

# Wickham Market

**PARISH NEWS**

**2026**

**May  
June**



**Your FREE News and  
Information Magazine from  
Wickham Market Parish Council**

**Wickham  
Market**

[visitwickhammarket.co.uk](http://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

**Cemetery Clerk** Leanne Castle

**For more information**

ivor.f@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

cemeteryclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

## Welcome to this bumper edition, which gives you two magazines in one!

The centre pages provide you with a review of what our volunteer councillors of Wickham Market Parish Council have been working on, on your behalf, during the past year, as well as a summary of costs and the plans for the coming 12 months.

This magazine is also full of ideas, events, and information, and with the summer months ahead, we all have the opportunity to enjoy our village, what it offers, and the beautiful surrounding countryside and coast.

**Ivor French**

*Chair, Wickham Market Parish Council*

ivor.f@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

## In this Issue...

- 4** Tales from the Courtside
- 5** 16 Years of Potsford Farm
- 6** Wickham Market Village Hall Show
- 8** Parham Airfield Museum

### CENTRE PAGES

**Wickham Market Parish Council Review of the Year 2025-2026**

- 9** Primary School PTA
- 10** Wickham Market Primary School
- 12** The Temperance Hotel
- 14** Spring and Summer Markets
- 15** STOP PRESS The Village Cemetery
- 15** Dates for the Diary

SCAN HERE



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Wickham Market Parish Council Suffolk  
VisitWickhamMarket



Wickham Market Parish Council updates



wickhammarketparishsocials  
Visit Wickham Market

## 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.

**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.

## WICKHAM MARKET PARISH NEWS

Produced by

**WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL**

Printed Locally by  
Suffolk Digital

on FSC PAPER

**DELIVERED FREE**

to all addresses whose  
postcode begins IP13 0

### PRINT DEADLINES

**Content** for the July/August 2026 issue by Thursday 11th June 2026

**Delivery:** Over a two week period commencing on 13th July 2026

**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.

# Tales from the Courtside



## From Stuart (with tongue in cheek)

The Badminton Club at Wickham Market has been active for several years, playing most weeks in the Primary School gym. We are quite a diverse group, and the courtside discussions vary wildly when not playing, ranging from what to do if you crash your yacht, the best protein ball recipe, bike repairs, to the purpose of a camel's humps and back again via a search for the name of the chap in Oliver Twist whom Oliver asks, "Please Sir, I want some more" (Clue: It's not Fagin).

The standard of play varies; some players are nearing average, but most of us remain quite mediocre. The Club also fields teams in the local league under its original name of Thorpeness, which is where the club has its roots. This season has so far been an unmitigated disaster, with two teams already relegated after

numerous humiliating defeats and another at serious risk of folding before the season ends. The only bright spot is the men's B team, which has defied the trend of failure and secured promotion after trouncing local rivals Framlingham (home and away! Ha!), among other notable victories.

If any readers would like to join in, please get in touch. We would especially like to hear from young players or ladies eager to play or learn. If there is enough interest, we might be able to start a dedicated youth session. Rackets can be borrowed if you don't have one.

Please contact either  
**Jess** 07846 367354 (Welfare Officer)  
**Stuart** 07838 300179  
 (Secretary and Dogsbody)



# Celebrating 16 years of Potsford Farm

This 200 acre, working care farm is set on the outskirts of Wickham Market.

April marked a proud milestone for Potsford Farm as it celebrated its 16th anniversary – a journey rooted in care, community, and the countryside.

The founders, Nathan and Kevin, previously worked in the NHS as Registered Mental Health Nurses. *"And then, all of a sudden, Kevin had this hair-brain idea that we would start a Care Farm,"* says Nathan. *"This was despite the fact that we had no farming or business experience,"* he adds. The idea came out of the blue. However, by a strange quirk of fate, the farm where the two nurses kept their horses became available for rent around the same time. *"When we wrote a letter to the owners, Marion and Stephen, laying out our ideas for a care farm, we were met with open arms, and they came on board with the project as a partnership. The care farm was meant to be,"* concludes Nathan. *"It all just fell into place."*

Potsford Farm raises cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats, and keeps chickens for eggs. It has become a unique place where farming and wellbeing merge.



