



Drawn by Megan Richards – Year 4 Wickham Primary School

***PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO THE
VANO SCHOOL WATER PROJECT
AND ENDURO INDIA
FUND RAISING EVENTS IN 2007***

Inside this issue ...

A Letter from Shirley	1	Children Conduct Themselves Well!	14
Editorial	2	Poems	15
Sunday School	2	Diary	16
Park Place Perspectives	3	From the Registers	18
Knowle Village Church	3	Letters to the Editor	18
Mothers' Union Report	4	Irene 'Rene' Jewell	19
Churches Together	4	Animal Support Awareness Programme	20
Vano School Water Project	6	On Being Four (and a half)	20
First Event of the New Year - Burn's Night	6	Wickham Prize Crossword	21
Village News	7	Wickham Organisations	22
Primary School Drawings	9	Fete 2007 - Saturday 9th June	27
Affordable Homes in Wickham	10	Other Local Organisations	28
Evacuation Exercise in Wickham	10	What Does A Parish Clerk Do All Day?	31
Enduro India	11	Hampshire County Council Report	32
Wickham Community Association	12	Winchester City Council Report	33
Wickham Primary School - Time Out Club	13	Wickham Parish Council News	34

December 2006/January 2007

Free to every household

50p if sold

Wickham Parish Magazine

Supported by



Wickham
Parish Council

A LETTER FROM SHIRLEY

Dear Friends,

I am definitely becoming one of those ‘grumpy old women’ – you know the ones who feature on our televisions telling us about the things which irritate them at great length! (They followed the ‘grumpy old men’ series!) I don’t like to think of myself as a ‘party pooper’ but each year I get more and more irate at the prolonged period of ‘firework night’, the lateness of the displays and the need for such loud ones! It seems to have gone on forever and around our way it sounded more like a war zone than the gentle fireworks I remember as a girl!! And, in addition to that, our cats are covering wrecks night after night!



Talking of war zones, I am ever mindful of the events continuously unfolding around our troubled world and especially at this time of year as we fast approach Advent and the season of reflection and preparation for the most influential event in our lives, the birth of Christ – the coming of the Light, our Joy and our Salvation. As we look forward with expectation, with anticipation, to the joyous celebration of His birth, we are reminded of His peace, which passes all understanding, and we continue to pray that that peace will touch the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression, those who wield such tremendous power, power which can destroy the wonderful world created and Hallowed by God, a world He loved so much that He sent His Son, so that we might not perish but have everlasting life. He is the ‘reason for the season’, hold on to that throughout this busy time, in spite of the commercial pressure to make you think otherwise!

I ask you to reflect on the peace He calls us into as you keep the season of Advent and perhaps you might use the following (with or without candles) to focus on the hope He brings to our lives – let Him dwell in you and share His love and His peace with all those you meet.....

Four candles slowly burned.

The ambience was so soft, one could almost hear them talking.....

The first candle said, “I am Peace!

The world is full of anger and fighting.

Nobody can keep me lit.”

Then the flame of Peace went out completely.

The second candle said, “I am Faith!

I am no longer indispensable, it doesn’t make sense that I stay lit another moment.”

Just then a breeze softly blew out Faith’s flame.

Sadly, the third candle began to speak, “I am Love!

People don’t understand my importance, so they put me aside, they even forget to Love those who are nearest to them. I haven’t the strength to stay lit”.

And waiting no longer, Love’s flame went out.

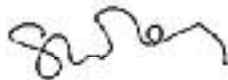
Suddenly..... A child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles. “Why aren’t you burning? You’re supposed to stay lit until the end.”

Saying this, the child began to cry. Then the fourth candle answered: “Don’t be afraid, I am Hope! While I am still burning we can relight the other candles.”

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The flame of Hope should never go out from your life..... and with Hope each of us can live a life with Peace, Faith, and Love!

In His Love,



P.s Don't forget the **Christingle Service** on 30th December at 4:30pm, a lovely service for all the children and their families.

EDITORIAL

HO, HO, HO,

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

As some of you know Neale and I attended an award ceremony in November as the magazine was nominated for the Hampshire Community Magazine award 2006. Sadly we did not win anything however the evening turned out to be very useful! We met a whole group of people from accountants and lawyers to community leaders and the Women's Institute. We found that many of the magazines were not completely full of community spirit although the majority of them were, and many of them had, either, colour pages or a colour front cover. We did exceptionally well considering though, the highest mark scored was 60 and the lowest score was 35 our magazine scored 47! So hopefully if we all put in the work this year we may have the chance to win next year!



I hope everyone gets what he or she wants from Santa this Christmas and everyone behaves at New Year, but please remember Christmas is a time to give and to remember loved ones.

All my love,

Sue xx

Assistant Editor

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Children,

Christmas Eve Family Service December 24th at 6.00pm

On behalf of St Nicholas Sunday School, I would like to invite you to come along and take part in our Family Service on Christmas Eve.

This year we have been asked to do a short drama Nativity with narration during the service led by Reverend Elizabeth Groves.

Anyone interested in joining us should come along to the Church Room on Sunday 10th December at 9.45am, when we will talk about the service and give you an idea of what we plan to do this year.

As unlike other years, we are only participating in part of the service, we feel that only two rehearsals are necessary, these are to be held in St Nicholas Church as follows:-

- Sunday 17th December 11am – Midday
- Christmas Eve 2pm – 3pm Dress Rehearsal

Every year we welcome anyone who wishes to join us to share in this special family service and we would love to see you on 10th December!!

Best wishes,

Fiona Knight, St Nicholas Sunday School - 01329 833340



Crib Service

The Crib Service at St Nicholas' Church is to be held at 6pm on Sunday, 24th December. This lovely service featuring the crib is full of candles and carols and is a perfect way for all the children and their families to come together with the whole community of Wickham in the true meaning of Christmas.

Elizabeth Groves

PARK PLACE PERSPECTIVES



Park Place Pastoral Centre

An Advent Celebration

Music and Carols
The First Crib & Nativity Scene

Singing by the Segalula Choir, and pupils from St Anthony's School, Park Gate .

in the
PARK PLACE PASTORAL CENTRE CHAPEL
on Sunday 10th December 2006
at 4.00pm.

Followed by light refreshments

A retiring collection will be taken in aid of the
Franciscan Project in Brazil
for Street Children,

Enquiries to:
Sister Judith, Park Place Pastoral Centre,
Wickham, Fareham, Hants, PO17 5HA. Tel. 01329 833043

Pilgrimage 2007



Tracing the Steps of the Northern Saints

Our pilgrimage plans are now finalised, and we are visiting the North East of England to see some of the earliest sites of Christianity in this country.

Our coach will be departing Park Place at 10am on Sunday the 16th September 2007 for York where we shall stay 3 nights at the Novotel Hotel.

Then on Wednesday 19th we shall make our way to Durham via Ampleforth Abbey where we will take Mass and have a tour of the Abbey. Stopping on route at The Mount Grace Priory. Arriving at The Whitworth Country Park Hotel (15 minutes outside Durham) in the late afternoon.

Whilst in Durham we shall visit The Cathedral, see the treasures of St. Cuthbert, tour the city and then on to Durham Castle. On the 21st we are off to Lindisfarne (Holy Island) and Bamburgh Castle. Then on Saturday the 22nd we shall make our way home.

This is the basic structure of the pilgrimage. We

shall be adding in other items when our timings have been tested. I do not wish to go into too much detail at this stage other than to say we have lots of interesting places to visit and take Mass.

The cost of the pilgrimage will be £550 per person on a Half Board basis with all entries and donations included. We intend to make group bookings wherever possible to save time and money.

Please be aware places will be limited and an early response is advisable. If you are interested please contact *The Friends of Park Place* for an application form.

Victor Sullivan

Park Place Pastoral Centre
Wickham, Hants PO16 5HA
Tel: 01329 833043

Cost and join in the fun:
Entry: £20.00

Music By **TECKLESS**

With Indian Food included (Please bring your own Wine)
Saturday 16th December 2006 at 11.30 a.m.
(Cost £15.00 (£8.00 for children))

In aid of the Franciscan Mission Project
For the Street children in BRAZIL.
There will be a sale of Clothes, Pickle and other articles.

Advanced booking is necessary as number is limited
Please complete and return the form to:
Sister Judith Iema

SC..... A stamped SAE helps for a reply.....

Please reserve me Tickets for 16th December 2006.
I enclose a cheque for £..... Payable to: "Franciscan Mission Fund".
Vegetarian (Please delete as required).
Number of adults..... Number of Children.....
Name..... Address.....
.....
Post Code..... Phone No.....

KNOWLE VILLAGE CHURCH

About a dozen participants met for a day of fellowship, relaxed discussion and a bit of fun on the first Saturday in November. The primary speaker explored 'Celtic Spirituality' and its influence on how we worship today. The day began with croissants and giant muffins followed by a team building game. Throughout the day prayers and lively music were chosen to highlight the topic. The event, held at The Study Centre at St John's Shedfield also featured a guided tour of the Old Tower, home to local protected wildlife. After a cream tea guests viewed clips from the film 'American History X' and discussed grace in daily life. The day finished, as

it had started, with a short devotional time from the Iona community.

“Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.”
Luke 2 (The Message)

Here are the services for the Christmas season at Knowle Village:

10 th December	10.00am	
		Family Worship with Holy Baptism
17 th December	6.00pm	Carol Service
24 th December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
7 th January 2007	10.00am	Epiphany

Everyone is welcome to join us.

God Bless

Deborah Casper

**THE GOOD NEWS
TRAVELLING LIBRARY**

The next visit of the GNTL is
at **the Paterson Centre,
Church Road, Swanmore,
on 12th December 2006
and 9th January 2007
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.

THE MOTHERS’ UNION



Millie Hodgson came to speak at our November meeting. Her topic was the pearl of great price and we had an interesting discussion concerning the nature of this in an increasingly materialistic world, and what we should be prepared to ‘sell’ in order to obtain it. We were all given a little pearl to keep to remind us of the theme.

