



Two Pigeons on the Bell Tower ©YD

Lent Lunches for Everyone!

Starting on Friday, 27th February at
12.30pm preceded by a short service in
the church at 12.15pm

Full details on page 4



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From the Rector

What's giving got to do with it?



We're very good at 'receiving' in our society. We love to 'receive' all we can get, whether it be the right & proper praise for our hard work in school, house, or

work etc. or whether it be our wages or salary, our bonus (not many of those around at the moment!), or our pocket money. The more we can receive, particularly of the financial variety, the better. I like 'receiving' myself and I make no bones about that! But something that I think has been lacking in our society of late is the idea of 'giving back' to the world around us.

'Giving back' to society and to the community that has given us so much of our up-bringing, our education, our health and our spiritual well-being is something that has somehow gone out of fashion. Maybe it's a downside hangover from the 1980s spirit of free enterprise which some took to mean you look after no. 1 and nobody else. The sort of attitude summed up by Harry Enfield's character, 'loadsamoney'. He was funny I have to say – but a little sad also.

Now it's great to hear the commentators saying that there is a new age of 'philanthropy' with the likes of the rock star, Bono's campaign to cancel Third World debt, and the founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates, who has put billions of dollars into the 'Gates Foundation' with the aim of improving global health care and reducing severe poverty.

However it's not just the rock stars and the billionaires of the world who are starting to give something back to the world. Here in our own community there are increasing numbers of people offering up their time and money to serve the local community, offering to help in, amongst other places, the local schools, uniformed organisations and local charities. I know this because a number of them are part of the church family!

We can give in so many ways; our time and talents and our money too. I am so encouraged that this is

an area where the church is busily at work. And I know that as a church we give financially to many charities, locally, nationally and overseas who desperately need our support.

And the funny thing about speaking to those who give of their time and their money is that they very often tell me how privileged they feel to do it and how rewarding it is to know that the life of other people is improved because of their willingness to give.

'Giving' is, I believe, a crucial part of what it is to be a compassionate human being and an essential part of what it is to be a Christian.

But the reality is we also need to keep our own house running and we need to give to the work of the church in our local community for the young and old, the sick and needy, and the recently bereaved, amongst others.

I am advised by the Church Treasurer that simply to stand still as a church we need to increase our income by around £3K p.a. in 2009. And with a further £6K/ £7K of building works required in the year ahead, we need the church family to carefully review how much it is giving to God's work in this parish. But let's not restrict the joy of 'giving' to regular church goers! Even if you don't come to church, we'd love it if you felt able to make a regular contribution. You never know how blessed you might feel by doing so!

Alternatively, your interest may lie in preserving the church as an historic building and an integral part of our village, please, therefore give some thought to joining the Friends of St Nicholas. They are entirely non-denominational and completely independent of the parochial church council. Their purpose is only to provide assistance in safeguarding the fabric and furniture of the church of St Nicholas.

Your friend and rector,



Bruce.

If you feel you'd like to support the work of St Nicholas Church, please contact the Church Treasurer, Di Frost at;

pctreasurer@stnicholaswickham.org.uk or, if you wish to learn more about the Friends of St Nicholas, contact John Landaw at john.landaw1@btopenworld.com (01329 830088)

Editorial

There have been some changes in the magazine editorial team these past few weeks. Actually, the editorial team was generally Neale Fray who has balanced the editorship with full time work, Wickham History society, St Nicholas' Bell-ringers, to name but a few. All agree that the content and quality of the magazine is first class and is mainly due to Neale's hard work, dedication and computer skills.

To relieve him of some of this workload and help him to spend more time watching the garden blossom, are a keen but inexperienced team, of locals who hope to spread the complex task of gathering and arranging the dozens of items and contributions into a format which resembles a readable local magazine. There maybe the occasional hiccup, hitch and problem, not to say howler, in the coming months before the word perfect magazine, hopefully, drops through your letter-box.

Might I be the first to extend a word of gratitude and recognition to Neale for his superb editorial efforts with a hope that Mrs F will find him some gainful, domestic chores to fill the extra hours in his week.

As the understated 'credit crunch' possibly begins to turn into something nastier, we might spare more than a thought for those worst and first affected. This is a friendly, neighbourly village where family and friendships are intermeshed and where residents are represented by all sections of the social order. Some families, the elderly, and those living alone might soon be in need of support and assistance. The way we care for members of our society will be a measure of our community spirit and kindness. Charity begins at home.

On a lighter note, it seems that each time I go into the square, there are half a dozen cars, circling and looking for an empty parking spot. It is much worse at lunch times when it seems most of southern Hampshire pops in to Wickham for bite to eat. Great for the traders, awful for those who live in the square and have nowhere else to park. Don't even think of looking for a parking place after 7.30 on Fridays and Saturdays. I know that the parish councillors, and Winchester, are aware of the problem but it is getting a little out of hand.....

Den Boylan

A vision process for the church!

'Where there is no vision, the people perish...' (Proverbs 29:18 ~ NKJV)

I think the New King James Version of the bible puts it in a rather blunt fashion, but you get the point! There is always a need for a sense of direction for any organisation and the church is no exception. Of course we have had a vision for a long time and it has been invigorated at different times over the years. On this occasion we shall be building heavily on the good work done in the past, particularly all that has been recently achieved and continues to be achieved under the Diocesan driven 'Kairos' process. 'Kairos' is a word that can mean 'seizing the moment', or 'seizing God's moment' and has been hugely helpful in encouraging parishes like our own to seize the moment for change and to think afresh about who we are as Christ's church and our purpose in the world. With my arrival in the parishes of Shedfield and Wickham, I am keen that we keep on reviewing our progress and

continue the process started under Kairos; that we agree a short Vision Statement that sums up what we're about at St John the Baptist and St Nicholas; and that we keep on praying and reviewing and praying and reviewing what we believe God is calling us to be and to do over the years ahead ad infinitum! That said, I don't want us to be contemplating our navels ad infinitum – and on the other hand I don't expect us to change everything we do overnight; evolution rather than revolution is more preferable. We'll be taking it 'gently, gently' so that wherever possible we can bring folks with us when we do make changes. But changes there will be I'm sure, and I hope they'll be exciting changes that refresh us as church and deepen our spirituality and love for the Lord and for his people. Please pray for us and especially for the Vision Day on 28th February when we'll be getting together as church to think things through and to prayerfully consider what God might be saying to us.

Bruce Deans, Rector of the United Benefice of St John the Baptist, Shedfield & St Nicholas, Wickham.

WICKHAM MOTHERS' UNION



We welcomed Miss Chris Poole at our January meeting who spoke to us about her experiences as a Queen Alexandra nurse during the Falklands conflict in 1982. This took place on the SS Uganda which had to be converted for use as a hospital ship from its previous use for educational purposes by thousands of school children. There was so much to do including the building of a helicopter pad, the changing of a room for x-rays, another for an operating theatre as well as some for use as wards. Apart from this the whole ship had to be thoroughly cleaned and this

entailed the work of very many helpers.

Because they had not experienced this before the nurses had to be trained in tackling patients with injuries caused by shrapnel. At any one time there could be up to a hundred injured being treated, including some Argentinians. Altogether during the three months conflict there were seven hundred and thirty casualties. After a splendid talk there was time for questions and an opportunity to enjoy looking at Chris' scrapbooks and photograph albums. It was an illuminating afternoon much enjoyed by all our members.

Our next meeting will be a fund raising lunch at 3, Tanfield Park

Anne Marshall



CHURCHES TOGETHER in
BISHOP'S WALTHAM AREA

Churches together Quiet half hours

24th February—Our Lady Queen of the Apostles,
Bishops Waltham

31st March—United Free Church, Bishops
Waltham

28th April—St Nicholas Church, Wickham

26th May—Holy Cross Church, Durley

30th June—Corhampton Church

All held on Tuesdays, starting at 7.30 pm, lasting
30 minutes.

Churches Together is the umbrella name for the Churches Together in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

NEW LENT COURSE FOR 2009

These three Faith, Hope & Love

With input from "The Abbot of Worth", Bishop Tom Wright, and Professor Francis Young

Calling Christians of all denominations and none to join together to studying as part of your preparation for Easter

There is :

A new course for Lent 2009 starting at the beginning of March

There will be groups across the whole of this area, both daytime and evenings, with all the denominations working together.

There will be two groups running in Wickham: Both on Mondays though Lent beginning on the 2nd March. Group 1 on Monday afternoons at the Rectory.

Group 2 in the evening in the Lady Chapel at St Nicholas.

Please contact Revd Elizabeth Groves on 01329 832134 for details.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday, 6th March 2009 at 2pm will be held at St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham.

The Christian Women of Papua New Guinea have been responsible for compiling the service which is entitled "In Christ There Are Many Members Yet One Body". This is most appropriate for Papua New Guinea has many languages, cultures, traditions and beliefs. The island of New Guinea is the second largest island in the world after Greenland. The offering of the service worldwide begins in Tonga, passes to New Zealand and then Australia and within twenty-four hours prayers will have been said right around the world.

Please do come and support this special annual service: all are welcome – men, women, young people and children.

The Speaker this year will be Mrs Margaret Symonds.

Afternoon Tea will be served in the Church Hall after the service.

Anne Shotlander

Christian Aid Walk 2009 **Walking to help others**

There is always something new to discover on the annual Deanery Walk for Christian Aid and this year will be no exception. We invite you to come and explore another part of our beautiful Hampshire countryside. We shall follow a circular route of under ten miles, taken at your own pace, with an alternative of about five miles.

So book the date now: **Sunday 10th May 2009,**

starting at 2.00 pm.
from St Peter's Church Hall,
Free Street, Bishop's Waltham.

Everyone is welcome.
Sponsorship forms will be available from Easter
Sunday.

