

Wickham Market

PARISH NEWS

2026

March
April



Your FREE News and
Information Magazine from
Wickham Market Parish Council

**Wickham
Market**
visitwickhammarket.co.uk

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

Meets on the third Monday of each month

Ivor French (Chair)

David Chenery (Vice Chair)

Robin Cooke

Gloria Creasey

John Day

Gemma Dempsey-Gray

Sue French

John Horsnell

Dick Jenkinson



Contact us

Chair Ivor French

Clerk Al Besly

Deputy Clerk Leanne Castle

For more information

ivor.f@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

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Wickham Market Parish Council updates



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Parish Council Committees and Groups

Finance & General Purpose Committee: Meets on the first Monday alternate months. Responsible for grants and managing financial reporting and budgets.

Planning Committee: Meets as required and reviews and comments on all planning applications for the Parish.

Staffing and Personnel Committee: Meets as required and advises the council on all employment matters.

Sizewell C Committee: Advises the Council on the impact of Sizewell C.

Village Hall Modernisation Committee: Meets on 1st or 2nd Tuesday monthly. Schedule published on our website. Working to modernise the village hall.

Environment & Leisure Working Group: Meets on the second Monday alternate months and advises on the Cemetery and other environmental issues.

Climate Change Working Group: Responsible for the Climate Action Strategy and advising the Council on Climate Change actions.

Emergency Plan Working Group: Responsible for developing plans to manage emergencies in the parish.



A Village That Thrives Together!

While leafing through this magazine, I noticed how many groups, clubs, and events are held in Wickham Market and how they reflect a vibrant community.

A special 'thank you' to those volunteering with our children through the Junior Football Club, Brownies, Guides, Baby and Toddler Group, Wickham Market Primary School PTA, Junior Tennis, and Lego Club. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child."

As you continue to read, you'll notice that many groups need support. One wonderful option is 'micro volunteering,' which is ideal for people at work during the week.

Wickham Market Parish Councillors are volunteers, too, dedicated to enhancing our community and environment. If you would like to know how you can join us, please get in touch with me. My email is below.

Ivor French

Chair, Wickham Market Parish Council

ivor.f@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH NEWS

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WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

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PRINT DEADLINES

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Contact for contributions:

deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

Please email your text with good quality pictures as separate attachments.

Articles may be subject to editing at the discretion of the editor.

Cover image and Page 3: Gary Baker

Wickham Market Playing Field Bowls Club: Open Evening



- **WHEN:** Monday 13 April 2026 from 6pm to 8pm
- **WHERE:** The Bowls Green, Wickham Market Playing Field (we are to the left of the children's playground).

Why Try Bowls?

- It's a low-impact, accessible sport for all ages.
- Fun, social atmosphere.
- Coaches and members will be on hand to offer guidance.
- No experience required – all equipment can be provided. Just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes!

Contact: Bruce Laws (Club Secretary) on 07929 647660 or just turn up on the night (or on any Monday evening through to the end of August).

Let's Roll!

Looking for a new, fun, and safe way to spend a summer's evening?

Wickham Market Playing Field Bowls Club is opening its doors for our annual **Open Evening Event!**

Wickham Market Good Neighbours AGM

Everyone Welcome

Come and find out a little of what Wickham Market Good Neighbours does for our community.

Wednesday 15 April 2026
7:00pm for 7:30pm start
in the Community Room at the rear of the Village Hall.

SPEAKER

John Horsnell, Parish Councillor will be updating us on the refurbishment of the Village Hall.



Light refreshments will be provided.

Repurpose, Forage and Supermarket Flowers



'Reuse Recycle' was the title of January's flower demonstration, organised by Wickham Market Flower Club and held in the Village Hall.

More than 30 people watched and asked Janet questions as she demonstrated how she repurposed old tins, containers, and fruit bowls. It was great to see bunches of supermarket flowers and green foliage, picked for free from gardens and allotments, incorporated into some of the arrangements.

Foraged sticks were used to increase the height of one arrangement, and guests were shown how to leaf-weave. The leaves can then be dried and reused.

It's the 50th year of Wickham Market Flower Club, and on Thursday, 23rd April, Jacquie Arnold will demonstrate flower arrangements themed 'A Diamond Celebration'.

Tickets cost £10 for non-members and include a slice of celebration cake and non-alcoholic fizz. The Village Hall doors open at 6.30pm, with a 7pm start. No booking is required. Please bring cash.

Join the Wickham Market Flower Club for £30 a year. The group holds demonstrations, summer trips, and hands-on workshops. The committee welcomes new team members to help organise its programme.

