

St Nicholas Church, Wickham

Wickham Parish Magazine

MARDI GRAS



at 7.00pm in the Church Room on
SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2006



see page 7

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February 2006

50p

A LETTER FROM THE RURAL DEAN

A community is at its best when it is able to recognise and make use of all the abilities at its disposal. It is a case of ‘the more the merrier;’ with each individual contributing his or her own particular gifts. This is the basis of a thriving parish such as Wickham and of its Parish Church.



Members of the congregation at St Nicholas are regularly invited to renew their commitment to Christian stewardship of their finances, time and talents. When it comes to the use of talents, and in recognition of the wisdom of the maxim ‘horses for courses,’ it is quite usual to list the various courses that are open and then try to identify the horses (or, rather, the people!) that might have suitable attributes with which to tackle them.

A different approach might be to try doing things the other way round.

So I am inviting all of you in Wickham who are supportive of your Church, whether or not you count yourselves as regular members of the congregation, to make contact (names and addresses are on the inside cover of this magazine on the opposite page) and say what you would like to offer as your contribution to the corporate life of the Parish Church. If any parishioner would like to help in any way, the Church would be very pleased to hear from you, and to find ways of using your particular gifts to the glory of God and to the widest possible benefit of the people of the village.

Everyone has gifts which can be made available in the service of others, and God calls us all to do so, whether in such fields as mothering, caring, visiting, befriending, hospitality, crafts, writing, speaking, the visual arts, drama, making music, driving, fundraising or whatever.

Everyone has a vocation, a call from God, to make good use of all that he gives us. So let us all, as we have opportunity, review our own talents and God-given potential and resolve to use them just as generously as he has bestowed them upon us. In that way we may find ourselves drawn into the wonderful win/win joy of serving God and his people.

With my love and best wishes to you all,

Peter Kelly

WOULD YOU LIKE TO

..... be an occasional reader, or perhaps a sidesperson once in while? Or maybe you would like to join either team as a regular member? Our dedicated teams of readers and sidespersons cover most services, but there are gaps periodically. If you would like to take a reading, help as a sidesperson or partake in any other Church activity, we would love to hear from you.

To find out more, please contact Jane Goulson on 01329 833299

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The amount collected in Wickham, including Southwick, for 2005 was **£3,046.10**.
Many thanks to those who collected, or donated, helping to make this our best year ever.

Sheena Bright, Poppy Organiser

Kairos - An Update



As we reported in the Parish Magazine in May 2005 our Kairos teams dreamed dreams, talked to the wider community, made contact with other organisations in the village, audited our own organisation and drew up action plans to put our

church more at the centre of the community we serve. This is an update on how we have progressed so far with those proposals we published in May 2005, though we still have more to do!

1. **Parish Magazine:** we have expanded it, worked this year with the Parish Council, moved over to professional production and printed and delivered it to every household in July and December. We hope the change meets with your approval.
2. **Open up the Church and Church Room for wider community use:** we held the Big Draw in the Church in the autumn and on 14th January held a very successful 'Come & Sing', which filled the church with a lot of people and wonderful sound.
3. **Hold a wider variety of events and work with other groups in the village to provide them:** We were lucky to work with Square Events in the successful Harvest Barn Dance in September. We enjoyed working with Poppins, Cubs & Scouts, the School and Meon Valley Home-Start on the Big Draw. Our next event will be Mardi Gras on Saturday 25th February. Tickets on sale soon.
4. **Parish Administrator:** We have been delighted with the appointment of Jane Goulson whose contact details are now listed inside the front cover of the magazine.
5. **Wider range of services and music in the church:** new hymn books are now in use in the church, opening up the possibility of both some newer music as well as the old favourites. Choral Evensong has been re-launched on the 1st Sunday of the month.
6. **Expansion of practical, moral and where possible, financial support to other local organisations, especially for young people.** We have not been able to do as much on this front as we may have liked but this remains on our agenda.
7. **Answering community needs, by running courses, providing listening requirements and expertise for one-off tasks required by other groups in the village.** We are still working on this project.
8. **Development of a plan for the use of Diocesan church land for affordable housing:** our team is still working on their feasibility study and action programme.
9. **Safety campaign to improve the Church crossroads:** we collected over 700 signatures on our petition and held a colourful demonstration at the crossroads on July 9th. Correspondence with Hampshire County Council will re-commence now that the new year has started.

Similarly worshippers across the diocese are implementing their Kairos plans and ambitious plans are now taking shape across South-East Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Meanwhile, churchgoers are also being asked what they think of radical plans to re-shape diocesan structures. In its parallel review the diocese's Structures Review Group suggested getting rid of some boards and committees to help us focus more effectively on mission. It based its report on the principles of more support to parishes, cementing Kairos thinking at the heart of decision-making, more accountability in the system and a leaner diocesan structure.

Those principles were agreed by our diocesan synod in November but it was felt there should be consultation across the diocese prior to a Kairos synod on February 25.

The report recommended that the main responsibilities of the Board of Mission, Council for Social Responsibility and Board of Ministry be shifted to the Bishop's Council. It also suggested working with other dioceses to create a joint Board of Education and Diocesan Advisory Committee, and joint arrangements over IT, accounts, human resources and legal support.

It also suggested a new structure for centre diocesan staff, working in four teams in the fields of education, discipleship, society and central resources.

A copy of the report is on the diocesan website - www.portsmouth.anglican.org. If you have any comments, positive or negative, you are invited to send them to Sally Read, the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight's PA, 5 The Boltons, Kite Hill, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight, PO33 4PB or adiow@portsmouth.anglican.org.

With our thanks to all those who have helped put our proposals into action and are still working to carry them out,

Yours, Judy Lucas, Churchwarden

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY GOODIER



It was in late October that I heard that Shirley was not well and a few weeks later that she was in fact seriously ill. . . . She was a very private person and wished quietly, to come to terms with her terminal condition. Always aware of others' needs before her own she spoke only briefly about it to me before Jill and I went away to Toronto to be with our family for Christmas.

Shirley became known to us very soon after we arrived in Wickham over seventeen years ago. When she was the Head of the Infant School in Gosport, she invited us to spend a morning there enabling us to meet the staff and children and to share her excitement about the new building which had recently won an architectural award. It was obvious that nurturing children and teaching was one of Shirley's passions. The children thrived in the environment she so carefully and constantly maintained. Shirley believed in discipline with inspirational teaching based on a sound and compassionate understanding of her pupils.

When she retired Shirley was able to indulge another of her passions: travelling and exploring. How wonderful that she used that time to visit so many interesting places. On her return, like a true teacher, if one showed the interest, she enthused one with her newly learned discoveries!

During these retirement years, too, Shirley accepted many responsibilities within the parish which had been a vital part of her life in Wickham. She served on the Parochial Church Council and was an Assistant Churchwarden giving invaluable support to the Rector and Churchwarden. She willingly undertook projects and tasks and conscientiously completed them even when times were tough! Shirley will be remembered for her work with the Millennium Hassocks in the church and Lady Chapel and will be missed for her quiet and consistent help in so many ways – "Guarding" the Church and the Silver between services on Sunday mornings! Helping with Baptisms, Church Flowers, Church Cleaning etc. etc. Standing Committee Meetings will never be the same. Shirley was always thoughtfully sensitive yet strong enough to speak openly when principles were at stake and honesty was required.

We will personally miss her immensely as will so many in the congregation and community of Wickham. May she rest in peace.

Arnold and Jill Hirst.

"SING LUSTILY AND WITH GOOD COURAGE" - John Wesley, 1761

We had to send for extra scores: they filled up every pew. 100 singers from all over southern Hampshire came to St Nicholas on 14th January to sing choral classics. Some were from choral societies and prestigious church choirs; some hadn't sung since school days. In the space of two hours, David Burgess melded us into one choir. Rosemary Field, until recently the Diocesan Music Adviser, played the organ impeccably, supporting our rehearsal efforts.

Revitalised by the tea break, we reassembled at 7pm to perform to an audience seated in the chancel and choir stalls. As Rosemary's introduction led us to the cry "Zadok the Priest ...", the church overflowed with sound. In Mendelssohn's "*Hear my Prayer*", David had to restrain our enthusiasm so that Julie Brombley's "Oh for the Wings of a Dove" solo could soar above us. Julie was joined by two other family members for the trio in "The Heavens are Telling" from Haydn's "*Creation*".

"*I was Glad*" by Parry was the least well known of the pieces, but under David's direction it came together beautifully. The final piece was Vivaldi's "*Gloria*" and Chris Stokes joined Julie as the alto soloist. Our performance did justice to a well-loved and monumental work. The warm acoustic of St Nicholas attracts much comment from visiting singers. By 8:15 it was all over: singers and audience socialised over a glass of wine.

Behind the scenes, teams of supporters had welcomed singers, loaned out scores, made and cleared away tea, served wine and washed glasses, sorted and counted the returned scores. Without their help, the event would not have run so smoothly. Thank you to them as well as to David, Rosemary and the soloists: together they made it happen.

Sue Fitzgerald

Park Place Pastoral Centre seen through the eyes of a Friend

Our Family arrived in Portsmouth thirteen years ago because of a wedding – our daughter’s wedding. She and her sister had been pupils when Park Place was originally a school and now it is a Pastoral centre - similar functions really. We have stayed on ever since – thank God - but why?



The virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity are so often undervalued, but at Park Place they are demonstrated in all aspects of daily life for all ages, faiths and cultures. This is unusual in England where profit is the underlying motive for most institutions and sadly family life has been diluted.

