

# Wickham Market

**P A R I S H   N E W S**

**2026**

**September  
October**



**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

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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 Working Group:** Meets monthly.

**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.

## Keeping up with life in Wickham Market

A warm welcome to all new residents of Wickham Market and to our regular readers alike!

This magazine is packed with helpful information, events, job listings, and business training opportunities.

With so much planned in the village that will affect all of us, both as individuals and as a community, we've included information on the traffic-calming measures being delivered by Sizewell C, the Village Hall modernisation, and the launch of Neighbourhood Watch in Wickham Market.

We have good news about two local businesses and a subsidised Google, AI and Instagram training workshop (read pages 6 and 7).

Keep up to date with what's on locally – via email, websites or social media - see page 5 and the back cover for more details.

We've included news about recent and upcoming events, updates from schools and our community organisations, and some village history.

So, enjoy a few minutes with a cup in hand, and have a read!

**Ivor French**

*Chair of Wickham Market Parish Council*

ivor.f@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

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## WICKHAM MARKET PARISH NEWS

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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 photo:** Tony Nelson – winner of a photographic class at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Show

# A Warm Welcome is Just Around the Corner at Wickham Market Library



**The Friends of Wickham Market Library (FWML) are pleased to announce that the library will once again be part of the national scheme, offering a warm, safe space during the cooler winter months, where anyone is welcome to relax, connect with others, share a cuppa, or enjoy some quiet time.**

You may not have visited the library before or know where it is. Tucked behind the Medical Centre on Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, IP13 0SD, the library building also has a walled garden at the rear.

Janice Wright, Chair of FWML, said, "Our mission is to make the library a welcoming space for everyone throughout the year. Libraries can feel a little intimidating, but here in Wickham Market, you'll always find a friendly face and a warm welcome. And during the warmer months, we have a wonderful garden space."

Over the past year, FWML has organised a varied programme of events for different age groups to encourage people to visit the library. These have

included talks on family history research, living around the world, and a gardeners' question time, as well as tea and cake in the garden. For younger members of the community, the library has hosted the opening of the Womble Station and a Lego building event in the garden. The Well Being Cafe recently met for one of their regular get-togethers in the garden, where participants enjoyed coffee and cake, boules, and crafts.

Janice Wright adds, "The library is open to everyone at any time during opening hours. There's no expectation that visitors will join events. Our staff are always available if you need to speak to someone or be signposted to other resources."

The library is open Tuesday to Friday, 9.30am until 5.30pm; Saturday, 10am-12.30pm and 1pm until 4.30pm (closed Sunday and Monday).

If you would like to find out more about the Friends of Wickham Market Library, please contact Barbara Harrington via email at [harringtonba3@gmail.com](mailto:harringtonba3@gmail.com).

# Introducing The Wickham Market Partnership

The Wickham Market Partnership is a local charity serving Wickham Market and surrounding parishes. Its aim is to deliver and facilitate projects that improve the lives of local people and places.

This includes providing small grants to local groups for capital projects. The Partnership comprises six volunteer trustees with a broad mix of skills and experience, willing to give their time and energy to help deliver those aims.



The Archive Centre new headquarters at The Resource Centre



A well-earned cuppa at The Mens Shed



Tennis Courts at Simons Cross

After the successes of the past 24 years, and to mark their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, The Partnership would be pleased to consider any ideas, both large and small, that would further improve life in the village and surrounding area. For a list of some of our achievements over the past 24 years, please visit our website at [www.wmpartnership.org.uk/achievements/](http://www.wmpartnership.org.uk/achievements/)

The Partnership's office and meeting rooms are in The Resource Centre, next to the library. Jenny Labbett is the office administrator. Well-equipped meeting rooms are available for hire. Details can be found on The Partnership's website at [www.wmpartnership.org.uk/community-rooms/](http://www.wmpartnership.org.uk/community-rooms/)

To help keep residents updated on local news and events, The Partnership sends out a weekly newsletter, Wickham News, also known as the Round Robin. If you wish to receive Wickham News or to publish an event, please email [wickhamnews@gmail.com](mailto:wickhamnews@gmail.com)



The Resource Centre

Full details of the Wickham Market Partnership are available at: [www.wmpartnership.org.uk](http://www.wmpartnership.org.uk)

# About SCA Childcare

Wickham Market-based Suffolk Childcare Agency (SCA) was founded by Claire Chapman and has expanded to larger offices at 60 High Street on The Hill.

