



River Meon and Water Meadows ©JL

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
11am Sunday 20th April
at St Nicholas Church

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
7pm Wednesday 23rd April
at Wickham Community Centre

Come and celebrate your community

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE LICENSED READER



Dear Friends,

Most mornings I try to be in the car driving to work by 7.45 in time to catch “Thought for the day” on Radio 4. Some speakers’ “thoughts” strike a chord whilst others fail to make much sense. That is true not just for “Thought for the day” but many others who appear on the airwaves trying to get their opinion across. “Yesterday in Parliament” may be a good example!

The same applies in our everyday lives. It seems to me that all too often we are on the receiving end of so many mixed messages that it is difficult not to resist the temptation to switch off.

I still can’t work out whether red wine is good or bad for me, although I know which message I would prefer to hear! Experts disagree whether nuclear energy is harmful to the environment or an efficient energy source. As to whether Identity Cards are a good way to protect ourselves against terrorism or represent a denial of civil liberties, I have heard more in the past few days to convince me that there is merit in all points of view.

But if we simply switch off to the arguments we are in danger of falling back on our own views and prejudices and relax in the comfort zone of our own take on life, without opening our minds to the possibility that there may be just a chance that someone else’s opinion has some value.

I was reminded recently of a visitor who attended a modern art gallery and standing in front of a particularly obscure and modernistic painting announced after a fleeting moment “that is not art – that is rubbish.” Next to the visitor stood another who replied “Whether this is a good painting I cannot tell. But I have looked at this painting for the last 30 minutes and whilst I agree it may not be pleasing to the eye am impressed with the way in which the artist has sought to convey his feelings through his use of colour, light and shade, perspective and artwork.”

Whose opinion is more valuable? The one who came to an instant decision without much thought? Or the one who thought hard and long before offering his interpretation of the same painting?

Imagine those same two people in the art gallery standing before a painting of Christ on the cross. The first rejects the existence of Christ out of hand. The other might form the same, or indeed different, view having given the matter considerable thought. I know whose view I would respect the most.

We have been through the journey of Lent and the glorious Easter Resurrection. Christians believe that Christ was truly the Son of God whose life was sacrificed for us, through the brutality of his death on the cross so that we may be redeemed from our sins. The importance of Christ’s death and resurrection is central to our faith. That faith and belief comes from a willingness to try and understand the mystery that, like some types of modern art, passes all understanding.

Remember the second man in the art gallery? “I cannot tell” he said “whether the painting is good or not.” He did not however reject the painting out of hand but gave considered reasons for his view of it.

Similarly, we cannot tell how silently Christ suffered, or how his heart upon the cross was broken. But paraphrasing the famous hymn we do know that he heals the broken hearted, stays our sin and calms our lurking fear. He lifts the burden from the heavy laden for yet the Saviour of the world is here.

We are free to believe that or not. But for all His suffering Christ is surely entitled to ask us to open our hearts and minds before accepting or rejecting the love of God. Although the emotions of Lent and the joyous celebration of Easter Day are behind us - at least for another year – our journey with Christ will always raise questions.

So my “Thought for the Day” is to ask whether our answers come from an instant decision without much thought. Or do they come from hard and long thinking? Only from the latter will we discover the painting is in fact a masterpiece, a priceless treasure.

In His Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen".

Stephen Campion, Reader

PUTTING THE CHURCH BACK INTO WEDDINGS

An initiative by Swanmore Parish Church

The Parish Church of Swanmore, St Barnabas, has great pleasure in presenting:

The Hampshire Wedding Fair 2008

It's the happiest day of most people's lives – and the Church has a crucial role to play in it. Weddings are occasions when we can showcase all that is good about our churches. Not only does a church wedding mean the couple receives God's blessing, but it gives guests a chance to experience church worship, and church members the chance to be welcoming.

Recent research has shown that 53 per cent of people believe that church is the 'proper' place to get married. But only 22 per cent do marry in church, and many couples believe they don't qualify. That's why the national Church of England has just launched a two-year project to promote church weddings and why St Barnabas, Swanmore will again host Hampshire's interactive Wedding Fair on Saturday 12th April from 11am to 4pm.

This event was first held last year and was a huge success. This year it will be even bigger and better and hundreds of visitors are expected. The event is being organised by worshipper Felicity Boraston, from the firm 'From This Day Forwards'. "We wanted to negate the idea that getting married in the church was somehow quite a scary prospect, and show couples that – far from feeling intimidated – they could expect a very warm welcome in their local church," said Felicity. "Of course, we also wanted to illustrate that a decorated church could be just as beautiful and dramatic as any hotel or restaurant venue."

The event, sponsored by Mapledean, will feature 50 exhibitors housed in and around the church with a huge fully lined and decorated marquee from Hampshire Garden Marquees. It will enable visitors to view everything they might need for their perfect day: photographers, a videographer, florists, dressmakers, beauticians, hairdressers, jewellers, retro, contemporary and vintage cars, a horse-drawn carriage, caterers, entertainers, musicians, giant games, fireworks specialist, balloon artist, and a chocolate fountain. The Vicar and the Mothers' Union will be on hand should visitors wish to discuss any issues surrounding church weddings.

The day will include a lunchtime fashion show of wedding dresses and outfits for bridesmaids and family members. Models will parade up and down the aisle inside St Barnabas Church to show what the clothes would look like in church. It will feature designs from renowned designer Toni-Anne, and up-to-the-minute fashions from Butterfly. Also on display will be beautiful dresses from A Touch of Class, stockists of Catherine Jane, Orchid and House of Nicholas Collections.

While viewing the exhibits, families can listen to live jazz music, sip drinks from the licensed bar or enjoy a hog roast. Tea and cake will also be available, and the energetic can take advantage of a giant outdoor game which is also available for wedding receptions.

Entrance is £2 which includes entry in the prize draw, a programme and directory of all exhibitors. **Plus** the first 100 guests will be greeted with a complimentary glass of bubbly.

Just follow the pink signs; **car parking is free**. Doors open at 11am, and we look forward to seeing you there! For more information, see www.thehampshireweddingfair.co.uk

Neil Pugmire, Diocese of Portsmouth

SWANMORE OPEN GARDENS

Gardens in Swanmore will again be open on Sunday, 27th April to raise funds for St Barnabas – the village's Victorian church which is in need of repairs. About ten lovely gardens – ranging in size from cottage plots to more than 2 acres – will be open from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. In addition there will be plants for sale at some of the gardens. Teas will be available at the Paterson Centre from 2.00pm where there will also be an Art Exhibition with pictures for sale.

Tickets and village maps can be bought at The Paterson Centre next to St Barnabas Church in Swanmore from 12.30pm on the day, price £3.00 per person to cover all the gardens. (Children 12 and under free). Car park available at the Paterson Centre and at some of the gardens – or visit the gardens by bicycle.

Kit Power

FROM THE METHODIST MINISTER

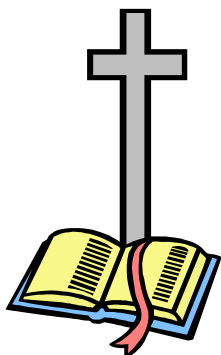


Cross Talk – When is a cross not a cross?

Dear Friends,

I know that Easter will have been celebrated just before this edition comes out, but we have time to reflect upon what it means. Many of us will have attended The Passion outdoor event in Winchester on Good Friday (the biggest outdoor Christian witness in the country) and others will have watched the BBC series “The Passion” on TV or read the Easter Gospel given free by the Daily Telegraph on Palm Sunday weekend. All in all a most challenging and inspiring time. So as I reflect upon this I find myself turning to the challenge of The Cross.

One of my friends, who has an anointed ministry for healing and miracles, following his own miracle healing from cancer, heard God say to him “freely you have received, freely give.....” And “you will call this ministry “Turning Point Ministries”. The Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ Jesus is the original turning point ministry. Consider then these words of Jesus....



"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me....."
(Mark 8:34)

What makes you cross? Spend a few moments reflecting on that question and you might be surprised at the list of things that irritate you and make you cross. How many of these things

arise because of you? In other words how much does self and selfish ambition become the driving force behind our anger. In our society there is so much individualism and selfishness that there isn't much room for loving our neighbours or our enemies or indeed, each other. When we don't get what we want or things don't go our way we easily sink into that lower human nature which displays anger, gossip, and separates into groups. St Paul reminds us that this type of response is not that of a Christian because it is opposed to the Spirit (Galatians 5:19ff).

A quick look around us reveals the truth of this teaching as we witness the continued destruction of the family and society. Jesus summed it up perfectly, when quoting the prophet Isaiah, he said ***“These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”*** (Matt 15:8-9)

Let us ask the first question again, although this time with one letter added.

What makes your cross? A short pause again to consider firstly the things that raise deep compassion within us for the plight of others. Examples are matters of injustice, intolerance, poverty, sickness, despair, loneliness, rejection, abuse, malicious gossip which not only raise up the emotion of compassion but a righteous anger and with it the determination to do something about it, like the Good Samaritan. Secondly, to consider the extent of our obedience to the commands of the Lord Jesus regardless of the cost like, for example, Norman Kember and his Canadian peace campaigners who two years ago risked all in Iraq. Thirdly to ask ourselves what sort of disciples we are, for if we love Him we will go where he sends us and do what he did. It means a variety of responses such as being misunderstood, hated, admired, respected, welcomed, rejected, persecuted, different, tortured and even put to death on the flimsiest of charges, like many Christians today in non Christian countries. That is why Jesus said that many will turn away from the faith and betray Him and hate each other (Matt 24:10).

It seems to me that we must be led by The Spirit in truth and righteousness. Our Cross is what we are in Christ. Jesus said ***“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.”*** (Mark 8:34-35)



Wickham Community Centre

It is not easy to be a Christian or to take our stand. Jesus wants us to stand firm to the end to be saved (Matt 24:13) and be worthy of Him (Matt 24:38). We believe that God has called us to be a witness in and out of the Community Centre, through Wickham Christian fellowship and WASPS.

So when is a cross not a cross? The Easter story celebrates the most decisive event in human history. God acted in Christ to forgive our sins and make us His children in a new kingdom, one which has no end. It is a celebration of the power of God's love (John 3:16-17). The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is to be at work in our lives and witness. We are called to self denial, to follow Jesus, and carry our cross daily. This is when it is our cross. Anything else surely will not do?

As we move to Pentecost from Holy week let us be captured again by God's love in Christ and resolve to bear our cross and follow Him. To God be the glory! Hallelujah he is risen! Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus.

