Wickham Market

PARISH NEWS

2026 November December



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

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Clerk	Al Besly	clerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk
Deputy Clerk	Leanne Castle	deputyclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk
Cemetery Clerk	Leanne Castle	cemeteryclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk
For more information		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.

Letter from the chair

It hardly seems possible that we are approaching the end of 2026. Looking back, our village has seen plenty of positive action, alongside a few challenges.

It is encouraging to see the Village Hall modernisation plans and the Wickham Market Traffic Calming Scheme progress. Our clubs, groups and associations bring friendship and colour to village life, helping people connect and get involved.

Our Parish Magazine, delivered every two months to more than 2,300 homes, keeps us informed about village news, events and projects, and highlights local businesses we can support by spending locally.

Sadly, a few incidents have caused damage, worry and extra work. However, these are outweighed by the kindness, community spirit and positive things happening across Wickham Market every day.

With a new play area on the horizon, plus the Tractor Light Parade and Christmas Market to look forward to, there is plenty to celebrate.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers and to our local businesses for helping our village thrive.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and every good wish for 2027.

Ivor French
Chair of Wickham Market Parish Council
ivor.f@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk

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PRINT DEADLINES

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Delivery: Over a two week period commencing on 11th January 2027

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: Matt Finch

New Signposts Celebrate Wickham Market's Facilities and Heritage



Wickham Market is steeped in history, so it is fitting that new additions to our streets reflect the village's traditional character.

Two beautiful cast iron signposts have recently been installed, specially made for Wickham Market by Isaac Butterworth Ironfounders in Rochdale, renowned for their traditional craftsmanship.

Organised by Wickham Market Parish Council and funded by East Suffolk Council, the signposts blend beautifully with the street lighting and provide directions to many village facilities. Both practical and attractive, we hope they will become a much-loved feature of Wickham Market.

Their traditional design complements our historic village and reminds us of the importance of preserving its character.

The Archive Centre, in the Library garden by the Medical Centre, offers plenty more to discover about Wickham Market's past. Its fascinating collection celebrates the village's history and is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10.30am–12.30pm.

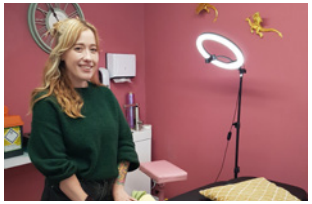
Why not pop in and discover the stories, people and places that have shaped Wickham Market?

Meet Katie at Ivory Wolf

After living and working all over the country, Katie Carter has found a home on The Hill at Wickham Market, opening her tattoo studio, Ivory Wolf (just along from the pharmacy).

Tattooing since 2014, Katie describes her studio as one of East Anglia's cosiest, offering a welcoming, safe and respectful atmosphere. Her love of books and childhood memories of the 90s inspire her work, and she loves collaborating with clients to create tattoos they'll treasure – especially if dragons are involved!

"I just think it's a lovely way for people to celebrate who they are. If you've thought about getting a tattoo, life's too short – just book in, and I'll create something you love wearing every day."



Katie also hopes to make Ivory Wolf a community space, with plans for a book and craft club where people can bring along a book or craft, meet like-minded people and enjoy some company.

"From romantasy readers and Warhammer painters to Nans that knit, truly, everybody is welcome!"

Katie says the support she has received has been amazing, and the village has welcomed her warmly.

To find out more or book an appointment, follow Katie on Instagram @katiec.art or pop into Ivory Wolf.

A Better Place to Play: Plans for Our Village Play Area

Plans to redevelop the play area behind Wickham Market Village Hall are taking their first steps, with a newly formed working party exploring how the space could better serve local children and families.

The group brings together Parish Council Clerk Al Besly and local mums Nina Crisp and Pandora Howard - Griffin. Nina and Pandora each contacted the Parish Council independently to raise concerns about the existing facilities, sharing the view that the current play area is no longer fit for purpose for the children in our community.

The play area was last updated in 2004, at a cost of around £80,000. More than two decades on, it is time to reassess what families need from this important village space and how it compares with the facilities available in neighbouring villages.

At the heart of the project is a straightforward ambition: to create a welcoming, enjoyable and accessible place where local children can play. Accessibility has not been adequately addressed in the current provision, and the working party wants it to be a key part of discussions about its future.

