wide".

One countrywide project, supported by all members, is a literacy programme in some areas of Africa which although directed particularly to women unable to read has attracted some men also. Learning to read has made such a difference to their lives as well as to their communities.

After deciding what projects Wickham MU would support financially this year, we then moved onto a meditation written by a well known Christian writer, Eddie Askew. The one selected was the story of Martha and Mary, friends of Jesus. Its aim was to make us think about their relationship to Jesus, but also our own.

In December we shall meet at the home of Valerie Shuttleworth, 7 Tanfield Park. We shall enjoy singing carols and taking part in a quiz. In January we meet at my home, 21 Manor Close for members' choice of music and readings. We always welcome friends to join us.

Anne Marshall

**THE GOOD NEWS
TRAVELLING LIBRARY**

The next visit of the GNLT is
at the Paterson Centre,
Church Road, Swanmore,
on 13th December 2005 & 10th January 2006
at 10.30 am ~ 12.15 pm

There are books, CDs, videos and audio cassettes, to borrow and greetings cards and notelets to buy at very reasonable prices.

Everyone is welcome - refreshments served.

***CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE
BISHOP'S WALTHAM AREA***

The Ecumenical Lent course for 2006

We shall once again be offering an ecumenical Lent course for 2006.

It is a five part Course called 'Life Attitudes' and it is based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) and we shall explore them in depth, find out how Jesus himself lived them and explore what they mean for us in today's world. It is a very exciting and challenging course and I hope that you will encourage the formation of a number of groups in

your area in partnership with churches from other denominations.

The course will help us to look at how Jesus himself lived out his teaching and also to consider their implications for us in our own time and place.

It has been written by Robert Warren who was for some time the Church of England's Officer for Evangelism, and Sue Mayfield who writes fiction for teenagers, teaches creative writing and has many years of youth work experience.

Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury describes the course as 'doing a wonderful job in opening up for Christians of all traditions the liberating challenge of these words of Jesus and offers us imaginative pointers to how we can live out their message in our daily lives'.

There are full background notes for Group Leaders and there will be two training sessions for leaders on Tuesday, February 21st at the Paterson Centre, Swanmore and Thursday February 23rd at the Church Room in Botley, both at 7.30 pm.

Ash Wednesday is on March 1st and there should be plenty of time to fit in the five sessions before Holy Week.

We shall be holding a United Service at the Jubilee Hall in Bishop's Waltham, on Palm Sunday at 6.30 pm. David Burgess has agreed once more to provide the music and refreshments will also be provided.

Please will you include this notice in your magazine as soon as possible. Thank you very much

*Marion Mort, Rivendell, High Street
Shirrell Heath, SO32 2JN*

tel. 01329 832178 marion@swanmore.net

Come & Sing Choral Classics

Saturday 14th January 2006
Church of St Nicholas, Wickham

Programme:

Vivaldi	Gloria
Haydn	The Heavens are Telling (Creation)
Mendelssohn	Hear my Prayer
Handel	Zadok the Priest
Parry	I was Glad

Conductor David Burgess
Organist Rosemary Field

Registration and score hire from 3:30pm
in the Church Room
Rehearsals from 4pm to 6:15pm
Refreshments at 6:15pm

Public performance at 7pm Audience welcome

Singers	£6
Audience	£4

(all prices include a glass of wine)

For more details or to register, contact Sue Fitzgerald
01329 833609 fitzged@aol.com

WICKHAM VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2006

Two dates for your diaries:

Sunday 22nd January 2006 at 11.30am

Coffee in the Church Room between 11.00 and 11.30am followed by an Open Meeting in the Church Room to discuss the Fete.

Saturday 10th June: Fete

Everyone put in a tremendous effort last year to make the Fete a success and, if you were one of the helpers, it would be lovely if you could help again in 2004. If we have not roped you in before, or you couldn't help last year because of previous commitments, please note the dates above and come and join us with your ideas! Any feedback on last year's fete and ideas for the next one are always welcome – hence the meeting in January.

We need a wide range of help, ranging from selling draw tickets in the Square, help on the odd evening prior to the Fete, lifting and carrying both before and after the Fete, to help on the day itself with individual stalls and activities.

Please note, if you are relatively new to Wickham it can be a good way of getting to know people and for the village to make you feel welcome.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting or, if you are unable to attend, please contact me with your ideas.

Susie O'Connell for the Fete Committee (01329 832231)

By invitation of the Parish Council
Flavours of Europe
are bringing

A Continental Mini-Market

into

Wickham Square

on

Sunday 18th December

10.00 am - 4.00 pm



Ours is a travelling good food market with a range of products from staple to the unusual all attaining a level of excellence for both quality and presentation. It offers a selection of food from countries such as France, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Italy, Greece and UK.

There is an element of discovery to be found with the variety of cultural back-grounds reflected in both the market team members and the food.

Although this Christmas market is smaller than our usual one, it offers products and personalities which compliment and 'bounce off' one another. On this first occasion in Wickham there will be 8 - 12 stalls. Next year we would like to develop a regular Sunday Market in the Square with many more stalls. This time we offer a selection from:

Pates/Terrains/Olives/Stuffed Peppers
Mushrooms/Sun Dried Tomatoes
Fish Soup/Pates/Rouille/Anchoide
Sausages
Meat Pies/Fruit Pies
Pork Pies
Bread
Cakes and Biscuits
Vegetables in Season
Fruit in Season/bottled fruit

Olive Oils
Vinegars
Condiments
Coffee/Tea and Drinking Chocolate
Chorizo and Saucisson
Paella
Cheese
Jams and Marmalades
Fruit Cordials
Wines/ciders

VILLAGE NEWS

WICKHAM FIRE STATION

It's been a busy time for us since our last update....

We've attended two Road Traffic Collisions – one quite bad along the A32 towards Fareham; Been standby at Fareham Fire Station; Several Bin Fires and Several Automatic Fire Alarms.

You may remember the fire at Southampton University at the end of October? That fire made 25 pumps (fire engines) – we were called out at 08:30 hrs and were there all day firefighting.

We've been working in partnership with the Police handing out leaflets and wristbands reminding people of the importance of safety – especially on 5th November.

We've also just been trained on how to perform Home Fire Safety Checks and fit Smoke Detectors. Currently, these are checked or fitted in homes that have unfortunately had an incident. These will later be available to everyone.

Firefighter T. Pratt is back after a long period of absence due to an injury. Tony came back on the run on 7th November. Firefighter M. Goddon will be celebrating his 20th year in service and will be handed his Long Service and Good Conduct medal by a Senior Officer on 20th December at Wickham Fire Station. Well done Mick!

Don't forget, our annual Christmas collection will take place in the Square on 17th December. All monies raised will be given to the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund to help those hurt in the line of duty and families left behind.

That just leaves us to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. And, of course

***In the event of a fire: Get Out!
Get the Fire Brigade Out! Stay Out!***

Nigel Blackman

Artworking

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07974 754214
for further information.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP
for handmade and unusual gifts at
GREYSTONES
TITCHFIELD LANE, WICKHAM
Tel. 01329 836646
Open every sat and sun from
3rd Dec to 18th Dec 2005
From 10 am to 5pm

Cushions, throws, woven rugs, woven hangings, mohair garments, mohair products. Gifts and cards, Wildlife photography, cakes and jams. Jewellery and handbags. Stained glass work. Interior ideas and inspirations and much more!

On the road between Titchfield and Wickam. Not far from the Ostrich farm. Look out for the signs.

COMMUNITY BEAT POLICING TEAM AT MEON VALLEY

Hello Everyone,

Your community beat policing team at Meon valley has been very busy over recent months on many issues, but the overriding one has been the need to adopt a Zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour in Bishops Waltham, Waltham Chase and Swanmore areas.



So much so that we have had to run a specific operation to deal with it since 7th October, using an increased number of officers on high visibility foot patrols Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Several arrests have been made for offensive language and vandalism, as well as numerous seizures of alcohol from those under age, plus some class C drugs. Sadly, most of the individuals concerned have been 17 years old and under!!!

We will be continuing with this approach on the run in to Christmas and the New Year, to help keep this period as safe and peaceful as possible.

However, it has been apparent that the lure of alcohol and drug misuse is still attractive to some of our youths in the area. We ask that parents are aware of this situation, and be happy in themselves that they know the whereabouts and plans of their sons and daughters, when it comes to weekend parties and those being planned for Christmas.

A happy and peaceful Christmas to you all, from your Community Beat Policing team at Meon Valley.