Andrew Baguley

Working and Walking Together
The Annual Deanery Sponsored Walk for Christian Aid
'To the Bat and Ball and Back'

from The Methodist Church
Green Lane
Hambledon

(N.B. Not from the Parish Church)

Come and explore the beautiful countryside around Hambledon and see the famous cricket ground where it all began. The main walk is just under ten miles long, with an alternative short walk of about five miles also available.

Don't forget – find sponsors and walking boots – and join the walk!

Sunday 11th May 2008 at 2pm

St Nicholas Church, Wickham
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM will be held on Sunday, 20th April 2008 in the Church at 11am and all lay persons whose names are entered onto the Electoral Roll of the parish are entitled to **attend** this meeting and take part in its proceedings.

Elections for the PCC are held at this meeting and anyone on the Electoral Roll of the Church is eligible. Nomination forms will be at the back of the church from 20th March and should be returned, completed by 13th April 2008 to:

Jane Goulson, PCC Secretary, Roman Way, Tanfield Lane, Wickham PO17 5NN

Please contact Jane Goulson on 01329 833299 if you would like any further information

PARK PLACE PERSPECTIVES



Imagine, if you will. It is 7.30am at Wickham surgery and already over a hundred people are queuing outside in the cold, waiting to see a medical practitioner. Some will have travelled to Wickham from as far away as Stoke-on-Trent or Truro, as there are no medical facilities in their area. They are suffering from malaria and leprosy as well as more everyday ailments such as pregnancy complications and bad chests, most made worse by poor nutrition, some from malnutrition. Once the surgery opens everyone will clamour for antibiotics, but these are expensive and in short supply, so they will receive simpler, cheaper remedies- all that can be afforded and better than nothing, and they will be cared for with love and respect. The next day will be the same.



Now imagine the outrage and fury we would feel if this were us in Wickham. What I have described here are the basic conditions of life at the health clinic at Asebe Tefari in Ethiopia, which is run by the Indian Franciscan sisters who have a base here at Park Place. The Ethiopian clinic is run by a small group of nuns who are looked after by a night watchman, whose job is to alert them to intruders. For nuns in this outpost, the sound of gunfire is constant as the area is an intermittent war zone, caught in the middle of the waves of refugees escaping the terrors of war in Sudan, to the west and Kenya, to the south. "You often go to bed not knowing if you will make it to the morning" one of the sisters at Park Place told me of her life at the clinic. For these nuns, physical danger is less important than their task of working in this front line of God's service, offering essential health services to the poor in Ethiopia, Christian and Muslim alike.

The Friends of Park Place have asked what we can do to help and the answer came back swiftly. The sisters urgently need a new truck. They have to drive to the capital, Addis Ababa, about 250 miles away, to pick up the medical supplies for the clinic and their present vehicle has broken down irretrievably. In 2008, we are holding Lent Lunches, an Irish evening, quiz nights and of course, our annual Garden Party (on 13th July), to

raise funds for the sisters' work in Ethiopia. The sisters are also seeking donations to go direct to 'the Ethiopia truck fund'.

Please help this much-needed healthcare to continue by joining us in these activities at Park Place.

Katharine Crozier

THE MOTHERS' UNION



Pauline Wale, our previous Diocesan President, came to speak to us at our March meeting about her long involvement with the Mothers' Union. She called her talk "My life story". From the age of six she was connected with this movement through her mother. This connection continued whenever they moved to a new area. She organised numerous fun events for young women in Young Wives Groups as well as eventually joining MU herself. Despite having a family she took on more and more responsibilities in this world wide organisation. When she came to live in this Diocese she eventually became our President, which office she continued for six years.

Since retiring from being President, which had involved non stop activity, she had hoped for a quieter life, but it does not seem to have turned out like that. For example she could have declined the invitation to come to us but her life has been so much concerned with the Mothers' Union that she could not say "no". At the present time she has become responsible for organising our Diocesan project which through involvement in Wedding Fairs tries to encourage couples to seek God's blessing on their union. That is why, by suggesting church weddings, the Mothers' Union is trying to show "Christian care for families". There will be a Wedding Fair at Swanmore on Saturday 12th April, 11.00am until 4.00pm. Our Deanery is involved through making two wedding cakes, one of which will be cut into pieces for couples to try. There will be a questionnaire about this cake, and the winner will receive it! We hope that many church people will want to support this Fair and thus encourage couples to think about the possibility of starting their married lives with a church ceremony.

Our next meeting will be at 2, Cold Harbour Close when, following from the above, our members are invited to tell their own life story!

Anne Marshall

FRIENDS OF CAROLE FISHER - COFFEE MORNING

Date for your Diary: Saturday 10th May 2008

Carole was a much loved member of our community who developed Multiple Myeloma. This was unusual for someone as young as she was as it normally affects older people. This cancer is incurable but there are treatments which prolong life as it did for Carole. It is always hoped that more research will find the magic cure.

Meanwhile to help fund this research we are holding a coffee morning in Shedfield Church Study Centre on Saturday 10th May 10 – 12 noon. There will be cake stall, a raffle and a bric-a-brac stall – if you can donate anything, please ring either of us. We hope that many of you will join Carole's family and friends for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Please contact Ann Thompson 01489 892611 or Ann Stone 01329 832295.

Ann Thompson

WICKHAM FIREMEN FIND TIME AT ST NICHOLAS



The cleaned church clock face

Wickham Firemen recently cleared the vegetation from the south facing clock face at St Nicholas Church.

A job well done and a very big 'Thank You' from Wickham Village.

THE GOOD NEWS TRAVELLING LIBRARY

The next visit of the GNTL is
at the Paterson Centre,
Church Road, Swanmore,
on 8th April 2008
at 10.30 am ~ 12.15 pm
No visit in May

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

Everyone is welcome - refreshments served.

Botley Choral Society

Upham Recorder Orchestra

Spring Concert

*Horowitz ~ Captain Noah
Rutter ~ Sprig of Thyme*

Meon Hall, Meonstoke

Saturday 5th April, 7.30 pm

Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham

Sunday 6th April, 7.30pm

Tickets £8 (concessions £6)
Children under 16yrs. free

*Available from Choir Members
or*

Tel: 01489 890393

E-mail: enquiries@botleychoral.co.uk

VILLAGE NEWS

MEON VALLEY POLICE STATION



You may or may not know that the area of Wickham and Knowle is covered by the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) based here at Bishops Waltham. Sgt Chris Stanton, P.C. Geri

Blunden and P.C.S.O. Hannah Martin look after this patch and are here to help whenever we can.

This area is one of low crime levels and, statistically, a safe place to live. Of course like anywhere incidents happen of a criminal or antisocial manner and our job is to help reduce them as much as we can. As Spring is edging ever closer, I would like to take this chance to draw your attention to a trend that we, as a force, see on a yearly basis. During the Spring season, we tend to see a rise in the theft of garden tools and machinery. These tend to be 'opportunity' thefts, when tools are being left around for convenience. For example leaving the front garden to pick up a telephone call or working in one part of the garden with an insecure shed or garage in another part.

Don't leave your gardening tools unattended and open to view. If you do not already, please make sure your mowers, hedge trimmers, chainsaws etc are kept in a secure place and locked when not in use, as well as paying attention to their whereabouts when using them.....so if you go in for lunch after a spot of gardening don't leave your tools abandoned in the driveway or front garden where a passer by might see them and take advantage of this lapse in security, your afternoon gardening session may come to an abrupt halt!!

In relation to this, if you do see anyone who looks suspicious, we would be happy to receive a call to let us know. If you can get a description, location and time of what happened we can use this information to help reduce the possibility of a crime occurring. Please use the 101 telephone number or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or Police number: 0845 045 45 45.

Alternatively, send us a line via e-mail to: meon.valley.south.snt@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

You may be aware of a large number of tyre slashing and bin fire incidents. The matters are all being investigated and forms part of a much larger picture. The pavilion at the recreation ground was damaged last year and the culprits were identified. I understand that its replacement is being arranged.

Can I bring your attention to any vulnerable persons that live near you or you know. Please keep an eye out for them and if you think this may be you and would benefit from a crime prevention visit then please let us know. If you wish to draw our attention to any vulnerable person on their behalf (in confidence) please get in touch.

Don't forget, if you can think of any way we can improve our service or have any ideas that might benefit yourselves or the community, there are suggestion boxes. These are situated at Wickham Community Centre and at the shop in Knowle Village.

Look forward to seeing you around!

Geri Blunden, PC 1086

CREW in Knowle

Winchester Community Safety Partnership and key local partners will be in Knowle Village on Thursday 17th April And Friday 18th April 2008

The purpose of the Community Reassurance Environment Week (CREW) is to inform you what's up and coming in the area and also to find out what matters to you

**Thursday 17th April
11am – 1pm**

**Consort Green, opposite
Berkley Homes sales office**
Refreshments provided

**Friday 18th April
3pm through to Youth Club
Green outside town hall,
Greater Horseshoe Way**
Refreshments provided

There will also be an opportunity for youths to win an MP3 player by taking part in the Youth Consultation!

See you all there!

WICKHAM COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS



What is a Community Responder?

Community Responders are volunteers who give their time freely to help save lives in their community. They are trained by Hampshire Ambulance in basic life support, the use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) and the treatment and control of a wide range of potentially life threatening conditions.

As such we get called out to a wide variety of emergency situations, some more serious than others, but all have one common factor; A member of our community needs help.

I have had many comments about the Responder group, mostly applause and congratulations for what we all do, a lot of comments have been that First Aid is some kind of dark art, a mysterious and ancient skill that only a few have knowledge and mastery of. Some see First Aid as something beyond them and something that needs great personal insight and talent.

I say that "First Aid" is just what it says on the tin. Anything you can do to help is better than leaving someone in need; Aid that is given first before an ambulance or a doctor is in attendance. Sometimes something as simple as tilting a head back on an unconscious casualty (opening their airway) can make an instant improvement to their condition; stopping bleeding and sitting someone down also help a great deal; We all have within us a caring and compassionate side that comes out when it is needed so don't be put off from helping. Where would we be without the good Samaritan who crosses the road to offer aid?

If you would like more information there are many books with first aid principles in them; any first responder would be happy to help if you have questions or queries and there are many more sources on the internet etc to look at.