For more information, contact Anne on 01394 383424.

Get into Gardening

Karen Edmonds writes

Did you know that the Wickham Market & District Gardening Club, has been in existence for 50 years? We're a bunch of keen (not necessarily expert) gardeners who like to get inspired and share tips in a sociable way by coming along on the third Thursday of every month to the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have a range of speakers over the year, as well as social events and visits to gardens in the area. Our extremely popular Plant Sale will be held on 21st May and, our Annual Autumn Show is planned for the 12th and 13th of September.

Our full programme for 2026-27 is now available at www.wmgardenclub.org.uk/programme. To give you a taste, on 19th March Neville Stein will be talking on Strange Vegetables: A Tour of Truly Strange Veg; on 16th April, the talk will be on Gardening in the Shade; and on 18th June, Soft Fruit Growing.



We invite you to join us! Anyone is welcome to come along to their first meeting for a small donation and then, if you like us, membership costs a very reasonable £15 a year for individuals, £12 for over 60's and £24 for a family.

The club is part of the fabric of village life, here in Wickham Market so the more members there are to help it to continue, grow and evolve the better. It's a brilliant way to meet new people, make new friends and learn more about gardening. Whether you have a window box, a houseplant, a few acres, or are thinking of

having an allotment, we offer you a warm welcome!

STOP PRESS: Our plant stall will be at the Spring Market on The Hill, Saturday 28th March, 9am-2pm, Come and say 'hello' and choose something new for your garden.

Perusing's for Wickham Market, from the Wild Corner



Niki Fowler from Hedgehog Cottage writes...

What some see as 'vacant land' provides irreplaceable habitat for wildlife displaced by development.

What developers dismiss as unused land often represents the last refuge for species struggling to survive amid the never-ending rumble and sprawl of suburbia. These overlooked spaces sustain ecosystems that manicured lawns, weedkiller and concrete cannot replicate.

Unmowed areas provide critical nesting sites for ground-dwelling birds, including the Skylark, Lapwing and Nightjar. Birds will abandon areas once mowing begins, leaving eggs and nestlings exposed to predators.

Overgrown edges and shrubbery shelter hedgehogs, foxes, mice and insects, all seeking refuge from habitat loss. Dense vegetation provides protection from predators and safe corridors between increasingly fragmented wild spaces.

Native wildflowers sustain pollinators throughout the seasons. Dandelions, cowslips and clover feed native bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects, whilst monoculture lawns offer no nectar sources whatsoever. Late-blooming heather, ivy and Michaelmas daisies support migrating butterflies, such as

painted ladies and red admirals, and bumblebee queens preparing for winter.

Fallen logs and brush piles create essential winter dens for hedgehogs and amphibians. These structures regulate temperature and moisture whilst providing hunting grounds for these small predators, helping control rodent populations.

Seemingly chaotic vegetation includes host plants for native moths and butterflies. Wild violets host Fritillary butterflies, early emerging bumblebees and solitary bees in spring.

This land isn't unused; it's performing critical ecological functions that manicured landscapes cannot. Every 'weedy' stretch filters rain, appropriates carbon, and maintains biodiversity in increasingly hostile urban environments.

Before clearing land, please take time to recognise what currently lives there and where those displaced species will go when their last refuge disappears.

If you have any space to spare, whether it's acres or inches, please leave it for our native wildlife before it's too late.

Volunteering

Spare a Little, Help a Lot. Why is it good for us?

'Spare a little, help a lot' is the phrase on a St Elizabeth Hospice poster, offering everyone the chance to 'volunteer your way'.

With so many groups, clubs, and societies in Wickham Market and beyond, there is a strong need for people to donate both their time and expertise.

Time is precious, and if you are working, have a family (or both), it's doubly so. Hence, the term micro-volunteering – 'small, quick, and low-commitment actions that support a charitable project, usually completed in a few hours without any long-term obligation'.



What does volunteering involve?

In Wickham Market, it could mean shopping for someone, helping them complete a form, or taking someone to a medical appointment – services provided by the **Wickham Market Good Neighbour Scheme**.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guiding groups in the village need weekly evening support, while the **Wickham Market Flower Club** could do with help setting out the chairs in the village hall once a month and help on their committee.

The Primary School is particularly interested in volunteers to join its board of governors, and its **Parent Teachers Association** is seeking new members to support its fun fundraising events.

The St Elizabeth Hospice Shop in the village is calling for volunteers for regular four-hour shifts to help behind the till.

What about micro-volunteering?