Faith abounds, the truth we all value and need. The sacrament of the Mass remains at the heart of our faith. Sunday, at 9am, people from the area and afar, gather. All denominations are welcomed. The Rabbi may give the sermon (the Holy Trinity is a tricky one for us all!) and his congregation is there also. One may rush in “on the bell” and find oneself next to the Imam. A choir from Sweden, or the Brownie pack, etc., all are invited to enrich the celebration of the Mass. Undoubtedly the favourite ceremony is the beautiful “Arti” which we feel forges a close link to all the Sisters in the world-wide Community. In the Oratory, Mass is celebrated daily and everyone can attend. Its meditative quality provides an essentially Indian spirituality and peace which we have learned to appreciate and practise.

Faith has been developed further for those of us who have been fortunate enough to go on the Park Place Pilgrimages to Assisi, Angers and Vezeley. A deeper insight into the spirituality of that unpredictable and mystical founder of the Order, St Francis, has awakened areas of understanding of human nature that would have remained dormant had we not studied and questioned the Franciscan philosophy. We can now understand why the Sisters show, so consistently, those qualities of compassion, tenacity and dignity.

Throughout the year we can take part in retreats that are organised for groups or individually. They are challenging and intellectual as well as refreshing. Park Place provides a wonderfully tranquil ambience “far from the madding crowd”.

Hope is for our future. The children - babies, toddlers, teenagers of all ages, are all welcomed with a smile and cheerful greeting. A month ago, three 7-year old boys made their First Holy Communion after rigorous instruction from Sister Judith. Their families all took part in the Mass celebrated and it was lovely to meet them all afterwards as they munched Sister Judith’s celebration cake in the garden. Children sing, play musical instruments, read the Scriptures and their poetry at Mass. Children visiting the Youth Wing can be heard playing on the front lawn. The Sisters visit local schools, and so they are known by many children throughout the area, Catholic and Protestant alike. Sickness and Death are inevitably part of life. We are very blessed to be able to turn to the Sisters for support, which they give generously, both practically and spiritually. We all seek and find strength to cope from “The God Squad”, as they are fondly called in our family. The Sister’s prayers, counselling and love are especially healing. We want to share our joys too: births, baptisms, academic achievements, weddings, golden weddings, etc are all celebrated at Park Place, for no-one in the family must be left out!

Charity: We have learnt so much about the missionary work of the Sisters in the Third World, and feel it is essential to help in a financial way to alleviate poverty. By raising the profile of the Sister’s work in the area, donations may be given by an individual or a group, and by doing so through the “Gift Aid” scheme, the Sisters are able to increase the money by applying for a 28% tax rebate from the Government. On a glorious afternoon, on 17th July this year, a Garden party was held in the grounds. Everything was donated and everyone was wonderfully generous - almost £3,200 was raised! Why did it happen? Because the cause was so desperate, and everyone knew that all the money would go directly to those who had the greatest need. It will be used wisely and well, for we recognise that the Sisters know the extent of what has to be done and will ensure that they get the best value for this money. Most importantly, we need to feel a sense of belonging and so we group together to help the Sisters to fund their charitable causes. Volunteers support the Sisters in developing their use of modern technology and so enable them to communicate quickly and efficiently within their global missions and with their families. Park Place enriches all our lives, through Faith, Hope and Charity - the greatest of these is Love. How true - for young and old, strong and weak, sick and fit - and across all cultures. England is a mission field too, and we thank God that we have the Franciscan Sisters of St Mary of the Angels to guide us through our current stormy waters.

Mrs Anne Gibbons

(Editor’s note: Mrs. Anne Gibbon is the Chairperson of the Association of the Friends of Park Place. She and her husband, Paul, are long associated with our Community here at Park Place, and as such, she was invited to share her thoughts on her experience of Park Place and what it means to her.)

PARK PLACE PERSPECTIVES

The Friends of Park Place Pilgrimage 2-8 October 2005



On to Vézelay ...

Journeying from Angers to the hill town of Vézelay we were full of expectation. Here we would visit the Basilica of Mary Magdalene and the Friary of La Cordelle where Brothers

Louis and Pacificus once prayed and St Bernard preached the Second Crusade.

The Hotel Lion D'Or was full to bursting with visitors. The view from the window down the valley showed trees in all shades of autumn dress, houses with warm colour washed walls and brown fields rising up to a wooded hills.

The next morning we set off through the countryside to the Benedictine Abbey of Pierre qui Vire. We celebrated Mass in the chapel and had a talk given by one of the brothers. He said, modestly, 'What do we do here? We do our best.' Their life is a mixture of prayer, physical work and giving retreats. Our interest withered in the intense cold. But, we had a fine picnic sent by our hotel and a hot drink afterwards on the coach.

In the afternoon we visited the friary at La Cordelle, which was founded by the brothers Louis and Pacificus who had been sent by St Francis to preach the gospel. Some personal prayers were offered: thanks for recovery from illness and the supportive love of family and friends also remembrance of St Francis's concern for the poor. There in the simple friary we were part of the chain of pilgrims linking the past, present and future.

Over the evening meal there was a shared enjoyment of the day. We prised the Franciscan sisters apart and learned about their lives and families in India.

The next morning we walked through the town of Vézelay to the Basilica of Mary Magdalene. In the 11th century some relics of Mary Magdalene were brought to the Basilica, giving rise to a cult of saint worship. Pilgrims flocked to Vézelay to venerate the first person to see the risen Christ. It became one of the four points of departure for the pilgrimages to Compostella - a meeting place of saints and sinners.

The basilica is a sermon in stone and a testimony to the skill of the craftsmen of the past. Above the doorway is an arched recess known as the tympanum from there Christ, the cornerstone, stretches out his hands, sending streams of light that inspire the apostles to set forth and spread the word of God throughout the world. The narthex, or large vestibule, was used as a shelter for pilgrims, on overcrowded nights, a church for the preparation of converts for baptism, and a place for penitents momentarily forbidden access to the main church. The vestibule in the 12th century was known as the "Galilee". Great processions began there, symbolising the apostles going to Galilee to see the risen Christ. A ceremony of purification preceded the principle service making the "Galilee" a place of passing over from death to life.

The soaring pillars and the light streaming through the windows created a dazzling vista. We went into the crypt where in a recess there was an icon depicting Mary Magdalene. We celebrated Mass together in the Chapter House. We sang, "Be Thou my vision," and it had never seemed so appropriate.

Up in the nave we watched the brothers and sisters of Jerusalem sing their midday office. They were clothed all in white and as the sisters knelt in prayer they were like ethereal meringues. We spent the rest of the day strolling through the small grey stone town, sampling a wonderful goat's cheese salad and later a welcome hot chocolate.

Later we returned to our hotel. As I got ready for our last dinner together I thought of all the places we had visited and all the prayers said and how each day small things drew us closer together, words, smiles and small acts of kindness.

The next day we set off for Caen and England, our minds full of the wonders we had seen and hearts full of gratitude for being there together.

Julia Bryant

**Watch and Pray
A Lenten Retreat at Park Place
Pastoral Centre**

Led by Sister Frances

On 11th March 2006

From 10.00am - 4.00pm

Cost: £15.00 Tea/Coffee provided

Please bring a packed lunch

Call the Secretary, Park Place, for Bookings:

01329 833043

KNOWLE VILLAGE CHURCH

We had a very pleasant Christmas at Knowle Church. Our carol service, on the 18th, was well attended, although numbers were down a little from previous years. We also raised a total of £148 for the Blue Peter Childline Appeal.

Christmas Eve midnight mass was a special way to 'bring in' Christmas morn, and remember the reason we celebrate Christmas at all.

Now it's a new year, and our little church will continue to bring fellowship, and faith, to the community at Knowle.

Our services for February are on Sunday 12th (our third anniversary) and Sunday 26th, starting at 10.00am in the Community Centre. All are welcome to attend.

God Bless

Deborah Casper

THE MOTHERS' UNION



We had an enjoyable meeting in December when we listened to Christmas music, sang some carols and attempted to answer a quiz!

In January members were asked to bring different items, perhaps from a book, magazine or newspaper to share with the group. We also had some music. After this we made plans for a fund raising lunch for members. The money raised will be used by the MU for different projects, in this country and overseas. Last year, for example, the MU Relief Fund gave grants totalling over £30,000. One such grant, in January, included help towards purchasing emergency supplies for those worst affected by the Tsunami.

A few days ago I received a letter from a friend who had met someone responsible for getting medical supplies to the Sudan in the recent conflict. This person had told her that the Mothers' Union is the backbone of the Church in that country. They added that few people have any idea of the scope of MU. Certainly in Africa the movement is very strong and effective.

Our meeting in February will be at the home of Ann Sharp, 3 Glebe Corner.

Anne Marshall

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE BISHOP'S WALTHAM AREA

Lent Lunches 2006

The Lent Lunches will take place at different venues this year, starting with **Wickham Church Room on Friday, March 3rd**.

The remaining weeks they will be held on Wednesdays as follows:-

Wednesday, March 8th - UFC hall, Bishops Waltham.

Wednesday, March 15th - Shirrell Heath Methodist Church hall.

Wednesday, March 22nd - Durley memorial hall

Wednesday, March 29th - Soberton (venue to be confirmed)

Time 12 noon - 1.30pm.

The lunch will consist of the usual fare - soup, bread and cheese, tea/coffee with a suggested charge of £2 or similar donation.



Different Churches will be responsible for providing the lunches and it is hoped that diners will enjoy visiting the various parishes.

Jill Sutton

THE GOOD NEWS TRAVELLING LIBRARY

The next visit of the GNTL is at the **Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore, on 14th February 2006 at 10.30 am ~ 12.15 pm**

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

Everyone is welcome - refreshments served.

WICKHAM VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2006



A date for your diaries: **Saturday 10th June 2006**

Everyone put in a tremendous effort last year to make the Fete a success and, if you were one of the helpers, it would be lovely if you could help again in 2006. If we have not roped you in before, or you couldn't help last year because of previous commitments, please come and join us with your ideas! Any feedback on last year's fete and ideas for the next one are always welcome.