Jane Goulson

NHS Blood Donor Session

Session Diary for Wickham, correct as of 30/10/08

Thursday 30th April 2009
13:30 – 15:25 & 16:30 – 19:15

Wednesday 26th August 2009
13:30 – 15:25 & 16:30 – 19:15

Tuesday 15th December 2009
13:30 – 15:25 & 16:30 – 19:15

A date for your 2009 Diary:

Come and Sing Handel

Saturday 7th February 2009

Church of St. Nicholas, Wickham

Handel's Coronation Anthems

Conductor: David Burgess
Organist: Mark Dancer

Registration and score hire from
3.30pm
Rehearsal from 4.00pm

Public Performance at 7.00pm
Audience welcome

Singers: £6
Score hire: £1
Audience: £4

To register, contact : 01329 833655
or

events@stnicholaswickham.org.uk

For more details:
www.stnicholaswickham.org.uk

LENT LUNCHESES 2009

At 12.30 pm. set up at 12 noon
(Preceded by a short service in the Church
at 12.15 pm)

TO BE HELD IN THE CHURCH ROOM

Home made soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee

February 27th Churches Together

*Jane Goulson
*Lucy Marson
*Val Shuttleworth
#Di Hemingway-Rice
#Joyce Johnston

March 6th

*Sheila Campbell
*Louisa Macfarlane
#Betty Bellis

March 13th

*Margaret Gwynn
*Ann Sharp
#Nicki Richards

March 20th

*Vicki Pawlyn
*Chris Beardshaw
#Angela Robinson

March 27th

*Doreen Barrett
*Jill Woodland
#Hazel Parkin

April 3rd

*Susie O'Connell
*Therese Evans
#Di Frost

* Please make 4-5 pints of soup. There are sauce-pans available for reheating.
Please buy 1 large white bloomer loaf, and 1 large whole meal loaf, plus 2 pints of milk and 2lb cheese

Please put a dish out for the contributions, but note there will also be the Bishops Lent Appeal envelopes available. You can add to this by auctioning any left-overs! Money please either to myself Di Frost, or Yvonne Case marked Lent Lunch, thank you. Thank you all for your time and contributions, it is greatly appreciated .

Collections from the first lent lunch will go to :

The Street Pastors Scheme Portsmouth, Gosport and the Isle of Wight

Collections from the next 5 will go to :

Local -

Emmaus Hampshire - a charity offering homeless men and women a home, work and the chance to rebuild their self-respect in a supportive community environment. www.emmaushampshire.org.uk

Overseas -

Deep Griha Society in India; a charitable organisation working to better the lives of people living in the slums in Pune, through education, self-help, nutrition and health programmes."

**Di Frost, The Laurels, Mayles Lane, Wickham,
Hants PO17 5ND
Telephone 01329 832633
e-mail dfwickham@hotmail.com**



Registered Charity No. 299731

BOARHUNT - SOUTHWICK - MEON SUP-
PORT GROUP

GARDENS



Is there anyone in the Wickham/Meon Valley area that would be interested in opening their garden to raise funds for your hospice during 2009 please?

Maybe a coffee morning or afternoon tea?

As many of you are aware the ongoing running costs at the hospice are now over £9,458-00 per day, and therefore ask for your help with suggestions for 2009 fundraising events.

Please contact Pam on 023 92 370647 / 023 9238 2433 or write to Orchard Cottage, 34 West Street, Southwick, Hampshire, PO17 6EA



With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year and "Thank you" to all those of you that have supported The Rowans Hospice during the year.

Eileen Jayne-Wood
Local Support Group Hon. Chairman.

☎ 023 9238 2433 / 07940 805431

Tim's Tips

I thought this month I would write about cooking sauces. The price of these in jars is ridiculous. Loads of people are happy being fooled into paying up and lining the pockets of supermarkets and celebrities whose picture is on the jar. Come on people - with a very little time you can create your own sauces for a third of the price.

Are there dried herbs and spices lurking at the back of your cupboards? Now is the time to get the dust off those little treasures and use them!

Take a large onion chopped small and chuck the lot in a large pan with a little oil over gentle heat - do not brown the onion just cook till it is clear. Now add some garlic or not, as you like, and a rasher of finely chopped bacon. It is time to add meat of some sort, ½ a kilo of beef mince or even a meat substitute but please **do not use** Aberdeen Angus healthy option overpriced meat, just an average quality mince will do. Left over meat is OK just chop really small - this is a sauce we are making. Cook the meat a bit and use a chopping action with a wooden spoon to break up clumps.

Add a 700 gm jar of Passata and carry on cooking on a low heat stirring now and then.

Did you sort your treasures out?

Have some fun now - you can add dried herbs; basil is the obvious choice, oregano is good too, really anything you like. If you like some heat,

add chilli powder or extra black pepper. If you add a tin of rinsed red kidney beans you can turn the whole thing into an excellent chilli.

Cook all this out and if the sauce appears too thick, use water or red wine to loosen it. Check the seasoning but be careful with salt as you have used bacon and salted the pasta water. Add your cooked pasta to the sauce and use a little of the pasta water to thin the sauce if needed and serve. You will have 5 or 6 really good portions.

Now I really must tell you about a bread and butter pudding my partner Denise makes. It really is good and a bit different

Denise uses fruit bread with orange in it. She takes a dish well buttered and lays in slices of the bread well buttered to loosely pack the dish with a handful of sultanas sprinkled over. Then to a pint of milk she adds a good slosh of double cream a generous tablespoonful of caster sugar and 1 egg. Whisk all this together and pour over the bread, leave to soak for about an hour and put in a medium oven for about 35 to 45 minutes until the top is crisp and golden and the milk/egg mixture is set.

I only get this treat when her father comes to dinner but hey who said life is fair!

Happy New Year

TIM

Village People



On December 2nd my Parish Clerk Nicki Oliver and I travelled to the Guildhall, London to receive a certificate

and £500 for the community presented by BBC presenter Bill Turnbull and the Managing Director of Calor Mr Alex Davis.

Wickham won the People Category for the South of England in the 2008 Calor Village of the Year competition. It was a great occasion

and obviously we were delighted and honoured to win the outright top prize.

We are only the representatives of Wickham and so may I take this opportunity to thank you all for making our village a "cut above the rest".

Our community spirit was very highly praised by the judges ----- and that is all credit to you the people of Wickham. Well done to you all and thank you.

Angela Clear, Chairman Wickham Parish Council

BISHOP'S WALTHAM SURGERY

The Public Involvement Group continues to meet regularly and a topic that has raised concerns recently is the range of places where one can seek medical help or advice. This article will basically list the different sources and something about each one, but it is not possible to recommend or state specifically which one is appropriate to a specific situation- this will be a matter of judgement at the time.

The Surgery is perhaps everybody's initial thought but it might not always be appropriate or necessary, or indeed may not be open.

The Local Pharmacy can provide advice and maybe solutions for minor problems.

NHS Direct (0845 4647) is there to provide advice and reassurance in many circumstances where the physical presence of a doctor is not needed.

Out-of-Hours service (0844 8113060) provides a similar service to NHS Direct except they would be able to arrange for a doctor to attend if that was considered necessary, or request you attend their Out-of-Hours Clinic usually at a local hospital .

Walk-in Centres may be more convenient if you are suddenly unwell whilst shopping for example, or perhaps it is outside surgery hours; they are open from 7am till 10 pm and are staffed by Doctors & Nurses. There are two in the area: Bitterne Health Centre and Shirley High Street.

A&E at the hospitals is primarily for accidents or medical emergencies as its name suggests. It is certainly **not** intended to be used when a surgery appointment cannot be obtained at the time desired.

999 – This really is for emergencies such as major accidents or in other circumstances as follow:

- Chest pains with pain also in the left arm
 - A person has collapsed
 - Loss of use of one side of the body
 - Sudden loss of sight
 - Falls where the individual is unable to get up
 - Severe asthmatic attacks
 - Acute Diabetic patients
 - Road Traffic Accidents
- THINK before you dial!

We are very fortunate in Bishop's Waltham and some of the surrounding Parishes as there are volunteer teams of Community Responders who usually attend such incidents before the ambulance arrives. They are automatically summoned by the 999 controller.

Ann Mabbutt
Group Member

Meon Valley Citizens' Advice Bureau

Q. Each month I put money into my pension and into an ISA for when I retire. If I was made redundant would these savings affect any benefits I might be entitled to?

A. Any contributions you have made to a pension scheme will not affect your entitlement to benefits, but your savings could. If you are made redundant and you look for work, you would qualify for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Contribution-based JSA is payable for six months and is not affected by your savings you have – you qualify because of your national insurance contributions. Income-based JSA, which is means-tested, is not affected by savings up to £6,000 but you cannot get it at all if you savings of more than £16,000. Any savings between £6,000 and £16,000 will affect how much JSA you get. The limits are different if you or your partner are over 60.

If you are made redundant, you may also be entitled to some help with housing costs and council tax – the rules about savings are complicated because they can depend on how old you are and what other benefits you're getting, so get advice. If you have children you may be entitled to Child Tax Credit. Savings do not affect your entitlement directly, but if you are getting interest from your savings this is counted as income and will affect the amount you get.

Finally, some people might get redundancy payment when they leave work and this doesn't depend on savings.

Q. I got into very bad debt a few years ago after losing my job and managed to set up a debt management plan with lower payments over a longer period of time. But my financial situation is now increasingly difficult with rising fuel and food prices. What should I do?

A. It sounds as if it's time to reassess your disposable income and see if there are any alternative options available which might give you some light at the end of the tunnel. The law is changing soon so options which might not have been around when you first entered into your debt management plan might now be available.

Citizens' Advice Continued

Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) – a legally binding agreement with your creditors to pay a proportion of your debts over a set period, often five years. You must have enough disposable income and/or assets available in order to cover both an insolvency practitioner's costs and still leave some money available for creditors.

Bankruptcy – a court order which declares you are unable to pay your debts and protects you from enforcement action by your creditors. At the end of your bankruptcy (usually one year but it can be less) your debts will be discharged and you will be able to make a fresh start.

Administrative Order – another form of court order currently only available to people with total

maximum debts of £5,000, plus a court judgement. You pay a set amount each month into the scheme and the court distributes the money to all the creditors included in it. The scheme can last until you have paid off all your debts, or you can ask the court to stop it after, say, three years.

Debt Relief Order – similar to bankruptcy, these orders are aimed at giving people who have debts of less than £1,5000, assets of less than £300 and surplus income of less than £50 per month relief from paying their debts. Once the order is made your creditors cannot take any action against you and, if your situation does not change, your debts will be written off after one year. This becomes an option from April 2009.

One of these options may suit your needs better than your current arrangement.