Sgt Chris Stanton

ROCKY APPEAL 3rd SUPPER PARTY

A date for your 2006 diary - ROCKY APPEAL 3rd SUPPER PARTY to be held at Wickham Community Centre on Saturday, 25th MARCH. As usual there will be an excellent TOMBOLO, a three course Supper will be provided, ++ The Fareham Barbershop Choir will be singing, followed by dancing to Abba style music to end.

Due to your fantastic support we have been able to donate £10,000 to the Rocky Appeal for the prototype Chemotherapy Laboratory at Q.A.Hospital, Cosham. Sadly 1 in 3 of us will benefit from the latest scientific work so

**PLEASE,PLEASE MAKE THIS A
FIRM DATE FOR 2006**

**Tickets are available from Mavis Stevens
on 01329.833188**

Helpers to sell tickets & prepare the hall in the morning would be much appreciated.
Contact Mavis!!!!



The closing date of December 31st for this year's Competition is fast approaching. We have had a good number of entries from members of the Youth Club, so

that there are a lot of photographs to be judged in the under 13 section of the Competition. However there are as yet no entries in either the adult or the junior (under 18) sections. We would be sad if the people who collected entry forms during the year failed to submit an entry. Remember there is a trophy and a cash prize for the winner in each of the three categories. It is not too late to get an entry form if you have not already got one. You can call at Studio 6 in the Square or e-mail them at print@studio-6.co.uk and they will e-mail a form to you.

A number of things happened in the Village during the year and I bet several of you have caught some aspect of Village or family life on film or disc. I am thinking of putting in an entry myself, especially as such important people have visited us! I am sure it won't take you long to convince yourself that you have taken far better images than the one here! Remember that you can submit either print or disc. Do have a go, or even better have several goes! Entry to the competition is free.



Michael Carter

P&O Cruises



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HON. CHAPLAIN: 01329 237890 or 07940 905431 or 023 9238 2433
Email: rowanstravel@yahoo.co.uk

Botley Choral Society

with

Solent Area Salvation Army Band

present

Christmas Carols

All Saints Church, Botley

Saturday 10th December 2005

at 7.30pm

Tickets £7 and £5 (concessions)

£3 (children under 12yrs)

**Available from Choir members and by
phone 01489 890393 01489 891826**

E-mail: enquiries@botleychoral.co.uk

KNOWLE CEMETERY

REDEDICATION AND HAND-OVER CEREMONY

Outdoor events at the end of September are nerve-racking to arrange; the morning was dull with showers, an unpromising start. We had no idea how many people might attend and there was no alternative venue possible. By 4:30pm it had turned into a beautiful autumn afternoon. Forty people gathered just inside the top gate to the cemetery, by the new memorial stone. There were representatives from the developer and the diocese, the parish and district councils, but the majority were relatives of those buried at Knowle Cemetery.



As Knowle Hospital was decommissioned, the cemetery fell into disuse. By 2000, anyone passing would have thought the area to be just another small parcel of woodland. You needed stout boots and a pruning knife to venture in and discover the gravestones.



It has taken five years and much discussion between Berkeley Homes, Portsmouth Diocese, Wickham Parish Council and District Councillor Thérèse Evans to achieve a management scheme that all could agree on. Berkeley Homes then carried out tree surgery, creating paths from the wood chippings, built rustic steps between the two levels of the site, put in fencing and gates, commissioned a commemorative stone and site plan. The final effect is of a nature reserve rather than an institution's burial ground.

and took everyone on a circular walk to see the restoration work.

The Venerable Peter Hancock, who had overseen the scheme for the Diocese, led a short service to rededicate the area, which remains a consecrated cemetery. Peter had brought his golden retriever dog

Among the relatives, one gentleman has traced his great-grandfather who died in 1872. Another lady was delighted to find her husband's grandmother's grave marker from 1912. The lady who first contacted Councillor Evans and started the whole project was so pleased that the cemetery, where her father and brother are buried, had been sensitively restored.



Wickham Parish Council is taking over ownership of the cemetery and its future maintenance. It is open for anyone to walk round, but please treat it with respect. Many of the relatives said they would return with other relatives to place flowers on graves or by the memorial stone.

Sue Fitzgerald

Invitation from Hampshire Countryside Access Forum

Your ideas are sought on improving access to the countryside in the Forest of Bere, through a meeting on Saturday 10th December (10am-1pm) at Lower Upham Village Hall. Please let us know whether you can attend.

Hampshire County Council has been working with its advisory group, Hampshire Countryside Access Forum, to plan for improved access to the countryside in your area.

We have sought the views of access users (walkers, cyclists, horse riders, etc) and the farmers and land managers who provide that access, whether through rights of way, country parks or Forestry Commission woodland.

The result is the 'Forest of Bere Countryside Access Plan', a public document which identifies the issues and proposes actions to address them – this can be downloaded at:

<http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/access/access-plans.html>

We are now seeking your ideas, as local walkers, cyclists, horse riders and land managers, to help us turn the plan into reality.

Please reply to Doreen Gascoine, Countryside Service, HCC, Mottisfont Court, High St, Winchester SO23 8ZF, 'phone 01962 846981 or e-mail doreen.gascoine@hants.gov.uk.

If you are able to attend, further details will be sent nearer the day. If you would like to invite others, please check with us first to ensure that there is room for everyone.

GWYNN WAY - AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE COUNTESS OF WESSEX 'OPENS' TWELVE NEW LOW COST HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex visited Wickham on Wednesday 2 November when she opened the HVHS Housing Group's affordable housing scheme at Gwynn Way. Accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mrs Mary Fagan JP; the High Sheriff of Hampshire, Peter Andreae Esq; the Chairman of Hampshire County Council, Councillor John West; the Mayor of Winchester, Councillor

Neil Baxter, Dave Walden Chairman of HVHS Housing Group, and Mrs Angela Clear, Chairman of Wickham Parish Council, The Countess visited two of the new homes and talked to residents. The Countess then unveiled a commemorative plaque and met representatives of all the organisations involved in the nearby Wickham Community Centre.

The twelve homes – ten for rent and two for shared ownership – were completed after close liaison between HVHS, Winchester City Council and Wickham Parish Council. The homes are specifically for local people and conveniently located for all facilities within Wickham.

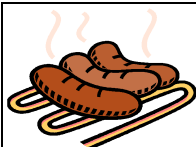
Parish Council Chairman Angela Clear said "This is good news for the village. Wickham has a severe shortage of affordable homes and this development will provide housing for twelve families who may otherwise have to move away, against their wishes, to find suitable housing."

The proposal to have an affordable housing scheme in Wickham began back in 2002 and since then there have been numerous discussions with Wickham Parish Council who promoted the scheme, and Winchester City Council, in connection with the type of development and its location. An extensive search was made for a suitable site, and land adjoining Dickson Park in Mill Lane, Wickham was identified. The willingness of the landowner, Rookesbury Estate, to release some land is appreciated.

Following a detailed assessment of the overall housing need in the Parish, it was decided to build four 3 bedroom, four 2 bedroom and two 1 bedroom houses all for rent, and two 2 bedroom houses for shared ownership. In November 2004 the site was purchased following the granting of planning permission by Winchester City Council subject to HVHS Housing Group entering into a legal agreement restricting occupancy to local people.

The scheme was designed by Genesis Design Studio, Chartered Architects from Romsey, and the construction contract was undertaken by Norman Wright (Portsmouth) Ltd, under the supervision of the Denley King Partnership, acting as Employer's Agent. The homes were completed on 29 September 2005. The cost of the scheme has been met by Capital Grant Funding from the Housing Corporation, and private funding from HVHS Housing Group.

HVHS Housing Group



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2006



Put this date in your diaries!!

We all need cheering up in February, so next year we are planning to celebrate

MARDI GRAS.

At the moment we are thinking of sausages and Pancakes in the Church Room on the Saturday evening before Mardi Gras. BUT we need some ideas and helpers. So anyone willing to help or have brilliant ideas, please 'phone either Penny Burch on 01329 319825 or Betty Bellis on 01329 834548.

TULL'S FINE FOODS - A BRIEF HISTORY



Harry Hamper (dec'd), Dick Newland & G.B. Tull

Although there is no starting date the shop is believed to be one of the earliest in Wickham. It was converted from a large house, with the Estate agents next to us retaining the house's front door.

The first butcher to trade was prior to 1895; we believe was a Mr. Franklin. In 1895 a Walter J. West (sr.) purchased the property. Mr. West traded as a butcher at this address, as well as at Bishops Waltham.