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

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

Susie O'Connell for the Fete Committee 01329 832231

ROCKY APPEAL 3rd SUPPER PARTY

A date for your 2006 diary - ROCKY APPEAL 3rd SUPPER PARTY to be held at Wickham Community Centre on Saturday, 25th MARCH.

As usual there will be an excellent TOMBOLO, a three course Supper will be provided.

The Fareham Barbershop Choir will be singing, followed by dancing to Abba style music to end.

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

PLEASE, PLEASE MAKE THIS A FIRM DATE FOR 2006

Tickets are available from Mavis Stevens on 01329.833188

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

MARDI GRAS

SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2006



QUIZ * RAFFLE * MASK COMPETITION * MUSIC

Join us for sausages, beans, jacket potatoes, quiche and pancakes, soft drinks.
Bring your own wine, beer etc.

At 7.00pm in the Church Room on the Saturday evening before Mardi Gras.

TICKETS - £3.50 Adults & £2 for under 14's

Penny Burch on 01329 319825 or Betty Bellis on 01329 834548.



VILLAGE NEWS

WICKHAM FIRE STATION

Happy New Year!

Here's what's been happening since our last update...

We've attended three Road Traffic Collisions. One including a Gas Tanker on it's side in a field at Mislingford. Also, we've attended seven property fires including one big fire in a house at Bramdean. We've stood-by at three neighbouring stations whilst they have been sent to other incidents. Two chimney fires have called us out – unusually one was at 2 am!! This found us negotiating a very slippery roof! Lastly, our usual quantity of automatic fire alarms.

Our street collection for the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, which took place a week earlier than advertised due to licensing problems, proved to be very successful. Thank you all for your kind donations. You will be delighted to learn, we raised a whopping £710. Also, a special thanks to Mrs Philpott who gave a very generous donation.

Adding the summer's Car Wash to the above, we're pleased to say that Wickham's fundraising is one of the better efforts in the county. That's down to you. Thank you.

Coming up is Firefighter Butler's and Firefighter Newman's ten day Breathing Apparatus Course which is one of the most arduous courses they will ever do in connection with the Fire Service. Good luck to both Patch and Cliff.

And finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all – again – a Happy and Safe 2006! And, of course

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

Nigel Blackman

MEON VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

SPRING SHOW

On Saturday 1st April 2006
Soberton Hall - 2 pm

Come along to see and smell
the essence of Spring
A wonderful display
Cake and Produce Stall

Raffle Refreshments

Entrance 50p Children Free

Free Car Parking



FUNDRAISING CRUISE

7 NIGHTS FROM SOUTHAMPTON

16 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2006

SPAIN, PORTUGAL & FRANCE

(Vigo, Lisbon, La Rochelle, Brest, Southampton)

All outside cabins on P&O 'Artemis'

Booking form available by sending a stamped self addressed 9" x 4" envelope to:

Hospice Travel (BF)
Orchard Cottage, 34 West Street,
Southwick, Hampshire, PO17 6EA.

☎ 01329 237690 / 023 9238 2433 / 07940 605431
Or E-mail: rowanstravel@yahoo.co.uk.

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TO THE ROWANS HOSPICE**

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Call and discuss your ideas with us, or browse through our print catalogues, over a cup of fresh coffee!

We are open on selected days only so please call

Sue or Bob Mussellwhite

07974 754214

for further information.

Youth 100 Club

The winner of the January Draw
was number 38

Stan Woodford Photographic Competition 2005



When the 2005 Competition closed at the end of December we had 15 photographs in the adult section and 11 in the under 13 section. Members of the Youth Club provided the junior entries, with one exception. Most adults and children provided two photographs.

The photographs were numbered so that they could be judged anonymously and four judges gathered for a photographic feast in the Community Centre last Wednesday, 11th January! The judges were Mrs. Angela Clear, Mrs. Therese Evans, (both Parish Councillors), Mrs. Chris Wilkins who represented the Youth Club and Mr. Lindsey Maguire from Studio 6 who knows a thing or two about photography.



The judges said that they were pleased about the standard of entry but were saddened that we had not persuaded more people to enter the competition.

They were particularly sad that there were no entries from Knowle residents. The photographs covered a mix of activities in Wickham and views about the Village. The VE day parade in May provided a lot of material for the adult photographers, the children mostly concentrated on their friends' activities.



The winning adult photograph was entered by Barrie Marson who is therefore the 2005 Cup Holder. To my surprise I was runner up and the judges highly commended an entry by Lorraine and Neil Masson.

The Junior Cup holder is Dan Redfern and Lisa McKenner's two entries were judged second and third.

You will see black and white versions of these photographs in this issue of the Parish Magazine. To get the full picture you will have to visit Heming's shop window as Michael Dennis has kindly agreed to display the originals and all the other photographs there.



Bald as a Butcher

The 2006 Competition is now open. Once again Studio 6 has kindly agreed to support the Parish Council's venture and you can get an entry form, either by visiting Studio 6 in the Square or by sending them an e-mail to print@studio-6.co.uk.

We do hope that more people will take up the challenge this year. We would very much like to see entries in the third category open to those between 13 and



Friends forever

18. Remember that your vision of life in Wickham Parish, and that of course includes Knowle, may be captured forever in the Hampshire archive!



The future of Wickham

The Stan Woodford Memorial Cups will be presented to the 2005 winners at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Michael Carter

A BIG **THANK YOU** FROM THE
FRIENDS OF WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO AND/OR SUPPORTED OUR CHRISTMAS FAYRE
WE RAISED A GRAND TOTAL OF
NEARLY **£2,000 !!**

AS MANY OF YOU WILL ALREADY KNOW, WE ARE FUNDRAISING FOR AN ADVENTURE
PLAYGROUND FOR THE SCHOOL – THE FUND FOR THIS NOW STANDS AT JUST OVER
£9,000!!!

Your support is vital to see this project to completion – all our children will benefit for years to come.

THANKYOU
for your continued support!!

TRIBUTE TO PETER GWYNN



What a wonderful day December 3rd turned out to be!

It dawned sunny and bright and by midday our beautiful church was full with 300 people gathered from far and wide to celebrate Peter's life and contribution to our community.

Peter was brought up in Chingford, North London, between the wars and attended Monoux Grammar School. Time in the classroom he saw as little more than an unavoidable distraction from his main passion - the sportsfield - and he eventually went on to captain Essex Schoolboys at both cricket and football.

He left school early to join the Navy in 1940, serving on Tank Landing Ships (LSTs) as an electrician for the duration of the war. He survived being torpedoed and saw action on most of the North African, Italian and D-Day beaches. His boat had reached Burma on its way to assist in the Far East Campaign when the Japanese finally surrendered in August 1945. As Leslie Burt remarked: The war had left its mark on Peter. He rarely talked about what he had seen or participated in but it had fired his determination to make what contribution he could to improve things afterwards.

Peter moved to Wickham shortly after returning to England, joining Mr A. E. Roberts at Frith Farm. He became foreman and then in 1950 a shareholder and director of the newly formed limited company. He had by then met a very attractive, outgoing Wickham schoolgirl, Margaret Gale, and they were (eventually) married in 1955 when she finished her nurse's training. Over the following years they somehow found the time (and energy!) to raise three sons and a daughter: John, David, Andrew and Elizabeth. Jill Chinn remembered "Charlie", as he was affectionately known on the farm, chiefly for his shorts and his characteristic way of clearing his throat, a much needed warning of his approach if they were not all working as hard as they might! Pierre den Ouden, who had come over from Holland for the occasion, spoke of the huge amount Peter achieved at A.E.Roberts, forging relationships with new European suppliers and with Woolworths, their biggest customer; relationships that still stand the company in good stead today. He built new packsheds, imported automated machinery from America, and then there was the Pick Your Own Fruit and his wonderful ansaphone messages with up to the minute weather reports thrown in!

However it is within our local community that most of us will remember him best. His time as Scout Leader was fondly recalled by Andrew Neale. The shorts made another appearance, obviously very much a part of his energy and enthusiasm. Jenny Bulled recalled his time as chairman of governors of Henry Cort School, including her appointment as Principal, his knack of arriving for meetings "just in time" and more recently his spell as a governor of Whiteley primary school.

Therese Evans paid tribute to his years of service on the Parish Council, many as Chairman, and the time and effort he devoted to the new community at Whiteley in its early years. Although he didn't live to see it formally opened, Peter was very touched that Wickham chose to remember him in the naming of the new Gwynn Way housing project immediately opposite the Community Centre. David Roger-Jones then reminded us of his role as chairman of the Victory Hall Committee and the key part he played in its eventual conversion for housing, raising much of the money needed to build our wonderful Community Centre. Having stepped down from the first he was eventually persuaded to join the successor! David fondly chided that life was about priorities and Peter and Margaret's clearly lay outside their kitchen!

The final memories were provided by Peter's granddaughters: Justine (10), Jessica (12), Rosie (8) and Katie (19), who each read their own tribute (see below). The spontaneous applause that followed I found one of the most touching moments. If any of us had managed to sing Peter's favourite hymns: "Eternal Father, strong to save" and Psalm 23 without shedding a tear we were sorely tested now. "Jerusalem" restored our spirits before Brian Phillips gave us a few well chosen words on the theme of "Good fruit coming from a good tree" (Luke 6 vs. 51-53). We then moved on to the Community Centre for "Peter's Last Party".

Donations now exceed £1,000. This is being split between Naomi House Children's Hospice and Wickham Community Centre who will use their share to refurbish the Houghton Room in Peter's memory.

Margaret and all the family would like to say a resounding "thank you" to all those who spoke so well on Peter's behalf, to Arnold and Brian for their kind words and support, to Judy Lucas and her helpers for all they did to make everything run so smoothly, to the Scouts and the British Legion for presenting their standards, to the choir and the organist, Pat Matthews, for leading the singing so beautifully, to Sue Roger-Jones and her team for the marvellous spread they put on afterwards and to everyone who came and made the occasion so joyful and uplifting for us all. But most of all to the whole community of Wickham for giving Peter so many years of happiness and fulfillment, thank you.

