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## ***THOUGHTS FROM THE DEACON***

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As I write this at last the days are growing longer and there is just some light in the sky at 5 o'clock in the evening, although some of you will still be leaving and returning home in the dark. Even so the expectation is that by the end of February we shall all feel the benefits of the light.

Before that, on the second of February we shall celebrate Candlemas. This falls forty days after Christmas and marks the end of Christmastide and Epiphany in the Church calendar. It is the day on which some churches will take down their crib and pack away the figures for another year. Why Candlemas - Jewish parents presented their first male new born babies at the temple in Jerusalem forty days after birth. This followed the law that God gave to Moses "Every first-born male - child or animal - belongs to me" Moses told the people that they must sacrifice the animals but the sons were to be bought back. Candlemas celebrates the day that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the temple. They bought two doves in order to buy him back in accordance with the law. While they were there two elderly people came to them, Simeon and Anna. They were both looking for the Messiah, whom God had promised would come.

Simeon, we are told in St Luke's gospel, took Jesus in his arms and praised God saying:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word:  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
A light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and the glory of thy people Israel.

Simeon and Anna were the first to recognise Jesus as God's saviour. A saviour who was not just for the Jewish nation but a saviour for all people and all nations and a Light to the World.

So as we prepare to celebrate the festival of light at St Nicholas' with St John's on 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 7pm, my wish for us all is that the darkness in our lives is banished by the light and that we go forward into 2007 with expectation, optimism, hope and joy.

May God's blessing be upon us



### ***A Service in Celebration of Marriage***



February 14th - Valentines Day - A Service in Celebration of Marriage at St John the Baptist, Shedfield 7pm, followed by refreshments in the Study Centre behind the church. ALL welcome but especially those married in St John's or St Nicholas, Wickham during the past year.

If you have a marriage candle please bring it to re-light, if not, we will supply candles for you to light should you wish during the service.

*Shirley Henderson*

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# EDITORIAL

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Welcome All,

First of all and because I haven't yet had a chance to do so, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope this New Year brings you many happy memories...



I think we should all congratulate the small group of spectacular artists from Wickham Primary School, who decorated the magazine, Christmas card and Service sheet during the Christmas period and needless to say they can all draw better than me! However, I would like to make an apology on behalf of the clumsy editor who seems to have a little trouble with the cut and paste system on his computer as he credited the wrong pupil who drew the magazine cover drawing... The picture in fact was drawn by

Megan Richards, who is in Year 4 and you can see the picture again. So congratulations Megan for your picture making the front page of your local magazine!

So I expect you are all wondering what events are in store for you in 2007?

Well, we have the Carnival where we expect to have a great turn out. The Annual village fete, wonderful days for everyone as long as the weather stays clear. And we also have the very successful Wickham Festival an event that makes our village unique from the rest.

I hope this weather settles and warms up for you all because I think we could all do with a little sunshine over our heads!

All my love,

*Susie xx*

*Assistant Editor*

## 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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## ***PARK PLACE PERSPECTIVES***

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The Park Place Perspectives content in the December 2006 / January 2007 edition of the Parish Magazine included a piece from Victor Sullivan giving details of a Pilgrimage - Tracing the Steps of the Northern Saints - planned to take place in September.

However, for a variety of reasons, it has been found necessary to abandon this planned Pilgrimage. All those who had made a positive booking have been notified.

This is a particular disappointment, as this Pilgrimage - Tracing the Steps of the Northern Saints - has been the special wish of the Friends for several years now.

Nothing has been decided yet, but it would be desirable to substitute something to take its place, if only a day trip to Canterbury, for instance. Notice will be given to the Parish Magazine if such an arrangement is made; please be assured that Wickham parishioners would be welcomed.

*David Smith*

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

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The Mother's Union has two new leaders. In the Diocese the President is Sheila King, taking over from Pauline Wale who was our leader for six years. This is the same amount of time completed by Trish Heywood our World Wide President. Her position has been handed on to



Rosemary Kempzell

Rosemary Kempzell. She lived in Kenya and Malawi for ten years and has also made visits to Africa and South East Asia. This has given her knowledge of different cultures where the MU is active. (It is worth pointing out that the MU has 3.6 million members in 77 countries of the Anglican Communion). How well is the MU served by its leaders who give up so much of their time to witness to our organisation.

It is difficult to believe that there is a branch of MU in Baghdad started by Canon Andrew White who is the vicar of that city. It began with a hundred members and this has risen now to over four hundred. Canon White's home is in this Diocese so we have formed a prayer link with them. Many Portsmouth groups, including our own, are sending MU badges to them. These will be taken to Baghdad by him as, currently, there is no postal service! In her final letter to us, Pauline Wale said that modern technology enables Groups to support each other in times of crisis through the MU Website and emails.

At our meeting in January Wendy Thorpe talked to us about her five year appointment as Honorary National Moderator for Reader Training. She herself is a Reader at Bishop's Waltham, now retired. She first spoke about what being a Reader involved and then went on to tell us about her appointment. This required a great deal of travelling as it involved her visiting every Diocese. Every meeting was held in Church House, Westminster where she had an office. Each diocese at one time set its own agenda for Reader training but Wendy was asked to write a new criteria for the whole church. Before this could be published she had to be questioned by all the Bishops of the Church of England at Church House. She was the only woman amongst these learned men! We were all fascinated by her talk and full of admiration for her achievements.

Our next meeting will be a talk by Gloria Russell about Home Start.

*Anne Marshall*

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## ***METHODIST MUSINGS***

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Hello again! It has been just over a year since I moved from Wickham to nearby Swanmore, hence no Methodist Musings. The editor of the Parish Magazine mentioned to me that he would like some Methodist input again, so here I am. Although the Wickham Methodist Church has closed its doors as a place of worship, Methodism in Wickham is not dead. Some of the ex Members now worship at the Swanmore Methodist Church and others travel in to the Fareham Methodist Church and Tony Perry, sponsored by the Meon Valley Methodist Circuit, is keeping the flag flying with his work among the young people in the Wickham After School Club and he has also now started a Sunday worship group at the Wickham Community Centre. Pray for him as he works among young people and families in the village.

The Parish Church of St Nicholas still sits impressively on the edge of the village with its cross resplendent high on its steeple reminding us what the Church is all about. The cross is a symbol of our Christian faith and recently it has been in the news for all the wrong reasons. It seems there is an undercurrent of opposition to those who want to show evidence of their allegiance to the Christian faith. I read of a Crematorium that was ordered to remove the cross from its chapel so as not to offend other faiths or those of no faith. Then there was the British Airways employee, Nadia Edweida, who was ordered not to display her small cross and chain at work, and even more recently a thirteen year old Roman Catholic girl was told to remove her Crucifix whilst at school 'for health and safety reasons'! Why shouldn't we Christians be free to wear symbols of our faith in public just as people of other faiths are allowed to wear theirs?

What next, Clergy told to remove their clerical collars in public? Christians ordered to remove the cross from the outside of our Churches? I think it is time we Christians came out of the closet to stand up and be counted. I wrote a letter to a National newspaper before Christmas, suggesting that maybe all Christian ladies put a cross and chain at the top of their Christmas wish list and that we men should get ourselves an Acrostic Ichthus, one of those small lapel badges shaped like the outline of a fish. This is the symbol reputedly used by the early Christians during times of persecution to identify themselves to other Christians. Predictably the letter was never published! So maybe the Christians of Wickham and indeed the Meon Valley should start a trend with all Christians wearing either a cross or an Ichthus Fish to symbolise their allegiance to Christ.

If every one who considers themselves a Christian displayed a symbol of their faith it might amaze you how many of us there are! Maybe it might start a national trend and put the Wickham Parish Magazine in the forefront of revival. But a word of warning, if you wear a symbol of your faith don't also display a negative outlook and a miserable countenance to go with it. Christians should be positive and living life to the full, spreading joy and loving care wherever they go.

*Herbie Taylor*

## ***Lent Lunches for Everyone!***

Yes, it is now that time of year to be looking ahead to Lent, a time for thought and reflection. It is also at this time we hold our Lent lunches for a period of 6 weeks, where one is able to enjoy delicious home made soup, bread, cheese and a cup of tea at our St Nicholas Church here in Wickham.



These will be held on a Friday at 12.30pm, preceded by a short service in the Church, at 12.15pm. It would be lovely if you could join us too for this service.

The dates to note are - February 23rd, March the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and the 30th.

Our first Lent lunch, i.e. February 23rd, will be our '**Churches Together**' lunch, and we warmly invite those from the other Churches within our Deanery to join us on this day.

Collections from this lunch will go to Meon Valley Carers Together and the St Georges Foundation.

Collections from the following 5 lunches will go to our Bishops Lent Appeal. Do please come and support these good causes and enjoy good food and company, a warm welcome awaits you all.

*Di Hemingway-Rice and Judy Lucas*

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## CHURCHES TOGETHER

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### Lent Courses 2007

Welcome to 2007! Christmas is just over; the New Year has been celebrated and now is the time to look ahead towards the next great Christian Festival – Easter. For many years the Lent Courses have given Christians, and some non-Christians, an inspirational run-up to the Easter Season.

As in past years, Lent Groups will be held throughout the area covered by Churches Together in Bishops Waltham. This year's course is entitled 'Easter People in a Good Friday World'. The Lent Groups will meet for five sessions starting the week beginning 26th February, and will culminate in a United Service at the Jubilee hall, Bishops Waltham, on Palm Sunday evening, April 1st, starting at 6.30pm. The local co-ordinators will inform individual churches about details of groups to be held in their parish.