Each month I would like to write a short piece on a first aid subject to give both general information that could be useful and also hopefully stimulate your interest in this valuable field. I will start next month with what we refer to as DRAB, the basis of first aid and life support.

Chris Norgate

JUST DROPPING IN

It was with some surprise that I saw an Air Ambulance helicopter hovering outside my study window at lunchtime on Thursday 21st February! The helicopter circled the sports/recreation field finally landing next to the sports pavilion. A paramedic jumped out with a medical kit and ran off towards the Shell garage. What a photo opportunity! I grabbed a camera and headed out.



The Air Ambulance

It seems the crew had been told to attend an emergency at Manor Farm, Manor Close, and had landed where they thought they were needed. There are two Manor Farms in the area neither were close enough for this rescue. The crew needed to call up to find out exactly where they were required. It's usually a serious incident if an air ambulance is scrambled!

This incident makes two strong points:

1. Always give the exact location, post code if possible, when calling an emergency service.
2. How important a space like the recreation ground is for such a purpose.

Patricia Fray

MEMORY LANE FAYRES

ANTIQUÉ & COLLECTORS FAYRE

SUNDAY 13th APRIL 2008

10.30am until 3.30pm

**WICKHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
MILL LANE, WICKHAM**

New Stall Holders always welcome

Phone Enquiries: **023 8086 9058** after 6pm

Mobile: Dave **07717 853 910**

Paul **07767 373 788**

Email: memorylanefayres@ntlworld.com

MEMORY LANE FAYRES



WICKHAM

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Hants. PO17 5AL

Telephone: 01329 833688 Email: wickhamcentre@btconnect.com

Website: www.wickhamcommunitycentre.org.uk

April 2008

Youth Club on the move...

The base is being prepared for the new Portakabin which should be installed in the next few weeks.

Do you have concerns about community safety?

The Meon Valley Safer Neighbourhood team want to hear from you.



There is a suggestion box at the Community Centre where you can make your views on any local problems known.

Alternatively visit the next beat surgery in Wickham Square on Wednesday 30th April 2-4pm.

Thank you to the Parish Council

Many thanks to Wickham Parish Council for agreeing to fund the repair work needed to the cctv system, this covers both the skatepark and the Community Centre and is in urgent need of repair.

Wickham Summer Play Scheme

Booking forms are now available from the Community Centre. Places are starting to fill already so be sure to book early.

Glenda and Jayne to attend Wedding Fair



The Community Centre will have a stand at the Hampshire Wedding Fair held at St Barnabas Parish Church in Swanmore on Saturday 12th April, doors open at 11.00am.

If you are thinking about a wedding this year, come and take a look.

Clubs need new members!

Two of our regular clubs are looking for new members...

The Remote Control Model Racing Car Group meets twice a month in the main hall on the first and third Thursday. This is a high tech club and great to watch even if you don't want to take part.

If you prefer quieter events how about the **Cavy Club?** (Guinea pigs) a show is booked at the Community Centre on Sunday 6th April. Come and be amazed at the variety of animals on show!

Wickham Community Centre has plenty to offer!

If you are looking for a venue for a club, meeting, party or reception check out the Community Centre first.



WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wickham Rocket Takes Off !!!

The Wickham Rocket and 26 other teams arrived at the Mountbatten Centre at nine o'clock on Saturday, 8th March 2008 with their fantastic electric cars. Lots of people were nervous about their first race.

After a safety briefing the cars were checked. Danielle was first to race in the fifth heat, so she had plenty of time to prepare. Katie was Danielle's partner so she had to prepare Danielle by checking her seatbelt, helmet, gloves and goggles.



Danielle was ready to go!

3, 2, 1, GO! The race had begun. Katie pushed Danielle and she was off. Danielle flew quickly off the line into 1st place but, unfortunately, fell back to 4th place. Another car from behind overtook Danielle and they battled together for the rest of the race! But Wickham's car (The Wickham Rocket) just wasn't fast enough to stay ahead. Danielle had tried her best, it was just good enough to come in 5th place and earn her team 5 valuable points! Everybody congratulated Danielle and cheered!

Next it was Katie's go. She was very nervous. She said, "I'm scared". Katie was off in lane 1, which gave her a big advantage. She was unfortunate as, compared to the other cars, the Wickham Rocket was much slower. Mr Proctor (class teacher) and the team's parents all helped to find the problem which turned out to be the brakes! The team worked together to fix the electric car just before the next race which Natasha took part in. The Wickham Rocket behaved itself in the next race and Natasha came 5th.

Now it was Kieran's go. He couldn't wait to see if he would come 5th like Natasha. He'd soon find out. 3, 2, 1, GO! He raced around the track overtaking cars one by one, and he managed to hold 4th until the bitter end. Everyone cheered!!!!



Next it was Katharine's go. Kieran pushed her. She was very nervous. She said, "I hope I'm going to win." The race started and she sprinted off to a good start. After battling around the track she finished an excellent 4th place.

Having had some technical problems earlier it was decided that Katie would drive the last heat. The brakes had been fixed and hopes were high. She started well and was in third place half way down the first straight. By the first corner she was

second and fighting for the lead. The next laps were very exciting; she managed to keep the smallest of leads up to the last bend. Car 11 was catching fast. She crossed the line a fraction ahead of car 11. Katie was very proud of her achievement. Later the organisers realised that car 11 was the winner of the whole competition and that Wickham was the only team to beat them all day!



All in all everyone had a great day. The racing had been fantastic and a lot was learnt ready for competing again next year.

The team would like to thank all the businesses that have made this possible. Tull's Butchers, Oma's Bakery, Warwick's, Taylor Garnier and John Byrne from Wickham have all sponsored the car. The team are particularly grateful to BAE Systems and HMS Collingwood Senior Ratings and Warrant Officers Mess who both donated £250 to purchase

the car. In addition, Claire Williamson and several other staff from BAE Systems kindly supported the team on the day. Finally, a huge debt of thanks goes to Mike Bennett, a volunteer at INTECH and a local Parish Councillor, who organised the whole project and led the team through the tricky process of building the car.

by Katie, Katherine, Danielle, Kieran and Natasha

Friends of Wickham Primary School

Thank you to everyone who came to our Fashion Show
at the Community Centre on 12th March.

We had a fun evening and raised almost £500
for the Key Stage 1 Adventure Playground

Wickham C. E. Primary School

We would like to invite you and your child to

"Stay and Play"

a group for all under 5's and their parents.

This month we will be meeting on

Tuesday, 1st April

Tuesday, 22nd April and

Tuesday, 29th April

Then **every** Tuesday afternoon

(term time only)

2.00-3.00pm in the School Hall

Do join us!

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF KNOWLE HOSPITAL ESTATE - 4

Maybe I am getting old, or just old fashioned, but the world today seems so different than when I was growing up. In those days we didn't have a lot of material things, but the beauty of our surroundings more than made up for that.

Today we have superstores, shopping centres, television, cell phones, computers, and video games. Apart from shopping for necessities, there hardly seems a need to go out at all.

Villages and small towns are being swamped with new developments, and I ask myself is the history of these places being preserved, Are the hidden treasures being lost. There are so many hidden treasures at Knowle, and I wonder if the people that live there now even know that they exist.



You could walk between Park Cottages and Dean Villas down a small incline (this incline is where I cut my head open when I ran away from my Mum in order to avoid being put on the bus to go to school at Funtley, at least I didn't have to go to school that day!) and either turn left and follow the footpath to Funtley or go straight on over the railway bridge to the shop at Knowle, buy a glass of Tizer and sit out in their garden on the bench and drink it. You would then go down the road a little, turn right and take a narrow footpath past Dell Cottage, (which I believe is now inhabitable), down to the river, over the bridge, past a house called The Old Mill House. I was delighted when I found out that a very dear school friend of mine said that she and her husband had purchased this property, there is a public right of way through their land, but they say that

very few people use it, although children do swim further along the river bank in summer. The Symes family used to live in The Old Mill House, and according to my friend's neighbour, Mrs Symes would grow watercress in the riverbed, which she would sell. Apparently one year she made enough money to buy herself a nice winter coat!! I wonder if people today even know it exists. Just along from their house the river used to widen and deepen, this stretch of river was called Deadman's Hole, I never quite knew why, but it is where we used to swim and have picnics when we were young.

At the back of our house, which was the other Dean Villas (we lived at No 10) there was a farmer's field, (which I believe is still there, and, being sentimental I hope it stays that way) and beyond that a wood. It was here that we would go to gather chestnuts, they were so delicious, and we also used to collect wood for bonfire night. If you skirted this wood and went past Ravenswood House, you could walk through the fields and reach The Old Vine, a lovely old pub. According to one lady it was often used by Canadian and American Soldiers during the war, hard to imagine young men from overseas drinking in an English Pub so far away from home, I wonder how many of them survived.

To the front of our house, there was an old air raid shelter which we often used to play in, by now it is probably overgrown, but it was a grim reminder of the near misses Knowle had during the war years. My father told me that he used to cycle from Portchester to Knowle on his bike, and one day after a shift at the hospital, he couldn't get into Portchester because it had been bombed. It was quite a while before he found out that my Mum and older sister were safe. My Dad also used to take his turn watching for enemy planes in the clock tower at Knowle, and for the rest of his life he would hold the lighted end of his cigarette in the palm of his hand, a result of his hours in the clock tower, where even the smallest light could be picked out by the Germans.

We often used to walk past the old cricket pitch and turn left and then next right, we would see the cemetery where patients and staff were buried, even when we were young it was very overgrown it was so sad to see it in that state. Now thanks to the amazing people that took an interest in it over the last few years, it has been turned into a peaceful place of reflection. Sue Fitzgerald who did so much research into this project was an amazing person, and even with her busy life, she would always keep in touch with me regarding my interest in Knowle. I will miss her updates, not only did she care about preserving the past, she also cared about the future, I am sure that I am not the only one that will miss her terribly. This road eventually took you to Wickham, and along the way you would pass the old lodge house where the Fillinghams lived. Then you would pass another wood, amazing wild flowers grew there, especially bluebells that looked like a huge blue carpet when in bloom, again it was a place that was so peaceful it was a joy to walk through.

We were so lucky to be surrounded by this beautiful countryside, redevelopment has to happen of course, but I certainly hope that green space is preserved and the past never forgotten.