Both shops had the same type of front shop tiles fitted by Carters tiles of Poole. Carter's was subsequently taken over by Poole Pottery. Mr. West also operated a small abattoir at both sites. My

father, G. B. Tull, worked for Mr. West at Bishops Waltham both in the shop and as a slaughter man.

In 1939 my father was asked to come to manage the Wickham shop. Slaughtering at Wickham stopped at about this time and the war years followed. In 1946 my father was offered the business and traded from the shop, at its height with two delivery vans, covering Wickham and the surrounding areas.

I, John Tull, worked for a wholesale meat Company in London, Thos Borthwick & Sons Ltd, selling New Zealand Lamb. I later transferred to their fresh meat division and worked as a trainee abattoir Manager at Swindon, and various places, finishing in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire. In 1967 problems within the Company and a vacancy at the shop at Wickham gave me the opportunity to return here and work for my father. By then supermarkets were on their way and we only had one delivery van.

In 1971 my father purchased the property and I became a partner in the business. We decided to expand the shop over the drive, and increased our sales to offer more than just fresh meat. In 1981 I took over as my father reduced his hours ready for retirement. In the year 2000 for various reasons I also wanted to take life easier and decided to sell the business. In 2002 we found a butcher to take on the business.

The new butcher already had his own business and would use me on a part time basis at either shop. The whole event was linked to the selling the property, this sadly did not work out. With the shop now requiring a total revamp to keep up with modern regulations and much wholesale and catering work lost, there was much to do. The choice was to close the shop, or spend a large sum of money and have the shop brought up to standard and bring in modern shop refrigeration.



Dick Newland & G.B. Tull

The only employee now left at the shop was Graham Merritt. We got together and put a plan forward. Both Graham and I felt that the name had been in the village for a long time, and decided on **TULL'S FINE FOODS**. Next was the shop refit in time for our license to be granted and in time for the Christmas of 2004. We had just three months to be ready. The cabinets were to be built in Italy and project managed by a company in Poole, Dorset. The name over the shop was completed, and the walls and floor soon followed.

The main freezer some 600 cu ft now sited in the old slaughter house. The room for making sausages and extra chilled storage is now refrigerated and is some 800 cu ft. our main chiller put up soon after the alterations in 1972 is 1000 cu ft.

The new cabinets in the shop now allow us to service over 100 trays daily. This has allowed us to increase our range of meats.

Free range Beef, Pork, Lamb & Poultry
Fresh Fish, English Bacon & Cooked Meats
Organic Beef, Pork, Lamb & Poultry
Own Sausages (30 Varieties) &
O'Hagans Award Winning Sausages
Venison & all game in season
Milk, Spices, Herbs, Packet & Jar products



Inside Shop 2004

Graham and I formed a partnership and have been able get the work, both wholesale fully and a large part of the catering back. The shop is up on last year and returning to previous levels and with a new member on the staff coming perhaps we will be able to have some time off.

John & Graham

WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 3 ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM VISIT

At school on Thursday the 3rd November we got into our groups and went to the toilet. After that we lined up and walked through the library quietly. We walked out of the office door, down the path and onto the coach. I sat at the very back with Megan, Katie and Emma. It took about half an hour to get to the submarine museum.

When we got there we split into two groups, Miss Underwood's group went to the Education room and Mrs Gower's group went to see the submarine called HMS Alliance.

In the Education room we acted out a little play for what you would do if the German's dropped bombs. Me and Lucy were Fire Guards shouting "RAIDERS, RAIDERS!" and Ryan, Sian, Emma, Dannielle and Lydia were the Fire Crew. Sian and Emma were doing the stirrup pump and everybody else went in an Anderson Shelter.

Finally we walked to the submarine HMS Alliance. We walked through the submarine and went to the control room. A man pressed a button and there was a sound it was the sound of a submarine under attack, it would have been scary if it had really happened. The man told us a lot about the submarine. The HMS Alliance has 2 engines; it exploded and killed a submariner so the Royal Navy gave it to the Submarine Museum. It can also carry 4 torpedoes outside the submarine and 16 inside, 10 at one end and 6 at the other. The submarine can stay underwater for 36 hours and then it has to come up and breathe.



We saw people's bunk beds 3 on top of each other, the submariner can't even sit up on a bunk bed, and they will just bang their head. Also the toilets are horrible they're not like normal toilets at home. After that we had lunch, drew a badge and went to the shop.

Then we went to the museum with Holland 1 in. It was the first submarine built for the Navy. We had a look in the submarine and saw stuffed mice. The mice lived in the submarine and when they died the submariners knew that there was poisonous gas in the submarine. Holland 1 was going to be broken up but it sank to the bottom of the sea. In nearly 70 years time they found the submarine and brought it to the submarine museum.

Next we went to the science department and pressed lots of buttons. I know how a submariner escapes from a submarine. They flood part of the submarine, open the top hatch and the shoot out. We spent quite a lot of time in the science department then we followed Jackie to the Education room and she presented the winners of the drawing competition.

Then we said goodbye and thank you to Jackie and got on the coach. I sat next to Kate and Sophie. Again it took about half an hour to get back to school. When we got back to school we got our letters and went home. I had a brilliant day it was so fun.

by Phoebe River

WICKHAM SUMMER PLAYScheme



Next summer may seem a long time off, but plans are well under way for Wickham Summer Playscheme. We will be back at Wickham Community Centre for four weeks from **Monday, 24 July until Friday, 18 August 2006**. Children aged five to twelve, from Wickham and the surrounding areas, are welcome to attend our morning (9am-12.30pm) or whole day (9am-5pm) sessions. Booking forms to follow.

Wickham Summer Playscheme wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

POEMS

WINTER VIEW

As I glance out, on this winter view,
at the delight of the leaf less trees.
Beauty, is there, for me and for you.
So, enjoy the various filigrees.
Blue tits flying, from out the branches-
there's people going out on a hike.
Birds eating the nuts, offered for their lunches,
also, a young boy, riding his bike.

Through the leaf less trees, riders do trot-
supplying bright colours to the scene.
Nature has included in the plot-
not only brown - also evergreen.
Morning and evening: squirrels play.
Because of bare branches, I espy
sky - sometimes azure, othertimes grey.
And then often, cats in sunshine lie.

Let us all enjoy the winter view.
The delight is there, for me, and for you.

Rhoda Cane

A Very Old Chinese Proverb

If there be righteousness in the heart,
there will be beauty in the character.

If there is beauty in the character,
there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,
there will be order in the nation.

When there is order in each nation,
there will be peace in the world.

(Submitted by Di Hemingway-Rice)

ARCHY IN HOSPITAL by Tony Johnson

(Don Marquis, the American poet, created Archy, the cockroach. Archy came out at night and used the office typewriter to compose his thoughts, but he couldn't hit the capitals key, his punctuation was nonexistent and use of the shift was erratic. With apologies to Don Marquis, Archy, the cockroach, who in a former life had been a free verse poet, tells of a spell in hospital.)

archy in hospital

i was snug as a bug in this box of tissues
and somebody carted it off to hospital
when I woke up i was peeping
through a tear in the cardboard id made
when i saw no kidding this new species

he strode into the ward
expertly adjusted the bed backrest
swung up his legs extracted the telegraph
from his bag and lay down to read

later he was brandishing this tube of ointment
do you know how much that cost
no one could reply
thirty pounds daylight robbery
somebodys making a packet
ripping off the nhs
i read about it in the paper
my gp had never heard of it
showed him the article
do you know what its for
no one could reply
it helps heal the scar

the drinks trolley came round
i have to have a special drink
i only do tea or coffee
I dont want to be a nuisance
now just you serve everybody else
and when you've finished

you come back and ill tell you where
it is im on a special diet

then he was waving an envelope
tickets for madeira two weeks today
how do you know youll make it
oh im determined determined

back again torn a nurse said
he glanced around as if to say
she knows me you know

suddenly the united nations swept in
why are you back you had an operation
only six weeks ago

what did you eat today
he couldnt remember
last evening he couldnt remember
suddenly the consultant flashed
go home mondays bank holiday

come back tuesday
thank you doctor thank you thank you and
he packed his bag for home and holiday

they say theres a new top bug in here
i always thought i was im not
sticking around to find out
i might wake up no cockroach and mutate into
leech hypochondriacus munchausensis
or something

tony johnson

DECEMBER 2005/JANUARY 2006 DIARY

DECEMBER

Thur 1 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 2 14:00 Magazine Distribution Meeting, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Sat 3 12:00 **Memorial Service: Peter Gwynn**