The working party is currently identifying priorities and assessing what can realistically be achieved within the available budget. A full redevelopment will not be possible, so the focus is on making targeted improvements that deliver the greatest benefit to local children and families.



Most of the funding will need to come from grants. This means developing a clear, achievable proposal that reflects local needs and can make a strong case for support. The project is still in its early stages, and there is work ahead to turn those ambitions into a practical plan.

Residents will have an opportunity to contribute at a community consultation during the Christmas Market on 28 November. Please come along and share your thoughts, whether you use the play area regularly, visit occasionally with grandchildren or simply have an interest in improving facilities for the village.

What works well? What is missing? What would make the biggest difference to your family? Children's views will be especially valuable: this is their space, and their ideas deserve to be heard.

By bringing together local experience, thoughtful planning and community support, we hope to help shape a play area that Wickham Market's children can enjoy for years to come.

Scan the QR Code to fill in the Wickham Market Playground Community Consultation Survey

Suffolk Tractor Light Parade Comes to Wickham Market



©Malc Pearce

Get ready for a spectacular festive sight on Sunday 13 December, when the much-loved Suffolk Tractor Light Parade comes to Wickham Market.

Now in its fifth year, the parade has grown from just 36 tractors to more than 150, with farmers decorating their tractors with hundreds of twinkling lights. Thousands of people turn out across East Suffolk to enjoy this wonderful Christmas spectacle, bringing festive cheer while raising money for charity.

The parade starts at Clarke and Simpson Auctions in Campsea Ashe before making its way through Wickham Market, Ufford, Melton, Woodbridge, Bromeswell, Eyke, Rendlesham and Tunstall. It is sure to be a magical sight as the illuminated convoy makes its way through our villages and towns.

This year's parade will support Brave Futures, Home-Start Suffolk and YANA. Last year, an amazing £22,711 was raised for charity.

Please stay on the pavements and never stand in the road. Excited children will need extra supervision as the tractors pass.

Want to help make a difference?

Please scan the QR code to visit the online GiveWheel donation page and support this year's three charities. Every donation, however small, is greatly appreciated.

For route details and timings, visit www.suffolktractorlightparade.co.uk.



©Matt Finch

Christmas Market on The Hill at Wickham Market

Christmas is coming to The Hill! As the festive season gets underway, Wickham Market will be filled with Christmas cheer on Saturday 28 November, when The Hill comes alive for the Christmas Market, from 9am until 2pm.

With twinkling lights, Christmas trees, festive music and the buzz of a village getting ready for the season, it promises to be a wonderful event for the whole community.



With over 40 stalls, there will be plenty to browse, buy and enjoy, with the opportunity to meet the makers and discover a wonderful selection of artisan gifts, festive treats and delicious hot food.

The market is also a chance to celebrate the wonderful community spirit in Wickham Market. Local community groups will join the festivities, while the village's independent cafés, shops, pub, and other local businesses will get into the Christmas spirit and welcome visitors throughout the day.

Plenty of Christmas magic will fill the air, with live music and a special performance from the school choir helping create a lovely festive atmosphere.

Whether you are looking for special Christmas presents, something delicious to eat, or simply want to join the village festivities, the Christmas Market on The Hill promises a wonderful way to start the Christmas season.

Come along, support local makers, community groups and independent businesses, as Wickham Market gets ready for Christmas!





All Saints Church News

Rev Charlotte writes...

Over the last few days I've been wondering what to say in this seasonal 'Hello'. A number of us (certainly me) are beginning to think about Christmas. Christmas means so many things, and all of them are exciting and wonderful. But I wondered what particularly I might say to illustrate one of them this year. So here goes:

People who know me, and read this, will either laugh or roll their eyes - I'm not sure which – as I've been going on about it for so long... but yesterday, my life changed. Completely. Because yesterday I brought home my new puppy.

He's everywhere. He wants to play so much. Especially with things like my laptop charger and the TV remotes. And I've mopped up countless stray wees (and other much less nice things...). I want to make sure he is completely safe, but I didn't realise how hard it would be to keep up with him. But we've reached the end of the day now and he's both alive and asleep in his bed, so I'm taking that as a win. It has been a good day, in the main, but at times I have felt completely clueless, lost, and actually, a bit scared if I'm honest.

