

Twyford News

Twyford Parish News

Issue 7 / Winter 2026

Our Chairman's Message

This is the first Parish Council newsletter since the passing of Waine Lawton. It is both a privilege and an honour to have known Waine for many years and to have worked alongside him on the Parish Council. Waine served as Chairman from 2011 to 2022, and it is important that we take a moment to recognise and reflect on the significant contribution he made to our village.

During his time as Chairman, Waine worked tirelessly to professionalise the Council, enabling us to deliver major projects such as, the acquisition of Berry Meadow, the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and the improvements at Hunter Park and Northfields. He ensured that the Parish Council's finances remained in a strong and positive position and that we avoided the risks of overreach.

On a personal note, I will greatly miss Waine's mentorship, good humour, calm nature, and enduring patience, first demonstrated to me when he bravely attempted to teach me maths at Twyford Prep School in the 1980s!

This newsletter includes features about the Flood Mitigation Scheme, Climate Change, 20's Plenty, Bees and the next instalment about Twyford's fords. It also includes a plea for more people to become a parish councillor and help ease the load on current councillors.

Chris Mitchell TPC Chair

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:

19th February 2026

19th March 2026

For more information on local planning applications or other useful links, please visit our website: twyfordhants.org.uk





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Parish Councillors

Parish councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

There are currently 3 vacancies for parish councillors, and the Council is able to co-opt people onto these positions.

Would you like to:

- Be more involved in the community?
- Enhance your CV?
- Gain new skills?
- Learn about local government?
- Influence village decisions?
- Can you spare a few hours a month?

Join the parish council to:

- Represent your community
- Influence decisions about our village
- Be part of the democratic process
- Make a difference

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must live or work in the parish council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you can make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives.

A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, making decisions, and talking to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.

Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered, and what policies should be implemented by attending meetings and committees.

To find out more on how you can volunteer for your Community, contact the office on 01962 712361 or e-mail clerk@twyfordhants.org.uk





Flood Mitigation Scheme

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that work on the Flood Mitigation Scheme along Hazeley Road will begin in January 2026.

The scheme is designed to manage groundwater flows from the Winterbourne and prevent a repeat of the serious flooding experienced in 2000 and 2014. Planning for this project has taken almost 8 years.

Initial works will involve removing some hedges and trees to allow excavation of the ditch. An ecological survey confirmed no protected species such as dormice are affected. A new mixed-species hedge will be planted once works are complete, and any new tree planting will be agreed with Hampshire County Council once the construction work has been completed and a suitable space agreed.

Further details, including past flooding reports and scheme designs, are available on the Parish Council website at twyfordhants-pc.gov.uk/flood-mitigation-scheme.

What is involved?

The project will restore capacity to the Bourne during winter flows. A former ditch was piped in the 1960s when Hazeley Road was widened, but the pipe is too small and causes flooding.

The scheme will remove the pipe and reinstate a 90 metre ditch alongside the footway from Bourne Lane, widen part of the existing ditch, and install new headwalls. A culverted crossing will maintain access for Twyford School.

How much is this costing?

Construction and design costs are estimated at £87,000, fully funded by grants from Winchester City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

The Quantity Surveyor appointed by the Parish Council to review cost and design and provide an opinion was £4,385. This has been met from Parish Council resources. Earlier surveys and reports cost £21,800, with £10,000 funded by Hampshire County Council and the remainder provided by the Parish Council.

HOLD THE DATE - 7th March, Barn Dance, Twyford Parish Hall

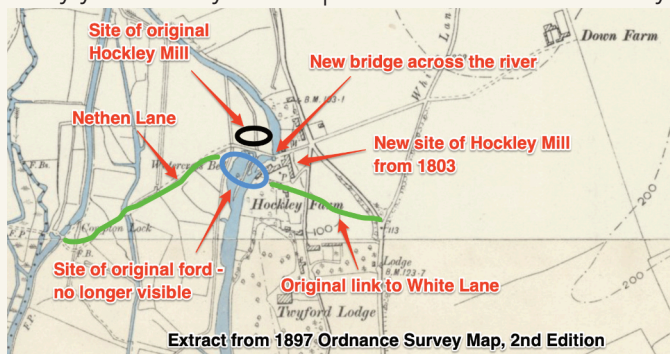
Mark your diaries for a Barn Dance Fundraiser for Winchester Hospice. Dust off your boots and join us for an evening of music, laughter, and good old-fashioned dancing. Whether you're a seasoned do-si-do-er or a complete beginner, our caller will guide you through every step. Food included and a well stocked bar available. Tickets on sale soon. For further information, please contact Fiona Hollands - fionahollands@hotmail.com

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Where were the fords of Twyford - Part 2

The two original fords that gave Twyford its name are at Hockley Mill and Berry Bridge. Neither is shown with a bridge on the first Ordnance Survey map of 1810.

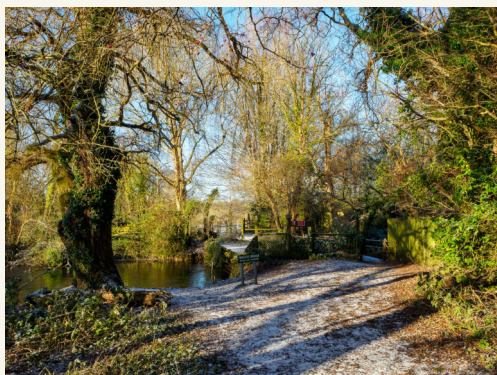
Hockley Mill has changed greatly since it was last used as a ford around 1800. The old North Twyford mill, just north of the present path, was demolished and a new Hockley Mill was built 50 m to the south, partly on the former ford. Because the ford was still in use, a causeway bridge was built, forming a dam and pond in the former riverbed. The river's flow was diverted into the broad mill leat seen today you see as you walk past the mill to the fields beyond.



The hard surfaced track across the fields, Nethen Lane (meaning low-lying lane), leads to Compton and the Navigation, in use from 1710. The original ford lay about 50 m downstream and linked Church Lane across the garden of Hockley House to White Lane.

The Berry Lane ford has changed less. It remains in its original position but was once much wider. The present sleeper bridge covers only part of it, while stones and hardcore in the riverbed show the original width. Similar strengthening can be seen at Hockley. At Berry Bridge, the banks have been raised with builders' rubble; older photos show a gentler slope where cattle once drank at the river's edge. Berry Lane connects to other routes, with tracks across the river leading by causeways to Compton and Shawford.

Next time : Where and what was Twyford?



20's Plenty in
Twyford



WE WELCOME
CAREFUL DRIVERS

20's Plenty in Twyford

Have you noticed the new signs around Twyford encouraging drivers to slow to 20 mph? Just as smoking in pubs now seems unthinkable, we may one day question why higher speeds were tolerated in urban areas.

Evidence from Wales shows that lower speed limits are linked to improved safety, with around 100 fewer people killed or seriously injured in 20 mph and 30 mph zones in 2024. A 2022 study also found a 3% reduction in collisions and a 16% drop in casualties in the first year, despite

concerns about congestion and fuel use.

We urge people in Twyford to drive at 20 mph to help create safer, more pleasant streets for walking and cycling.

Volunteering - Your Village Needs You

Many Twyford residents work enthusiastically as volunteers to promote community connection. My experience of volunteering with others who plan and provide for the Twyford lunch club, monthly on each first Monday is rewarding, committing to just 3 hours of my time regularly.

Lunches are held in the community

centre and started in the autumn of 2024 with approx. 25 people attending monthly for good company, laughter, food and drink - a positive experience of neighbourly community connection. Can you offer a few hours once a month to help? It would be so appreciated.

Contact
twyfordcommunitycentre@gmail.com



Thursday Afternoon Films are shown in Twyford Community Centre on the first and third Thursday afternoons of every month. Doors open at 1.30 and the films start at 2.00. There is a hugely popular tea/coffee break at 3.00 for which £5 is charged. Broadly speaking the films are 'feel good', not more than two hours long and tend towards a happy ending.

To sign up to the mailing list, email - twyordsocialflicks@gmail.com - for a weekly update and general information.



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Your Energy, Your Landscape

A group of Twyford and Colden Common residents keenly interested in local climate action are delighted to be hosting a Future Energy Landscapes Workshop with Energise South Down to explore.....

“How might Twyford and Colden Common power its community using locally generated renewable energy?”

Energise South Downs, funded by the South Downs National Park, is running interactive workshops to explore how renewable energy can meet local needs.

Using data and research, the sessions help communities understand local energy use, emissions, and realistic renewable options, while considering landscape impacts. Residents of Twyford and Colden Common are

invited to join the free Energy Landscapes workshop.

Refreshments will be provided and door to door transport available on request!

**Tuesday 10th February, 7pm at
Colden Common Community Centre,
Saint Vigor Way, Colden Common
SO21 1 UU**

Please sign up for free via this QR code or via this website: <https://tinyurl.com/4hfxk3rs>



or for more information contact Liam Bailey-Morgan:

Bees The dark winter months of January and February are a good time to plan summer vegetable and flower gardens. Vegetables rely on pollinators such as bees, while flowers help support them. Although there are over 270 wild pollinators, honey bees are the most prolific.



Pollinators are declining due to pesticides, climate change and other factors, but we can help by growing pollinator-friendly plants. Many wild plants attract bees, but especially Scabious, Lavender, Borage, Verbena, Marigold and Cornflower. In winter, bees will forage on dry, sunny days, so consider planting snowdrops and other winter-flowering plants.

Together, we can help make Twyford a bee-friendly place. 🐝

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

TWYFORD CLIMATE SURVEY



We are a group of Twyford residents looking to revitalise climate action within our village. Whether that means supporting you in making changes at home, or organising community-led events, we're here for you.



We'd love to hear about your thoughts, what you're already doing, and how else we can make a difference. Please visit the link below or scan the QR code to complete our short survey.

bit.ly/twyfordclimatesurvey

Paper copies of the survey are also available from:
Twyford Village Stores
Twyford Surgery
Twyford Community Centre
The Phoenix Inn

We look forward to hearing from you,

Sue Cook	Liam Bailey-Morgan
Steve Pullen	Angela Forder-Stent
Lucy Roberts	Emi Roberts

If you're curious about what's happening in Twyford, or you'd like to talk about how you can get involved, you can get in touch with us here: admin@twyfordhants.org.uk



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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

Councillors: Richard Sellars (vice chair), Liam Bailey-Morgan, Chris Corcoran, Sue Cook, Angela Forder-Stent, Chris Hill, Jade Pain, Ingrid Percival, Steve Pullen

Parish Clerk

Jamie Matthews 01962 712361

clerk@twyfordhants.org.uk

Assistant Parish Clerk

Sue Nias 07881 036542

admin@twyfordhants.org.uk

Twyford Parish Council Postal Address

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