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## *THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACON*

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Time is a very strange dimension. Sometimes when you look back over a period, say a year it seems to have been a very long time and yet looking at it again it also seems to have flown by. Do you remember when even an hour was a very long time and you could have so many games during that time? Now even the years get shorter in my mind.

At the end of the month, Adrian and I, will have been in Wickham for a year. So by then I shall have experienced all the annual events and of course already we are preparing for the fete on the 9th June. It seems to have flown by and so in one way I can't believe that it's a whole year and yet you as a village have made us feel so welcome and a part of things that we could have been here much, much longer.

One of the things that I have really enjoyed is my involvement with the schools. Both Rookesbury Park and Wickham Primary School have welcomed me in for assembly and the children and the staff are a delight. I am also a governor at Wickham and I would like to pay tribute to Mrs Burton, Miss Poole and all the staff at their dedication to ensuring that the needs of every child is met so that they can achieve to the very best of their ability.

If you have some spare time that you could share with the children to listen to them read or if you are good with numbers to play maths games with them, Mrs Burton would love to hear from you and make you welcome. The spare time doesn't need to be very long, an hour a week perhaps.

God's time is different to our idea of time, He has been there for all time. We all seem so busy these days that we find it very difficult to give God any of our time but in the hustle and bustle of life today we need to find time to give some attention to our spiritual needs. We know how our bodies need the right food and somehow we manage to find time to go to the gym or do some exercise but when do we find time to give to our spiritual wellbeing? As we approach Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Day let's try to take some time away from the business and make time for reflection, quiet and peace. If you don't know how to start this why not come to one of the half hour meditations during Holy Week to be held in St Nicholas and St Johns – details are to be found in the magazine. Shirley and I would love to meet you there.

As the holidays get nearer I hope that you will find time for recreation and refreshment. Easter is the fulfilment of God's promise to us that he loves us and is with us always to the end of time and then he promises us life with him.

And so I would like to leave you with the first words that Jesus said to his disciples when, on the evening of that first Easter day, they were together in the upper room afraid of the Jewish authorities: **"Peace be with you"**

May God's love be with you and those you love.



### ***Date for your diaries.....***

There will be a **Group Ministry** 'joint service' at St Barnabas, Swanmore on **Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

This is Whit Sunday (Pentecost) and I do hope as many as possible will support this service from our joint parishes.

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## ***EDITORIAL***

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Hi Everyone,

At last the weather is beginning to warm up and I've managed to recover last year's flip-flops and am already wearing them out and about. I'm not mad, I'm just optimistic about our delightful English weather, although I have heard that we are expecting snow – no I'm not joking!



This month I thought I would use this space to inform you all of the hard working team at Wispers and although we've had a few quiet months, three of our junior stylists and technicians have been working all hours on L'Oreal competitions.



Holly Palmer worked on her model, Ollie Jempson, in the L'Oreal Men's image award while Katie Summers and David Peek worked on their model, Kylie Wearn, in the Next Generation award.

The stylist worked after hours perfecting their models' image by adding colour and creating a cut that would be a cut above the rest and the result was fantastic! A professional photographer came to the salon and took some stunning photos of the models in the hope that this would increase the chance of getting through to the next round and we are all still waiting impatiently.

Holly Palmer our a top technician told me, "It would be an amazing opportunity for my model to get through both for my career and for the salon's reputation. We are all so excited about the whole thing and although this isn't the first competition the salon has entered I've got a feeling about this one!"

It has been clear all month that the team have worked their socks off to create the perfect image for the chance to take their models to the next step and I wish them every luck and will keep you all informed if they get through!

All my love,

*Assistant Editor*

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## ***NEW ADVERTISERS***

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Many apologies to four of our new Advertisers. I failed to give them a mention and welcome in the March issue when I told you of our 23 other new Advertisers.

So a special welcome to:-

**DRIVER BELCHER SOLICITORS in Bishops Waltham - Page G**

**ANTHONY PERRY ARCHITECTS in Southsea - Page G**

**CHESTNUT CATTERY, Southwick Rd, North Boarhunt - Page H**

**GREENBARN CATTERY, Church Rd, Newtown - Page H**

*Sue Leatham*

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# ***Come and Sing Weekend St Nicholas, Wickham***

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## **‘Come and Make Music’**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> 10am – 1pm** in the church and church room

**ALL** children aged between 7 and 11yrs old, drumming, handbells, make your own instruments, singing and craft, a **FUN** morning which will finish with a short ‘performance’ at 12.30 in church for family and friends.

For further information or to ‘sign on’ please contact:

Revd Elizabeth 01329 832134 or Revd Shirley 01489 896637.

We’d love to see you there.

*Shirley*

## **Come & Sing Rutter**



Saturday 21st April 2007  
Church of St Nicholas



**Programme John Rutter’s “The Sprig of Thyme”**

***A set of folksong arrangements***

**Conductor David Burgess**

**Organist Rosemary Field**

Registration and score hire from 3:30pm in the Church Room

Rehearsals from 4pm to 6:15pm

Tea & biscuits at 6:15pm (Bring a snack if you like)

Public performance at 7pm Audience welcome

Singers £6 Audience £4 (all prices include wine)

Score hire £1

Dress: Warm & comfortable

For more details, visit [www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk)

To register, contact Sue Fitzgerald 833609 ([fitzgted@aol.com](mailto:fitzgted@aol.com))

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# *St Nicholas Church*

## *Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 2007*

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**To be held on Thursday 26th April at 7.00pm in the church room.**

Please note change of time for this very important meeting - a chance for everyone to come and hear all that has been happening over the past year and to elect your Churchwardens and PCC members for the coming year. The annual accounts are presented, as are the reports from the different groups within our church. It's an opportunity for you to have your say and to thank all those who serve on your behalf – perhaps a time for you to offer your services too? Judy Lucas is standing down as churchwarden this year. Judy has given so much time and dedication to this task over many years and we would like to show our appreciation with a presentation at this meeting, followed by wine and nibbles, please do come and share this evening with us.

*Revd Shirley Henderson*

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### *Easter Services for United Benefice*

#### *Holy Week*

<i>Monday:</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Compline with music and meditation - Shedfield</i>
	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Music, prayer and meditation – Wickham</i>
<i>Tuesday:</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Compline with music and meditation - Shedfield</i>
<i>Wednesday:</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Compline with music and meditation - Shedfield</i>
<i>M Thursday:</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Passover Meal – Shedfield</i>
	<i>7pm</i>	<i>'Last Supper' with foot washing – Wickham</i>
		<i>(Holy Communion)</i>
<i>Good Friday:</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Service in Wickham Square followed by walk of witness to.....</i>
	<i>11.15</i>	<i>Park Place – Station of the Cross</i>
		<i>(followed by Hot Cross buns and a drink)</i>
	<i>11.45</i>	<i>Shedfield Common – Station of the Cross</i>
	<i>12.15</i>	<i>St John the Baptist – Station of the Cross</i>
		<i>(please bring picnic lunch, drinks will be provided)</i>
	<i>2 -3pm</i>	<i>Music, prayers and meditation for Good Friday</i>
<i>Easter Eve:</i>	<i>10 – 12</i>	<i>Easter Market in Study Centre, Shedfield</i>
	<i>8pm</i>	<i>Easter Vigil – Shedfield (in church)</i>
<i>Easter Day:</i>	<i>8am</i>	<i>Holy Communion at both churches</i>
	<i>9.45</i>	<i>Holy Communion – Wickham</i>
	<i>10.00</i>	<i>Holy Communion – Shedfield</i>
	<i>6 pm</i>	<i>Evensong - Shedfield</i>

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# Progress on Kairos

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As we reported back 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. In the update below the bold type indicates the original proposal and the text below describes progress with those projects since the last report in the magazine early in 2006.

## 1. Improve Communication

- a. **The Parish Magazine:** The move to professional production of the magazine is working well and we are pleased with the partnership with the Parish Council regarding the two special editions a year which are delivered free to every household in July and December. We strive to ensure it is a magazine which truly serves the whole community.
- b. **Our website,** [www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk), is developing well and draws more and more attention. It is just the modern instrument we need. An increasing number access the site. A man from Canada attended one of the concerts last year because he had found our website!
- c. Communication generally is something which we constantly look at. Sometimes events overtake us. For instance, we would like to have put advance notice in the magazine about the recent moving of the Knowle War Memorial back to Knowle but, after a long wait, arrangements suddenly fell into place after magazine copy date! We are conscious too that communication has to be wider now as we develop our links with Shedfield.

## 2. Open up the Church and Church Room for wider community use

- a. **Re-configure the inside of the Church to open it up for a wider range of activities.** There is some funding for re-configuring the crossing area of the church/making it more flexible, but plans have yet to be agreed and taken forward. Even so, we still manage to stage a variety of activities, including exhibitions and concerts. There was another excellent Come and Sing in January 2006, Music Week held five concerts and there was another successful Big Draw in the autumn as well.
- b. **Review the Church Room to increase range of social events and cater for different interest groups.** As regards the Church Room, we still have plans to refurbish the toilets and provide access for the disabled; we hope to be able to go ahead with these in 2007. As you will see in 3) below we have tried using the Church Room for different social events.

3. **Hold a wider variety of events and co-operate in doing so with other organisations in the village.** We branched out again last year and held our first Mardi Gras in February 2006 and tried a Burn's Night in January this year. Some preparatory work was done last year for re-introducing the Beating of the Bounds at some future date. We co-operated in 2006 with Wickham Scouts and Wickham Cricket Club to hold a Barn Dance with Pig Roast in the Community Centre, sharing the workload, the fun and then the profit between us.

4. **Appoint a Parish Administrator.** Jane Goulson is now well established in post and is shouldering more and more of the work. She has special responsibility for liaison work on weddings and baptisms.

5. **Review Church Services:** Reverends Shirley Henderson and Reverend Elizabeth are reviewing services as they work through their first year in this parish. The first Sunday in each month is a Family Service and on two Sundays in the month there is an evening service. During the week prayers are said daily at 8.30am and on Tuesdays there is a Communion Service in the Lady Chapel at 10am, except on the first Tuesday when we meet at Normandy Court. One exciting development is the plans for Easter Services, so please see other parts of the magazine for details of these.

6. **Wider Community Involvement by providing financial, practical and human support to local organisations in need.** This project often depends upon invited involvement and St. Nicholas and its individual members respond where they can, e.g. by supporting other charitable organisations in the village. We may not have been able to do as much under this heading as we would have liked and are aware of financial constraints.