Sun 4 **ST NICHOLAS PATRONAL FESTIVAL** Isaiah 40. 1-11
 08:00 Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips 2 Peter 3: 8-15a
 09:45 Parish Communion : Rev Harvey Griffiths Mark 1: 1-8
17:00 Patronal Festival Family Service: Ven. Peter Hancock, Archdeacon of the Meon

Mon 5 12:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 13:30 W.I. Teas for Carol Service, Church Room
 14:00 Women's Institute Carol Service: Rev Canon Peter Marshall
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room

Tue 6 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 12:00 Baby Clinic, Church Room
 16:00 Deanery Mothers' Union Advent Service at Shedfield
 19:30 Wickham History Society/Wickham Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Wed 7 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

Thur 8 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

Fri 9 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 11 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end
 08:00 Holy Communion: Revd Michael Pye 1 Thess. 5: 16-24
 09:45 Parish Communion Rev Canon Norman Chatfield John 1: 6-8, 19-28
 12:00 Holy Baptism: Holly Welch and Amelia Boyes
 14:30 Ancient Order of Foresters Carolcade

Mon 12 12:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 16:00 School Music, Church Room
 18:00 Christingle Service, Wickham Primary School: Rev Peter Kelly
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room

Tue 13 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 12:00 Baby Clinic, Church Room
 14:15 The Mothers' Union Meeting at 7 Tanfield Park
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Wed 14 12:00 Lunch Club, Christmas Lunch, Church Room
 14:30 Women's Institute, Church Room

Thur 15 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

18:30 CAROLS IN THE SQUARE: Rev Peter Kelly

Fri 16 19:30 Fuchsia Society, Church Room

19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 18 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 2 Sam. 7: 1-11, 16
 08:00 Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips Romans 16: 25-end
 09:45 Parish Communion.; Dr Maureen Capel-Edwards Luke 1: 26-38
18:30 NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS: Rev Mary Morfill

Mon 19 12:00 Spinners & Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room

Tue 20 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 12:00 Baby Clinic, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Wed 21 19:30 Model Engineers Society, Church Room

Thur 22 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

Fri 23 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sat 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**

18:00 Children's Service: Rev Mary Morfill

**23:00 MIDNIGHT MASS: Ven Peter Hancock,
 Archdeacon of the Meon**

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Hebrews 1: 1-4

John 1-14

Sun	25	CHRISTMAS DAY	Isaiah 9: 2-7
	08:00	Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips	Titus 2: 11-14
NB	10:00	Family Communion with Carols: Rev Lionel Shotlander	Luke 2: 1-14

Sat 31 13:30 Marriage Blessing: David and Beulah Tommasiella
JANUARY 2006

Sun	1	NEW YEAR'S DAY-SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
	08:00	Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips	Isaiah 61: 10 – 62:3
	11:00	Covenant Service with Holy Communion Rev Stephen Wright & Rev Dr Maureen Capel-Edwards	Galations 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21
NO EVENSONG THIS EVENING			

Mon 2 12:00 Spinners and Weavers, Chnurch Room
19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
Wed 4 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
Fri 6 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun	8	BAPTISM OF CHRIST First Sunday of Epiphany	Genesis 1: 1-5
	08:00	Holy Communion: Rev Peter Kelly	Acts 19: 1-7
	09:45	Parish Communion Rev Lionel Shotlander	Mark 1: 4-11

Mon 9 12:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
Tue 10 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
14:15 The Mothers' Union Meeting at 21 Manor Close
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 11 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room
Thur 12 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 13 19:30 Fuchsia Society, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Sat 14 15:30 Come and Sing Rehearsal
19:00 **COME AND SING CHORAL CLASSICS**

LAST DAY FOR COPY FEBRUARY 2006 MAGAZINE

Sun	15	SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	1 Sam. 3: 1-10
	08:00	Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips	Rev. 5: 1-10
	09:45	Parish Communion: Rev Dr Maureen Capel-Edwards	John 1: 43-end

Mon 16 12:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
Tue 17 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 18 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:30 Model Engineers Society, Church Room
Thur 19 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 20 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Sat 21 14:30 Private Booking

Sun	22	THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Genesis 14: 17-20
	08:00	Holy Communion: Rev Peter Kelly	Rev 19: 6-10
	09:45	Parish Communion: Rev Canon Anthony Hulbert	John 2: 1-11

11:30 Open Fete Meeting, Church Room
Mon 23 12:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
Tue 24 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 25 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
Thur 26 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 27 14:00 Magazine Distribution Meeting, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun	29	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Deut. 18: 15-20
	08:00	Holy Communion: Rev Canon Marion Mort	Rev. 12: 1-5a
	09:45	Choral Matins: Rev Lionel Shotlander	Mark 1: 21-28

Mon 30 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church room

Tue 31 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

FEBRUARY

Wed 1 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
Thur 2 19:30 P.C.C. Meeting, Church Room

Sun 5	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
	08:00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 40: 21-end
	09:45 Family Service:	1 Cor. 9: 16-23
	18:00 Choral Evensong	Mark 1: 29-39

LAST DAY FOR COPY FEBRUARY MAGAZINE
SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY

Holy Baptism

Shannon Brooke Kirby	06/11/2005
Shannon Jade Manuel	27/11/2005
Bradley William Manuel	27/11/2005
Emily Mae Johnson	27/11/2005

Rest in Peace

Edna Stockdale		21/10/2005
Peter Gwynn	82 years	07/11/2005
Harry Wills	84 years	10/11/2005
Gertrude Crowl	90 years	16/11/2005

LETTERS

Neale Fray, 22 Manor Close, Wickham,
Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 5BZ
Telephone 01329 832751
E-mail: neale@fray.me.uk

DECEMBER 2005/JANUARY 2006

From: John Railton
Dear Sir

From: Margaret Gwynn
Dear Sir

May I please take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the messages, cards and letters we have received over these last few weeks during Peter's failing health and consequent death on Oct. 29th. Your love, prayers and support have been overwhelming.

Peter moved to Wickham after the war in 1947 when he joined the staff of A.E. ROBERTS of Frith Farm; he loved living in Wickham and soon became involved with village life. We were blessed with over 50 years of very happy marriage and family life, for which we are truly thankful.

John, David, Andrew and Elizabeth, and their families join me in this letter of appreciation of all the wonderful comments you have made about Peter's time in Wickham.

Thank you also for your 'get well' messages to me after my recent surgery – we don't do things by halves in this family!

Yours faithfully

Margaret Gwynn, Faerlands, Wickham

I was Curate in Wickham for four years when I was first ordained just over twenty years ago and was the nearest Wickham had to a Parish Priest between Colin George's death in December 1986 and Arnold's arrival in May 1988. The Parish Magazine is still sent to me regularly and, while the number of names I know is steadily declining, it continues to invoke many happy memories. I'm now Team Rector of The Whitton Benefice in Salisbury Diocese, responsible for a group of six villages between Hungerford and Swindon, each with its own church (and PCC!).

The November issue of the Mag was awaiting me when I got back from a brief holiday a few days ago, and I've just been looking at the new Website – very impressive. We're currently planning our own website, so I'm always interested in learning from the experience of others and discovering what works and what doesn't. Would you please put me in touch with your Webmaster?

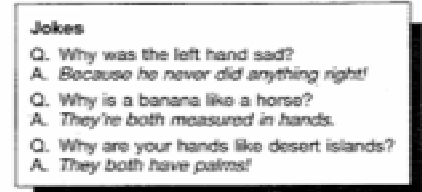
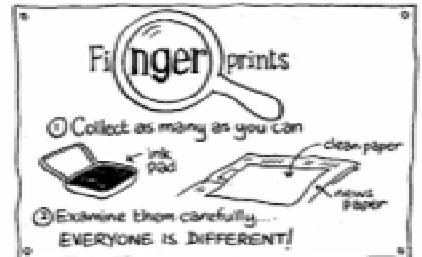
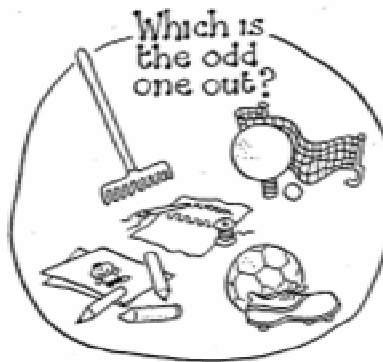
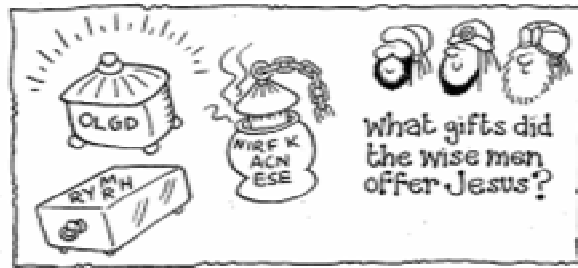
Yours faithfully