### Lent Lunches

Running in co-ordination with the Lent Courses will be the customary Lent Lunches. Details of these will be sent to all churches.

This year, money raised at these lunches, together with that given at the Palm Sunday service, will be divided between two charities:

- Meon Valley Carers Together - a local charity, headed by Bill Drake from BW, supporting the carers of people with dementia, as well as the patients themselves
- The St George Foundation, a charity run by Philip Dean from Swanmore, caring for war damaged street children of Sierra Leone.

You are cordially invited to come along to try a Lent Course or to share in the Lent lunches. You will be sure to receive a very warm welcome.

To find out more about these two events, please contact the local representative in your parish, who is Di Hemingway Rice tel. 01329 835463

*Jill Sutton*

## EASTER PEOPLE IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD

This is the title of the Bishop's Waltham Deanery and Ecumenical Lent Course for this year.

Although Christmas is barely over, Lent will be here quicker than we realise. Ash Wednesday is on February 21st.

The Course poses the question, 'What does it take to be a peacemaker in our violent world? The five sessions are designed to help us explore issues raised by this and other related questions in the context of Jesus' way to the cross, and stories of hope and transformation of violent situations both locally and in the wider world.

There are already co-ordinators in place across the area covered by the Deanery and Churches Together in Bishop's Waltham Area, and they are beginning to look for people to lead and host Groups from all the local churches.

Please consider whether you would be willing to participate in this way and if so and you don't know your local co-coordinator, please get in touch with me direct and I will make the connection for you.

In any case I hope as many people will take part in the Course as possible. It is a challenging course for challenging times and we are all called to be peacemakers.

Training sessions for Group Leaders will be held on Tuesday 6th February at the Paterson Centre, Swanmore, and on Thursday 8th February, both at 7.30 pm.

Course books will be available for leaders to take, on sale or return, for their groups (£3.00 per copy).

We shall all come together in a United Service on Palm Sunday, at 6.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall at Bishop's Waltham.

With many thanks,

*Marion Mort, Lent Course Coordinator*

marion@swanmore.net

01329 832178

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## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

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The Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 2nd March 2007 at 2.30 p.m., will be held in St. John the Baptist Church, Shedfield. The Preacher will be the Vicar, the Reverend Shirley Henderson.



The Christian Women of Paraguay have been responsible for compiling the Service, which is entitled "United under God's Tent"

The offering of the Service worldwide begins in Tonga, passes to New Zealand and then to Australia and within twenty-four hours prayers will have been said right around the world.

Please do come and support this special service. All are welcome - men, women, young people and children.

Afternoon tea will be served in the Study Centre after the Service.

*Anne Shotlander*

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## ***HACKNEY AND BISHOP'S WALTHAM DEANERIES LINK***

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### **Hack, Pack and Stack – A True Story of the Christmas Gift Delivery to the Hackney Deanery 2006**

There was a moment of anxiety in the middle of the afternoon on the day of the Great Pack when the volume of boxes and parcels covering the tables of Waltham Chase Village Hall seemed far too much to squeeze into the van. The chairman panicked and began ringing possible sources for the hire of an extra van. Experienced hands nodded wisely remembering that the chairman's panic did usually happen about that point in the proceedings. The Van Stackers patted him kindly on the shoulder recommending a cup of tea and an hour to see how everything might fit in. By five o'clock not only had every box and parcel been found a place but the load was secure enough not to move an inch on the journey.

November 24th and 25th last year were a wonderful culmination of efforts by people all over our Deanery, from Botley to Hambledon and all parishes in between. During the weeks beforehand every church made a collection of goods to be sent and then brought them to the hall for packing. On Friday 24th helpers, again from every church in the Deanery, arrived and made an outstanding team to sort, pack, label and secure everything that had been given. It was an afternoon of fellowship, hard work and real achievement.

The van was provided by Noble Argue who with his wife Jenny has just began a Garden Maintenance and Design Business based near Botley. (details below). They had responded to an appeal in Durley Church and not only lent the van for 24 hours but lent Jenny and another Durley friend, Sarah Merritt, to do the driving and help unload. We set out at 8am on Saturday 25th and arrived at the Priory Convent which was our first destination by 11 30am; Jenny coping with her first experience of London traffic without turning a hair even though the driving rules of engagement there are not quite the same as those that apply in Durley. Then on to St James' Clapton where Vicar Rosémia Brown had mustered a band of helpers led by husband Burnet to unload the remaining parcels.

Sister Moira, writing from the Priory the following week says "To all our dear and generous friends of Bishop's Waltham Deanery THANK YOU all so much for another wonderful delivery of good things for the poor and needy of our area – some of which have already been life-savers for people sleeping rough on our streets". The Night Shelter will be drawing supplies as needed from the stock at St James'. After the deliveries the drive back was uneventful and blessed to the extent that even the dreaded M25 traffic flowed freely.

As well as the gifts many people gave donations of money which has been divided between The Priory and the Night Shelter. The Night Shelter also will be given the proceeds from the Hackney Bear Raffle which took place this summer. The committee will be considering a suggestion from the Treasurer that we meet expenses for the raffle licence and printing from our general reserve which will allow all the money raised to be sent to Hackney. If approved this will mean St Saviour's Priory receives £322.10 and the Night Shelter £744.60 Thank you again especially to Jo Wilkes who masterminded the Bear raffle and to everyone involved in the 2006 Christmas Run. You can be sure that all your efforts resulted in the most practical help for the Hackney Churches in their loving ministry to vulnerable people.

We will be exploring the possibility of a weekend visit to Hackney for a small group from the Deanery sometime this year – watch this space !

***If you would like to contact Noble and Jenny Argue about any aspect of Garden Care ring them on 01489 780557 or 07950 259864***

*Norman Chatfield*

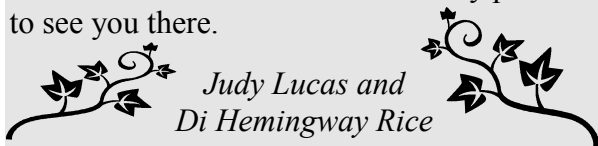
## ***HELP WITH THE IVY, PLEASE!***

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

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

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

*Judy Lucas and  
Di Hemingway Rice*



## **CHRISTIAN AID WALK 13 MAY 2006**

A Date for your Diary -

**CHRISTIAN AID DEANERY  
SPONSORED WALK**

SUNDAY 13TH MAY 2007

2.00PM

FROM

**WICKHAM CHURCH**

Come and explore another part of our beautiful Deanery.

Last year, around Botley, we raised £5,137.  
Help us break that elusive £6,000 barrier!

*Peter Kelly*

Come and join Christians from this area to share in a time of peace, reflection and renewal.

# **Deanery Healing Eucharist**

with laying-on of hands and anointing.



**Parish Church of**

**St Nicholas, Wickham**

on

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February  
at 3.30 p.m.**

**We look forward to welcoming you.**

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# ***SERVICE OF CELEBRATION***

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This wonderful service in which so many partook and so enjoyed, and held just last Sunday, January 28th in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist in Shedfield, was not only to celebrate the Inauguration of the Benefice of Shedfield and Wickham, but also the Wykeham Group Ministry of Swanmore, Shedfield and Wickham.

Shirley, who we all know so well and love, received from the Archdeacon, the keys for both our St Nicholas Church here in Wickham and those of St John the Baptist in Shedfield as a symbol of her induction as Rector of Wickham and Vicar of Shedfield.



In the photo, Shirley is holding the rather large and ancient key which belongs to St Nicholas. There was a ripple of laughter when the Archdeacon held up the 2 keys and comparing sizes, gave a mark of 1 to Shedfield and a mark of 5 to Wickham.

Elizabeth, who already plays such an important roll here within Wickham, along with all the other Clergy in our now new Group Ministry, was presented with their Bishops Licence by the Archdeacon.

The coming together of the choirs from all 3 Churches, Clergy from within the Deanery, retired Clergy, dignitaries and parishioners from Swanmore, Shedfield and Wickham. This simply made the service one to be remembered - a coming together of music, warmth and love.

This was then followed by a very tempting selection of refreshments, a time to mix and chat.

May we all grow together, strong in spirit and love.

*Di Hemingway-Rice*

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## ***BELLS RING FOR THE UNITED BENEFICE OF SHEDFIELD AND WICKHAM***

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When we heard about the special service to inaugurate the united Benefice of Shedfield and Wickham, install of Shirley as Vicar of Shedfield and Rector of Wickham, and Peter Kelly as Vicar of Swanmore, we realised this was our perfect opportunity to try and ring a peal. For bellringers, a peal is a significant achievement and consists of at least 5000 changes (no repetition - the occasional hesitation might be allowed though).

We thought Lincolnshire Surprise Major would be a good method, but whilst watching the South Africa v Pakistan Test series soon after we had decided on Lincolnshire, I wondered if there was a method named Johannesburg. It just so happened that there was and, what's more, it is very similar to Lincolnshire. Method decided. In the band, we had three of our own ringers, the tower captains of Swanmore and Bishop's Waltham for the Deanery connection, two district ringing masters, and a ringer from Purbrook.