The business is ten years old and supports the early-years sector by providing childminders with comprehensive, practical, effective, and valuable advice, support and training, ensuring they deliver the highest-quality childcare for children and their families. SCA's aim is to provide childminders with a supportive environment in which children are encouraged to thrive and grow, preparing them for a smooth transition to school.

Congratulations to Claire and her team in their new offices as they continue to grow SCA Childcare.



You can contact them at [hello@scachildcare.co.uk](mailto:hello@scachildcare.co.uk) or visit their website <https://scachildcare.co.uk> or call 01728 746970

## CAFEVIDA – Now Open with New Owners!



Kate and Lucy have recently become the new owners of CAFEVIDA, which is based at the old The Three Tuns at Pettistree (Vida Haus).

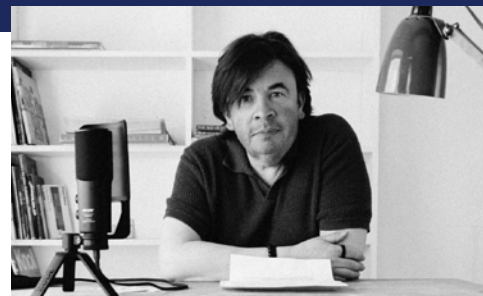
The two women are passionate about great coffee, delicious food, and creating a space people love to visit – with both indoor and outdoor seating, accessible walkways, and free parking.

Their independent café sells fresh coffee from Butterworths alongside freshly made in-house cakes and bakes. They also have a tempting selection of morning pastries, plus freshly prepared brunches, toasties, frittatas, and salads served throughout the day.

Every Tuesday and Saturday, Kate and Lucy stock freshly baked bread (including sourdough) from Black Dog Deli.

CAFEVIDA's opening hours are Monday to Saturday 8.30am-2.30pm and on Sunday 9.30am-1pm.

# Business Training Workshop for Small, Local Business Owners



Nic Pandolfi is an award-winning communications and media consultant based in East Suffolk, known for turning complex digital trends into practical, jargon-free advice for businesses, sole traders, and charities.

Nic says: *"My goal is to take the 'tech-overwhelm' out of your workday and replace it with a clear plan of digital action."*

Wickham Market Parish Council, with support from East Suffolk Council, has invited Nic to lead a morning workshop designed specifically for small business owners.

### EVENT DETAILS

**Date:** Friday 25 September

**Time:** 9.00am–1.00pm

**Venue:** Conference Room, Roland Group, Roland Terrace, High Street, Wickham Market, Woodbridge IP13 0RF

**Cost:** £15 per person

**Refreshments:** Included

**Booking is essential.**

**To book, please visit...**

<https://visitwickhammarket.co.uk/events/>

### What You'll Learn

#### GOOGLE: Your Digital Front Door

- Optimise your Google Business Profile to improve local visibility.
- Create a "Perfect Profile" using photos, services and keywords.
- Generate more customer reviews and understand profile analytics.

#### AI: Work Smarter, Not Harder

- Discover practical AI tools that can save time and boost productivity.
- Learn effective prompting techniques for marketing, emails and planning.
- Identify business tasks that can be automated and create social media content more efficiently.

#### VISUAL STORYTELLING: Instagram & Threads

- Build a stronger visual brand without professional photography.
- Use Threads to engage customers and humanise your business.
- Manage both platforms with a simple, time-saving workflow.



Supported by



# 2026 Wickham Market 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Show

Thank you to everyone who helped us to create a very successful Village Show!



Despite the challenges caused by excessive heat and a lack of rain, the community was able to exhibit and enjoy a fabulous range of displays, catch up, make new friends, chat, enjoy lunches and cakes, and celebrate tombola, raffle and trophy wins. Bryan Hall awarded the trophies and understood how hard the weather conditions have been this year, having been a farmer and gardener all his life.

The Show Committee extends thanks to all the volunteer helpers, the exhibitors (the flower and vegetable growers and creators), the Suffolk Bird Group, the judges, the Village Hall CIO, the family-run kitchen team, local cake bakers, the primary school teachers and the pupils, who collectively created a colourful and impressive exhibition of artwork based on our British Birds theme.