What started as an ambitious idea – to create a working farm supporting people with mental health challenges and learning disabilities

– has grown into a lively, supportive environment for both people and animals.

Every day on the farm is shaped by meaningful activities. From caring for livestock (sold as meat) to working in the gardens, kitchen, and wood workshop, the co-farmers are actively involved in all aspects of farm life.

Alongside Potsford Farm's care farming work, they are also proud to run a reputable livery yard, providing excellent facilities and support for horse owners.

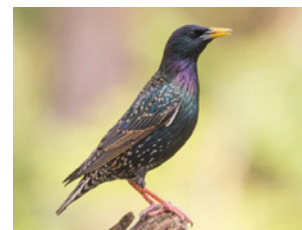
Over the past 16 years, Potsford Farm has become more than just a workplace – it is a community. A place where individuals are valued, potential is nurtured, and achievements – big and small – are celebrated every day.

Some of the items carefully crafted and produced at Potsford are sold at Wickham Market's seasonal markets, and at the Spring Market in March, the farm had a stall and The Goat Guys Food Truck selling hot, farm-grown food.

For more information about Potsford Farm or to book The Goat Guys Food Truck for an event – please visit [www.potsfordfarm.co.uk](http://www.potsfordfarm.co.uk) or visit their social media pages @potsfordfarm or @thegoatguysfoodtruck

# Wickham Market Village Hall

## 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Show



Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026

**A note from the Village Show Committee**

We are delighted to announce that the 75th Wickham Market Annual Show will be held at the Village Hall this summer.

Pick up our schedule leaflet with entry details from venues in the village. Copies will be distributed to families with children at the primary school, and many will participate through the school's creative activities.

The theme for 2026 will be 'British Birds'. This is reflected in some classes across categories like photography, cookery, floral arrangements, and children's activities. Feel free to incorporate our theme into any of your creative entries.

The deadline for entry forms is 4pm on Tuesday 28th July.

If you're out with your phone or camera, try taking a photograph that matches the titles of any of the photography classes

Colour photograph	<b>British birds in flight</b>
Colour or black/white	<b>Seagull snaps</b>
Colour photograph	<b>Portrait of (British) bird/s</b>
Colour or black/white	<b>Colours in nature</b>
Colour or black/white	<b>Quintessential Suffolk</b>

We are always eager to welcome new helpers, whether during the preparations for the show or over the weekend, involving tasks like setting out signage, arranging tables and displays, serving café refreshments, tending the raffle, managing parking, greeting visitors, and packing

away. If you can spare some time to join our friendly team, please let us know.

If baking is your passion, we would appreciate donations of cakes for our popular café, along with raffle prizes and tombola items for the 'Irresistible Tombola' stall.

Sponsorship donations for the event or classes will contribute to our profits. All funds received will go towards the modernisation project of Wickham Market Village Hall.

If you won one of the show's 26 trophies in 2025, please note the return date is Monday, 1st June. Please contact Alison or Anne via email to arrange drop-off or collection.

This is the 75th year of the show, but we often meet people, whether new residents or longstanding, who say they haven't heard of the event before – so if the show is new to you, please pick up the schedule and come along in August.

To find out more, visit the Facebook page or contact Anne Westover at [ennaoverwest@btinternet.com](mailto:ennaoverwest@btinternet.com) (07586 266553) or Alison Calvesbert-Rearden at [acalvesbert@gmail.com](mailto:acalvesbert@gmail.com). Further details are available within the schedule.

## Wickham Market Village Hall

**75<sup>th</sup> Annual Show 2026**

Show theme of British Birds

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**  
**12.30pm – 4.30pm**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**  
**12pm – 3pm**

Followed by **Presentation of awards and Raffle**

**Refreshments and Tombola both days**

Schedule with entry form available from the Post Office, Library, Revetts Butchers, Café 46 and Heavenly Hair

Entry Deadline Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July '26

# When was your last visit to Parham Airfield Museum?

A fantastic free day out for children and adults this summer



This "hidden gem" on our doorstep, just a mile off the A12 at Little Glemham (IP13 9AF), provides a captivating insight into the area's wartime history. Situated on a former World War II US Air Force station, the main museum, housed in the original Control Tower, features two unique

collections. It offers visitors a glimpse into how this peaceful corner of England was shaped by the war.