The Hospice has numerous one-hour opportunities, including E-commerce, catering, painting and decorating, and one-off support, such as serving on the support team for the **Hospice Midnight Walk**. **The Royal British Legion** in the village is hosting a special weekend in April and is seeking one-off volunteers as well.

In Wickham Market, volunteering opportunities include the **Village Show Committee**, the **Archive Centre** and the **Resource Centre Gardening Group**, to name just a few.

Wickham Market Parish Council

is the first tier of government. Comprising volunteers, it manages facilities including the children's play area, the sports field, the allotments, the Pightle and the Cemetery. It also reviews planning applications and organises the seasonal markets held on The Hill. The Parish Council is working with Sizewell C to implement a traffic-calming scheme and with the Village Hall Management Team to fully modernise the Village Hall.

If you would like to make a positive difference in Wickham Market, consider becoming a parish councillor.

So why is volunteering good for us?

Research shows that volunteering isn't just good for the community; it also boosts our physical and mental health and overall well-being. Many volunteers say they love making a positive impact on people's lives and find great satisfaction in using their skills and knowledge to help the local community. It's wonderful to feel valued while working alongside others, meeting new people from diverse backgrounds, and having the opportunity to create positive change.

If you would like to be put in touch with any of the groups above, email deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

Come to the Community of Wickham Market's

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This is OUR meeting; it is NOT a Parish Council meeting

You're warmly invited to come to Wickham Market's Annual Parish Meeting on Friday, April 10th, 2026, at 7 pm in the Village Hall.

There will be a short formal meeting, followed by a complimentary glass of wine, beer, or a soft drink, along with some nibbles.

There will be displays by various village organisations, with representatives on hand to chat about their work.

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Open Public Forum with some presentations, questions, and answers
- 4 The formal meeting will close, refreshments will be served, and guests will be welcome to browse the displays

Formal reports will be published on the Parish Council website. www.wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

John Constable R.A. & Family and Friends Exhibition



JOHN DUNTHORNE, CONSTABLE STUDIO
Glebe Farm, Langham, Essex c.1830
Oil

CHARLES R. LESLIE
Charles Golding Constable,
son of John Constable
Pencil



The East Anglian Traditional Art Centre, situated on The Hill at Wickham Market, is holding an Exhibition to celebrate 250 years since John Constable's birth. He is well known for his pictures of the English countryside, especially the Stour Valley on the border of Suffolk and Essex.

Through the 50 pictures on display, the Exhibition will examine the influence of various periods of Constable's life and artistic development, from his early watercolour of Great Yarmouth c.1794 to a pencil sketch of the Coronation in 1831. Works by his family and artists associated with John Constable will be included. George Frost of Ipswich is known to have painted alongside

Constable, and his work will be on display, including a view of Ipswich Docks painted in 1803.

Many of the pictures are on loan, but the Exhibition also offers for sale a rare group of drawings by Constable's family, including his son Lionel, his grandson Hugh and his great-great-grandson, Richard. A group of drawings by George Frost will also be available to purchase.

The Exhibition is open from 21st March until 11th April, 11am to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday, (closed Sunday and Monday) or at other times by arrangement. For more information, visit www.eatac.co.uk or call 01728 747050.

Wickham Market Outdoor Green Gym

If you like to spend time outdoors and enjoy fresh air, trees, wildlife and good company please join us in 2026!

The events bring people together to care for, enhance and learn about biodiversity and the environment. They are held at the weekends and some weekdays. Tasks include tree growing and planting, young tree care, establishing naturalising bulbs and wildflower planting. All ages welcome.

Projects are supported by East Suffolk District Council, Wickham Market Parish Council, the Suffolk Tree Wardens Network, landowners, local fund raising and donations. The ESC Nature First Grant has funded bulbs, wildflowers, a diverse mix of native shrubs added to the Simons Cross field tree line and new hedging (shrubby honeysuckle, *Lonicera nitida*) to replace the box hedge (ravaged by caterpillars) at the cemetery.

Our recent 'winter warmer' walk was popular and we will hold more in the spring and summer. Dates to be announced separately due to timing.

For more detail, please contact your Parish Tree Wardens:
Anne Westover 07586 266553
email: ennaoverwest@btinternet.com
Sonya Exton email: smexton@aol.com

For 2026 dates and detail please subscribe to the Wickham Market Partnership round robin: news@wickhammarket.co.uk and also check the Facebook pages for VisitWickhamMarket, Wickham Market and WM Community page.

Narcissi in Wickham Market Cemetery. More of these dainty native daffodils were planted in 2025 funded by the ESC Nature First Grant.



Nature at work on Broad Road with daffodils and wildflowers around the Rowan tree.