Bernice McDouall (nee Cunliffe)

POEMS AND MUSINGS

MOVING HOME

We are now un packing
But must stop for a pause.
We would like to change them,
But we cannot find our 'drawers',
It's a matter of finding the right box.
Then poor hubby could have his socks.
Moving to our new home is a stress,
Boxes! Boxes! it's a terrible mess:
But with family and friends -
We can all take the strain
But no 'drawers', - that is a pain

Rhoda Cane

ALUM BAY

The people streamed to Alum Bay
To fetch the pretty sands away.
They did not stop to think that if
They scraped and scraped there'd be no cliff.

Tony Johnson

TO A FARM CAT

Response has fled
your limp body warm
with eyes still moon bright stare
to reflect back
inside your blackness.

You who came
running low through
an evening of sea jade grasses:
or a tautness of muscles
moved slow motion
in a stalking of small creatures.

Now I will only
see you in my mind;
unable to accept
the form
postured on the roadside.

Patricia Wells



BLACK GOLD

"I should think that can be the last fire for this year," said the Missus.
"Thank goodness," says I, "I'm beginning to look like Cinderella. I wonder who first discovered that coal burns?"
"Some caveman, I expect," says the Missus.
"Yes. He would have been making a hearth of stones and thought that he would try the pretty black ones for a change. Purely for aesthetic effect, you understand"
"Elsie," he cried, "ELSIE! Come and have a look at this! These stones are burning!"
"Have you been on the Mammoth Milk again, Cuthbert ... Oooo! You're right! And they're throwing out a lot of heat!"
"I wonder if they can be used for anything, apart from keeping warm....."
"Well, now. I could cook on them, couldn't I? And look! There's a kind of inflammable gas coming out of them. Maybe if you roasted them, they would liberate the gas without it catching fire. That would be useful."
"Would it, now," said Cuthbert the Caveman, somewhat unconvinced.
"Yes," said Elsie, "it would. We could also try using it the heat up the coloured stones that lay around the cave. We may get something useful out of them."
"Hummf, like what?"
"And we could use all that heat to boil up a whole lot of water. Maybe the steam would come in handy for something."

Women! What do they know?

Mike Hollis

APRIL 2008 DIARY

APRIL 2008

- Tues 1 **10:00 Holy Communion, Normandy Court**
 12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham History Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 2 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
- Thur 3 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 19:15 P.C.C. Meeting, Church Room
- Fri 4 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Sat 5 08:00 Men's Breakfast, Church Room

- Sun 6 **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER** Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
 08:00 Holy Communion 1 Peter 1: 17-23
 09:45 Family Service to include Holy Baptism Luke 24: 13-35
 of Bethany Vollentine, Joseph and Dylan Callaghan
 18:00 Choral Eucharist

- Mon 7 11:00 Spinners/Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
- Tue 8 12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
 14:15 The Mothers' Union meets at 2 Cold Harbour Close
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Society AGM, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 9 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:45 Wickham Wives, Church Room
- Thur 10 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
- Fri 11 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

- Sun 13 **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Acts 2: 42-47
 08:00 Holy Communion 1 Peter 2: 19-25
 09:45 Parish Communion John 10: 1-10

- Mon 14 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
- Tues 15 12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 16 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:30 Model Engineers Society, Church Room
- Thur 17 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
- Fri 18 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Sat 19 **LAST DAY FOR COPY FOR MAY 2008 MAGAZINE**

- Sun 20 **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Acts 7: 55-60
 08:00 Holy Communion 1 Peter 2: 2-10
 09:45 Parish Communion John 14: 1-14
11:00 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
 18:00 Choral Evensong

- Mon 21 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
- Tue 22 12:00 St Nicholas Church booking, Church Room
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Croft Association, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 23 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:00 Annual Parish Assembly, Community Centre

Thur 24 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 Fri 25 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Sat 26 19:30 Pudding Club, Church Room

Sun 27	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Acts 17: 22-31
	08:00 Holy Communion	1 Peter 3: 13-22
	09:45 Parish Communion	John 14: 15-21

Mon 28 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
 Tue 29 12:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 30 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

MAY

Thur 1 **ASCENSION DAY**
 10:00 Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Shedfield
 19:00 Holy Communion at St Barnabas, Swanmore
 Sat 3 08:00 Men's Breakfast, Church Room
 Mon 5 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
 Tue 6 16:45 Brownies. Church Room
 19:30 Wickham History Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
 Wed 7 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room

LAST DAY FOR COPY MAY 2008 MAGAZINE
SATURDAY 19TH APRIL

From the registers

Holy Baptism

Madison Castle 16/03/2008

Holy Matrimony

Joanna Campbell-Smith/Tim Quickenden 29/03/2008

Rest in Peace

Philip Mark Du Boulay	56 yrs	28/02/2008
Peter Bartlett	83 yrs Burial of Ashes	09/03/2008
Barry Crompton	46 yrs	15/03/2008

PRESIDENT BUSH – *a newspaper cutting sent in by Morris Snow*

Recently while going through an airport during one of his trips, President Bush encountered a man with long grey hair and beard, wearing a white robe and sandals, holding a staff.

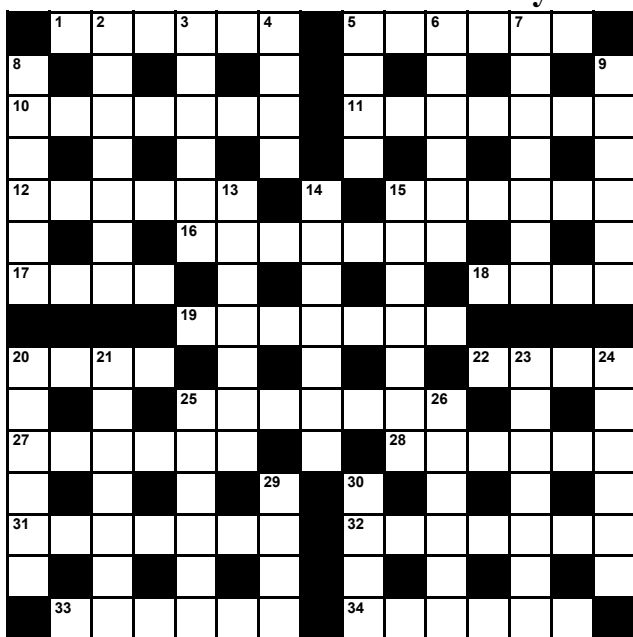
The President went up to the man and said: ‘*Has anyone told you you look a lot like Moses?*’ The man didn’t answer. He just kept staring straight ahead. The President said ‘*Moses!*’ in a loud voice. The man just stared ahead, never acknowledging the President. The President pulled a secret service agent aside and, pointing to the robed figure, asked him: ‘*Am I crazy or does that man not look like Moses to you?*’ The agent looked at the man and agreed.

‘*Well,*’ said the President, ‘*every time I call him by his name, he ignores me and stares straight ahead, refusing to speak. Watch!*’ Again the President yelled: ‘*Moses!*’ And again the man ignored him.

The secret service agent went up to the man: ‘*You look just like Moses. Are you Moses?*’ The man whispered back: ‘*Shhhh! Yes, I am Moses. But the last time I talked to a bush, I spent 40 years wandering in the desert and ended up leading my people to the only spot in the entire Middle East with no oil.*’

Wickham Prize Crossword No.23

by Konrad © RJS 2008



- 17 Cut off a piece of fruit, every one (4)
- 18 A leading light turns back rodents (4)
- 19 Leo and Rosa shook the spray (7)
- 20 Favourite imbibes a fuel (4)
- 22 A quiet Home Counties church recess (4)
- 25 Good looking girl is a knockout (7)
- 27 Take possession and live in (6)
- 28 Mystery sect around about? (6)
- 31 Take it for granted in a page summary (7)
- 32 The French vicar played keyboard (7)
- 33 My clue about Aristotle's gymnasium (6)
- 34 Hold Admiral (6)

Down

- 2 Old cows twitch and produce energy (7)
- 3 Molten tungsten alloy, keep one's head down (3,3)
- 4 Support team (4)
- 5 Engrave a headless wraith (4)
- 6 Enormity or no, hostility results (6)
- 7 Guestroom damaged so removed epicure (7)
- 8 Run at an easy pace or wander around (6)
- 9 Note for a singer we hear (6)
- 13 Pig house holds even number (7)
- 14 Silver ring found unexpectedly on land (7)
- 15 Flashing lights seen in street clothes (7)
- 20 Quick, suggest something to say (6)
- 21 Bridge eastern railway to Toxophily (7)
- 23 Emerson left untidy reception rooms for the porch (7)
- 24 Goes in tensor, maybe (6)
- 25 Trim tree (6)
- 26 Return later around one to trade (6)
- 29 Phrase in a letter, maybe (4)
- 30 I study a sacred representation (4)

Name Phone number

Across

- 1 Murder is among the Poles trades (6)
- 5 Issue example about me reversing (6)
- 10 New anodyne irritated (7)
- 11 Travel to work to Exchange (7)
- 12 Bachelor Thomas displays sentimentality (6)
- 15 Chaps following army girls to find a bit of plant (6)
- 16 Beefy four score after Welsh opener (7)

Wickham Sudoku No.23

by Balthasar

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

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

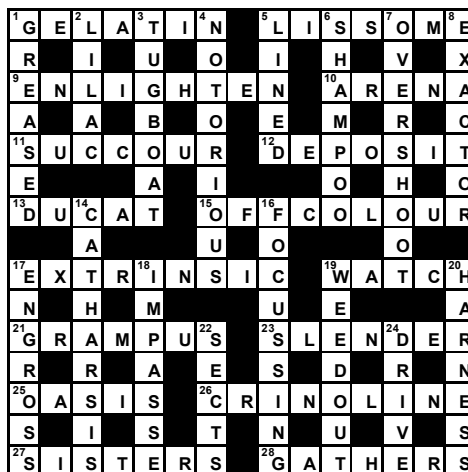
Wickham Sudoku
Solution No.22
By Balthasar

Please send your completed crossword to the editor by Sunday, 27th April 2008.

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



Wickham Prize Crossword Solution No.22 by Konrad



WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The March meeting saw us celebrating our 88th birthday. Our President, Sylvia Wells, welcomed guests from all of the WI's in our Group.



The Speaker, Gwen Appleton, regaled us with an amusing, at times hilarious, talk entitled “**Why Me**”.

Starting with her birth in an air raid on Bath, through a happy childhood and rebellious school days, and many varied jobs after leaving. All told with great humour. The Houghton Rooms resounded with laughter. After two marriages and two children, she worked in the tourist industry, but that, she tells us, is another talk! We look forward to that.