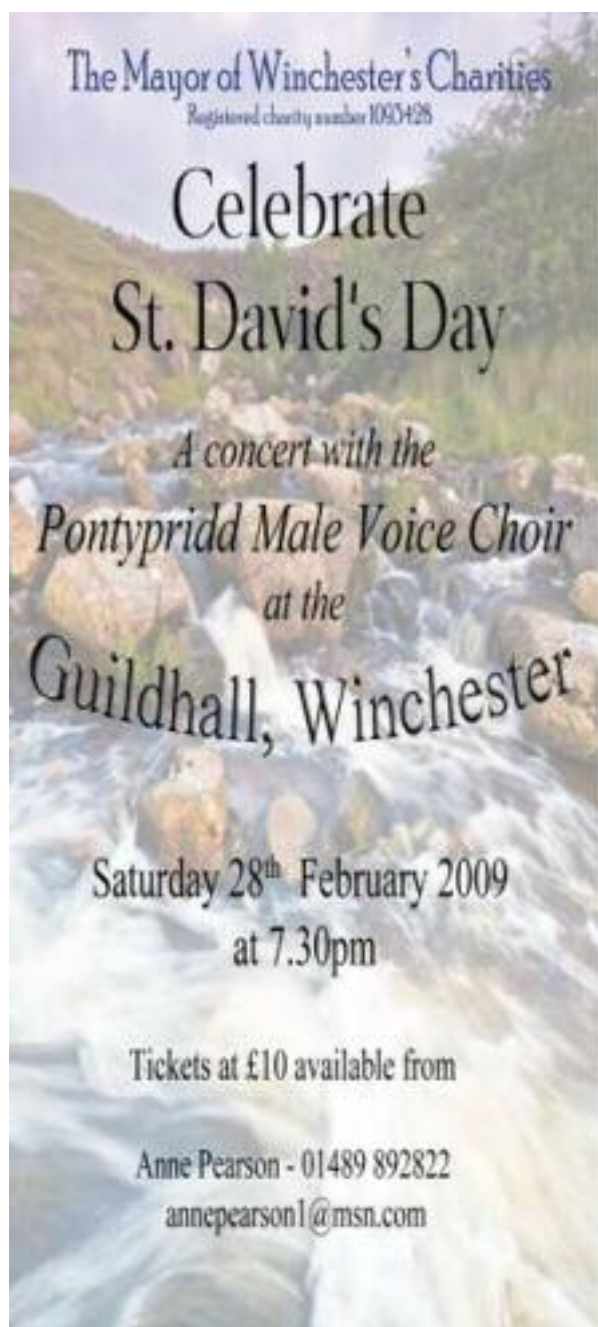
A CAB debt adviser will be able to help you contact your local **CAB** at Well House, 2 Brook Street, **Bishop's Waltham**, SO32 1AX, Tel. No. (01489) **896376** open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. We also run an advice surgery at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, 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 e-mail us on bishopswaltham@cabnet.org.uk with your problem. 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

Waynflete Singers and Winchester Area Schools

New Creation

**Sat 7th February 2009,
Winchester Cathedral 7.00 – 8.00pm**

The Waynflete Singers, together with choirs, orchestras and dancers from primary and secondary schools in the Winchester area, will give a Promenade Performance of a version of Haydn's Creation, adapted and conducted by David Owen Norris, in Winchester Cathedral. Over 500 children will take part in the great space when the nave is emptied of chairs, as in mediaeval times. Tickets at £6 from the Cathedral Box Office 01962 857275 or www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk





WICKHAM

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Telephone: 01329 833688 Email: wickhamcentre@btconnect.com

Website: www.wickhamcommunitycentre.org.uk

VALENTINES DANCE

SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2009



WICKHAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE
THE WOODFORD SUITE
JUST £5.00 PER HEAD
(two for the price of one)



TICKETS ARE LIMITED so don't leave it till the last minute to book and be romantic. Come on Guys surprise your loved one.

DANCE ALL NIGHT TO COOLDADDY DISCO
8..00pm to Midnight

FULLY LICENSED BAR – SPECIAL VALENTINE COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES
Champagne on ice available – please order and pay in advance
Telephone 01329 833688

Do something amazing today

Save a life



Give blood

Blood Donor Session!

Thursday 30th. April 1.30-3.25pm and 1630-19.15



At Wickham Community Centre Mill Lane

To make an appointment please call 0845 7711 711

In order for us to meet hospital demand for blood it is extremely important that you keep your appointment. If you are unable to keep it please phone the number above - let us know so someone else can take your place.



MERRY GO ROUND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Merry-Go-Round Children's Centre finished 2008 with a Christmas Party for children and their families.

In partnership with Hampshire Families (who supplied WH Smith Vouchers) and supported by our local Co-op community store (who donated mince pies) a successful day was enjoyed by everyone.

Children made tree decorations and hung them on the tree. Making Christmas hats, cards and icing cakes were some of the other activities children and families enjoyed on the day. Father Christmas visited the Centre with a sack of presents. The day was a huge success thanks to the many volunteers who kindly gave up their time to support the Centre.



We were able to use this event to consult with our parents for future events/courses/activities at the Centre and are currently working on a programme.

The Centre is piloting public access to the internet to support parents with access to the latest job vacancies, childcare information, links to NHS direct, school websites and more.

Merry-Go-Round Children's Centre already provides the following:-

- Thursday 9.00am – 13.00pm Developmental Clinics every (by appointment with the Health Visitor)



- Wednesday 9.30am – 11.30am Childminder drop in group (alternative Wednesdays)
 - Public Access Internet (contact the Centre to book a session)
 - Family and Volunteers Forum.
- Information on childcare and tax credits

Starting Soon:

- Tuesday 3rd February – Baby Massage (0-18mths) Places are limited. Book with the Centre.

Starting in March. Healthy Food, Fun and Fitness (free course, crèche available). Places are limited. Book with the Centre.

Everyone is welcome. If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the Children's Centre, or want more information pick up the phone and call us. Better still call in and have a look around, we look forward to meeting you.



WICKHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



Year 4 started their year in Scandinavia learning about how the Vikings lived and what made them invade Great Britain. They learnt that Vikings were great warriors, travellers and traders. However the warmer climate and easier farming made our country a tempting target for their adventures. They stayed here a long time and brought many things with them which remain today. Skills in textiles, jewellery and weaponry as well as names and some amazing stories or Sagas as they were called many of which the children enjoyed almost daily.



Meanwhile the children were learning to play the ukulele which culminated in a fantastic performance of music and song just before Christmas.

What a wonderful experience for them playing such a delightful instrument.

In science they developed their knowledge of electricity by designing and making Buzzwires. These were a fantastic success though the children found using saws and glue guns challenging but exciting.

We are moving on to the other side of the world for our study of India. We have begun with its locality in the world and physical geography. Another super term ahead!



A ST. GEORGE'S DINNER

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL, 2009

7.30pm in the Church Room

A three course meal
Some entertainment but no raffle!

Bring your own wine. £15.00 per person

*To book, contact: 01329 833655 or
events@stnicholaswickham.org.uk*

ROOKESBURY PARK SCHOOL

Children at Rookesbury Park School work hard and play hard. If you are looking for a school where each pupil is valued and treated as an individual then visit Rookesbury Park School in Wickham.

This strengths based school encourages each pupil by highlighting their strengths and nurturing them. In this way your child will grow in confidence and be prepared to challenge themselves. The Form Tutor's role is key, as each child sets his or her own targets, as well as having lots of fun along the journey of self-discovery and learning



Pippa Harris-Burland
head@rookesburypark.co.uk



Top Ten Tips for Form Tutors

- Welcome your children with a smile
- If you promise something follow it through
- Fill a drawer with stationery to hand out without rebuke
- Lead the way when you are wrong, show vulnerability
- Set your own SMART targets with the children
- Make one phone call a week to a parent with good news
- Have a cache of goodies to use as a distraction
- Be honest with your children
- Listen with your full attention
- Expect the best and you will get it!



**THE GOOD NEWS
TRAVELLING LIBRARY**

*will be at the Paterson Centre
Tuesday 10th February
10.30 am - 12.15 pm
to borrow books, CDs, DVDs, videos
and audio tapes
and/or
to buy greetings cards and notelets
- all at very reasonable prices
- could save you ££s
... and stay for a cup of coffee or tea.*

POEMS, MUSINGS AND TIPS

GREAT GRANDMA'S WISH

"Please, let next Christmas not arrive.
I've had enough!" she cried.

"I'm ninety five and still alive,"
Great grandma said. And sighed.

"What is the point? It's quite absurd.
I wish I was not here."

No one stirred or spoke a word.
"It's not friend death I fear."

"O! Let last Christmas be my last.
If only I could end it all.
Be at last my children's past.
Wrap me in earth. Let the snow fall."

Tony Johnson

(Aunt Ada was 86 when she told me, as I drove her down from London for a visit, that she'd just seen her oldest sister Aunt Cis, then aged 95, who told her she had had enough. Aunt Ada died last year just short of her 96th birthday, after a series of mini strokes).

THE GREAT JOURNEY

A cold journey we had of it, from Portus Adurni to the crossing of the Meon and the supply base there. Cold and silent through the January frost-mist with only the creaking of the wagon wheels and the crunch of our nailed sandals for company. Thankful to the builders of that road, we were, there being nothing but ice-skinned marsh to either side. And thankful too when the palisade of the fortified base loomed through the mist.

"Ho!" cried the sentinel from atop one of the wooden gate-towers, "State your name and business, and give the password of the day!"

I could see little of him through the mist – only the glint of his spear-point and the dull mass of his blood-red cloak.

"Quintus Mago, Optio of the Third Century," cried I, "with the supply train from the port! Today's pass word is *castra hiberna gelu!*"

The heavy gates grated open.

"Enter, Optio, and well met!" the sentinel called. "A fire and mug of hot wine awaits you – and maybe even a warm woman!" He chuckled and huddled deeper into his cloak.

"Are you day dreaming again?" said the Missus, as we stood by the fence, gazing at the frosty winter landscape across the Glebe Field. "Come on," she said, "let's get home to a nice fire. This weather chills me to the bone!"

(Quatenus ele esse, Michael, et quatenus ele proficiscor?) *Mike Hollis*

Bee Sting

Hard to find a penny now in Australia!

BEE STINGS This was sent to me today and I wish to pass it on to you and yours!!!!!!!!!!!!

This information may be something to remember, as this season will soon be here again... It might be wise to carry a penny in your pocket while working in the yard..... BEE STINGS!

A couple of weeks ago, I was stung by both a bee and hornet while working in the garden.

My arm swelled up, so I went to the doctor. The clinic gave me cream and an antihistamine. The next day the swelling was getting progressively worse, so I went to my regular doctor. The arm was Infected and needed an antibiotic. The doctor told me - 'The next time you get stung, put a penny on the bite for 15 minutes'.

That night, my niece was stung by two bees. I looked at the bite and it had already started to swell. So, I taped a penny to her arm for 15 minutes.