In 2 hrs and 39 minutes, we rang 5056 changes of Johannesburg Surprise Major with the band as follows:

1. Betty J Daysh
2. Lee Pinnington
3. David M Goss
4. Richard A Case
5. Charlotte K Colliss
6. Andrew F Case
7. Benjamin J Carey (Conductor)
8. Stephen N Hough

Composed by D F Morrison



*Richard Case*

# VILLAGE NEWS

## The Thursday Club

This is a friendly club for anyone (male or female) over 55 or on a pension, particularly anyone who is on their own and would like to get out occasionally and meet others.

On the first Thursday of each month we hold a meeting in the Community Centre in Wickham, consisting of an entertainment which may be a talk, quiz, concert etc. followed by tea (with home-made sandwiches, cakes and biscuits). The meeting for July is a garden fete meeting, which is our major fund-raising effort for the year, while the December meeting is a Christmas party.

During the summer months (April - September) there is also a monthly outing - in a comfortable coach - sometimes to some place of interest but often just a pleasant drive with a visit to a pub, cafe or restaurant for lunch or tea.

New members are welcome. Why not try the club? The first visit is free to see if you like it; thereafter the membership fee is £3 per year and small charges are made for tea and outings. For more information contact either Eileen Gulliford (833247) or Lucy Carter (832928) - or just turn up on the first Thursday of any month. Transport can be arranged if you require it - just let us know.

*Lucy Carter*

### WICKHAM COMMUNITY CARE

We would like to take this opportunity to

*Wish all our Drivers  
a Happy New Year  
and thank them for all their  
help during 2006*

**We are, however, looking for more helpers so if you feel you have time and can provide transport in order to drive people to essential hospital or other appointments please contact either:-**

Vicki Pawlyn (Chairman) 832194  
or Sue Leatham (Secretary) 834925

Committee : Peter Lucas (Treasurer),  
Co-ordinators: Joyce Cleife, Jane England,  
Molly Haydock, Jenny Mallett &  
Richard Skipwith

### Wickham Chamber of Commerce

Next meeting

(change of day due to Valentines Day)

**6.30pm Thursday 15th February 2007  
at Greens**

*Lisa Lavis, secretary*

### THE GOOD NEWS TRAVELLING LIBRARY

The next visit of the GNNTL is  
at **the Paterson Centre,  
Church Road, Swanmore,  
on 13<sup>th</sup> Febuary 2007  
at 10.30 am ~ 12.15 pm**

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

Everyone is welcome - refreshments served.

### Get more out of Libraries

#### Mobile Libraries

If you can't travel, you don't need to - our mobile libraries make regular timetabled visits to over 1,200 stops in Hampshire. All our mobile libraries are easily accessible for older and disabled people, with wide doors and passenger lifts.



#### Mobile libraries have

- Books, DVDs and videos for all ages and interests
- You can reserve anything from our library catalogue
- Membership of the library is free
- No charge for borrowing books and only a small charge for borrowing videos, DVDs & CDs
- Free internet access

#### Mondays

Knowle Village Church 5.30pm to 6.30pm

#### Tuesdays

Wickham, The Square 9.15am to 12.45pm

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## ***ANOTHER MILESTONE REACHED!***

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### **GEORGE EFFORD – 45 years working at Warwick’s**

George Efford responded to an advert in the window at R.G.Warwick & Partners Hardware Shop in Wickham Square in 1962, just after his 15th birthday, for a “young lad” to help put the front out and sweep the wooden shop floor with a mixture of sawdust and creosote, the customary way in those days to keep the dust down and the shop smelling of hardware and Ironmongery activity. Since then he has risen through the ranks to his current position of Director and General Manager.

This not only means he has been working at Warwick’s for 45 years, but also that he has reached the Bus Pass and Heating allowance era with free Television Licence and Digi-box on the horizon. Yes! George was 60 on January 1st 2007.

In honour of both achievements, Dick Warwick with the help of the shop staff, arranged a party in the Bar and Skittle Alley at the back of the Kings Head where friends, workmates and family gathered to help George celebrate.

During the celebrations, Dick told how, at the interview 45 years ago, when he got first sight of this lanky youth and had doubts about his staying power, consulted mum (as all good boys should) as to George’s suitability. Her reply he well remembers - “There is nothing to worry about. He comes from a good Wickham family and will do well.” How right she was!

It is customary for something funny or slightly embarrassing that happened at work to be said at a presentation and here Dick had difficulty - none could be recalled. However as soon as he was old enough George had joined the Fire Service as a part time fireman and after 25 years service was retired at a gathering Dick attended where the Fire officer presenting his Long Service Certificate had the same problem. He had to content himself with saying that his work and conduct was “Squeaky Clean”. It gave Dick very great pleasure in heartily endorsing this as a summation of his 45 years with our Company.

Dick presented George with a cheque, to which all had subscribed, which we now know he used to acquire a laptop computer; an item which he had had is eye on for some little while.

George, in reply, after thanking everybody for their best wishes and the help he receives from many of his fellow workers recalled his memory of that first meeting 45 years ago, and how, part way through the interview, Dick was called away to sort out a problem and completely forgot George was waiting.

George now has his main office at the yard in Station Road but also one in the shop in the Square and can still be seen, not rushing through the Square to deal with a fire “Shout” and leaving the customers a little surprised at his sudden departure, but walking more sedately to sort out a problem whether it be Customers, Computers, Cash or just for consultation and encouragement and all wish that long may this hand on the helm continue.

A few games of Skittles, a pint or two, reminiscences with colleagues, a buffet meal and good company made it an enjoyable evening for all.

*Chris Beckett*

Come and Join in  
Hands on African Drumming.

The Youth Club is hosting

**DRUM 4 FUN**

In the Main Hall, Wickham Community Centre



Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February

6.30 - 8.30 pm

Adults £1.00, Kids 50p

**Everybody Welcome**

## **CHARITY APPEAL SUPPER**



The 4th CHARITY APPEAL SUPPER at Wickham Community Centre will be held on Saturday, 17th March 2007, 6.30 pm.

This is to raise money for another very IMPORTANT cause, the **Juvenile Diabetes**

**Research Foundation** dedicated to finding a cure. Much information is available on their website [www.JDRF.org.uk](http://www.JDRF.org.uk)

Our supper this time, will consist of home cooked food - the donated puddings being such a huge success. We will have Southern Eclectic Singers entertaining us with songs from recent popular Shows. Requests can be made in advance to me. The Tombola gifts will once again appear like magic and raise on average £500 - so a new home for those unhappy Christmas and Birthday Gifts is found.

Background low-key music will play when we arrive but NO MUSIC WHILST WE ARE EATING AND TALKING TO OUR FRIENDS - 50's & 60's disco music will round off our evening as usual - a chance to lose that Christmas pudding!

Our final total for the Rocky Appeal came to £12,000; the building is now at an advanced stage - WELL DONE all those generous souls who supported us.

Donations of tombola prizes and tickets from: *Mavis Stevens*  
Chiphall Acre PO17 5AY Tel: 01329 833188



# WICKHAM

## Community Association

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

### THE END OF AN ERA

It was with great sadness, that Wickham Social Club bar served its last pint on New Years Eve. For several years, there have been efforts to revive the business of The Club but takings just did not cover the expenses and the raw truth had to be realised sooner or later. Unfortunately, as with all business of this type, it is not possible to advertise that it was going to close so, following a fantastic party on New Year's Eve, it was a great shock to many Members to find the doors locked for the last time.

In the good old days there was a Club in the old Victory Hall in Bridge Street and the idea was to recreate the theme in the new Community Centre. So it was, in 1980, that the Wickham Social Club opened in the Community Centre. The first years were highly successful and the profits that were generated from the Club's activities helped fund a lot of the improvements to the raw new building. Also, the Members were very active in helping people in the community. For example, the foundations for the Theresa Talman Youth Club building was excavated and poured by Club members.

There are so many people to thank for the work that has been put into the life of The Club. It has had some wonderful evenings of good entertainment but like the 'happy hour' that was banned in 2003, all good things must come to an end. This is the fourth Centre based Social Club in this area that has had to close in the past year. Maybe it is a sign of a passing age.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED WICKHAM SOCIAL CLUB**

Charity Commission Reg. No. 1090544  
Companies House Reg. No. 4329669  
VAT Reg. No. 787 4273 82

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Fresh out of college? Career building? Want to impress your bosses by showing them that you have a broad interest in life skills?

By gaining experience in the voluntary sector, you can use the management techniques in your regular work. It is a recognised route to gaining promotion, used by companies such as IBM.

We can offer you a range of job enhancing experience in:-

Law; Accountancy; Human Resources; Entertainment; Building Management; Public Relations; Advertising; Social Care.

Talk to us at Wickham Community Centre, we have a number of volunteer slots which we can tailor to suit you. You pick the time that you can give. We also have a range of FREE training courses to fit your needs.

## Club 55

Club 55 has lifted off to a good start. More than 30 people came to the opening day in January and made it plain that they wanted activities to stretch the mind and body. It looks as though we will be holding fortnightly meetings alternately on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon. Computers and modern technology featured high in the training needs and many wanted to take advantage of the new community mini bus to go to the Theatre and explore our beautiful countryside. There will also be opportunities to try out exercises like Pilates and Tai Chi as well as lots of other activities for men and women.

To find out more, contact us at the Community Centre.

PS. Don't forget, we have rooms to hire for all sorts of social occasions and can arrange catering for you. All at very reasonable prices.

