

Twyford News

Twyford Parish News

Issue 9 / Summer 2026

Our Chairman's Message

A very wet winter, followed by a very dry summer, has, I'm sure, been a challenge for some at times.

The Parish Council has quietly got on with its business over the last few months and has been pleased with the progress of several long-term projects. These include the Flood Mitigation Scheme along Hazeley Road, the installation of some level hardstanding and two new, kindly donated, memorial benches at the Lock, as well as a new bench in Queen Street.

We have also been pleased to see our partners complete some much-needed projects, including the rebuilding of the footpath from Shawford Road towards the Lock, the full resurfacing of Shawford Road, and the Cricket Club getting to use their excellent new nets this season.

Work continues on the planning application for the Parish Hall car park, and there will be further updates on this soon. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer!

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:

17th September 2026

22nd October 2026

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

The Bench

The recent arrival of a bench at the junction of Queen Street and Segars Lane has been warmly welcomed by residents. We all aim to walk each day and visit the Post Office and Surgery, but as the years pass, walks that were once a ten-minute stroll can become a twenty-minute struggle. The bench provides a welcome place to rest after walking from Segars Lane, Drove Close or Manor Road. The junction is also a popular meeting point for lift sharing, and we have noticed people of all ages using the bench while waiting, chatting and resting.



It would be wonderful if the Parish Council could provide a few more benches around the village, supporting older walkers while also creating social spaces for younger residents. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for providing the bench on Queen Street.



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Itchen Navigation

As I am writing this we only have one day left on the Itchen Navigation project, after 8 weeks of hard work the end is just round the corner!

Many of you may have seen the works we have been carrying out along the Itchen Navigation footpath Twyford 4. To summarise, we have completed 75 metres of hard revetment in the heavily eroded areas. We have then put pre-seeded coir rolls and faggots in front as a conservation effort to generate a natural bank. We then created a more even surface on the path by covering the dips and tree roots with chalk and path gravel. All



our posts and boards were natural and locally sourced: we used chestnut posts and oak boards to place in the Itchen navigation SSSI.

We couldn't have completed this amount of work without our incredible volunteers who have contributed 496 hours in total! It has not been easy in the heatwave and there has been a lot of wheel barrowing heavy materials back and forth almost as far as Compton lock! But with views of the Itchen navigation and all the surrounding nature, not to mention tea, coffee and biscuits everyone enjoyed themselves and we have had

some lovely feedback from members of the public and the community.

I hope we have made this a safer and more accessible footpath as well as doing our bit for nature by restoring the river banks, it will be interesting to come back and see how the banks develop over the changing seasons.

Written by: Amber Homersham ~ Assistant Access Ranger for the Rights of Way team within Hampshire County Council



Flags flying from the Church Tower

Many may have wondered why a flag sometimes flies from the Church Tower. The government publishes a list of days when the Union flag may be flown. While this is not compulsory for churches, Twyford's steeple keeper, Pete Wild, raises the flag on some significant occasions. The St George's flag, with the diocesan shield in the corner, is flown for religious festivals.

Reaching the top of the tower is hazardous and challenging. The journey involves a spiral staircase, several ladders, a crawl through the confined space above the ringing chamber, and finally climbing through the bells and over their huge supporting beams to reach the final ladder to the top.

The Union flag usually marks a significant date in the King's diary, such as his birthday, official birthday or accession anniversary, and especially Remembrance Day.

Pete is our stalwart steeple keeper, servicing the bells and raising the flags when he can - he is allowed a holiday too! So, when you see the Union or diocesan flag flying, it marks an important national, royal or religious occasion.

What's (not) growing?

It's been a hot dry summer - a real challenge for our gardens. Having visited a few gardens open to the public and talking to the experienced gardeners working during the Spring / Summer months, I've learnt which plants will cope with dry conditions and that the seasons are 4-6 weeks ahead as plants have emerged from their winter rest.