The visitors brought joy to the event and made many positive comments:

'Outstanding and beautiful show'...'Something for everyone'...'Wonderful artwork and photographs'...'Many creative children's entries'...'One of the best community events in the Village' and for the 'Best in Show'; Paul's model wheeled excavator, 'Awesome, perfect proportions, excellent hydraulics and even a tiny nest of eggs in the bucket'.



We have many generous local individual and family donors who sponsor classes to remember past supporters or to promote a favourite topic, and we are also supported by businesses and suppliers:

Peter Leonti LCUK (Digital services)  
E.R. and R.T. Rackham Ltd  
Cllr Noble East Suffolk Council ECB Grant  
Wild about Campsea  
Seale Print, Ipswich  
Leiston Press, Leiston  
E.W. Revett and Son Butchers,  
Wickham Market  
Ace Hire, Rendlesham  
Bellissima Beauty  
Blue Crocus Textiles, Wickham Market  
Café 46  
Flaming Fryer, Wickham Market  
Heavenly Hair  
Nu-Life Furnishings, Wickham Market

Orchard Camp Site  
Peter Hall Flooring, Wickham Market  
Rebecca's Reflexology  
Ruth Leigh, local author  
The George Pub  
Wickham Market Pharmacy  
Post Office Stores  
Saxon Vets, Wickham Market  
Chaffinch ladies' clothes,  
Woodbridge  
Allan Williams, artist  
Garnetts Gardens, Hacheston  
Poppys Pantry, Melton  
Two Magpies, Marlesford  
Station House, Campsea Ashe

All these people help make the show run smoothly and add to the community spirit. We will provide further updates on the profit raised this year for the Village Hall modernisation and on the show arrangements for 2027.

**Best wishes from Alison, Anne, Jenny, Ali, Gloria and Rosemary**

STOP PRESS

## !!! STOP PRESS – URGENT !!!

If you see any Anti Social Behaviour please report it to the police on 101, or in an emergency 999.  
**Let us all keep our village and residents safe.**

STOP PRESS



The second half of the summer term was full of exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and impressive achievements for pupils across the school.

One of the highlights was our Year 4 and 5 Camp Night. The adventure began with a visit to watch Matilda, brilliantly performed by students from Alde Valley Academy. The show was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and proved to be a fantastic start to the event. Back at school, tents were pitched in the quad and the fun continued. After a delicious fish and chip supper, the children enjoyed an evening of games and activities, including several energetic rounds of hide and seek around the empty school.

We were also delighted to celebrate the success of several young artists whose work was selected for display at the John Gibbins Gallery as part of the Young Art East Anglia competition, which raises funds for Cancer Research UK. Twenty-one pieces of artwork created by our pupils were chosen for exhibition, a fantastic achievement. This year's theme was Discovery, and the children were incredibly proud to see their work displayed publicly alongside that of other talented young artists from across the region.

Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed another fantastic residential visit to Hill Top Outdoor Centre. Throughout the trip, every child embraced the challenges on offer, including tree climbing, caving and the Tree Top Trail. It was wonderful to see pupils demonstrating resilience, determination and courage as they pushed themselves beyond their comfort zones, supported one another and celebrated each other's successes. We were particularly proud to receive compliments from centre staff regarding the outstanding manners, respect and behaviour shown by our pupils throughout their stay.

Other exciting opportunities this term included a Year 3 visit to Tunstall Forest to support learning linked to their Roman topic and a Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Flixton Air Museum, where children enjoyed bringing their classroom learning to life through first-hand experiences.

Year 5 pupils also attended a special event at the University of Suffolk as part of the National Year of Reading. Organised through the Leiston Education Partnership and several local partners, the event provided children with the opportunity to work alongside professional authors and illustrators,



including Zeb Soanes, author of the popular Gaspard the Fox series. Through creative writing, illustration and concept workshops, pupils explored how stories are created and brought to life.

The term has also been packed with sporting and STEM activities. Pupils took part in Sports Day, an in-house gymnastics competition and an athletics event for Years 3 and 4. Meanwhile, Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed testing their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills in a K'Nex Challenge. Our PTA Colour Run brought the school community together for a fun-filled event that was enjoyed by children, staff and families alike.

After a very sunny summer holiday we are now back at school for a new school year and looking forward to all the learning adventures ahead.