*David Roger-Jones*

Supported by  
Hampshire County Council



## ***OLD IRON LOCKS***

It's usually the Missus that cuts my hair and she does bang on about it. Now, I hear tell that a barber's shop is opening in the Old Forge, Wickham, by the bridge. I'll have to go if the Missus tells me to. She can get into a white heat if crossed and I'll not want to suffer her yells and bellows. You know the drill, I'll only get a hammering if I disobey, and that kind of thing just grinds me down. I'm overwrought as it is!

So I'll have to give it a try, I suppose. Mind you, it may suit me. I've got iron-grey hair and wiry with it, and by going I should avoid any sparks flying. I'm not a fuss-pot about my hair so they can go at it hammer and tongs for all I care. In fact, the more I think about it, the more fired up I'm getting about the idea, (goes on like this, nothing will be able to quench my enthusiasm).

Guess I'll hot foot it down to the Old Forge, give them a steely look and say,

"Hey! Figaro! Short-back-and sides, please – *and a pair of garden gates!*"

*Mike Hollis*

## **Wickham Church of England Primary School**

### **Our school offers:**

- Before and after school childcare at the excellent, award winning, Time Out Club
- ICT suite and interactive whiteboards in all classes
- Outdoor heated swimming pool
- Music and Drama room
- Extensive Conservation area / Adventure Play Area
- New sports field and free extra-curricular clubs
- Close links with St Nicholas' Church and local community.

Visits to the school are always welcome



Wickham Primary School, Buddens Road, Wickham Hants.

Tel: 01329 833065

E-mail: [adminoffice@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk)

Website: [www.wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk](http://www.wickham-primary.hants.sch.uk)

# **Winter Days by Year 3**



Freezing frosty mornings,  
Bitter snowboarding,  
Tingling fingers in warm gloves.  
Grey stormy skies all the time,  
Cold all night long,  
Snowflakes falling on trees.

*Danielle Easen*

Snow falling out of the sky like hail stones,  
Glassy lakes frozen like ice rinks,  
Breath steaming like a dragon,  
Cold frosty evenings like a blizzard has  
whipped into town.

*Kieran Roberts*

Snow falling out of the air like evil stones,  
Boys writing funny words on cars with their fingers,  
Steam coming out like a train letting off steam,  
Green slimy, slippery logs piled in the icy road.  
Warm woolly scarf like a snake around my neck,  
Cold, rainy weather hangs like a grey blanket,  
Miraculous leaves falling from the trees and dying,  
Breaking ice all night long.

*Daniel Ross*

Freezing frosty mornings,  
Fires flickering in the fireplace.  
Shiny ice sparkling in the sun,  
Snowflakes pour from the sky,  
A sleigh ride on snowy slopes,  
Water freezing into ice,  
Bitter, chilly winds that blow,  
Wrap up warm in this weather.

*Katherine Doyle*

*By Year 3 Pupils at Wickham Primary School*

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# *POEMS AND MUSINGS*

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## **THE FJORD**

The bend ended in a steeping plunge down  
The wet black rock into the dark fjord.  
And he, in his father's suede leather coat,  
Sponging up water, whacking on dead weight,  
Trod water, flailing to release his arms.  
All this time he could see his sons and wife,  
Distant. They knew something was up. Not where.  
He split in two, hovered above them, pointed  
To the bend as he fought coat and water,  
Then, naked, climbed the black rock bank to woods,  
Where he ran in circles for warmth, wanting strength  
Of sons and warmth of wife to rescue him.  
The wood was warmer than the dark fjord.  
He waited fearful and frail in his skin.

*Tony Johnson*

## **SOMETIMES AND ALWAYS**

Sometimes I am naughty,  
but normally very good.  
Sometimes I am upset,  
and sometimes very happy.  
That's what I am the most.  
  
Sometimes I am quiet,  
and sometimes I am loud.  
Sometimes I am annoying,  
sometimes I am really good fun.  
  
Sometimes I am sleeping,  
and sometimes I am awake.  
Sometimes I am walking,  
and sometimes I am running.  
  
Sometimes I am silly,  
and sometimes I am clever.  
But always, I am very loved.



*Tia Wilde*

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## **STICKING THE NEEDLE IN**

A friend of mine was recently spending a weekend with her daughter and son-in-law, helping to celebrate her newest grandson's first birthday and also to rest her ankle as she was recovering from a very bad sprain. Also there were the godparents of said grandson, one of whom is an acupuncturist, who offered her services for the painful offending ankle.

Imagine son-in-law's face on entering the room and seeing someone sticking needles into his mother-in-law! He was heard to say that the only thing to give him more pleasure would be to stick the needles into her himself!

I must add that they are a very happy family and all get on together very well.

My name is withheld for very obvious reasons.

Happy New Year!

*Anonymous*

## FEBRUARY 2007 DIARY

### FEBRUARY

Thur 1 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room  
19:30 PCC Church Room

Fri 2 14:00 Magazine Meeting, Church Room  
19:00 **CANDLEMAS SERVICE**  
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

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

Mon 5 09:30 Pilates, Church Room  
11:00 Spinners/Weavers, Church Room  
19:30 Dairymoor Association, Church Room

Tue 6 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  
19:45 Wickham History Society, Church Room

Wed 7 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

Thurs 8 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

Fri 9 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sat 10 10:00 Working Party in Churchyard

Sun	11	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b>	Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-end
		08:00 Holy Communion	Rev. 4
		09:45 Parish Communion	Luke 8: 22-25

Mon 12 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room

Tues 13 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

14:15 Mothers' Union, Meeting at 2 Coldharbour Close

19:30 Wickham Society, Church Room

19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Wed 14 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room

Thur 15 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

Fri 16 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sat 17 **LAST DAY FOR COPY FOR MARCH MAGAZINE**

Sun	18	<b>THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</b>	Exodus 34: 29-end
		08:00 Holy Communion:	2 Cor. 3: 12-4: 2
		09:45 Parish Communion	Luke 9: 28-36
		15:30 Healing Service	
		<b>NO EVENSONG THIS EVENING</b>	

Mon 19 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room

Tues 20 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 21 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

19:30 Model Engineers, Church Room

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**19:00 Sung Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes**

Thur 22 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room

Fri 23 12:15 Lent Prayers followed by

12:30 Churches Together Lunch, Church Room

Fri 23 19:30 Fuchsia Society, Church Room  
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre  
 Sat 24 14:00 Memorial Service for Bob Naphthine

Sun 25	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Deut. 26: 1-11 Romans 10: 8b-13 Luke 4: 1-13
	08:00 Holy Communion	
	09:45 Parish Communion	

Mon 26 **LENT COURSE BEGINS THIS WEEK**

11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room  
 Tue 27 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  
 19:00 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Church Room  
 Wed 28 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

**MARCH**

Thur 1 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room  
 Fri 2 12:15 Lent Prayers followed by  
 12:30 Lent Lunch, Church Room  
 14:00 Magazine Meeting, Church Room  
 Sat 3 14:30 Dystonia Association, Church Room  
 19:30 British Legion Quiz, Church Room

Sun 4	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1 Luke 13: 31-end
	08:00 Holy Communion	
	09:45 Family Service	
	18:00 Choral Eucharist	

**LAST DAY FOR COPY MARCH 2007 MAGAZINE  
 SATURDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2007**

*From the registers*

*Holy Matrimony*

Katherine Wightwick/Andrew Holmes 09/12/2006

*Rest in Peace*

Ernest Simpson	94 years	12/12/2006
Robert Naphthine	88 years	19/12/2006
Paul Castle	31 years	20/12/2006
Baby Jack Vollentine	1 year	12/01/2007
Joan Bailey	83 years	26/01/2007
Irene Percival		29/01/2007

**LETTERS**

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

Magazine on a future date to be remembered or perhaps in the Church Diary for the forthcoming months?

Thank you

Yours truly,

*Keith F Barnard*  
 3 Wykeham Field

*From: Keith F Barnard*

Dear Editor,

Sorry for the lateness of this letter but re-reading the Parish Magazine I was reminded of a query I should have asked before.

The Churches Together Quiet Half Hour, where does one find out the date, time and place of these meetings? Could that be included in the Parish

<i>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.</i>
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## ***CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF KNOWLE HOSPITAL ESTATE***

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I lived on the estate from my birth in 1946 until my marriage in 1967, and I have nothing but fond memories of staff, patients, and children, who worked, lived and played there.

When we started school we were sometimes taunted, "you live in the Loony Bin" and were consequently dubbed "The Knowleites", this sometimes led to the odd skirmish in the school playground, quickly broken up by the teachers. I still feel though, that to this day the children of the estate grew up with strong moral values and a better understanding of people less fortunate than others.



Newly graduated enrolled nurses - my Mum not in uniform standing next to Doctor in white – about 1970

The staff of the hospital were a group of very dedicated people who not only worked at the hospital, but spent much of their spare time ensuring the well being of the patients.

Let me start with the hospital grounds, so beautifully maintained by Fred Stone, his staff and also the patients who worked on them. Everywhere you looked there were beautiful flower beds, the grass was immaculate, hedges trimmed, barely a weed in sight. There were the greenhouses where Mr Stone grew all the flowers that adorned the estate, vegetables for

the hospital kitchen, and each and everyone of these people took pride in their work.

There was the horticultural show each year, where staff, children, and patients joined together in a day of fun and plenty of competition. The flower arrangements, the preserves, the vegetables, the children's talent competition, the children's fancy dress parade, all ably judged, and it certainly was an honour to win one of these categories. In our house on that day the kitchen was full of flowers waiting for my mother to arrange and hopefully win an award. Then there was the Annual pantomime, put on by members of staff for both children and patients alike to enjoy. The New Years Eve Ball surely the event of the year, where people dressed up in their finery, the hard work of the staff recognized, and plenty of good food and dancing.