Feeling this way in my first 24 hours with my puppy, and with Christmas preparations whirring around in the back of my mind, I got to thinking about Mary, Jesus' new, first time mum, who'd given birth miles from home, with none of her family or friends to help her. Stuck out in the middle of nowhere, where everyone was a stranger. And charged with protecting, loving, and bringing up the most pivotal figure in human history. How at a loss, and how scared, must she have felt?

But weirdly, Mary - who I'm sure did feel at a loss and totally overwhelmed by the task - gave birth to Jesus, the One who takes away that sense of being at a loss, of being scared. The One who brings purpose, hope, and certain assurance of being loved by God, to a world that desperately needs to hear that message if it hears nothing else. And the hope that this certainty of God's love gives, is something we will be celebrating at church this Christmas, so please do join us.

For further details of all church service times (for both churches) and details of the Open Pantry and Open Door Coffee Morning visit **www.wickhammarketchurch.org**



Christmas Services

Christmas Dates for Pettistree and Wickham Market Churches

Friday 18th December – 5pm
Carols on the Hill, Wickham Market

Sunday 20th December – 9:30am
Carol Service, Pettistree Church

Sunday 20th December – 11:00am
Together at 11 – Family Christingle service, Wickham Market Church

Sunday 20th December – 6:30pm
Carol Service, Wickham Market Church

Thursday 24th December – 11:30pm
Midnight Holy Communion Service, Wickham Market Church

Friday 25th December – 9:30am
Christmas Day Service, Pettistree Church

Friday 25th December – 10:30am
Christmas Day Service, Wickham Market Church

Local Businesses Learn to Work Smarter



From independent shops and home-based businesses to local trades and professional services, Wickham Market and surrounding villages have a growing, diverse business community. Recently, more than 20 local business people gathered to share ideas and learn ways to promote and grow their businesses at a village training workshop.

Held at Roland Group's premises on Friday 25 September, the workshop was led by award-winning East Suffolk communications and media consultant Nic Pandolfi. The jargon-free session explored practical digital tools, with opportunities for owners to ask questions relevant to their businesses.

Nic explained how Google can act as a business's 'digital front door', helping customers find them online, even when working from home. He also demonstrated how AI can help owners work smarter, not harder, by tackling time-consuming tasks.

Another focus was visual storytelling, with advice on using Instagram and Threads to share a business's story and build a stronger visual brand.

Attendees left with useful ideas and tools to put into practice.

Wickham Market Parish Council arranged the event, part-funded by East Suffolk Council.

Leanne Castle, Deputy Clerk at Wickham Market Parish Council, said: *"Delegates took away a lot from the morning that they could put into practice to grow their businesses. There was a real buzz in the room as people shared their thoughts and ideas."*

Feedback showed delegates valued the opportunity to learn and wanted more sessions, alongside quarterly networking events. The positive response highlights local businesses' enthusiasm for sharing ideas, learning from one another and collaborating to build a thriving business community.

Details of business events planned for 2027 will be shared on social media, the Visit Wickham Market website, the weekly village 'round robin' and in future editions of Wickham Market Parish News.



Sheline Gledhill, East Suffolk Council, Leanne Castle WMPC, Nic Pandolfi

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

A H PLUMBING & HEATING
2 Old Orchard Cottages, Gelham Hall Road IP13 0NE **07539 449667**
www.alfiehuntplumbing@gmail.com

ALL ABOUT HEARING LTD
Local hearing care & earwax removal
Wickham Market Medical Centre, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, IP13 0SB
01728 733138
www.allabouthearing.co.uk

ALLFARM INSTALLATIONS LTD
Fullers Business Centre, Wickham Market IP13 0TA **01728 746200**
www.allfarminstallations.co.uk

BAYFIELDS DIGITAL
TV Aerials, Satellite TV, WiFi, CCTV
9 Riverside View Industrial Estate
01728 745745 *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

BLUE CROCUS TEXTILES
Curtains, Lampshades, Blinds, Cushions and Loose Covers
75 High Street, IP13 0RA **01473 487844**
www.bluecrocustextiles.com

CAFÉ 46
Cakes, Coffee, Lunch and More
46 High Street
www.cafe46.co.uk

THE CAMARGUE CAFÉ
Valley Farm Equestrian Leisure, Wickham Market IP13 0ND
01728 748020 *www.valleyfarm.co.uk/content/camargue-cafe*

