

Chairs report.

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you soaked in some rest over the Christmas period. This report includes newsletter items.

Litter collection walk

We went out for a Litter collection walk on Saturday 25th November, 3 of us braced ourselves for the horribly cold wind and managed to pick up so much litter!

We found lots of discarded alcohol cans and bottles, plus lots of spent vapes and cigarette butts around the village hall and toilet blocks. Both areas have bins, please use them. Bushes aren't bins!

Please join us for our next Litter collection walks on Saturday 27th January and then Saturday 23rd March, meeting outside the sheds at the rear of the village hall at 10am.

Christmas trees

I am so proud of the volunteers that we have in Wickham Market, who come out in the freezing cold, to help make our village look pretty. Thank you to John Horsnell for his great co-ordination bringing us together to get the Christmas trees erected, including chopping them all down to fit in the brackets, and then coming back a week later to go around and turn each small tree lights on individually. Plus you then gathered a team to help take them all down again in early January!! Amazing work by all, and a special thank you to Turner for your help as well, great to see the youth getting involved.

Christmas market

We had another fabulous day at the annual Christmas market this year. Well done to Alison, our deputy clerk on organising another successful market for us. And another well done to Al, our Clerk, for taking the training to allow him to take care of our road closures for us for all future events!

The Parish Council had a stand where we were giving out hot spiced apple drinks and mince pies. Lots of people enjoyed the hot spiced apple, so here is the (not very) secret recipe! Apple juice, brown sugar and the amazing Schwartz Mulled Cider Spice sachets! Simple yet very tasty and very festive!

A massive thank you to all who came and enjoyed the market, the market traders and once again, all you wonderful volunteers who came and helped in the minus degree weather.

Community choir

We had another great outing this Winter at our Christmas Market, we came and sang numerous festive numbers to get everyone into the spirit of things. We have grown in numbers again over this last term, which is great! We would love to see even more people join us, we are offering a free choir for our community to bring us together, so please come along! We meet term time, Wednesday evenings, between 8pm and 9pm in Wickham Market Village Hall.

A much smaller group of us went to sing a few songs at Wickham House for some of the residents there, which was nice to have the opportunity to do, so thank you to the hard-working staff there.

We have recently received some funding for our choir through Sally Noble, our District Councillor. Thank you so much for investing in our choir. It has been interesting listening to some of the members who by coming to the choir, have impacted their lives in a super positive way.

Village Hall

You will have seen on the agenda that we have worked our way up to a proposal for a way forward on the village hall. Thanking John Horsnell for his time on this, working for months on bringing all the data and

facts together, with the help of David, who has also been busy preparing documents for the full council meeting for us all. ESC help from Sam Kenward and Sally Noble has been great.

Newsletter

Thank you to our clerk, Al, for bringing the Newsletter together bi monthly, it is a great way of communicating with everyone and we have had many reports that the residents of Wickham and surrounding villages really enjoy receiving it. Please do let us know if you have any interesting items that you would like to be published by contacting clerk@wickhammarketpc.com

Adverse weather

We seem to have been quite unlucky of late with weather around here, let's hope that we can see the back of that spell and move into a calmer climate.

We are lucky that we have Pauline who has started a working group to form an emergency plan for our village, following on from the previous flooding episode. David has also been making enquiries behind the scenes to try and get investigations carried out by relevant agencies.

What has been really warming is that the group we started when the floods occurred, still talk away to each other, and make suggestions on ways to flood proof their homes.

Thank you.