John Gwynn

POEMS

SHATTERED DREAMS

Crystal beads, shining on the leaf so bright.
Huge droplets of rain, the flower did pound.
Oh! What a terrible, desolate sight,
the daffodil lays beaten to the ground.
The flower slain, lays mudded, and tattered.
Don't fret, it's only top show, that's shattered.
There safe in the warm soil, nature doth plot
that this brave heart, can now grow and expand.
Under the earth, it can lay dormant.
Next spring, this daffodil will be more grand -
with two, golden trumpets, so radiant.

Rhoda Cane

GRANDPA

Some things that remind me of Grandpa -
He was always happy and never sad, always
pleased to see you,
He would always be humming or quietly singing a
song,
We used to play catch, scrabble and do jigsaws
together,
He always had time for us all.

Justine Gwynn

FOR DAN

(Constance "Dan" Innis, now 90, was the first black Headmistress of St Michael's Girls' School, Bridgetown, Barbados. She was appointed in 1962.)

The humid air rusts the metal casements,
Brown-spots the fittings of electric lights,
Metal doorjamb's scab, fridge door white paint lift.
All is rusting out. So it makes fine sense
To hear the mettle in the wise headmistress
Human voice assert, "I not rusting out!
I not rusting out!" As she wade quietly
Into the salting Caribbean Sea.

Tony Johnson

I REMEMBER

I remember:
Grey and rainy days, sat snug upon your knee;
Bouncing up and down, while you sang to me:
K-K-K-Katy, beautiful Katy,
You're the only g-g-g-girl that I adore.

I remember:
How you loved to travel, and how I loved to have you back;
And never was it just because of a pressie in your pack.
I remember:
Waving a banner, saying Grandma and Grandpa;
As I hugged you at Heathrow, from across the bar.
I remember:
How we ate kinder, that you got in Switzerland;
And on bread for tea, it was hagelslag from Holland.
I remember:
Your end of the kitchen, always full of people;
You smiling at a mug of tea, always brimming full.
I remember:
A soft smile of delight, at the football on TV;
Your old favourite Spurs, midst a thrilling victory.
I remember:
Ham and spaghetti and cheese on toast;
Eaten off the table, on top of the post.
I remember:
Macaroni cheese, hot from the oven;
Eaten quickly before we ran off to our den.
I remember:
Picking fruit in summer, berries of all kinds;
Knowing raspberry sauce and ice cream was in both our minds.
I remember:
When the snow came, late December one year;
We threw sticks across the frozen lake and looked for tracks of
deer.
I remember:
How in spring the woods had a bluebell carpet;
And we threw sticks still, for Terri to get.
I remember:
Hearing gentle snores, coming from the corner;
You ensconced in the chair, in your old maroon jumper.
I remember:
Carols at the farm each year, when that Grandpa of mine;
Was right in the centre of the ring for Auld Lang Syne.
I remember:
Winter walks to the Meon, collecting firewood;
Bundled up all warmly, with gloves and scarf and hood.
I remember:
A dead tree, 12ft tall, that looked ideal to you;
You tried to move it - it fell so hard earth flew.
I remember:
Cold dark evenings, sat by the fireside;
Shadows in the corner, trying to hide.
I remember:
A jigsaw on the table, half filled in;
The pieces a mystery, the puzzle still to win.
I remember:
Letters to Nepal, that I just couldn't read;
Your handwriting so bad, but it meant so much to me.
I remember:
How in later years, you'd wander round the garden;
With plants you always knew, the how, the where, the when.
I remember:
My cousins in your arms, wee bundles so small;
And the newest now just eight days old, the youngest of us all.
And I wish too:
To hear you say, one day, once more;
"Katie!" to me, as I walk through the door.
But I know that somewhere, be it far or near;
You are watching me now and I have no need to fear;
For one day in the future, sometime, somewhere;
I will be with you again, in the Father's care.

Katie Gwynn

**Justine & Katie Gwynn have written two poems in
memory of their Grandfather Peter Gwynn**

FEBRUARY 2006 DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wed 1 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 Thur 2 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 3 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 5 **THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT** Isaiah 40. 21-end
 08:00 Holy Communion: Rev Peter Kelly 1 Cor.9: 16-23
 09:45 Family Communion : Rev Shirley Henderson Mark 1: 29-39
 11:30 Holy Baptism: Samuel Hayden Ryder Rev Shirley Henderson
 18:00 Choral Evensong: Rev. Peter Kelly

Mon 6 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
 Tue 7 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham History Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 8 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room
 Thur 9 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 10 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 12 **THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT** 2 Kings 5: 1-14
 08:00 Holy Communion: Rev Shirley Henderson or 1 Cor. 9: 24-end
 Rev Jane Beloe
 09:45 Parish Communion: Rev Lionel Shotlander Mark 1: 40-end

Mon 13 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
 Tue 14 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 14:15 The Mothers' Union Meeting at 3 Glebe Corner
 19:30 Wickham Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 15 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:30 Model Engineers Society, Church Room
 Thur 16 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 17 19:30 Fuchsia Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Sat 18 **LAST DAY FOR COPY MARCH MAGAZINE**

Sun 19 **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT** Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31
 08:00 Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips Coloss. 1: 15-20
 09:45 Parish Communion: Rev Dr Maureen Capel-Edwards John 1: 1-14

Tue 21 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 22 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:30 British Legion, Church Room
 Thur 23 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 24 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Sat 25 19:00 "Mardi Gras", Church Room

Sun 26 **THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT** 2 Kings 2: 1-12
 08:00 Holy Communion: Rev Peter Kelly or 2 Cor.4: 3-6
 Canon Marion Mort Mark 9: 2-9
 09:45 Parish Communion: Rev Shirley Henderson or Rev Jane Beloe

Mon 27 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
 Tue 28 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

MARCH 2006

Wed 1 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 18:00 Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes: Rev Norman Chatfield
 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 Thur 2 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

Fri 3 **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**
 12:30 Lent Lunch, Church Room
 14:00 Magazine Distributors Meeting, Church Room

Sun 5	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Genesis 9: 8-17
08:00	Holy Communion: Canon Brian Phillips	1 Peter 3: 18-end
09:45	Family Communion, Rev Dr Maureen Capel-Edwards	Mark 1: 9-15
18:00	Choral Evensong: Mrs Betty Spiller	

LAST DAY FOR COPY MARCH MAGAZINE
SATURDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Holy Baptism

Amelia Boyes	11/12/2005
Holly Louise Welch	11/12/2005
Connie Violet Brewster	29/01/2006

Marriage Blessing

Davide and Beulah Tommasiella	31/12/2005
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Rest in Peace

Ruth Matthews	84 years	14/12/2005
John Henry Hunt	78 years	19/12/2005
Dr Griff Farr	90 years	19/12/2005
Dick Cleeve	87 years	04/01/2006
Shirley Goodier	70 years	06/01/2006

LETTERS

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

From: Roy Crowl

Dear Sir

Roy and Terry Crowl would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their cards, and letters of sympathy, over the death of the late Gertrude Emily Crowl. It was so nice to see so many people at the funeral, and to give us the support that we needed.

A special thank you to the Revd Ian Chapman for his "very moving service".

This was greatly appreciated by us all!

God bless each and everyone of you!

Roy and Terry Crowl

FEBRUARY 2006

Important notice

Dear reader

I received an anonymous letter, dated 6th December 2005, from someone in Wickham Parish. The letter expressed some valid concerns about the article entitled "Harmony in the Churchyard".

It is not the policy of this magazine to publish anonymous letters.

As I would like to publish it in the March 2006 magazine, the writer must contact me with their name and address which may then be withheld if they so wish.

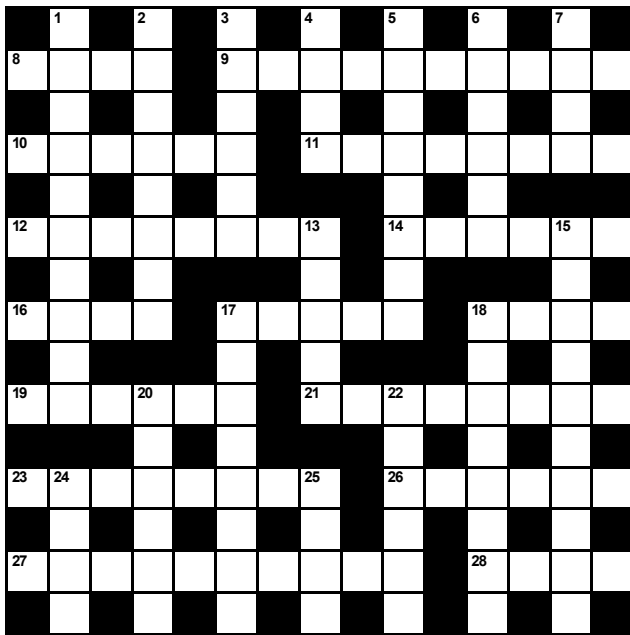
Thank you,

Neale Fray, editor

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.