Fancy dress parade at Knowle Show me in the front – about 1951

What about the children, what did they do? They enjoyed the beautiful surroundings they lived in, roamed freely, made friends with the patients, sometimes got into mischief, attended Sunday School under the supervision of Mrs Davies, put on an annual Nativity Play in the church, went to the Hospital Hall every Friday night to watch films along with patients and off duty staff. The highlight of their year began in October when all of them started collecting firewood for Guy Fawkes Night, and the bonfire always had to be bigger than the previous year.

I have left the best to last, the patients, what amazing wonderful people, happy in their surroundings, after all it was their home, always working, they made furniture in the Occupational Therapy department, (to this day I have in my house a little stool made by some of them). They worked on the farm, in the grounds, in the kitchens, gardened for the staff. A Polish man dug our garden each year and planted vegetables, in exchange for some cigarettes. Mr Baggott fell in love with Alice, and they would often be seen walking around the estate hand in hand, with huge smiles on their faces. It was Mr Baggott who knocked on our front every Sunday without fail with three Nuttals Mintoes in his hand one each for me and my two sisters.

This is just a small glimpse of what life was like on the estate, now I see that Knowle is called a "Village" and the lovely old Church is a "Community" Hall. That was Knowle in my day, a "Village Community" and I hope that the spirit will live on with the people that are so lucky to call Knowle their home.

*Bernice McDouall (nee Cunliffe)*

# *CROSSWORD, ETC*

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# *WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS*

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## *WICKHAM WIVES*

With the December/January issue of our magazine embracing two months, I feel I am writing history when preparing this report for the February edition. I would, nevertheless, like to tell you of our events at the closing of 2006.

At the end of November, one of our members, Joyce Tuffil, organised a Coffee Morning at her home to raise funds for the St George's Foundation. This charity, started by Phillip Dean of Swanmore, has already helped over 200 vulnerable children get off the streets of Freetown into a caring, loving environment and back to school, eventually returning the children to their own neighbourhood and families if they can be traced. Phillip attended the Coffee Morning and updated us with photos and a video of some of the children and his plans to build a new orphanage to take 120 children. He also had a photograph of a little boy who had been found in a dustbin when he was about 18 months old, barely alive. He was taken to the orphanage where it was discovered he had clubbed feet. Carers nursed this little boy until he was well enough to have surgery on his feet in a local hospital run by an Italian Charity. He later was adopted by one of the staff at the orphanage. It is this 'hands-on' organisation that Wickham Wives have taken to their heart, and thanks to the incredible generosity of our members and many friends from Swanmore, as well as Wickham, the princely sum of £750.00 has been sent to the foundation. Thank you everyone for your wonderful support.

The final event of 2006 was our Christmas Party in December. As I thought it was the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of "Young Wives", our predecessors, we agreed it would be appropriate to invite as many previous members as we could contact to join us for the evening. We were looking forward to the Revd David Howes from Meonstoke, accompanied by Pat Matthews to entertain us with extracts from Gilbert and Sullivan's operas with the "partying members" joining in the choruses. Many past members joined us and we were particularly delighted to have Nicola Hulbert, who was the founder-leader of the Young Wives Group with us. A sumptuous buffet supper followed the singing and the atmosphere was very much like an "old girls' reunion"!!

Mary Paddy drew my attention to the fact that this was the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the group, and thanked us all for such a superb evening, remarking "what an excellent dress rehearsal for the 40<sup>th</sup> celebration this year!!" I would like to thank everyone for coming and contributing to such a successful evening especially David and Pat.

On to 2007. Due to illness, we were very disappointed not to have John Pratt as our January speaker on "The History of Cases Bakery". We send you our best wishes John and hope to have your talk at a future date. Thankfully, at very short notice, Madeleine Selby came to the rescue with a talk headed "All stitched up".

I wonder how many of us know that the foundation of the Corset Industry began in Portsmouth in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. With most of the male population being away with the Navy, employed in dockyard or local breweries, women and girls welcomed the opportunity to earn some money. Over 7,000 women were employed, plus many more men and women to maintain machinery, make packaging, etc. Young girls "put their names down" before leaving school to secure a job.

Conditions in the factories were poor, there were no unions to fight for improvements. Tall brick buildings had small windows, poor ventilation and light, and inadequate heating – if any

– in winter. Constant noise from sewing machines, often over 100 could be working at one time. No health and safety rules and most machinists stitched into their fingers sooner or later.

Madeleine had spoken to several ladies who had worked in the factories in their hey-day. She said there was great camaraderie despite the hard work and conditions. They formed clubs, had outings, were invited to ships' dances, visited the Savoy on Fridays and the Pier on Saturdays!

At the outcome of World War II, the factories were turned over to making military uniforms. Many were destroyed in the blitz of the 1940s and were not rebuilt. One factory is still producing garments, though the products have changed beyond measure. Gone for ever are the days of being “laced” into whale bone, later steel boned corsets, to maintain that 18” waist!

Local author, Betty Burton, who used to live in Wickham, gathered first hand information on the corset industry in Portsmouth and wrote a book called “The Girl Now Leaving” published in 1990. Madeleine's entertaining talk was punctuated by many puns pertaining to the corset industry; we all had a most uplifting evening! Thank you Madeleine.

Our next meeting on 14th February will be a talk on “Butterflies” by Jenny Mallett at 7.30 for 7.45pm in the Church Room.

*Margaret Gwynn*

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

Since our last meeting in November, Christmas arrived quite quickly in the end, after what seemed like a long build up. Now it is as far away as ever and all the magazines will soon start telling us how to make Simnel cakes, Hot Cross Buns and Easter biscuits!!

We started our Christmas with WI carol service on 4th December, held this time at Shedfield Church and arranged by Waltham Chase. The Reverend Elizabeth Groves officiated and the organist was Mrs. Catherine Jones. The service started with the singing of Jerusalem, and listening to this in a packed church was very moving and proof that WI is flourishing in this area. 8 lessons were read plus a poem read by a Waltham Chase member. The lesson for Wickham was read by Mavis Bruce. Our Christmas meeting was held on 13th December in the Community Centre. This took the form of a party with a raffle or rather a present for everyone and a quiz. Same old story, lots of puzzled faces and cries of “Oh of course” when the answers were read out.



- Flower of the month      Yvonne Case
- Competition                Barbara Mullett

We always make our January meeting a late Christmas lunch. This year it was at Bank's of Bishop's Waltham. A good way to round off Christmas and prepare us for the start of our WI year and a new programme of events.

Our next meeting 14th February, 2.15pm in the Community Centre. The speaker is Mrs. Phillips, and her subject, '**Hop Picking in Kent**'. As always visitors are always welcome.

*GFW*

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



Apologies to all for missing the copy date for the November/December magazine, but a forthcoming heart by-pass operation held priority in my attention at the time.

My greatest apology for the late mention must go to our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Mrs Sheena Bright and her band of faithful helpers together with the local businesses, shops and offices that made such a fantastic effort in 2006 and surpassed all previous efforts by raising a magnificent total of £4,418.52, an increase of £1339.84 on 2005. A truly wonderful show of support for the assistance that the funds raised by the RBL Poppy Appeal offers to ex-service personnel and their dependants. The branch is truly proud to have such a dedicated organiser and assistants.

The support from the local Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies together with the show of manpower from Wickham Fire and Rescue, the attendance of a number of members of the Parish Council and the reciprocal visit from a group of the residents of Villers-sur-Mer made the Remembrance Weekend Parade and Service another memorable and moving occasion. The branch once again being very grateful for the assistance giving by the Fareham Police in ensuring that the Parade crossed the main road to the Church in safety. Thank you one and all for your support.

November and December has seen seven new members join the branch with interest shown by several others. Despite the loss of two long serving members, one from death following a spell in hospital, the other by resignation having moved from the area, the branch is once again growing in strength.

The Branch Social Committee meeting was held on the 9th January. A suitable programme of summer events was discussed and details will be circulated shortly.

*Mick Kerley*

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## ***FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY***



2006 was a very busy and successful year for Court Loyal Brethren. In January we enjoyed the Ice Show at Brighton followed by a meal at Goring-on-Sea. In April we had our Annual Court Lunch in the Robin Smith Suite at The Rose Bowl (the home of Hampshire Cricket) at which the Revd Arnold Hirst gave a very interesting talk as our Guest Speaker.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our “Teddy Bears Picnic” at Fairthorne Manor in May. Little did we know when we cancelled that there would be torrential rain on the day.

On 17th June, several of us met with members of the Wessex area to enjoy another meal. This time at R.N.L.I. College in Poole. The following day the Court Committee along with other Court members sat down to a strawberry and cream tea in the garden of Graham and Margaret Knight's home when we were honoured with a visit from our High Chief Ranger, Bro. Alex Battershill, who travelled from Plymouth to be with us.

The next Court event was in July when we visited Bletchley Park where the Enigma Code was cracked during the War. That visit was very interesting, but unfortunately for us it was one of the hottest days of the year. This time on the way home, we enjoyed a meal at Newbury. Strangely enough, after that hot day, we were dormant until October when we held our first

Harvest Supper in Wickham Community Centre. Our guest speaker was Mr Brian Kidd. Yet another enjoyable event.

We were lucky enough to purchase 50 tickets to enable us to attend the afternoon performance of the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance where we all enjoyed the atmosphere. I find it difficult to describe our emotions. This time we stopped on the way home at Harestock for a meal.