The blackthorn will be out soon, a great nesting habitat, white starry flowers are a nectar source, black fruits or sloes are sour but are enjoyed by the birds and great for liqueur!

A Westover

A Spring Refurbishment



Bellissima Beauty Salon owner, Ellena Sneath, purchased the established business 12 months ago and has recently overseen the refurbishment of the much-loved salon in Wickham Market Square.

Ellena felt it was the ideal time to refresh the salon's interior, creating a modern, welcoming space for new and returning clients.

Bellissima Beauty Salon has been a well-established part of the Wickham Market community for over 30 years and offers a wide range of professional beauty treatments.

It is open Tuesday to Saturday. To book an appointment or purchase a gift voucher, call 01728 746981, email Ellenasneath25@gmail.com, or visit www.bellissima-beauty.co.uk



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FALLEN TREES

0345 606 6171

HIGHWAY FLOODING: SCC

0345 606 6171 or 0300 1235000
www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

STREET CLEANING/CLEARING

0333 016 2000

POWER CUTS

Power Networks call: 105 or 999

DANGEROUS STRUCTURES

01394 444 219 or 0800 440 2516

MANHOLE PROBLEMS

that are considered an emergency: 0345 606 6171

WATER LEAKS

Anglian Water: 24/7
0345 145 145

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

Emergency out of hours:
0800 440 2516

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ALL ABOUT HEARING LTD

Local hearing care and earwax removal specialists
Wickham Market Medical Centre, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, IP13 0SB
01728 733138
www.allabouthearing.co.uk

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www.bayfieldsdigital.com

BELLISSIMA BEAUTY

Beauty Treatments and Gifts
46 High Street **01728 746981**
www.bellissima-beauty.co.uk

THE BENGAL

Indian Restaurant/Takeaway
70 High Street **01728 747767**
www.the-bengal.co.uk

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01473 487844
www.bluecrocustextiles.com

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181 High Street **07850 416487**
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

EVOLVE LIFETIME LTD

Independent Mortgage and Equity Release Advisers
Dallinghoo Rd, IP13 ORP **01473 798500**
www.evovelifetime.com

THE FLAMING FRYER

Fish & Chips
75 High Street **01728 901222**

GELHAM HALL FLOWERS

Growers of seasonal flowers
Gelham Hall, Wickham Market
07495 156955

GLEVERING ESTATE FIREWOOD

Dry, Seasoned Logs IP13 OEU
07860 402288
www@gleveringhall.com/firewood

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Bakery and Vegetarian Café
Vida Haus, 3 Tuns IP13 OHW

HEAVENLY HAIR

Hairdressers and Barbers
73 High Street **01728 746616**
www.heavenlyhair.co.uk/wickham-market

HIGH HOUSE CHILD CARE

Day Nursery at Wickham Market
220 High St **01728 746970**
www.highhousechilcare.co.uk

K C AUTO SERVICES

MOT and Vehicle Maintenance
2 Riverside View Industrial estate
01728 747279 / 07747 831535
www.kc-autoservices.co.uk

JIM MALTBY

Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Probate
11 Observers Road **07765 253756**
jimemaltby@hotmail.com

MANN WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Wealth and Retirement Planning,
46 High Street, IP13 OQS
01394 388181 www.mannwm.co.uk

MARKHAM FUNERAL SERVICE

IP13 OAA **01728 747795**
www.markhamfuneralservice.co.uk

METHOD FIT

Personal Training, Group Fitness
Classes & Parkinson's Support
The Barn, Bridge Farm IP13 OAA
07801 653085 www.methodfit.uk

PETER HALL FLOORING

34 High Street **01728 746416**
www.peterhallflooring.com

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79A High Street **01728 747413**

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56 High Street **01728 747901**
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Instagram: old_school_emporium

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www.returntotillnes.co.uk

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ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE

Charity Shop 54 High Street
www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk

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22 High Street **01728 747427**
www.saxonvets.com

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Chiroprapist/Podiatrist/Reflexology
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SOUTH EAST ANTIQUES

Buy, Sell & Value Antiques & Jewellery
7 Riverside View Industrial Estate, IP13 OTA
Instagram: southeastantiques

SVRC SPORTS & VETERINARY REHABILITATION CLINIC

2-3 Riverside View Industrial Estate
07921 586339 www.info-svrc.com

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70A High Street **01728 748079**

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VIDA HAUS

Wellbeing Centre 3 Tuns IP13 OHW
07718 192888 www.vida.haus/home

WICKHAM MARKET ANTIQUES

Vintage, Antiques & Collectables
5 Riverside View Industrial Estate
01728 746700
www.wickhammarketantiques.co.uk