Revd Dr John R H Railton, Ramsbury, Marlborough

BLESSING HANDS

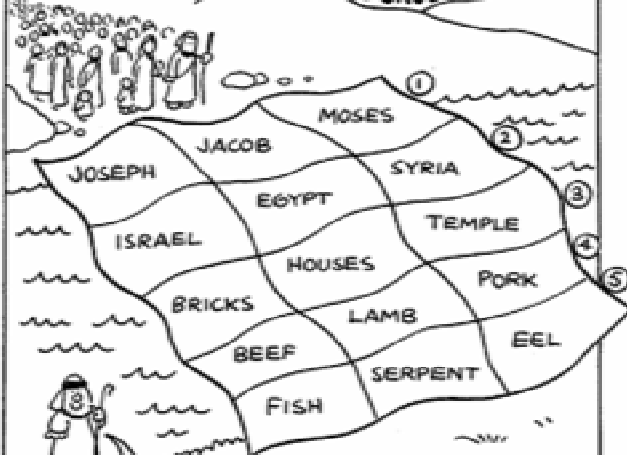


COLOUR THE PICTURE OF JACOB BEING BLESSED BY ISAAC (GENESIS 27)



FEET 3

HELP THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL CROSS THE RED SEA



COLOUR IN THE CORRECT SQUARES:

- Who led them across the Red Sea?
- Where had they been living as slaves?
- What had they been forced to make?
- What did they eat at the Passover meal?
- What did Moses' rod turn into?

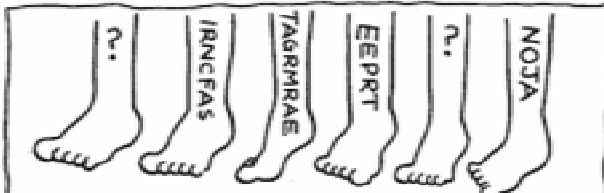
(You will find the answers in Exodus ch. 5-12)

ABRAHAM AND HIS FAMILY SET OUT FROM UR



JOIN THE DOTS, THEN COLOUR THE PICTURE

(Read the story in Genesis 11:27...)



UNJUMBLE THE NAMES OF THESE SAINTS WHO HAVE FOLLOWED JESUS... THEN FILL IN ANOTHER TWO SAINTS YOU KNOW ABOUT

FEET
WHICH FOOT IS

1. FOOT-----	—shoes and boots
2. FOOT-----	—a track to walk along
3. FOOT-----	—a mark made by an animal
4. FOOT-----	—used in a game of soccer

SILENT WINGS

Having always wanted to fly on silent wings like the birds of prey, who seem to enjoy that sense of freedom it gives, I took the opportunity to do just that by booking a glider flight. My chance came last week; although I am a member of the 'grey hair brigade' this urge to fly on silent wings was still intense. Advancing old age was not going to put me off. Having had three cancellations due to bad flying conditions, I wondered if fate was telling me something, but at last the weather was with me and a phone call told me that flying was taking place, so off to Lasham I went with a friend who would be taking photographs to record this historic event.



On arrival at the airport I booked in and waited for my turn. I was really excited. Soon I was introduced to my instructor, Bob. We walked out onto the airfield where I was shown the dials, pedals and a lever known as the Red Knob. This was not to be touched in flight or we would be ejected out of the glider! Instructions over, our glider was then attached to the towing 'plane and we were away.

We trundled along the ground and I did not realise that we were actually airborne, until Bob informed me. After a while Bob released the tow cable and clapped his hands to signal that we were now gliding under our own control. I began to admire the view, take photographs, and at the request of my co-pilot Bob, kept an eye open for other planes and gliders. My instructor then talked me through the dual controls, how to turn left and right and left again, before inviting me to take over. I turned the joystick left, lifted the nose of the glider up and soared away, free as a bird, but I eventually lost my nerve and suggested Bob took over again. I'd had my moment of control, it was enough for me! I fell silent and after a while Bob remarked that I had gone quiet. Well yes, I had. I was enjoying the view but my ears had 'popped and my stomach was churning. With one wing pointing up to the heavens and the other pointing down to the ground and me getting the impression that I was about to fall out, I do admit to going quiet, wouldn't you?

Once we had stopped the twists and turns, things settled down. I began to enjoy the experience of flying again as we returned to the airport. On getting out of the glider I was surprised to feel as if I'd had a little too much to drink, and was even more surprised to have that queasy feeling for the next two days.

Would I do it again? Yes, if I can forget how queasy I had felt. The memory of the beautiful scenery and the sense of freedom would make me want to say yes, although the expense might make me hesitate. It was scary, but breathtakingly beautiful and I am glad I have done it.



I have fulfilled my dream of flying like a bird on silent wings.

Rhoda Cane

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The meeting on 9th November in St Nicholas Church Room was our A.G.M. when the committee was elected, and any outstanding business dealt with, plus any questions, and/or suggestions from the floor. A card was read out and passed around from Betty Bennett who has left us for pastures new. Betty will be missed; she was a longstanding and valuable member of Wickham W.I. We wish her much luck in the future.



Three reports were then given: the Council meeting at Basingstoke, a very enjoyable meeting at Swanmore and a Sixties evening, which I am sorry to have missed. Everyone in sixties clothes, and plenty of food. Remember cheese and pineapple hedgehogs, little sausages, Black Forest Gateau, and who can forget Babycham!

We are moving our venue to the Scout Hut in February. The meetings will still be every second Wednesday of the month at 2pm, and we extend our usual invitation that guests are always welcome. Thanks to the Scout Committee for allowing us to use the Scout Hut.

A future date for your calendars: Our Carol Service this year will be held at St Nicholas Church at 2pm on 5th December. Canon Peter Marshall will conduct the service and Mrs Pat Matthews will play the organ for us. Tea and Mince Pies will be served afterwards in the Church. A good start to Christmas.

Our next meeting will be on 11th January, and this will be our Christmas Lunch. And then on 8th February we will be at our new venue, and expect a full house and the start of our 2006 programme.

GFW

WICKHAM WIVES

Members and guests of Wickham Wives assembled in the Church room on Weds. Nov. 9th. to share in some of the experiences of Ronnie Burt as a part-time fireman in a village Fire Station. The meeting began with a short silence in memory of Peter Gwynn, who died on Oct. 29th.

Ronnie and his twin brother Norman were born in Aldershot and moved to Wickham in 1939. He attended Wickham C of E school when the buildings were opposite the Church, where the houses of Glebe Corner now stand. On leaving senior school Ronnie's first job was with the Forestry Commission.

Wickham Fire Service was founded in 1939 and as usual with voluntary organisations they were always looking for new recruits. In 1964 Ronnie was in his early 20's and he presented himself to the Leading Fire Officers at that time – Eric Case (late husband of Yvonne), Leslie Arnold and Sub-Officer Vic. Short – gentlemen remembered by many of us who are older residents of Wickham.

They were a keen and enthusiastic bunch of lads who took their training very seriously; the firemen were summoned to the Fire Station by a bell that rang in their homes and a siren that woke the village! They all jumped on their bicycles and pedalled off to the Fire Station!

Ronnie related many examples of the kind of incidents they were called to – animals and people in distress, less traffic accidents in those days since fewer people owned cars, though icy roads in colder winters were a hazard.

As the years have passed more and more specialised equipment and training have become essential. Accidents and fires involving hazardous chemicals and explosives, fires not only on land but on water. In 1990 Wickham took their turn with full-time fire crews, when one of the largest oil tankers in the world, the 'Mobil Petrel' (280 thousand tons) had an explosion without fire on board whilst moored at Fawley. Ronnie and members of the crew took turns with other crews to go on board and pump foam into the holds until it had cooled sufficiently to be towed out into the Solent and unloaded.

When Ronnie was 50 years old he was chosen to attend the Fire Training College in Moreton-in-the-Marsh; considered by the younger officers to be 'well past his sell-by date', he was put in charge of a crew of 25 men. At the end of the week when it was his turn to be in charge for the day, Ronnie's crew responded to his leadership and they were voted 'best crew of the week'. Sadly not all incidents had a happy ending and

occasionally the crew knew the victims involved. Again their training teaches them to deal with these situations unemotionally.

Of course many incidents have humorous associations; Ronnie has a newspaper cutting from Capetown commenting on how long it had taken the Fire Brigade from Wickham, Hampshire to extinguish a fire in a local Naturist Camp; Ronnie said it was one of the hottest days in 1977 and that they were given permission to remove their jackets!!