On the first Sunday in December the Court Committee visited Greens, where 25 of us were very busy eating and enjoying a Christmas Lunch. I guess you get the impression we are always eating! That may be so, but it helps to create a wonderful fellowship when ideas for 'Next Year' are tossed around.

The final event of the year was the Carolcade featuring the Meon Valley Methodist Circuit Band and the Bishops Bells Hand Bell Team. The service was well attended and we were joined by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, City Councillor and members of the Parish Council. The collection in aid of Fort Cancer Charity amounted to £201. The afternoon concluded with tea, mince pies and sausage rolls. Ideas for 2007 are on the drawing board!

*John Pratt*

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## ***WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY***

At a joint meeting with the Wickham Society on December 5th, Norman Jackson, former Chief Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London, came to tell us about this historic building.

He recounted the story of the Tower from its earliest fortification as a Motte and Bailey castle in the 11th Century, through centuries of development as a central part of our kingdom to its modern public face as a major tourist attraction.

With a series of interesting slides and a presentation that was fluent, knowledgeable and amusing, Mr. Jackson held us spellbound as we heard about the many personalities who have been associated with the Tower throughout its history. There were many gory tales too to capture our interest - a history lesson far removed from the textbook or classroom but nevertheless both factual and instructive.

This fascinating presentation was followed by a Seasonal opportunity to enjoy mulled wine and festive fare in good company.

At our next meeting on February 6th, Brian Barrett and Barrie Marson will give a presentation on Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Meetings start at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Room.

*Doreen Barrett*

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## ***WICKHAM SOCIETY***

At our joint December Meeting with the History Society we were fortunate enough to have Norman Jackson, a former Chief Warder at the Tower of London regale us with the history of the Tower, its development over the centuries, and its role as fortress, palace, seat of government, and the origins of the civil service. Not to mention those unfortunate enough to be incarcerated awaiting execution because of their crimes or perceived crimes against the reigning Monarch. Norman's knowledge and his involvement in the traditions and pageantry of day to day in the Tower brought it all to life for the members who were thoroughly enchanted.

Many of you will know that a public examination of the South East Regional Development Plan for the South Hampshire Sub-Region will have taken place on the 23rd/24th January at Westhampnett near Chichester. Part of this examination included the proposal to build 10,000 dwellings and 120,000 sq. m of employment space between the M27 and Wickham over a number of years to 2024. Michael Carter will report back to members at their next meeting on the input made at the public examination by S.H.U.V. (South Hampshire's Unheard Voices) who represented the Wickham Society, among other concerned groups. There is a web site: [www.eipsoutheast.co.uk](http://www.eipsoutheast.co.uk) where information on the examination is posted.

At our next meeting on the 13th February, at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Room, Barry Duffin will give a talk on '**Wickham Common and its historic heathland landscape**'. He will dwell on the efforts to restore the ancient heathland and enhance the ecological value of the Common.

Michael Carter intends to stand down as the Chairman of the Wickham Society at the Annual General Meeting, due to take place on the 13th. March at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Room. To date no volunteer has come forward to succeed Michael, which, if one fails to materialise, could signal the demise of the Wickham Society. There is also a vacancy for a Secretary with Brian Campbell having left the village recently. On completion of the A.G.M. the Vice Chairman Sue Fitzgerald will give a talk about '**Wickham First Responders**'.

*John Woodland*

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## **WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Joyeux Noel et une bonne nouvelle année!

The greeting comes from Villers to all our twinnings in Wickham.

December also brought news that a group from Villers will come to Wickham on Saturday 26th May, probably arriving on the fast cat at around 3 o'clock in the afternoon and leaving on Monday 28th May, which is a Bank Holiday for us. Please put the dates in your diary and write off a post card or e-mail to invite a special friend. We welcome anyone who would like to join in and we'll tell you more next month.

Before then we have our A.G.M. on Tuesday, March 20th in the Church Room at 7.30. There will be time for sociability with a glass of wine and after the formalities, a speaker will entertain us. All members and villagers are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you at all or any of our various activities during 2007.

*Ann Johnson*

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## **THURSDAY CLUB**

The monthly meeting for November 2006 included a return visit from the delightful Miss Sevier, a New Forest commoner. This time she gave us a most interesting and informative account of "The ecology and history of the New Forest" illustrated by slides and several amusing stories.

The year ended on a seasonal festive note with the Christmas party on December 7th. As usual the Committee provided a sumptuous and extensive tea, while this year the entertainment was provided by ARTFULL - a lively duo who played and sang "all the old songs" as well as carols. A good time was had by all.

Regular monthly meetings resume on the first Thursday in February when we plan to hold a Bingo session.

*Lucy Carter*

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## **WICKHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

In conjunction with TOURISM SOUTH EAST, the Chamber of Commerce has organized a brief training programme focusing on giving visitors to Wickham an even warmer welcome than they already receive.

Wickham is the first village for whom a 'Welcome Host' course has been customized. Developed exclusively for Wickham, the course will be taking place at Greens restaurant & bar on the 6th & 13th February. There will be a choice of afternoon or evening sessions - a total of 6 hours, 3 hours each week. Refreshments will be provided.

The course is aimed at anyone who has contact with the public at large and has an interest in extending a warm welcome to Wickham. It has been designed to be lively, fun and interactive.

It will be a great opportunity to meet up with other people who take pride in Wickham and it is open to anyone interested on a first come first served basis. A simple application form is available from Greens or online from [gheighington@tourisme.com](mailto:gheighington@tourisme.com)

Tourism South East is anticipating a lot of interest in the course and is planning a press release to promote Wickham as a friendly place to be.



On completion of the course all participants will be entitled to wear a customized '**Welcome to Wickham**' badge.

Cost of the course is normally 75 pounds. However with subsidies from TOURISM SOUTH EAST it is available for only 15 pounds. Chamber of Commerce members are completely free.

For any further info please contact Carol Duckworth at Greens on 01329 833197

Look forward to seeing you there!

*Carol Duckworth*

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## **WICKHAM CRICKET CLUB**

Since the AGM in November, things have been fairly quiet on the cricket front. Our main focus at the moment is dealing with the general administration that goes on behind the scenes, such as renewing our membership with the Hampshire Cricket League, attending their AGM, ordering handbooks and cricket balls for next season, arranging friendly fixtures, planning for our new pavilion, preparing our own fixture cards etc. And of course, there is maintenance of the pitch and facilities to be carried out. There never seems to be a time when there isn't a job waiting to be done!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, indoor net practice starts on Tuesday 13th February at the Rose Bowl, Hedge End, from 9.00pm – 10.00pm and every following Tuesday until 17th April. (Just in time for the start of the new Hampshire League season on 5 May.) 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.



Aside from cricket, the main event during the last month was the marriage of one of our stalwart members, Martin Reed to his lovely bride Martha. They had a very quiet wedding just before Christmas and we all wish them well in their new life together. Martha is also keen on cricket and we hope she will be joining our happy band of tea ladies this year!

*Lesley Wilde*

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

Happy New Year to you all

This is going to be a great year for Scouting, we have reached our 100th Birthday (1907-2007). This leads me on to a date for your diary - Saturday 21st April. Wickham Scout Group are hosting the annual district St. George's Day Parade. We would like to invite anyone who has been involved with scouting over the past 100 years to join us for the parade and service. Details will follow in the next magazine.

Although we don't have a building at the moment we are still going to hold our annual May Day Fayre on Monday 7th May. This is another date for your diary.

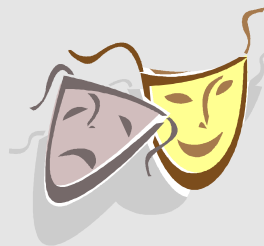
Paperwork is still ongoing for our new HQ. Let's hope soon we will be able to report some good news!!!!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Post delivery. We delivered 453 cards and raised nearly £70-00.

We are meeting at Lyons Copse and do have places for boys and girls aged between 6 and 14years. If your son or daughter would like to come and join us in our happy family of Scouting, please phone 01329 832739 for details.

*Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader*

## *CURDRIDGE AMATEUR DRAMA GROUP*



The Group has now started rehearsals for the next production which will be staged on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March** at the Reading Rooms. Carey Blake is directing an old favourite, a 1950's farce ***Dry Rot***, by John Chapman which starred Brian Rix on the London stage. Set in a country house hotel with the requisite number of doors, a large cast and a hilarious plot it should have the audience rolling around in the aisles. For those of you have not tried a Curdridge Amateur Drama Group production yet, this one will be a great place to start.

Tickets will be going on sale in March and can be obtained from Chris Pond on 01489 895844. The curtain goes up at 7.45pm and the bar is open from 7.15pm.

The Group has been going in its current format for almost 40 years and is proud to be such a major part of the life of the Reading Rooms. During the Curdridge Show, members of the group man the gates and last year mounted an exhibition stand. The Group also organises social events and visits to other theatre productions. We are always pleased to welcome new faces to the audience and to the group itself. If you are interested in learning more about us, please call Chris on the number above, or myself on 01489 788370.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

*Glenda Willis*

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## ***OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS***

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### ***MISSION TO SEAFARERS***

Many of you will know of the death, just before Christmas, of Bob Napthine, known to us all as “Captain Bob”.