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



# Wickham Market Village Hall Modernisation Plans

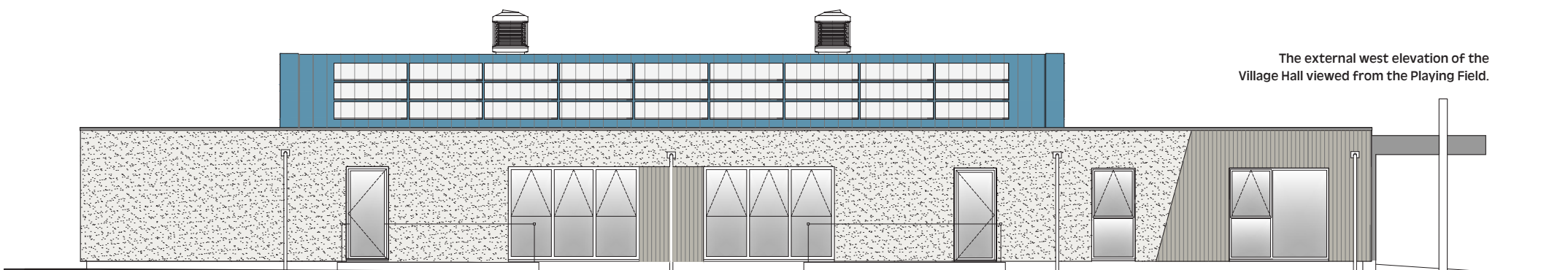
The plans for the **Village Hall** regeneration are taking shape, and we are delighted to share more details about what you can expect to see once the work is complete. The work and funding are in two parts – first, the renovation of the Village Hall itself, and later, when funds allow, the very important upgrade of the car park.

A modern, fully fitted **kitchen** with a dishwasher, food-preparation areas and refrigeration, plus a bar area, will be accessible from the main hall.

Plans include an additional multi-purpose area, **meeting rooms** equipped with

## Car Park Upgrade & Parking

Under **phase two** of the project, controlled car parking arrangements are planned, with parking spaces available to users of the Village Hall, the recreation ground and the play areas.



The external west elevation of the Village Hall viewed from the Playing Field.

The hall will boost its **eco credentials** with solar panels, upgraded insulation, LED lighting, and low-energy air-conditioning and heating systems with passive roof-ventilation terminals. It will also feature fast Wi-Fi and meet all planning, building, and fire standards.

**Externally**, it will appear quite transformed, featuring a new pitched roof, low-level flat-roof insulated coverings, and external finishes designed to blend with the environment and neighbouring developments.

The **front** of the hall will have textured, vertically profiled cladding over external insulation, with new lettering on the fascia

of the village hall sign. All other sides will be insulated and finished with render.

Visitors will enter the building via a ramp beneath an impressive portico into the well-lit main lobby, where natural light will project from a luminated lightwell.

The **main hall** will keep its original Parquet block flooring and include a mobile stage with dedicated lighting. The west side will have extra windows to enhance natural light and improve views of the recreation field. On the same side, three supporting concrete pillars will be reduced in size to increase usable space. Ceiling roof lights will also help brighten the area.

tea-making facilities, heating and air conditioning, office spaces, and storage rooms. New toilet facilities are also planned, featuring accessible **toilets** and a baby-changing area.

**Security** of the hall is very important, and it will have a fire alarm and security system, CCTV monitoring, plus automatic external LED sensor lighting.

The car park will be levelled and resurfaced, with gullies and drainage to remove surface water to natural soak-away systems

Once the necessary funding is in place, plans are to provide disabled parking and two electric vehicle (EV) charging points for Village Hall users through a controlled, chargeable system.

The effort to plan and prepare a beautifully refurbished Village Hall for use by the whole community has been complex, and securing grants and funding to bring this project to life hasn't been easy.

Work is expected to start by the spring of 2027 and will take approximately 12 to 15 months to complete the project.

# Wickham Market Neighbourhood Watch

Welcome to Wickham Market Neighbourhood Watch IP13, part of 400 registered schemes across the country, with 90,000 volunteers who have decided to make their area a better place to live. Together.

Neighbourhood Watch groups enhance village life by reducing rural crime by about 20%, this underlines how important visible watch schemes are as they act as a deterrent.