Wickham Prize Crossword No.1

by Konrad © RJS 2005



- 16 Plant forty nine in extremes of legality (4)
- 17 If fifty is placed in tongue, it is riven (5)
- 18 The sail swings from side to side in dodgy berth (4)
- 19 The first two syllables staunch the classification method (6)
- 21 The others make fast back to the bathroom (4,4)
- 23 Huge deficit in pit output (8)
- 26 Fatigue from a six ball party (6)
- 27 Unable to speak about end, I get out (6-4)
- 28 Acquire money with a run between two points (4)

Down

- 1 Is adroitly strange? But, there is commonality! (10)
- 2 Proclaim railway has armorial bearings (8)
- 3 Was it initially made of small and intricate chips? (6)
- 4 Points removed from switch? Scratch that! (4)
- 5 Popular escape while airborne? (2-6)
- 6 Boil gently in Summer? Not you but I we hear? (6)
- 7 Capone manuscript provides poor relief (4)
- 13 Of Poles or alp maybe (5)
- 15 Fictitious detail and embellishment added through smart use of needle (10)
- 17 University term for a period of tuition (8)
- 18 Horticulturist backs student magazine study over hesitation (8)
- 20 But tough swallowed an aspirate (6)
- 22 Poor quality material (6)
- 24 Old boys' old English noted instrument (4)
- 25 Pound song of retreat (4)

Name Phone number

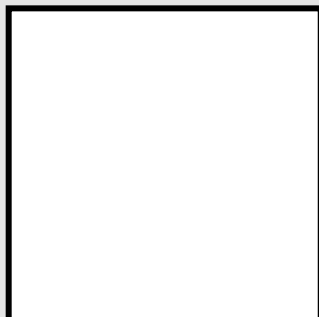
Across

- 8 Isomers contain a few (4)
- 9 It is apparent there are elite snobs around (10)
- 10 The cricket, Miss Lovelace? About 99 in the lead (6)
- 11 Position of lowered Ensign on rough, flash mat (4-4)
- 12 Useful headgear we hear used in the bookies (8)
- 14 Georgia initially rented rooms and French attic (6)

Wickham Sudoku No.1

by Balthasar © RJS 2005

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



Wickham Sudoku
Solution will
appear here
next month

Please send your completed crossword to the editor by Thursday, 2nd March 2006.

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



Wickham Prize Crossword Solution will appear here next month

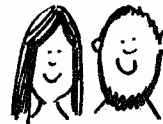
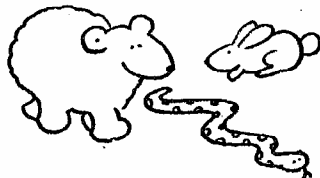
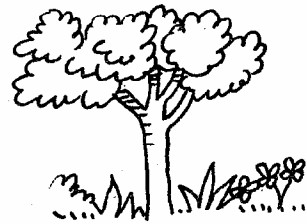
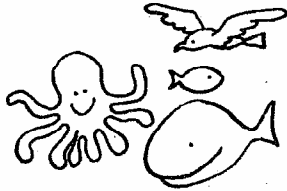


GOD makes the WORLD

PUT THESE IN THE ORDER GIVEN IN GENESIS 1
BY DRAWING LINES TO THE NUMBERS

DAY

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6



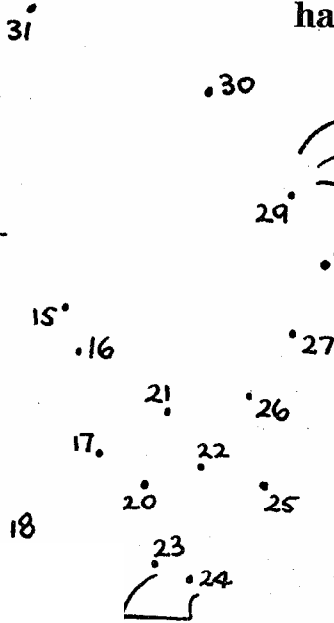
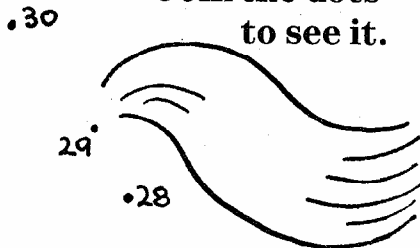
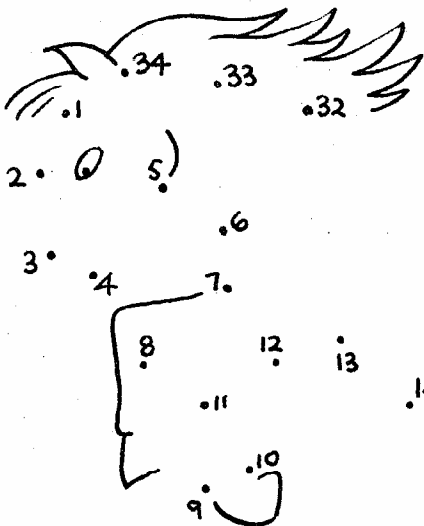
WHAT IS IT?

READ
JOB 39:19-25



In the Book of Job,
God describes a
creature he
has made.

Join the dots
to see it.



This creature is **STRONG**.
It has a **FLOWING MANE**.
It **LEAPS LIKE A LOCUST**.
And it **FRIGHTENS MEN**
WITH ITS **SNORTING**.
It **PAWS THE GROUND**.

Answers on inside of back cover

CHRIS LACEY - A SUCCESS STORY



It has long been the practice of the media to decry shooting and to only report bad news stories relating to it.

This is a story of local success in the competitive shooting world.

Some years ago two gentlemen were driving home after attending a scouting course, during that journey talk turned to shooting. (They were both members of a local smallbore rifle club), suddenly the phrase. "Lets start a Scout air rifle club" was uttered. And so the Meon Valley Area Scout and Guide Target Sports club was formed. Later, the name was changed to MINERVA, the best acronym they could find.

The club borrowed Bishops Waltham Scout Headquarters one evening a week as a base, a portable range was constructed, and several air rifles were borrowed, The portable range and rifles were taken to Scout Groups in the area for Troop evenings. This helped to raise interest and gradually Minerva grew. The members were encouraged to enter a Scout County air rifle competition just for experience and returned with more than their fair share of medals. This success encouraged the club to enter the annual National Scout Rifle Competition, once again, 'just for experience'. And, having competed against over three hundred other scouts, once again the club, with boosted enthusiasm and ego's, returned with a large number of medals and trophies.

Several of the highest scoring club members were invited to join the National Scout Rifle Team, This team trains at various shooting ranges around the country including Bisley ranges in Surrey. Bisley is the home of The National Smallbore Rifle Association, the governing body for air rifle, air pistol and smallbore rifle shooting in Great Britain. The N.S.R.A. invited several of the better scoring scouts to join their national youth development squad, which offered them extra training.

One young man who joined Minerva as a young scout started shooting very ordinary scores but, as the weeks went by, the club leaders realised that this was an exceptionally talented person. He invariably returned from competitions with trophies and was quickly made a member of the N.S.R.A. development squad. At the age of fifteen he became the Great Britain Junior Men's (under 21) 10 metre Air Rifle Champion. He retained the title the following year but was unable to defend the title last year because he was representing Great Britain with the senior men's team in the European Championships in Estonia.

Chris Lacey, who lives at Bishops Waltham, has just turned 18 and is a very ordinary teenager, modern music and clothes, skateboards and b.m.x. bikes, a drum kit and now a motor bike. Chris has just had to defer his college course for a year to start training in earnest, because he has just been selected to represent his country at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne this year. This is the start of Chris's Olympic career, and during the next few years he should go from strength to strength, look out for his name.

Several other members of Minerva are in the N.S.R.A youth development squad and are showing great promise, hopefully some of them will be able to join Chris in the great Britain Shooting Team.



The question 'should we be teaching young people to shoot?' has often been asked. Again I can only say that because the media will only report 'bad news' about shooting a lot of peoples ideas could be biased. Shooters are a responsible group of people and are equally upset when something bad happens.

In scouting young people are taught by leaders trained and qualified to N.S.R.A. standards and controlled by Scout Rules. Safety and correct handling of guns and range discipline is required at all times. To shoot well these young people need to learn many attributes, they have to be dedicated and reliable, confident and able to concentrate, fit and have stamina, they need to make snap decisions. The skills they learn from shooting will help them in their careers and the future of this country.

Norman Beckett

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our usual meeting was held on Wednesday 14th December, our Christmas Party, and indeed our final meeting in the Church Room. It was well attended, and Jerusalem was sung, followed by our usual business.



We had a very well attended Carol Service on December 5th. The money from the collection was divided between St Nicholas Church and First Responders. Thanks to Canon Peter Marshall and Pat Matthews for their contribution.

Members were reminded that our Christmas Lunch was on January 11th at Greens, 12 noon for 12.30. The countdown for Christmas was started with Canapés and Bucks Fizz, to toast one of our members, Barbara Mullett, on her Golden Wedding. Many congratulations to you and Tony.

We finished the meeting with a game of "Beetle". Great Fun – why does someone always go the wrong way? Why can I never throw a six?

Our next meeting on Wednesday February 5th at 2pm, will be at our new Venue, The Scout Hut: So a big welcome to everyone, and a belated Happy New Year.

GFW

WICKHAM WIVES

December Meeting

Our last meeting in 2005 was our Christmas Party, to which we invited the Revd David and Mrs Howes. Revd David had agreed to tell us about his early life and ministry in the East End of London. Born in Bow, his father had been a choirboy at St. Steven's Bow; his mother, a very powerful personality, was a Methodist, a Suffragette (a friend of the Pankhurst's), a socialist, pacifist and a 'class warrior' to her dying day, aged 95. (David thought she probably died of boredom as she had no more crusades to lead!!) His Aunt Lizzie was a staunch Salvationist, so it seemed right for him to be ordained into the Church of England.

After ordination in Exeter Cathedral he was appointed to a church where two weeks before, the choir had gone on strike after a row between the choirmaster and incumbent!! He spent most of his 3 years there repairing the rift. During this time David was asked by ITV to do the 'Epilogue' at the end of the evenings' viewing – any time between 12 midnight and 1am. He did over 500 live performances.

David and his wife moved back to a parish in the East End of London, amongst some of the poorest and toughest people in the inner city. The Bishop of Southwark allowed David along with 3 other clergy to experiment and form a working men's club in the Church Hall adjoining the church. On Saturdays all the families came to enjoy tremendous friendship and entertainment; it was a great success and David and Valerie built up a wonderful relationship with the people in his parish.