The next morning, there was no sign of a bite. We decided that she just wasn't allergic to the sting.

Soon, I was gardening outside. I got stung again, twice by a hornet on my left hand. I thought, here I go again to the doctor for another antibiotic.

I promptly got my money out and taped two pennies to my bites, then sat and sulked for 15 minutes. The penny took the sting out of the bite immediately.

In the meantime the hornets were attacking, and my friend was stung on the thumb. Again the penny. The next morning I could only see the spot where the hornet had stung me. No redness, no swelling. My friend's sting was the same; couldn't even tell where she had been stung.

She got stung again a few days later upon her back---cutting the grass!

And the penny worked once again.

Wanted to share this marvellous information in case you experience the same problem. We need to keep a stock of pennies on hand. It definitely works!

Sylvia Wells

FEBRUARY 2009 DIARY

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	1	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 08:00 Holy Communion 09:45 Family Service 18:00 Choral Eucharist	1 Peter 4: 7-11 Matthew 20: 20-28
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- Mon 2 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
- Tue 3 **10:00 Holy Communion, Normandy Court**
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 History Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 4 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:30 Riverside Mews AGM Church Room
- Thur 5 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
- Fri 6 13:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Sat 7 08:00 Men's Breakfast Club, Church Room
19:00 Come and Sing Handel, St Nicholas Church

Sun	8	THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT Thanksgiving and Commitment Sunday 08:00 Holy Communion 09:45 Parish Communion	2 Cor. 8: 1-9 Mark 1: 29-39
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- Mon 9 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
 20:00 Wykeham Group Council Meeting at Paterson Centre, Swanmore
- Tues 10 12:30 Mothers' Union Fund Raising Lunch at 3 Tanfield Park
 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Society, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 11 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Wives, Church Room
- Thur 12 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
- Fri 13 13:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Sat 14 11:30 Holy Matrimony: Claire Winskill/Rod Day
LAST DAY FOR COPY FOR MARCH 2009 MAGAZINE

Sun	15	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT 08:00 Holy Communion 09:45 Parish Communion 18:00 Choral Evensong	2 Cor 9: 6-15 John 1: 1-14
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- Mon 16 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
 19:30 Light Railway Association, Church Room
- Tue 17 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
 19:30 First Responders, Church Room
 19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
- Wed 18 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
 19:30 Model Engineers Association, Church Room
- Thur 19 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
 19:15 **PCC Meeting, Church Room**
- Fri 20 13:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room

19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre

Sun 22	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	
	08:00 Holy Communion	Acts 1: 6-11
	09:45 Parish Communion	Matthew 28: 19-20

Mon 23 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
Tue 24 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 25 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:30 United Benefice Ash Wednesday Service at St Nicholas Church
Thur 26 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 27 **12:30 Churches Together First Lent Lunch**
preceded by Lent Prayers in the Lady Chapel at 12.15pm
14:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
Sat 28 14.00 Dystonia Association, Church Room

MARCH

Mon 2 11:00 Spinners and Weavers, Church Room
14:00 **LENT COURSES BEGIN**
19:30 Circle Dancing, Church Room
Tue 3 16:45 Brownies, Church Room
19:30 Wickham History Society, Church Room
19:30 Wickham Indoor Bowling, Community Centre
Wed 4 12:00 Lunch Club, Church Room
19:30 British Legion, Church Room
Thur 5 09:30 Poppins Play Group, Church Room
Fri 6 12:15 Lent Prayers, Lady Chapel
12:30 Lent Lunch, Church Room
14:00 Health Visiting Team, Church Room
Sat 7 08:00 Men's breakfast Club, Church Room

LAST DAY FOR COPY MARCH 2009 MAGAZINE SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

FROM THE REGISTERS Holy Baptism
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Frankie Terence Goulson	04/01/2009
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Rest in Peace

Mick Torode	50 yrs	December 2008
Percy Durant	96 yrs	23/12/2008
Geoff Hazzard	63 yrs	08/01/2009
Vera Foster		30/01/2009

LETTERS

Wickham Fire Station



Outside the Fire Station in 1939

You may or may not know that Wickham fire station celebrates 70 years of serving our local community this Summer. I am hoping that you could publish a small article asking your readers if they have any stories or memories of Wickham fire station over the last 7 decades and if they have any photos as well that would be great!

All my contact details are below so you can use them for people to get hold of me.

Many thanks

Chris Norgate

T/CM Chris Norgate

Campaigns and Media Officer

Tel: 023 8062 6812 Internal 759 3513

Mob: 07918 887568

email; chris.norgate@hantsfire.gov.uk

Web; www.hantsfire.gov.uk

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

Headquarters

Leigh Road

Eastleigh

Hampshire

SO50 9SJ

Percy Durant

Dear Editor

I would just like to let you know that my dearest friend and soulmate, Percy Durant, aged 96 of Glebe Corner, died on 23rd December. A Portsmouth man born and bred, he started work at an early age for a local firm of shopfitters where his father was foreman. He then decided to go in for teaching where his career spanned some 40 years at Hilsea Modern School, where he was



head of Department, specialising in arts, crafts, woodwork and sculpture, and inspired generations of boys, teaching many to sail. He was also one of the founder members of the Solent Guild of Wood Carvers. In 2006 he initiated formation of the Wickham Art Group at the Community Centre, when funding was withdrawn, so his group could carry on enjoying their painting, and had an art exhibition at The Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham.

Percy had so many interests besides art; music, horticulture, and ballroom dancing (he took his gold medals in his 90's!). He was a beloved dad, granddad, and great-granddad. A wonderful man who loved life, was such fun, and will live in my heart forever.

Eileen Harris
158 Vale Road
Windsor

St. Nicholas Church Choir

Dear Editor

Please may I use your letter page to say a very big thank you to our St Nicholas Church Choir for all their wonderful, joyful music – not only at Christmas, but week by week and at Weddings, Funerals and extra services, both here and at St John the Baptist, Shedfield. We all assume they will turn up every Sunday (except on Choral Evensong Sundays when we really miss them!) and that is a huge commitment.

Thank you again Choir – A Happy New Year and
KEEEEEEEEEEP SINGING,

Anne Sharp

Letters to:

Neale Fray, 22 Manor Close, Wickham,
Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 5BZ

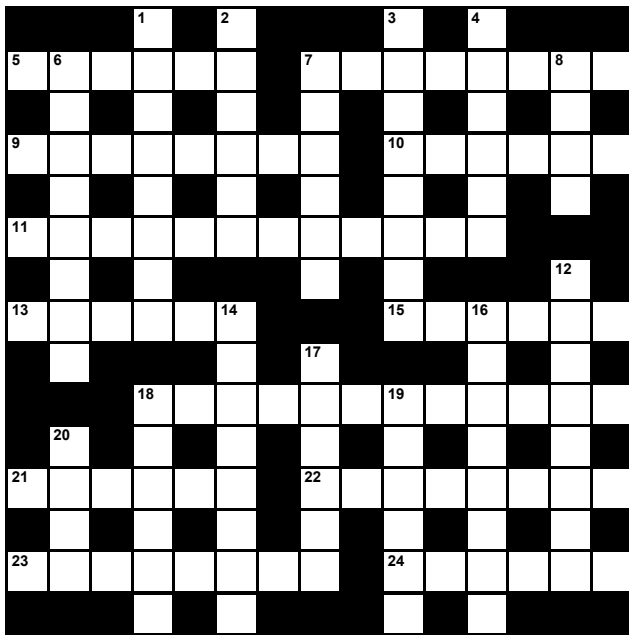
Telephone 01329 832751

E-mail: neale@fray.me.uk

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

Wickham Prize Crossword No.31

by Konrad © RJS 2009



- 10 Alert returning artist. No use! (6)
- 11 Book aged Will (3,9)
- 13 Rare vehicle found in southern church (6)
- 15 Very light salad leaf (6)
- 18 United Nations restrained the riotous (12)
- 21 I'm leaving rough estimate for crockery (8)
- 22 Increase last month in dodgy palmistry; star must be removed! (8)
- 23 Caught painful break in big match (3,5)
- 24 Police boiler (6)

Down

- 1 Silver stretcher, all sparkly (8)
- 2 Pulls off a stumble in ship (6)
- 3 Northern river trapped warm bird (8)
- 4 Convoy date (6)
- 6 Plant cherubic article (8)
- 7 Flower periodical (6)
- 8 Wide Virginia street (4)
- 12 Engineers mask the French trumpet call (8)
- 14 Unexpectedly extricating rat, eradication is thrilling (8)
- 16 Muse about local pie (8)
- 17 Thin plate raised to release beast (6)
- 18 Nice one Peter! It's hazardous (6)
- 19 Wild celebration, no beano, for old widow (6)
- 20 Initially behold Edward, an unspoiled gallant (4)

Name Phone number

Across

- 5 Tagged broken device (6)
- 7 He's found in a dingy nightclub. Sticky! (8)
- 9 Disguise indignation and disregard firing (8)

Wickham Sudoku No.31 by Balthasar

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

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

Wickham Sudoku
Solution No.30
By Balthasar

Please send your completed crossword to the editor by Sunday, 22nd February 2009. The first correct solution opened wins a £10 voucher to spend at *Heming & Co.*



Wickham Prize Crossword Solution No.30 by Konrad

1	E	2	M	3	D	4	F	5	C	6	M						
7	E	X	C	I	T	I	N	8	A	R	A	R	A	T			
	P	R	A	O	B	N	I										
10	C	O	V	E	11	L	I	B	E	R	A	T	I	N	G		
	R		E		L	I	A	S									
12	A	T	O	M	13	I	C	14	E	S	C	A	L	A	T	E	
					O	T	T				O	A					
	15	A	T	T	E	S	T	16	I	17	N	J	U	R	Y		
	N	H						18	E	E	P						
19	L	A	V	E	N	20	D	E	R	21	W	E	E	K	22	L	Y
	C	R															
23	F	O	R	T	E	P	I	A	N	O	24	S	I	Z	E		
	N	O	P								N	W	C	A			
25	E	D	I	B	L	E	26	T	A	N	D	O	O	R	I		
	A	E	R								S	T	D				

MEON VALLEY CARERS TOGETHER MEMORY MATTERS

“Wakey Wakey rise and shine- Let's go for gold in 2009”

Over 50 million people in UK will go to sleep tonight unaware, indifferent, and unsupportive of people living with dementia. If they are aware at all it is probably because they think of the publicity surrounding Alzheimer's drugs, means testing, and scandals in Care Homes, and Hospitals for aged wrinklies, who they never meet.