Our aim for Wickham Market Neighbourhood Watch is to foster a tight-knit community spirit and combat loneliness. By organising local communication channels, residents look out for vulnerable neighbours,

share security alerts, and build resilient, connected rural communities.

Neighbourhood Watch is the UK's largest volunteer-led crime-prevention charity and community network. It brings residents together to reduce local crime, report suspicious behaviour to the police, and build friendly, resilient communities. Millions of households across the country participate in local schemes, and we invite you to join ours.

As village residents, dog walkers, cyclists, employers, employees and general walkers, join our village Neighbourhood Watch group under the umbrella of the Wickham Market Parish Council – follow the six easy steps on page 15 of this magazine.

## How It Works

**Local Schemes:** Groups range from a few houses on a single street to large housing estates.

**Communication:** Members share safety alerts, updates, and local intelligence via messaging tools, social media, or meetings.

**Police Links:** Groups act as a bridge between the public and the local police, passing on information and receiving crime prevention advice.

**Not Vigilantes:** Members are explicitly told not to patrol streets or confront suspects, but rather to increase vigilance and report issues safely.

## Key Benefits for Villages

**Crime Deterrence:** Discourages burglars and vandals by maintaining visible alertness and sharing fast reports on suspicious rural activity.

**Social Connection:** Brings neighbours together through messaging groups or meetings, bridging social gaps and reducing isolation.

**Vulnerable Support:** Creates safety nets for elderly or isolated residents by checking in and offering practical, everyday assistance.

**Police Link:** Improves local intelligence flow and response times by acting as a clear, trusted bridge to local policing.



## A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. TOGETHER.



We all want to live in a safe and strong community

## JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Go to [ourwatch.org.uk](https://ourwatch.org.uk) or scan the QR code.

Take six steps for a safer you, your family and your community:

- 1 Click 'Find your local NW'
- 2 Do Postcode search
- 3 Click Wickham Market Neighbourhood Watch IP13
- 4 Click Not a member yet? Join
- 5 Click Sign up here - Fill in your details and submit.
- 6 Check Your email inbox (or spam) for your verification code to complete the process.



Contact [enquiries@suffolknwa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@suffolknwa.co.uk) for additional advice and guidance.



[www.suffolknwa.co.uk](https://www.suffolknwa.co.uk)



We are grateful for financial support from Tim Passmore, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk

Contact Suffolk Constabulary  
Non-emergency: 101  
Emergency: 999  
Report Online: [suffolk.police.uk](https://suffolk.police.uk)

**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555111**  
100% anonymous. Always.  
[crimestoppers-uk.org](https://crimestoppers-uk.org)

# Wickham Market Traffic Calming Scheme



Wickham Market Parish Council has been working with Sizewell C (SZC), Suffolk Highways and East Suffolk Council to develop a suitable traffic-calming scheme to address the predicted increase in SZC traffic that will pass through parts of the village to access the new park and ride site, which is just north of the village by the side of the A12.

It is hoped that a public information event will be held in the village later this year to present the proposals to residents and businesses.

In reviewing all traffic and pedestrian pinch points, the scheme proposes to improve the road layout from the Co-op

to Yew Tree Rise and around The Hill, with a new 20mph zone, widened footways, and traffic-priority systems outside the Post Office and Revetts Butchers.

There would also be a courtesy pedestrian crossing on Broad Road beside the St Elizabeth Hospice shop, and a marked pedestrian route along Dallinghoo Road opposite the high wall. These proposals aim to slow traffic where footfall is highest and to improve pedestrian safety by widening the footways.

Elsewhere along the High Street, kerb build-outs would slow traffic, and the Border Cot Lane junction and nearby parking would be amended.

SZC expect to carry out the construction works during 2027.

Full details of the proposed scheme are on the parish council website under a Sizewell tab and can be found at <https://wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk/sizewell-c/>

# Wickham Market Parish Council Unveils New Specialist Staffing Structure

Wickham Market Parish Council is set to introduce a new employee structure designed to strengthen governance, improve community services and provide greater long-term resilience for the village.

The changes come as the Council's Deputy Clerk retires, creating an opportunity to review how a growing range of responsibilities are managed. Rather than recruiting directly into the existing post, the Council will redistribute duties across three specialist roles: a **Marketing and Events Officer**, a **Cemetery Operations and Land Management Officer**, and a **Deputy Clerk** focused on governance and council administration.