Mediterranean plants such as, Lavender, Thyme, Rosemary and Agapanthus will thrive in the sun and warmth as well as Roses. Lupins provide height and colour although slugs are fond of them! Phlox and



Penstemons are popular but need regular watering to maintain summer flowering but Achillea and Sedums, upright perennials, offer many vibrant colours in borders throughout the summer.

These plants, I'm told, are drought tolerant and also provide nourishment for bees, butterflies and many other pollinating insects. Thinking ahead to next summer, I'm going to follow this advice and look forward to less stressed plants, less watering, more colour and time to sit and enjoy my garden. *Happy gardening from a Twyford resident.*



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Twyford Through an Italian's Eyes

From beneath the centuries-old yew tree, I admired the beauty of St Mary's Church in Twyford, Hampshire, with views of golden and green fields stretching beyond it. The local knapped-flint walls spoke of an ancient craft and gave the church a wonderful sense of age. Above me, the imposing steeple was surrounded by noisy jackdaws. They seemed almost like guardians of the church, calling out from their territory and making it clear that I was only a visitor.

I stepped inside and immediately felt a great sense of calm. I sat down for a while and simply enjoyed the silence. The old oak pews, the stained-glass windows and the fine organ all seemed to belong naturally to the peaceful atmosphere of the church. Looking at the organ and its intricate workings, I could almost imagine the sound of a majestic hymn filling the building.

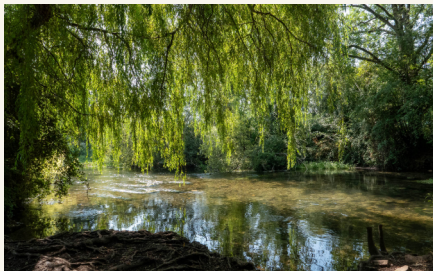


Before leaving, I noticed a small box asking for donations towards the cutting of the churchyard grass. It was such a simple detail, but it caught my attention.

Coming from Italy, I found something rather charming about the idea that the upkeep of this ancient churchyard could depend, in part, on small contributions from the people who cared about it.



I wandered among the gravestones, many of them softened and weathered by time. Some of the inscriptions were still clear, while others had almost disappeared. I stopped to read a few of the epitaphs. One of them carried the words "Measure twice, cut once." I wondered whether this had something to do with the former occupation of the person buried there.



Then I walked towards the River Itchen, whose clear water flowed gently through the countryside. There, I noticed a rope swing hanging from a tree. It seemed to be there for anyone brave enough to swing from one bank of the river towards the other. I would have loved to try it, but I did not dare. As I watched the Itchen flowing quietly past, I thought of Tennyson's famous words: "For men may come and men may go, but I go on for ever." There was

something very fitting about them in that peaceful setting.



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On my way back through the village, I came across a quaint little village shop. To my great delight, I spotted a wicker basket in a corner containing duck eggs. I bought two. As I walked away, I was already savouring the thought of the scrambled eggs they would make.

Perhaps this, too, is part of the charm of an English village: one can begin the day admiring a centuries-old church and end it carrying two duck eggs home for breakfast.
by Monica Ferrara

Water Voles in the Navigation

After many years of seemingly terminal decline the well-loved Water Vole is making a dramatic comeback along the Itchen Navigation.

Local land owners and river keepers have been working for many years to try and control the number of mink, who can decimate whole communities of Water Voles in one visit. Luckily small populations have sought refuge in the water meadows around Winchester and this year has seen welcome return in noticeable numbers.



South of the M3 a local charity, the Itchen Navigation Preservation Trust, has been working with land owners and the Environment Agency to allow large trees that have fallen in the river, to stay in the river.

These provide a valuable habitat for many species both in and around the river. There have been many birds nesting in and around them, trout and salmon spawning in the gravels downstream, small fish hiding from predators and large amounts of watercress growing as the flows dropped.

This expanse of weed, tangled branches and relative isolation behind a fence has proved to be the ideal habitat for these once common residents of the river. Crucially the lack of disturbance by people and dogs allows lucky walkers to see whole families of voles feeding during the quieter times of the day.

Monday Café in the Community Centre



Every Monday morning from 8:45 until 11:45, there is a café in the TCC with coffee (or tea) and delicious cakes served by Wesley and his willing helpers. It's an ideal opportunity to meet other Twyford residents for a chat or even change your 'working from home' location for a couple of hours. Why not give it a try and support this community facility?



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Future Events at the Twyford Community Centre

1st September, Tea on Tuesdays restarts 2pm - 4pm weekly
4th September, Singing Group restarts 10am - 11.30pm weekly
7th September, Lunch Club restarts 12.30 - 2pm (first Monday of the month)
10th September, Evening Films restart 7pm (2nd and 4th Thursday of the month)
18th September, Macmillan Coffee and Cake afternoon 2pm - 5pm
21st September, Evening Talk by Dr Alastair Eales Southampton Art Gallery .
7pm
24th September, French Conversation restarts 10.30am - 12.30pm
24th September, 'How to Change the World' film, 7.30pm
2nd October, Afternoon Films restart 2pm (1st and 3rd Friday of the month)
19th October, Evening Talk by Brian Matthews & Ian Fraser on "Occupied British Soil"
14th November, Folk Night with the Itchen Folk Band bar open at 6pm music from 8pm
21st November, our Quiz Night is back 6.30pm for 7.30pm start (tickets available from end of Sept)
28th November, Table Top Sale (tables must be prebooked, booking from end of Sept)
5th December, Chapter & Verse presents "Senior Moments" 3.30pm for 4pm start
Art4All, Wednesdays 10.30am - 12.30pm and Friday Evening Fun & Games 6.30 - 10pm
Posters for all specific events will be posted nearer their dates and you can keep up to date via our website www.twyfordhantscc.org

Climate Survey Results & Next Steps

Our climate survey is now closed, with just under 100 responses from residents and households. A huge thank you to everyone who took part!

Your biggest concerns were biodiversity loss, floods and storms, and the impact of climate change on future generations. Responses showed strong interest in practical ways to take action. Look out for climate and sustainability events and projects around the village, including **How to Change the World** on 24th September, where we'll discuss the results and ideas for local action.

Anonymous responses will soon be published on the parish council website.



Save the date: How to Change the World (... one village at a time)

A screening of the People's Emergency Briefing and community discussion exploring how to take action now.

When: Thursday 24th September 2026, doors open 7.30pm, film 8pm

Where: Twyford Community Centre

This summer, wildfires have swept the New Forest, England has had its driest July since records began in 1836, and our chalk streams are under growing strain. Across the country, the drought has hit our food supply; crops are failing and farmers are warning of shortages ahead. The climate and nature crisis isn't a distant worry anymore, it's on our doorstep. It's easy to feel powerless in the face of something so big, but there's real hope, and real power, in what we can do together.

A group of local residents is hosting an evening of film and conversation, as part of Winchester Green Week and is open to everyone from Twyford and the surrounding area. You don't need any prior knowledge or expertise, just an interest in your community and its future.

The evening opens with a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing, the acclaimed film that brings together ten of the UK's leading experts to set out the risks we face and the solutions within reach. Presented by Chris Packham, the film features commentary from well-known UK personalities like Jennifer Saunders, Deborah Meaden and Adam Buxton. It's based on footage from the briefing given to over 1,200 MPs and leaders at Westminster, now being shown in communities across the country.

Then it's over to us. You'll have the chance to share how the film leaves you feeling, hear from a panel on local action, and join the conversation about what our community could start planning together. Come to react, share your ideas, and be part of what happens next.

Bar available. Spaces are limited- please register now for free tickets: scan the QR below for the registration page or use this link <https://luma.com/3vqqv02l>





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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

The Pavilion, Hunter Park, Park Lane, Twyford, Hampshire, SO21 1QS