Parham Airfield Museum depends entirely on volunteers and donations to keep its work going – maintaining the site, preserving its remarkable collections, and sharing this important history with future generations.

With free entry and 5-star ratings on Google and TripAdvisor, it's definitely worth visiting, especially as it has a tea shop! The museum is open on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from April to the end of October, between 11am and 4pm, and on Wednesdays in June, July, and August with the same hours. Last admissions are at 3pm.

## JOIN THE TEAM

Parham Airfield Museum is seeking friendly volunteers to join our warm and welcoming team.

There are a variety of ways to help, including greeting and assisting visitors, helping in the tea room, serving in the gift shop and joining our maintenance crew.

No previous experience or specialist knowledge is needed, and full training will be provided. Many of our volunteers simply enjoy meeting

people, keeping active and being part of a team.

Whether you can help once a month or more regularly, we would love to hear from you, and if you would prefer to volunteer with a friend or partner, we are happy for you to be on duty together.

If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please get in touch: Email: [parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:parhamairfield@yahoo.co.uk) or [www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.parhamairfieldmuseum.co.uk)

# Wickham Market Primary School Parent Teachers Association (WMPS PTA) Update and thanks



As many of you will know, I often use various social media outlets to find ways to raise money for Wickham Market Primary School PTA. However, since some of you might not have an online presence, I thought I would reach out this way to explain a little about what we do and how it benefits the school.

## WMPS PTA ethos

The ethos of the WMPS PTA is to raise funds to enhance the teaching and learning experiences of teachers and students at Wickham Market Primary School. It also aims to create enriching opportunities and experiences for the students and the local community of Wickham Market. Additionally, it seeks to share and celebrate the school's facilities and achievements, while encouraging support from the wider community.

The WMPS PTA's biggest achievement this year was securing funding for trips and visits worth £2000 during the cost-of-living crisis, making them affordable for all parents and guardians, as well as installing football barriers in the main playground to protect students and promote game play.

Through fundraising for 2024 - 2025, an impressive £4348 was raised from last year's activities. The PTA also spent £5355, with a further £2350 sourced from other grants and local funds. This was additionally supported by generous donations of items purchased by members of the school community from the Amazon wish list.

The clothing bank at the school was removed by the Salvation Army as they are scaling back their clothing bins, but the PTA hopes to run a 'Bags to Schools' event this summer to provide an outlet for clothing donations. The school also accepts stamps, batteries, and mobile phones and tablets, all of which help to contribute a little to the community fund. The plant stall will also be returning after Easter.

There are several ways to help at the school with adult readers, Governors, and classroom helpers. If you want to become more involved, please contact the school.

Email [wmpspta@gmail.com](mailto:wmpspta@gmail.com) for any questions for the PTA.

**Best wishes from  
Alison Calvesbert-Rearden**



The second half of the Spring term is always our shortest, just five weeks this year, but it has been filled to the brim with hands-on learning, exciting trips and wonderful visitors.

The children enjoyed a fantastic range of reading-themed activities, especially on World Book Day. Pupils were invited to decorate a paper plate with a book theme for our competition (do take a look at the photo of the winning entry — we were so impressed by the incredible detail Mia included in her Wizard of Oz design!). Children came into school dressed as their favourite book characters, classes paired up for shared reading, and everyone took part in lessons based on the amusing story 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. It was a joyful day of whole-school celebration.

This term the children have also been inspired by meeting real published authors and hearing about how they began writing and the books they have created. Year 4 were invited to join a Leiston Book Festival event at Leiston Primary School, where they met author Esther Freud and illustrator Emma Chinnery, creators of the beautiful book *Enchanted Beach*. The children loved taking part in an illustration workshop where they learned how to draw a dog in the illustrator's style. We also welcomed two more local authors into school: Annie Richardson, who shared

her book 'Pepper and Daisy's Adventure', and Kate Rolfe, who introduced her latest publication 'Owl and Moon'. These experiences truly bring learning to life — thank you to all the authors for generously giving their time.