After 5 years they moved on and again started clubs this time in the crypt of his church, again fully supported by his volunteering parishioners; he regularly appeared in court – he admitted a fair number were villains, and if he succeeded in getting them off he sometimes received 'gifts'. On one occasion David was very moved when he received a gift from a parishioner when he'd 'got off', a 'receiving stolen goods' charge; he was given a bible with the inscription 'from one sinner to another Old Kent Road 1970'. On thanking him, he replied 'if you want any more just say the word'! David discovered he worked for the British Bible Society as a driver!

David was most entertaining with many stories, both hilarious and poignant. He began a Gilbert and Sullivan Society in the most unlikely area of the inner city, and within 2 weeks they had 40 members and a brilliant accompanist came forward; soon they were producing 2 performances a year to packed houses.

The credit of this success must go to David and Val with their tremendous and tireless enthusiasm to see and bring the best out of everyone.

Finally he told us of a charity he supports 'The Manna Society' in the inner city where he worked; The Manna Centre is open 7 days a week to help the homeless find shelter, food, and where possible get them back into society and work.

We had an impromptu collection and gave David £40 to send to this charity. What a wonderful uplifting start to Christmas; thank you David for sharing part of your ministry with us. There then followed a glass of punch and a buffet supper.

January Meeting

For our opening meeting of 2006 we invited Charles Smith to tell us of his adventures in the world's toughest ocean race – the BT Global Challenge yacht race, sailing against the prevailing wind.

Twelve identical yachts set sail from Southampton on Sept. 10th 2000 on the 1st leg across the Atlantic to Boston, where they came 5th. The second leg was down to Buenos Aires where they encountered Hurricane Michael in the Caribbean area; fortunately they sailed eastwards and avoided the worst of the storm, arriving in Buenos Aires in 8th position. Force 8 gales greeted them around Cape Horn and onward through the Southern Ocean for 46 days, when one low pressure system followed another until they reached Wellington, New Zealand; here we were shown a video of the mountainous waves breaking over the yacht; a good thing it didn't last too long on the film or we may all have been reaching for vomit bags!



The shortest leg of the voyage was from Wellington to Sydney (7 days), and from there the worst leg ahead to Cape Town.



It was while they were sailing through the Bass Strait, between Tasmania and the Australian Mainland at night that they encountered violent weather (March 12th 2000). A freak wave smashed into the yacht causing very serious injuries to Charles; it was an horrific situation and the only solution was to turn back as no other means of rescue was possible.

Eventually Charles was taken off the yacht and flown to Canberra where it was feared both his legs would have to be amputated; after many operations Charles was determined to walk again.

Despite losing 15 hours the yacht sailed on to Cape Town arriving in 11th place, then on to La Rochelle, where it ended 9th place overall. Against all odds Charles was at La Rochelle to greet his crew and be lifted aboard the yacht for a short spell (June 21st.)

Charles' final slide was taken on a surprise visit to London where the Princess Royal presented him with the Armada Plate Challenge Business Award.

This challenge was a wonderful example of team spirit, of leadership, amazing courage (or madness!) in challenging the power of the oceans, of triumph over adversity and personal determination to walk again.



Donations were invited to the RNLi and nearly £50.00 was collected; it certainly was an inspiring evening; thank you very much Charles.

Our next meeting on Wednesday, February 8th, at 7:30 for 7:45pm in the Church Room will be "The later years of Florence Nightingale" with Barbara Selby.

Margaret Gwynn

WICKHAM SOCIETY

Andrew Rutter, our speaker on the topic of 'White in the landscape', could hardly get in the door of the Church Room there were so many of the Wickham and History Societies members in attendance. Whether it was curiosity or the mulled wine that had drawn them mattered not a jot, the slide presentation and the wine were enjoyed in equal measure. Andrew teased our imagination and our knowledge of the countryside with an extensive collection of slides from the white flowers in differing seasons, through white buildings, to white cobwebs on a winter's day. On behalf of the Wickham Society I would like to express our appreciation to Andrew for giving us a white Christmas.

Following on we are looking forward to 'An evening with Brian Barrett' who will fill out the gaps in our knowledge concerning Lord Nelson when he gives his talk 'Nelson and Portsmouth' on the 14th. February in the Church Room at 7.30 p.m.

Finally I will turn to the A.G.M. due to take place on the 14th. March when discussion on the level annual membership subscription will take place, and volunteers to stand on the Committee requested. The Chairman, Michael Carter, and the Secretary, John Woodland, would like to stand down, along with Bill Thomas who is leaving the area.

On completion of the A.G.M. we will learn more about the compilation of the St. Nicholas NADFAS Church Record from Lucy Marson. NADFAS is the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Society.

John Woodland

WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

At our joint meeting with the Wickham Society on December 6th, we were treated to a memorable selection of slides presented by Andrew Rutter, conservation architect, with the title of 'White in the Landscape'.

Using two projectors simultaneously, Andrew showed us a series of pairs of contrasting or coincidental pictures, all with a common theme of the colour white. Starting with local scenes involving fields and paths carpeted with white flowers and plants, the subjects ranged through people and buildings both at home and in Africa, bridges and sculptures, and the snow-covered mountains in Canada and Scotland.

As a result we should become much more aware of the presence (or absence) of anything white – animal vegetable or mineral in our surroundings. The meeting concluded with mulled wine and nibbles, enjoyed by a very full attendance of nearly 40 people.

Our next meeting is 'The Royal Navy in Portsmouth', given by Peter Rogers, on Tuesday February 7th.

Barrie Marson

WICKHAM ART GROUP

The Wickham Art Group (WAG) started on 20th October 2005 as a result of the classes that we used to attend were cancelled by the local authority. We enjoyed our weekly get-together and lessons and were determined to continue to paint, so after having an informal meeting at my home in Glebe Corner, encouraged by the number of people who came along and expressed their interest, enquiries were made direct with Wickham Community Centre and a room was booked. We were on our way!

At the moment we are all working towards producing 2 paintings for an art show at Fareham Art Centre which runs from 28th January to 25th February. Our former teacher, Helena Hines is assisting us in choosing the most suitable, for which we are grateful. The theme of the show is 'North of Fareham' which gives us plenty of scope.

Our interests within the group of which we are 16 are varied – all mediums are represented – in particular watercolour and oils, but everyone shares an enthusiasm for painting. Some are just beginners, whilst others have been 'at it' for a good number of years!

I myself am an ex-art teacher in painting, sculpture, and woodwork, with some 40 years experience in a Portsmouth school, and one of the founder members of the Solent Guild of Sculptors, but I still find painting a most rewarding and challenging pastime.

Please do come along to the Wickham Community Centre on Thursday afternoons from 2 – 4pm and see for yourselves, you will be made most welcome.

Percy Durant 01329 832251

WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Villers sur mer vous présente ses meilleurs voeux pour l'année 2006.

These wishes were sent to you from France with news that our visit date of 28th April will very probably be confirmed later this month when a new person will take over Twinning for Villers.

Our Murder Dinner will take place on Friday 3rd February. We have 14 tickets unsold. Please phone us if you would like some. The actors are rehearsing; a three course dinner is being prepared, all for a fun evening.

You are invited to more fun at a Barn Dance on 11th February at Littleton Memorial Hall run by the Winchester-Laon Twinning Association. Please phone us for written information.

Now you have all those blank pages in your diary for 2006, these dates can be written in:

- ❖ The A.G.M. is on 7th March in the Community Centre with an interesting speaker.
- ❖ The Garden Party is on 2nd July at Willowden.
- ❖ The Quiz Night is 7th October in the Church Hall.
- ❖ The Wine Tasting is the 18th November.

We look forward to seeing you.

A Very Happy New Year from the Twinning Committee!

Ann Johnson 01329 833400 and Caroline Fribbance 01329 832346

WICKHAM CRICKET CLUB



We now know that for the coming season we will be playing in Regional Division 2 South East in the Hampshire Cricket League, having dropped down a division from last year. First league game is on 6th May, at home to Fairhaven. The programme of friendly fixtures is being compiled and we are still waiting for details of our league position and fixtures for the W&DCCA.

These are exciting times for the Club. Plans for our new pavilion have finally been submitted to Winchester Planning Dept and we are expecting to hear whether they have been approved towards the end of February. We have also made an application to Winchester City Council for a capital funding grant. If we are successful with this, we will be able to press ahead much quicker with the building programme.

Don't forget that nets start at the Rose Bowl on Tuesday Feb 14th from 9.00pm to 10.00pm and then for the following 8 weeks – same time, same place. If you are interested in getting in some practice before the start of the season, and have not received a newsletter, please give Malc Burt a call on 01329 834398.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in the Club – as a player(of any standard), scorer or umpire, please contact Malc.

Lesley Wilde

WICKHAM DYNAMOS FOOTBALL CLUB

Since our last report back in November 2005 we have improved as a team with 8 games played won 5, drew 1, lost 2.

With only 5 league games left to play we are 4th in the league table if we can win those last 5 games you never know we could finish the season in Div 1. We are still in the Division 1 Pink Cup and if the weather is good over the next 2 months our season could be over by March. Reggie Hibberd who was 50 on 5th Jan is still playing competitive football at a high standard which is a remarkable achievement, but he has announced his retirement from the game at the end of this season. From all the players and the social committee we will wish Reggie "Wickham Dinosaur" Hibberd all the very best !!!