Several attempts have been made to close Wickham Fire Station over the years, but these have been defeated by the determination of the crew and local supporters. During the Fireman's strike, Wickham crew refused to strike and remained on call for local emergencies; they were 'black legged' for not striking and thrown out of the Fireman's Union; they now belong to the 'Retained Fireman's Union'. So we salute all members of the Wickham Fire Station, past and present, and sincerely thank them for being there when we need them urgently.

December 14th Christmas party time again. We are looking forward to the Rev. David Howes as our guest speaker, to tell us about his early ministry in the East End of London – followed by a buffet supper.

January 11th 2006 The members will welcome all guests who would like to join us to share Charles Smith's adventures in the Southern Ocean. We will have a collection for the RNLI.

Margaret Gwynn

WICKHAM SOCIETY

Take Quiz Mistress extraordinaire Mary Burton, add Lucy & Michael Carter's new recipe mulled wine, and, you have a potent brew, as some 25 members discovered last Tuesday evening. The competition was fierce with only seven points separating the five teams going in to the last round, but in the end the 'Tanfield Tanners' snatched victory by two points. Modesty prevents me from listing the members of the winning team. Our thanks as ever to Mary and her husband for a hilarious evening.

Our next mulled wine event, courtesy of Lucy and Barrie Marson, is on Tuesday 6th of December in the Church Room at 7.30pm., when we hold a joint evening with the History Society, Our Speaker will be Andrew Rutter a Conservation Architect, and his subject 'White in the Landscape'. Members of both Societies are asked to bring along some nibbles to create a festive end to the evening.

John Woodland

WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

At our November meeting Kay Ainsworth, HCC Archaeologist, continued her wide-ranging history of People and Places in Wessex. On this occasion she was taking us through Roman, Saxon and Medieval times. The subjects covered were: understanding the landscape, buildings, objects (valuable, decorative and humble) and the lives of ordinary people, principally in the Hampshire area.

This period saw the great changes brought about by the advent of Christianity, Winchester becoming a renowned seat of learning and the arts. The talk concluded with vivid descriptions of the C14th black death, the resulting depopulation and its implications.

A tour de force liberally illustrated with slides from Kay's extensive collection. Our next meeting is on Tuesday December 6th to be held jointly with the Wickham Society. The speaker will be Andrew Rutter, Conservation Architect. His subject is 'White in the Landscape'. Mulled wine and light refreshments will be provided.

Lucy Marson

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY

CAROLCADE 2005

The Ancient Order of Foresters Court Loyal Brethren No. 2290 will be holding their Carolcade on Sunday 11th December at 2.30 pm in St Nicholas Church by kind permission of the PCC.

The singing will be led by the Meon Valley Circuit Methodist Band Conductor, Mr Don Frankham. A Viola solo will be given by Bethany Britt. We also give a welcome to the Rev'd Stephen Wright, the Methodist Minister.

We are looking forward to our Carolcade in St Nicholas and invite as many readers as possible to join us. Admission is free. A collection will be taken in aid of "Rainbow Trust Children's Charity".

Tea and Mince Pies will be served in the Church Room at the end of the afternoon. Please come along, enjoy the Carols and prepare for Christmas. See you there

John Pratt

WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



WINETASTING 19th NOVEMBER

Over sixty folk braved winter chills to join the warm jovial Australian atmosphere of the Community Centre and taste some of the delights of Australian wine and food.

Eight wines were sampled (under the guidance of Alan Borrow a local sommelier), each accompanied by a different taste of Australia such as kangaroo, ostrich, macadamia nuts, vegemite and concluding with a morsel of a seasonal Ozzie Xmas chocolate pudding (obviously suitably cold). A fun quiz kept at least some mentally alert. Judging by the noise levels a great time was had by all and a significant amount of money made for the association.

Next events for this lively group include:

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT FEB 3th 2006

Reservations for tables for this fundraising event with the help of Cloak and Dagger may now be made. Murder and Mystery solving is accompanied by a 3 course meal. Due to limited space at Waltham Chase Village Hall tickets available strictly on a first come first served basis and must be accompanied by payment of £18.00 a head. Table groups of 8 places may be made. Don't miss out on this first adventure for the twinning!!

Tel: Chairperson Ann Johnson 833400 or Secretary Caroline Fribbance 832346.

TRIP TO VILLERS SUR MER –APRIL 28-30th 2006

Put your name down to join this event. After a pleasant evening crossing to Ouistreham the group is met by coach at the ferry and transported to Villers where each person(s) is (are) placed with a suitable family for the weekend. On the Saturday an excursion as a group is usually planned with a community evening meal to follow. The Sunday is more relaxed with the host family providing wonderful food and entertainment before return on the night boat to Portsmouth. Note:

- ❖ No language skills necessary as sign language universal!!!
- ❖ Have a go on your own or with the family!
- ❖ All ages most welcome!

Caroline Fribbance

WICKHAM CRICKET CLUB

The AGM was held on 24th November and considering the awful weather that evening it was not a bad turnout.

We still have no confirmation about our league positions for next season. No matter where we end up we are looking forward to the competition and league fixtures, which start again at the end of April. In the meantime, net practice has been arranged once again at the Rose Bowl, running from 14 February to 11 April every Tuesday evening from 9.00pm to 10.00pm. A newsletter will be sent out shortly to all members confirming details.

After many years of sterling work as club umpire, Mike O'Leary has decided to hang up his hat and hand over his collection of stones! We now need to find another umpire to take over from him. We are also in

need of a scorer. If you have some time to spare at weekends, would enjoy spending an afternoon in good company and have some experience of these things, we would love to hear from you.



In the next edition of the magazine I hope to include an article on the history of the club, which dates back to at least the end of the 1800s. We are building up a collection of team photographs taken over the years and if anyone has an old photo or press cutting we would be very grateful to have a copy to add to our archives. (Please contact the secretary if you have anything to offer.)

There is a photo attached of the 'over-40s' cricket team taken in 1986. This may well bring back memories for many people – how many players do you remember? Most of you will recognise the umpire – standing in the centre of the back row – as Peter Gwynn, whose whole family were, and

still are, stalwart members of the cricketing community in Wickham. Peter sadly passed away recently and on behalf of the current members of the club we extend our sincere condolences to Margaret and the rest of the family.

Malc and I would like take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year.

Lesley Wilde

1ST WICKHAM SCOUT GROUP

Some sad news to start. We as a group were so sorry to hear of the death of Peter Gwynn. Peter was a former Scout Leader in Wickham, our thoughts are with Margaret and her family.

We have been and will be busy over the next couple of months. We took the Cubs and a few Scouts to Wilverley in the New Forest for a Pack Holiday weekend. While we were there the Cubs worked hard to gain their Naturalist Badge. This entailed identifying leaves, trees, fungi, insects, etc. and they were lucky enough to see a beautiful stag!! The Scouts were given lessons on how to use a knife and axe properly, which they promptly put into practice cutting up firewood to heat the building. It was a good weekend.

Bonfire and Firework Display. The weather was perfect, the fire was plenty big enough and the fireworks were spectacular, what more can I say but thank you to everyone who came and supported us. I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did.

We joined the British Legion for the annual Remembrance Day service and parade. If you go to the Doctors surgery all through December please look up, the decorations once again have been made by Wickham Cubs. I think they have made a super job of them.

1st Wickham Scout Group

We have spaces for Boys and Girls.
Beavers age 6 to 8 years meet on Thursday evening 6-7pm
Cubs age 8 to 10½ years meet on Wednesday evening 6.30 to 8pm
Scouts age 10½ to 14 meet on Monday evening 7 to 9pm
If your son or daughter would like to come and join our happy family of Scouting, or you would like more information, please telephone 01329 832739.

1st Wickham Scout Group

Wanted,Wanted,Wanted.
Can you help?
We need leaders and helpers.
Do you have an hour or two spare a week?
Do you have a skill or unusual hobby you can share with our Beavers, Cubs or Scouts?
Please telephone 01329 832739 for more information. Thank you

Once again we will be delivering Christmas Cards around the village this year at the very reasonable price of 15p per envelope. The post box will be in PAGE'S Newsagent from Saturday 3rd December until Wednesday 21st December. Please see the area we deliver in the Window.

May I wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader

THURSDAY CLUB

The October meeting consisted of a talk by Mrs. B. Gammie entitled "Tales from India and Nepal" on various visits out there. Illustrated by many slides, the talk gave us a fascinating insight into the way of life of the people and, particularly, on how they cope in schools and hospitals.