COOPERATIVE SUPERMARKET
14-18 High Street **01728 746313**
www.coop.co.uk

EAST ANGLIAN TRADITIONAL ART CENTRE
Picture Sales from circ. 1750-1950. Restoration & Repair. 48 High Street
01728 747050 *www.eatac.co.uk*

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Bespoke Kitchens and Furniture
181 High Street **07850 416487**
www.englishgrain.co.uk

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

EVOLVE LIFETIME LTD
Independent Mortgage and Equity Release Advisers
Dallinghoo Rd, IP13 0RP
01473 798500 *www.evolvelifetime.com*

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

FULLERS ELECTRONIC SERVICES LTD
Automotive audio upgrades, including car stereos and sound systems
29 Riverside View, IP13 0TA
01728 746743 *carradiorepairs.co.uk*

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www@gleveringhall.com/firewood

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 0QS
01394 388181 www.mannwm.co.uk

MARKHAM FUNERAL SERVICE
IP13 0AA **01728 747795**
www.markhamfuneralservice.co.uk

RUTH MAY PILATES & PHYSIOTHERAPY
Vida Haus, Pettistree IP13 0HW
07985 600176
ruthmaypilatesphysio.co.uk

METHOD FIT
Personal Training, Group Fitness Classes & Parkinson's Support
The Barn, Bridge Farm IP13 0AA
07801 653085 *www.methodfit.uk*

PETER HALL FLOORING
34 High Street **01728 746416**
www.peterhallflooring.com

THE NEW PEACH BOWER
Chinese Restaurant/Takeaway
56 High Street **01728 747901**
www.thenewpeachbower.co.uk

NR RESTORATIONS
Property Renovations, Refurbishments
Nathan Reay **07432 241101**
nrrestorations@icloud.com

NULIFE FURNISHINGS
Curtains, Upholstery, Soft Furnishings
17 Riverside View Industrial Estate
01728 747745
www.nu-lifefurnishings.co.uk

OFFSET FILMS
Film and Video Production
179D High Street **01473 598669**
www.offsetfilms.co.uk

OLD SCHOOL EMPORIUM
High Street, IP13 0HE **07904 084503**
Instagram: old_school_emporium

THE ORCHARD CAMPSITE
Campsite plus fully equipped Safari Tent
28 Spring Lane **07818 034729**
www.orchardcampsite.co.uk

THE PARLOUR
Brows, Lashes and Nails
179 High Street **07872 070522**
theparlour179@icloud.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

E R & R T RACKHAM LTD
Solid Fuel, Animal Feed & Pet Food Retailers
Deben Mills, IP13 0RG
01728 746207 *www.rackhamltd.co.uk*

REBECCA'S REFLEXOLOGY & WELLNESS
32 High Street **07845 599256**
www.rebeccasreflexology.co.uk

RETURN TO STILLNESS
Yoga Classes and Meditation
07734 469038 / 01728 747001
www.returntotillnes.co.uk

E W REVETT & SON
Butchery/Fine Food & Wine,
81 High St
01728 746263 *www.revett.co.uk*

RIVERSIDE ENGINEERING (SUFFOLK) LTD
Metal fabrication
01728 747210
www.riverside-engineering.co.uk

RMC CAR REPAIRS
Vehicle servicing, welding, repairs & general maintenance,
24 King Edward Ave, IP13 0SL
01728 747069 / 07887 768899

ROLAND PLASTICS
High Street, IP13 0RF **01728 747777**
www.rolandplastics.com

D A RUSE PLUMBING & HEATING
Plumbing, Heating, Tiling, Bathroom and Kitchen Installations
42 Barhams Way, IP13 0SR
07999250203 / 01728 564132

SHEPHERD ENGINEERING ANGLIAN
Mechanical & electrical engineering
Unit 4, Riverside Industrial Estate, IP13 0TA
01728 747189
info@shepherd-engineering-anglian.co.uk

ST ELIZABETH HOSPICE
Charity Shop 54 High Street
www.stelizabethhospice.org.uk

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

SCIENTA GROUP
Innovation service provider working globally to develop products and services of the future.
9 Mill Lane Wickham Market, IP13 0SFA
07973 302 507 *www.scientagroup.com*