23-10-05 V TEMPEST DAVE BLUNT CUP 1ST ROUND

WON 3-1 (GOALS ALEX BROWN, PAUL CLARK, STEVE O'LEARY)

27-10-05 V GEMS

WON 4-0 (GOALS IAN HAYES 3, ALEX BROWN 1)

13-11-05 V AFC PAXTON

DREW 2-2 (GOALS STEVE O'LEARY, MARTIN WEST)

20-11-05 V BURRIDGE AFC

WON 2-0 (GOALS STEVE O'LEARY 2)

27-11-05 V GEMS

WON 5-3 (GOALS STEVE O'LEARY 3, LEE IRVINE, MARTIN WEST)

04-12-05 V SPINNAKER

LOST 1-5 (GOAL JOHN COLE)

11-12-05 V AQUASEAL RES DAVE BLUNT CUP 2ND ROUND

LOST 1-6 (GOAL CHRIS DRINKWATER)

09-01-06 V AQUASEAL

WON 4-2 (GOALS ALEX BROWN, STEVE O'LEARY, MARTIN WEST, MARTIN VIDLER)



Please see www.mvfl.co.uk and go to Div 1 League Tables (Up to date as of 12-01-06)

TEAM	PLY	WON	DRWN	LOST	GF	GA	GD	PTS
AFC SPOTTED COW	9	7	0	2	37	17	20	21
SPINNAKER	10	5	2	2	37	16	21	18
WATERLOOVILLE SOCIAL CLUB	9	5	2	2	29	13	16	17
WICKHAM DYNAMOS	11	5	2	4	23	29	-6	17
AQUASEAL	9	4	1	4	28	18	10	13
BURRIDGE AFC	10	2	4	4	17	20	-3	10
WEST MEON & WARNFORD	5	3	0	2	11	13	-2	9
AFC PAXTON	9	2	3	4	20	29	-9	9
GEMS FC	12	1	1	10	19	66	-47	4
SPOTTED COW	5	0	0	5	5	16	-11	0

Rodney Burt, Manager

1ST WICKHAM SCOUT GROUP

Christmas Post

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Post this year, we raised £68-00, this means we delivered 453 cards around the village. A Big thank you must go to Paul and all his staff in Pages Newsagent for dealing with the post again this year.

Birthdays

Beavers and Cubs are celebrating Birthdays this year. Beavers are 20 years old and Cubs are 90 years old. Lots of various activities are being organised throughout the year. If you have a son or daughter who would like to come and join our happy family of Scouting please telephone 01329 832739 for details.

Help!!!!

Do you have an hour or two that you can spare a week? We are looking for help in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Have you got a skill that you pass on to our Boys and Girls? Could you put them through a Badge? If so will you please telephone 01329 832739 with your offers of help.

Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

The Wickham and Curdridge Branch will hold a Dinner and Presentation on February 8th at 6.30 for 7.00 at Wickham Park Golf Club.

We are very pleased to have as our visiting speaker Martyn Downer, author of 'Nelson's Purse'. Martyn, while Head of Jewellery at Sotheby's in 1992 went to the Continent to investigate a brooch for sale, inscribed with the letters 'HN'. His subsequent detective work led him to discover Nelson's own purse, with the coins he had at Trafalgar, together with a box of letters and memorabilia left to the Admiral's Agent, whose descendants had left them untouched for nearly 200 years. We look forward to a fascinating evening.

Tickets £25 - a few still available, include welcome drink and 3-course dinner, from Michael Carter 832928, Barrie Marson 832313, Roy Perkins 832953

Barrie Marson

NSPCC



The Committee wish to thank all those friends in Wickham Square on December 3rd who helped to fill the collecting tins on a dull dreary morning. We raised £133.65 and it was great to see supporters old and new. Tom and June Gaines (ex Pages) were visiting in the area because of their family wedding at Basingstoke. Here they were standing outside Pages, and so many old friends wished to greet them – they could not **possibly** escape the rattle of the tins!!

On March 9th at Greens there will be a PUB QUIZ for NSPCC. Carol and Frank Duckworth are very generous and have agreed to host this popular event. A three course supper will be served with the Quiz and tickets are available at £16.50 a head - teams of 6 please. See you soon.

Enquiries to Alison Hall on 833376



Alison Hall

CURDRIDGE AMATEUR DRAMA GROUP

First of all, the company would like to take the opportunity of wishing everyone a very happy and healthy new year. Our new year of productions has already started with rehearsals well under way for the next play to be staged at the end of March.

Those of you who saw our last production, *Rough Crossing*, in November, will, we hope, have very happy recollections of an extremely well received and highly entertaining performance complete with the effects of rolling seas and a fantastic chorus. Some of the contributors to this **sold out** show were new members, both on and off stage and to a man and woman, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and contributed hugely to its success. In contrast to the comedy element of *Rough Crossing*, this next play examines the murkier side of life during the Cold War, exposing the gullibility of the innocent, and the treachery of the guilty. Set in London during the early 1960's and based on a real life situation which some of you may recall, it promises dark drama suspense.

We always welcome new members and new faces in the audience, so make a note in your diaries; Wednesday 29th March to Saturday 1st April, at the Reading Rooms, Curdridge Tickets will be on sale in March from our mobile box office number 07876 288381. For further information, telephone Chris Pond on 01489 895844 Look out for us in the March edition of this Magazine.

Glenda Willis

OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

MEON VALLEY LIONS

We would like to thank all those who gave so generously during our Christmas appeal which raised a total of £3,650. We are especially grateful to those non-Lions who helped with our collections in the various villages throughout the Valley.

Forthcoming fundraising events are:

11th March: a Sudoku competition to benefit Meon Valley First Responders, see advert below.

8th April: an informal bridge afternoon this will be run in conjunction with Swanmore bridge club. Proceeds will go to Meon Valley First Responders (contact John Sharpe 01489 892750)

8th July: Swanmore Carnival and Fete. Following last year's successful Fete this year will be bigger and even better. The theme for the Carnival is Disney films and shows. Floats or walking parade groups are welcome, contact Roy Cuthbertson 01489 895711). Stallholders should contact Peter Loy (01489 892139).

<p>Sudoku Charity Evening Competition 11th March 2006 7:30-11:00pm The Paterson Centre, Swanmore</p> <p>First Prize: £100 for the Winner's charity Winner's Trophy Other Proceeds to Meon Valley First Responders</p> <p>Sponsored by Meon Valley Lions (Registered Charity No.: 1103147)</p> <p>Cost £10 to include 2 course supper, 3 rounds of puzzles & plenty of time to relax in between.</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>9</td><td>7</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>6</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>6</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td></td><td>3</td><td></td><td>9</td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>7</td><td></td><td></td><td>8 9</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td></td><td>6</td><td>5</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3</td><td></td><td>2</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Wine, beer, tea, coffee & soft drinks available throughout the evening</p>	9	7				3				5	1				4		2	6				4	5			2						7				6					7		3		9		1	2					7			8 9	1		6	5								3		2		
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Tear Off

<p>I should like to enter the competition & enclose a cheque for £10 payable to Meon Valley Lions (tickets will be issued on receipt of payment).</p> <p>Return to: J Sharpe 5 Crofton Way Swanmore SO32 2RF</p> <p>for further details call: 01489-892750</p>	<p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Tel no:</p>
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Supper selection: <small>(Delete as appropriate)</small>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Chicken & Chips</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Fish & Chips</td></tr> </table>	Chicken & Chips	Fish & Chips
Chicken & Chips			
Fish & Chips			

Meon Valley Lions Club was founded in 1972 and currently has 20 members (18 men and 2 women). Anyone interested in joining the Club can contact any of the telephone numbers below (or, indeed, any other member) and then arrange to be taken to two or three activities chosen from business meetings, fund-raising events, welfare occasions or social functions. An invitation may then be offered to become a member. The Club is a member of Lions International, which is the largest "Service Organisation" in the World, having branches in most countries. The motto is "We Serve" which means we get involved in many different activities in serving our "patch".

We meet at 8pm (for about two and a half hours) on the first Monday in each month to discuss the last month's activities and to plan the next couple of months. Our meeting takes place in the Uplands Park Hotel, Droxford (thanks to the owner who lets us have the room free of charge). Social functions include cinema or theatre trips, BBQ's, pub meals, visits to places of interest, country walks, etc. Forthcoming social events include:

- 4th Feb:** Burns' Night celebration
- 28th Feb:** Skittles evening at Twyford
- 25th Mar:** Dinner dance at Uplands Park Hotel, Droxford

If you are interested in becoming a member or supporting our 200 Club, please ring: Peter Loy (01489 892139); Pete Meadows (01489 895300) or Ron Wilson (01329 832610).

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

Feb 7 2pm **"Coastal Change"** illustrated talk by **Brian Barrett**, Environmental Education Consultant.
Wickham Community Centre Guests welcome

21 2pm **"Curling up with a Good Book"** by the U3A Reading Group
Wickham Community Centre Guests welcome

Wed 22 2pm Music Appreciation @ Soberton Heath: Dr. Denis May discusses **Bach's "Easter Passions"**
with excerpts from the **St. Matthew** and the **St. John's Passions**.
Ring (01329) 833594 for directions to venue.

28 2pm READING GROUP: ring (01329) 833384 for directions to venue

Mar 7 2pm **"Advances in Aerospace"** talk by **Jeff Stamp**, Consultant Engineer, Pall Europe.
Wickham Community Centre Guests welcome

21 2pm **"Jackie's Travels"** talk by U3A Member **Jackie Strutt**
Wickham Community Centre Guests Welcome

28 2pm READING GROUP; ring (01329) 833384 for directions to venue.



MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER – MEMORY MATTERS

Forthcoming Meetings:

Tue 24 January Support Group Meeting, Paterson Centre, Swanmore – 2 pm – Lisa Netherwood,
Mid Hants Primary Care Trust

Tue 14 February Pub Lunch – The Old Forge, Shedfield – 12 noon

Tue 28 February Support Group Meeting, Paterson Centre, Swanmore – 2 pm – Caroline Coates,
Solicitor – Wills etc.