At the November meeting we had a talk from a real enthusiast Mr. Yoward, the archivist of the Hampshire Mills Association, who talked about the "Mills of the River Meon". Regrettably, none of the fifteen mills retain their original functions and many have now been sold off as desirable residences. However, we were given an interesting account of their history. Bookings were also taken for the Christmas party to be held at our next meeting on the 1st of December.

LDC

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

This time of year comes round all too quickly, and like all other charities, we are very busy selling our Christmas wares. I have this year sold about £300 of Christmas Cards. Thank you to all who have bought and supported "Seafarers". The card that sold so well is that of Nelson's ship leaving harbour prior to her victory at Trafalgar and of course Nelson's death.



Also departing, or shall I say retiring, is my good and trusty friend Bob Napthine, "Captain Bob", who has also done so much to support Seafarers over the past few years. So if there is anyone who would like to step up and lend a hand, please contact me on 01329 833922. Thank you Bob, enjoy your new home!

With Christmas and New Year, we start to be aware of the Pantomime Season, one of the many things to do as an outing with the family. Last year, Dick Whittington and his cat dropped into the M.T.S. Headquarters in the shape of an actor and Blue Peter's very own cat 'Smudge' plus a film crew. Why? To film about Dick Whittington's life.

Whittington and his Cat are featured in one of the stained glass windows of St Michael Paternoster Royal Church, which houses our Head Office. The Wren- designed office stands on the site of a church constructed by Whittington and in which he and his wife were buried. There is an inscription on the floor of today's church indicating a monument of their burial place. On the outside of the building is a blue plaque stating that Whittington founded the church. The Monument Memorial and the stained glass window show Dick and his Cat walking "Those mythical Streets paved with Gold".

I am away on my travels again in the New Year, around the South China Seas and Australia and back home via South Africa, so no news until my return. But, on behalf of Mission to Seafarers and myself, a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sandy Beckett

ON DEMAND COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Community Project earns volunteer On Demand Community Excellence Award

From school children completing their homework, to 'silver surfers' improving their computer skills - the residents of our community have many reasons to thank IBM employee Edward Pickering for getting involved in village life. Using IBM technology and methodology to open up the world of wireless Broadband for local residents, Edward's volunteer efforts have not only had a major impact on the community - they have earned him a place among the winners of the first annual On Demand Community (ODC) Excellence Awards.



Edward lives in Knowle and describes himself as "the kind of person who likes to keep busy" so he became a Parish Councillor and immersed himself in village life. The Wickham Community Association wanted to improve Internet access for local people by installing a wireless internet Broadband facility, which was not available - at the time - through the public service provider BT. Edward advised the association how to set up their own Broadband service and then used his expertise to set up a new system. He used the ODC online tool, 'Technology Planning for Not for Profits', to guide the Association through the planning and decision-making process.

"This tool was really useful with a non-IT literate group and helped them to define a clearly-written IT strategy. They now have a very popular IT suite which has high-speed connectivity and is used all day by elderly residents, students and people who are keen to pick up IT skills. There is also an after-school group which enables children who don't have a PC at home to come in and go online to get the information they need for their homework and other projects."

Edward devoted many hours to setting up the system and training four volunteer staff as system administrators, so they can maintain the equipment and the system. Through the ODC scheme, he was then able to bring in an IBM eServer to enable better management of the suite of eight PCs. He is now working with the Community Association to look at extending the IT provision for the local community. He currently spends most of his time on an RAF base in Lincolnshire. But he tries to be on call to help sort out any IT issues back at Wickham and gives about 10 hours of his time each month to supporting the Association's work.

OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

MEON VALLEY U3A Programme 2005/06 Theme: "Pathways of Discovery & Change"

Dec 13	2pm	Christmas Gathering Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
Dec 20	2pm	READING GROUP: Ring (01489) 878503 for title & venue	
2006			
Jan 10	2pm	"Discovering Contemporary Women Artists" illustrated talk by Dr. Denis & Mrs. Sylvia May Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
Jan 24	2pm	"Changes in Medicine" – talk by Dr. Jennifer Burkett Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
WED 25	2pm	Music Appreciation: Dr Denis May discusses "David Hockney and the Opera" with excerpts from "Turandot" and "The Magic Flute" Ring (01329)833594 for directions to venue.	
Jan 31	2pm	READING GROUP: ring (01489) 878503 for title & venue	



MEON VALLEY CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

Q. I am an estate agent and work five days a week and two Saturdays a month. I heard something on the news that people in the UK should really only work 48 hours a week – I do many more hours than this – am I breaking the law?

A. No you are not breaking the law. In the UK workers can agree to work longer than 48 hours. **The Working Time Regulations** (based on the European Working Time Directive) say that if you do not agree to the opt-out, your average working time, including overtime, must not exceed 48 hours a week.

If you have agreed to opt out neither you nor your employer are breaking the law. However, a worker cannot be forced to opt out.

Recently there have been some stories in the media about European Parliament plans to stop countries such as the UK from opting out of the Working Time Directive. European MP's voted to phase out the opt out over the next three years, as they believe it would ensure that people have a better work-life balance (so do some unions; they see it as a health and safety issue). The British Government opposes these plans, as it believes that they would reduce the competitiveness of the UK's economy. To block the European Parliament's plans, the UK would need to recruit other countries' support to retain the clause under qualified majority voting in the EU council of ministers. So watch this space!

You can get more detailed information and advice on workplace rights, or any other problem, by contacting your local **CAB** at The Library, Bank Street, **Bishop's Waltham**, SO32 1AN, Tel. No. (01489) **896376** open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. If this is not convenient, please note our **Thursday evening appointments only** session (**from 4 to 7 p.m.**) We also take appointments (through the Bishop's Waltham Bureau) for our CAB Outreach at the Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, which is held on Thursdays from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., or you can go to the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk

We are currently recruiting volunteers to train as Advisors. If you are interested in becoming a CAB volunteer please contact us as above.

MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER – MEMORY MATTERS

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tue 22 November	Support Group Meeting, Paterson Centre, Swanmore - 2 pm
	Make Your Own Christmas Cards and pre Christmas Activities
Tue 6 December	Christmas Party, Paterson Centre, Swanmore - 2 pm
Tue 13 December	Christmas Lunch – To be arranged
Tue 10 January 2006	Pub Lunch – The Old Forge, Shedfield - 12 noon
Tue 24 January	Support Group Meeting, Paterson Centre, Swanmore - 2 pm
	Lisa Netherwood, Mid Hants Primary Care Trust

Meon Valley Carers Together is a support group for People with Dementia and their Carers.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED.

To find out more about us and our activities contact:

Bill Drake on 01489 895706, email billdrake@onetel.net
or Cheryl Tucker on 01489 892845, email cheryltucker@dsl.pipex.com

Alternatively, you are always welcome to join us at our one of our get-togethers.

Swanmore Centre

Swanmore College of Technology, New Road, Swanmore SO32 2RB
Tel: 01489 896192 or Eastleigh College 023 8091 1299

EASTLEIGH
COLLEGE

Course Title	Venue	Start Date	Day	Start	End	Wks	Fee	Fee 60+	Booking Code
Drawing & Painting Beginners	JHBW	09-Jan-06	Mon	14:00	16:00	10	£77	£70	S40B
Gentle Hatha Yoga For All	S	09-Jan-06	Mon	18:30	20:00	10	£64	£57	S20B
Gentle Hatha Yoga For All	S	09-Jan-06	Mon	20:00	21:30	10	£64	£57	S403B
Computing for Beginners	S	11-Jan-06	Wed	19:00	21:00	10	£77	£70	S103B
Men's Fitness & Training	S	11-Jan-06	Wed	20:00	21:30	10	£64	£57	S10B
Watercolours Beginners	S	11-Jan-06	Wed	19:00	21:00	10	£77	£70	S322B
Communicating with Schools	S	01-Mar-06	Wed	18:45	21:00	4	FREE	FREE	S12B
Drawing & Painting Beginners	JHBW	24-Apr-06	Mon	14:00	16:00	6	£49	£45	S40C
Gentle Hatha Yoga For All	S	24-Apr-06	Mon	18:30	20:00	6	£41	£37	S20C
Gentle Hatha Yoga For All	S	24-Apr-06	Mon	20:00	21:30	6	£41	£37	S403C
Men's Fitness & Training	S	26-Apr-06	Wed	20:00	21:30	6	£41	£37	S10C
Watercolours Beginners	S	26-Apr-06	Wed	19:00	21:00	6	£49	£45	S322C

How to Enrol

By telephoning the Swanmore Community Education Centre on 01489 896192 and using a credit/debit card.