Now a widow, she still travels and is involved with a school in India. She still regards life as an exciting voyage of discovery and gives her talks with great humour.

The talk was followed by a delicious tea. The birthday cake was cut by Lisa Escott, our newest member, and Molly Haydock.



Molly Haydock and Leisa Escott cutting the cake

Our next meeting will be on 9th April in the Community Centre. Miss Selby will talk on “**Titchfield**”.

Mavis Bruce

WICKHAM WIVES

We were not quite sure what to expect when we invited Nicola James to come to our March meeting to talk to us about Physiotherapy.

Nicola has been a Physiotherapist for over 20 years working in most departments in NHS Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Nursing homes. She had been aware that for many years, once a patient had been discharged from hospital, follow-up physiotherapy was often inadequate even non-existent in their own homes. Her belief in rehabilitation, as soon as possible when a patient returns home, is paramount to their confidence, mobility and general wellbeing. It is in this field, particularly concerning the elderly, that she now specialises.

Another aspect so applicable these days is keeping your joints supple and muscles in good tone. So many people are having hip and knee replacements that keeping muscles involved in those joints in good working order before operation is a great help in recovery post operatively.

All our bones thin with age and it is important to maintain weight bearing, low impact exercise such as walking and simple exercises that can be carried out everyday. We were shown simple exercises that can be done whilst standing in the kitchen or sitting watching TV and done regularly helps one's general stability and balance.

All her help and advice is directed at rehabilitation of people who have had a trauma to return to as active a life as possible, to regain their confidence and not sit at home too scared to be active for fear of falling. Many questions were asked and answered and we were certainly made aware of the importance of daily exercise to retain maximum independence in our homes and daily living.

Our next meeting will be in the Church Room on Wednesday 9th April when we look forward to a talk from the Samaritans.

Margaret Gwynn

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – WICKHAM BRANCH



The Quiz Evening held on the 8th March 2008 in the Church Room once again proved to be a very enjoyable evening. 28 members and friends were present and after the quiz, a draw and light refreshments were enjoyed. The questions, organised and set by our Chairman, Eric Bright, provided a suitable mix of amusing and educationally challenging rounds. Four teams were formed all suitably named: **The Infamous Five**, **Two The Manor Burn**, **The Brass Monkeys** and **One Over The Eight**, with the fortunes of the teams changing from round to round. The eventual winning team being **The Infamous Five** who were duly rewarded.



Below is the combined report/letter of thanks from Mrs Sheena Bright. P.A.O.

"We had a very successful year for the Poppy Appeal in Wickham last year. The total was £5,912.54, which was an increase of £2,408.97 on the total for 2006. This was helped by Judy Goddard's sponsored Great South Run and the sale of the Poppy badges. As it stands at the moment, the total for Hampshire has topped £1,000,000. Hampshire County Council hosted a reception on February 28th in the Great Hall in Winchester for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Royal British Legion County Committee and Poppy Appeal Organisers, which I attended.

I would like to thank any one who contributed in any way to helping us make this record breaking collection."

Branch Annual Dinner:	12th April 2008	Shedfield Reading Room
Plant Sale:	3rd May 2008	Wickham Square

Mick Kerley

THURSDAY CLUB

The final meeting for 2007 was the very jolly Christmas party on 6th December which 50 members attended and at which we all had an extra glass of bubbly to drink the health of Mrs. Eileen Gulliford, who was retiring as our Hon. Secretary after an astonishing 32 years, and to thank her for her outstanding service to the club. It was particularly appropriate that the party entertainment this year was provided by an old friend, Mrs. Nicola Hulbert (and her puppets) who started the club many years ago.

The first meeting for 2008 in February was a rowdy Beetle Drive organised by June Feast and won by Molly Haydock. The meeting on 7th March produced a delightful illustrated talk, a "**Tour of Italy**" by Mrs Carol Watson with some wonderful slides and anecdotes, which cheered us all up.

Thanks to the Winchester Association Community Action (WACA) minibus, which is now stationed in this area, some members have also been able to take day trips this winter to Chichester and Salisbury for a "potter about": much enjoyed by all, even the driver (apart from the traffic jam getting into Salisbury!)

Lucy Carter

WICKHAM ART GROUP

This small group meets informally at Wickham Community Centre on Thursdays between 2 and 4pm. In a happy atmosphere they help and support each other in pursuit of individual preferences in the art of painting and drawing. New members are welcome.

For more information please call the Community Centre on 01329 833688.

Yvonne Dolo

WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

On March 4th, George Watts talked to us about some of the Large Houses in S.E.Hants, many of which might have become stately homes or even palaces. So this became a presentation, illustrated by overhead transparencies, on what 'might have been'.

Most of these buildings are familiar to us, perhaps as schools such as Roche Court and Rookesbury, or as historical ruins like Titchfield Abbey. Portchester Castle is a favourite tourist attraction but how many of us know that King Richard II built a palace in the grounds in 1480? The 18th century Cams Hall has been refurbished as an administrative centre.

Other houses described, with relevant historical details of origins and owners, included St. Margaret's Priory, Southwick House, Hook Park, great Chilling, Coldeast, Warsash House, Bishopswood and Blackbrook.

There have been, according to our speaker, many lost opportunities in the Fareham area; and it was an interesting historical experience to recognise buildings and learn about their varied uses over past centuries.

Our next meeting, on April 1st, concerns Maritime and Other Flags, and will be presented by Cdr. Bruce Nicholls, R.N.

Doreen Barrett

THE WICKHAM SOCIETY

Several members of the Wickham Society joined forces with Barry Duffin's team of volunteers from Titchfield Haven and set about clearing an area of Birch saplings and scrub from part of Wickham Common. The site was originally cleared two years ago as part of Hampshire County Council's attempt to return a significant part of the Common to acid heathland. If the great mass of Birch saplings are allowed to grow then the heathland plants will disappear and many important animal and birds will go with them. Despite the rain, we managed to clear a significant area of the Common. A very successful and rewarding morning's work.



Brian, Heather and Chris lopping the Birch saplings



The **Annual General Meeting** of the Wickham Society will take place
on Tuesday 8th April 2008 at 7.30pm
in St Nicholas' Church Room

The AGM will be followed by an update and discussion on Local Development Planning consultations being carried out by Winchester and Fareham Councils, both of which will affect the future of Wickham.

The Committee look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Maggie Smith

WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

TRIP TO VILLERS-SUR-MER

At the time of writing plans are afoot for our biennial visit to Villers. We had hoped to give you details of the trip in the last magazine, but our friends across the channel were dilatory in giving us

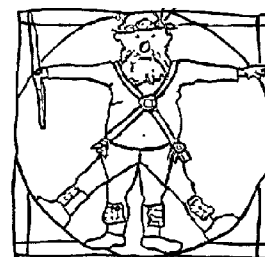
a firm date. We shall be travelling by Brittany Ferries at 15.30 on the weekend of Friday 18th April returning on Sunday 20th, leaving around 17.00 hours. Our Chairman, Ann Johnson, has negotiated a brilliant deal so that the cost of the return ferry to Ouistreham is only £14, child or adult. Apart from the traditional small gift for your host that is virtually all you need to spend. So what kept you? However, we know it's hard for people to get away from work on a Friday afternoon in time.

However, we have contacted the Primary School, the Youth Club and the Scouts and have had very encouraging noises that we may be taking some young people. Hopefully the average age of those visiting Villers this time will be considerably reduced. Our problem has always been that we cannot be responsible for children unaccompanied by a parent or a police-checked adult. Joelle Délangé, who is vice-president looking after the English branch of Villers twinning, is also head of the nursery school (l'école maternelle) and is keen to make more contacts with young families with which she is in touch. Our funds by judicious husbandry are reasonably sound so that we have been able to help with costs for the Primary School visit and with luck we may get a small subsidy from Winchester to fund "new" young visitors. Just think of a contact with a French family and access to one of the best beaches in Normandy! Full report of the visit and goings on at the AGM in next month's magazine.

Tony Johnson

WICKHAM MORRIS

Wickham Morris will once again be celebrating the arrival of May, dancing the May Day Morris Festival on Thursday 1st May. We will be greeting the dawn and apologies to anyone round the Square who gets awakened earlier than they would like - please feel free to come and join the fun. We always get a variety of comments, mostly positive but a few people get upset, and we hope that you can put up with it for once a year.



Then, starting at 6.30pm, the square will be bustling with Morris Sides. We hope this year to kick off with the Wickham Primary School children doing some maypole dancing and we already have confirmation from Swanmore Junior Morris and Scantabout Primary School who will be doing some country dancing. Botley Children's Morris will probably also be there. It'll be great if we can get 4 schools performing in the Square.

From about 7pm there will be Morris dancing of all shapes and varieties including Wickham Morris, The New Forest Meddlars doing Border Morris, some clogging and no doubt some North West Morris as well. Please come and join us. It is all free, with a charity collection for ME Research.

Dennis Wheeler

WICKHAM YOUTH CLUB

Our grant from the Hampshire Youth Capital Fund for the purchase of a Portakabin has now been approved and paperwork is wending its way through the Corridors of Power. The Portakabin itself, weighing 16 tons, is likely to wend its way down the A1 from Yorkshire, round the M25 and down the M3, all with a police escort, before appearing in Mill Lane sometime in early April. Any cars parked along Mill Lane near the surgery will be in some danger, so please take note when traffic cones appear there, to avoid being swiped.

Once the Club's home is established, it can start using the pottery wheel and equipment, and also all the guitars and drums, which we have bought in the past months but had no space for. **We have funds available to pay a modest fee for tuition in both pottery and music and will be delighted to hear from anyone who can offer a few hours help.**

The Youth Club is helping in woodland management on Wickham Common during March and April, and is holding another fundraising Disco on:

Saturday 5th April in Wickham Community Centre - Entrance £1.50

The Youth 100 Club draw prize for March 2008 was number 39

Ray Hughes (Youth Club Leader) 832308, Michael Carter 832928 or Barrie Marson 832313

Barrie Marson

1ST WICKHAM SCOUT GROUP

Cubs celebrated "National Chip Week" Models were made with potatoes and a survey was completed.