ANNA SHAND
Chiropodist/Podiatrist/Reflexology
77B High Street
07856 525996 / 07916 271688

SOUTH EAST ANTIQUES
Buy, Sell & Value Antiques & Jewellery
7 Riverside View Industrial Estate, IP13 0TA
Instagram: southeastantiques

SVRC SPORTS & VETERINARY REHABILITATION CLINIC
2-3 Riverside View Industrial Estate
07921 586339 *www.info-svrc.com*

TEA POT TEA ROOMS
Dine-in/Takeaway
70A High Street **01728 748079**

VALLEY FARM EQUESTRIAN LEISURE
Horse Riding, Visitor Centre, Holiday Lodge, Camping & Café
01728 746916 *www.valleyfarm.co.uk*

CAFEVIDA
Brunches, coffees and lunches
3 Tuns, IP13 0HW

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**

WICKHAM WOODWORK
For carpentry, joinery and all things wood
179C High Street, IP13 0RQ
wickhamwoodwork@gmail.com

USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST SUFFOLK
14 Colonial House, Station Rd, **Leiston** IP16 4JD. Mon/Tue/Thu 10-2pm
7 Cumberland Street, **Woodbridge**, IP12 4AH. Wed/Thu/Fri 10-2pm
Outreach at **Wickham Market** Resource Centre – Tue 1.30-3.30pm
https://citizensadviceeastsuffolk.org.uk/
0808 2787866 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 2pm
www.wmshed.org.uk **01728 747782**

INTERESTS

Youth Football Club
Simon's Cross Playing Field, IP13 0ST
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 0HE
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

Chloe's Kinrade School of Dance
Wednesday's & Thursdays. **07940 469026**
chloekinradeschoolofdance@gmail.com

Powerhoop Elie
Tuesdays **07976 299297**

LTS School of Dance - Silver Swans
Thursdays **07872 436307**

USEFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Crown Lane, IP13 0SA **01728 748224**
For Sunday Service information please visit *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**

WICKHAM MARKET LIBRARY

Chapel Lane, IP13 0SD
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 0RP
01728 746405

RESOURCE CENTRE

Chapel Lane, IP13 0SD **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
cemeteryclerk@wickhammarket-pc.gov.uk
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Wickham Market Good Neighbours – Here to Help



Good Neighbours is all about helping people in our community when they need a little extra support. Whether it's getting to an appointment, picking up a prescription, or simply having a helping hand with a small job, our friendly volunteers are on hand.

What can Good Neighbours do for you?
Our volunteer drivers can take you to appointments at Ipswich or Aldeburgh hospitals, the GP surgery, the dentist, a day care centre, and other health clinics. We can also provide lifts to social clubs and society meetings, the hairdresser, or to visit a friend or relative.

Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference. We can take your repeat prescription to the surgery and collect your medication from the pharmacy, replace a battery or light bulb you can't quite manage, do some local shopping, or lend a hand with a minor DIY job that has become a bit too much for you.

Sadly, due to a shortage of volunteers, we can't currently offer a befriending service to new clients. We hope to offer this again in the future.

Monthly Coffee Morning
Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat? Our coffee morning is held on the first Tuesday of every month, from 10am to 12 noon, in the upstairs Activity Room at The George. Everyone is very welcome.

Come and see us at the Christmas Market
We'll have a stall at the Christmas Market on 28 November, so do come along, say hello, and have a chat with us. We'd love to see you!

Could you spare a little time to help?
Good Neighbours relies on our wonderful team of volunteers, and we are always looking for more drivers and telephone holders. If you have a little time to spare and would like to help someone in your community, we would love to hear from you.

If you need our assistance, or would like to volunteer, please call 07914 494108.

The phone is manned Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm (excluding bank holidays). Alternatively, you can leave a message. If you need a lift, please give us several days' notice wherever possible, and longer notice for hospital appointments or other longer visits.

Please note: Our services are available to residents of Wickham Market parish only and do not extend to neighbouring villages.

Keeping Wickham Market Clean – Every Little Bit Helps



There is something deeply satisfying about seeing a village clean and cared for, and in Wickham Market, a group of local residents recently did their bit to help keep our village looking its best.

On Saturday morning, 26 September, people of all ages gathered at the Womble Station at Wickham Market Library, where they were kitted out with litter-picking equipment before heading off in groups to different parts of the village. The teams collected litter from around the village, including the play area, helping to make these shared spaces cleaner and more enjoyable for everyone.