WICKHAM MARKET DENTAL CLINIC

2 Crown House, Crown Lane
01728 746220
www.wickhammarketdentist.co.uk

WICKHAM MARKET PHARMACY

68 High Street **01728 746267**

WICKHAM MARKET POST OFFICE and Stores

36 High Street **01728 746201**

USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST SUFFOLK

14 Colonial House, Station Rd, Leiston
IP16 4JD. Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 10-2pm
www.leistoncab.org
www.citizensadvice.org.uk
01728 832193 or 0808 2787868 Free

Disability Advice Service

(East Suffolk): **01394 387070**

Good Neighbour Scheme: (GNS)

Available to residents in Wickham Market parish only. Transport to medical and social appointments. Friendship and support with shopping, posting letters, filling forms, computers, dog walking, DIY. Monthly coffee mornings in the activity room at The George on the first Tuesday 10am to 12 noon all welcome. **07914 494108**

Wellbeing Tree Café at The George

Relax, chat and make new friends over a hot drink and cake.
Wednesdays 10.15-12.15pm

Men's Shed: Behind the Village Hall

Social and creative centre. Mondays 2 pm
www.wmshed.org.uk **01728 747782**

INTERESTS

Youth Football Club

Simon's Cross Playing Field, IP13 OST
Steph: **07778 880735**

Football Club and Social Club

Behind the Village Hall **01728 747731**
www.wickhammarketfc.co.uk

Tennis Club

Simon's Cross Playing Field: **01728 746736**

Bowls Club

Village Hall Playing Field IP13 OHE
01728 746715

Glevering Mill Golf Course

www.gleveringmill.co.uk **07850 731932**

VALLEY FARM

Pony Club

www.valleyfarm.co.uk/content/pony-club

Tots Pony Club

www.valleyfarm.co.uk/content/riding-tiny-tots

Young Equestrians Club

www.valleyfarm.co.uk/content/young-equestrians

VILLAGE HALL

To hire the Village Hall, please visit
www.wmvillagehall.org.uk/bookings/
and follow the booking guide.

Also at the Village Hall

Bingo

Tuesdays 6pm
Tina Clack **01728 746846**

Community Club Social activities and support for those new to the area,
Friday mornings 01728 747078
Val Mann: val@penpal.me.uk

Gardening Club

Monthly third Thursday 7:30 pm
wmgardenclub27@gmail.com

Toddler and Baby Group

Wednesdays during school term
9:00 - 11:30 (£2.50 per family)
stephanieworne@gmail.com

Wickham Market WI

Second Thursday each month at 7.30pm
<https://sefwi.org.uk/institutes/wickham-market>

USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Crown Lane, IP13 OSA **01728 748224**
For Sunday Service information please visit
warden@wickhammarketchurch.org
www.wickhammarketchurch.org

Open Pantry

Fresh food and household goods shared with anyone in need.
Thursdays 9-10.30am

Open Door

Coffee, tea, biscuits and friendship.
Fridays 10am to noon

Bell Ringing

Monday Evenings from 7:30-9pm

BEEHIVE BUILDING Crown Lane
Rainbows age 4-7, **Brownies** age 7-10,
Linda Payne **01728 604491**
Guides age 10+ Jacquie Goodwin &
Tracy Burch **07717 154235**

WICKHAM MARKET LIBRARY

Chapel Lane, IP13 OSD
Open Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am-5.30pm
Saturday: 10am-12.30pm & 1pm-4.30pm
01728 587108 library.help@suffolk.gov.uk

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY:

Family History Guidance By Appointment Tuesdays 10am-1pm
Morning Book Group

1st Tuesday monthly 10am

Tots Rock active songs and rhymes for preschool children:
Thursdays 9.45am-10.15am

Sewing Group Thursdays 1.30pm-4.30pm
Lego Club Saturdays 10am-12pm

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

01728 746915

WM PRIMARY SCHOOL and LITTLE AVOCETS NURSERY

Dallinghoo Road IP13 ORP
01728 746405

RESOURCE CENTRE

Chapel Lane, IP13 OSD **01728 747782**
Resource Centre Gardening Group
2nd Tuesday monthly 10am-12noon.
Barbara Harrington: sbharrington@outlook.com or come along.

Archive Centre

Local history, archives and artefacts
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30am & 12:30pm
Philip Tallent **01728 746058**

THE GEORGE COMMUNITY PUB

95 High Street
Community Choir
Wednesdays during term time at 7:30pm
Everyone welcome, just turn up!
Instagram: @wickhammarketchoir
For other events at the pub please visit
www.thegeorgecommunitypub.co.uk/activity-room

WHICH COUNCIL?