1. **Which chips do you like best?**
thick 1, thin 3, crinkled 0, fried 6, oven 7
2. **What do you like on your chips?**
salt 12, pepper 1, tomato ketchup 13, brown sauce 3, mayonnaise 8, cheese 1, salad cream 2
3. **What is your favourite meal with chips?**
fish 6, sausage 8, egg 2, ham 2, scampi 2, chicken nuggets 3, quiche 1, burger 1
4. **Which chips are best?**
home cooked 5, fish shop 7, Chinese 4, McDonalds 7, burger king 6, Kentucky 2
5. **What potato crisps are your favourites?**
plain 4, salt & vinegar 7, cheese & onion 3, prawn 3, chicken 1, barbeque 5
6. **Do you like any other types of crisps?**
hoola hoops 10, quavers 7, monster munch 2, chipsticks 2, french fries 2, frazels 2, nicnaks 1, McCoys 1

Yes we finished the evening with chips from the chip shop and of course tomato ketchup.

Congratulations to Ethan, Callum, Ryan, Edward, Jack, William, Scott, Cameron and Lauren (the only girl in the competition). They represented Wickham in the District 6-a-Side Football competition. Wickham won and Swanmore the runners up. Now they go to represent Meon Valley in the county finals at the end of the month. Well done and good luck.



The 6-a-side football team

H.Q. News Outline planning has been awarded at long last. So we can now put in for planning permission, obtain quotes and take steps to take the old building down. This is great step forward but it also means we have to raise a lot more funds. It's going to be hard work, we will get there and the end result will be worth it.

If you have a computer and you would like to help us raise some money at NO cost to you please go to www.everyclick.com (this is a search engine) register on 1st Wickham Scout Group we are given 1p for every time you click. So far we have raised £390.

May I remind you about our annual May Day Fayre on the recreation ground on Monday 5th May. If you would like a pitch please telephone the number below.

If you have a son or daughter aged between 6 and 14 who would like to join our happy family of Scouting please telephone 01329 832739 for details.

Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader

GUIDING NEWS

Rainbows News



The 2nd Wickham Rainbows meet every Tuesday evening in the Church Room and during the spring term they have been having lots of fun – as Rainbows do! They have been working towards Right Now! Badges and Roundabout Rainbows, and they have welcomed two new members who made their Promises the same evening that two older Rainbows moved up to Brownies. One evening they put a lot of effort into making some fantastic penguin masks, so that the next week they could all dress up as penguins in order to compete in the Penguin Olympics! Before Mothering Sunday they worked very hard to make beautiful sunflower cards for their mums – lucky mums! They have also planted special flowers to celebrate the fact that this year is the Rainbows 21st birthday year, and they are looking forward to seeing the flowers grow tall and strong.

Sarah York

Brownies News



The 2nd Wickham Brownies meet every Tuesday evening in the Church Room after the Rainbows and they too have been doing a wide range of fun activities. They have completed one of the new badges, the Number Fun badge which covers such mathematical challenges as telling the time, secret codes and handling money. They have gained some of the Right Now! Badges and have also done their Brownie Skills badge which includes some of the more “traditional” talents, for example tying knots, cleaning shoes, sewing on a button, map reading and washing hands and cleaning teeth *properly*. In one action-packed evening they all attained their Water Safety badges. So they now know all about the dangers of lakes and rivers, shallow water, cold water and iced over ponds etc. as well as understanding safety signs and flags you might see at the beach, knowing where it is safe to swim and what the role of a lifeguard is. On the more creative side they have started working towards their Designer and Artist badges, including having great fun designing their dream bedrooms (within a budget!), thoroughly enjoying experimenting with different art materials and decorating t-shirts ready to be worn this month when they go to PGL. Hopefully one of the skills they have acquired from all of this is how to sew on their own badges so their parents don’t have to!

If anybody is interested in getting involved with Guiding as a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide, Ranger, Young Leader or adult volunteer please contact Sarah York on 01329 833150.

Sarah York

Meon Valley Rangers



Meon Valley Rangers are an enthusiastic group of young women aged 14 to 25 who meet on Friday evening in Curdridge. We are training for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award which means lots of hikes to help us navigate and some fun camping weekends. So far this term we have planned cookouts, an oriental evening and looked at the right to be heard and the responsibilities that involves. We are looking forward to a spookey hike and a “**Never mind the Buzzcocks**” evening. This summer we are going on an International Camp which should be a great experience. We plan our own programme and have great fun.

If you want to relax and get away from the grind of school and college work on a Friday evening please ring Karen Robinson on 01329 832010 or e-mail Karen_robinson@btinternet.com

Karen Robinson

WICKHAM CRICKET CLUB



There is little to report this month, other than that the indoor league is now over and Wickham finished in a respectable 5th place out of 10 teams – an improvement on last year's 8th place!

The first match of this season is on 20th April, away to Chawton. As always, it is touch and go whether we get to play this fixture as pitches are often waterlogged at this time of year. We did manage to play Chawton last year and the weather did hold out but a temporary bridge was necessary across the boggy surrounding field just to get into the ground because of the previous heavy rainfall. Fixtures for April and May are not quite finalised but details so far are as follows:

APRIL	Sun	20	Chawton	A	2.00pm start	Friendly
	Sun	27	Park Sports	H	2.30pm start	Friendly
MAY	Sun	4	tba		2.30pm start	Friendly
	Sat	10	Ryde II	A	2.00pm start	HCL
	Sun	11	Shedfield	H	2.30pm start	Friendly
	Tues	13	Ropley	H	6.00pm start	Wilds Sports 20/20
	Sat	17	Compton	H	2.00pm start	HCL
	Sun	18	Durley	A	2.30pm start	Friendly
	Sat	24	Burrige III	A	2.00pm start	HCL
	Sun	25	Searles	H	2.30pm start	Friendly
	Sat	31	Old Hambledonians	H	2.00pm start	HCL

As last year, there has been some doubt as to whether the Winchester & District Evening League would go ahead but once again, Danny Cornter from Wilds Sports in Winchester has stepped in to get things running again, under the new name of Wilds Sports 20/20 League. The Tichborne and Igglesden Cup competitions will also take place but we are still waiting for details of these dates.

If you are interested in joining the club, either as a player, scorer or umpire, please give Malc Burt a call on 01329 834398.

Lesley Wilde, Secretary

GREYSTONES SPRING GIFTS & CRAFTS

Greystones, Titchfield Lane, Wickham
Tel: 01329 836646

Sat & Sun. 5th & 6th April
Sat. & Sun. 12th & 13th April

09.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.




**COME & SEE THE BABY
ANGORA GOATS**

WOOD CARVINGS	WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHS
STAINED GLASS	EMBOIDERY
POTTERY	DICHOIC JEWELLERY
WOVEN RUGS	MOHAIR GARMENTS
CAKES & PRESERVES	JEWELLERY & HANDBAGS
WOVEN HANGINGS	GIFTS & CARDS
THROWS	& MUCH MORE

On the road between Titchfield and Wickham
look for the signs







Charity Garden Fair
Bishop's Waltham Palace
Sunday 4 May 2008
10am - 4pm

Question time with Andy McIndoe (pictured)
Entrance £3.50 (children under 14 free)
Free Parking

60+ stalls, Refreshments, Cuff Billett's New
Europe Jazz Band, Children's corner.







OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

MEON VALLEY U3A

The venue for general meetings of Meon Valley U3A for the remainder of the 2007/2008 session will be **The Houghton Room, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham.**



Programme 2007/2008

Theme: “How Green is Our Valley”

- Apr 1 2.15pm **“Knowle Hospital – A Permanent and Constant Sorrow”** Talk by Sue Burt
Apr 15 2.15pm **“The Lichfield Cathedral/W. H. Auden Project”** illustrated talk by **Dr. Denis May**
Apr 22 2pm **READING GROUPS:** telephone (01329) 833384 for details
Apr 29 2.15pm **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** followed at 2.45pm by:
“Bishops Waltham’s Museum and Local History” talk by the Museum Curator, **Betty Hiscock**
May 13 **Social event to end the session**

Edna Housecroft

MEON VALLEY CITIZENS’ ADVICE BUREAU

Q. I always thought I’d take my pension as soon as I could, but now I’m coming up to retirement age I don’t really want to leave my job and my employers want me to stay. Do I have to claim my pension straight away?

A. No. When you reach State Pension age you may not need the income from your pension because you intend to carry on working so you can decide whether to claim your pension or defer it.

You can claim your State Pension while you carry on working – your earnings will not affect the amount of State Pension you get, but State Pension counts as income for tax purposes, so if you claim it, it may well affect the amount of tax you have to pay. Or, you can put off claiming it for a while to get either extra State Pension or a one-off taxable lump-sum payment when you do claim.

If you decide to put off claiming State Pension, your options will depend on how long you put it off for. The longer you put it off the more you will get – for every five weeks you put off claiming you build up extra State Pension at 1 per cent of your normal weekly rate. To get a lump sum payment you have to put off claiming for at least 12 months continuously. You do not need to tell the Pension Service which option you prefer until you finally claim your State Pension. The choice is yours and will depend on your circumstances and wishes.

For more information on State Pensions contact 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 or you can go to the national Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk.

COST OF SCHOOLING

Are you a parent with a child at a local school? Do you think that the cost of school uniform, sports and other equipment, school trips and other costs are higher than they should be?

Citizens Advice has been running a campaign called **“Adding Up”** to ensure that no child feels excluded or isolated as a result of the costs of schooling. There is a new Schools Admission Code, which all schools will need to implement by September 2008. This code says that schools should limit the expense of uniforms and other school items so that children from all backgrounds have a fair and equal chance of taking part fully in life at their preferred school. They can do a lot to keep these costs to a minimum. Uniforms should be available from a range of suppliers; other mandatory equipment should be kept to a minimum and used regularly; a second hand system should be available; schemes to assist with costs should be publicised. Bishops Waltham CAB has written to all head teachers in the Meon Valley area asking them to complete a survey form to show what they are doing. We also have some cards at the Bureau which allow you to give us your views: or you can ring or e-mail us if you prefer.

MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER – MEMORY MATTERS

The village hall at Soberton was once again the scene of a well attended fundraising Valentine's Dinner/Dance staged by Sue Musselwhite of Soberton and a team of volunteers in aid of Meon Valley Carers Together on Saturday 16th February. Chairman Bill Drake welcomed the guests, thanking them for their support, explaining the vital role played by MVCT in supporting Carers and their partners with dementia. He reminded guests that the numbers of sufferers in this area of Hampshire was set to increase by 46% in the period to 2025 and that the support of each community would continue to be essential to minimise the risk of social isolation among the many people affected.