Importantly, the overall staffing commitment will remain broadly unchanged. Instead, the new structure aims to align responsibilities with specialist skills, ensuring that increasingly complex areas of work receive dedicated attention.

The Marketing and Events Officer will lead community engagement, communications, social media, village markets and events, helping to promote Wickham Market and support local businesses. The Cemetery Operations and Land Management Officer will oversee key

community assets including the cemetery, allotments, footpaths and playing fields, ensuring they are managed effectively and sustainably. Meanwhile, the Deputy Clerk will focus on governance, project management, committee administration, volunteer coordination and strategic support for the Council.

Council leaders believe the new arrangement will improve service delivery, strengthen compliance and governance, and reduce risks associated with relying on a single officer to manage a wide range of responsibilities. The structure is also expected to increase the Council's capacity to secure external grants and funding opportunities for community projects.

Described as an evolution rather than an expansion of existing resources, the new model is intended to provide a more efficient, resilient and sustainable framework that reflects the growing scale of the Parish Council's work and supports the needs of Wickham Market residents for years to come.

# Help Make a Difference in Your Community

Join us and help shape the future of Wickham Market

## Deputy Clerk

Part-Time | Flexible Hours | Wickham Market

Are you organised, proactive and passionate about supporting local communities?

Wickham Market Parish Council is looking for a motivated Deputy Clerk to play a key role in the administration, governance and future development of the Council. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with local government experience, or an individual looking to build a rewarding career in parish and town council management.

Your role will include:

- Supporting council meetings and committees
- Assisting with governance, policies and compliance
- Coordinating community projects and volunteers
- Managing website content and council communications
- Identifying funding and grant opportunities
- Helping shape future improvements within the Council

We're looking for someone with:

- Excellent organisational and administrative skills
- Strong communication and minute-taking abilities
- A professional and confident approach
- The ability to work independently and manage multiple priorities

### A Role with Real Potential

The Council actively supports professional development, including CiLCA training, and the position offers the opportunity to develop into a future Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) role.

**LOCATION** Wickham Market, Suffolk

**HOURS** Flexible, Part-Time  
18 hours per month

**SALARY** Dependent on experience and qualifications

### To apply:

Send your CV and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to [clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk)

# Help Shape and Care for the Heart of Wickham Market

Make a lasting difference to the places that matter most

## Cemetery Operations & Land Management Officer

Part-Time | Flexible Hours | Wickham Market

Do you enjoy working independently, taking pride in local spaces, and making a positive difference to your community?

Wickham Market Parish Council is seeking a practical, organised and community-focused individual to help manage and protect some of the village's most important assets, including:

- Open spaces and playing fields
- Cemetery grounds and biodiversity projects
- Allotments and community land
- Public footpaths and village gateways

This varied role combines administration, environmental stewardship, contractor liaison and site management, offering the opportunity to contribute directly to the appearance, sustainability and wellbeing of the parish.

We're looking for someone who is:

- Organised and reliable
- Environmentally minded
- Comfortable working independently
- A confident communicator with residents, volunteers and contractors

**HOURS** Flexible, Part-Time  
18 hours per month

**SALARY** Dependent on experience

### To apply:

please send your CV and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to [clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk)

WORK WITH  
Wickham  
Market  
Parish  
Council



# Love Your Community? Help put Wickham Market in the Spotlight!

## Marketing & Events Officer

Part-Time | Flexible Hours | Wickham Market



Wickham Market Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic, creative and organised individual to help showcase everything that makes our village special.

This varied and rewarding role combines:

- **Marketing & Communications**
- **Social Media & Website Content**
- **Events & Seasonal Markets**
- **Photography & Promotion**
- **Community Engagement**

You'll help organise popular village markets and events, produce the bi-monthly Village News Magazine, create engaging online content, and work closely with local businesses, organisations and residents.

We're looking for someone who:

- **Has excellent communication and organisational skills**
- **Enjoys working independently and creatively**
- **Has experience in marketing, social media, events or communications**
- **Is passionate about supporting local communities**

**LOCATION** Wickham Market, Suffolk  
**HOURS** Flexible, Part-Time  
33 hours per month  
**SALARY** Dependent on Experience

### To apply:

Send your CV and a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to [clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk)

**Join us and help  
celebrate, promote  
and connect  
our vibrant  
community.**



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

# Wickham Market Outdoor Green Gym



If you enjoy spending time outdoors, trees, wildlife and good company, please join us in 2026/2027 for our Outdoor Green Gym meets. These events bring people together to care for, enhance and learn about biodiversity and our environment. Events are held on weekends and some weekdays.