Earlier in the month many of our members were privileged to join our clergy in a marriage preparation session where they were able to meet a large number of couples who were intending to get married in church.

Some of us will be attending an Archdeaconry service in Fareham on December 5th on the occasion of the retirement of our Archdeaconry Vice-President Judy Jacobs. We would like to thank Judy for all she has done in the last few years. No doubt we shall see plenty more of her as she continues her work in the Mothers’ Union.

Our Christmas meeting is on Tuesday December 12th at 7, Tanfield Park, and in the New Year we meet at 21, Manor Close on Tuesday January 9th.

Margaret Edgworth

CHURCHES TOGETHER



Quiet Half Hours

Many of us can remember back to the Gulf war and the anxieties we felt for those serving in the forces overseas. Churches were encouraged to pray for those affected by the situation. In response to this entreaty the Rev’d Geoffrey Morrell who was then vicar of Shedfield began holding ‘quiet half hours’ when members of all denominations met together for prayer. These times proved so beneficial to all who took part that it was decided to carry on – a half hour of time together in the various churches in the Deanery to which all denominations were invited. Over the succeeding years many have appreciated this time of quiet prayer and reflection held once a month in different churches. To those who have not been, thirty minutes of quiet looks a long time. It is, so the ‘host’ church members plan the time to include prayers on a theme chosen by them with quiet interludes, soft music and suitable readings. The wide variety of styles and themes means each Quiet Half Hour is different from those coming before and after.

Recently numbers have dwindled and it was suggested bringing the time forward to allow those participating to go on to other activities in the evening. This did not work – many find 7 o’clock too early – so after Christmas the time will revert back to 7.30pm. No meeting goes on after the thirty minutes and all prove beneficial to those who take part. Meeting in different churches brings a realisation of how varied and beautiful are the churches in our area and how welcoming are their members.

Nobody is challenged during these half hours. All are welcome – church members or those who are not used to attending services. Some may enter just on time and sit quietly at the back, leaving as soon as the half hour is concluded. Others arrive early for some personal communion with God, or chat afterwards finding new friends. If you have never been, do come. The welcome is to all – and you may find that having been once, you will feel the need to come again, and again.

Jill Sutton

FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY



Court Loyal Brethren of the Foresters Friendly Society will be holding their annual Carolcade in St Nicholas Church Wickham (by kind permission of the PCC) on Sunday 10th December at 2.30pm.

Singing will be led by Meon Valley Circuit Band; also taking part will be Bishops Bells hand bell team. Admission is free; there will be a collection in aid of Fort Cancer Charity.

Come along and enjoy singing carols also listening to the band and hand bell team.

I understand there is a great possibility Father Christmas will be in the Church Room after the Carolcade to meet any children while mince pies, sausage rolls, tea and orange juice are being served.

See you there. The Chief Ranger and committee wish me to say they wish you a Happy and Wonderful Christmas.

May God bless you all,

John Pratt

FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. In each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

(Author unknown)

CHRISTMAS OVERSEAS

Just in case some of you were wondering, 'well, where has Di got to', I am very happy to say (as you can well imagine), sunning myself in both New Zealand and Australia. But more especially, spending time with family and friends, many of whom I have not seen for many years. I will however, miss taking part in the extended choir this year and participating in all the different services. My thoughts will be with you all. So until I return in the new year, I send my warmest wishes to everyone, and wish you all, a truly 'Happy and Blessed Christmas'.

With my love

Di Hemingway-Rice, Churchwarden

The Waynflete Singers



Winchester Cathedral

Saturday 9 December at 7.30pm

A CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT

THE WAYNFLETE SINGERS with
FLORILEGIUM. Andrew Lumsden conductor.

BACH: Magnificat & Wachet Auf
HANDEL: Utrecht Te Deum
CORELLI: Christmas Concerto

Cecilia Osmond & Gillian Keith (sopranos), Mark Chambers (alto), William Kendall (tenor), Matthew Brook (bass).

The Waynflete Singers - Winchester Cathedral's resident 130 voice choir and Florilegium - one of Britain's most outstanding period instrument ensembles, are conducted in this seasonal treat by Andrew Lumsden, the Cathedral's Director of Music. They will be joined on the platform by top-flight soloists: Cecilia Osmond, Gillian Keith, Mark Chambers, Matthew Brook and Winchester's own William Kendall. The programme will open with Bach's Magnificat, written probably for Christmas 1723 with the text singing Mary's song of praise - 'a masterpiece even by Bach's standards' and notably one of the conductor's 'Desert Island Discs'.

Tickets: £28, £23, £18, £10 from Winchester Cathedral Box Office (in the Visitors' Centre opposite the shop)
01962 857275

www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk

The Vano School in Thailand Water Project

“How would you feel if you were told that your child had blood in their urine and all that was required to put the situation right was £3,000?”



On Sunday 21st January 2007, at 6pm, in Shedfield Church there is to be an opportunity to help raise some funds for this project.

A PowerPoint Presentation in the Study Centre will follow the combined Shedfield and Wickham Choral Evensong. Refreshments will be served.

Anne Marshall

Thank you, thank you, thank you

To all the generous parishioners who have given regular donations to St. Nicholas Church as planned giving, white envelopes and blue envelopes.

It is very much appreciated and very necessary for the continued running of our church.

St Nicholas PCC

THE FIRST EVENT OF THE NEW YEAR!

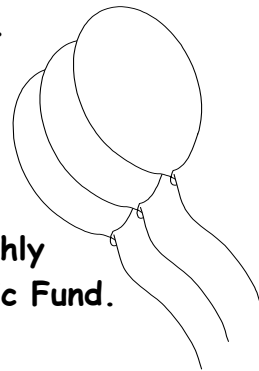


**Announcing a Burn's Night in the Church Room
on Saturday 27th January at 7.30pm.
Please come and join us.**

Three course meal: £12.50 each

**Any profit left over after we have had a thoroughly
good evening will go to St. Nicholas' Church Fabric Fund.**

**Tickets from: Di Hemingway Rice 01329 835463
Judy Lucas: 01329 834335**



HELP WITH THE IVY, PLEASE!

The ivy on the table tombs and on the perimeter wall in the churchyard is beginning to win!

We're looking for help in cutting it back and have called a working party for Saturday 10th February 2007 at 10.00am. Coffee will be served in the Church Room to give us all a break! Please bring secateurs and gloves.

Please make a note in your new year's calendar because we should be really pleased to see you there.

Judy Lucas and Di Hemingway Rice



VILLAGE NEWS

WICKHAM FIRE STATION



Since our last piece we have had a steady run of calls to a wide variety of incidents, we sadly attended the fire in the scout hut in Wickham Recreational Ground on the 14th October, which took several hours to bring under control and has caused substantial damage. We wish all concerned with the scouts all the best in getting things back to how they were.

Bonfire night passed without a hitch and only resulted in one call to a rather large bonfire which did not need us to take any action and died down on its own. We also attended a car accident on the A32 in which we had to release a female casualty who was then taken to hospital by Hampshire Ambulance. We have also been to two property fires - one in Boarhunt and one in Shirrel Heath, which made six of us miss the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12th November. This was not the only time we had a visit to the Church this month either as we were called there to pump out their basement of water.

We will be having our street collection on Saturday 9th December in the village square to raise money for the National Firefighter's Benevolent Fund and will hopefully see some of you then. If not, from all of us at Wickham Fire Station, we would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

Remember, in the event of a fire

...Get out! Get the Fire Brigade out! And stay out!

Nigel Blackman

Wickham Square Events

A **BIG** thank you the everyone who helped to put up the Christmas Lights around the Square on Sunday 19th November.



Many hands make light work!



Dave Martin

WICKHAM COMMUNITY RESPONDERS



The clocks have gone back and the nights are long and dark. In this rural area that makes it more difficult for the Ambulance Service to find the right house quickly. You can help by checking that your house name or number is clearly visible from the road and that any outside lights are still working after the long summer. If you do call 999 for an ambulance at night, please put on as many lights as possible to help us find you.

Our recruitment campaign has gone well and we have enrolled four new members this year. We would like to have at least one volunteer available every day and all night. The more members we have, the more feasible that becomes.

If the idea of helping the Ambulance Service to help our community interests you, then phone the number below and arrange to come to one of our monthly meetings. We can tell you more about what we do and how we operate, with no obligation on you.

Sue Fitzgerald

Group Co-ordinator 01329 833609

The Stan Woodford Photographic Competition



Hurry, hurry, hurry! Christmas is just around the corner! A little further round is the closing date for this year's Stan Woodford Photographic Competition, 31st December 2006.

An entry form can be obtained from Studio 6 in the Square or by e-mail at print@studio-6.co.uk. If you have still to take that prize winning entry there is lots going on in the run up to Christmas.

Michael Carter

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOP



Handmade & Unusual Gifts

Greystones, Titchfield Lane, Wickham
Tel: 01329 836646

Open every Saturday & Sunday from
18th November to 17th December 2006

From 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

CUSHIONS + WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
THROWS + SILK PICTURES & SCARVES
WOVEN RUGS + JEWELLERY & HANDBAGS
DECORATIONS + CAKES & PRESERVES
HOLLY WREATHS + MOHAIR GARMENTS
WOVEN HANGINGS + CHRISTMAS FAYRE
GIFTS & CARDS + MOHAIR PRODUCTS
POTTERY & MUCH MORE

On the road between Titchfield and Wickham –
not far from the Ostrich Farm – look for the sign

THE FLOW OF HISTORY THROUGH THE MEON VALLEY

Twenty-two miles of history are traced in the Meon Valley Map by calligrapher Hugh Spendlove, which follows the River Meon from its source to the sea. The result of over Ten years research, this unique production traces the Meon in a combination of drawings and texts, reflecting the rich history of the area.

Beginning in the saucer of hills near East Meon, with its spectacular Norman church, the Map follows the ever-changing progress of the River through the villages and towns of the Valley, picking out historical features and events - the arrival of Christianity, Hampshire's first paper mill, the extensive strawberry fields, the Meon Valley Railway - until it reaches the sea at Titchfield Haven.