7. **Audit our skills/acquire training so that we can answer community needs, run courses, meet listening requirements and respond to one-off tasks required by other groups in the village.** The audit has been completed and reported to the PCC. We are now looking at acquiring some of the necessary training.
8. **Development of a plan for the use of Diocesan church (or other) land for affordable housing.** This is a long term project to provide intermediate housing. The Kairos team is preparing the way for establishing a Community Land Trust and this project has been selected as one of twelve national pilots schemes. Please see Nic Holladay's item elsewhere in this magazine regarding the forthcoming housing survey. Portsmouth Diocese has pump primed this project and Bishop's Waltham deanery has also allocated a substantial grant.
9. **Campaign for Safer Crossroads:** The petition and demonstration in 2005 and follow-up petition in 2006 earned the support of our local Hampshire County Councillor and MP and led to a review of the crossroads by Hampshire County Council officials. The upshot is that traffic specialists have considered a whole range of solutions to the problem but have come down in favour of installing traffic-lights. Councillor Allgood wrote about this in December's magazine. We are really pleased that he has proposed it for action in 2008, but we need to be realistic in our expectations. Other road safety requirements elsewhere may take precedence. Meanwhile, St. Nicholas is willing to relinquish some of the church frontage onto the A32 to enable this plan to go ahead.
10. **Look at and beyond boundaries, to enable us to work across parishes, share resources and expertise etc.** Members of the PCC may be ahead of the rest of this parish in that they are getting used to working across parishes and have now enjoyed two annual get-togethers. Our choir is now working quite often with Shedfield's and will be joining them in an exchange trip to Sweden in May. Members of the congregation are getting more acquainted with clergy from Shedfield and Swanmore and individuals are gradually getting used to the idea of visiting St. John the Baptist in Shedfield. Meanwhile, bell ringers from both parishes regularly support each other and Shedfield congregation are good at supporting our two Sunday evening services.

I hope this puts you in the picture a little more as to the work which has been going on and the progress made. Thank you to all those who have helped or are still working on putting our proposals into action.

*Judy Lucas, Kairos Representative*

## ***SIX HOURS A YEAR***

Could you spare six hours a year to help clean our beautiful parish church? One hour every other month is all that would be asked of you! A chance to get to know the other people on your team and the building itself.

Due to advancing age and illness we have, unfortunately, lost some of our most loyal helpers and consequently need some new volunteers. We will give you a copy of the rota so that you don't forget when it is your turn. If you feel that you can help please ring me on 832900.

I would like to take this opportunity to gratefully thank all the regular cleaners including the Wickham Wives who turn up week after week without fail. You will get your reward in heaven!

*Joyce Johnston*

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## ***UNITED BENEFACTIVE CHOIR TRIP TO SWEDEN***

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The choirs from St John the Baptist, Shedfield and St Nicholas, Wickham, along with three members of Whitwell IW choir, are to travel to Djurö in Sweden on May 26th this year, and staying until May 31st, as a return visit to the choir who visited us in 2005. We will be singing in their churches alongside their choir and spending time in this beautiful area, further forging our links and friendship with this parish as part of our diocesan link with Stockholm. This is an exciting event and a wonderful opportunity for our choirs to join together as a United Benefice for the first time 'away from home'!!

Watch this space for news of a 'follow up' evening when we return to share experience and pictures.

*Shirley Henderson*

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# **REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH AND CHURCH ROOM: An Update**

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## ***The inside may not look as you expect it to over Easter!***

**So far** You will probably remember that, thanks to the generosity of so many of you, we managed to get the spire stripped and re-shingled in 2004. Thereafter, with a bit of nail-biting on our part as to whether the money would stretch, we also managed to get roof repairs done too. So thank you to all of you: repairs to tower/spire and roofs were completed between 2004 - 2006.

Costs in the region of £50,836

**That sense of achievement:** we thought we could begin to turn our thoughts to internal works. That was a mistake! We may have dealt with falling rain, but not with rising water!

**Water Problems** Spring water flows constantly under the church and there is a pump there to deal with it. However, the pump broke unexpectedly in November last year and the basement flooded, damaging the heating system. Thank goodness our local Fire Service pumped it out but we have had to bite the bullet and will be installing a dual pump system and a flood alert, which should increase our protection against the water below. We are hoping that will be installed in April this year.

Estimated cost before VAT: £1,604

**Electrical Problems** Every five years the electrical installations and circuits in the Church and Church Room have to be checked for safety. It was quite a blow when both buildings failed their inspections last year. During the last part of 2006 you may have noticed that we had considerable electrical work done in the church and church basement and we now have the required safety certification.

Cost: £1,296

Further work is still necessary to the Church Room lighting circuits and the Church Room will be closed for the last week of March to enable this work to go ahead.

Estimated cost, exc. VAT: £1,316

**Back to re-decoration!** Estimated cost for entire church at 2004 prices was £35,786. So far we have spent £5,819 on the Lady Chapel and it provided us with a useful lesson. We know now that we need to carry out the chemical stripping process in spring and leave the walls to dry. Thanks to your continued support, fund-raising events and a grant from the Headley Trust we are now able to start. We cannot do it all but we have enough funds to tackle the North Transept (the bit you come into if you step in through the 'back' door) and the West Porch with a chemical peelaway system and to re-decorate the chancel with more straightforward methods.

The builders will be coming towards the end of March to remove the pews in the North Transept so that they do not get damaged and work will start thereafter. Depending on the test results after the stripping process we may well need to leave the walls of the North Transept and Porch bare for a year before re-decorating, but we will be putting the pews back!

Estimated cost exc. VAT: £12,965

**More work to the Church Room** Before the year is out we hope to be refurbishing the toilets and developing Disabled Access.

Estimated cost, exc VAT: £4,968

After that the PCC plans to call on volunteers to re-decorate the church room, so please look out for notices about that sometime in the future.

### **Tasks still to do**

We are extremely fortunate that the 1805 Club kindly took on the repair of Admiral Grindall's tomb last year but there are still things on the list from 2004, plus now a few more, which we cannot tackle right now but will do so as and when we can.

- Repair of listed table tombs: costs unknown.
- Repair of the boundary wall along the A32. Costs unknown
- Works to structural walls: items identified but not yet costed in the Quinquennial Inspection, October 2006
- Re-decoration of remaining parts of the church inside: cost unknown

So we are afraid we still need your help and the appeal goes on!

Thank you for reading thus far and thank you so much for your continued support and for enabling us to maintain our lovely church.

*Di Hemingway-Rice and Judy Lucas, Churchwardens*

## ***Affordable homes in Wickham: time for action***

You may recall that last November's Magazine carried an announcement about a housing needs survey to be distributed to every household in the parish in 2007. Well, 2007 is well under way and so is the survey. If the white envelope emblazoned with the word "IMPORTANT" and clearly marked as jointly from Wickham Parish Council and the Wickham Affordable Housing Group has not yet dropped through your letterbox look out for it!

### **THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE HOUSING NEEDS OF THE WHOLE PARISH OF WICKHAM.**

Provision of affordable accommodation for young people born and raised in rural communities has become more difficult as house prices and rents have increased and land supply available for such developments has tightened. Yet to sustain the viability of village life we need to have a healthy mix of age groups and skills living in the parish.

To determine the extent of the need for affordable housing in Wickham, we need your help. **Please complete the survey questionnaire and return it in the FREEPOST envelope provided by the end of April** – the sooner the better in fact. Only if we can quantify the extent of the problem through your responses might it be possible to do something about it. All responses will be independently analysed and kept completely confidential.

And, to demonstrate we mean business, by returning your completed questionnaire you can enter a draw for a £50 prize!

So, please help us in this important endeavour and take action – all we need is 5 to 10 minutes of your time to make all the difference.

Thanks for your help,

***Nic Holladay, Chair, Wickham Affordable Housing Group***

*We thank the Parish Council and the Rural Housing Enabler for supporting the survey. We also thank all the volunteer distributors who have given their time to deliver the questionnaire to every household in the parish.*

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## ***PARK PLACE PERSPECTIVES***

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### **Lent Lunches**



For the third consecutive year, the congregation at Park Place have arranged to have a Lenten Lunch on a small scale in their own homes, inviting their friends to attend.

A simple meal of soup and bread is provided, and the assembled group can give some thought to the many millions throughout the world for whom such a meal would be an unimaginable luxury.

Donations are given in aid of the Sisters' project for the year, adding to the major fundraising efforts covered primarily by the Friends' Garden Party and any other events.

Initiatives like this, if successful, have a habit of being self-generating, so it is not surprising that the numbers involved this year are greater than ever.

As the regular congregation at Park Place tends to be more widespread than is usual in a normal parish, there is the added bonus that the net is spread wide. Over the six weeks of Lent some people are able to attend more than one; or some give one and then attend another.

This year, Lunches have been arranged in Denmead, Eastney, and Gosport in addition to one at Park Place and another more local to Wickham.

*David Smith*

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## ***THE MOTHERS' UNION***



Mrs Ruth Bever spoke at our March meeting about a sponsored cycle ride she undertook in 2002 on behalf of the Leprosy Mission. This took place in West Bengal, cycling from one leprosy hospital to another. The group of twenty-four cyclists, sixteen men and eight women, ranged in age from sixteen to the mid sixties. These hospitals are reliant on the Leprosy Mission for financial support. They, as a group, between them raised over £90,000 which was to support the hospital in Purulia. On their

trip this was one of the hospitals they visited so they were able to see the place where the money they raised would be used.

Ruth spoke about the leprosy disease and what it means to the many people suffering from it. In the Bible leprosy sufferers were persecuted and kept away from everybody else but now we know that it can only be caught by blood contact, although this can easily happen. Besides seeing the hospitals the group were also shown workshops where children of patients particularly could learn a trade, such as tailoring and bicycle maintenance, and so support a family. The Group's ride of more than 350 kilometres and which lasted ten days was an amazing achievement, particularly when one realises the climate was inhospitable and the terrain rough. We saw some of this in the slides she showed us.

Two days following our meeting, four Wickham members joined a large congregation at Portsmouth Cathedral for a Holy Communion Service at which all the Diocesan Officers were commissioned by the Archdeacon of the Meon. The April meeting will be at 3, Tanfield Park where Dr and Mrs Mellor will speak of their VSO experiences in Eritrea.

*Anne Marshall*

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## ***KNOWLE VILLAGE CHURCH***

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After the service on 12th March, the congregation of the church had a meeting to discuss the future.

The attendance, so far, has been disappointing, and the reasons for this were talked over. The possibility of changing the services to every week was brought up. This way there would be no question on a Sunday morning whether church was on or not. For this to go ahead, though, the Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Fareham, would have to be in agreement (as we come under their jurisdiction), and a rota would need to be arranged with clergy, and lay ministers, from the surrounding parishes. For now, though, we will continue on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

It was also felt that we needed to have a better understanding of Knowle village, and what the residents needed from the church. (Few in the current congregation are actual residents.)

We have good turn outs for Christmas and Easter and maybe that is all the residents feel they need.

As a church community, though, we realise there is more to a spiritual life than the major festivals, or even the weekly services. The church can be a community, a meeting place, a social life and a place to learn.

It was felt that many residents of Knowle may not even know we exist, so we intend to make ourselves more visible in the future.

What has been decided for now, though, is that The Church at Knowle Village will continue to be there for the residents, and any one else who would like to be a part of it.

If you do have any thoughts, or feelings, on the church, or would like more information, our minister, Rev Mike Pye, can be contacted on 01329 280380.

### **Come and join us for Easter**

Thursday 5th April, 7.30pm - **Maundy Thursday**  
(A quiet, contemplative service remembering The Last Supper.)

Sunday 8th April - **Easter Sunday Holy**  
Communion (A time to rejoice in the resurrection)

Sunday 22nd April - **Morning Worship**

Hope to see you there.

God Bless

*Deborah Casper*

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## ***METHODIST MUSINGS***

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17 year old, Brian Moore, was asked to write an essay on the subject 'Heaven, what is it like?' He started his essay by telling us that he had found himself in that place between wakefulness and dreams, he described how he appeared to be in a room full of filing cabinets which stretched from the floor to the ceiling and seemingly endless in either direction. Each file had a different heading and one caught his eye, 'Girls I have liked', curiosity got the better of him and he picked out the file to read it. To his surprise all the names were of girls he had known, another file was of 'Friends I have made', they were all his friends, and without being told he suddenly realised where he was. The room was a catalogue of his young life. Here were written the actions of his every living moment, big and small and in a detail that his memory could never match. He began randomly opening and reading some of the files, 'Books I have read', most were ok but some he was ashamed of reading, 'Television I have watched', was one of the larger files and he was

uneasy at some of the programmes he had watched and realised how much valuable time he had wasted watching trash.