Tasks include tree planting, spinney and hedge planting, young tree care, bulb and wildflower planting, pruning, and learning about wildlife habitats. All ages are welcome.

We aim to meet on the last Thursday of each month for a work party at Wickham Market Cemetery (opposite Wickham Gate). Over the years, we have planted beautiful trees, spring bulbs and wildflowers.

For more details, please contact your Parish Tree Wardens: Anne Westover 07586 266553 Email: [ennaoverwest@btinternet.com](mailto:ennaoverwest@btinternet.com) and Sonya Exton Email: [smexton@aol.com](mailto:smexton@aol.com)

For event dates and details, sign up and look out for the Wickham Market Partnership Round Robin (see page 5) and also check out the Wickham Market Community Facebook page.

## STOP PRESS

The 1974 classic film **Akenfield** directed by Peter Hall was filmed extensively in Charsfield, a neighbouring village just 3 miles from Wickham Market. The George Community Pub will host a screening of this iconic film as part of their Film Night series sometime before Christmas – sign up for the Round Robin to receive details (see page 5).

# 48 The Hill – from Butcher's Shop to Art Centre



Many of us remember 48 The Hill as F. L. Seagers, the hardware shop where almost anything could be found. Long before that, however, the site had already served the people of Wickham Market for well over two centuries.

The Grade II-listed building dates from the late seventeenth century. The property comprises a house and an adjoining shop, linked by the familiar archway leading into the yard beyond.

The earliest recorded occupants were butchers. Thomas Reeve is recorded there in 1814, followed by William Heffer and, later, Herbert William Heffer, whose family continued the business for much of the nineteenth century. Other butchers followed, including John H. Pearson, before the

premises changed hands in the early twentieth century.

By the 1930s, the property entered a new chapter when Percy Stannard, trading as R. Rouse & Son, occupied the house and surrounding yards. The firm was well known locally as builders, decorators, plumbers and undertakers. Notably, the butcher's shop itself continued to operate independently, first leased to J. R. Buding and later to A. Clarke, illustrating how different trades co-existed on the same site.



The years after the Second World War brought considerable alterations. Older outbuildings were removed, the former butcher's accommodation was reorganised, garages were built and the house was divided into separate dwellings. The site gradually evolved from its agricultural origins into the commercial premises that many local people still remember.

It was then acquired by F. L. Seagers & Sons, who opened the hardware shop, which became a familiar feature of village life for many years. The former slaughterhouse and animal pens were converted into retail space, while the sheds and surviving outbuildings were used for storage. For countless residents, Seagers was the place to buy everything from nails and paint to household essentials, and it became one of Wickham Market's best-known family businesses.



Today, the building has entered yet another chapter as the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre (EATAC). Established in 2017 by John Day, the Centre is dedicated to promoting and researching the art of East Anglia, particularly the Norwich School and Suffolk artists from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. It houses an important reference library and archive, stages specialist exhibitions, provides expert advice on East Anglian paintings and drawings, and undertakes picture cleaning and restoration.

Although the businesses have changed over the years - from a butcher's shop to a builders' yard, to a hardware store, and now to an internationally respected art centre-the building has remained what it has always been: a place where people come to work, to trade and to discover something of value.

The old photographs of Seagers and a modern view of the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre remind us that while the appearance of The Hill changes with each generation, its historic buildings continue to adapt and thrive.

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

# Farlingaye High School at Woodbridge is Recognised for Opportunity, Community and Exemplary Students

Peter Smith, Headteacher, writes:

There is always a sense of excitement when change is near. I feel that for the next academic year. Change can be daunting, and at Farlingaye School we understand this and have built a special community. What I think makes us special is the commitment of our fantastic staff, the brilliance of the teaching and the huge variety of opportunities on offer.



You don't have to take my word for it. Farlingaye High School recently welcomed a team of Ofsted inspectors as part of the inspectorate's new inspection framework. While the process is always demanding, we were delighted that the report recognised many of the qualities that make our school such a special place to learn

and work. Particularly pleasing was the recognition of our Personal Development and Wellbeing programme and our Sixth Form provision, both of which were judged to be operating at a Strong Standard.