The New Age Club in Swanmore was opened by the Mayor of Winchester on Wednesday 13th February. The club is managed by Brendoncare Club Hampshire as one of 53 such clubs for elderly folk across Hampshire and offers an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments to members. The club is open to all from surrounding villages and offers transport to those needing it. Find out more by contacting Gwen Hobbis on 01962 777404; email: gwenhobbis@btinternet.com.

Voted the “**Finest Water Garden in the World**” by the International Water Lily Society, the Longstock Water Gardens near Stockbridge are open on Sunday 18th May courtesy of the John Lewis Partnership, with Meon Valley Carers Together being the beneficiary of entrance fees for the day; i.e. £5 Adults, £1 children under 14. Open from 1400 - 1700, visitors can enjoy the 7 acre site in its delightful setting and continue on to the Longstock Nursery for refreshments and plant purchases. Members of MVCT will be in attendance during the afternoon and we welcome your support to enable us to maintain our work with elderly people with Dementia.

The monthly Pub Lunch for Meon Valley Carers Together on Tuesday 12th February reached its highest attendance yet with 42 members present. The level of conversation and joviality was positive proof of the value and benefit to members in releasing the tension and stresses of caring and the Trustees are much encouraged by the high turnout.

The support group meeting on 27th February was a lively event with the Carers receiving a range of comforting therapies ranging from aromatherapy, facials and massage while their partners made music with the extraordinarily energetic Andrew Knights. The “therapy” of music has become a highlight of our group and brings out the very best in our disadvantaged members.

"Message in a bottle"- not something used by shipwrecked sailors, but a modern and practical way of ensuring that key personal information is available to the Emergency Services if you have an accident or emergency. You will hear about it again in the Hampshire County Council guidance for your personal emergency planning, but MVCT is able now to supply these small plastic containers to vulnerable people courtesy of the Meon Valley Lions Club. Please contact us for your bottle.

Reminders: the Carers drop-in café at All Saints Botley opens every Thursday between 10 am and 12 noon; and the Methodist Chapel, Chapel Road, Soberton Heath opens from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm on the third Monday of each month. You will be very welcome.

Diary Dates:

- 8 April Pub Lunch: 12 noon - The Forge, Waltham Chase
- 22 April Music Therapy with Andrew Knights. Group discussion with Jackie Pool
- 13 May Pub Lunch: 12 noon - Black Dog, Waltham Chase
- 27 May Painting with Sally. Tips for the Garden

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

For more information contact:

Bill Drake on 01489 895706 - email: billdrake@onetel.net or
Janet Chierchia on 01489 893381 - email: janet@clickers.org.uk
MVCT Carerlink Centre: 01489 895444
(Message service)

Pam Manson

THE ROWANS HOSPICE



The Rowans Hospice extends its Area of care

Since its opening in October 1994, The Rowans Hospice has provided its services to the population of South East Hampshire from The Hamble river to the west, the Hampshire/Sussex Border to the east and northwards to Butser Hill, an area including Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth City, Havant and Waterlooville. In the last year this area has been extended.



With the closure of King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst in April 2006, The Rowans Hospice extended its inpatient services northwards to include those living in, and served by, the surgeries in Petersfield and Liss. This, plus the formation of The Hampshire Primary Care Trust led to a complete review of the hospice's area of care.

The Rowans Hospice has fully opened its

services to those living in and beyond The Meon Valley area served by the surgeries in Wickham, Bishops Waltham and West Meon. The hospice will offer its services to those with non-cancer illness who have no equivalent service currently and to those with cancer whose preference is to receive a service from The Rowans Hospice. To support this extension of service the hospice has recruited a Clinical Nurse Specialist to provide community support.

The population served will increase from 600,000 to approximately 630,000. The Trustees and management are confident that the small increase in the number of those who will receive our In Patient, Day Care and Health Centre services can be accommodated within the existing services.

The diagram above shows the approximate geographical area (black line) that will now be served.

*Huw Jones, Honorary Medical Director
The Rowans Hospice*

TRH/Area of Care Extension by Huw Jones,
ex Newsletter Spring/Summer 2007 u/d. 14.3.2008

COME AND PLAY SKITTLES



IN SUPPORT OF THE ROWANS HOSPICE

(REGISTERED CHARITY 299731)

THE KINGS HEAD WICKHAM FRIDAY 23 MAY

£9-75 INCLUDING SUPPER

TICKETS IN ADVANCE FROM THE KINGS HEAD

OR SAE with Cheque made payable to 'The Rowans Hospice'.

Post to: Support Group - Skittles, Orchard Cottage,
34 West Street, Southwick, Hampshire, PO17 6EA

ORGANISED BY SOUTHWICK - BOARHUNT - MEON SUPPORT GROUP

HOME-START MEON VALLEY



HOME-START MEON VALLEY BIDS FAREWELL TO GLORIA RUSSELL, SCHEME ORGANISER, AFTER 10 YEARS

Home-Start Meon Valley will be bidding farewell to Gloria Russell after 10 years dedicated service. Gloria was instrumental in establishing Home-Start Meon Valley after a successful bid for lottery funding was made in 1998. She was appointed as the Scheme Organiser and set up the service from scratch.

Gloria has worked with over 300 families and more than 100 volunteers during her 10 year stint in the Meon Valley. Gloria is not leaving Home-Start altogether – she has been appointed to the national Home-Start UK organisation as a trainer.



Gloria says “*I have enjoyed the work tremendously, it is really fulfilling and I am looking forward to my new role and an opportunity to contribute nationally to the success of Home-Start UK.*”

Jane Dawson, Chairman of the Home-Start Meon Valley Trustees said “*We would like to thank Gloria for all her hard work and to wish her well for the future; she has contributed enormously to the success of the scheme and improving the lives of families and children in the Meon Valley.*”

Past and present Home-Start families, volunteers, Trustees and staff members will be saying farewell to Gloria at a party on Wednesday, 29th April 2008 from 12 noon at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, PO17 5AL.

Niki Cartwright



The Meon Valley Branch of the **JUBILEE SAILING TRUST**

Reg. Charity No. 277810

Invite you to an

Auction of Promises

at

The Meon Hall, Meonstoke

on

Saturday 26th April 2008 at 7pm

All proceeds will go to the Jubilee Sailing Trust who operate the

S.T.S. LORD NELSON and TENACIOUS

*Its aim is to provide able bodied and physically disabled people with
the opportunity of crewing a tall ship at sea*

TICKETS: £15 EACH OR £100 PER TABLE OF 8

(to include supper and glass of champagne)

Available from:

Annie Skipwith, Wisteria House, The Square, Wickham, PO17 5JG. Tel: 01329 833474
and

Joanna Buchanan, Bell House, Meonstoke, Southampton, SO32 3NJ. Tel: 01489 877737

Please send your cheque(s) made payable to the Jubilee Sailing Trust Fund together with an
SAE to one of the above addresses by **Friday 19th April 2008**

STUNNING PROMISES!

Catalogues available on request and on the night



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Attracting the birds

Natalie Rogers explains what you can do to encourage nesting birds to visit your garden.



Chaffinch by David Kilbey

Our gardens are extremely important for birds, often providing suitable nesting sites and food throughout the winter months.

According to last year's RSPB annual survey the top 10 most common garden nesting birds are: house sparrow, starling, blue tit, blackbird, chaffinch, collared dove, woodpigeon, great tit, robin and greenfinch. Results also show a decline in numbers of the house sparrow (56%), starling (76%), chaffinch (36%) and robin (37%) since 1979. Much of this decline is attributable to the challenges that they face in trying to cope with threats including urban development, agricultural intensification and climate change.

A garden which naturally provides a bird-friendly environment will be popular with them, so the first step to attracting birds is to provide the three basic resources; shelter, food and water.

Putting up a nest box is a simple way of encouraging wildlife into your garden; it is estimated that over two million chicks are reared in nest boxes each year. Natural nest sites such as hollow trees or cavities of old buildings are fast disappearing. By putting up a nest box you can provide nesting birds with a suitable home.

Hanging bird feeders and providing bird seed and suet balls is a common way to encourage birds to your garden. However, adding some interesting plants to your garden can also provide natural food sources for birds including berries, seeds or insects which will be attracted to the plants. Plants such as spindle, fruit trees, holly and bramble are good sources for berries, clematis, sunflower and teasel are good for seeds, and buddleia, honeysuckle and herbs will attract insects which the birds will feed on.

As well as drinking the water, birds need to bathe to keep their feathers clean and in good condition. By putting in a bird bath or creating a pond you will be providing a body of water that the birds can use for these purposes. A pond also has the added bonus of providing breeding sites for many species of amphibians and invertebrates.

If you are interested in learning more about encouraging birds to your garden and identifying the birds you see, the new book, *Birds in Your Garden*, by Royal Horticultural Society and The Wildlife Trusts may be able to help. Copies are available from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust at a cost of £12.99. You might also want to go on one of the Wildlife Trusts courses where you'll learn how to identify and attract birds. For further details, contact us on 01489 774400 or email feedback@hwt.org.uk.

Abi Jarvis

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust events in April

Fri 11 Beneath the Surface 10am-12noon for ages 4-7, 1.30-3.30pm for ages 8-12. Join staff at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve to venture beneath the surface. What captivating creatures will we meet in the pond and on the woodland floor? A session of pond dipping and woodland minibeast hunting. Booking is essential as places are limited. Meet at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For further details and to book your place, please contact Jo Trotter or Jess Daish-Miller on 01489 570240. Please bring suitable outdoor shoes and clothing. Suggested donation £2.50.

Wed 16 Bird Watch Basics 10.30am-12noon. Come and look for the feathered residents of Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve. Learn how to recognise some common species of birds. Where do they live? What do they eat? A guided bird walk for 8-12 year olds. Binoculars are available to borrow. Meet and park at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, off Sopwith Way, Swanwick (Map ref.

SU 505 098). For further details, please contact Jo Trotter or Jess Daish-Miller on 01489 570240. Please bring sensible footwear and outdoor clothing. Suggested donation £2.50 per child.

Sat 19 Which Newt is it? 10am–12.30pm. Join Rachel Urwin of Hampshire Amphibian & Reptile Group for an illustrated morning talk introducing the 3 species of newt found in Hampshire and how to identify them. There will be a chance to see some live newts and try to identify them for yourselves. Meet at Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For further details and to book your place, please contact Natalie Rogers, Assistant Biodiversity Information Officer, on 01489 774406. Admission £2.

Tue 22 A Seed in Need 10.30am-12pm. What do seeds need to help them grow? And what do they look like when they start growing? Come along and find out in this session of seed related activities and plant a sunflower to take home with you. An event for toddlers and pre-school children. Booking is essential as places are limited. Meet at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098). For further details and to book your place, please contact Jo Trotter or Jess Daish-Miller on 01489 570240. Suggested donation £2.50 per child. Please bring coats and wellies or sensible shoes.

Courses

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 £20. **Saturday 5 April, 9am-12noon with Phil Jeffs.**

Meet and park at Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge SO32 2DP (Map ref. SU 524 136).

Bushcraft – Bark-Craft for Adults

Bushcraft might be described as the practical application of nature, and this event is definitely about this. Using tree bark harvested from sustainable coppice woodland and felled as part of conservation management, this session will deal with producing containers for all manner of uses from arrow quivers to berry baskets. We will also cover safe tool use and, time permitting, dyeing using bark from the trees. Cost £50. **Saturday 26 April, 10am–5pm with John Rhyder.**

Meet at the Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 505 098).

Family Bushcraft Day

A rare chance to spend a truly memorable day with a bushcraft expert to learn about fire, water, shelter, wild food and tracking. Lunch included. Cost £50 adults, £25 children (8 years+ welcome and must be accompanied by an adult). **Wednesday 9 April. 10am-5pm with John Rhyder.**

Meet and park at Swanwick Lakes Centre, off Sopwith Way (Map ref. SU 893 549).

For details of all our events, check out www.hwt.org.uk

The New Forest & Hampshire County Show 2008

Note for your diary!

The Show this year will be on 29th to 31st July at New Park, Brockenhurst. If you or anyone you know wish to have a stand, book corporate hospitality or take part in any type of sponsorship however large or small, contact the show office on 01590 622400. All schedules are out by April if you wish to enter any of the many competitions or classes.

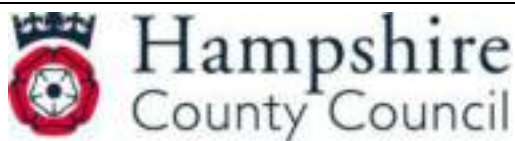


Details about this year's Show, its main events, new additions and a whole range of information can be found at www.newforestshow.co.uk

Jackie Neylon, Press Officer

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

APRIL 2008



Council Tax Increase

Hampshire's council tax levy at Band D has increased by 4.5% to £999.00. One of the main reasons for this increase is the small Government grant received by the county – just 2 percent higher than the previous year. The county receives £112 per head in grant while counties in the North of England receive considerably more – in the case of Durham £325 per head. The Leader of the County Council has protested in the strongest terms to the Government on this unfair treatment for the South of England.

The county's budget of £642.7 million (excluding £766 million that goes directly to schools) is an increase of £44.5 million on the current year's expenditure. The additional money goes to Adult Services in particular because of the increasing number of frail elderly people who require complex support. This can cost council tax payers as much as £130,000 per annum for one disabled adult.

There will be additional spending on services for children, including children's centres and fostering services. Extra money will be found for bus subsidies to maintain services in the rural areas of the county and highways maintenance will continue at £29 million a year. An additional £350,000 will be spent in purchasing new books for the county's libraries and mobile vans.

101 Service Saved

The 101 telephone number for non-emergencies will continue in Hampshire thanks to action by the county council. The number can be used to report anti-social behaviour, low-level crime and litter problems. The 101 service was pioneered in Hampshire with Government financial support, but the Government has now withdrawn support to the scheme and decided not to extend this nationwide. Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Police will fund the scheme for another 12 months with support from some district councils in the county.

Left in the Dark

The county council has launched a trial in Romsey to see the impact of switching off street lights at midnight. The idea is to see whether the cutback can affect the carbon footprint without making roads unsafe. If there are substantial benefits from switching off street lights without

adverse effect of crime, the idea could be extended across the county.

Walking to Canada

Hampshire has published an updated map of public rights of way in the county – that includes 2842 miles of footpaths for walkers and 784 miles for horse riders. If laid out in a straight line, the footpaths would stretch from Denmead to Montreal in Canada.

It is the county's first definitive map of paths since 1964 and includes many changes made in the last 50 years. Copies of the new map are available at libraries and online at:

www.hants.gov.uk/rh/row/maps/definitive-maps.pdf

Boost for Library

Waterlooville Library will benefit from an award of £1.2 million to four local libraries in the Havant area. The three floors at the library will be turned into different zones – each offering a different activity. The Impact Zone will feature internet-based courses, genealogy and jewellery making. The Children's Zone will be used for activities, story times and reading skills. The Activity Zone will be for public groups and activities.

The manager of the library says the new zones will not compromise the traditional function of a library as a reading centre to loan books. Work on this project starts towards the end of this year.

More Choice at Schools

There will be greater choice for young people choosing their option subjects for September as new diplomas are added to the curriculum. Diplomas in Construction and the Built Environment, Engineering, and Information Technology will be offered alongside GCSE and A Level courses. The courses will be provided by a partnership of the county's schools, colleges and other training providers, local business and voluntary organisations. It is planned that by 2013 there will be a total of 17 diplomas offering even greater choice and opportunities for young people.

Frederick Allgood

*County Councillor
for Wickham*



WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT

APRIL 2008

Winchester City Councillors representing Wickham, Knowle and Curbridge:

Thérèse Evans 3, Copper Wood, Holt Close,
Wickham, Fareham,
Hampshire. PO17 5EY

tel: 832700 **email:** tevens@winchester.gov.uk

Angela Clear 14 Manor Close,
Wickham, Fareham,
Hampshire. PO17 5BZ

Tel: 832923 **email:** aclear@winchester.gov.uk

ELECTIONS

There will be local elections for a District councillor to represent Wickham Ward on the Winchester City Council on 1st May in the usual polling stations. Wickham Ward has 2 elected councillors. Angela was elected in a by-election in November last year. Thérèse's current term of office finishes on 1st May. The normal term of office is 4 years although the government may change elections to all-out elections (rather than the council being elected by thirds as at present) by 2011. If you are not yet registered to vote you need to register with the electoral section of the City Council by 9th April. Don't forget there is now a rolling register and you can register to vote at any time in the year not just in the autumn. The polls on 1st May will be open from 7am to 10pm and the count will be held on that evening after the close of polls.

WICKHAM FESTIVAL

There was a council licence hearing for the reapplication of the festival at the end of March. The outcome of this is unknown at the time of going to press. It seems unlikely that the organiser will go ahead with planned festival events at Wickham this year because of the uncertainty at such a late stage in his planning but heads are being put together locally to find an alternative event to take place in Wickham in August. Watch this space!

SKIP BEHIND NORMANDY COURT

Following representations from residents at Normandy Court we contacted officers and the skip has now been removed. It had become an eye-sore as fly-tipping was taking place next to it.

YELLOW LINES IN WICKHAM STREETS

Following the consultations held last year these will be formally advertised in April as part of the legal process before implementation. Representations can still be made on the proposals.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATIONS

The response to these has been higher than expected. The Wickham workshop was very well

attended. These consultations will be taken into consideration and formal proposals will be made by the Cabinet in summer. These will again be subject to consultation. We as your councillors have sent in our initial response in that, at this stage, there is no justification for doubling the size of Wickham and Knowle with 1,000 houses each. This would change the nature of our villages and require massive infrastructure. We all accept some housing as inevitable but on a much smaller scale. In addition Wickham will already be greatly affected by the SDA (Strategic Development Area) planned by Fareham Borough Council of up to 10,000 houses north of the M27 and south of Knowle. We have ensured that the City Council's response to Fareham BC on their LDF process states that there must be a green wedge between Knowle and SDA **and** Wickham and the SDA and that all of the planned SDA must be contained in Fareham's area only.

KNOWLE ISSUES

The new Knowle Community Building has received planning permission. This will be funded by the City Council mainly with a contribution from Berkeley Homes. The Village Green still disappointingly remains fenced off but it is promised that it will be available for light use by the summer.

COUNCILLOR SURGERY

There is no planned monthly councillor surgery for April as we will be out and about! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need help on any matter.



Thérèse and Angela



Wickham Parish Council News April 2008

Annual Parish Assembly

Please make a note in your diary for

7pm Wednesday 23rd April
Wickham Community Centre

Come and celebrate your community!

View potential sites for affordable housing

Discuss ideas for an event or events to
replace Wickham Festival

Citizen of the Year Awards will be
presented and you are welcome to make
nominations to the Clerk
by 10th April please

categories are:

Good Neighbour Award
Citizen of the Year
Young Citizen of the Year
Lifetime Achievement Award
Business of the year

Wickham Festival

Unfortunately the Festival will not be taking place this year. The organiser has written to local ticket holders explaining that there are problems with the licence that could not be resolved in time to 'risk' using Wickham for the site. The Parish Council has fully supported the festival but these problems are outside its remit.

New seat for Dairymoor

Following requests from residents a new seat has been installed at the top of Dairymoor. It provides a welcome resting place for people walking to and from The Square.

If you feel there are other places around the village that would benefit from seats please let the Clerk know.

New steps in The Water Meadows

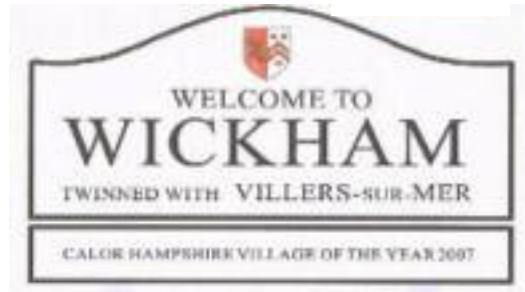
The steps from the Water Meadows to the railway line are very well used and were always rather steep, even for the longest legged residents!

Paul Collins and his team are busy rebuilding the steps which were becoming dangerous and in need of repair. The new steps will be less steep and more user friendly.

Please bear with us while the work is being carried out.

New Village Signs planned

The Parish Council has agreed to provide new signs to enhance the entrances to our village. Installation will take place during April.



Village of the Year Competition

Wickham will be judged for the National Village of the Year competition during the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd April. All local organisations have been invited to take part, contact the Clerk for more information.

Parish Council Meetings

All held at Wickham Community Centre

Full Council

7.15pm Monday 21st April

Recreation Committee

7pm Wednesday 2nd April

Planning Committee

7pm Monday 28th April

Finance Committee

8pm Monday 28th April

Members of the public welcome to attend meetings

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



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