Other files like 'Comfort I have given' gave a warm feeling but this file was not very big! He moved on to some of the bulkier files and was ashamed to see some of the titles on these such as, 'Things I have done in anger', 'People I have cheated', 'Things I have muttered under my breath to my parents', 'Friends I have betrayed', 'Opportunities missed to share the Gospel', it got worse and when he came to a file marked 'Lustful thoughts' he realised just what a waste his life had been. He then spotted a cabinet with the title 'People I have shared my faith with', the handle was brighter than those around it, newer and almost unused, he pulled on the handle and there was a small file with so few cards that he could count them on one hand. The tears began to fall, he began to weep as never before as his wasted life was laid bare before him.....wasted opportunities, selfish living, and neglect of the good things life had to offer. He fell to his knees as shame overcame him. It was his life alright; every file had his signature at the bottom. No one must ever know of this room he thought, I must lock it up and throw away the key.

Suddenly through tears he saw someone, no surely not, please not Him, any one but Him! Yes it was Jesus. Brian watched helpless as He began to open the files and read the cards, he could not bear to watch, yet in the moments he dared look at His face he saw sorrow etched deeper than any of his own. Why did he have to read those awful files? Finally Jesus turned and looked at Brian with pity and understanding in His eyes. Brian dropped to his knees to say sorry and the tears began to flow again as Jesus came towards him and enfolded the lad in his arms and cried with him. Jesus then returned to the files where he signed His name to cover over Brian's in a crimson red. He took responsibility for all of the sinful acts. He then took the young man by the hand and led him out of the room, there was no lock on the door, and there were still cards to be written. Brian vowed to make sure that the next time he visited this room he would not be so ashamed of its contents.

This is an abridged version of a true story, the essay was found in Brian's school locker not long after it had been written ..... The locker was being cleared because the lad had just been killed in a car accident.

*Herbie Taylor*

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## *HOSPITAL RADIO – Is That Still Going?*

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The minute hand moves to twelve. It's now 4 o'clock. Fade out the record playing, push the fader up to play the signature tune. Let the Theme from Dragnet play for a minute. Open the microphone, 'Hi there, and welcome to another Smorgasbord Show with me, Richard ...'



So starts another Hospital Radio show.

Hospital Radio? My goodness is that still going?

It certainly is! Hospital radio is everywhere. A thriving network of independent organisations all broadcasting all over the country with a single aim. To provide hospital patients with a friendly voice, good music, dedications and requests, sport and much more; to let patients know they are not alone, through requests and dedications friends and family can stay in touch with their loved ones. And all for free!

We in Portsmouth Hospital Radio are fortunate because we can lay claim to being the first Hospital Broadcaster. Its roots lie in the glory days of Portsmouth Football Club. The late 1940s and early 1950s saw Portsmouth at the top of the Football League, champions two years running. The crowds flocked to Fratton Park. On several occasions the gates were closed early as the ground capacity was reached. A police

sergeant, Brian Morrissey, was asked to provide a commentary to the crowds locked outside.

Strange roots indeed. It was soon realised that many patients in the local hospitals were Pompey fans and would appreciate the commentary. The first dedicated football commentary was on 27th October 1951 (Pompey beat Newcastle 3-1). This impressed the Portsmouth board and they pressed for other clubs to do the same. Thus there was a rapid growth in the broadcasting of home football matches to local hospitals throughout the country.

Portsmouth's home match commentaries have been broadcast for over 50 years now. But it was only in 1968 that thoughts turned to more general radio broadcasting. The drive came from some Portsmouth Grammar schoolboys, whose interest in radio and programme making led them to the BBC, who directed them to their local hospital radio. Portsmouth at this stage did not have anything beyond football commentaries and so with the help of the Hospital's Management Committee, room for a studio was found at St Mary's.

The first broadcasts were in April 1970 and the number of broadcast hours increased rapidly. The studios moved in 1986 to Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham where we ran three studios. The rebuilding work at the QA has meant that we returned to St Mary's in 2005. We now broadcast from noon until 10pm every day.

Why do I do it? It is fun and I have the face for radio. When I started in 2004 I knew nothing of radio. I wasn't even sure if I could sit in front of a microphone and speak coherently. The studio desk with its dials and faders looks intimidating. And there is the responsibility - there are patients out there who expect you to speak and play music - they don't want to hear what is called 'dead air', or nothing in layman's terms. But it is easy. Knowing that you have to say something is the spur and it is surprising just how much you can say when you have to. Being part of the organisation, knowing that you are bringing a service to the hospital patients is a very rewarding feeling. There is a great sense of camaraderie, we might not meet all the other presenters but we know they are there, working with us to provide a great service.

Plus there is the music - lots of music. We have a library of vinyl albums and a computer with many thousands of tracks, plus many CDs. Vinyl, yes we still play the old vinyl records, some presenters prefer them to CDs, saying they get a better sound. We have minidisc players plus CD drives, so the options are vast.

I present two shows. The Saturday Afternoon Sports Show from 2-5pm each weekend. Between the records we keep up-to-date with the latest sports news and scores, and of course we still carry our own commentary of the football from Fratton Park. Then on Sundays, 4-6pm, I present The Smorgasbord Show, which as its name implies is a mix of all sorts of music from all eras.

So a historic past, what of the future? At the moment Portsmouth Hospital Radio is facing logistical and financial challenges. Our main audience is in the QA at Cosham where the patients can listen to us free on the Patientline equipment. Our studios are in St Mary's in Copnor. We are not due to return to QA until 2009 at the earliest. Patients can phone their requests through to us but because we are on a different site they have to pay for the call. Ideally we need 'ward walkers' to go round the wards to collect requests and pass them to the studio. In the early days ward walking was done by the presenters but with the busy lifestyle we all lead and the split locations of hospital and studio this is all but impossible. Other hospital radio stations have teams of dedicated ward walkers, we don't, not yet anyway. Requests are important as they provide the link between the radio station and its audience. The interaction is what puts the life into hospital radio. It means as much to the hospital radio staff as it does to the patients.



These days finance is a challenge to all organisations. Our main source of income was the Southsea Show. For three days every August we had live bands, huge audiences and full collecting tins (bed pans). At this point I must mention our indebtedness to local entertainer and businessman Shep Woolley who organised and paid for all the bands – we couldn't have done it without Shep. However the Southsea Show has ended, to be replaced by a two-day flower show. We will be there but the expectation is that our income will drop. So we need new ideas for raising funds, outside broadcasts maybe, sponsored programmes, anything which will raise funds.

This is where the crunch comes. Portsmouth Hospital radio has, like most hospital radio stations, come up against a tough competitor in Patientline. Patientline provide each bed with a television and a phone, and access to radio too. All at a price as they are a commercial organisation. They also carry our hospital radio broadcasts for free. Television though, even when it has to be paid for, is a huge distraction and it therefore becomes essential to forge the link between patient and hospital radio, to make hospital radio the first choice of every patient.

To do this we need dedicated people in the team. We have some but not enough, and we tend to be all presenters. You don't have to be a presenter, though new presenters are always welcome – we need people to collect requests, to organise collectors (in fact this infrastructure needs to be set up which is a huge challenge in itself), technical people who understand radio and how the equipment works, who could run an OB, fund raisers, programme sponsors, ideas people, you name it and we can use it. You must be 18 or over to work on Hospital Radio. If this is you or you know anyone who might like to try it call 02392 866648 and leave a message or e-mail [qahospitalradio-2@ntlworld.com](mailto:qahospitalradio-2@ntlworld.com), or visit our website at [www.qahospitalradio.co.uk](http://www.qahospitalradio.co.uk)

My goodness, doesn't time fly. Almost 6 o'clock already. Time for the outro tune Apache, fade it down, open the microphone, '...and so this is Richard saying au revoir for another week...take care and get well soon...'. That's another Smorgasbord Show – looking forward to the next one already.

*Richard Sculpher*

# VILLAGE NEWS

RNLI Wickham  
and  
Curdrige Branch  Lifeboats

## SPRING SUPPER

On Thursday April 26th at 7.00 pm  
in the newly refurbished  
Woodford Suite (upstairs)  
at Wickham Community Centre

*Two-course hot buffet supper  
Followed by a talk by Bill Foulkes on  
his experiences as an ocean-going  
skipper, lifeboat coxswain, and  
running a famous chandlery  
RNLI film, raffle*

**TICKETS £20  
INCLUDING WELCOME DRINKS  
FROM**

Michael Carter 832928 Barrie Marson 832313  
Roy Perkins 832953 Patrick Spence 833023

*In 2006 the RNLI launched 8157 times  
and  
saved 3221 lives*

### THE GOOD NEWS TRAVELLING LIBRARY

The next visit of the GNTL is  
at the Paterson Centre,  
Church Road, Swanmore,  
on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007  
at 10.30 am ~ 12.15 pm  
No visit in May

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.



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## SPRING GIFTS & CRAFTS

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Open: Easter Sat. & Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April  
And Sat. & Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> April  
From 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

CUSHIONS	WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
THROWS	STAINED GLASS
WOVEN RUGS	MOHAIR GARMENTS
CAKES & PRESERVES	JEWELLERY & HANDBAGS
WOVEN HANGINGS	GIFTS & CARDS
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On the road between Titchfield and Wickham  
- not far from the Ostrich Farm -  
look for the signs

## Swanmore Open Gardens in aid of St Barnabas Church



Two dates for your  
diary:

This year there  
will be two "Open  
Gardens" days in  
Swanmore.

Sunday April 22nd  
and  
Sunday July 15th

On each day about  
eight varied gardens will be open - tickets  
(which admit to all the gardens) available on  
the day at the Paterson Centre, next to  
Swanmore church, where there is also a car  
park (and transport to the more distant  
gardens).

Plants and art will be on sale at some houses.

Teas at the Paterson Centre.

*Kit Power*



# WICKHAM

## Community Association

Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Hants. PO17 5AL  
Telephone: 01329 833688 E mail: wickhamcentre@btconnect.com



WCA and Wickham Parish Council are working in partnership to produce a leaflet, of 'Healthy Walks around Wickham'. The project is funded by Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

Future meetings of Club 55 will be held on the First and Third Mondays of the month.

April will be devoted to planning a shrubbery in the ground of the Centre, to form a backdrop for group photographs (weddings etc).



Wickham After Schools Projects (WASP~)

Working with the Methodist Circuit to provide a brighter future for our children.

## Club 55 activities



Holding back the tide at Bosham Harbour. King Canute's daughter is reputed to be buried here and Harold used the port in 1066 and all that.

The Club is held after every school day in the Community Centre for 8 – 15 year olds, giving a safe and caring environment for kids out of school.



Club 55 has two computer courses running and more are planned.

We are planning to rename the old Social Club room as 'The Woodford Suite', to remember Stan Woodford, our photo historian for Wickham. Some of his collection will go on display in the Suite and we think it will be a fitting reminder of Stan and of the living history of Wickham that he captured on film.