The Map is reproduced in black on pale cream paper, A2, in a limited edition of 500, and is available (£12.50) from the Visitors Centre, Titchfield Haven, Westbury Manor Information Centre, Fareham, and at Chesapeake Mill, Wickham; or from Hugh Spendlove (01489 893574).

Hugh Spendlove

WICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This small message at Christmas time I
thought I'd send in words of rhyme:

*Another year has nearly past
No matter how one tries
It's time again for special gifts
And rustling up mince pies.*

*We deck the trees with red and gold
Send Christmas cards to friends of old.*

*Raise our glasses with love and cheer
A very merry Christmas and a happy new
year.*



Special greetings from
Wickham Parish
Council



Angela Clear, Chairman

SOUTHWICK & WIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Applications are invited for the position of
Clerk to the Council.

This will involve a few hours per week and
attracts remuneration and all expenses

Please apply to:

The Chairman of the Parish Council

Mrs June Bazalgette
1 Orchard Bungalows
Trampers Lane
North Boarhunt
Fareham
Hants PO17 6DH

Tel. 01329 834457

Prostate Cancer

Don't get caught out!

Call

PCaSO

Prostate Cancer Network

HELP LINE

0845 850 2555

Sponsored by NHS Direct

Confidential help - support - information available to all
who may be affected by or concerned about
Prostate Cancer

Email: info@pcaso.com

Registered Charity 105408

www.pcaso.com

SANTA COMES TO WICKHAM

Dear All,



Just a quick note to let you know I'm hoping to drop into Wickham on Monday December 4th at 6.30pm to switch on your Christmas lights.

I'm sorry I missed you last year; I was having a bit of bother with my sleigh.

Graham Hayes of Hayes Music has kindly organised a brilliant brass band, 'Denmead Brass', to play for the occasion. Lots of local businesses are opening late, extending hospitality and goodwill to you all.

Raffles and prize draws will be taking place in support of Naomi House Children's Hospice.

There will be plenty of festive spirit on offer from your local hostelrys.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours,

Santa Claus

P.S. Thanks to WPC, Square Events and the Chamber of Commerce for all their support.



Wickham Chamber of Commerce

The Wickham Chamber of Commerce meets at Greens on the 2nd Wednesday on every month at 6.30pm. The next meeting is on 10th January 2007.

New members welcome - Just turn up!



*Drawn by Abbie
Wickham Primary School*

*Drawn by Emily
Wickham Primary School*



AFFORDABLE HOMES IN WICKHAM

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The lack of affordable homes for young people and families born and raised in rural communities and who wish to stay and work there when they leave home has been much publicised. The same problem confronts key workers such as teachers, nurses and police officers working for village communities but unable to afford to live among them. Provision of affordable accommodation - and providing it in such a way that it is available to, and managed by, the community in perpetuity - has become more difficult as house prices and rents have increased and land supply available for such developments has tightened.

To determine the extent of the need for such housing in Wickham, we propose to conduct a village-wide survey in the New Year. Any development to help meet the need will only be considered by planning authorities if solid information from Wickham residents is available to support it.

When the survey is delivered to your home we do hope you will give it your attention and return it to us. Many thanks in advance for your help in what we hope will be one way to keep Wickham a thriving and cohesive village.

Nic Holladay, Chair, Wickham Affordable Housing Group

EVACUATION EXERCISE IN WICKHAM

So you think that it couldn't happen to you? Well, it can! A nasty incident occurred recently and people had to be evacuated from their homes. Happily, it was only an exercise. Did you know that we have an Evacuation Centre in Wickham?

When the "Shell" garage "caught fire" and gas bottles were involved, an evacuation zone had to be declared. This was over an area of 200 meters radius and for 24 hours. And me? I was to be an "evacuee".

To make things interesting, I was a diabetic who had forgotten her medication. At the Centre, all the "evacuees" had one make-believe problem or another, (there's a certain satisfaction in making life difficult for the trainees). One chap wouldn't be parted from his pet spider, proudly displaying it to the other "evacuees", many of whom were less than appreciative. Another was "drunk and disorderly" and very interested to see if any of the chairs could fly. I vaguely remember a lady with Alzheimers. Needless to say, there was a "press reporter" who was so undercover that she remained undetected by all throughout the exercise, in spite of her handing out some very heavy hints. And then there was the lass with the brood of villainous children. She was dead keen to run off back home to save her cat from a gory death.

All in all, the "evacuees" played their parts so well that I believe the cinema talent scouts missed a trick. Which was all well and good, and excellent training for the team who were trying to control this mayhem.

So there you are. A super, enjoyable event all round, and also very valuable. It's nice to know that, if the real thing were to happen, a team of volunteers will be at hand to cope, and that they have had a taste of just how difficult the public, (that's you and me), can be.

Jenny Hollis

ENDURO INDIA

Dear All,



You may well know me for keeping the grass trim at the church or simply making a din in the Fire Engine, for which I apologise.

In February 2007, I am off to India with a British company ENDURO INDIA. The challenge, to complete a gruelling motorcycle ride across southern India on a 350cc Royal Enfield, 1953 design, motorcycle. This event is over 16 days riding from 'dawn till dusk' over some of the most demanding mountains and desert plains of India, with only curry and mosquitoes to eat.



Why? Well I get to see 2,500 miles of mind blowing scenery with a great team of 139 motorcycles, all with the same drive as myself to raise 'hopefully' well over £250,000. This does not include the personal cost of £2,000 per biker paid by ourselves.

Why is this important? Well this is the only income for a hospital for terminally ill cancer patients, 45 pence a day is all it costs for medicines, a bed and care. Our brand new motorcycles with dust and 2,500 miles on the clock will be handed over to the WWF for the animal's protection.



The rest of the monies go to the Mother Theresa and Rainbow Trust, both charities are for sick and dying children. So you may well understand why all the local villagers rush out to greet our noisy bikes throughout the journey. Over the last year I have been working hard selling donations at car boot sales, all with the fantastic help of ERIC BRIGHT, with his 6 o'clock in the morning start enthusiasm, sense of humour and the use of his garage space, to store the booty. Thanks mate! To make sure my hard work is worth while I need to raise as much money as possible for these people as this is a once in a lifetime trip for me (as I am married) and February 2007 is fast approaching. If you feel you would like to help me help these people please drop me a line or make a donation, however small, through my letter box for ENDURO INDIA. I would be more than pleased to visit you in person with my sponsor form in you prefer.



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have made donations towards my car boot sales.

Kind Regards,

Graham Pike.
8 Manor Close, Wickham
01329 834672

JUST A THOUGHT !



It's **NICE** to be **IMPORTANT**

but so much more

IMPORTANT to be **NICE**





WICKHAM

Community Association

Tel 01329 833688. email: wickhamcentre@btconnect.com

WICKHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, OPEN DAY PHOTO ALBUM



NEW Air Gun Section of Wickham Rifle Club.
Meets each Saturday 10.00 – Noon
All equipment supplied.



TLRS. Anything to do with tramways.
Films, modelling, guest speakers.
Meet 3rd Thurs of the month. 7.30 pm
Phone: Bob Howse 01962 882971



Wickham Youth Club meets every Wed
(juniors) Thurs (seniors)
Phone Ray Hughes 07929 449786

Our THANKS to *ITALIANO at CLEMANTINES* for their pizza and pasta
Fund Raising evening on 22nd Nov, for the
Community Centre's work.

Georgina Lucas and her Upholstery class. It
is full at the moment but give her a ring on
02380 767115



Peregonium & Geranium Societies
Every 3rd Wed of the month. 7.30 pm
Tel: Doreen Baker 310124



Don't forget the NEW '*Club 55*'
A broad spectrum of activities for the 55 plus
group. Come and join us at our **Open Day**
on Thursday 11th January,
10.00 to 1.00 pm, for an informal chat over a
mince pie and mulled wine.
Come and tell us what you want to do.

David Roger-Jones

WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



TIME OUT CLUB

Wickham Primary School

Buddens Road, Wickham, Fareham, Hampshire,
PO17 5HU, Tele: 01329 833065, Fax: 01329 834969

E-mail: adminoffice@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk



The Wickham Primary School TIME OUT CLUB provides before and after school care for children attending the school, Monday to Friday during term time.

On Monday, 23rd October, our childcare team was invited by Winchester Area Community Action to a 'Celebration of Play' at the Guildhall, Winchester. They were delighted to receive three awards presented by Debra McAndrew, Senior Development Officer (Childcare).



Best Club voted for by Children

Comments made by TOC children

"They are simply the best" "They play with me and its fun"

"They are kind, fair and cheer you up".

Comment made by a parent

"Their dedication towards an enriching and stimulating environment means that we the parents have to beg the children to leave".

Team Work Award - *We have five dedicated Play Workers*

Long Term Achievement Award

Our Club has been running very successfully for over 11 years.

On behalf of parents, children and all school staff, we would like to offer our congratulations to Penny, Gill, Sally, Mary and Debbie who care for our children so well.

Charity Commission Reg. 1078392, OFSTED Reg. 110235, Member of 4 Children

Vouchers and Cartridges

We would like to say a great big 'thank you' to everyone who has given us vouchers from supermarkets during the year. This has enabled us to order much needed equipment for the school which includes Computer software, sports equipment and books for the Library.

We are also very grateful to you all for collecting used Computer Printer Cartridges. These have raised funds for the Friends of Wickham Primary School and have helped towards the fundraising for our new Adventure Play Area.

Please keep on saving Vouchers and Printer Cartridges – they really do help to provide extra resources for the children.

Sue Roger-Jones, Chair of Governors

WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children Conduct Themselves Well!

On Thursday 2nd November 2006 pupils from the local primary school had an experience they would not forget. With support of the Princes Trust the whole of Wickham Primary School, apart from the disappointed caretaker, Mr Greenway, went to see the London Mozart players perform at the Turner Sims Concert Hall in Southampton.

The whole of Wickham Primary School, children, staff and parents travelled in a fleet of coaches. They were very excited; the girls could not stop singing. When everyone arrived, the children got out of the coaches and made their way to the concert hall. In the foyer, the Year 4 pupils saw a fantastic display of posters they had made to advertise the performance.