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Highways, Recycling **0345 606 6067**
www.suffolk.gov.uk
Reporting any highways issue including: potholes, street lights, drains, hedges, gritting, pavements
www.highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk

EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

Waste collection, Pay car parks, Planning
0333 016 2000 www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk
District Councillor:
Sally Noble sally.noble@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

Cemetery, Playing Fields, Children's Play Area, Allotments, Markets, Footpaths (with SCC)
www.wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk
clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk
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Despite a very wet and cold January and February we still crammed in plenty of exciting lessons, trips and visitors at Wickham Market Primary School.

Year 5 and 6 have begun a special engineering project learning about real-world engineering. They were visited by an engineer from Sizewell C, Elise Cummings, who pupils interviewed; giving them valuable insight into engineering careers and how engineers address real-life challenges. They will be going on to identify a problem and design an invention that could help solve it. The children in Year 5 and 6 have also been learning about sustainability and recycling and went to visit the Suez Recycling Centre at Great Blakenham.

Year 4 children have been continuing their learning about electricity with an exciting 'Electrosnaps' workshop. They developed their knowledge about electrical components by building circuits to produce motion, light and sound. Their favourites were spinning helicopters which rose to the ceiling and laser-sound machines. This workshop was delivered by Cimone Bedward, STEM Lead for the Leiston Education Partnership.



Our children continue to enjoy Forest School session in our on-site woodland. The children in Reception have been particularly excited to begin using the tools. They learnt how to be safe when using a saw and used all their strength to make a hole with the palm drills. Some children wanted to make a necklace and others wanted to make a watch.

A group of pupils from Years 3, 4 and 5 enjoyed a fantastic STEAM day at Leiston Primary School, working with groups of pupils from primary schools from across East Anglian Schools Trust. They took part in a mixture of activities throughout the day including maths through hands-on problem solving, fun science experiments, engineering challenges, technology activities such as coding and robotics and creative art through science.

There are many more exciting trips, visits and experiences planned for the rest of the year, and we look forward to sharing them with you next time.

Mrs Jo Harris,
Head of School
Wickham Market Primary School

Wickham Market's Lost Pubs

In this article about the old pubs of Wickham Market we are looking at The Chequers, which is located at 220 High Street.



The Chequers Inn was a distinctive and historic public house, notable for its "double" house structure. When viewed from the north, the road-facing front is clearly built onto an older rear portion. The core of the building is believed to date from the 16th century, featuring timber framing and plaster walls, and is easily recognized by its three distinctive dormer windows. Over the centuries, the building underwent various reconstructions and refrontings, but some early timber elements have survived.

For centuries, pubs such as The Chequers were more than just places to drink; they served as community hubs, places where neighbours met, news was shared, deals were struck, and celebrations were held.

The two pictures show a social gathering ready for a coach outing in the 1950's and a bus approaching The Chequers (on the right) in the 1970's.

Historical Landlords and Proprietors

Although detailed licence records are sparse compared with some other local inns, surviving newspaper references, trade directories and our archives allow us to trace a number of landlords and tenants connected with The Chequers over the centuries.

Following its closure, the building was converted to residential use — a fate shared by many former public houses with historic value but limited commercial viability. While the pub no longer stands as a place of hospitality, the Grade II-listed structure remains, preserving its historic façade and echoes of its past.

The inn's location at the junction of Bridge Street and Spring Lane placed it at a historic crossing point, possibly dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period when the area may have served as a village green or market space.

Its layered history, including its role as a coaching inn, reflects the evolution of Wickham Market as a community and its importance as a stop along the Yarmouth-London Road. The article below was printed in The Woodbridge Reporter and Wickham Market Gazette on 3rd May 1894. It starts by talking about The Chequers and then goes on to recount tales of some of the carriers who called in there.



The Chequers Inn is an old house which is more observable by its interior than its exterior. Connected with it formerly was a brewery but since the house has been a tied one it has been disused. Here many years ago resided Mr. James Girling, whose widow removed to the George Inn. After Mrs Girling's removal from the Chequers it was taken by Mr William Nickels, who formerly resided at Orford. Both Mr and Mrs Nickels were quiet people and remained in the house as long as they lived, Mrs Nichols outliving her husband a number of years. Here in her day could be obtained the best pickled pork in the place, looking like a cherry when it was cooked, and not like some that you can imagine have the jaundice. The Chequers has always been a carrier's house; here Smith's great waggon, as it was called, with its four horses stayed. What a commodious one it was, in it you could journey to London but had to make up your mind to be a night or two on the road. A journey to London in those days meant something. Other carriers passing through the place, were Sawyer, Coates, Hart, Rouse, Meen, Nic Holmes, and Cordle, while Michael Mayhew plied between Wickham Market and Ipswich. Michael was succeeded by his son Isaac and he by his son Samuel. At the present