Supported by Hampshire County Council



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## WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### Netball Success!!

On Monday, 5th March our two teams travelled to Ridgemedede Junior School to take part in the Swanmore Pyramid Schools' Netball Rally. This is an annual event and the girls were very excited to be taking part.



Six schools, with two teams each, took part in the tournament which consisted of two leagues, the winners of each league playing each other in the Final. Both of our teams played very well on a very cold and windy afternoon. The 'B' team were delighted to reach the Final of their league and even more excited to win. They were presented with medals at the end of the afternoon.

The photographs show our two teams.

*Rosemary O'Leary*

### Read the Book: Meet the Author

Pauline Rowson is a local author who writes thrillers about the Solent area. She is a keen sailor and her husband was a Portsmouth Firefighter. These two interests feature strongly in her novel "**In Cold Daylight**", as does a marine artist.

On 23 April at 7:30pm, Pauline will be in the Church Room at St Nicholas to talk about this book and her writing career.

As James Naughtie, on the Radio 4 "Book Club", says: "Why not read along with us?"

Then come along and make your comments or ask questions.

The book is available from Fareham Library or from local bookshops.

Tickets are £1 and include a glass of wine or soft drink.

**For more information, contact Sue Fitzgerald: 833609 / fitzgted@aol.com**

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## *St Nicholas Church and Wickham Village Fete*

### *SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007*

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A date to remember: **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

Plans for this popular annual event are already well under way. However, we would be delighted to hear from any of you who would be willing to help on the day. Be it on a stall or helping with the setting up in the morning. Many hands make light work, so do please give us a call.

And now is the time to hunt out those items for the bric-a-brac stall, books, tombola, any unwanted ladies or men's toiletries etc., items for the auction, and any donations or items towards the big draw would be most welcome too.

More details will be in our May Parish magazine with contact names and telephone numbers regarding the different stalls.

*Di Hemingway-Rice for the Fete Committee*      01329 835463

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## ***KNOWLE WAR MEMORIAL***

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Some of you, especially members of the Wickham Branch of the Royal British Legion and Wickham Society, have been well aware that we have been looking after the Knowle War Memorial in St. Nicholas' churchyard for many years. By early 2006, with most of the building work completed at Knowle, the residents felt that it would be appropriate for it to be moved back.

Together St. Nicholas' Church and the Residents of Knowle obtained the necessary permissions for this to happen and Berkeley Homes agreed to carry out the removal and reinstatement. We had hoped the move would happen in time for Remembrance Day 2006 but it was not to be. All the arrangements suddenly fell into place late in February this year and the memorial was moved back to Knowle on 7th March. It now sits in the garden next to the Chapel there.



When I took this photograph it was still surrounded by protective fencing but I am sure it will look good once the work is complete.

*Judy Lucas, Churchwarden*

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## ***UPDATE ON KNOWLE CEMETERY***

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When Knowle Cemetery was rededicated and handed over to the Parish Council in 2005, I thought my role was at an end. However, the press coverage and the pages on the Wickham web site generate at least one enquiry each month, usually passed on by the parish clerk. Requests arrive from all over the UK, Canada, Australia and the United States. Relatives plan visits to Britain to include a trip to Knowle.



Bernice McDouall lives in Canada and contacted me about the chapel at Knowle. You will have read her articles in this magazine about growing up at Knowle. I have been able to put her in touch with a lady, now living in California, who also grew up there. There may soon be a "We lived at Knowle" worldwide group.

People researching their family tree are often horrified or saddened to discover that a relative died while a patient at the "Lunatic Asylum". They write asking if bodies were tipped into mass graves, unrecorded. They imagine straight-jackets, locked rooms and brutality. I am able to reply that for many people Knowle Hospital

was a place of refuge, some returned to their families and some spent years in safety there.

The cemetery is not easy to find; we keep the entrance low-key deliberately. So, I often meet families to guide them there. Although I can't always locate the exact burial site, I can always indicate the right area and people go away reassured. Having found the site, relatives often return and on my visits I regularly find fresh flowers by the memorial or on a particular grave.

The recent high winds have brought down a couple of trees, but nothing serious. If you want to visit, you will find the lower area a carpet of primroses in the next few months.

*Sue Fitzgerald*

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# POEMS

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## THE MAJESTIC TREE

There is glory in the majestic tree,  
Whichever season it happens to be,  
Stark, lofty beauty, is there to be found -  
Whilst the winters cold snow, mantles the ground.  
Fingers stretch to the sky, the tree stands bold -  
What an imposing sight to behold?

With coming of spring, there's a change of scene,  
The tree unfurls leaves, the freshest of green.  
Again renewing the promise of old,  
Spring gives new life to all, as was foretold.  
Birds, beetles and grubs survive in the tree,  
Squirrels scamper and play so merrily.

Summer follows Spring - as is nature's plot.  
The homely tree gives shade, when unduly hot.  
For all the creatures and all of mankind  
Enjoying the peace 'neath this haven they find,  
Lovers 'bill and coo' under the strong boughs,  
At other times, children play there for hours.

Then nature decrees, that Autumn must fall,  
And the stately tree be dressed over-all.  
So she is coloured, in russet, gold and red.  
Upon this beauty, all our souls are fed.  
The majestic tree of essential worth,  
To all of mankind, that dwell on the earth.

*Rhoda Cane*

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## SPRING HAS SPRUNG (AND ALL THAT)

Lay down the Great Invent of all mankind,  
Upon a snow-white field and ye shall find,  
A seemly bed on which to lay the dead,  
Each toe to toe, and every head to head.

Next pitch black gold that once an Empire made,  
Surpassing strong in iron, smoke and trade.  
Take stinking sulphur from Volcano's maw,  
'Cross shoreline sands most firmly make it draw.

When Loki's child upon your hand has grown,  
Set he to paper, wood and shining stone.  
Observe the blossoming of nature's flower,  
The very source of life and wealth and power.

Now that is how a fire is made, my dear.  
Thank Goodness it's the last one for this year!  
No more must I be slave to ash and grate,  
Condemned to push a lawn-mower is my fate!

*Mike Hollis*

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## TWO TENORS MY FATHER & HIS CHUM USELESS

*Wickham Church Choir Easter Sunday circa 1930*

Starched surplices sizzle, crisp and white,  
Blue gowns sway, the choir snakes into the chancel.  
Mischievous boys, hands pious, eyes cast down in fake  
solemnity  
Slide sedately into the stalls.

Hymn 134, 'Jesus Christ is risen today.'  
My father, gazes at the stained glass,  
His vibrant tenor challenges the bells still rocking in the  
steeple.  
'Our triumphant holy day,'  
'Alleluia!'

Red and purple, gold and amethyst fleck the wall.  
But Useless isn't pulling his weight.  
'Hymns of praise then let us sing,'  
'Alleluia!'

His head was low in supplication, voice muffled in  
Frills and ruffles, now fades and falters.  
'Suffer to redeem our loss.'  
'Alleluia!'

A well polished shoe emerges underneath the robe,  
The scraping heel attempts to dislodge an object.  
My father's curious, smothers a laugh.  
'Hymns of praise then let us sing,'  
'Alleluia!'

Back and forth, heel and toe, Useless is oblivious.  
Every contortion renders my father helpless.  
'Unto Christ our Heavenly King,'  
'Alleluia!'

Useless sinks down, hand outstretched. My father  
implodes,  
Shoulders heaving, face contorted. Angelic boys turn and  
stare.  
Half the choir has lost its voice.  
'Sinners to redeem and save,'  
'Alleluia!'

The organist frowns, pulls out all the stops, adds a sparkle  
of fortissimo  
The bemused choir opposite hobnob with bobbing heads.  
Even the congregation has woken up.  
'Our salvation have procured!'  
'Alleluia.'

Useless desires the wondrous curiosity laid at his feet,  
'Now above the sky he's King' spirals the music  
But my father has sat down, his head in his hands,  
Suffocating mirth. The choir is in silent disarray.  
'Where the angels ever sing'  
'Alleluia.'

Useless reappears, thirty pairs of eyes focus on him  
While the golden sunbeam that he coveted  
Remains firmly stuck to the floor. Amen.

*Blanche Hunt*

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## APRIL 2007 DIARY

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### APRIL

Sun	1	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philipp.2:5-11 Luke 19: 28-40
		08:00 Holy Communion	
		09:45 Family Service	
		18:00 <b>United Deanery Service at Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham to celebrate the culmination of Lent Group Meetings</b>	
Mon	2	11:00 Spinners/Weavers, Church Room	
		19:00 Short Service of Music, Prayer and Meditation for Holy Week, Lady Chapel	
Tue	3	09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room	
		<b>10:00 Holy Communion, Normandy Court</b>	
		12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room	
		16:45 Brownies, Church Room	
		19:30 Wickham History Society, Church Room	
		19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre	
Wed	4	12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room	
Thurs	5	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	
		09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room	
		<b>19:00 Choral Eucharist of the Last Supper</b>	
Fri	6	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
		10:30 Service of the Cross, The Square	
		11:00 Walk of Witness from the Square to St John's Shedfield for Lunch (Please bring a packed lunch) followed by -	
		14:00 Good Friday Vigil at St John's	
		19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre	
Sun	8	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	Isaiah 65: 17-25 Acts 10: 34-43 John 20: 1-18
		08:00 Holy Communion	
		09:45 Parish Communion	
Mon	9	11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room	
Tues	10	09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room	
		<b>10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel</b>	
		12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room	
		16:45 Brownies, Church Room	
		14:15 Mothers' Union, Meeting at 3, Tanfield Park	
		19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre	
Wed	11	12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room	
		19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room	
Thur	12	09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room	
Fri	13	09:30 Music Group, Church Room	
		19:30 Fuchsia Association, Church Room	
		19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre	
Sun	15	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	Acts 5: 27-32 Rev1:4-8 John 20: 19-31
		08:00 Holy Communion	
		09:45 Parish Communion	
		18:00 Choral Evensong	
Mon	16	11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room	
Tue	17	09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room	
		<b>10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel</b>	
		12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room	
		16:45 Brownies, Church Room	
		19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre	
Wed	18	12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room	
		19:30 Model Engineers, Church Room	
Thur	19	09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room	

- Fri 20 09:30 Music Group, Church Room  
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Sat 21 10:00 **COME AND MAKE MUSIC FOR CHILDREN**  
 to 13:00  
 19:00 **COME AND SING RUTTER, St Nicholas Church**  
**LAST DAY FOR COPY FOR MAY 2007 MAGAZINE**

Sun 22	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	Acts 9: 1-6
	08:00 Holy Communion	Rev 5: 11-14
	09:45 Parish Communion	John 21: 1-19

- Mon 23 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
- Tue 24 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room  
**10:00 Holy Communion, Lady Chapel**  
 12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room  
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room  
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 25 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
- Thur 26 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room  
**19:00 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, CHURCH ROOM**
- Fri 27 09:30 Music Group, Church Room

Sun 29	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	Acts 9: 36-43
	08:00 Holy Communion	Rev: 7: 9-17
	09:45 Choral Matins	John 10: 22-30

- Mon 30 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room

#### **MAY**

- Tues 1 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room  
**10:00 Holy Communion, Normandy Court**  
 12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room  
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room  
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 2 12:30 Lunch Club, Church Room
- Fri 4 09:30 Music Group, Church Room

***LAST DAY FOR COPY MAY MAGAZINE***  
***SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL***

*From the registers*

*Holy Baptism*

Sarah York	04/03/2007
John Landaw	04/03/2007

*Holy Matrimony*

Rebecca Emerson/Roger Carpenter	16/03/2007
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*Rest in Peace*

Ella Faith Turner	87 years	20/03/2007
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## ***CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF KNOWLE HOSPITAL ESTATE - 2***

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Like all families ours had its good times, bad times and very sad times, so too did our extended family of staff and patients, but through it all we maintained our sense of humour, and the ability not only to laugh at ourselves but at each other with no offence taken.