Bob was a great supporter of the Mission and some 10 years ago became actively involved with us. Helping raise monies, via Flag Days, and stalls, etc. He would use the Southampton Centre for his Sea Cadets where he became their Area Leading light. Hence his name “Captain Bob”. He wrote many articles for the Parish Magazine. We would alternate on a two monthly rota. He retired from this duty some 12 months ago when he moved from Hoads Hill to Church View. He remained a Royal Marine all his life even though he was invalided out with the loss of one kidney at a very young age.



A supportive member of the Royal British Legion and a great friend to many older people in the village. He was a family man too, leaving behind 3 generations of Napthines. He will be greatly missed by many.

2007 started quietly but 2006 ended well for Mission to Seafarers in this area. Thanks to the Christmas Fayre sales in both St Nicholas Wickham and St Johns Shedfield, we raised just over £400. Thank you everyone.

I am looking for someone to join us as Parish Link for Wickham. Nothing strenuous or demanding really, just a pair of extra hands and a fresh view.

Belated Happy New Year to you all.

Bob Napthine's Memorial Service will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 24th February at St Nicholas Church.

*Mike and Sandy Beckett*

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### ***MEON VALLEY LIONS***

#### **Santa helps Lions' Christmas charity collection**



With the clock ticking down to his busiest night of the year, Father Christmas has been out and about in Wickham meeting excited children and helping the Meon Valley Lions with their annual charity Christmas collection. The Lions have visited villages the length of the Meon

Valley during the month of December, as part of a seasonal charity campaign.



The Lions club channels approximately 80% of the money it raises back into good causes within the local community. However, this year, one penny in every pound collected will go towards a Gambian school where incredibly 1p pays for a lunch for one of the pupils. Thanks to everyone again this year for your generous support

*Ian Adams, Publicity Co-ordinator, Meon Valley Lions*

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### ***MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER – MEMORY MATTERS***

#### **Fundraising**

To start this article, I would like to say a big thank you to those at Ridgemean School, Bishops Waltham, who put on a fantastic production of “Scrooge” at Christmas and held a collection for MVCT. A collection was also made for us at St Peter’s Church family Carol Concert. We really appreciate the help that we receive from locally organised events such as these.

Whilst on the same subject, I would like to give you a date for the diary for our own fundraiser; namely a Murder Mystery evening to be held in Soberton on the 18<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets, priced at £20 and will include a 3 course meal, will be available shortly; if you are interested in supporting the evening, please call Sue on 01489 877282 or Sally on 01489 891476.

## Programme of Events for 2007

Our new programme has now been published for the coming New Year; in line with previous years we will be partaking in Pub Lunches once a month which for a change will now alternate between three local hostelrys, namely the Old Forge in Shedfield, the New Inn at Swanmore and the Black Dog in Waltham Chase. We hope that new members will be able to join us in this relaxed, social atmosphere for some good food and company.

Also on the calendar are our regular monthly support groups, in which carers can leave their partners for a short while to take part in a variety of activities (including Music Therapy) whilst they can relax and listen to one of our excellent guest speakers who are invited from a wide range of local services and bear some relevance to caring for someone with Dementia.

If you are not sure whether you would like to become a member but want to know more please ring one of the numbers below, or why not come along to one of our advertised events and see if it suits?

### Outreach Workers

We now have two volunteers who are available to visit members at home if they need to discuss any problems they may have with care or with claiming benefits.

### Trained Volunteers

Among the many wonderful volunteers who help at MVCT, we have three people who have attended a comprehensive course entitled "Understanding Dementia". This is run by Gemma Jones, a neuropsychologist and educator who has worked with Dementia patients for most of her career. The course has given our volunteers a great deal of information which is proving invaluable for our members, who often have no other sources of obtaining this kind of practical behavioural knowledge.

### Forthcoming Meetings

<b>Tues 6 February</b>	Lunch at the New Inn, Swanmore, 12 noon
<b>Tues 20 February</b>	Tea Dance (no talk, combined activity) - Paterson Centre, Swanmore, 2pm
<b>Tues 6 March</b>	Lunch at the Black Dog, Waltham Chase 12 noon
<b>Tues 20 March</b>	Movement to Music, Memory Lane Bingo plus a talk on Emergency Care in the Home - Paterson Centre, Swanmore, 2pm
<b>Tues 10 April</b>	Lunch at the Forge, Shedfield, 12 noon

### 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)

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## MEON VALLEY U3A

*Programme 2006/2007 Theme: "Travellers' Tales"*

### 2007

Feb	6 2pm	GROUP DISCUSSION: "Best & Worst Travellers' Experiences" Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
	13 2pm	<b>Music Appreciation: Dr. Denis May</b> discusses <b>Elgar</b> Ring (01329) 833594 for directions to venue	
	20 2pm	"My Ancestors" presentation by <b>George Yaldun</b> Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
	28 2pm	READING GROUP: ring (01329) 833384 for title & venue	
Mar	6 2pm	"Voyages in Retirement" illustrated talk by <b>Brian Barrett</b> Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
	13 2pm	<b>Music Appreciation: Dr. Denis May</b> discusses <b>Prokofiev-Symphony No:5</b> Ring (01329) 833594 for directions to venue	
	20 2pm	"Where are all the flowers from? – the journey of some plants to our gardens" talk by <b>Lucy Marson</b> Wickham Community Centre	Guests welcome
	27 2pm	READING GROUP: ring (01329) 833384 for title & venue	

U3A  
MEON VALLEY

*Edna Housecroft*

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

**Q.** I have joined an employment agency and they found me a job working on contract for three months. I will be paid through the agency and have a daily rate. The agency has told me that they will pay me extra for holiday pay as part of my daily rate. This means I will have to save up my holiday pay. I am a bit worried, as I will need to be vigilant about saving my pay for holidays. Can the agency legally pay me this way?

**A.** No they can't – it is against the law. Some employers and employment agencies may say that your hourly or daily rate of pay includes an amount for holiday pay, and that they expect you to save this part of your pay to cover your holidays. This is known as 'rolled up' holiday pay. The European Court of Justice has recently ruled that it is against the law for employers to pay their employees in this way. It is only legal if your employer itemises the holiday pay separately on the pay slip and not if the daily rate of pay is simply being increased a bit.

If your employer is paying you rolled up holiday pay, you should get advice from an experienced adviser, for example, at a Citizens Advice Bureau.

You can get more detailed information on employment 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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## ***HASLAR VISITORS GROUP***

### **Carols in Detention**

Immigrants awaiting their 'removal' (or deportation) in IRC Haslar had their own very distinctive carol service just before Christmas. For many of us guests it was interesting to see the inside of the place, beyond the gate house and the visits room. We were escorted through locked gates in various fences topped with razor wire. The removal centre is a closed institution owned and operated by the Prison Service.

There were lots of guests in the gym, not the bishop this year, but a number of visitor group members, prison officers and assorted worthies – and of course lots of detainees. Some were Christians but some Muslims, there was at least one Sikh (religious convictions unknown) and probably a number of the bored and curious. Everybody was mixed together, there was happy chatter as the Salvation Army played people in, and then the Governor was on her feet with words of welcome before sitting, very democratically, on a gym bench in front of the more comfortable chairs.

Carols were sung, prayers said, and then came the play. 'God' (a Latin American) decided to try sending Joseph (a Nigerian) and Mary (unknown) down to earth again, mankind not having learnt too much from the first incarnation. Joseph and Mary happily agreed but Mary was worried about the state of the Middle East and suggested they be sent somewhere else. They arrived in Lewisham and had various disappointments before ending up in the hands of an immigration officer "You tell me you're from Heaven but as Heaven is not a member state of the European Union and you don't have a valid visa ...." The audience, including the detainees, all laughed heartily.

It was a good evening with a good atmosphere and great to mix with detainees in an easy and informal way, as we did over mince pies after the service.

It's easy, but mistaken, to think of a place like Haslar as some sort of boarding school with headmaster and teachers encouraging community spirit. In fact it's much more of a bleak hostel with worried men coming and going and nobody really feeling they know anyone, or even want to know anyone. Oddly for a place where men sleep in dormitories of thirty it's possible to be very lonely as well as very anxious. The Carol Service, with its good feeling and message of hope, was actually the exception which proves the general rule. Please remember these lonely anxious men in your prayers.

*Michael Woolley, Coordinator Haslar Visitors Group*

Haslar Visitors Group is a registered charity which arranges for local people to visit immigrants kept under lock and key at Immigration Removal Centre Haslar near Gosport. It has beds for 160 unhappy young men being sent back to their own countries and facing very uncertain futures. This is one of a series of articles, published every 4-6 weeks by the Visitors Group, on the topic of asylum and immigration, for inclusion in church magazines and newsletters. For more information please contact: The Coordinator, Haslar Visitors Group, Commercial Road, Portsmouth PO1 4BT. Phone/ Fax: 023 9283 9222 Email: [coordinator@haslarvisitors.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@haslarvisitors.org.uk)

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# Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

## Upcoming Countryside & Wildlife Courses

Courses have limited numbers so **please book**, preferably 2 weeks in advance, to secure your place. Please contact the Hampshire. For details of additional courses, please visit [www.hwt.org.uk](http://www.hwt.org.uk)



**Hampshire & Isle of Wight**

### Bird identification

A four week course that will allow you to become more familiar with the birds that can be found during the earlier months of the year.

**Saturdays from 9am-12noon, Mar 10, 17, 24 and 31 with Dennis Garratt**

Meet and park at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). Cost £30.