time the business is carried on by Mr. James Grout assisted by his factotum 'Cheerful Alfred'. Of all the old carriers only Meen and that carried on by Grout remain. Since the onward march of the railroad, traffic is being taken from the road to a great extent, and yet now in many instances the carrier can and does compete favourably with the Railway Company for short distances. One other old carrier in the place was Tom Tyler who plied between Wickham and Woodbridge. Tom's conveyance was what well might have been called "slow and easy". He was a cheerful old man, a thorough Nonconformist of the Baptist persuasion, and one of the best of hearers. How he would drink in the words specially if it was spiced with calvanism. He had a telegraph code of his own which some knew and during the sermon would be put into motion. He was not ashamed of his principles and was generally respected in the place and died much regretted. The old order changeth and the new and faster mode of travelling and living is ushered in, is it more conducive to national prosperity and individual happiness? Can life have crowded into it in ten years the work of twenty, without paying the penalty? Verily not.

Springtime at Our Churches

All Saints Church, Wickham Market and St Peter's and St Paul Pettistree Church

The mince pies are long gone, and Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs, despite being in the shops for months, become significant at this time of year as we reflect on the journey Jesus took to the cross, the empty tomb, and his resurrection. Our faith that Jesus did this for us, and that God's very real presence is with us, is life-changing, the real reason to celebrate.

Do join us for any or all of our Easter activities; we would love to see you!

We will be at the Spring Market on the Hill on Saturday, 28 March, from 9am to 2pm. Come and say hello, and pick up more details about our Holy Week of special Easter events.

All Saints Church, Wickham Market

- Sunday 29th March is Palm Sunday (and the start of British summer time!).
- Monday 30th March marks the start of Holy Week, and we have planned a variety of events at the church from 6pm, Monday to Friday – and yes, we know April 1st is April Fool's Day!
- Friday 3rd April is Good Friday, a special and reflective day with a Walk of Witness around Wickham Market starting at 10.30am.
- Sunday 5th April is Easter Day. Come and celebrate. There will be a 9.30am service at Pettistree Church, with the choir participating, and an 11 am Easter Service at All Saints.

And then there are our regular weekly events and services at both churches:

All Saints Church, Wickham Market

- Every Thursday we have Open Pantry in the church from 9.00-10.30am for anyone in need. A bag of food costs £2 per household. Stop and share a chat and a cuppa
- On Fridays, more tea and biscuits at Open Door, drop in from 10am.
- Oasis is an informal service, held at 3pm every second Sunday and of course a cuppa (8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June are the next dates).
- Sunday, March 22nd at 10.30am Benefice Service with recommissioning of our two Lay Elders followed by a bring-and-share lunch
- Join us at the vicarage (at the bottom of Crown Lane) on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 2pm for a quiet Still Waters reflection

St Peter and St Paul Church, Pettistree

- Every Sunday there is a traditional service starting at 9.30am (except on 22nd March; see above).
- On the 3rd Friday of the month, the Benefice Communion Service is at 10.30am
- Evensong is sung at 6pm on the 4th Sunday from May to September

Please check our website at www.wickhammarketchurch.org for details of our services and other activities at both churches.

We look forward to seeing you.

Jean Maxwell

Wickham Market Annual Village Show

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August 2026



The Show must go on?

A very positive meeting of the Wickham Market Village Hall Show Committee in early February has set the wheels in motion for the 75th year of the Wickham Market Village Show for 2026.

A slight question over venue to be confirmed, owing to the now hopefully imminent refurbishment of our wonderful Wickham Market Village Hall.

Wickham Market Primary School are on standby just in case the village hall is out of action for the show weekend in August. So, in a new venue or not - the show must go on!

Many thanks to all who have cleared some Christmas gifts for the Tombola to Alison, who is always on the look out for small good quality donations that might else end up at the charity shop to again use on the Tombola, to continue raising funds for the village hall, along with any

potential raffle prizes for the August weekend.

To whet your appetite for the photography, arts and crafts, the 2026 theme will be "Birds of Britain". So, get your camera snapping and creative juices flowing ready for the schedule and classes to be released in May. We will announce when the class entry schedules and forms are ready to pick up from local businesses and locations in Wickham Market using the Parish News and Facebook page.