Explanation of Venue Codes

JHBW Jubilee Hall, Little Shore Lane, Bishop's Waltham

S Swanmore Community Education Centre, Swanmore College of Technology, New Road, Swanmore

Spring Term 2006

9 January – 24 March
(Half term 13 - 17 February)

Summer Term 2006

24 April – 12 June
(Half term 29 May - 2 June)

For more information and course listings, please call for a prospectus from Eastleigh College on 023 8091 1299 or visit our website www.eastleigh.ac.uk

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

I was elected to Wickham Parish Council in 2003 - a little apprehensive at first at the responsibility I had been given. Would I overnight have magical powers bestowed upon me so I could solve everyone's problems? No of course not - but two years later I was honoured by being elected Chairman of Wickham Parish Council. My role is challenging, exciting and I must say at times frustrating.

All of us on the Council have a duty to act properly as Councillors and we have a responsibility to attend and prepare for meetings, studying the Agenda and form sound judgements based on what is best for the Community. We represent the whole electorate - we listen and I sincerely hope we represent the views of the Community when discussing council business. Councillors, Clerk and Chairman work together as a team combining energies and skills.

Although I attend many Committees my main functions are Highways & Lighting. We have had several new lights installed and I hope in the New Year there will be more new lighting to brighten up Wickham. Highways cover numerous areas - poor roads to tree-cutting, drainage, road signs, etc.. I am always ringing my 'little man' at Winchester and asking for his team to solve yet another problem. Some of these requests do take time but when any project is finally achieved it does provide a feeling of satisfaction.

All Councillors are here to help - so please if you do have a problem no matter how small you feel it is please let us know, we can only achieve good things for our Community through you the people and this can only lead to a greater understanding of the needs of Wickham and Knowle.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of Wickham Parish Council to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Angela Clear

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DECEMBER 2005

Winchester City Councillors representing Wickham, Knowle and Curbridge:

Philip Clohosey 1, The Glebe, Wickham
tel: 832736
email: pclohosey@winchester.gov.uk

Thérèse Evans Woodlands, Bishopswood Rd,
Mislingford, Wickham tel: 832700
email: tevans@winchester.gov.uk

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We were delighted to have the opportunity to visit the affordable houses in Gwynn Way at the opening by HRH the Countess of Wessex. We quite rightly do not have anything to do with the housing allocations which is a confidential process although we can make representations to the officers on behalf of families. The list for Gwynn Way was oversubscribed and we really do need more of these sites to come forward for housing local families.

COUNCILLOR SURGERIES

Our next councillor surgery will be on Tuesday 6th December at Wickham Community Centre 7-8pm. We alternate our surgeries between Wickham and Knowle.

PARKING IN WICKHAM SQUARE

The proposal to increase the maximum stay from two to three hours has now been approved and the necessary changes were due to be implemented at the end of November.

TURN YOUR PHONE INTO A LIFELINE

Lifeline is a system run by the Council which allows you to call for help at any time every day of the year. It operates over the telephone network and you wear a small alarm button on your person when you are at home. In the case of an emergency the alarm button can be pressed for help.

For more information contact 01962 856488 to arrange a home visit.

SPORT AND RECREATION CONSULTATION ROAD SHOW IN SWANMORE

The City Council is interested in hearing your views on sport and recreation in the Winchester area. These are the Council's aspirations:

- Increase physical activity levels in adults and children
- Reduce levels of obesity
- Increase the number of volunteers and coaches in sport and recreation
- Improve access to high quality sport and recreation facilities

It is essential that the Council works in partnership with everyone to achieve these aspirations. The Council will be meeting with organisations such as clubs, schools, parish councils and other public sector agencies to discuss and plan jointly the future of Sport and Recreation for the Winchester area. Four consultation road shows are being held across the Winchester District. The nearest ones for Wickham are being held on 13th December 2005 at

Denmead Memorial Hall 6.30pm to 8.30pm and on 14th December 2005 at Swanmore College of Technology 5pm to 7pm. Places can be booked at these roadshows. Phone Amanda Ford, Sports & Recreation Manager on 01962 848 274. Clubs and individuals are welcome.

RECYCLE CAREFULLY AT CHRISTMAS

Please do not put Christmas wrapping paper in your recycling bin as the paper is not suitable for the machines which accept normal paper at the recycling centres. The main reason for this is that a lot of so-called wrapping 'paper' does not contain much paper at all – it's often layered with foil and plastic which cannot be recycled. Even gift wrap that is purely paper-based is of a poor quality by the time it reaches the centres for recycling, and is usually crunched up with sticky tape, ribbons or labels still attached, all of which makes it unacceptable for recycling. Christmas paper needs to go into your waste bin. Christmas trees can be taken free of charge to any of the 26 Household Waste Recycling Centres in the county where they will be turned into a soil conditioner called ProGrow. The nearest centre to Wickham is in Claylands Rd, Bishops Waltham and the winter opening hours at Christmas are 8am -4pm. Telephone 01489 896696 to check holiday times.

ROBINSON CRUSOE COMES TO WINCHESTER!

The Winchester Theatre Royal which is given a grant by the City and County Councils is producing its own in-house family pantomime this year: Robinson Crusoe. The theatre was restored and reopened 4 years and is well worth a visit.



We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

Thérèse and Phil



Wickham Parish Council
News
December 2005

Peter Gwynn

We were very sad to hear that Peter had died and our thoughts are with Margaret and her family.

Peter worked tirelessly for the Parish Council, he was always willing to be involved in new projects and was a member of most of the committees when he was a councillor.

Peter will be greatly missed.

HRH Countess of Wessex opens new houses in Gwynn Way

The Countess of Wessex performed an official opening of the new houses on 2nd November; it was an enjoyable event, the Countess took the time to speak to everyone which was appreciated.



It was very sad that Peter Gwynn died a few days prior to the ceremony, but it was lovely that Margaret and her family were able to attend.

Gift of land for a new cemetery

The Parish Council would like to thank Mrs Miriam Philpot who has given the Parish Council two acres of land adjoining the recreation ground to be used as a new burial ground. This is much needed as the churchyard is full. Mrs Philpot's generosity is greatly appreciated.

Lighting up Wickham for Christmas

Everyone enjoys the festive atmosphere in Wickham Square, the Christmas tree and buildings decorated with fairy lights.

Ever wondered how this happens?

The tree seemingly appears by magic, a telephone call to the Gwynn family at AE Roberts is all that is needed. The Parish Council pays for the tree but it is chosen, delivered, put up and taken down with the generous help of John and David Gwynn and their team. Thank you to everyone that helps.

The lights take somewhat longer...

This year we have new lights funded with the help of Wickham businesses and the Parish Council at a cost of around £2000. Thank you for agreeing to help with funding.

The lights arrived in ten enormous boxes that were very speedily collected by Square Events Chairman, Dave Martin. Thank you for that Dave!

The Square Events team work tirelessly for a weekend or two putting up the lights. Thank you very much for your time and energy, it is appreciated by everyone.

What happens to those ten boxes for the rest of the year? They are very kindly stored by David Roger-Jones along with tons of other equipment that Square Events use for the carnival, fetes etc. Thank you David.

Knowle Cemetery

The Parish Council has taken ownership of the old hospital cemetery at Knowle following a great deal of research and negotiations carried out by Sue and Ted Fitzgerald, Thérèse Evans and Jenny Mallett.



The cemetery is in Mayles Lane, on the right hand side if you are coming from Wickham, just before Ravenswood and Mayles Corner. It is well worth a visit, it is a peaceful wooded area with a marked path, stone memorial and information board.

There is more information from Sue and Ted Fitzgerald on our website: www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

Litter and dog fouling

Are there any areas of Wickham that you feel need more attention to deal with litter and dog fouling problems? please let the Clerk know your views.

Unnecessary signs

Are there any signs that you feel should be removed?

Is a member of your household in need of housing?

The Parish Council has application forms for Winchester City Council's Joint housing register available on request from Parish Clerk.

Looking to use public transport?

Try this online planner
www.traveline.org.uk tel 0870 608 2608

The Parish Council has copies of new planning applications for the Parish, available to view locally - no need to visit Winchester!

Contact the Clerk to arrange viewing

Meetings

Next Full Council

7.15pm Monday 16th January
Knowle Village Hall

Planning Committee

7.30pm Monday
12th December 2005
Wickham Community Centre

Check the notice boards or website for details of other meetings.

www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

Everyone welcome to attend meetings!

Best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

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