### Ponds – creating life in the garden

This informal session will cover all you need to know to build and maintain a wildlife pond, what plants to use and about the life you'll bring to your garden. Phil Jeffs will guide you through the principles and practicalities at the Wildlife Trust's demonstration garden. Cost £10.

**Saturday 24 March, from 9am-12noon with Phil Jeffs**

Meet and park at Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge SO32 2DP.

### Birds, bees and butterflies - enliven your garden!

Phil Jeffs will guide you through the right trees, shrubs and plants to attract birds and butterflies into your garden, from general principles through to the practicalities at the Wildlife Trust's demonstration garden. Cost £10

**Saturday 31 March, from 9am-12noon with Phil Jeffs**

Meet and park at Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge SO32 2DP.

## Upcoming Events in February

**Tue 6 History at Swanwick Lakes** 10-11.30am.

Join Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve staff to find out more about the industrial heritage of the reserve. 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.

**Sat 10 Explore Brownwich and the Titchfield Haven Canal Path** 10am.

Join John Goodspeed for a 6 mile walk from Titchfield to Brownwich, along the shore and to Titchfield Haven and back along the Canal. Remember to bring a drink and snack for when we stop. Please meet and park in the car-park on Hook lane (Map ref. SU 523 055). For more information, please contact John Goodspeed on 023 9222 1361.

**Mon 12 Navigation for All** 7.30pm.

A talk by the Itchen Navigation Project Team, on the many aspects of enhancing and improving the Itchen Navigation. A local topic of great interest to us all. To be held at Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Street, Fareham. Ample parking is available in Trinity Street car park. Please contact Dave Barclay on 01329 665391 for further information. Admission £2. Refreshments provided for a small donation.

**Mon 19 Survival** 10am-3pm for children aged 8 to 14. A day of problem solving, shelter building, camp fires and survival in the deepest, darkest woods of Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve! Please bring an adult and a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided. 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 £5

**Tue 20 Two Little Dickie Birds** 10-11.30am for children up to 7, 2pm-4pm for children aged 6-12. Come along to Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve to make your own bird feeder and find out more about the birds that visit your garden. An action-packed session involving crafts, games and activities. 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 21 It's a Bug's Life** 10-11.30am for children up to 7, 2-4pm for children aged 6-12.

Visit Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve for a bugs and woodland themed session of games, crafts and activities. 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

**Tue 27 Quack, Quack, Quack!** 11am-12.30pm.

Come along to Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve for an event suitable for toddlers and pre-school children involving a pushchair friendly walk, stories, fun and messy crafts. 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

**Mon 26 Abu Dhabi to Dundridge and Back** 7.45pm.

A talk and presentation by the super-energised Peter Potts. He will attempt to describe the last year, tackling bird flu and running reserves. To be held at St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. For further information, please contact Phil Jeffs on 01489 896280. Admission £2

*Imogen Moody*

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# **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

## **FEBRUARY 2007**

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### **Anti-clutter campaign**

Wickham is the focus of a study by Hampshire County Council aimed at reducing the amount of clutter on our roads. An anti-clutter project is looking at the A32 between Wickham and West Meon to see what opportunities there are to reduce the number of road signs without endangering personal safety. Preliminary thoughts are that about 80 signs could be removed.

This is one of 12 projects in the county and they have the support of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England which believes that the countryside is blighted by unnecessary signs. Wickham residents will be consulted on proposals before they are put into effect. Work in Norfolk suggests that when anti-clutter measures are taken, the number of accidents is reduced.

### **Speed Limits Under Review**

New Government regulations on setting speed limits means Hampshire County Council can review all speed limits in the countryside and within villages. National statistics indicate that single carriageway rural roads have the highest level of serious injury accidents where speed is a key factor.

The review of speed limits will be carried out this year and include consideration of 20 mph limits outside schools where governing bodies wish to have them.

### **Civil Partnerships**

A year has passed since civil partnerships were introduced into Hampshire. In the last 12 months since single sex partnerships were given legal status, 280 couples have formed civil partnerships in the county – 163 male couples and 117 female couples.

### **Landfill progress**

Hampshire has the best record of any county in England in reducing the amount of rubbish buried in landfill sites. Latest figures from the Local Government Association show that Hampshire sent only 19 percent of its waste to landfill sites, the rest being recycled or being handled at energy from waste sites. Second best authority was Staffordshire where 45 percent of waste is buried in landfill sites.



*Freddie Allgood*  
*County Councillor*  
*for Wickham*

### **Support Kidney Research UK by walking London's famous bridges**



#### **London Bridges Walk – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

Enjoy a great day of sight-seeing and support Kidney Research UK by walking eight of London's Bridges on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007. It costs £7.50 per person to take part and this price includes a goodie-filled backpack and a special event t-shirt.

For more information or to take part in the London Bridges Walk please call Kidney Research UK on 08456 121226, email [events@kidneyresearchuk.org](mailto:events@kidneyresearchuk.org) or visit [www.kidneyresearchuk.org](http://www.kidneyresearchuk.org).

*Elizabeth Wright*

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# **WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

## **FEBRUARY 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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#### **WICKHAM STATION CAR PARK**

The long planned refurbishment of the station car park started on Monday 29th January 2007 and should take about 3 weeks to complete. During the time of the refurbishment the car park will remain closed. Signs placed at the entrance to the car park are advising motorists to use the Community Centre Car Park.

The application was for the development of land for residential (450 units); live/work (24 units); employment (7.1ha including B1, B2, B8 and a Household Waste Recycling Centre); mixed use including retail, food and drink, financial/professional and health; open space/recreational purposes and the construction of two accesses from Hambledon Road.

#### **KNOWLE COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

We have supported a proposal that the City Council will fund the majority of the new Knowle Sports Pavilion which will have better community and meeting facilities than the present Village Hall. A meeting has taken place with residents and Wickham Parish Council to progress the proposal that the Parish takes over the responsibility for the recreation and sports area rather than having it managed by the management Company. Knowle residents will continue to run their own local facility as they do now.

The larger outline application from Grainger for the rest of the site will be heard at Havant Offices on Monday April 16th at 10am. Public attendance and participation is welcomed.

#### **WINCHESTER ICE RINK:**

An ice rink was installed on part of the Winchester Cathedral Close during the pre and post Christmas period this year. The project was supported by the Council and was a great success. It is hoped the ice rink will be back next year.

#### **CHANGES IN YOUR WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

You will by now have received information about the ABC alternate bin collection which will start in Wickham, Curbridge and Knowle in June. This means that from then (start date to be announced) waste bins will be collected one week and recycling and garden waste the next. You have been offered the options of larger bins and garden waste sacks will be delivered to your door. There is a WCC Roadshow evening due to be held in Wickham Community Centre to answer any queries on February 21st. A similar pilot scheme has operated in the north of the District for 1 year and a second phase started in January.

#### **OUR NEXT MONTHLY COUNCILLOR SURGERIES:**

This will be in the:

Wickham Community Centre on Tuesday  
20th February 7-8pm

Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday  
27th March 6.30 -7.30pm

No appointment necessary-just come along.

#### **BREAK A LEG!**

Therese broke her leg on the weekend before Christmas and is now on the mend and hop! She would like to thank everyone very much for all your good wishes for her speedy recovery.

#### **WEST OF WATERLOOVILLE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AREA**

2,000 - 3,000 houses are planned for this development in the County Council's Structure Plan. Most houses will be in Winchester District but some will be in Havant Borough. The planning committees from the two councils recently met together and gave outline planning permission for smaller application by Wimpey for the development of land at Old Park Farm, South of Hambledon Road, Waterlooville, (opposite the parade of shops on the Denmead/Waterlooville road).



*Thérèse and Phil*



## Wickham Parish Council News January 2007

### Station Close Car park resurfacing

After several years of promises the Station Close car park is finally to be resurfaced starting in early February, there will be some disruption while the work is carried out.

### Alternate bin collections



Prepare for the changes by reducing waste through composting. Bargain compost bins available from £8 for Wickham residents <http://www.recyclenow.com/compost/>  
If you have any questions about the new system there will be a road shop at Wickham Community Centre on Wednesday 21st February 6.30 – 8.30pm and at Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 20th March 6.30 – 8.30pm

### Community Planning

Volunteers are needed to lead a new community planning exercise building on previous achievements of the Parish Plan. More information from Winchester City Council's Rural Towns Development Officer in this edition of the Parish Magazine. Winchester City Council is also carrying out consultation on future planning. Event planned for the evening **Tuesday 13th February** at the Community Centre. If you are interested in a sustainable future for Wickham please attend. See posters and notice boards for more information.

### Wickham Barber Shop

The Wickham Water Meadows Trust has leased the Old Forge to Wickham Barber Shop. Gents only hairdressing will be opening soon.

### Church Crossroads

Plans have been drawn up by Hampshire County Council for traffic lights at the Church

crossroads. The estimated cost of the work is £350,000.

Funding will have to be agreed for the work to proceed.

### Elections 2007

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



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

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

### 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.

Contact the Clerk for more information.

### Community Minibus

A minibus is available for communities to 'exploit and develop' our own services to address local needs. It can be booked by ringing 01962 852602 or by email to: [winchestercommunitytransport@waca.org.uk](mailto:winchestercommunitytransport@waca.org.uk)

Keys and the minibus can be collected from Swanmore. MiDAS training for drivers can be arranged.

### Meetings

#### Planning Committee

7.30pm Monday 26th February

#### Full Council

7.15pm Monday 19th February Wickham Community Centre

Please see notice boards or website for details of other meetings

All are 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)