Inspectors described personal development as "central to life at Farlingaye" and recognised the school's ethos of "Opportunity Everywhere", noting the extensive work undertaken to ensure that all students benefit from the wide range of opportunities available to them. Whether through sport, music, drama, the Duke of Edinburgh, academic enrichment, leadership programmes, community

projects, or the countless clubs and activities that take place each week, our aim is to help every young person discover their interests, develop their talents, and contribute positively to the wider community. The report also highlighted the strength of relationships within the school, describing Farlingaye as a kind and caring community where students speak enthusiastically about their positive relationships with staff and peers.

As Headteacher, what made me proudest during the inspection was seeing our students simply being themselves. The inspectors saw young people who are polite, thoughtful, ambitious

and engaged. They saw dedicated staff, supportive families and a school community committed to helping young people thrive. We are grateful to the many parents, carers and members of the wider community who support the school. Farlingaye has always been more than just a school; it is an important part of the local community.

No matter how you feel about the new school term, it's a wonderful opportunity for students to make new friends, explore exciting passions, and develop valuable skills that will help them grow into friendly, enthusiastic individuals who will contribute positively to our communities.

# 200 Years of Suffolk Art Since John Constable

## A New Exhibition in Wickham Market

The East Anglian Traditional Art Centre, based at 48 High Street, Wickham Market, is holding an exhibition titled '200 Years of Suffolk Art' at its gallery from Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October.



The exhibition will explore the development of painting in Suffolk from John Constable's time to the present day. 19th-century pictures by Thomas Churchyard, John Moore, the Smythe brothers and George Thomas Rope will be featured. Edward Seago, Harry Becker, Leonard Squirrell and Cavendish Morton will represent the 20th century.

Recent works by Graham Crowley, Julian Perry, and other contemporary artists will demonstrate that Constable's influence remains evident.

Alongside the loan exhibition, a selection of paintings will be offered for sale, many on behalf of private collectors.

The exhibition is open from Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 11am–4pm (Tuesday to Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday).



For further details and exhibition opening times, please visit [www.eatac.co.uk](http://www.eatac.co.uk)

## All Saints Church News

Jean Maxwell writes...

**What a summer! As I write I am surrounded by the consequences of climate change - drought, hosepipe bans, poor crops, brown grass, not to mention devastating fires - all reflecting the reality of what is almost certainly the new norm.**

And yet, slowly watering my allotment, with a can, I found myself pondering on how I often prefer minimal effort, immediacy, and sometimes fail to notice the beauty and wonder of God's creation and provision - even in these times.

In this season churches traditionally celebrate harvest with festivals and services, displaying locally grown produce or collecting for food banks. We know from the news how badly the farmers are struggling, trying to not only feed us but deeply concerned as their finances come into the equation too. It is incredibly worrying. They need our prayers, they need our support, and they need our heartfelt thanks.

Come and join us at the All Saints Harvest Service, even if you don't come often you are very welcome, and 'being community' is so important in times like this.



©Gary Baker

### Harvest Services

**Wickham Market Harvest Service on 11<sup>th</sup> October at 11am.**

**There is also a Harvest Evensong at Pettistree Church on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm.**

For details of all church services at Wickham Market and Pettistree churches plus weekly activities and seasonal changes please visit the website; [www.wickhammarketchurch.org](http://www.wickhammarketchurch.org)

#### 1st Sunday

Communion Service 11am

#### 2nd Sunday

Contemporary Service, including an interview with a church member 11am

#### 3rd Sunday

Quiet Communion Service at 9.30am – followed by tea and toast  
'Together@11am' with tea and toast  
Informal Prayer and Praise at 6.30pm

#### 4th Sunday

Contemporary Service with a testimony time 11am

#### 5th Sunday

Contemporary Service 11am

**Note** the 11am service (except for TOGETHER@11) is Livestreamed and can be watched at the time or later on our YouTube channel.



For everything  
**Wickham Market,**  
including events at the Village Hall,  
The George and the Library  
visit [www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk/events/](http://www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk/events/)

For the Business Directory  
go to [www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk](http://www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk)

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**Wickham  
Market**

Suffolk's Historic Market Village  
in the Heart of the Deben Valley