Our younger children in Nursery and Reception/Year 1 enjoyed two very exciting visits this half-term. First, dental nurses came to talk about how to care for their teeth and keep them clean and

does our energy come from? Teams from Years 5 and 6 have also proudly represented the school in orienteering and netball competitions.

During British Science Week, Year 4 enjoyed a trip to the Sizewell Visitor Centre. They showed great curiosity, asked thoughtful questions, and learned many fascinating facts about how electricity is produced. They took part enthusiastically in practical activities



healthy. More recently, 'Mini-Monsters' visited, giving the children the chance to learn about (and even touch!) a range of fascinating creatures.

Year 5 and 6 visited the SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Centre in Great Blakenham. They discovered what happens to our waste after it leaves our homes, how the centre sorts and processes materials, and how electricity is generated from waste. At the visitor centre, pupils joined activities linked to recycling and sustainability, a perfect complement to our geography topic this term, Where

that deepened their understanding of circuits and friction.

We finished the term with another much-loved whole-school tradition, our annual Easter egg hunt on the school field. It is always one of the highlights of the year.

We look forward to sharing all the exciting events of the Summer term with you in our next update.

**Mrs Jo Harris,**  
Head of School  
Wickham Market Primary School

# The Temperance Hotel, Wickham Market

A stop on the village's historic "pub crawl" with a difference



The final stop on our imagined walk through Wickham Market's historic inns and hostelries is at 246 High Street, just before the bridge and the approach to Rackham's Mill.

Here, on the left side of the road, stands a handsome flint-faced house that once operated under a rather unusual name for an establishment on a traditional pub route: The Temperance Hotel.

## A hotel that wasn't a pub

Unlike the many inns that once lined the High Street, the Temperance Hotel was part of a broader social movement advocating sobriety and restraint rather than ale and spirits. We do not know much about the hotel itself, but we do know it existed well into the early 20th century.

Records indicate its appearance in the 1911 Census, Kelly's Directory of 1912, where it is listed specifically as The Temperance Hotel, and again in Kelly's Directory of 1937.

These references confirm that the building at 246 High Street has been a recognised establishment in the village for at least several decades.

## The wider temperance movement

To understand the hotel, it helps to look at the movement behind it.

The Temperance Movement began in the early 19th century, around the 1820s. Initially, reformers mainly focused on the excessive consumption of spirits, which had become a serious social issue in Britain. Early campaigners promoted moderation rather than complete abstinence.

However, during the Victorian era, the movement became more radical. Many supporters started advocating for complete abstinence from alcohol, known as teetotalism, and even for laws to ban alcohol entirely. Throughout Britain, temperance halls, coffee houses, and temperance hotels emerged as alternatives to pubs.

One of the most influential organisations connected to the movement was The Salvation Army, established in London in 1864. The organisation emphasised abstinence from alcohol while working among the urban and rural working classes.

Their activities were not always welcomed by publicans, and in some towns opposition groups called the "Skeleton Army" were formed to disrupt meetings.

Despite this, the Salvation Army spread quickly across Britain and beyond.

## A possible local connection

Interestingly, the 1911 census shows that two young female Salvation Army officers - a Captain and a Lieutenant - were living in Lower (or Bridge) Street in Wickham Market, in what was described as Salvation Army barracks.

Although we cannot definitively state that the Temperance Hotel was directly linked to their work, the timing and proximity suggest an interesting possibility. It indicates that the ideals of the temperance movement were actively present in the village at that time.



## Why a temperance hotel here?

Its location may provide a clue.

The building is situated just before the bridge at the northern approach to the centre of the village — effectively serving as a gateway for travellers arriving in Wickham Market. For visitors looking for accommodation or refreshments without alcohol, the Temperance Hotel would have provided a respectable alternative to the nearby inns.

In many towns, such establishments attracted business travellers, religious groups, families, and individuals involved with reform movements.