I was definitely not the best behaved child on the estate, and I am sure I gave my parents a few headaches. I was very fond of visiting the Reeves family that lived just up the road, fondly known as Auntie Gerty and Uncle Jim. Uncle Jim was my godfather, perhaps that is why he always forgave me when I did something wrong. I remember one time that Uncle Jim had cycled to Warwicks in Wickham to get some paraffin for his stove, the houses were so cold in winter. I saw that he put the can in the outside toilet, so of course I had to investigate and open the can. I thought I would see what would happen if I tipped the paraffin down the toilet. When I realized what I had done I made a hasty retreat home. My mother took one look at my face, and asked what mischief I had been up to this time, of course Mum found out. I had to apologize to Uncle Jim who had to make another trip to Wickham for more paraffin. However it seemed that I could never learn. On visiting the Reeves family another time I decided that I would pick some of his prize daffodils to put in a vase, unfortunately I picked them right at the tip of the flower. This time however I was caught red handed, back home I flew and yet another apology. The Reeves emigrated to Australia in the 50's, what a sad day that was, but I communicated with them until their deaths, and to this day I write to their eldest daughter Gill on a regular basis. I remember Gill telling me that just before she died Auntie Gerty said that she could hear the fog horns in the Solent.



There was a 10 year age difference between my oldest and youngest sister, and often Mum would ask us to take Hilary out for a walk. On one such walk we went down to the farm and past the coal shed, where the trains would stop to drop off coal for the hospital furnace. There was a slight incline and we decided that rather than push the pram we would drag it behind us. Unfortunately the handle came off, and the pram rolled all down the slope ending up in the coal shed. Needless to say Hilary was covered in dust! We got her home and cleaned up, but it was hard to explain why the handle had fallen off!!!! On another walk we decided that we would go down to the dell. There was a spot where the river narrowed, so we carried the pram over the water first, and then proceeded to hand Hilary over. Unfortunately we dropped her into the river, she was pretty wet so again we had to rush her home and dry her out. We still chuckle about it today, and jokingly say it is a wonder that Hilary survived her childhood. She did however, and now works for a Community Mental Health Team in Hampshire. As our parents took care of the patients at Knowle, now my sister does it in the community, they would have been proud of that.

I had a chance to visit Mr Grant in 2004. He was our neighbour for many years, and he told me the amusing story of one patient who had been an electrician before becoming a patient at Knowle. Well this dear gentleman knew that the main power switch for the hospital was in the basement, so occasionally he would go down there and “flick the switch” plunging the hospital into total darkness. Did anyone get angry, of course not, they just chuckled.

We never locked our doors at Knowle, there was never the need, and it seemed that each home had an ever open door. On one particular day my Mum, who worked as a night sister, got up from her daytime sleep, and on going into the living room, she found a lady patient sitting there doing her knitting, a few stitches had been dropped. Did Mum care, of course not, again a chuckle, and the patient was treated to a nice cup of tea. On another occasion, the painter had come to our house to decorate the living room. He duly arrived on his bicycle carrying his ladder and cans of paint, and spent a happy day doing what he loved. When it was time to leave for the day, he discovered that his bicycle was missing, and we all started to laugh. We guessed that a patient had gone for a nice bike ride, and of course we were right. Both the patient and bicycle were found safe and sound, and the painter's bike had made someone else happy as well.

It would be so nice if there was more laughter in our lives today, laughter is so infectious, and it certainly brightens up a person's day.

*Bernice McDouall (nee Cunliffe)*

# *CROSSWORD, ETC*

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# *WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS*

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## *WICKHAM WIVES*

### **February Meeting**

For our February meeting, we welcomed Jenny Mallett to tell us about British Butterflies and moths. Illustrated with some beautiful slides, we could not have wished for a more informative evening. Thankfully, gone are the days of catching butterflies in nets, pinning them to a board to be displayed behind glass in a picture frame!

Some 15 years ago, Jenny, of good farming stock, became very concerned at the ripping out of hedges and intensive spraying (for both bugs and weeds) of farmland in accordance with government policy of many years, to increase good production. Jenny attended a meeting at Southampton University on 'Monitoring the environment' at which Dr Andy Barker gave a talk on butterflies. She went home and decided to walk around her farm fields, only to discover about 20 species of butterflies she had no idea were there. Her interest and enthusiasm was fired and she rapidly realised how much there was to learn about these delicate creatures.

We enjoyed many slides of the butterflies and moths from egg to caterpillar to pupae and finally developing into the beautiful creatures we love to see on our buddlias. She emphasised that not only was it important we grow wild areas of weeds especially nettles for their reproduction. The peacock, tortoiseshell and comma butterflies are among species that require nettles on which to lay their eggs and for the caterpillars to feed on.

Some species need trees, the brimstone yellow relies on the Buckthorn and the purple emperor enjoys a secluded habitat at the top of oak trees, whilst the holly blue needs the flower buds of holly and ivy on which to lay their eggs. The downland species such as the chalkhill blue need grasses and vetch. These are just a few of the 68 varieties of British butterflies. Moths have a similar life cycle but there are over 2,000 species.

A few butterflies immigrate from Southern Europe, of which the red admiral and painted lady are two, and the hummingbird moth likewise.

Jenny's talk was fascinating and I am sure very few of us realised just how selective these species are for their habitat, food and reproduction. How sad it would be if these delightful creatures disappeared from our gardens and countryside.

The Charity "Butterfly Conservation" is well supported in Hampshire with 3 reserves for monitoring the species -

1. Magdaleine Hill Down - a 100 acre site east of Winchester
2. Yew Hill, Oliver's Battery site at Winchester
3. Bentley Station Meadow - North east beyond Alton.

Free access and regular walks are organised and Jenny will publish the dates and times of some of these walks in future issues of the magazine.

### **March Meeting**

We met at the home of Pat Matthews for our March meeting to share with Pat and fellow member Sylvia Wells a holiday they had travelling by inland waterways from St. Petersburg to Moscow.

St. Petersburg, the former capital of Russia was founded by Peter the Great in 1703. After World War 1 (in 1924) it was named Leningrad until 1990, when it reverted to the previous name St. Petersburg. Known as 'The Venice of the North', St. Petersburg is a thriving city, renowned for its architecture and art and the founding of the Russian Navy.

One could not help being amazed at the vastness of the waterways and countryside. Dammed rivers created vast lakes like inland seas, so much so that their first night on board was so rough they really thought they were at sea!

The rivers and canals took them to Kizhi Island where the whole architecture was constructed in wood, even the Cathedral. The Transfiguration Church built in 1714 has no nails, just the skill of the carpenters using axes and chels. There being virtually no pollution here has enabled the original structures to be so well preserved. In Mandrogi village the traditional carpentry and carving trades provide souvenirs for tourists. Pottery and painting on local claypots and wood, with particular attention to children, to enable them to continue the tradition, along with other crafts like weaving mats in cotton and flax and 'vodka tasting'!

A visit to an elk nursery was interesting and they were amazed at how trusting and peaceful these animals are.

The ship travelled through many locks, often constructed with forced labour by prisoners from the Gulag prison, and many lives were lost through appalling conditions.

Approaching Moscow they travelled along waterways diverted from the Volga river into the Moscow canals. Where to go and what to see was quite a task, for Moscow has hundreds of Churches (St. Basil's included), museums and theatres. A tour of 'Moscow by Night' was beautiful and a visit to the Moscow Metro was amazing; the cleanliness immediately caught their attention; the walls were decorated with colourful mosaics and illuminated stained glass, and chandeliers hung from the ceilings. A truly memorable holiday. Thank you Pat and Sylvia for a most interesting evening.

**Our meeting on April 11th will be in the Church room at 7.30pm for 7.45pm when we will welcome Revd. Shirley Henderson, our Rector, to speak to us.**

Finally my apologies to the founder leaders of the "Young Wives". I mistakenly thought Nicola Hulbert was the founder leader, but the group was already established when Nicola and Anthony arrived in Wickham. Nevertheless, it was lovely that Nicola travelled so far from near Liphook to join us.

After all, our December party/reunion was just the "dress rehearsal" for our 40 years celebration in December 2007!

*Margaret Gwynn*

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## **NSPCC**



QUIZ NIGHT - at Greens in the Square and what a really lovely evening we had. A BIG THANK YOU to Carol and Frank Duckworth for making the evening so special. I have to admit I felt very nervous as numbers kept going up then down, but I needn't have worried as Carol took control of me with a glass of wine, then took control of the evening in her true professional way.

Where did Frank get those questions from? My team had no idea the name of the housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes; we came last of course so really need to do a lot more revision for next year.

I would also like to thank the Chef for a superb meal and the waitresses, whose smiles and nothing is too much trouble attitude was so refreshing. To my FAB Committee without their help the evening would not have happened.

And last but by no means forgotten all those who supported us.

You will be as delighted as we are to know you helped raise £500

**THANK YOU ALL**

*Lesley Dyer*



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## ***WOMEN'S INSTITUTE***

Here we are arriving at our 87th Year; quite an achievement. I thought I would try and find something about those very early years and found a poem by Mrs Dagmar Pulleen (nee Watson) chronicling the first two years of the WI and events. Mrs Pullen was a founder member. A garden meeting held at Park Place in 1921, interestingly with a baby carriage the occupant of which was Mrs Evelyn Maulden, who of course became a stalwart of WI. A letter to Mrs Arnold from Mrs Kinnear jnr booking the small room for meetings in Jubilee Hall and the larger room for the AGM. Mrs Kinnear was President at that time. Miss Evelyn Carpenter Garnier was mentioned opening a room in the aforementioned Jubilee Hall. Much later on Lady Mary Donaldson (nee Mary Warwick) came to talk at a meeting about her time as the first Lady Mayoress of London; **Mrs Evelyn Maulden** gave the vote of thanks, **Mrs Gale** presented the bouquet and **Mrs Dunn** thanked **Mr Tull snr** for showing the film. All names to bring back memories. I think it would be appropriate at this time to thank all Presidents past and present for keeping faith and the time they have given to the WI to bring us to our 87th Birthday. Mrs Kinnear, Glynnis Nokes, Jenny Cherry, Ann Sharp, Joan Smith and all those I have missed out.



And so we proceed to the meeting itself with guests from other members of our WI group who helped us celebrate. The singing of Jerusalem was very lusty, the business very short.

The talk saw the welcome return of Lt. Cdr. Hill who spoke to us about Life Below Decks on the Royal Yacht, and quite a fascinating insight of Life on the Upper Decks. The Royal Yacht was first suggested by Edward VII as a replacement for the failing Victoria and Albert, but circumstances alter cases, so George VI inherited the problem. Once again circumstances in the form of Adolph Hitler stopped the replacement. It was finally approved on 5th February and we all remember that King George VI died the next day. The requirement for the new ship was needed as a floating palace, really for State occasions and basically showing the flag. The one important condition in the construction was that it could be turned into a Hospital Ship if and when required. The ship's company was hand picked and lived under a very strict routine. Gym shoes were worn at all times for silence, bell bottoms had a black silk bow at the back. This was an item of their uniform and was so until the ship was decommissioned. The mess decks were very small (as indeed they are on all ships) an area where they ate, slept and relaxed. They also slept in hammocks (which I am reliably informed are very comfortable). The pay in the days of Cdr. Hill was £1.96 a week but he earned an extra 3 shillings by washing up after state banquets. No butter fingers with all that priceless china!!!