The committee are always looking for helpers and if you would like to find out more have a look at the Wickham Market Village Show Facebook page or contact Anne Westover ennaoverwest@btinternet.com or Alison Calvesbert-Rearden acalvesbert@gmail.com

**Best wishes from
Alison and the Committee**

100 Years Celebration – Come and Celebrate!

Steph Whiting writes

On Saturday and Sunday, April 11th and 12th Wickham Market Royal British Legion celebrates its centenary. The Wickham Market Branch first opened on 14th April 1926 so what better way of celebrating this important milestone than to get the whole village together!



On Saturday 11th we have lots of things going on around the village, at the Beehive, the Football Club field and in part of the Percy Mason Carpark, The Hill and of course Wickham Market British Legion which is in Dallinghoo Road.

We will have a children's corner at The Beehive (Crown Lane). It will include bouncy castles, a 'name the bear' competition, face painting and glitter tattoos, popcorn and candy floss, a craft station, and much more.

On the recreation field by the Village Hall and the Football Club, we have arranged a display of military vehicles, and there will be a military stall, the Ration Box food van, and visitors from Woodbridge Barracks.

If you enjoy classic cars, head to the bottom of the Percy Mason car park, where there will be plenty for you to look at.

On The Hill there will be stalls, including the Combat to Coffee Van and Street Jesus, as well as live music. Then, to top it off, we have a sticker hunt around the various locations.

In the British Legion building, come and enjoy our selfie photo booth, games, and food, and in the evening, live music from Three Steps to Heaven. There will also be an auction of three paintings by a local artist, and a signed football shirt will be auctioned at approximately 7pm.

On the Sunday, we start the day with a small Service in All Saints Church. After the service, we have the Leiston Brass Band and a march, which anyone can join, starting at the church. The pennant will be put on the standard. Then we will head back to the Legion for a certificate to be presented.

We've organised a Sunday car boot sale on the Football Club field from 10 am until 2 pm, and in the Legion building, live music including an ABBA tribute act from 4 pm until 7pm, with a raffle, Hoi Bingo, and food available all day.

The Team at the Wickham Market British Legion looks forward to welcoming you, your friends, and your family to this two-day event. Let's make it a community spectacular to remember!

Rubbish Walks



Jason Alexander of Rubbish Walks entertained a packed community room at The George for his 'Confessions of a Serial Litter Picker' talk. He gave us an interesting history of how he has come to be passionate about litter and taking positive action to change things. Many years ago, while working on camera equipment for Springwatch, he became aware of the consequences of waste on wildlife and the planet. Jason spoke about the implications of pollution-causing waste, particularly plastics, his pet hate being cigarette butts.

Jason will be returning to Wickham Market later this spring to open our own Wombles Station and lead a Rubbish Walk with local families. Look out for more information.

Recycle/Repurpose/Reuse

Were you aware that there are recycling stations at various locations in Wickham Market?

Glass The Village Hall carpark

Clothing Salvation Army Clothing Bank in the Coop carpark

Batteries Inside the Coop



St Elizabeth Hospice Shop

on The Hill at Wickham Market will accept clothing, crockery, gifts and books in good condition.



STOP PRESS

By the time you read this, a new footpath should be open from Chapel Lane to Wickham Gate (the latest Hopkins Homes Development). This means pedestrians can avoid the main road when walking to the village.

Spring Market!



The Spring Market on The Hill at Wickham Market will be held on Saturday 28th March, from 9am until 2pm. With all 40 pitches booked, there will be a wonderful mix of makers, crafters, producers, and community stalls. As well as regular favourites, there are new faces with products new to Wickham Market.



Wooden Roots will host free 20-minute drumming workshops from 10am to 2pm, and the Barley Brigg Morris Dancers will perform at various times.

Wickham Market Parish Council has worked with East Suffolk Council to reduce single-use plastic at the seasonal markets, and free reusable bags will be available to shoppers at the Spring Market.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to our village community event.



STOP PRESS - Public toilets are now open

East Suffolk has refurbished Wickham Market's public toilets, located in the Percy Mason Carpark (the entrance is to the right of Bellissima Beauty). They look very smart, especially since Eastrada Facilities of Mendlesham has jet-washed the roof.



Keep up to date with the news

Website: www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk

Instagram: www.instagram.com/visitwickhammarket

Facebook: www.facebook.com/visitwickhammarketsuffolk

Or use the QR codes below



Website



Instagram



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Wickham Market
SPRING
MARKET
SATURDAY
28th MARCH
9:00 - 2:00



Wickham Market
Parish Council

visitwickhammarket.co.uk/events