On arrival the auditorium was full of the most beautiful music being performed by The London Mozart Players. The school enjoyed listening to a variety of music, including; works by Mozart, Saint-Sans, Carnival of the Animals (The Swan), Handel's Water Music and the Pink Panther theme.

Then the performers showed the children their instruments, including the oboe, violin, cello and French horn. A number of children were asked to help with the performance. Molly Burnett held the hose pipe while Tony Katterick played a funny tune through it. James Hemsworth was a conductor for a piece of music, he made the quartet play faster and faster with his baton. Tamara Tibbert and Josh Rocket plucked the piece of string to demonstrate how a stringed instrument worked.



James Hemsworth Conducting



Kevin Appleby presenting Jack Millichamp with his framed poster

At the end of the whole experience there was a special prize for a lucky member of the Year 4 class. Prior to the concert Alex Hoare, the event organiser, visited the Year 4 class to run a workshop. One of the activities was designing a poster for the concert. The poster chosen was by Jack Millichamp, who was presented with a framed copy of his poster and five tickets by Kevin Appleby, the concert hall manager.

Carol Burton, the Head Teacher was asked about the trip. She replied, "This was a fantastic afternoon. We are so pleased to be involved in the 'Arts for Kids Project' and look forward to the next concert which will be in the Summer Term. We are grateful to the musicians for sharing their love of music with us and to all the parents who supported and helped with the trip."

All in all Wickham Primary School had a great day.

Written by Gemma White, Emma-Jayne Mears and Katie McCarthy (Year 4)

POEMS

EARLY DAWN

The gentle peaceful light of early dawn,
Compares to the gentle love of our Lord.
But the harsh light of man's electric lamp,
Is like an aggressive man's sword.

Why can't we tread this life gently, quietly,
So as not to disturb this holy peace?
If we all followed our Lords footsteps -
Hatred and wars, would have to cease.

We must all learn to love one and other,
In a quiet, and an unassuming way.
We must be gentle, and care each other,
Like the peaceful dawning of each new day.

Rhoda Cane

WINTER

It's true that winter is here to stay
but let us not forget what God giveth today.
The sun is bright and the sky so blue,
why even the flowers I do see a few.
And listen all the birds do sing,
and even the Church bells continue to ring.
So be not dismal on this winters day.
Instead let us be thankful and say,
Thank you Lord, for this beautiful day!

Di Hemingway-Rice

HOLE

I can dart through a hole of light
In the branches, and in a brief flight
Make swift return through sixty years.
No magic, sweat, regret nor tears.

I mean to filch from yesteryear,
Then flit. What do I always hear?
"Who are you? The boy's gone." Quick! Back!
As a martin's dart-under-eaves-thwack."

Tony Johnson

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PARISH CHAIRMAN

I run to the square
For a meeting at nine
I wait for the man
He's never on time.

Highways and by-ways
We need to discuss
I'd like it all done
Without any fuss.

Lighting and drainage
Are next in my care
Then pick out a tree
To brighten the square.

All those fast cars
That don't heed their speed
Maybe more traffic lights
There's always a need.

Yellow lines to stop parking
And curbs to check speed
I don't ask a lot
Only things that we need.

Then back home for lunch
A five minute break
Then off once again –
Decisions to make.

Phone calls and letters
E-mails on line
A meeting at seven
Another at nine.

Now the day's over
It's home to my bed
I lie there and mull
Over thoughts in my head.

My job as your chairman
Keeps me busy each day
An enjoyable role
Every which-way.

Angela Clear – Chairman

DECEMBER 2006 ~ JANUARY 2007 DIARY

DECEMBER

Fri 1 14:00 Magazine Meeting, Church Room
 Sat 2 14:30 Dystonia Association, Church Room

Sun	3	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Jeremiah 33: 14-16 1 Thess. 3: 9-end Luke 21: 25-36
		08:00 Holy Communion:	
		09:45 Advent Family Service	
		14:30 Holy Baptism: Olivia Daisy Anne Poyntz	
		18:00 TAIZE EVENSONG AT ST JOHN'S SHEDFIELD	

Mon 4 09:30 Pilates, Church Room
 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 Tue 5 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:45 Wickham History Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 6 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 Thur 7 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 8 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Sat 9 14:30 Holy Matrimony: Katherine Wightwick/Andrew Holmes

Sun	10	ST NICHOLAS PATRONAL FESTIVAL (Second Sunday of Advent)	Malachi 3: 1-4 Philippians 1: 3-11 Luke 3: 1-6
		08:00 Holy Communion	
		09:45 Parish Communion	
		18:00 PATRONAL FESTIVAL	

Mon 11 09:30 Pilates, Church Room
 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 Tues 12 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 14:15 Mothers' Union, Meeting at 7 Tanfield Park
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 13 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room
 Thur 14 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
18:30 CAROLS IN THE SQUARE
 Fri 15 19:30 Fuchsia Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun	17	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Zepaniah 3: 14-end Philippians 4: 4-7 Luke 3: 7-18
		08:00 Holy Communion:	
		09:45 Parish Communion	
		18:00 NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS	

Mon 18 09:30 Pilates, Church Room
 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 Tues 19 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 20 19:30 Model Engineers, Church Room
 Thur 21 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 22 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun	24	CHRISTMAS EVE	Micah 5: 2-5a Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45
		08:00 Holy Communion	
		NO 09:45 SERVICE TODAY	
		18:00 Children's Crib Service	
		23:30 MIDNIGHT MASS	Isaiah 52: 7-10
			Hebrews 1: 1-4 John 1: 1-14
Mon	25	CHRISTMAS DAY	Isaiah 9: 2-7 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14
		08:00 Holy Communion	
		09:45 Family Service	

Sat 30 **16:30 Christingle Service**

Sun 31	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26
	08:00 Holy Communion:	Coloss. 3: 12-17
	09:45 Service of Poems, Readings and Carols	Luke 2: 41-end

JANUARY 2007

Tue 2 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
16:45 Brownies, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 3 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
Thur 4 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 5 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 7	EPIPHANY	
	08:00 Holy Communion	Isaiah 60: 1-6
	09:45 Family Service	Ephesians 3: 1-12
	18:00 Choral Eucharist	Matthew 2: 1-12

Mon 8 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
Tues 9 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
16:45 Brownies, Church Room
14:15 Mothers' Union, Meeting at 21 Tanfield Park
19:30 Wickham Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 10 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room
Thur 11 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 12 19:30 Fuchsia Society, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 14	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Isaiah 62: 1-5
	08:00 Holy Communion:	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
	09:45 Parish Communion	John 2: 1-11

Mon 15 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
Tues 16 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
16:45 Brownies, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 17 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:30 Model Engineers, Church Room
Thur 18 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 19 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Sat 20 **LAST DAY FOR COPY FOR FEBRUARY 2007 MAGAZINE**

Sun 21	THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
	08:00 Holy Communion	1 Cor. 12: 12-31a
	09:45 Parish Communion	Luke 4: 14-21
	18:00 Choral Evensong	

Mon 22 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
Tue 23 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
16:45 Brownies, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 24 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
Thur 25 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 26 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 28	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	Ezekial 43: 27-44: 4
	08:00 Holy Communion	1 Cor. 13:
	09:45 Parish Communion	Luke 2: 22-40
	15:00 INSTALLATION OF REV. SHIRLEY HENDERSON AS RECTOR AND VICAR AT ST JOHN'S SHEDFIELD: VEN. PETER HANCOCK	

Mon 29 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room

Tue 30 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 31 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

FEBRUARY

Thur 1 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 2 14:00 Magazine Meeting, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 4	THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Isaiah 6: 1-8
	08:00 Holy Communion	1Cor.15:1-11
	09:45 Family Service	Luke 5: 1-11
	18:00 Choral Eucharist	

Mon 5 11:00 Spinners/Weavers, Church Room
 Tue 6 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:45 Wickham History Society, Church Room

LAST DAY FOR COPY FEBRUARY 2007 MAGAZINE
SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY 2007

<i>From the registers</i>		
<i>Holy Baptism</i>		
Emily Rose Hone		04/11/2006
<i>Rest in Peace</i>		
Geoffrey Cowles	88 years	24/11/2006

LETTERS

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

Letters may be submitted by e-mail, but please include a postal address. If you do not want your email address published, please say so. Letters may be edited for reasons of space.

From: St. Nicholas Church
 Dear Editor,
 We should just like to express our thanks to all the children of Wickham Primary School who did such lovely drawings for our Christmas drawing competition.
 The winner's drawing will be on the Church Christmas card, which will go to every household giving details of the various Christmas services in the area.
 One of the runner's up drawings will be on the front of the Parish Magazine and we have

pleasure in showing the drawings of the other two runners up in this magazine.
 Thanks you so much. All the drawings were a delight.
 St. Nicholas' Church

From: G E Shannon
 Dear Sir
 Is it going to be early this year – might we miss it?
 My daughter was in the Square and kindly bought me a box of mince pies. There is a picture of a Christmas tree on the lid and it is inscribed "**Christmas Mince Pies**".
 On the end of the box it says:
"Best Before 15/11/06".
 Yours faithfully and confused!
 G E Shannon
 Hundred Acres Road, Wickham.

IRENE 'RENE' JEWELL

July 1919 – October 2006



Rene was born in West Dean, West Sussex, to Francis and Alice Rumsey. She had a brother Denis. While growing up they moved around different counties as her parents worked in service as a Butler and Ladies maid, finally ending up in Hampshire at Kings Worthy. Rene was twenty when, whilst working in Winchester, she met a handsome bus conductor, Alf. They had a short courtship and were married in May 1940 at Old Alresford Church.

Alf had been called up for the War, so Rene lived with their first daughter, Anne, born in 1941 in the cottage behind Old Alresford House where her parents were working. On Alf's return in 1945, the family moved to

Cheriton where David was born in 1947.

In late 1947 Rene and Alf moved again, this time to Mayles Lane, Wickham, where Michael was born in January 1948. Then in late 1948 Alf had another change of employment, this time as a milkman with Parrett's Dairy, so the family moved to Buddens Road where a friendship grew between their neighbours, the Bramleys and the Talmans. Colin was born here in February 1949.

Rene loved Wickham. It became her life, becoming a member of the Mothers' Union, Trefoil Guild and a Committee member of the Meon Park Residents Association. As her family grew, Rene became involved with 1st Wickham Scouts as Akela to the cubs and in 1962 she also became Assistant District Commissioner. Many Leaders and boys will remember the camps.

1963 brought a great surprise. Rene found she was expecting her 5th child, Claire, but carried on Scouting. This led to her working at Wickham School as Dinner Lady, making sure the children ate their dinners. As time went by, her family grew ending up with twelve grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Travelling to Villers Sur Mer was something she always enjoyed whilst being a Twinning Association member, and a member of the Royal British Legion. Work with the Community Care and the WRVS kept her busy even through her retirement years. The Thursday Club outings were enjoyed as a 'rest'.

Sadly in 2002, Rene was struck down by a major stroke. She fought hard to overcome her difficulties. Last month she passed away in her sleep after a short illness.

The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and prayers. These have helped both Alf and Claire, especially at this sad time to know Rene was held in such a loving and high regard throughout the village.

Claire Binnie

ANIMAL SUPPORT AWARENESS PROGRAMME



With the charity being at its busiest and it being Christmas, I thought I would take the time to inform you of how many unwanted/stray cats, kittens and rabbits we get in over the festive season.

Just after Christmas our telephones just don't stop ringing. We receive numerous calls from parents who have given their children a cat, kitten or rabbit for Christmas and at the time it seems like a good idea. It will give the children some responsibility, the parents will enjoy the animal and cats make good companions...

This is when it goes wrong...

The festive season finishes, the kids go back to school, the parents go back to work and the poor little kitten that you gave your son or daughter gets neglected and left behind by the rush of a new year. You find that you haven't got time to clear out the litter tray or change their water and the kids aren't that bothered anymore... So you ring us A.S.A.P and we come and rescue and your problems over. But it doesn't end there for us, we have to try and re-home all the unwanted cats, kittens and rabbits to respectable homes.

So please next time you think about buying a small furry animal for your son or daughter and think twice, can you really give them the care and love they need?

On a more cheery note, I promised I would keep you updated with Sharon and Ozzy! We had to separate the pair after finding out that Ozzy had been play fighting with Sharon a little too hard and with Sharon being so small she couldn't cope and got very stressed especially as Ozzy and chewed off her whiskers! However we separated the two and Sharon is feeling a lot better and her whiskers are growing back, she is still with the charity as she still isn't well enough to be re-homed. Ozzy on the other hand has grown into a handsome little boy and has been re-homed to a very loving family with a playmate from the charity.

Remember if you want to donate to the charity please visit www.hants.gov.uk/asap where you can donate online.

Susie Caws

ON BEING FOUR (and a half)

"You may be over sixty but you act like a four year old," says the Missus.

"Four and a half," says I. The half really matters when you are only four. (PRIDE!)

When you are four, (and a half), you can really enjoy Christmas morning.

Mine goes something like this:

0230: Rise. Loo – bladder's a bit weak when you are only four, (and a half). Creep down stairs. Poke presents under tree. Find old school hand bell. Stroll up and down hall ringing bell and chanting, "ho, ho, ho". Desist when cries of "when are you going to grow up" heard from first floor. Poke presents. Creep back up stairs hoping Missus is asleep, thus avoiding castigation. (ANGER!)

0730: Rise. Loo. Make coffee, join human race. Put on choirboys C.D. Light fire in Snug. Poke presents. Make coffee for Missus. (SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!)

0800: Wake Missus with kiss and coffee. Missus almost joins human race. Open stockings in bed – you can have stockings when you are only four, (and a half) – with Missus, dog and mogs. (AVERICE!)

0900: Rise. Loo. Big greasy breakfast. (GLUTONY!)

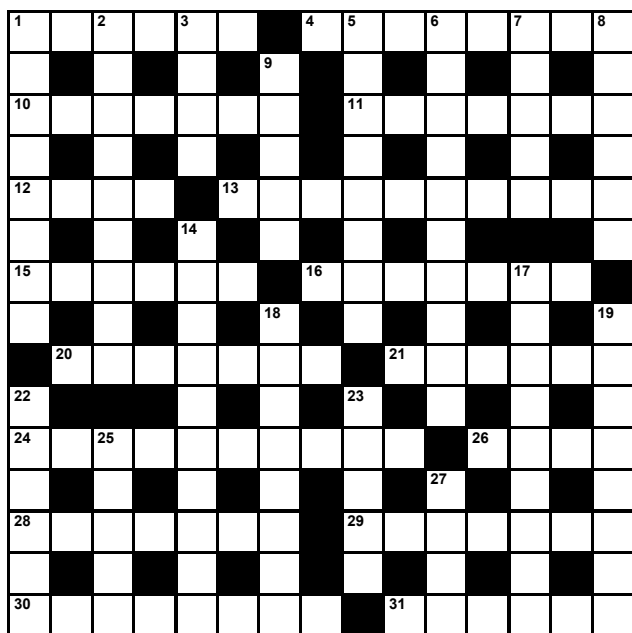
0930: Me, Missus, dog, mogs and choirboys open presents by Snug fire. (COVETOUSNESS!)

It's fun being four, (and a half), at Christmas. Also quite sinful.

Mike Hollis

Wickham Prize Crossword No.10

by Konrad © RJS 2005



- 15 Ex, one hears, makes the team (6)
- 16 Supporters ales surround returning artist (7)
- 20 Indication some young men prefer the Old Masters initially (7)
- 21 Woman behind father shows the sheen of age (6)
- 24 Think intensely about lingerie in tempest? (10)
- 26 Money from a quiet pixie (4)
- 28 Chap called up a floating platform in the river (7)
- 29 In favour, father points! It's a gas! (7)
- 30 On board dining partner sadly commiserates having lost Rico (8)
- 31 Good man in Eastern European capitals leads me to return respect (6)

Down

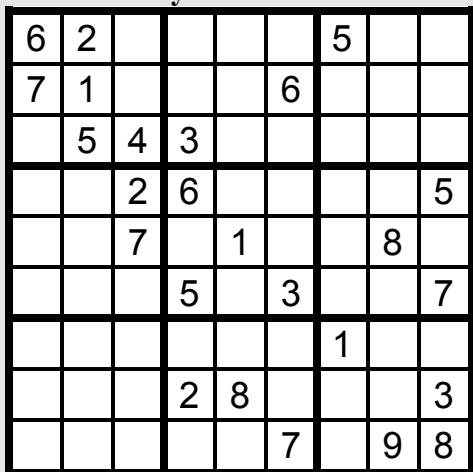
- 1 The jeweller's lacy work half filled the endless greed that dogged one (8)
- 2 Artifice, elegance on a north eastern railway (9)
- 3 The responsibility on America (4)
- 5 Sharp-sighted husband and wife initially prepared to be plastered (4-4)
- 6 Sea lane about morning reflects current thought (10)
- 7 Nothing according to a musical composition (5)
- 8 Dozing fish? (6)
- 9 Home counties put back scheme (3-2)
- 14 The cat who saw Godiva? (7,3)
- 17 Reorientate reorientate no no repeat repeat (9)
- 18 To turn in forest to find Cockney plates' support (8)
- 19 Sentence after 50% make a break from school (4-4)
- 22 I offer a small measure in the same place (6)
- 23 The first mature rubbish eaten? (5)
- 25 Bring together a mothership (5)
- 27 Hidden in colossal deficit (4)

Name Phone number

Across

- 1 Agent Ham tailed leading fundamentalist (6)
- 4 Pretend to shake trefoil (8)
- 10 Sure, lie about time to kill (7)
- 11 Glorify critique (5-2)
- 12 Good boy delighted (4)
- 13 Heaven's above! Curate Poe's shaken! (5,5)

Wickham Sudoku No.10 by Balthasar



6	3	7	9	1	8	5	4	2
5	9	8	6	4	2	7	1	3
2	4	1	5	7	3	6	9	8
1	7	5	2	8	4	3	6	9
4	2	3	7	6	9	1	8	5
9	8	6	1	3	5	2	7	4
3	6	2	8	9	1	4	5	7
8	1	4	3	5	7	9	2	6
7	5	9	4	2	6	8	3	1

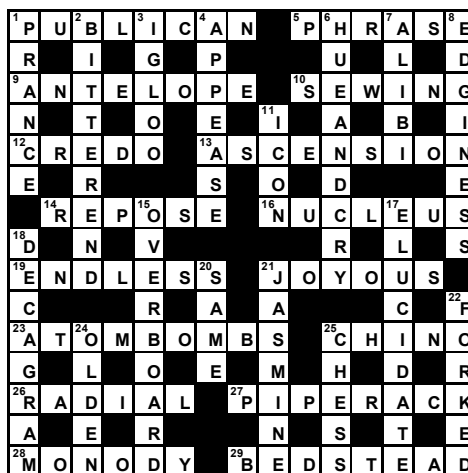
Wickham Sudoku
Solution No.9
By Balthasar

Please send your completed crossword to the editor by Thursday, 1st February 2007.

The first correct solution opened wins a £10 voucher to spend at *Heming & Co.*



Wickham Prize Crossword Solution No.9 by Konrad



WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

WICKHAM WIVES

Alan Green made a welcome return for our October meeting with slides and a talk on his visit to the Falkland Islands and Ascension Island.

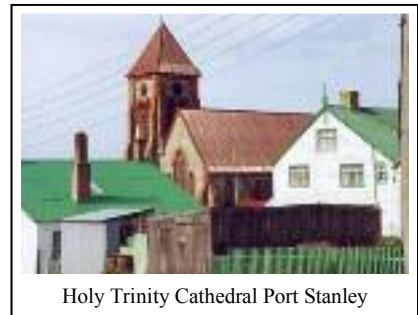
The Falkland Islands are composed of some 200 islands situated in the South Atlantic off the tip of South America. The area is about the size of Wales with a population of 2,500 people of which 75% live in and around the capitol Port Stanley. A range of mountains behind the town are known as Wickham Heights. The remaining people are scattered across the islands where their livelihood depends on farming and fishing.



St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

Typical island dwellings are made of wood with painted corrugated iron roofs. There are two places of worship, St Mary's Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The land through the islands is barren, rocky and hilly, covered with 'white grass' and coarse scrubby vegetation, marshland and lakes. Very difficult for walking and Alan remarked how difficult it was for our soldiers carrying heavy equipment over that terrain during the Falklands conflict.



Holy Trinity Cathedral Port Stanley

Tourism has now become a major industry, with such scenic landscape (when it isn't raining!) and an abundance of wildlife on land and in the sea; it is a naturalist's paradise.

Penguins are one of Alan's favourites. When you quietly approach them and sit down, they will come to greet you. That does not apply to the sea lions on the beaches who vigorously protect their harems against ALL intruders.

Alan was alarmed by the drop in numbers of both penguins and albatrosses since his visit some 5 years earlier. Fishing fleets trawling for tuna in the Southern Ocean were netting many dolphins, so the system was changed to baited lines. Unfortunately, the albatross that spends most of its life at sea, were taking the bait and being killed in such numbers that they are becoming a seriously endangered species. These magnificent birds with up to a 12 ft. wing span only come ashore for two months each year to breed. The chick (they lay only one egg) takes several years to reach maturity, so numbers are falling rapidly. We saw many slides of the flora and birds, mostly from such close quarters that we felt we were there!

On the return journey to the U.K. Alan stopped off on Ascension Island for a few days. Ascension Island is situated on the equator approximately half way between U.K. and the Falklands which is what made it such a strategic place for our forces in the Falklands conflict, and now for more peaceful purposes.

Ascension is a volcanic island of approximately 8 miles by 8 miles in area. Temperatures vary between 80 degrees F and 100 degrees F, day or night, and it has no natural water source,



Gentoo Penguin

except for fish everything has to be imported. Some vegetation thrives. There are no native plants, though a garden has been created on a hillside called Green Peak. Water is collected from condensation from sea mists.

George Town, the 'capital' has a population of 250 people, most concerned with the major communication centre on the island. No one is permitted to buy property on the island and the "local population" are mainly from St Helena concerned with fishing. The capital boasts a few colonial buildings flying the Union Jack, and the Garrison Church is the place of worship. There is no vicar so the RAF chaplain takes the services, and a small tourist centre has been built.



Elephant Seals

George Town, the 'capital' has a population of 250 people, most concerned with the major communication centre on the island. No one is permitted to buy property on the island and the "local population" are mainly from St Helena concerned with fishing. The capital boasts a few colonial buildings flying the Union Jack, and the Garrison Church is the place of worship. There is no vicar so the RAF chaplain takes the services, and a small tourist centre has been built.

A young St Helenian called Stedson is a self-taught naturalist staying on Ascension and has documented details of all the flora and fauna found on the island. He is the local guide, travel is by Land Rover and walking over rocks with temperatures reaching 120 degrees F underfoot with the sun beating down from a cloudless sky is not for the faint hearted.

Green turtles cross the ocean from Brazil each year, lay their eggs and return to Brazil and there are land crabs that make their pilgrimage to the sea to breed.

Most of us will never undertake such a journey, so it was a most interesting evening, sharing Alan's knowledge and his wonderful photographs.

December 13th is our Christmas party, when we hope as many members of Young Wives – matured to Wickham Wives, will join us in the Church Room at 7.30 for 7.45pm for a Gilbert and Sullivan sing-along.

January 10th 2007 is our first meeting of the New Year, when we look forward to hearing about Cases Bakery with John Pratt.

Very best wishes to all for this Christmastide and the coming year, from all the members of Wickham Wives.

Margaret Gwynn

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We started the meeting on the 8th November with the singing of Jerusalem. This was our A.G.M. meeting bringing to a close yet another year. The Committee is selected; further business discussed and issues arising from same. Reports were given by Joan Smith, our President, Secretary Molly Haydock and our Treasurer Sheila Georges.



One of the most important issues arising from this meeting was that the WI is one of the few organisations that do not have their own Magazine. It has now been decided at National Federation level that this will no longer be the case. As from February next year a new magazine will be sent to each individual member. The idea behind it is that, we at the grass roots keep in touch with all happenings, events and decisions. This of course has had quite an impact on our annual subscription, and quite a ripple of dissent from many WI branches. Perhaps it would have been wiser to have balloted all members of the movement, rather than presenting us with a 'fait accompli'.

Our next date is 4th December the group Carol Service at Shedfield Church, organised by Bishops Waltham. Our next meeting is on 13th December. The topic will be “in home entertainment” always a good start to Christmas.

- Flower of the month Barbara Mullett
- Competition Barbara Mullett

We wish you all a Happy Christmas from Wickham W.I.

GFW

WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

At our monthly meeting in November Dr. Owen Plunkett, formerly of Portsmouth Polytechnic/University and currently an officer of the local Ramblers Association, talked about The South Downs National Park proposals.

At first he described the progress towards National Park status from the Hobhouse Report of 1947 to the current situation. The various stages were illustrated with the aid of OHP summaries, particular emphasis being placed on two AONBs, namely East Hampshire and East Sussex. A map of the proposed area, which includes not only the (chalk) South Downs but also some of the clay and sandstone areas to the North around Midhurst. Wickham lies just south of the irregular Southern boundary which bends South along the Meon Valley as far as Soberton.

It was planned to complete the processes relevant to establishing this National Park just after the Millennium, but further delay has followed consideration of objections by a landowner to inclusion in the New Forest National Park. It is hoped that NP status will be achieved by 2007.

Dr. Plunkett then showed a sequence of colour slides illustrating various parts of the proposed Park. These were of particular interest since they showed how valuable this area is for its variety of unspoilt scenery – a haven for flora and fauna and a welcome retreat from busy cities for visitors of all ages.

The meeting closed with a lively discussion relating to access to the Park and the impact of the South East Planning proposals for 10,000 houses S of Wickham.

Our next meeting will be on December 5th, when The Wickham Society will join us to hear Norman Jackson, former chief Warden, speak on The Tower of London – and for seasonal fare afterwards. Members are requested to bring a few snacks to accompany the Mulled Wine prepared by Barrie and Lucy Marson.

Please do not drive into the Church car park before 7.30pm.

Doreen Barrett

WICKHAM SOCIETY

Well, the last article before Christmas and the New Year. On behalf of the committee and our chairman, Mike Carter, may I offer all the seasons greetings and hope that next year, 2007 proves to be everything that you want. On the wider environmental front, let us hope that the head of steam raised by 'SHUV' proves to be effective and that 10,000 houses north of Fareham remains just an aim!

Unfortunately the deadline for this article is the 18th November, therefore we do not know the results of the meeting on the 28th November in the Church Room with Caroline Dibden the leader of SHUV.

Our Christmas Quiz with mulled wine on the 14th November, was, as usual, an enjoyable event with the percentage of wrong answers increasing with the amount of mulled wine drunk! I think the winners, by a short head, were Team 5 - Maggie & David Smith, Alison Hall & Lucy Marson. Altogether 26 people had a great evening, largely due to the question mistress and her devious questions!

Our last meeting of the year is on Tuesday 5th December when we will be having a joint meeting with the History Society, when the focus will be on a talk about the Tower of London. If you would like to join us, please come along, we are very friendly and do have the welfare of Wickham very much in our sights!

7.30 pm in the Church Room.

Brian Campbell

WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

WINETASTING



The annual tasting took place in the LONG ROOM at the Community Centre on Saturday 18th November. The room was transformed in under an hour by posters on the wall from Argentina, Chile and Peru and Brazil, the Twinning Banner, colourful table decorations and candles. There were around sixty imbibers of South American wines presented by Alan Borrow of JWW Wines, who had just returned from the region and so could talk authoritatively and eloquently about them. Table monitors were

appointed to collect appropriate nibbles of the region to go with the wines. These were concocted by our secretary, Caroline Fribbance, who, you may remember, at one point last year wowed us with vegemite sandwiches to go with an Antipodean wine and this year gave us amongst other small delicious bites, the National dish of Brazil, Feijoda, comprising black beans, pork, corned beef and two types of spicy sausage to go with the first red wine and exquisite Alfajore, a biscuit filled with caramel and Apple Brazil nut squares to go with the delicate last wine Morande, a late harvest Sauvignon blanc from Chile.

A raffle was held and our coffers were swelled by a respectable sum, which will go towards hospitality for the Villersois whose turn it is to come to Wickham, either the weekend beginning 18 or 26 May, precise date currently being negotiated. We aim to entertain them in and around Wickham and Winchester and are looking for home-grown entertainers from Wickham for the communal meal on the Saturday evening.

We have also recently sent a cheque to Wickham Primary School to support their link with the Ecole Primaire in Villers-sur-mer, since we made a good return for our efforts last February in putting on The Murder Mystery.

Tony Johnson

WICKHAM AND DISTRICT RIFLE CLUB

AIR GUN SECTION

We opened the new air gun section at the Community Centre Open Day on the 18th November. With a little quick carpentry we soon had a 6 yard target and a 6 yard reactive target range, a 10 metre target range and a 25 yard target range in operation. We had a number of guests trying their hand at shooting, some for the first time. Including some younger people who went home knowing how to use guns properly and safely, the accuracy part will, we hope, come to them with practice.

With the response we had we are continuing to shoot air guns on Saturday mornings from 10:00am till 12:00 noon. To pay for the room and targets we will have to charge £3.00 per person per morning. This is not just for young people; we welcome any age from 10 years upwards, please come along and have a go.

WRITE IT ON YOUR CALENDAR - SAT 10:00AM TILL 12:00 NOON. AIR GUNS

Norman Beckett

1ST WICKHAM SCOUT GROUP

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual Bonfire and Firework evening, we hope you enjoyed the display as much as we all did.

May I just remind you about the Christmas Post. The box will be in Pages Newsagent from 2nd to 17th December. We will deliver local cards at the very reasonable price of 15p per envelope.

1st Wickham Scouts Christmas Post

**We will be delivering Christmas cards around Wickham again this year
for the reasonable price of 15p per envelope**

Post box and area we deliver in Pages Newsagent

From 2nd December to 17th December

If you go to the Wickham Surgery over the festive season, please look up!!!! The Cubs and Scouts have made all of the decorations.

Over the weekend 17th to 19th November we took 10 Scouts and 16 Cubs to Wilverly Cottage in the New Forest. The Scouts hiked to Burley and worked towards the Foresters Badge. Two things the Cubs loved was going on a torch light hike and building natural shelters. A good time was had by all.

We still have spaces for boys and girls aged 6-14 years; if your child would like to join our happy family of Scouting please telephone 01329 832739 for details.

We hope to have some news about the new Scout building by the next edition of the Parish Magazine.

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

Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader

WICKHAM CRICKET CLUB



The AGM was held on Monday 20 November at Greens, Wickham. It was a lively meeting and one of the highest turnouts of members in many years. Among the agenda items was the presentation of the averages for the 2006 season. The league and club batting awards were both won by Robert Higgins with an average of 37.33 and 33.18 runs respectively. The league and club bowling awards were both won by Steve Judge who took 25 wickets with an average of 14.80 and 31 wickets with an average of 15.71 respectively. The photo

shows Steve receiving his Award from our president and treasurer Mr Harold Davis.

Wickham CC finally managed a win in their third indoor cricket game at Fareham Leisure Centre. Robert Higgins, Mark Raven and Sam Ryan all managed to score 25 runs not out while Brian Kirby, James Martin and our all-rounder, Sam Ryan, took two wickets each. Mind you, this amazing win was against the team at the bottom of the league.

As reported last month, indoor net practice has been arranged for the spring, every Tuesday evening from 13 February to 17 April, from 9.00pm – 10.00pm, at the Hampshire County Ground. Please contact the secretary if you want any further details.

We are still without an official umpire and scorer. If you, or anyone you know, might fit the bill we would be very pleased to hear from you. Umpire training courses are run by the Hampshire Cricket League so previous experience is not essential. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the club as an umpire, scorer or as a player, please contact Malc Burt on 01329 834398.

Lesley Wilde – secretary

FETE 2007 - Saturday 9th June



Two dates for your diaries:

Sunday 21st January 2007

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 9th June: Fete

We had another lovely day at the fete last year and some successful new ideas! Please note the dates above and come and join us with your ideas! Any feedback on last year's fete and thoughts for the next one are always welcome – hence the meeting in January.

We need a wide range of help, some tasks are lightweight others less so and they range from selling draw tickets in the Square and occasional help before the Fete, lifting and carrying on the day itself and help with individual stalls and activities.

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

Your churchwardens,

Judy Lucas 01329 833655 and Di Hemingway-Rice

OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Concluding the Flying Angel Story

By the 1960's, ships became larger and more specialised. Containerisation became widespread resulting in quicker turnarounds in Ports, seafarers spending less time ashore and longer at sea. The Mission closed some centres and opened up in larger container ports into smaller buildings, nearer to where the ships docked, equipping them with essentials for people with limited time ashore.



By the 1980's, changes in the world economy had brought big changes in the nationalities of seafarers. Previously crews from the world's Merchant Navies came from the Western World, but today two thirds now come from such places as India and the Philippines. One reason was the increasing number of ships flying flags of convenience; shipowners in traditional maritime nations re-flagged their vessels to cut cost by employing crews from low wage developing countries. Many of these ships sailed with ill-trained crew receiving inadequate wages and often working in unsatisfactory and dangerous conditions.

The plight of these crews was of increasing concern to Mission Chaplains. They work hard to campaign for improved conditions. In 1985 the Mission appointed its first chaplain to develop its work in the area of justice.

2000 saw Mission to Seamen change its name to Mission to Seafarers to reflect what the Mission had always been in reality, a society that cares for all who earn a living at sea, regardless of gender, nationality or rank.

The Mission to Seafarers celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, with a challenge as to how best to administer to people of all cultures and social isolation. But whatever ways of working the Mission to Seafarers develops in the future, the fundamentals will not change. Its job will always be there in God's name as a source of help, strength and hope to all seafarers and their families.

At the two card fayres, cards and goods totalled just under £300.

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and to look forward to a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Mike and Sandy Beckett

MEON VALLEY LIONS



We're down your way soon

Following the organisation of the highly successful Swanmore Carnival and Fete in July, The Meon Valley Lions have been extremely busy with their autumn fund raising activities.

Lions donated £200 to Bishops Waltham youth club for the installation of an outdoor picnic table area and barbeque. Another £1,000 has been ear-marked for the local

Home-start group - a voluntary organisation committed to promoting the welfare of families with at least one child under 5 years of age, where volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to families under stress in their own homes to prevent family crisis and breakdown.

Nigel Barette, an ex-member of Meon Valley Lions now living in Gambia with his wife Sarah, alerted us to a heart-breaking story of a rural Gambian school where they struggle not only to provide a simple education, but also to feed the pupils with a basic midday meal. Incredibly, just 1p (pence) per child provides them with lunch. Part of our Christmas collection this year will go to this very worthwhile cause.

Although Lions support a range of international charities, our work is predominantly centred around fund-raising activity for local people in the Meon Valley area, with around 80% of our charitable activity going to good causes in the local community. For example, each Wednesday we provide transport for the elderly to the Wickham Lunch-club, followed by shopping trip. On a monthly basis we provide a similar arrangement for the Friday Friends at Swanmore village hall.

December will see our annual Christmas collection, touring most streets, lanes and cul-de-sacs in the Meon Valley villages. Keep an ear open for Christmas carols and Father Christmas on his sleigh – supported by a host of willing helpers. Last year you gave almost £4,000 and we are asking for your help and support to collect even more this year.

Meon Valley Lions is not all work and no play and we have a thriving social calendar for our members and partners. Lions membership is highly rewarding and provides people with the opportunity to give something back to the community in which they live and work. We are actively looking for new members, so if you would like to find out more or join our worthwhile cause, please phone: 0845 8337812.

Ian Adams, Publicity Co-ordinator, Meon Valley Lions

MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER – MEMORY MATTERS

Annual General Meeting Oct 31st

The recent AGM was the second since MVCT formed in October 2004. Since then we had been able to operate thanks to a Health Improvement and Social Inclusion Grant awarded by Winchester City Council.

The Chairman's Report talked about all aspects of the group and how we had been able to support some 42 families since our formation. i.e. each consisting of a person suffering from a form of dementia and their carer.

The Chairman also highlighted the difficulties people faced, trying to attend the meetings already being organized, due to the high costs of care assistants and sitters following the decision by HCC to increase the hourly rates and extend the "Means Test" to include capital.

As a small group it was difficult to offer financial assistance for such people; however we had been able for the past two years to support two couples annually to attend a week of respite care at Netley Waterside which is subsidized by the Alzheimer's Society.

MVCT Office

It had been increasingly difficult to operate without an office close to where we worked with our members. Hampshire County Councillor Patricia Banks was invited to the AGM and also conducted the official opening of the new MVCT Office at the rear of the Paterson Centre.

The needs of small rural communities were often excluded from plans, and efforts and services are directed at towns and cities, which were inaccessible to the elderly.

MVCT now hoped to change part of that problem within the Meon Valley in collaboration with local churches, Carers Together in Hampshire and Winchester Young Carers using the Office as a base. Once the Office was fully operational we would advertise further details.

The AGM continued with a Music Therapy Session in which 48 people, members, helpers and guests took a thoroughly active and enjoyable part under the guidance of Andrew Knights and his assistant and concluded with the ever popular tea and cake.



For 2007.... We ask any of our readers to pass on our details to friends and family whom they know is caring for someone with a form of dementia. We have lots of new activities and outings planned for next year and we would very much welcome new members to the group.

Forthcoming Meetings

2006

Tues 5th December Christmas Shopping and Lunch at Brambridge Garden Centre.
12.00 at Paterson Centre, Swanmore
Please book in advance at the next group meeting or by phone.

Tues 12th December Christmas Party- Paterson Centre, Swanmore 2pm

2007

Tues 9th January Pub Lunch at the Forge 12 pm

Tues 23rd January Movement to Music plus Music Therapy with Andrew Knights.
Talk for carers by Jackie Pool on communication in Dementia.

Tues 6th February Pub Lunch at the NEW INN, Swanmore **New Venue**

MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS

For more information contact: Bill Drake on 01489 895706, email billdrake@onetel.net or Janet Chierchia on 01489 893381- email janet@clickers.org.uk

MEON VALLEY U3A

Programme 2006/2007 Theme: "Travellers' Tales"

- Dec 5 2pm READING GROUP: phone 01329 833384 for title & venue
12 2pm **Christmas Gathering about Christmas Past**
19 2pm **Music Appreciation: Dr. Denis May** discusses **Tchaikovsky - Symphony No.6**
Phone 01329 833594 for venue directions

2007

- Jan 9 2pm **"Iceland"** illustrated talk by **Dr. Alan Green**
Wickham Community Centre Guests welcome
16 2pm **Music Appreciation: Dr. Denis May** discusses **Mahler –
Symphony No: 4.** Ring (01329) 833594 for venue directions
23 2pm **"Thomas Wyndham's Last Voyage – 1553-1554"** talk by **John Webb**
Wickham Community Centre Guests welcome
30 2pm READING GROUP: phone 01329 833384 for title & venue



MEON VALLEY CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

Q. I have been unable to work for some time because of serious health problems but my claim for Incapacity benefit has been turned down following a medical. My own doctor thinks this is wrong and agrees with me that I am not capable of working. I am worried sick about what will happen to me now.

A. If you've had your claim for Incapacity Benefit or Disability Living Allowance turned down, you should get advice about appealing. Lots of decisions by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to refuse or withdraw these benefits from people are wrong and are overturned on appeal.