All this was followed by a good WI tea. We hope our guests went away having enjoyed both talk and tea.

The next meeting is on 11th April at the Community Centre. The talk is by Mrs Gray on **Recycling Materials into Baskets**. All very welcome.

*GFW*

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## ***THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – WICKHAM BRANCH***

The Quiz Evening was held on the 3rd March 2007 in the Church Room. It proved to be quite challenging and amusing, as well as educational. The questions were organised by our Chairman, Eric Bright.



22 members and friends were present. After the quiz a draw and light refreshments were enjoyed. The evening returned an modest income of £41.79 to the branch funds.

Annual Dinner: -  
Plant Sale: -

21st April 2007. Shedfield Reading Room.  
5th May 2007. Wickham Square.

*Mick Kerley*

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## **WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY**

At our meeting on March 6th, Richard Frankland, a Maritime Historian, gave us a talk on "Early Cowes", or as it was subtitled "Yachting in the Solent".

The latter, described as the Sport of Kings, originated during the reign of Charles II. However, the 18th century wars brought yachting to a standstill except on the Thames. But it was George IV, before he became king, who developed a particular interest in sailing of which Cowes was the centre. The yacht club was founded and this was later known as The Royal Yacht Club and then The Royal Yacht Squadron.

We were shown various slides of yachts in action; we then heard how regattas became popular and yacht racing a particular sport. The Americas Cup is a prized International trophy and sailing clubs have increasingly become favourites among the seafarers of our society.

Mr Frankland's talk was of great interest to the sailors in our group whilst at the same time it provided to those less knowledgeable a fascinating introduction to an activity that has proliferated around our shores and continues to be a source of interest in international competitions.

Our next meeting on April 3rd will consist of a talk on Whitchurch Silk Mill by Geoff Hide, an agricultural scientist.

Meetings begin at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

*Doreen Barrett*

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## **WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

You are such a hospitable community! We now have sixteen hosts and only five to find for the visit of families from Villers in May. We are hoping that two of those five may be families with children at Wickham or Shedfield Primary Schools, so the French children have a friend of their own age. It's a wonderful response and thank you. If you would like to join in and have not contacted us, please do.

Caroline on 01329 832346 or Ann on 01329 833400

Alan Betts talked about Cycling in Cambodia on 20th March at the AGM. I'll tell you about it next time.

*Ann Johnson*

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## **ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION**



The Spring Supper will be held on Thursday April 26th at 7.00 pm in the newly refurbished Woodford Suite (upstairs) in the Wickham Community Centre. *(Previously advertised as on May 1st.)*

There will be a two-course hot buffet followed by a talk by Bill Foulkes on his experiences as an ocean-going skipper, lifeboat coxswain, and running a famous chandlery.

Tickets £20 including welcome drinks from, Michael Carter - 832928  
Barrie Marson - 832313; Roy Perkins - 832953; Patrick Spence - 833023

*Barrie Marson*

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## ***WICKHAM CRICKET CLUB***

The programme of fixtures for this season is well underway. As always, we have to hope for some dry weather in the weeks leading up to the start of the season so that the pitch can be suitably prepared. Hampshire League matches start on 5 May when we play away to Farehaven. There are a couple of April friendlies to get us started:

- Sun 22 April      Chawton (away)
- Sun 29 April      Park Sports (home)

At the time of writing we are still awaiting details of the league and competition fixtures for the Winchester & District Evening League. League matches will probably be played on Wednesday evenings. Members will be informed as soon as we know.



The Fareham Indoor Cricket League is now over – here is a report on our overall performance during our first venture into this league, where we finished in a reasonable 8<sup>th</sup> position.

‘Wickham indoor cricket team managed to finish their season as they began - with a loss. However, they will return, more experienced, more gifted and led by their dynamic captain, Robert Higgins, who finished the season with 240 runs in nine games. Other notable performances include Brian Kirby's and Steve Judge's bowling, Sam Ryan's administrative skills, Mark Raven and Martin Reed's wicket-keeping abilities and John Gwynn's all-round contribution. See you next season.’

Many thanks are due to Robert for arranging participation in this league and co-ordinating the teams.

Weekly indoor net practice sessions continue every Tuesday until 17th April at the Rose Bowl, Hedge End, from 9.00pm – 10.00pm. If you are not a member at the moment but are interested in attending these net sessions with a view to joining the club, please give Malc Burt a call on 01329 834398.

*Lesley Wilde*

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## ***WICKHAM AND DISTRICT SMALLBORE RIFLE CLUB***

### **AIR GUN SECTION**

The air gun section has seen a dramatic rise in numbers of people shooting each Saturday. To allow all these people to have a reasonable amount of shooting time we have acquired more equipment and have started opening the range an hour earlier. We will now be shooting from 9am till 12 noon each Saturday.



The club is open to all ages over 10 years, why not come and have a go? Do you have an air gun in the attic that you never use? Bring it along; the age of the gun is no problem. The oldest we use so far was made in 1935. Do you have an older one?

We have qualified instructors and a dedicated range, guns, pellets and targets and a Saturday morning's shooting will only cost you £3.00.

Contact Norman Beckett on 01329 833601 or email at [norman.services-in@virgin.net](mailto:norman.services-in@virgin.net)

*Norman Beckett*

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## **1<sup>ST</sup> WICKHAM SCOUT GROUP**



Good news!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The land owners of the recreation ground have given us permission to rebuild.

Now we have to have plans drawn, and then go through planning permission. With luck this will go through and we can start to look forward to a new building..... This is when we come down to earth and realise we will need to do a lot of fund raising to make our dream come true. If anyone would like to raise funds for us we would be very grateful.

Please remember our St. George's Day Parade on the 21st April (details were printed in last month's Parish magazine). Anyone involved in Scouting over the past 100 years are more than welcome to join us with the parade or at the service in the recreation ground. Come and meet friends old and new over a cup of tea!!!!!!!!!!

If you have a child who would like to come and join our happy family of Scouting please contact us on 01329 832739 for details.

Have a Happy Easter.

*Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader*

### ***New Forest Drift at The New Forest Museum***

**1st April - 30th June 2007**

The New Forest Museum in Lyndhurst is the new venue for New Forest Drift.

Sally Fear's exhibition of large colour photographs shows the importance of commoning to the New Forest. At the same time Lyndsey Stride, the Museum's Education Development Officer, is extending their very popular education programme to outreach activity and involvement of local schools.

For further information contact Trish Dorricott at the New Forest Museum on 023 8028 3444 or email [office@newforestmuseum.org.uk](mailto:office@newforestmuseum.org.uk)

### ***New Forest & Hampshire County Show***

**24th to 26th July at New Park, Brockenhurst**

This amazing County Show is not to be missed, so put a note in your diaries. There is definitely something for everyone. You will enjoy an exciting packed programme of events, with country pursuits, woodland activities, livestock competitions and equestrian displays. Highlights include the return of the King's Troop of the Royal Horse Artillery Four Gun Musical Drive, Showjumping classes for potential Olympic riders, a Four Wheel Drive course and some of the best selection of craftsmen in the UK.

Over 800 stands will provide the opportunity to browse or buy many items that you will never see in the shops and there will be all day entertainment for children. If you or your colleagues wish to have a stand, book corporate hospitality or take part in any type of sponsorship however large or small, contact the show office on 01590 622400 now.

Whatever your interests, you are guaranteed to have a great time, so don't miss it. Discounted tickets will be available from June 1st, for more information go on line at [www.newforestshow.co.uk](http://www.newforestshow.co.uk)

*Jackie Neylon*

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## OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

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### MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER – MEMORY MATTERS

#### Recent Meetings

“.....The craze for tea dances continued into the 1920s, but for the fashionable young set, cocktails and the Charleston were the next trend and took over from refined tango teas. The Waldorf continued its tea dances until 1939 when a German bomb caused the glass roof of the Palm Court to shatter and frivolities such as tea dances were cancelled. “ ... well it wasn't quite so eventful at the recent MVCT Tea Dance at the Paterson Centre, however the dance floor was full to bursting at times! In addition, the lucky participants received pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday... can't be bad!

#### Coming soon.....

We always list events that will be taking place over the following 6 weeks or so, however there are a couple of interesting dates in May to note: On the 8th May, we are going to visit the Manor House Garden in Exton and enjoy a cream tea. We do usually have spaces on the mini bus if anyone would like to come along.

Also at our group meeting at the Paterson centre on the 22nd May, Rosemary Sterens will be hosting a Reminiscence session. Rosemary has a large collection of memorabilia from several eras, which she uses to invoke memories and encourages those with dementia to talk about anything they may associate with these objects. She works with many nursing and residential homes and has had great success with many patients.

#### “Carerlink”

The new drop-in service is located in an office to the rear of the Paterson Centre. Sylvia Hutchins is our contact for anyone who needs signposting towards help with caring for another adult, whether young or elderly. Sylvia will be at the drop-in between 11am-1pm on Wednesday 11th and Tuesday 24th April. The contact number is: **01489 895444 please initially check this number before visiting.**

#### Beware false identity...

Hampshire constabulary have drawn our attention to 5 reported incidents since August 2006 where unannounced callers to private addresses are falsely purporting to be representing Social Services. Please note it is very rare for an official visitor to turn up unannounced and it very important to always check a visitor's ID badge.

#### Forthcoming Meetings

**Tues 10 April** Lunch at the The Forge, Shedfield 12 noon

**Tues 24 April** Movement to Music, Music Therapy with Andrew Knights, plus a talk by the Commission for Social Care 2pm Paterson Centre, Swanmore.

**Tues 8 May** Outing to Manor House Garden, Exton with cream tea. *Meet 2pm Paterson Centre.*

**Tues 22 May** Movement to Music and “Reminiscing with Rosemary”. Talk by the Southampton Centre for Independent Living. *2pm Paterson Centre*

#### 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](mailto:billdrake@onetel.net) or Janet Chierchia on 01489 893381- email [janet@clickers.org.uk](mailto:janet@clickers.org.uk) MVCT Carerlink Centre 01489 895444

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## MEON VALLEY U3A

*Programme 2006/2007 Theme: “Travellers’ Tales”*

2007

Apr 3 2pm “Tony’s Travels” presentation by Tony Clark  
Wickham Community Centre Guests Welcome

17 2pm “Softly Flows the Meon” illustrated talk by Brian Barrett and A.G.M  
Wickham Community Centre Guests welcome

24 2pm READING GROUP: ring (01329) 833384 for title & venue

May 8 2pm Social event to end the session

*Edna Housecroft*



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## MEON VALLEY LIONS



### Lions respond to local charities

Following hot on the heels of a successful Christmas collection, which raised over £4,000 for local charities, Meon Valley Lions have started 2007 with a busy programme of social and fund raising activities.

On Boxing Day, a barbeque at the Hampshire Bowman secured £250 thanks to the support of a large number of locals who were making the most of the fare on offer, before embarking on a New Year's resolution diet. In January, a full complement of Lions braved the icy on-shore wind at Weston shore to assist with the Annual fishing competition. This event has been supported by the Lions for over thirty years and channels proceeds to the Naomi House project near Winchester. Despite poor conditions and the fact that some regulars had instead attended an international fishing tournament in Ireland, we managed to raise £1800 – adding to the cumulative total of some £23,000 we have raised for Naomi House over the years.

Meon Valley Lions ensure that all the money they raise goes to the intended charities, with no administration costs diluting the amount of money donated. Our policy is to direct approximately 80% of the cash raised to local needs within the Meon Valley area, with the rest going to international and national causes.

One of the most deserving of local organisations that we have chosen to support this year is the Bishops Waltham Community Responders (formerly First Responders). Every day, this incredible group of over 40 volunteers provides a 24-hour, rapid medical response to local victims of heart attacks, strokes and other potentially life-threatening situations. Covering Swanmore, Bishops Waltham and Waltham Chase, the Community Responders aim to reach victims within 5 minutes of the emergency 999 call – providing rapid and vital live-saving support in the critical early stages of the medical emergency in the minutes before the ambulance crew can arrive from one of the regional ambulance stations. Their actions literally make the difference between life and death.



Bishops Waltham Community Responders are fully trained by the Hampshire Division of the Central-Southern Ambulance Service and comprehensively equipped with specialist resuscitation equipment and heart defibrillator. They give their time for free but everything else has to be paid for by fund raising and donations. Since forming in 2001, they have attended almost 2,000 incidents and amongst the many grateful people who owe their lives to their dedicated work is Lion member Peter Loy of Waltham Chase, who suffered a sudden heart attack in January 2005. Peter is convinced that he is only here today because of the prompt action of two CR volunteers and, having drawn our attention to their selfless work, convinced us to financially support their activity. We didn't take much persuading!

It was therefore with great pleasure that Peter was able to show his gratitude to the Community Responders at a recent presentation ceremony at the Community Responders HQ. Together with Lions President John Campbell, Peter handed over two dedicated mobile phones plus 40 "Bluetooth" hands-free ear-pieces (one for each team member) to Community Responders team-leader David Williamson. Good communication is essential between the Ambulance Operations Centre and the team attending the emergency so the new equipment will allow the volunteers to safely and legally receive instructions and directions whilst travelling to the scene. "When it comes to saving lives, speed is of the essence." said Team-Leader David Williamson, "Thanks to the new phone equipment provided by the Meon Valley Lions, our people have the freedom to communicate safely and concentrate on meeting our five minute commitment."

There are now some 50 Community Responder groups in Hampshire alone, providing their valuable local service to village communities. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Bishops Waltham group, please contact their Team Leader David Williamson 01489 893787, or via e-mail on: [dwilliamson@integrity-h-s.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:dwilliamson@integrity-h-s.freeserve.co.uk)

Looking forward, the Lions are already well advanced with plans for the annual Swanmore carnival and fete scheduled for Saturday July 14th 2007 and we're looking for support from local people who can contribute to the fun and variety of the day. If you are a magician, juggler, musical one-man-band or a dab-hand face painter, please let us know if you can help by phoning Ian Adams on 01489 894932.

*Ian Adams*

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## ***MEON VALLEY CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU***

**Q. I paid a deposit when I moved into my rented house. I have now moved out but the landlord will not return the deposit. This happened to me before and I lost all the money. I've heard there's a new law and things are changing. What should I do?**

**A.** Yes you are right, a new law is coming into force in April, which should put an end to this problem. Thousands of people like you lose hundreds of pounds every year from landlords and agents who refuse to pay back rent deposits when tenants move out. At the moment, all the tenant can do is try to negotiate with the landlord and if that doesn't work, try taking the landlord to court. However, this can take months, and even if you win, there is no guarantee that you will get your money back, because county court judgements are hard to enforce.

The new law won't help you this time, but from 6 April the vast majority of deposits paid out will be protected by the tenancy deposit protection legislation.

From this date, anyone signing a tenancy agreement should ask their landlord or agent how their deposit will be protected. The tenant will still pay the deposit to the landlord or agent but they will have to protect the money through a Government approved tenancy deposit protection scheme. The landlord will have 14 days to give the tenant details of the scheme so that the tenant can check that their money is protected. At the end of the tenancy, if the landlord and tenant agree about the repayment, the deposit should be repaid within 10 days. If there is a dispute, both parties can agree to the scheme's Alternative Dispute resolution (ADR) which will be free to landlords and tenants.

You can get more detailed information on tenancy issues 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. We also run an advice surgery at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham on Thursdays from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., If this is not convenient, please note our **Thursday evening appointments only** session (from 4 to 7 p.m.) at the Bishop's Waltham Bureau. You can also go to our local website [www.bishopswalthamcab.org.uk](http://www.bishopswalthamcab.org.uk) or you can go to the national Citizens Advice website [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

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## ***HOME-START MEON VALLEY***

The Meon Valley is a beautiful area of the country, and the majority of us enjoy living in the small towns and villages. However, for some families who do not have the resources to cope, the rural nature of the area can mean isolation, loneliness, a feeling of helplessness and depression. Sometimes the problem can be a disabled child or parent, several young children and minimal family support, single parenthood, or being new to the area with a new baby or difficult toddler. Living with small children when you have no transport, no close family support, or other difficulties, can be a nightmare. It is all too easy for such families to sink further and further into a downward spiral that threatens family break-up.



It is families such as these that Home-Start Meon Valley aims to help. Home-Start is a voluntary organisation which offers regular support, friendship and practical help to young families under stress, helping to prevent family crisis and breakdown. Home-Start is available to any family with at least one child under 5 years, living in the southern parishes of Winchester.

Trained parent volunteers are matched with families referred for help, visiting them in their own home once or twice a week for a couple of hours each time. Through their weekly visits they offer friendship, practical help and support. This can be to help with the weekly family shopping, taking parents or children for medical appointments, or taking the children out whilst Mum has a break. Through providing a listening ear, setting an example and encouragement, families can be helped cope in a more constructive way with their difficulties.

To complement the home-visiting service a Family Drop In Group has been set up for families to meet together for mutual support and friendship and a break from the home. There is a programme of activities for children and often for parents as well. Topics such as “fun-food” for children, advocacy and fitness and health have been covered. Sometimes the courses are for parents alone, sometimes for parents and children to do together to develop better family relationships. Confidence building courses and the support of a volunteer has led to several parents going on to further education and training, unthinkable to many of them before Home-Start became involved. There is also a Toy Library, so that parents can borrow toys to take

home to enjoy for a couple of weeks. Underpinning all our work is the nurture and protection of children, who become more vulnerable when stressed parents are not able to access the support they need.

Home-Start Meon Valley is a voluntary organisation and is the local arm of a national network. Like all voluntary organisations however, we rely on the generosity and commitment of the local community to support us in our work. We are always looking for new volunteers to visit families, so if you can remember how hard it was at times to cope with a young family, have a couple of hours a week to spare and would like to help a family in need, you could be just the sort of person we are looking for. We also urgently need Trustees to help us manage and develop the service. So if you are interested and feel you would like to be part of Home-Start in either capacity, please ring 01329 835155, or email [organiser@homestart-meonvalley.org.uk](mailto:organiser@homestart-meonvalley.org.uk)

*Jane Dawson, Chairman*

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## **WATERLOOVILLE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

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There is to be another Waterlooville Music Festival this year following on the success of last year. It is running from Saturday June 9th to the 16th.

We plan to start with a flower workshop for children.

We have a good wide variety of music already booked. There will be a scratch performance of **Faures Requiem** on the first Saturday evening, singers please book the date. Last year they could hear the Messiah in Asda so we have a reputation to keep up!

We have various choirs joining us, some bands, an organ recital, a couple of schools, a rock band, a steel band and the whole week wrapping up with a Last Night of the Proms type evening after the Fete on the 16th. Do book the dates in your diary and buy a passport ticket so that you can attend all the concerts at a reduced price. Enquiries to Jane on 02392 263576.

*Jane Rice-Oxley*

### ***Wickham Parish Council Citizen of the Year Award 2007***

Awards to be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly Wednesday 25th April, nominations need not be for volunteers but should be for people working or volunteering in the Wickham community, which of course, includes Knowle.

Categories:

- **Citizen of the Year**
- **Young Citizen of the Year**
- **Customer service community award**
- **Lifetime achievement award for service to the community for a local business making a significant contribution to the community**

Offers of sponsorship from local businesses would be welcome.

Nominations for the awards to be made to the Parish Council  
by Wednesday 11th April 2007

Groups and individuals making nominations are invited to make a short presentation at the Annual Parish Assembly. If you would like to make a video documentary or a photographic presentation, the Parish Council may be able to help with funding for equipment.

Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman and Chairman of the General Purposes Committee will judge awards.

Names will be recorded on a role of honour that will be on permanent display.

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# Whitchurch Silk Mill - Events

## Activities for children

None of these activities need to be pre- booked. They are available from 11.30am-3.30pm each day. Prices for the activities are between £3.50 and £5.50. The normal admission applies.

3 April Silk Painting	10 April Silk painting	29 May Silk Painting
4 April Hat Trimming	11 April Hat Trimming	30 May Felting
5 April Weaving	12 April Weaving	31 May Weaving

Activities will be available each week over the summer holidays

## Exhibitions

**'Corseted Elegance'** 1 April - 30 June

Corsets made by the 100 year old company Vollers of Portsmouth

The exhibition includes antique corsets and basques with original patterns plus a modern day collection

**'Colour and Scale at Whitchurch Silk Mill'** 2 July to 2 September

An exhibition of modern art and contemporary fabric

**'Fan Fair'** 3 September to 4 November

The origins and use of the fan

**'Glazed Silk'** 5 November to 7 January

A modern approach to silk in glass, a unique combination of silk fibres, gold metal and glass by Dawn Correia



## Talks and workshops

**'The Caged Lady'** 19 May 7.00pm

A talk about how a lady acquired her shape in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The talk will be illustrated with examples of undergarments. Lee Ault is Curator of Dickens House Museum. Ticket price to be decided

*Stephen Bryer*

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# BUTTERFLIES

In recent months I have talked to three different groups in Wickham about Butterflies, and the charity Butterfly Conservation which 'takes action to save butterflies, moths and their habitats.' As Spring seems to be here – very early – and some butterflies are already on the wing- I thought some of you might like the opportunity to get out and about to see some. Butterfly Conservation has three Nature Reserves in Hampshire, all are 'open access' and free to visit at all times, though all are grazed at certain times of the year and so dogs must be under control. We run guided walks throughout the summer, some on the Reserves and some on other sites. A list of these follows.



The nearest and most accessible site is Magdalen Hill Down, this is partly original chalk downland and partly arable land that is being restored to grassland, a total of 100 acres, and wonderful for flowers, birds and insects of all kinds. The access is next to Magdalen hill Cemetery on the B3404 Alresford Rd into Winchester OS Ref. SU512 295. There is a car park opposite the entrance to the Cemetery; only those with a RADAR key can drive up the track. There is a smaller Reserve at Yew Hill, Olivers Battery, with access from Old Kennels Lane (quite a steep walk) and the third is Bentley Station Meadow, north of Alton, which is adjacent to Alice Holt Forest – and in late July Purple Emperor is a possibility there.