They often served tea, coffee, simple meals and offered lodging in a quieter setting than a typical public house.

## The movement fades

By the 1930s, however, the temperance movement started to lose steam. The idea of prohibition faced growing criticism, with many arguing that it distorted drinking habits, promoted crime, and hurt the economy.

As attitudes shifted, many temperance establishments either closed down or were repurposed. The listing of the Temperance Hotel in the 1937 Kelly's Directory might be among the last references before it vanished from local records.

## A quiet survivor of a social experiment

Today, the flint-faced building at 246 High Street remains a striking feature of the village streetscape. Although its days as the Temperance Hotel are long gone, it stands as a reminder that Wickham Market's High Street once reflected not only commerce and travel — but also the influential social movements of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. And in a village renowned for its numerous inns, the final stop on the "pub crawl" was, perhaps fittingly, the one place where a pint was never the point.

**Philip Tallent**, Chairman,  
Wickham Market Area Archive Centre

# Spring and Summer Markets!

The Spring Market in March, held on The Hill at Wickham Market, saw hundreds of visitors enjoying browsing the 40 stalls.



The weather was kind, with plenty of sunshine ensuring people lingered over their hot food supplied by The Goat Guys from Potsford Care Farm and coffees from Café 46 and The Teapot Café. The crowds loved watching the Barley Brigg Morris Dancers, who performed twice during the event.

Wooden Roots brought their drumming workshops to The Hill, attracting people of all ages, including children, who seized the opportunity to try group drumming. The beats and rhythms infused a new vibrancy into the market – many stallholders were seen tapping their feet!

The Summer Market is scheduled for Saturday 20th June. Keep an eye out for M and J's Ice-cream Van, the new Waffle Wagon, and some new stalls to the market.

Quaynotes are a local folk trio who play a gentle blend of songs and traditional tunes, delivered with beautiful harmonies and a sense of fun. They have a particular love of sea songs and are regulars at shanty and maritime festivals and will be performing during the Summer Market.



With some extra surprises for children and families in mind, it's worth noting the 20th of June in your phone or diary.

Future market dates include the Harvest Market on 12th September and the popular Christmas Market on 28th November. These seasonal markets are organised and promoted by Wickham Market Parish Council. If you know of a small business that might be interested in booking a pitch for £15, please ask them to contact the deputy clerk via email – [deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk)



## STOP PRESS

**The village cemetery is managed by Wickham Market Parish Council**

It is a very attractive space, with mature trees, spring flowers, and an historic, distinctive brick-and-tiled Bier House.

The Garden of Remembrance's box hedge recently fell prey to the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*), which caused irreparable damage to it. The only option was to have the hedge grubbed out and replaced with either a new hedge or black metal railings. The Environment and Leisure Working Group decided on the former, and a grant from East Suffolk Council, Nature First Grant scheme was secured by Anne Westover via the Wickham Market Partnership. A new hedge of *Lonicera nitida* (box honeysuckle) has been planted. It will form into a dense, evergreen, shiny, small-leaved hedge over time.



## DATES FOR THE DIARY – Events organised by Wickham Market Area Archive Centre

### Carnivals and By-pass Anniversary Exhibition

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
2:00-5:00pm

This photographic exhibition will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the A12 by-pass and the village carnivals for 1976 and 1977. It will be held at Wickham Market Village Hall and is free to attend; refreshments will be available to purchase.

### Stained Glass at All Saints Church and Beyond – Talk by Philip Tallent

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July  
7:00pm

Philip Tallent will be the speaker at All Saints Church, Wickham Market. Looking at the stained glass of our local church, Philip will show other fascinating examples from across England. Tickets cost £5 and are available on the door. Please bring cash.

### Cocks, Shocks and Frocks – Talk by Stephen Bayfield

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
7:00pm

Come along to The George Community Pub.

Tickets cost £5, payable on arrival. Please bring cash.

You are very welcome to come along to any of these events



**WICKHAM MARKET**

# SUMMER MARKET

**40 Stalls and Entertainment**



**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
**9am–2pm on The Hill**

**WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL**

[www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk](http://www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk)