However some 1.5 million, mostly very elderly people, as sufferers and their carers will spend much of the small hours awake and worried about the next disaster; about how they will cope for the next five minutes, next day, or even the next fifteen years, and pondering the reason for it all!

On Wednesday 7th January a total of 160 people, members of our community, voluntary groups and professionals from Health and Adult Services from across Hampshire, braved the weather, New Year bugs and pains to meet in the Jubilee Hall at Bishop's Waltham to support the initiative by Meon Valley Carers Together to highlight the growing problem of Dementia. In particular the special needs of Rural Communities like the Meon Valley were highlighted because of the difficulties caused by isolation of patients and carers in rural areas. The day was strongly backed by Hampshire County Council Adult Services, and Cllr Felicity Hindson, Executive Member for Adult Services, launched the event and chaired the morning session, Jackie Pool of Shirrell Heath, an Occupational Therapist specialising in dementia care, who operates a nationally recognised training and consultancy organisation for dementia care, acted as Chair for the afternoon session.

Attendees were given a very moving account by Barbara Pointon MBE, of her life as carer for her husband Malcolm who endured Alzheimer's Disease for sixteen years before he died: readers may have seen the film of their experience recorded and shown on ITV. Barbara was followed by speakers from the Alzheimer's Society, Southampton University's Dept of Psychology, the Commission for Rural Communities, and Hampshire County Council Older Persons Wellbeing Team.

A series of very emotive sketches of life as a carer and as a sufferer were acted out by Penny and John Rowlinson of Soberton Players, and attendees took part in singing under the direction of Matthew Raisbeck, Programme Manager of “Sing for your Life”, illustrating the very positive role that singing can play in motivating older persons especially those with dementia. Hampshire County Council is currently promoting Silver Song Clubs and it is proposed that one such Club will operate at the Kings Church in Bishops Waltham.

The talks concluded with Bill Drake - Chair of Meon Valley Carers Together showing photos of how his wife Margaret had been enabled to enjoy her diminishing capacity by being included in craft activities by the ladies of the Swanmore Lace Group and proposing that the community could similarly markedly improve the lives of dementia patients and their carers by simple acts of inclusion and support in everyday activities..

The conference completed with table group discussion and recommendations by all present which will be collated and presented by Romsey-based Carers Together, who took a key role in planning and executing the programme for Meon Valley Carers Together. The table layout was planned and tastefully decorated by Sue Musselwhite of Soberton who is activities organiser for Meon Valley Carers Together. In a final act attendees responded positively to an invitation to join in a future Older Persons forum for

the Meon Valley which will take forward initiatives proposed during the day. A forum will give older people a ‘voice’ and enable them to express their views about the services currently provided in the district, specifically in the Meon Valley, to advise and influence agencies to develop new services where such services do not exist, and to help shape and establish new services. It will provide older people with an opportunity to express their views on issues of importance to them and tell local decision makers what they think.

In order to get something off the ground as soon as possible, it is proposed that the initial development of the forum will be taken forward by the Community Wellbeing Team of Winchester City Council supported by members of the Winchester District Older People's Partnership, particularly Hampshire County Council Adult Services and Winchester Area Community Action. An invitation to an exploratory meeting will be circulated to all attendees shortly.

As a direct result of the Over 55s Information Day which was held towards the end of last year in Winchester, the development of an Older People's Forum for the Winchester town area is already underway. The establishment of a forum for the Meon Valley will complement this work and ensure that the views of older people in the rural parishes can be heard. Lorraine Mansfield, the Community Wellbeing Manager for Winchester City Council and Hampshire PCT, will be happy to answer any questions. Lorraine can be contacted by phone on 01962 848369 or by e-mail at lmansfield@winchester.gov.uk

Lonely people. I have been disturbed by a number of cases reported to me where older persons with dementia are living alone. They would markedly benefit from visits and from taking part in the activities of MVCT, or indeed other communal events. However MVCT does not have as yet sufficient voluntary staff who could visit these individuals, remind them of an event and get them ready, bring them to a meeting and return them home safely. I would be pleased to hear from persons willing to assist, and also from anybody who is aware of people in need of such support.

We also need some more volunteers to help at our monthly meetings - to assist members with the entertainment (which is all provided), serve the tea and wash up. Please could you spare an afternoon once a month to come along to the Paterson Centre, Swanmore, and help? It's a fun time and not difficult. **Bill Drake 01489 895706**

Diary Dates:

10th February 12 Noon - Pub Lunch at The Forge, Shedfield

24th February 2 pm Discussion with Paula Glavin (Community Mental Health Nurse), Linda Batcheldor (Adult Services) and Kim Upstill (Sitting Service) for Carers

Paint a Pot, and movement to music

10th March 12.45 Fish and Chip Lunch at The Paterson Centre

24th March 2 pm Talk by Jackie Pool – Handling Challenging Behaviour for Carers

Guide Dogs and Andrew Knights, Music Therapy

If you would like transport to any of the above meetings please ring Geoff Matthews on 01489 890843

. For more information contact: Bill Drake on 01489 895706 - email: billdrake@talktalk.net Janice Romer on 01489 894662 - email: janiceromer@hotmail.co.uk

Sue Musselwhite on 01489 877282 -

email: sue@poppyhill.net

MVCT Carerlink Centre - 01489 895444 (message service)

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our December meeting was also our Christmas Party, we were welcomed by our President Sylvia Wells, after a small amount of business we welcomed our speaker for the afternoon, Pat Mathews.

We then sang Jerusalem accompanied by Pat on her keyboard, she then entertained us with a variety of poems, anecdotes, and songs. A very talented performer.



Pat Mathews

After the entertainment we enjoyed a splendid tea provided by members.

The competition was won by Barbara Mullet,

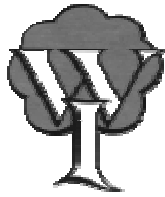
The Flower of the month was won by Yvonne Case.

On Wednesday 14th January, twelve members attended our

Annual Lunch at The Forge

Our next meeting is on February 11th at 2.00pm when the Speaker will be Madeleine Selby, the subject "Titchfield".

Joan D Smith



Do start your cards, letters or e-mails inviting your friends if you are able to host that weekend.

Our A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday, 10th March in the Community Centre. Please come for the election of a new committee and a very interesting speaker. Look out for the posters.

Is it too late to wish you a Happy New Year? Of course not!

Ann Johnson

01329 833400

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We felt that we should celebrate our coming of age by entering a team for the Shedfield Men's Group annual quiz night. We struggled to put together a purely Men's Breakfast team and were fortunate in being able to enlist the support of our wives. This proved invaluable when two of our team fell victims to sickness, but we were still short of a man when we surveyed the packed village hall at Waltham Chase.

Manners Makyth Man seemed an appropriate name for the representatives of Wickham, though we had some difficulty in persuading the organisers to accept our spelling. We set out our table with a liberal quantity of wine to facilitate lightning cerebral reactions, and the quiz got under way. To our surprise, as the evening progressed we found that we were giving a good account of the villagers of Wickham amongst the inhabitants of Shedfield, and by the time the excellent ploughman's lunch was served, and the bottles were nearly empty, we had begun to sense the possibility of a dramatic outcome.

Tension rose unbearably as the quiz drew to a close, but when the results were totted up it was apparent that the depleted *Manners Makyth Man* had led from the start and had finished in first place by some ten points.

So, the precedent has been set, and a new team will be obliged to defend our position next year.

Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus, as Caesar might have said if he had been less egotistic.

Robert Goulson

WICKHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Way back in the depths of last November, we welcomed 72 people to a new type of Wine Tasting, 'Call My Wine Bluff', led and devised by Alan Borrow and acted by Di Hemingway-Rice, Nick Holladay and Tony Johnson, all of whom gave us the performance of their lives. We were marvellously entertained, well fed and tempted to the limit by eight good wines.

The evening boosted our funds for the next visit of our friends from Villers on Friday May 22nd 2009.

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

WICKHAM WIVES

For our first meeting in 2009, we invited Dr Denise Stone to tell us of some of her experiences as a Medical Missionary in South Africa. Denise and her husband work with the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) and in 1990 when they were 18 months into a 2 year assignment in Canada they received a call for a surgeon to go urgently to South Africa. This was at the time when the apartheid riots in South Africa were at their height and Denise and her husband were in a dilemma as to whether to risk taking their children aged 5, 7 and 9 to such an unstable country. They held a family conference and when one of the children said "we all have to die sometime" the decision was made – we will go.

They arrived in Durban, Kwa Zulu, Natal to take up their positions in the McCord Mission Hospital on the outskirts of the city. This hospital had 300 beds and was a medical school for African and Asian doctors. Denise was responsible for paediatrics and obstetrics and her husband was the senior surgeon. The surrounding population lived in shanty towns and were very poor. Consequently much of the childhood illnesses resulted from drinking contaminated water, malnutrition and because of their overcrowded living conditions, Tuberculosis. Thankfully their living conditions are much improved, influenced by the release from prison of Nelson Mandela and support from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Denise remarked that those two men were the most charismatic Christians she has ever met.

People came to the hospital from outlying villages, many walking for days to get help for their sick children. Most of these people lived in "rondals" made with "wattle and daub" walls with thatched roofs. Cooking fires were lit in these houses often without any vent in the roof for the smoke to escape, resulting in the children getting chest infections from living in this smokey atmosphere. Visits to the hospital or clinic cost 1 rand which was more than most could afford, so all charges were dropped. Life expectancy in the early 1990's was around 36 years, regrettably now it is even lower as almost a whole generation of people of this age have been lost to HIV and AIDS. It has fallen to the

grandparents to care for their orphaned grandchildren. Denise stressed the importance of improved living conditions, clean water and an adequate diet to ensure these children have a healthier future. Customs and traditions will take many years to change as well as the influence of "witch doctors".

Fridays were very busy days for the hospital and clinics, it was "pay-day"! As a result of excess alcohol consumption they were often inundated with injuries from fights.

One of the most memorable times for Denise and her family was the abolition of apartheid and the removal of the signs segregating the races. The McCord Mission Hospital is now a specialist centre for the education in prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS. Members of the CMF meet regularly, their fellowship, prayers and support for each other and the McCord Hospital is vital to those people in Africa.

Pat Matthews gave Denise a vote of thanks for sparing us the time to tell about her very interesting experiences as a Missionary Doctor.