There are walks at **Magdalen Hill Down** on **Saturday April 21st at 10.30am** and **Tuesday April 24th at 3pm** - when the Cowslips should be at their best. Also on **Saturday May 12th at 10.30am** and **Sunday July 29th at 10.30am**.

At **Yew Hill** (SU 451 269) parents and children are welcome on **Saturday May 5th at 10.30am**. And on **Friday June 15th at 7.15** the many Orchids should be at their best.

On **Saturday July 21st at 10.30am** the elusive Purple Emperor is a possibility at **Bentley Station Meadow**.

On **Saturday June 9th at 10.30am** there is a walk on **Portsdown Hill** and

On **Saturday July 7th at 10.30am** Richard Levett will lead a walk from the Whiteley end of **Botley Wood**.

For more information on any of the above, and for possible shared transport, ring Jenny Mallett on 01329 832177 or look at our website: [www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk)

*Jenny Mallett*

# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



**Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight**

## Butterflies in Hampshire

Hampshire has the most diverse butterfly and moth fauna of any county, supporting 46 different species of butterfly. This is due to the variety of habitats throughout Hampshire, and the mild climate that we experience.



This winter, there have been exceptional numbers of Red Admiral butterflies sighted throughout Hampshire, and this is due to excellent numbers of the butterfly last autumn, and relatively mild weather meaning that lots can survive. Red Admirals are not true hibernators, so they can only survive the winter by emerging on sunny days to find nectar. The fact that many gardens now have lots of winter flowering plants will have also contributed to the success of Red Admirals.

Butterflies that are classed as 'true hibernators' will generally stay dormant until early March unless disturbed. These species include Brimstone, Comma, Peacock and Tortoiseshell.

If you have any butterfly sightings that you would like to submit then visit the Butterfly Conservation (Hants and Isle of Wight branch) website [www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk) which has an informative 'sightings' page and details of how to submit records, both online, or by other means.

**Local Wildlife Trust events in April** - find out more at [www.hwt.org.uk](http://www.hwt.org.uk)

**Mon 2 Shelter Building 10am-12noon.** A morning of shelter building in the woods at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve. Suitable for children aged 8 and upwards. Please meet and park at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For more details and to book your place please contact the Centre on 01489 570240. Cost £2.

**Wed 4 Warty Toads and Nifty Newts 10.30am-12noon for under 7s, 2-4pm for 6-12 year olds.** Join Wildlife Trust staff at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve for a session of outdoor activities, crafts and games which will help you find out all about these amazing creatures. Please meet and park at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For more details and to book your place, contact the Centre on 01489 570240. Cost £2.

**Fri 6 Easter Eggstravaganza 10.30am-4pm.** Call in during the day at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, follow our Easter trail and win an egg-citing prize, have some egg-cellent fun with messy activities in the classroom, or just eggs-plore what's out and about on the reserve. A great day out for all the family. Please meet and park at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For more details and to book your place, please contact the Centre on 01489 570240. Cost £3 per child for the Easter trail and a craft session, or £2 for crafts only.

**Sun 15 Dawn Chorus Walk 5.30am.** A walk on Bishops Waltham Moors, to listen to, and see some of the numerous birds, resident and migrant, attracted to this rich and precious site. Meet at the meadow adjacent to Cricklemede, off Shore Lane, Bishops Waltham (Map ref. SU 556 172), with parking available in nearby roads. There will be a breakfast after the event. Please contact Phil Jeffs on 01489 896280 so that we can confirm numbers prior to the date. Cost £3.50. Please remember your wellies.

**Mon 23 The Really-Wild Life of Ponds 7.45pm.** An evening with Richard Osmond, of High-Tech Wild Trek, who is wonderfully knowledgeable on the wildlife of ponds and wetlands. The evening will include opportunities to get up close with live pond life and watch film footage. To be held at St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. For further details, please contact Phil Jeffs on 01489 896280. Admission £2.50.

**Tue 24 So Slow Snail 10.30am-12noon. For children aged 1 to 4.** Come along and join snail as he sets off on a slow and slithery journey over the wall. See who he meets along the way. Find out about his spiral shell and have fun creating your own spirals. To be held at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For further details and to book your place, please contact the Centre on 01489 570240. Cost £2.

**Wed 25 Put a Spring in your Step 10-11.30am.** Join Wildlife Trust staff for a walk around Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, looking out for seasonal changes. Please meet and park at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For further information, please contact the Centre on 01489 570240. Cost £1.

*Imogen Moody*

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# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

## APRIL 2007

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### Hampshire's Budget

The theme of Hampshire County Council's budget for 2007-8 is "putting your money where the need is greatest".

It is for this reason that priority is being given to adult services. The number of people in the county aged over 85 years is expected to increase by 20 percent in the next five years, compared to an average population increase of three percent. There are more and more people with complex disabilities requiring care for longer periods thanks to advances in medical science.

The county council is therefore developing a strategy to place greater emphasis on well-being, independence and choice for elderly people.

The other priority for the county council is to protect the environment by reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill operations. Hampshire has the best record of any county at recycling and converting waste to energy, but the costs are high. It is expected that dealing with the county's waste

will increase by 17 percent in the next three years.

The Government provides grant to cover 20 percent of the cost of the services the county provides, leaving council taxpayers to meet most of the cost of local services to look after vulnerable people, young people, maintaining our roads and providing other services such as libraries.

The county council has made savings of £27 million in the last two years and has identified a further £13 million to be saved next year. After taking this into account the council tax for 2007-8 has been set 4.9 percent higher than the current level.



*Freddie Allgood*

*County Councillor  
for Wickham*

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## LETTERS

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### 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.*

*Dear Editor,*

Please can someone explain, through these columns, what was the outcome of the Kairos exercise and what it will mean for the congregation of St Nicholas?

Yours in puzzlement,  
*David Arjay*

### A message from Dr. Richards, Wickham Surgery

To those of you who may have noticed that I have not been available at the Surgery recently, I'd like to let you know that this is due to a health problem, from which I am, thankfully, recovering. I am therefore currently on sick leave and will formally retire in May.

It's been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and looking after your health for the last 26 years. I've very much enjoyed my work as a GP and will miss you all.

With best wishes,  
*Peter Richards*

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# WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT

## APRIL 2007

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### 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

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#### **COUNCIL TAX 2007/8**

WCC Council Tax will increase by 2.9 % after April. This means £113.13 for a Band D property. The City Council also collects tax for the Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire County Council, The Police Authority and Parish Councils. Wickham Parish Council precept will be £47.88.

#### **YELLOW LINES IN WICKHAM**

Overspill of long term parking has caused problems in some roads near the Square. The City Council is conducting an informal consultation process with regards to a request from the Parish Council for double yellow lines to be implemented in Mayles Lane, Manor Close, Tanfield Park, Mill Lane, Buddens Road, and Wickham Croft.. The plans are available to view at the following website address: [http://wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk/yellow\\_lines.htm](http://wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk/yellow_lines.htm) then selecting each street name to see the plan or contact the Parish Clerk. The Parish Website is being used as the media for conducting this consultation.

#### **WICKHAM FESTIVAL GRANT**

This year's folk festival will take place (subject to a successful licence hearing) from Thursday 2nd to Sunday August 5th in a field off Mill Lane, Wickham. The Fire and Rescue Authority have required an Event Management Plan and the City Council will coordinate public safety, statutory nuisance etc.. The City Council has allocated a grant of £2,000 for community projects.

#### **LOCAL ELECTIONS**

Elections will take place on May 4th for a local councillor for Wickham Ward. Knowle currently is part of Wickham ward which includes Curbridge also. There are two councillors elected to serve this ward on a four year term. Elections for these two councillors will take place this and next year. The County Council elections will be in 2009. In 2010 there are no local elections here. The polling station will be open 7am-10pm in the Community Centre, the Knowle Village Hall and Garsons Nurseries. Your polling cards will tell you your polling station. The count will not be undertaken until the following day. If you are away you can still register for a postal or proxy vote.

#### **NEW KNOWLE COMMUNITY FACILITIES: FUNDING AGREED**

We are delighted to report that the Full Council has agreed to a capital budget of £400,000 towards the new Knowle Sports Pavilion. The project will cost £500,000 with the balance of the money being provided by Berkeley Homes as part of their

planning requirement to build a sports pavilion. When we realised that the current village hall was not fit for purpose we requested a feasibility study to provide a new improved pavilion with meeting rooms and associated parking. The previous and current Cabinet portfolio holders for communities have progressed our idea with the result that funding has finally been agreed. The City Council has requested that the Wickham Parish Council consider taking over the running of the recreation, play and sports pavilion. The new facilities on the recreation ground will have sports pitches and a skateboard park for teenagers. We will keep you informed of progress.

#### **YEAR OF THE SCULPTURE**

Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and Marc Quinn are to exhibit their work in the city during Winchester's Year of Sculpture which was officially launched this week. Hirst, one of the world's leading contemporary artists, will headline one of three major exhibitions taking place in Winchester in 2007 from April 2007 to January 2008.

#### **ALICE KETTLE**

This internationally famous textile artist is currently working on the world's largest tapestry in the Guildhall Gallery in Winchester until July. She can be viewed at work during museum opening hours. The tapestry will be hung in Winchester's new Discovery Centre and reflects Winchester's heritage. Alice is available for talks on Tuesdays at 11.00am.

#### **COUNCILLOR SURGERY**

Our next councillor surgery is Tuesday March 27th 6.30-7.30pm Knowle Village Hall. No appointment necessary just come along. There will not be a councillor surgery in April as we shall be out and about in the ward most nights! Please contact us if you need our help.



*Thérèse and Phil*



**Wickham Parish Council**  
**News**  
**April 2007**

**Annual Parish Assembly**

**Wednesday 25th April 7- 9pm**  
**Wickham Community Centre**

All are warmly invited to the Annual Parish Assembly.

Wickham Youth Club and Wickham Primary School will be amazing us with their achievements.

Citizen of the Year Awards will be presented.

Quiz existing and potential councillors.

Excellent food too!

**Yellow Lines**

The Parish Council has requested Winchester City Council considers yellow lines for parts of Buddens Road, Tanfield Park, Wickham Croft, Mill Lane and Manor Close to improve road safety for residents.

The proposals should be available to view on our website by the time this is printed. Copies can also be made for residents on request.

**There will be a lengthy consultation period before any decisions are made.**

**Elections 2007**



If you are standing for election for the Parish Council, nomination forms must be with Winchester City Council by noon on 4th April.

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

**Webpages for local groups**

Would you like some webpages for your group? If you provide the content, pages for your organisation can be added to the Parish Council website or help given to set up an independent website.

Contact the Clerk for more information

**Walks for Health (and Fun!)**

The Parish Council and Wickham Community Association are developing some guided walks within the Parish.

Some have been added to the Parish Council website. We have some funding to develop a programme of walks but need some volunteer walk leaders.



Anyone interested?

**New notice board**

Has everyone seen the new parish council notice board next to the bus shelter in The Square?

If you have community notices you would like to display please contact the Clerk.

**Meetings held at Wickham Community Centre**

**Full Council**

7.15pm Monday 16th April

**Planning Committee**

7.30pm Monday 23rd April

Please see notice boards or website for details of other meetings

All are warmly welcome to attend meetings

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



email: [wickhamparishcouncil@msn.com](mailto:wickhamparishcouncil@msn.com)  
[www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk](http://www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk)