

Twyford News

Twyford Parish News

Issue 6 / Summer 2025

Our Chairman's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of the Twyford Parish Council newsletter.

As schools break up after a busy academic year and families head off on their holidays, those of us staying at home this month can enjoy the hopefully continued fine weather in our special village.

This issue of the newsletter includes some interesting history sections as well as important updates from the traffic focus group and a report on our upcoming defibrillator awareness training.

We have also included details of the recently imposed Southern Water 'temporary use ban', which stops us using a hosepipe for non-essential activities to maintain water supplies. I note that 6 months ago the Parish Council were receiving daily updates on the level of the ground waters, as it was close to historic flooding levels.

No doubt the Lock and Meadows will continue to be busy, as well as Hunter Park. These areas are meant to be enjoyed by everyone, so please report any anti-social behaviour.

The Police's capacity is limited and your reports – whether online or by phone – help them build a clearer picture of what's happening.

Thank you for continuing to support the work of the Parish Council – and I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Parish Council meetings are held monthly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Gilbert Room in the Parish Hall.

Please check our website or TIS for the latest information in case of changes at short notice.

The next full Parish Council meeting dates are:

18th September

23rd October

For information on local planning applications or other useful links, please visit our website:

twyfordhants.org.uk





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A Hosepipe Ban is in place from 21st July

Hosepipe restrictions are in place across Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight from 9am on Monday 21st July.

A hosepipe ban stops customers using a hosepipe for non-essential activities, including:

- watering gardens
- filling paddling pools, hot tubs or swimming pools
- washing cars, patios, or windows.



Dates for your Diary

16 th Aug	Parish Council Surgery	Parish Hall, 10:30 - 12:30
1 st Sept	Defibrillator Training	Community Centre, 7pm - 8:30pm
7 th Sept	Waterworks Open Day	Waterworks, 11am - 4pm
20 th Sept	Parish Council Surgery	Parish Hall, 10:30 - 12:30
20 th Sep	Movie Night - Paddington	Ballard Close, Gates open 6pm. Film 7pm
5 th Oct	Waterworks Open Day	Waterworks, 11am - 4pm
18 th Oct	Parish Council Surgery	Parish Hall, 10:30 - 12:30
3 rd Nov	St Mary's PTA fireworks	Hunter Park

Defibrillator Awareness Training

A Defibrillator Awareness Training session will be held on Monday 1st September 7.00pm – 8.30pm at Twyford Community Centre.

The training session will include how to use a defibrillator and participants will have the opportunity to carry out CPR on a "Rescue Annie".

We have spaces for a maximum of 20 residents and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To reserve a place please contact Sue Nias at admin@twyfordhants.org.uk.



Parish Council Traffic Focus Group

The Twyford Parish Council traffic focus group recently conducted a survey of public opinion regarding the installation of on-road painted pavements from Norris Bridge to Queen Street junction.

We were pleased to receive 344 responses. The key results were:

- **92% of the responders thought that this section of road was dangerous**
- **86% felt that on road painted pavements would improve pedestrian safety.**
- **78% felt they would be more likely to walk on this route if there was allocated pedestrian space.**

We also received many helpful comments with numerous requests for 20 mph speed limits and also better lighting across the bridge.

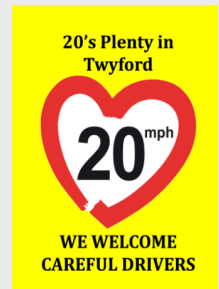
The Parish Council have been trying to improve this stretch of road for over 15 years but as there have been no serious accidents recorded, Hampshire Highways have not agreed to any previous suggestions.

However there has been a recent change in policy regarding 20 mph speed limits. The Parish Council can make an application for 20 mph zones under strict criteria but this has to be fully funded by the village rather than Hampshire Highways

We will be looking into this more over the coming months.

Thank you for your responses to the survey. If anyone would like to get involved with improving traffic problems within Twyford, please get in touch. We would welcome you onto our traffic committee or SpeedWatch group.

Email: ingrid.percival.cllr@twyfordhants.org.uk





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Twyford Waterworks Open Days in 2025



Each First Sunday May to October from 11am to 4pm. Last Admissions: 3pm

Admission Price: £8 (Adult with Gift Aid), £7 (Adult without Gift Aid), £7 (Concession with Gift Aid), £6 (Concession without Gift Aid), Under 16's free.
Buy your tickets when you arrive!

Next open dates: Sunday 7th September, Sunday 5th October

Please come and enjoy our majestic steam pumping engine and boiler in steam, the large diesel pumping engines running, lots of smaller engines and pumps in operation. Learn about the Lime Kilns and water softening process and see the water-powered engines working. Visit the Wildlife Trail, with its pond and hide.

Our tea room serves a variety of refreshments alongside our BBQ.



Why is Twyford Waterworks an enjoyable place to visit?

Notes from a long term volunteer of the waterworks, George Feldwick (12³/₄)

There are multiple reasons for people of all ages to visit Twyford Waterworks.

The main building is where there is the engine house, boiler house, discovery zone and tea room. The tea room is where people (both visitors and volunteers) can go for refreshments and food. The engine house, as the name implies is where the Hathon Davey engine is kept and is what is considered as the halfway point round the main building. The boiler house is one of the noisiest places on the site but in a good way as when the boilers are running it can get loud.



The discovery zone is what I think as one of the best places in the entire site, the discovery zone has games for young children that change or rotate every open day and also there is a screen that shows ten minute rotational videos that show the history of Twyford Waterworks, the nearby closed waterworks and the former chalk mine.

Also, there is a nature trail, lime kilns and the small railway. The lime kilns are where the water is removed from the chalk and the limestone.

The railway is another of my favourite parts of the site and if you go up at the right time you can see the locomotives in action.

The nature trail is a major part of the waterworks as it is one of if not the most popular sections of the waterworks. Around the nature trail there is the hide which is the place where you can spot different species of birds and insects which include dragonflies and sparrows. The pond is another place on the nature trail that is highly regarded, in it you can either watch the pond or as an activity for younger people there is pond dipping which involves finding different insects in the pond and putting them in a tray filled with water.

Finally, every open day exhibitors come to the waterworks to show off their vehicles, models and machines.



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Where were the fords of Twyford? - Part I

Twyford is named for its two fords or (as some would say) for a double ford i.e. crossing two branches of the river. It is also called "Lunford" on one of the ancient maps which means a busy and much used ford.



The only ford left in operation ... and it is in danger of being lost ... is adjacent to Norris Bridge. It is tiny remnant of what was a much wider ford including all of Norris Bridge and the area below it. You can tell because the floor of the river below the bridge is full of gravel, bricks and tiles while upstream, the river has a soft bottom.

The approaches to the ford were much wider too when Norris Bridge had superseded the ford and the land was no longer needed for the highway, two rows of 4 cottages each were built on the land. One of the rows survives but as one cottage not four. The line of the

road on the north side of the Shawford has not changed in 500 years. It is the south side which was narrowed early in the 1800's times from a trumpet shape to what it is now.

But this ford is not either of the fords of Twyford; it is "Shawford" ... "the shallow ford". There is no doubt that it is an ancient ford but South Twyford with its heart in Queen Street was only laid out in the 12th century. Twyford, grouped around the Church, was already 600 years old by then. When South Twyford was built, the original Twyford was called North Twyford.

Next time: Where were the fords of Twyford?



What is a 'Lengthsman'?

The name 'lengthsman' dates to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy.

The Parish Lengthsman scheme in Hampshire has been in place since 2010. It enables Parish Councils to undertake a range of permitted duties in support of local responsiveness, and the improvement of the environment on a local basis.

The scheme adds value to the wider Highways Maintenance activities undertaken by the County Council on a countywide basis.

Lengthsmen are empowered to resolve issues which may be seen as relatively low priority in the context of the wider Highways Maintenance programme, but which improve the environment and conditions on a local basis. Work typically carried out in the village can cover cleaning of road signs, maintaining drainage ditches and channels, cutting back vegetation overhanging pavements or roads, removing soil or detritus from the pavement, grass strimming and clearing pavements of weeds.

Please note that hedges between private property and the highway are the responsibility of the owner of the property to maintain.



The scheme is part funded by Hampshire County Council and part by the Parish Council. They visit the village four times a year and carry out a range of small maintenance jobs alongside the highway. The last visit was in July for two days and they will return in November.

Please contact Assistant Parish Clerk admin@twyfordhants.org.uk if you spot any work may be appropriate for the Lengthsman's Work Schedule.

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Twyford School

Started by the Revd. Liscombe Stretch, vicar of Twyford, in about 1790, Twyford School moved to its present site from the vicarage in 1809. The roughly 35 boarders - all boys up to the age of 13 - had their lessons, their meals and slept in one building which, over the years was gradually extended to include further dormitories, more classrooms and, in 1819, the hall known as Upper School, which is still used to this day.



In 1833, the School was sold to a member of staff, the Revd. Robert Wickham, whose family continued to run it until ownership was transferred to a charitable trust in 1956. Five members of the family served as headmaster. Developments took place through the 19th and early 20th centuries, including the building of the beautiful chapel in 1869.

In 1985, a Pre-Prep department was opened with two classes of boys and girls. The girls in these classes were first to enter the School on a regular basis. The opening of the Pre-Prep marked a moment of fundamental change: from being a school for boys aged 8 - 13, Twyford progressively became a co-educational school for children aged 2 - 13.

Gradually, new classrooms, sports facilities and specialist teaching rooms (most recently a cookery school) have been created. In 2007, the construction of a new classroom complex, uncovered a Saxon burial ground. 'Saxon Court' was formally opened in February 2009 by Professor Freeman Dyson, an Old twyfordian and one of the world's most eminent mathematical physicists.

One of the most important developments in recent years has been the move of boarding to a former nursing home in Bourne Lane. 'Orchard Close' was completely refurbished and opened as a state-of-the-art boarding facility in 2022 to provide accommodation for up to 84 boarders.

Twyford School now has over 400 boys and girls from nursery to Year 8, a far cry from the very small number of boys who started in the vicarage some 235 years ago.



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The Phoenix Inn, High Street, Twyford

The Phoenix Inn is a historic 17th century coaching Inn which has a long history (Next time: more about Twyford's old pubs).

It has been a family run pub since 1981 with Reg and Anne Mundy as landlord and landlady and their son Paul as chef.



In 1984, Reg and Anne retired and Paul then became landlord. Sadly, in November 2019, Paul died suddenly. Emma, Paul's life partner and business partner has been the landlady of The Phoenix Inn since January 2020 working with her youngest son Tom.

It's good news for Twyford village that The Phoenix Inn has continued to be run as a welcoming and friendly family run pub, as it has been for the past 4 decades.



1878

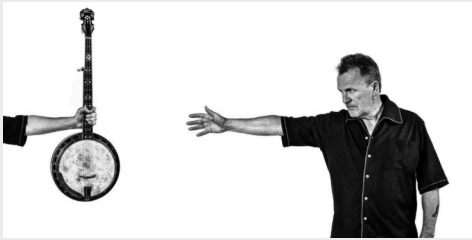


2025

Concerts @ St Mary's Church

Keep your eyes open for news about the next season of concerts at St Mary's Church.

Martin Simpson will be playing on Saturday 18th October. The Guardian described him as "One of the virtuoso instrumentalists of the English music scene... sounds better than ever" ****





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My Home Made Better

Get free, impartial home energy advice from a local charity.

A new Hampshire-wide home energy project is providing free, independent advice on how your home can be made more energy efficient and low carbon.



My Home Made Better will offer free and impartial advice relating to home energy, from insulation and heating right through to switching to new technologies, helping householders to:

- Save money - reduce energy bills
- Feel more comfortable – a well-insulated home stays warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
- Do your bit for the planet – lower your carbon footprint

The project is supported by Hampshire County Council and is not connected to installers or any commercial organisations.

With many residents wanting to make their homes warmer and cheaper to run, but not sure where to start, My Home Made Better will help householders understand which options might be best for their unique circumstances. Experienced energy advisers will be on hand to dispel myths and simplify complex information.

Alongside a dedicated project website, My Home Made Better will provide one-to-one advice, case studies, videos, online resources, open homes, events and webinars, all designed to help householders make more informed decisions about their properties.

To find out more and to book a free advice call visit myhomemadebetter.org

The My Home Made Better project is run by a partnership of four local charities - Winchester District is covered by Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) who also have lots of useful information about home energy at www.winacc.org.uk



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Twyford Valley Conservation Open Afternoon

We're delighted to invite you to a Twyford Valley Conservation Open Afternoon - an opportunity to come together, take a walk through our meadow, and hear about the exciting conservation work we've been developing right here in Twyford. It's in Churchfields Middle Meadow (access details to follow), on Sunday 21st September from 2pm to 4pm

Over the past couple of years, we've been working closely with the South Downs National Park Authority to put together a long-term conservation plan for the meadow - one that supports biodiversity, protects local habitats, and enhances the natural beauty of this special corner of our village on the River Itchen.



Whether you're a shareholder in Twyford Valley Conservation, or Twyford resident, or simply someone who loves nature, we'd love for you to come along. We'll be sharing the vision we've been crafting, walking you through the actions we've already taken, and listening to your thoughts about what the future should look like.

This open afternoon is a chance to:

- Hear an update on our conservation plan and goals
- Learn how we're working to enhance local wildlife habitats
- Connect with others who care about the meadow and its future
- Ask questions and share your ideas
- Enjoy a relaxed stroll through the meadow

The event is suitable for all ages. Whether you pop in for ten minutes or stay for the full 2 hours, we'd be thrilled to see you there. Together, we're helping protect something truly valuable — and it starts with community.

Warm regards, The Twyford Valley Conservation Team - Aidan, Steve, Robert, Andrew, & Ellie

Please RSVP details to twyfordvalleycic@gmail.com



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Have Your Say!

All members of the Parish Council are keen to improve the infrastructure, services and facilities of our area. We all have ideas of our own which we are working through but we're keen to hear your views too. Please email the Parish Clerk with any ideas that you have and keep the conversation going by keeping in touch with your elected Council members and attending our regular drop-in sessions.

Getting in Touch

The Parish Council has a service called **Twyford Information System (TIS)** which provides information directly to your email inbox about social events, local charitable fundraising, road closures, local public notices, parish council news and meetings. Sign up today at www.twyfordhants.org.uk/intouch

The Parish Council has the **TPC Website** that contains extensive information including meeting agendas and minutes for the Full Council, Finance, Recreation and Planning committees. Plus lots of other content. Logon today at www.twyfordhants.org.uk

You can also keep up to date with news and meetings from the Parish Council by following the **TPC Facebook** page. Access this at www.facebook.com/twyfordhants.org.uk

Your Parish Council

Chairman: Chris Mitchell chris.mitchell.cllr@twyfordhants.org.uk

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