After all their hard work, the volunteers returned to the library for well-earned refreshments and a chance to chat. Thank you to Friends of Wickham Market Library, who served refreshments in the library garden.

A reminder too about cigarette butts. They are a persistent form of toxic plastic pollution. Every cigarette filter contains strands of microplastic fibres that slowly leak a chemical cocktail of highly toxic and carcinogenic substances into soils, where they can enter the food chain, and into our waterways, where just one cigarette butt contaminates up to 1000 litres of water.

When littered in the environment, they do NOT biodegrade; please put them in bins, never on the ground or in nature.

Community litter picks are a great way to make a visible difference while spending time with others in the village. Everyone is welcome, whether you come with family, friends, or on your own.

Look out for information about the next community litter pick on posters around the village and on the Visit Wickham Market Facebook page.

Come along and help keep our village clean and beautiful – every little bit helps!



A Busy and Inspiring Start to the Autumn Term

Although we have only been back at school for half a term, it has already been an incredibly busy and exciting start to the year, with our children embracing new opportunities to learn, explore and grow.

We began the term by launching our new writing curriculum, which places high-quality texts and oracy at the heart of learning. Every English unit now starts with a memorable hook lesson designed to spark curiosity and capture children's imaginations.

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Ancient Egypt through both History and English. To launch their instruction-writing unit, the children became apprentice embalmers, mummifying tomatoes using salt and bandages before writing detailed instructions explaining the process. They showed great resilience as they waited to discover whether their techniques had been successful and were delighted to unwrap their tomatoes later in the term. Their next adventure began with the mysterious appearance of a letter at the classroom door, leading them on a clue hunt linked to their class text Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx. Through drama and discussion, they stepped into the shoes of brave explorers entering an ancient pyramid, demonstrating both curiosity and creativity.

In Year 1, children have also been developing their instruction-writing skills through their work on Pumpkin Soup. Their learning began with an exciting hands-on experience as they rolled up their sleeves and carved pumpkins, providing plenty of inspiration for their writing.



Year 2 pupils have been enjoying weekly Forest School sessions, where they are developing independence, teamwork and confidence while learning outdoors. These valuable experiences encourage children to take appropriate risks, solve problems and connect with the natural world.

There was a wonderful buzz around school during our recent Maths Day. Children across the school immersed themselves in a range of mathematical challenges and activities, including giant maths games, measuring tasks, maths-themed stories, problem-solving relay races and tangram challenges. It was fantastic to see pupils demonstrating resilience and teamwork while applying their mathematical thinking in fun and creative ways.

Year 4 and 5 recently travelled back in time during their visit to Kentwell Hall, where they experienced life in Tudor England. The children listened, observed and participated in activities alongside Tudor characters, gaining a deeper understanding of the period. Their curiosity shone through as they asked thoughtful questions and engaged fully with the experience.

We are also delighted to have launched a new Key Stage 2 choir, led by local professional musician Steph Wakeman and funded through the Leiston Education Partnership. The choir is already proving popular, providing children with opportunities to develop their confidence, creativity and love of music while working together towards shared goals.

Looking ahead, applications for children due to start Reception in September 2027 are now open through Suffolk Admissions. We warmly welcome prospective families to visit our school and see our caring community in action. Please contact the school office to arrange a tour at a convenient time.

Jo Harris
Head of School
Wickham Market Primary School



56 High Street – A Familiar Face for More Than a Century

One of the pleasures of looking at old photographs of Wickham Market is finding a building which is instantly recognisable.

Photographs of The Hill dating from around the 1920s show No. 56 High Street looking remarkably familiar. Its four upstairs sash windows, central doorway and distinctive brick frontage can still be recognised more than a century later. Today, of course, most of us know the building as The New Peach Bower.

The building is Grade II listed and has a particularly interesting history. Although its gault-brick frontage dates from the late eighteenth century, Archive Centre records suggest that a considerably older building lies behind it, probably dating from the seventeenth century, with substantial old beams surviving inside.

Untangling its earlier history is not straightforward. Nos. 54 and 56 have sometimes been confused in historical records, not helped by their close proximity. No. 54, immediately adjoining, was formerly the Blue Boar Inn and later became a shop, remembered by many as Lawn's. There was also a nineteenth-century habit of retired grocers remaining in their houses after giving up their shops, making it surprisingly difficult to establish precisely who occupied which property.