Our next meeting on February 11th 2009 at 7.30pm for 7.45pm in the Church Room will be a talk on a "Patchwork and Quilting" trip to America by Carol Taylor.

Margaret Gwynn

WICKHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

At our December meeting, Commander Bruce Nicholls, vexillographer and historian, gave an account of the reason for and building of the ring of forts around Portsmouth known as Palmerston's Follies.

The land forts, along the top of Portsdown Hill, and the four sea forts in the Solent were built in the mid 1800's to defend Portsmouth against a presumed French attack initiated by Napoleon III., the nephew of Bonaparte. Lord Palmerston, the British Prime Minister at the time, was instrumental in ordering the building of the forts, known as "Follies" since they were an expensive project which subsequent events proved to be unnecessary. During the two 20th Century World Wars, however, they came into their own as integral parts of our defence. Fort Southwick, for example, was the H.Q. of the Allied Commanders before D-Day in 1944.

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

Wickham History Society (contd.)

The presentation by Cdr. Nicholls, well illustrated by slides, was received with enthusiasm by an interested audience.

Members had brought along a mouth-watering variety of festive fare which, accompanied by the mulled wine prepared and served by Lucy and Barrie Marson, made for a convivial end to an enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting is on February 3rd and will be a talk on "**The Wessex Film and Sound Archive**", with particular reference to the Meon Valley, by David Lee.

Please note that in future meetings will start at 7-45 p.m. to allow time for the Brownies and their parents to exit the car park by 7.30

Doreen Barrett



Meon Valley

Programme 2008/2009

Theme: "Our Coast and Countryside"

- Feb 3 2pm "**Coastal Conservation in the Solent**" illustrated talk by **Richard Hedley** of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- 17 2pm "**St. Clair's Farmhouse on the River Meon: Part of the Old Manor of Soberton**" illustrated talk by **Ann Pendred** Archivist to Soberton History Society
- 24 2pm READING GROUPS: telephone (01329) 833384 for details
- Mar 3 2pm "**Trailing Robert Goddard - 'In Pale Battalions'**" talk by **Brian Barrett** - our U3A Chairman and Society Officer
- 17 2pm "**Southwick - Village and Park**" **Madeleine Selby** local historian
- 24 2pm READING GROUPS: telephone (01329) 833384 for details
- 31 2pm "**Local Country Houses and Their Families**" presentation by historian **George Watts**

*Talks held at Wickham Community Centre
Guests Welcome*



The British Royal Legion, Wickham Branch.

The Christmas Dinner and Draw was held on the 6th December 2008 at the Shedfield Reading Rooms. Just over 50 members and friends attended.

On arrival all were greeted with a sherry reception and then entered the room which had once again been beautifully decorated by Maggie with assistance from Sheena and several friends.

A traditional Christmas Fare awaited us, accompanied by ample wines all of which helped to set a very pleasant ambience for the whole evening. During the evening a free fun draw arranged by Eric and Sheena created some very light hearted moments. Unfortunately I forgot to take my camera.

The main event of the evening being the Grand Draw which is the most important fund raising event for the branch. A total of 37 prizes were to be won, the main prize being a flat screen TV set. The TV was the last prize to be drawn and the lucky winner was Mr R Withers of Gosport, the other prizes being fairly spread near and far. The sale of draw tickets raised a total of £530.00 and after costs of prizes etc., had been accounted for, the branch funds benefited by just over £250.00

The branch had decided to help the Winchester RBL Branch with their "Shoe Box Appeal" in which personal items of use for our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq were packed into individual shoe boxes and flown to the areas of conflict free of charge by the Post Office. A large box was prominently displayed at the Dinner for any donations to the appeal. The box was filled to capacity with a further 18 filled shoe boxes being delivered to me for the Winchester secretary to collect. Mrs Sheila Green, the Winchester secretary, has collected the boxes and has asked that I thank all of our members and friends that donated so generously. I must remind all that as the conflict is ongoing so is the need for the appeal to continue so that more shoe boxes can be sent to remind our troops that they are not forgotten and that we at home are very proud of their dedication and sacrifices.

A bit of good news is that the branch is to receive a Certificate of Merit for the increase in total monies collected during the Poppy Appeal over the last three years. Congratulations on a great effort to Sheena, our Poppy Appeal Organiser.

Burns Supper:- Saturday 24th January 2009 - Shedfield Reading Rooms - 19.15 for 19.45
Next Branch meeting:- Wednesday 4th March 2009 - The Church Room - 19.30

WARTIME STORIES

I was born at Totsome Cottages Knowle in 1946, a year after the Second World War ended. I don't think that any family was untouched by the events that unfolded from 1939 to 1945, such horrific times, and I will never forget the stories I was told about those years.

My Mother was married to John Arkinstall, in 1941 he was serving on HMS Hood, he was one of over a thousand men that died. I remember her telling me that she received a letter from him saying that he was in port, I believe it was somewhere in Scotland. Of course wanting to see him, she set off on the train, owing to wartime travel being unreliable when she reached her destination HMS Hood had sailed, she never saw him again, such a sad story. My Mother eventually married my Father Lindon Cunliffe. There was another family at Knowle, William and Ivy Bowers their son Leo Bowers was also serving on HMS Hood, he was just 18 years of age and also went down with Hood. They still hold a memorial service at Boldre in The New Forest every year, and I can remember going to them when I was a child. There were only 3 survivors, the last one died last year his name was Ted Briggs. The HMS Hood Association has an amazing web site, my Mother's former husband is named in the Roll of Honour and I am saddened that I do not have a photo of him to put with his details. I do however have a set of his keys with his name on them, I often wonder what ship they came from.

My Uncle Eddie my Father's brother served in the Army, and one day someone came up to my Father and said that his brother was in the Star Inn at Wickham, he was on his way to The D Day landings, having no car my Father cycled down to the pub, but his brother had already left, fortunately he survived the war.

After they were married my parents' lived in Portchester, and it was where my Father cycled back after his shift on one of the Wards at Knowle, one particular night, he was stopped by wardens, Portchester had been bombed, he didn't know if my Mother and older sister had been harmed, when he eventually got through, he found them safe but frightened, others had not been so lucky.

My Father used to take his turn on watch in The Clock Tower at night, keeping an eye out for enemy planes, even the smallest of lights could be seen by these planes, and up until just before his death, he would always hold his cigarette with the lighted end shielded in the palm of his hand. He kept for many years a piece of shrapnel that came from an enemy plane, he often used to show it to me, whereabouts are unknown now.

Bernice McDouall (nee Cunliffe)

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

Busy, busy Lions



The winter period has been extremely busy for the Meon Valley Lions. During December the annual Christmas collection proved highly successful with Santa and his helpers raising over £3,700 from the village communities throughout the Meon Valley. A big "Thank-you" goes to everyone who supported us with donations, in spite of the bleak financial climate. Remember, 80% of the money we raise will be used for local charities, for those in need, or suffering hardship and difficulty at this time.



Also in December, The Lions supported the Home-Start charity organisation with a barbeque (yes a barbeque!) at their annual Christmas bauble hunt in the Forest of Bere. The wintry conditions generated an endless queue for the hot food which disappeared down the throats of grateful punters just as fast as the Lions could cook it – helping raise some welcome money for the charity in the process. Undaunted by the obvious madness of cooking in sub-zero conditions, the numb band of Lions volunteers repeated the process on Boxing Day at The Hampshire Bowman. Motorbikers, ramblers and those simply looking to perpetuate the festive feasting, set about the hot soup, burgers and sausages with relish (both red and brown sauce!) Our thanks go to The Bowman for supporting this annual event and allowing us to raise £240 this year.

On the social front, the skittles evening at Wickham proved a hit with some interesting styles and techniques making little difference to the overall absence of accuracy. Requiring much less skill, other than a healthy appetite, the annual Christmas dinner at Banks Bistro proved highly popular with a full complement of Lions turning out. An excellent meal was enjoyed by all and our thanks go to John Campbell and the social team for their hard work in organising these and other dates in the social calendar throughout the year.

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS

Meon Valley Lions continued

At our recent meeting we were privileged to listen to a talk from Lindsey Mason of Swanmore, in which she described the volunteer work she has been doing in Africa in the last twelve months. Lindsey is a medical student studying at Sheffield University and has spent time in Malawi putting her skills to good use with the local people at Monkey Bay on the shores of Lake Nyasa. Meon Valley Lions had supported her with funding which allowed her to purchase much needed medical supplies and sports equipment, plus materials for a new roof in one of the site buildings. We were all impressed with Lindsey's commitment and dedication to this project as well as the confidence she displayed when fielding questions from the meeting.

Fund raising 200 Club draw

Meon Valley Lions Club is re-launching its 200 club after many successful years. For a minimum £1 per month you can contribute to this charitable cause with the chance of winning a £70 prize in the monthly draw, or £400 in the Star Draw held each June. If you are interested in subscribing, please contact Ian Adams on 01489 894932.

Call for help – our Fete is in your hands!

We are well under way with arrangements for the 2009 Swanmore Carnival & Fete and have already re-booked by popular demand the fabulous TIGERS motorcycle display team. This year's event is going to be bigger and better than ever, but we are appealing for help and support from individuals and groups across the community to make it a success. We need:

Volunteers to help with set up and break-down periods and in support roles during the day

More stall-holders

Walking groups – this year instead of carnival floats we want to create a walking parade to show off the volunteer groups, clubs and associations that are an active part of the Swanmore community.

Can you help? Please contact Ian Adams on 01489 894932 if you can.

The Wickham Society



Our first meeting of 2009 got off to an excellent start with 36 members enjoying Dr Celia Clark's informative presentation on the proposal for Portsmouth Harbour, Isle of Wight and Spithead as a World Heritage Site. The initiative for this area to be the world's first Cultural Seascape began back in 2006 and to qualify for inscription on the World Heritage list the site must have 'outstanding and universal value'. Dr Clark illustrated her talk with slides of many important and familiar features of the area such

as the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Palmerston's Forts, to name but a few. She also outlined the important engineering and technological significance of the dockyard, in particular the work of Mark Brunel and she emphasised that shipbuilding is still a living tradition in the area.

We heard that three dockyards in Europe already have World Heritage status and that 27 of the 951 sites are in the UK. In order to improve the case for this area's inclusion on the tentative listing the proposers are looking to link up with a suitable third world port /dockyard. At this point in the meeting, Mike Hollis mentioned his involvement with the ship building industry and suggested himself as a useful contact to pursue such a connection and Dr Clark was delighted with this offer.