Tue 14 March Pub Lunch – The Old Forge, Shedfield – 12 noon

Tue 28 March Support Group Meeting, Paterson Centre, Swanmore – 2 pm – Linda Batcheldor,
Social Services update and Care in the Home

Have you made your New Year Resolution?

We are finding that very many people with a developing Memory problem think that it is solely due to their age, and fail to seek advice or help. When finally they do recognise their problem, it is often too late to organise their affairs. This may create endless problems for their partners and relations. **You can help** by reminding your friends and neighbours that we exist to help them if they have a memory problem.

We now have an Outreach worker who is CRB checked. He will, as needed or requested, visit existing or new members in their homes, listen in confidence to their concerns and signpost them to sources of advice or support. He will carry identification. If any reader requires a visit in connection with a memory or dementia issue please phone one of the numbers given below.

DISC

You may have found leaflets in your surgery concerning DISC. (Dementia Information Service for Carers). This is a legitimate organisation based primarily in Oxfordshire and linking a University with the Guideposts charity, which offers support services for those with Dementia and their carers. These services do not operate in Hampshire and enquiries from people in Hampshire are referred to their nearest support service e.g. an Alzheimer's Society branch or Meon Valley Carers Together since we are now registered with them.

DISC also aims to ensure that Dementia clients in the Southeast realise that their illness is one of a range of illnesses, all of which fall within the generic name Dementia, Alzheimer's disease is simply the most common. All the support groups, the Alzheimer's Society and the Meon Valley Carers Together are wholly inclusive to people with all forms of Dementia. DISC offers a small range of free leaflets which are similar to those available from the Alzheimer's Society.

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

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED.

To find out more about us and our activities contact:

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

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

MEON VALLEY CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

Q. I am up to my eyes in debt and it is causing me a great deal of stress. I have heard that I could go bankrupt and wipe the slate clean. Is this true and would you recommend it?

A. Firstly there may be a number of options for sorting your debts out that could be better for you than going bankrupt. You should make an appointment with a debt advisor at a Citizens Advice Bureau who will be able to give you some expert advice on what may be your best option.

There are advantages and disadvantages in filing for bankruptcy. The pressure is taken off you because you no longer have to deal with your creditors. An official called the Official Receiver takes control of your money and property, and deals with your creditors. You will be allowed to keep household goods and a reasonable amount to live on. Normally after a year you will be able to make a fresh start and in most cases the money you owe will be written off.

However, it costs £460 to go bankrupt and while you are bankrupt you will be unable to apply for more credit. If you own your own house it will usually have to be sold and you may lose your car and any other luxury items. In some professions people who have been made bankrupt may not be able to carry on working. Bankruptcy is never private; you will be listed on the Internet and it may even be published in your local paper. Some debts such as court fines and student loans will never be written off.

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

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

Wickham Parish Council Councillor contact details



Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chairman			
Mrs A Clear	14 Manor Close, Wickham, PO17 5BZ	01329 832923 01329 834848 work	angie.clear@btinternet.com
Vice-Chairman			
Mrs J B Mallett	Great Fontley Farm, Titchfield Lane, Wickham, PO15 6EA	01329 832177	jenny-mallet@great- fontley.fsnet.co.uk
Councillors			
Mr M Carter	Hart House, Mayles Lane, Wickham, PO17 5ND	01329 832928	carterma@FreeNet.co.uk
Mr M Coles	Fernbank, Southwick Road, Wickham PO17 6JE	01329 834312 01489 782202 work	colesmartin@hotmail.com
Mr F Duckworth	'Greens', The Square, Wickham, PO17 5JQ	01329 833197	DuckworthGreens@aol.com
Mrs D Dudley	Springlea, Tanfield Lane, Wickham PO17 5NW	01329 832954	ddudley1@btinternet.com
Mrs T Evans	Woodlands, Bishops Wood Road, Mislingford, Wickham PO17 5AT	01329 832700	tevans@winchester.gov.uk
Mrs J Hollis	12 Buddens Road, Wickham PO17 5HQ	01329 835243	mike1234hollis@aol.com
Dr M R O'Connell	Wickham House, The Square, Wickham, PO17 5JG	01329 832231 01329 834512 work	morganoc@doctors.org.uk
Mr E Pickering	37 Victoria Mews, Knowle, PO17 5JX	07963 237729	EPatWPC@hotmail.com
Mrs S Roger-Jones	Moonrakers, Fareham Road, Wickham, PO17 5BY	01329 833165	susan@roger- jones.fsnet.co.uk

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2006



Green belt Urged to Protect Wickham Parish

Hampshire County Council has warned the South East of England Regional Assembly that it will agree to increased house building for the county only if the Government guarantees providing money for the infrastructure necessary and protects existing communities.

This follows a debate on the regional plan to build 80,000 houses in South Hampshire over the next 20 years. As many as 10,000 new homes may be built North of Fareham, posing a threat to Wickham Parish.

During the debate I asked the size of this new development area to be reduced so that a green belt could be provided between any new housing and Wickham Parish, protecting in particular Knowle from being swallowed up. This view was received sympathetically.

The county decided to seek a reduction in the number of houses in South Hampshire by 7000. If the reduction is agreed, it is possible for the North Fareham plans to be reduced.

The regional assembly will consider the views of the county council and submit its final plan to the Deputy Prime Minister by June.

Mayles Lane Culvert

Repairs have been carried out on the Mayles Lane culvert because the brick parapet fronting Fareham Road became unstable and a portion was removed for safety reasons. The county council was not satisfied with the standard of the work and asked the contractor to replace the brick parapet at its expense.

Fontley Road

Funding has now been secured to build a footway along Fontley Road between the railway and the M27 overpass. This follows concerns of local residents that it is dangerous to walk along the road where traffic is heavy. Part of the road will be moved about two metres so that a footway can be constructed.

Frith Lane Landfill Site

The county council has agreed to grant additional time for the restoration of the Frith Lane landfill site. Planning permission for the extraction of sand was given in 1990 and operations started in 1995. At the end of extraction operations it was agreed the site would be restored to agriculture by October 2005. Since only half the restoration work has been completed, the extension until July 2006 has been granted.

Grant for Wickham Community Association

The county council has agreed to a grant of £1630 to Wickham Community Association to help fund repairs to the north wall that was extensively damaged by vandalism.

The total cost of the repairs is estimated at £4891. It is expected that Winchester City Council and the Parish Council will also offer financial support and the balance will come from the association's funds.

This supports the county council's aim of improving buildings to enable communities to access the services they need.



Frederick Allgood,
County Councillor

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 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

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We have been asked about the basis on which houses in Gwynn Way were allocated to families and we recently met with housing officers at the Council offices to discuss this topic. We were not, of course, able to discuss individual cases but only the general principles on which allocations were made.

There are firm guidelines and rules set down by government for officers on how names of prospective tenants are selected but these can be varied when, as in the case of Gwynn Way, the project has come forward as a result of local efforts to locate a site for development for local people.

Half of the properties in the scheme available for letting were offered to people on the Waiting List and half to people on the Transfer List. In all cases those families offered properties had strong local connections (this can be established by family connections or because the person has worked in the ward for a number of years). The Gwynn Way properties are a great asset to Wickham's housing stock and we need more such schemes for our residents.

IT'S OK TO ASK BENEFITS CAMPAIGN

The City Council recently completed another successful benefits entitlement campaign when 96 residents approached the Council about entitlement and of these 36 had potential benefits explained to them.

The campaign was designed to target families this time, with over 80% of inquiries coming from the over 60's.

The types of benefits that people could claim include not only Housing and Council tax benefit but also Working Tax Credit/ Child Tax Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Carers Allowance and Pension Credit.

For more information on Benefits available to you visit www.winchester.gov.uk/benefits or call 01962 840 222.

PARKING IN THE SQUARE

The maximum stay was increased from two to three hours from the end of November and traffic wardens have been visiting the Square more regularly in recent weeks to ensure that the longer stay period is not being abused. The Station Road car park has been tidied up with resurfacing and trees cut back to make it more open. Signs have been installed in the Square to show the alternative free car parks and the solar ticketing machine near Pages which has given so much trouble will be replaced with an ordinary one.

CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

With effect from 1st April all residents aged 60 or more will be eligible for a free bus pass in replacement of the existing travel token scheme. The bus pass will be valid throughout Hampshire. We will give more details later.



SURGERY

Our next surgery will be at the Village Hall, Knowle on Tuesday 7th February from 7 to 8pm. All are welcome and no appointments are necessary.

Thérèse and Phil



Wickham Parish Council
News
February 2006

New Year's recycling resolution?

Recycle your garden and kitchen waste...



Special offer for Winchester City Council residents:

330 litre composting bins can be purchased for £6 including delivery.

Telephone 0845 130 60 90
and quote **'the Winchester Offer'**.
For further information visit:
www.getcomposting.com/winchester

Additional Sports and Recreation Facilities for Wickham?

Following the survey carried out in July 2005 the Parish Council discussed the options available to address the shortfall in recreation land in November and agreed to continue with the shortfall - Option 3 in the consultation leaflet. Details of the options and the advantages and disadvantages of each can be viewed on the Parish Council's website with the minutes of the November Full Council meeting.
www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

Review of speed limits

There are plans for a 40mph speed limit for Titchfield Lane and Fontley Road.

Speed limits on A32 / School Road are due to be reviewed in the near future.

Is a member of your household in need of housing?

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

Looking to use public transport?

Try this online planner

www.traveline.org.uk tel 0870 608 2608

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

Contact the Clerk to arrange viewing

Meetings

Next Full Council

7.15pm Monday 20th February
Wickham Community Centre

Includes retirement presentation to Mr Norman Melsome, Wickham's Village Cleaner for nearly 13 years.

Planning Committee

7.30pm Monday
27th February

Wickham Community Centre

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

www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

Everyone welcome to attend meetings!

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