By the early twentieth century, No. 56 was known as Talbot House, although we have yet to discover the origin of the name or the full story of its earlier occupants.

Bears arrives in Wickham Market

A completely new chapter began on 29 September 1988, when Bears Restaurant opened its doors.

We recently discovered an advertising feature in the East Anglian Daily Times published on the day of the opening. It states that the restaurant was run by John and Freya Hart, who had carefully restored and decorated the old building.

The historic character of No. 56 was central to its appeal. Diners could enjoy a roaring fire and exposed beams, while comfortable leather sofas offered a place for an aperitif. Before customers even entered the restaurant, they were greeted by Gilbert, a large wooden bear in the front window.

The menu was quite adventurous for Wickham Market in 1988. Dishes included duck pancakes with plum sauce, fresh poached salmon, pork medallions and fillet steak in brandy sauce. There was also an upstairs room for private parties.

Bears, however, was relatively short-lived. Archive Centre records indicate that the restaurant closed in 1990, after which the premises were recorded as unoccupied.

The Peach Bower

Not long afterwards, No. 56 began the chapter by which most people in the village know it today, becoming The Peach Bower Chinese Restaurant, later The New Peach Bower. Photographs from the 1990s show the restaurant well established, though we have not yet discovered its exact opening date.

There was drama on the evening of 14 November 2007, when a fire broke out in an upstairs flat occupied by a chef.

Fortunately, nobody was hurt, and the restaurant and kitchen themselves escaped the fire. However, there was smoke damage to the toilets and staircase. The East Anglian Daily Times reported two days later that the sit-down restaurant was temporarily unable to open – but remarkably, the takeaway was already reopening for business that evening.





No. 56 today

Today, The New Peach Bower continues at No. 56, maintaining a restaurant tradition in the building that began with Bears nearly four decades ago.

Our photographs from 2026 show Mr Wei Lin, chef at The New Peach Bower, outside the restaurant. Comparing the present frontage with photographs taken around a century ago, it is striking how much of the building's character has survived.



Inside, too, there are reminders of its considerable age. The substantial beams and fireplace can still be seen among the tables of today's Chinese restaurant – features that take us back far beyond Bears, the Peach Bower, or even the name Talbot House.

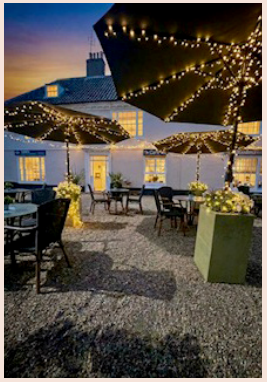
So, while the uses of No. 56 have changed, the building itself remains a familiar and attractive part of The Hill, just as it was when those early photographs were taken more than a century ago.

However, there are still gaps in its story. Who occupied No. 56 in the nineteenth century? Why was it called Talbot House? And exactly when did the Peach Bower first open?

Perhaps you can help. If you remember Bears Restaurant, the early days of The Peach Bower, have memories of Talbot House, or have photographs or documents relating to No. 56, the Wickham Market Area Archive Centre would be delighted to hear from you.

Philip Tallent, Chairman,
Wickham Market Area Archive Centre

Café 46 News – The Fishermen's Mission, Christmas Platters & Suffolk Tractor Light Parade



Celebrate the magic of Christmas with Café No.46! We are thrilled to kick off the festive season by joining the Wickham Market Christmas Market. Throughout the Christmas period, we are proudly supporting the **Fishermen's Mission Charity** by stocking their exclusive Christmas card range. If you are planning a festive gathering, join us between 1 and 17 December to enjoy our specially curated, booking-only **Christmas Platters**. Plus, mark your calendars for Sunday, 13 December – we are opening early at 3pm to serve as the ultimate viewing hub for the spectacular **Suffolk Tractor Light Parade**, complete with festive snacks and warming drinks.



The Archive Centre 2027 calendar is on sale now and is available from Revett's and Anna Shand's shops, as well as from the Archive Centre on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

This year's calendar features 12 different village schools from around the local area, with old and present-day photographs of each school, together with a short history. Copies will also be on sale at the Christmas Market on 28 November.