Finally, Dr Clark outlined the rewards for achieving World Heritage Site status. The Site would be a catalyst for income generation, enhanced conservation of our architectural heritage and re-affirmation of the region's cultural life and identity. It will also attract international regard, grants and investment and the area will be a flourishing and more sustainable environment for residents, visitors and businesses.

The next meeting will have a musical theme when Bob Askew will talk about Dr George Gardiner and Hampshire's wonderful heritage of folk songs some of which will be performed by our local trio, Franny Wolpe, Ted Fitzgerald and John Shillitoe, otherwise known as 'Schiehallion'.

Programme 2009

Tues 10th Feb: 'Hampshire Songs: George Gardiner and the traditional songs of Hampshire'. Bob Askew. With musical accompaniment by Schiehallion

Tues 10th Mar : 'Conservation of Paintings - in particular Wickham Church Paintings' Ann Sadler-Forster

Tues 14th Apr : 'AGM' followed by 'Quiz Evening'

Summer Visits: In conjunction with Wickham History Society.

Tues 2nd Jun: The Porter's Garden, Portsmouth

Tues 7th Jul: Fort Nelson

Summer Cruise and further details to be announced at a later date.

All meetings held in the Church Room **starting at 7.45 pm.**

Visitors £1

Maggie Smith

WICKHAM ORGANISATIONS



Wickham Cricket Club

Not a lot to report at this time of the year. The fixtures for Hampshire League Div 2 South East have just been announced and Malc is busy arranging the programme of friendlies.

Indoor net practice starts on 10th February at the Rosebowl. This is a great chance to brush off the cobwebs and get in shape ready for the new season. If anyone has lost the details or is interested in coming along, please just give us a call.

Here is a word on the exploits of our team in the Fareham Indoor League from the unassuming captain Robert Higgins:

'Wickham Cricket Club's indoor cricket team, which plays at Fareham Leisure Cen-

tre, is in its third and so far most successful year, having won 3, tied 1 and lost 1 of its five matches. However, with four matches to go, Wickham will have to win at least three in order to gain promotion. The young squad has been boosted by the appearance of Chris Martin and Steve Judge who sport flashy sweaters and trendy trainers, while veteran, Robert Higgins, maintains a dignified, more traditional dress-code, with a turquoise blazer and pumps.'



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

In Aid of The Mayor of Winchester's Charities

Registered Charity No. 1093428

Cllr Michael Read the Mayor of Winchester has chosen the following charities for his year:
The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Service,
The Rowans Hospice and The Scout Association

28th February 2009

*Celebrate St David's Day
with the
Pontypridd Male Voice Choir
Winchester Guildhall
Tickets £10 each*

29th March 2009

*Spring Fair
To held in the Saxon Suite, Winchester
Guildhall
Tables £15 each 10 am to 3.30 pm*

24th April 2009

*St George's Day Celebrations
Winchester Guildhall
(will incorporate the Retiring Mayor's
Dinner)
Details to follow*

9th May 2009

Hampshire Recorder Sinfonia
*St Cross Hospital, Winchester
7.30 pm
Tickets £10*

2009 Coffee Morning Talks in Abbey House:

*Prisons - Independent Monitoring Board - February 25th
Discovering the Past with Electronic Wizardry - March 25th
Diamonds are a Girls' Best Friend - April 29th*

Tickets £5 each talk To purchase tickets for any of the above in advance contact:

Mrs Janet Read 02392 257565
*Mrs Anne Pearson 01489 8892822

Email: readm@btinternet.com
Email: annepearson1@msn.com



Hampshire & Isle of Wight

Please tell us what you think about Hampshire's wildlife and countryside.



We know that many people in Hampshire value the wildlife and countryside of our county. We also know that many people are concerned about the impact of the proposed significant increase in housing over the next 20 years (more than 133,000 new houses planned in Hampshire), the threat of climate change and the risk of increasing pollution levels.

What we don't know is how strongly local people feel about these issues – or what role you think a charity such as the Wildlife Trust should play in tackling them. So we are asking for your views.

The Wildlife Trust is inviting you to take part in our 2009 Wildlife and Countryside Survey and share your views about the natural heritage of Hampshire, whether you feel it is worth fighting for and what you think the Trust should be doing to protect it.

You can take part online by visiting our website at www.hwt.org.uk and the questions should not take more than a few minutes to complete.

The answers you give will be invaluable in helping us to plan future campaigns to protect vulnerable wildlife and wild places.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is committed to protecting habitats and the species they support. We manage over 50 nature reserves as havens for wildlife, as enjoyable places for people to visit and as inspiring places for young and old alike to learn about the natural world. We also offer advice and training to other landowners on how better to manage their land to help wildlife. Increasingly we are influencing decision makers as to how they can act now to protect our biodiversity for the future.

So if you are interested in wildlife and countryside matters, concerned about the Government's draft South East Plan and the impact the proposals will have on Hampshire, please spend a few moments to complete our survey.

Your input and views are very much valued, and the results from the survey will be published on our website later this year.

To find out more about the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and how you can help us create a more sustainable future for wildlife and people, please have a look at our website or call us on 01489 774400.

Peter Hutchings

Marketing Officer

February Tue 17

FA The Emperor's Egg 10am–12noon. Can you imagine standing around in the freezing cold with an egg on your feet for two whole months? This is the story of an Emperor Penguin, the world's most devoted dad. An event of ice cool crafts, activities and stories for 4-7 year-olds. Meet at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, Sopwith Way, Swanwick (Map ref. SU 505 098). Booking essential, so 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 warm coats and wellies.

Thur 19

FA Ice Bear 10am–12noon. Huge and magnificent, the polar bear roams the frozen Arctic – a powerful hunter, tender mother and gentle playmate. Come and find out about the ice bear and join in some polar themed crafts and activities. An event for 6–9 year-olds. Meet at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve, Sopwith Way, Swanwick (Map ref. SU 505 098). Booking essential, so 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 warm coats and wellies.

Mon 23

BW The Attractions of The Forest 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. A talk on the New Forest, its plants, wildlife and people, with Gerald Ponting. Meet at St Peters Church Hall, Free Street, Bishop's Waltham. For further details, please contact Phil Jeffs on 01489 896280. Admission adults £2.50, children free.

Tue 24

FA One Snowy Night 10.30am-12noon. Percy, the park keeper, always feeds the animals in the park where he lives. But one cold winter's night discovers that his little friends need more than food. How do the animals at Swanwick Lakes Wildlife Reserve survive during the winter? An event for pre-school children. Meet at Swanwick Lakes, Sopwith Way, Swanwick (Map ref. SU 505 098). Booking essential, so 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 warm coats and wellies. March

Mon 9 (March)

FA Looking After Our Living Heritage 7.30pm. Jon Stokes of the Tree Council will talk on finding and caring for our ancient trees, with a close look at some grand local examples. Meet at Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Street, Fareham. Ample parking in Trinity Street car park. For further details, please contact Peter Adams on 01329 287 653. Admission £2.

CURDRIDGE AMATEUR DRAMA GROUP

Next production steams ahead!

“The Titfield Thunderbolt”



Following the great successes of last year's plays was always going to be difficult, a comedy and a dancing extravaganza, which celebrated the group's 40th year. Thanks to our very loyal audience, both plays were sold out and we are really very sorry that some of you may not have been able to get tickets.

But, this is another year and another opportunity for the team to produce something unusual between Wednesday March 25th and Saturday March 28th.

Many of you may have fond memories of this old Eling Comedy about a group of villagers dismayed to discover the proposed closure of their railway branch line. They decide to buy and run the railway themselves, facing not only the scepticism of the railway authorities, but competition from a man determined to start up a rival bus service.

A wonderful film written by TEB Clarke, with some great characters, the story has only just been adapted for the amateur stage

It will require us to perform “in the round” for the first time, with a certain amount of audience participation and a lot of activity both on and off the stage. Directed by Carey Blake, who has a history of introducing innovative productions to Curdridge, it should be highly entertaining with some stunning special effects new to our repertoire

Tickets will be going on sale on February 24th and will be available from Chris and Tony Pond on 01489 895844.

So, take your seats for a great ride er, sorry, great night out, starting at 7.45pm at Curdridge Reading Rooms, where a buffet car will be available serving (not BR) tea and coffee, and wines, beer and soft drinks.

The Titfield Thunderbolt has been adapted for the amateur stage by Philip Goulding and is performed with the permission of Samuel French Ltd.



Speed the Plow

David Mamet's celebrated play **Speed the Plow** comes to Theatre Royal Winchester in a brilliant black comedy in which two Hollywood producers clash over the age-old movie business dilemma of money versus art. Should the studio greenlight another sure-fire blockbuster or an art-house adaptation of an obscure yet brilliant novel? When the young office temp's opinion is sought by one of them, sex and its resultant power games begin to muddy the waters even further in this hilarious and scathingly satirical dissection of Hollywood at its most shameless and shameful.



Speed the Plow is Pulitzer Prize-winner David Mamet's deftest and funniest work, crammed full of brilliant one liners and chilling insight. Mamet is the author of such classics as *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *American Buffalo* and his screenwriting credits include such films as *The Untouchables*, *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *The Verdict*.

This dazzling and incisive play reveals Mamet as a master of the language of moral cupidity and shows his intimate knowledge of the darker motivations and subtle power plays of human nature. Set in the eighties, an era of unstoppable ego and ambition, this production, directed by James Barry, is a distillation of the tensions, moral challenges and tests of character that life throws our way, set large in the world of show business where the stakes are high and the struggle is merciless.

Speed the Plow is playing from Wed 4 to Sun 8 March at 8.00pm, 2.30pm matinees (Thurs and Sat). Tickets £15.00/£16.00 (eves), £11.00 (matinees), concessions available. For further information, or to book tickets, contact the Box Office on 01962 840440 or visit

www.theatre-royal-winchester.co.uk

1st Wickham Scout- Group

Although a little late,
Happy New Year to
you all.



We delivered 428 Christmas Cards and raised just over £64 for our much needed funds. Thank you to all who supported us. We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Paul and his staff in Pages once again for dealing with the post.

Soup and hot dogs helped keep the very cold weather at bay on New Year's Eve when we blasted our way back to Wickham with our Fireworks and Hotdog evening. Thank you to the 150 people who came to support us, we hope you enjoyed the show.

The Scout Group and the Parish Council have had a couple of meetings to look and discuss plans for the new building on the Recreation ground, but its early days yet.

I'm pleased to announce that Helena (our assistant Beaver Leader) had a baby Girl at the end over November. We wish her and Steven all our best wishes.

I'm delighted to say we've just had our first meetings in the Community Centre.

The times and evenings we meet are:

Scouts	10½ to 14 years
	Monday 7 to 9pm.
Cubs	8 to 10½ years
	Wednesday 6.30 to 8pm
Beavers	6 to 8 years
	Thursday 6 to 7pm

If you have a son or daughter who would like to join our happy family of Scouting please telephone the number below for further details.

Chris Samways, Cub Scout Leader 01329 832739

The Wickham Surgery

ALL GIRLS AGED 17 AND 18 –
DO NOT MISS THIS
OPPORTUNITY!!

HPV Vaccination is now available for
girls born between 01.09.1990 and
31.08.1991

By having the vaccination you will
reduce your risk of getting cervical
cancer when you are older.

Please contact **your** GP surgery to
make an appointment.

ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN
14 & 18?

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR
DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS & POLIO
BOOSTER??

This vaccination is no longer adminis-
tered in a school setting so it may be
necessary to have this single
vaccination at your GP surgery.

Please contact your GP surgery to ar-
range an appointment.

Wickham Surgery, Station Road,
Wickham, PO17 5JL –
Telephone 01329 833121



Hampshire County Council

REPORT February 2009

Winter Maintenance

The county council has so far spent £3.3 million this winter on salting the county roads on 34 days, much higher than usual – over the last four years salting was carried out on an average of 19 occasions.

The county has 45 vehicles standing by to do this work throughout Hampshire, each carrying a load of five tonnes of salt to keep traffic moving safely. Priority is given to the A roads, bus routes and roads to emergency centres and schools. These carry about 85 percent of the traffic in the county. Other roads are salted once the priority routes are done.

The county uses an “Ice Alert” system that helps determine when salting is to be carried out. This consists of roadside sensors that monitor road conditions such as air and surface temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity and ice formation of the road surface.

Drivers are reminded that the salting process is less effective at temperatures below minus five degrees and therefore extra care is needed at these times.

Village 30 Programme

Of the 43 schemes in Tranche One of Hampshire’s Village 30 programme, 18 are fully completed, 21 schemes are operational with signs in place but road markings to come and the others are in the pipeline. Police are monitoring the new 30 mph speed limits and issuing tickets where necessary. They report that generally the speed of traffic in the villages has slowed.

There are a further 64 schemes in Tranche Two of the programme and these will be in place shortly, some starting next week and others between then and the end of April.

If there are any other rural locations where 30 mph speed restrictions are needed, these will be considered in March.

Council Tax

The county council will set its council tax on 19 February. It is expected that the increase this year will be 3 percent.

Pupils Maintain High Standards

Pupils at the county’s schools continue to do well in GCSE examinations, according to official figures published for 2008 by the Government. The Hampshire schools continue to perform better than the national averages with 53.8 percent of pupils gaining five or more grades at A* to C including maths and English – an increase of two percent on the previous year and six percent above the national average.

The statistics also give a contextual value added score for schools so that it is possible to measure a pupil’s progress during their time at a secondary school. While academic achievements are obviously important, they are not the only way to measure a pupil’s success, nor the success of a particular school.

Bullying at Schools

The county council is committed to reduce incidents of bullying in schools. Bullying comes in two main categories – emotional such as taunting, spreading rumours and exclusion from groups; and physical such as kicking, hitting or pushing. The Government has asked the county council to stamp out racial and religious bullying if it comes to light, bullying related to disabilities and a new form called cyberbullying. The latter involves the use of computers, mobile phones and texting.

*Freddie Allgood
County Councillor
for Wickham*



Report urges action to improve social care

Hampshire County Council is leading the way in transforming adult social care. A nationally acclaimed report by Hampshire’s expert Commission of Inquiry calls for the perceived unfairness and complexity of the care and support system for older and disabled people to be tackled.

The Commission has looked at the impact of adult social care on people who use care services, carers, communities, care providers, local authorities, organisations such as health, and the wider public.

The report ‘Getting Personal: a fair deal for better care and support’ makes national recommendations for the future of adult social care, and proposes a model for the future of adult social care in Hampshire.

For further details please visit the website:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/getting-personal.htm>

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT

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

tel: 832700

email: tevens@winchester.gov.uk

Council Rents

It was decided at Cabinet and Council that these will be increased next year by 6.14%. In addition there will be more bad news for tenants regarding repairs and maintenance as shortfalls in the housing budgets might mean delays in these areas. We both voted against these increases and reduction in service in support of TACT (Councils and Tenants Together). As garage rents were increased sharply two years ago and there has been a subsequent drop in the number of tenants it is not proposed to increase these.

Wickham Toilets

The council has written to 4 Parish Councils including Wickham requesting that the Parish precept bears 50% of the cost of running this facility. The Parish Council has so far rejected this request and again we as local councillors shall not vote for this measure. We believe the toilets are a District facility which are to be funded by the general Council tax. If Parish Councils do not pay the sums requested the Leader has indicated that he would recommend closure of the relevant toilets. We hope this will not happen as this would be a pity for visitors to our village and across the District.

New Knowle Community Building

The City Council is awaiting the legal warranties from Berkeley Homes to be signed and returned in order that the £400,000 promised for this facility can be released and building works commenced. It is expected that this decision will come to Cabinet in February or March.

Local Development Frameworks

All Local Authorities have to publish their Core Strategy Preferred Options LDF consultation in the coming months. Winchester City Council will bring its Preferred Options to Council in April. Currently Wickham is being viewed as suitable for 150-300 houses. There are no current proposals to increase numbers greatly at Knowle but no firm decisions have yet been made. Fareham BC has published its Core Strategy Preferred Options LDF consultation and the links are:
Link to all papers <http://www.fareham.gov.uk/>

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

tel: 832923

email: aclear@winchester.gov.uk

[council/departments/planning/ldf/cssreport.asp#Preparation](http://www.fareham.gov.uk/council/departments/planning/ldf/cssreport.asp#Preparation)

There is a proposed SDA (Strategic Development Area) of up to 10,000 houses north of Fareham

Link to North Fareham SDA <http://www.fareham.gov.uk/pdf/planning/corestrategy/northsda.pdf>

WCC District is being considered for the green infrastructure and gaps of the Fareham SDA. We shall continue to request that all of Fareham's SDA remains in the FBC area only as stated in the South East Plan with the green infrastructure and gaps preferably placed on the boundary between the SDA and Knowle. The document also envisages realigning the A32 to junction 11 with related industrial/commercial development.

Councillor Surgeries:

We currently hold these every month alternately in Knowle and Wickham. However on some evenings we have had no customers.- we are either doing everything right (!) or you do not feel the need for these surgeries. We are happy to hold them but it can be time consuming so we intend to review these over the coming months. Please remember we do always visit you on request and are easily contactable by phone or Email (or in Wickham Square!). We also attend all local Parish Council and Residents' meetings should you wish to discuss any issue. Our next councillor surgery is: Knowle Village Hall Tuesday February 10th 7-8pm. No Appointment necessary



The Winchester Moot Horn

The Moot Horn shown here on display in the City Museum and it has recently been the subject of a major academic study. It is a 50cm long bronze horn found in a chest when the Westgate was being cleared in advance of its opening as a museum in 1898. At the time it was hailed as the an-



cient moot horn of the city used to summon the freemen to assemblies of the 'Burrough Mote'.

The metal of the horn has now been tested and stated to be indeed authentic 12th century. The decorative band around the bell of the horn shows six figures in relief, two standing bishops and four rampant lions. The figures are thought to represent the two principal authorities in medieval Winchester, the bishop and the king. The lions are a symbol of royal authority, and the bishops may represent St Swithun, Bishop of Winchester in the 9th century AD. Several towns in England have ancient horns but only Canterbury's 'Burghmote Horn' is likely to be as old as Winchester's Moot Horn. In 1927 the horn was used to summon city councillors to a meeting when it was blown atop the Westgate by a soldier: the story goes that it could be heard on St Catherine's Hill several miles away. Reflecting this tradition, a replica of the horn is blown at the annual Mayor-making ceremony each May.



Home-Start

The UK's Leading Family Support Organisation

Home-Start volunteers are matched with families who have young children and who need a little support to help them through a stressful time. Volunteers are asked to visit "their" family once or twice a week for a couple of hours offering friendship, support and practical help.

If you have a few hours a week to spare and you have parenting experience, give us a call to find out more.

Training is given – the next course will be starting in
Feb 2009 at
Wickham Community Centre

Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.
This voluntary work is unpaid but is highly rewarding.
YOU can make a difference to someone's life.

Wickham Community Centre
Mill Lane, Wickham, Hants PO17 5AL
01329 835936 and ask for Claire or Louise
Email: organiser@homestart-meonvalley.org.uk
www.homestart-meonvalley.org.uk

Wickham Parish Council News

Annual Parish Assembly 2009

Please note date change of the 2009 Annual Parish Assembly to
7pm Wednesday 13th May
Wickham Community Centre

Wickham Parish Council

Citizen of the Year Awards 2009

Nominations Welcomed
Please send to the Clerk by 9th April

Nominations need not be for volunteers but should be for people working or volunteering in the Wickham community, which of course, includes Knowle.

Categories:

Citizen of the Year

Good Neighbour

Young Citizen of the Year

Customer service community award, for a local business making significant contribution to the community

Lifetime achievement award for service to the community

Awards will be presented at the Annual Parish Assembly on Wednesday 13th May.

Offers of sponsorship from local businesses would be welcome.

Nominations for the awards to be made to the Parish Council by **Thursday 9th April 2009**.

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

Village of the Year celebrations

Wickham won the People Category for Southern England in the 2008 national Village of the Year competition. This is just reward for our fantastic community and the effort that everyone put into the judge's visit last year.

The Parish Council would like to invite all residents and members of local organisations to the Annual Parish Assembly 7pm 13th May at Wickham Community Centre to celebrate the win by sharing a drink or two and buffet.

The Annual Parish Assembly is always a good night out so please make a diary date now!

A new home for Wickham Scouts



The Parish Council has worked with the Scouts to develop a design brief for the new building on the recreation ground to serve Scouts, sports teams and the local community.

The Council is now commissioning detailed designs for a building that will meet both the design brief and available budget. Tenders will then be sought for the work.

Parish Council Meetings

Held at Wickham Community Centre, all welcome to attend.

Full Council

Monday 16th February

Committees

Monday 9th February

Please see notice boards for dates and times of other meetings.

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