You should do this within one month of the decision. If you appeal against a decision that you cannot get Incapacity Benefit because you are capable of work, you can claim Income Support while you are waiting for the appeal to be heard if you are on a low income.

When you appeal, the office which made the decision will look at the decision again in case it can be changed straight away. Otherwise it will go to an appeal hearing where it will be looked at by an independent tribunal, which is a panel of three people who are experts on benefits and completely separate from the offices which make benefit decisions.

Preparing for an appeal can be difficult and going to a tribunal can be daunting, so get help from an experienced adviser at your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

You can get more detailed information on benefits 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.

NHS Dental Practice Campaign

'Are you affected by the lack of NHS Dental Practices in the Meon Valley?' The Citizens Advice Bureau in Bishops Waltham is conducting a survey to establish the need for local NHS Dental Practices. If you would like to help, please ring 01489 896376 or come in and we will send/give you a survey form to complete or you could complete it on-line on our website www.bishopswalthamcab.org.uk . We plan to campaign for a NHS Dental Practice for the Meon Valley in the New Year.

Thank you for you help.

WHAT DOES A PARISH CLERK DO ALL DAY?

I work as a parish clerk for Wickham and Whiteley parish councils and sometimes find myself asking this question having reached the end of a busy day !



Every day starts with an almighty thud in the post box and from about 9am until 5pm endless paper is processed into emails, accounts, agendas, minutes and new projects. (The paperless parish council office is not imminent!)

The phone rings and emails pop up every five minutes, anything could happen and that's what I like about the job

Today the Chairman needs updates, the police want help looking for local bases for their community support officers, Winchester City Council is planning some recycling workshops in Wickham and want advice on a venue; someone is researching their family history and has found a relative that stayed at Knowle Hospital, three people want more information about the Old Forge which is to let; the Echo photographer and the story teller need directions to The Circle for this afternoon's opening ceremony....



Time in front of the computer is interspersed with meetings: formal council meetings are usually in the evening but during the day I meet with the chairmen, councillors, our groundsman, the forester who supplies the Christmas tree (just returned from that one!) people delivering goal posts, suppliers of notice boards or replacement Christmas tree lights....

During the morning the Chairman and I meet our County Councillor and ask that he addresses our complaints about road maintenance, speeding traffic and pavement cleaning. We also want the railway bridges to be refurbished and traffic management improvements for the church crossroads. We keep asking and grumbling... it is surprising he ever agrees to meet us really!

In the afternoon there is an official opening ceremony for the new play area at The Circle, the Echo photographer is early and can't wait for the story teller who is a little late... storm clouds loom and chaos threatens... but some great photos are taken, no one breaks any bones and the Clerk stays calm throughout..



Michael O'Leary , the Hagstone Story Teller, is a great success with the children and adults alike. The rain holds off as about 30 children enjoy his spellbinding tales.

It makes my day.

Nicki

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

DECEMBER 2006



The Church Crossroads

A detailed technical study of the church crossroads in Wickham has been completed by the county council following the local campaign for action to make the junction of the A32 and B2177 safer for pedestrians and drivers.

In the past three years there have been five accidents resulting in injuries. Traffic is classed as moderately heavy at the junction, the main problem being lengthy queues on Southwick Road of up to 30 vehicles, many of them trying to turn right.

The county has looked at five options for improvements at this junction: traffic signals based in the current layout; traffic signals with carriageway widening; a roundabout; prohibited right turn movements and standalone pedestrian crossings.

The traffic specialists conclude that the best option is for traffic lights to be installed and would like to discuss this with church officials.

The cost of the works is in excess of £300,000. I am pressing the Executive Member for the Environment to include this project in the works programme at the earliest opportunity.

Speed Limit of Titchfield Lane and Fontley Road

The county council has now agreed to extend the proposed 40 mph speed limit in one continuous length from the parish boundary on Fontley Road all the way to where Titchfield Lane joins the Winchester Road. Originally it has been proposed that the speed limit would be in two sections,

one on the lower part of Fontley Road and the other on Titchfield Lane with a gap in between where there are few homes.

Signs have now been ordered and officers have inspected the road to decide exactly where the signs will be erected. It is hoped these will be in place in January.

Normandy Court meeting

Residents of Normandy Court requested a meeting with their county councillor and a district councillor to express many concerns. These related to maintenance matters which were dealt with by Councillor Tony Coates, the portfolio holder for housing, and road matters by myself. The main concern was the difficulty of crossing Mill Lane to walk to the doctor's surgery and to the Square.

I invited a highway specialist to visit Mill Lane to see what can be done to make this safer for local pedestrians. One of the proposals is to move the elderly people crossing sign higher up Mill Lane to remind motorists to exercise care when approaching the junction with Station Road.

Grants for Music Festival

A grant of £2000 has been agreed by the County Council to support the 2007 Wickham Summer Music Festival.



Freddie Allgood

*County Councillor
for Wickham*

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT

DECEMBER 2006

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

“IT’S TIME TO CHANGE”

There are important changes being introduced in your household waste and recycling collections after June 2007. You will be receiving plenty of advance information over the coming months about these changes. Some households in Winchester District have already been operating on these arrangements for over a year as have neighbouring local authorities. Wickham, Knowle and Curbridge will be part of the second phase. During November and early December a first newsletter entitled “It’s time to change” will be hand delivered to householders within Phase 2: The information provided will include:

- Details of the new scheme
- Information on the provision of bins and delivery of larger recycling bins
- Details of the Christmas and New Year Collection arrangements
- How to Recycle Your Old Mobile phones

The information will also include calendar of collection dates up to June 2007. After this date recycling and garden waste will be collected on alternate weeks and household waste will be collected on the other week. You will be entitled to a larger recycling bin (delivery of these will commence in January) and garden waste will also be collected in sacks. These sacks will be delivered to all households with a garden during May 2007. There will also be Council road shows where householders will be able to drop in for advice at local events to be held in late February early March 2007 and details of these will be available in the January newsletter.

ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS AT WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

It was fun recently to be involved in two visits of Wickham Primary School pupils firstly to the Guildhall Gallery in Winchester where a class attended an art workshop in the Gallery and then created their own artistic masterpieces and then the whole school took part in a concert given by 4 musicians at the Turner Sims Concert Hall. It was great to see all the pupils really enjoying the short pieces of classical music and descriptions the musicians gave of their instruments. Next summer there is a second part to this project which will include jazz music.

NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR KNOWLE

As we have reported over the last few months the former chapel at Knowle now known as Knowle Village Hall has not proved fit for purpose. This is why back early in this year we as the local

councillors discussed with Cabinet and officers the possibility of extending the new proposed sports pavilion to include meeting rooms. This was approved by Cabinet in April. After the new Cabinet took over in May there was a delay in proceedings but we are pleased to announce that they have agreed with our request and there is now a draft budget provision (subject to Full Council’s agreement next February) for this community building to go ahead.

QUALITY AWARD FOR GREENS

Congratulations to Greens Restaurant and Bar which recently gained both a quality marquee and a local produce award in the Hampshire Hospitality awards. Congratulations to both Frank and Carol Duckworth and their staff for their contribution to the local tourism economy.

ARCHEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR

You can now view the City Council’s Museum collection from your armchair by visiting the online website at: www.winchestermuseumcollections.org.uk

There are 3 finds listed to have been found in



Wickham: a vessel spout in the form of a dog’s head which was found fairly recently by a metal detector (see photo), a trade token and a tuning peg.

LOCAL TOURISM SOUTH EAST AWARDS

Marwell won the best large visitor attraction in Tourism South East ExSellece Awards recently. Lainston House, Sparsholt, near Winchester won the best small hotel

NEXT COUNCILLOR SURGERY

Knowle Village Hall Tuesday 16th January 7-8pm. No appointment necessary. Just come along.



Happy Christmas!

Thérèse and Phil



Wickham Parish Council News December 2006

Would you Adopt A Pavement?

We receive lots of complaints about litter, despite the regular visits by Winchester City Council and our groundsman Paul Collins and his team.

Could you help by offering to adopt a pavement and keeping it clear of litter? Litter pickers, gloves and bags would be provided.



All offers of assistance gratefully received, no matter how short the length of pavement you are willing to adopt!

Contact the Clerk if you or your organisation is interested in keeping Wickham tidy.

Dog bins

A new bin has been ordered for Station Close car park at the entrance to the old railway line.

If you think bins are needed elsewhere in the village please contact the Clerk.

Elections 2007

Are you interested in local issues? Do you want to make improvements to your surroundings for the benefit of the community?



Please consider standing for election as a parish councillor in 2007.

The Parish Council elections will take place on Thursday 3rd May 2007.

Community Minibus

A minibus is available for communities to 'exploit and develop' our own services to address local needs. It can be booked by

ringing 01962 852602 or by email to: winchestercommunitytransport@waca.org.uk
Keys and the minibus can be collected from Swanmore. MIDAS training for drivers can be arranged.

Parish Council website

Thanks to Barrie Marson for scanning part of Stan Woodford's huge photographic collection, photos can be viewed on the www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk (or just search on Wickham). The site also provides details of parish council activities with links to other local organisations.

40 mile and hour limit on Titchfield Lane and Fontley Road



After a long campaign by residents and the PC a 40 mph limit has been agreed for this road.

Closure of Springles Lane

Springles Lane is used as a rat run by those entering and leaving Whiteley, it is a very narrow road and not suitable as a through route. There are plans to close the road in the next six months. Residents have been campaigning for the closure for 20 years!

Improvements to local policing

Sgt Chris Stanton attended the October PC meeting and outlined plans to introduce Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams in the new year, this will involve five police constables and five police constable support officers dedicated to the Wickham/Knowle, Whiteley and Denmead beat areas without having to worry about policing response elsewhere in the area.

Meetings

Planning Committee 7.30pm Monday
11th December Wickham Community Centre

Full Council 7.15pm Monday
18th December Wickham Community Centre

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

Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver
Heatherdene,
Turkey Island,
Shedfield,
Southampton
SO32 2JE
Tel 01329 835019



email: wickhamparishcouncil@msn.com