And at just £5, the calendar is still great value!

We only have around 60 copies left, so if you would like one for yourself – or as a Christmas present – make sure you get yours before they're all gone!

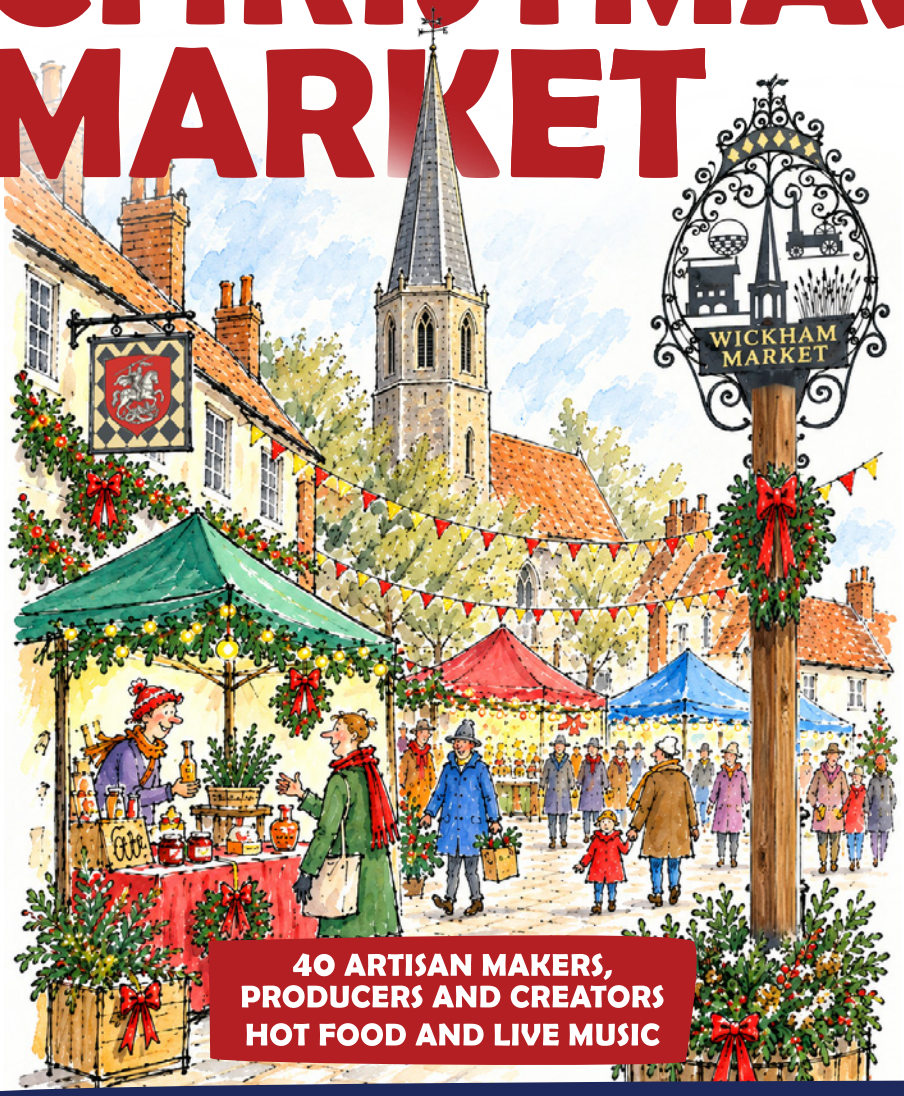
Town Land Charity Voucher Offer

Each Christmas, the Town Lands charity offers a voucher for those living alone in Wickham Market aged 65 or over to spend in local shops and businesses. We know that many look forward to the voucher each year. Please let the Clerk know of anyone who is newly eligible, for example, through moving into the village or a change in circumstances. We are especially asking anyone eligible in the new housing development and living in Kitson Court to let us know.

For further enquiries and to discuss, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees, Roger Theobald, on 01728 746979.

WICKHAM MARKET

CHRISTMAS MARKET



**40 ARTISAN MAKERS,
PRODUCERS AND CREATORS
HOT FOOD AND LIVE MUSIC**

9am–2pm Saturday 28th November, 2026

On The Hill, Wickham Market

WICKHAM MARKET PARISH COUNCIL

www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk