

### Rookwood Lawn Tennis Club

**The weather's warming up, the daffodils are in full bloom, Spring is definitely here and you may have noticed increased activity on the courts in Rookwood Road.**

In fairness the courts have been fully used over the winter months and it's only been rain and frost that has kept members away. The original courts were built 9 years ago and then, due to increased demand, two additional courts were added 18 months ago. None of this would have happened without the vision and foresight of the Parish Council or the Woodger Trust who funded the building of the courts. The members of the club are extremely grateful to both organisations as without them there would be no publicly available tennis on the Manhood peninsular. The courts are regularly used by members in both organised coached sessions and private play.



Members of the public are also able to use the courts for a small fee. Membership details can be obtained by contacting rookwoodtennis@gmail.com and public bookings are made through the Rookwood Lawn Tennis Club App which can be downloaded from your App provider. The Parish Council and the Woodger Trust should (we hope) be well pleased with the way in which the courts are used. It can perhaps be epitomised by a recent unsolicited comment from one of our members, ".... what was so fantastic is that of the four courts, while our group occupied two of them for two hours, during that time on the other courts we saw dads playing with their sons, teenagers having a hit, and a wheelchair singles. What a great community asset!" Indeed, what a great community asset and thank you West Wittering Parish Council and Woodger Trust. Rookwood Lawn Tennis Club.

### Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group Our Mission....

**To preserve the unique character of the Manhood Peninsula and inspire local people to care for its wildlife and heritage. To see a place where nature flourishes, history is celebrated, and people thrive.**

MWHG is a local charity which relies on grants, donations and bequests to operate. We are very grateful for the generous support we have received from The Woodger Trust which has funded much of our work in and around West Wittering. We would also like to thank WWPC for its recent grant. Much of our work involves wildlife habitat management which includes tree planting, vegetation removal and wildflower strip installation to improve biodiversity. This Winter alone, we have planted some 600 metres of hedging around the Parish. As we head to Summer we



survey and monitor species and habitats to improve our knowledge of how wildlife and vegetation are faring. This Summer we will be running Family Wildlife Discovery Days where children and their parents are invited to join in the free activities to learn more, at first hand, about local wildlife. This includes making bug hotels, hedgehog houses and looking at moths and bugs. The children love the hands-on experience. As well as days in Birdham, Sidlesham and Itchenor we will be holding a Discovery Day in the churchyard in West Wittering on Saturday 5 July. We operate through our network of wonderful volunteers, local people of all ages, who share a passion for their local environment. Whether your desire is to clear vegetation, plant trees or survey moths or plants we would love you to join us on our working days. They are great fun and there are always delicious cakes to keep you going! Please visit our website at [www.mwhg.org.uk](http://www.mwhg.org.uk) for more information on how to donate and join in with our essential work.

# West Wittering Parish Council

April Edition 2025

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - NOT TO BE MISSED -

## WEST WITTERING PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 9TH MAY 2025

MEMORIAL HALL, ELMS LANE, WEST WITTERING, PO20 8LW

TIME 7pm



**The Parish Council has secured our new MP Jess Brown-Fuller to come to speak to residents at our Annual Parish Assembly on 9th May.**

We are also inviting the charities to which we give grants and other local organisations to attend with

information of interest to residents. This is also the meeting required by law to be held to allow the residents to ask questions of the Parish Councillors. We hope many of our residents interested in village life will want to attend this meeting and we have booked the Memorial Hall again in Elms Lane with the use of both the main hall and the Jubilee room. Refreshments will be offered at the end of the meeting.

**Hope to see you there!**

### Sport in the village

**There are lots of opportunities to take part in sports in West Wittering.**

The Parish Council have over the years supported a number of clubs and societies including tennis, sailing, cricket and football. There is also an outdoor Gym at The Pavilion on Rookwood Road. Come along to the Annual Parsh Assembly to learn more about the sports clubs in the village.





## BRACKLESHAM AND THE WITTERINGS

## Meet your Community Warden

## DAWN WHITE



Hi, my name is Dawn White, I'm Chichester District Council's Community Warden for Bracklesham and the Witterings.



I act as a link between the community, the district council and other partners, including Sussex Police and housing providers. I can help with issues such as low-level anti-social behaviour, environmental issues and provide a reassuring presence to residents. I also provide support to vulnerable people in the community. I look forward to meeting you.

*I was the Community Warden for Tangmere and Oving for the last 16 years, so I have lots of experience. I moved to cover this area after the very sad loss of Drew Allardice. I know he was much loved by those who new him and is very much missed.*

*I have come from a very varied work background, including, working for the Citizens Advice Bureau as a voluntary advice worker, an Administration Officer in the prison service, a few different retail jobs, where I was a team leader/supervisor, a wages clerk, a baker and a door supervisor. Outside of work I have done a lot of community development work in the area where I live. I set up and ran a local Residents Association and was the events coordinator for a larger resident's group for many years. I am very cheerful by nature and like nothing more than to chat with people when they see me out and about, I'm from the Northeast of England and people often comment how friendly us Northerners are, so here is your chance to find out.*

**As your Community Warden I am a uniformed presence in your area and aim to:**

• **Be a friendly point of contact available to offer help and advice;**

*If I don't know the answer to your question - and sometimes I won't - or I can't solve your problem myself, don't worry, we can help you to find someone who can provide the advice and support you need.*

• **Make you feel safer by helping to reduce all kinds of crime and anti-social behaviour:**

*I will try to solve problems informally but, if that doesn't work, we will gather evidence and information, make statements to the Police and act as a professional witness. Although I don't have*

*powers of arrest or detention the I do helps to reduce crime and disorder.*

• **Look after and help to improve the local environment;**

*I will monitor things like graffiti, abandoned cars and fly tipping ensuring that they are dealt with swiftly by the appropriate people.*

• **Make a positive difference in your local community;**

*By working with the communities we work in, we can get to know the issues concerning local people and help to develop potential solutions in partnership with other organisations and the local community itself. We also work closely with local councils, schools, clubs, community organisations and local businesses We provide a link with the Police, District and County councils and registered social landlords.*

**You can contact me in several ways:**

Email: [dwhite@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:dwhite@chichester.gov.uk)

Mobile: **07825 681547** you can ring or text me but please note if you text me and I am off work you will not get my out of office notification. I will of course get back to you as soon as possible. I also have WhatsApp.

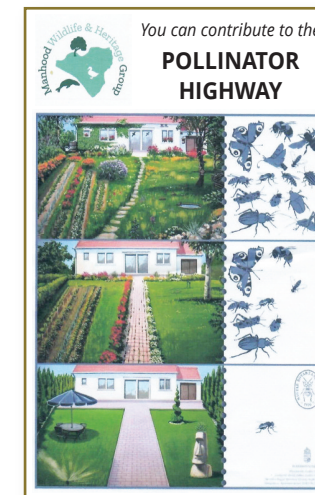
**Dawn White**

## WWPC - Pollinating our Parish!

**WWPC is supporting local landowners and wildlife group to manage the area in a more gentle and sympathetic way to support biodiversity and climate change mitigation.**

This Community Aspiration 12 is contained in the Village Neighbourhood Plan which was supported by 96% of residents that voted. Gardens are a large contributor to supporting insects and birds and everyone is being asked to do what they can to leave space for nature. There is a crisis with the huge loss of pollinators creating real problems for those growing food either farms or in our own gardens. Everyone has noticed the loss of bees and other insects which do the job of pollinating our crops and fruit trees. The decline in the number of Butterflies in 2024 is the worst on record. The Parish Council is managing its land so that some is left for insects, which in turn feed our birds and pollinate plants for us. Please think twice before getting out the spray and the strimmer. Your garden can become a haven for wildlife whilst creating a beautiful space. The MWHG pollinator highway diagram below shows what a difference everyone with a garden can make. The Neighbourhood Plan is also supporting biodiversity by requiring all new development to

provide a biodiversity net gain. This means that each applicant is asked to provide something to help such as a bird box or a new hedge with native plants or a new native tree. No Mow May is now well known but, as the situation is so serious perhaps try to leave it for longer than just May.



## More affordable rented housing for West Wittering



**Everyone will know that there are a further 70 dwellings being constructed at present on land off Church Road.**

One of the most

important benefits for a community is the provision of 35% of the dwellings being made affordable for local families. There are currently about 30 local West Wittering families looking for affordable rented housing in the village.

It came to the attention of the Parish Council in February that the provision of the affordable housing was at risk of not being made available. In particular the loss of those units which would remain low cost rent forever. The Parish Council has been working with the FG Woodger Trust and CDC to try and secure 10 of the dwellings to remain as low cost rented. Negotiations are ongoing and all parties hope to secure these much needed rented units for the village in the near future.

## East Head Coastal Advisory Group (EHCIAG) Established 1997

**This Group of experts now meet once a year in March to monitor the condition of the new bund that was constructed in 2022 on the hinge between West Wittering Estate and National Trust land.**

This was a new form of natural sea defence to replace the old wooden breastworks and gabions which are

no longer an acceptable form of sea defence to the Government Advisors, Natural England and the Environment Agency.

The Parish Council sits on the Advisory Group to represent the residents and is pleased to report that the bund is standing up well, despite the harsh environment. An added bonus is that a beautiful new beach has formed as a result of the removal of the hard defences. West Wittering Estate has agreed to remove more of the gabions around the bund area as they fail before they become a health and safety hazard.



The success of this form of Adaptive management to replace hard sea defences is being used as an example to other parts of the country and provides students with a working example of coastal geography now included in both O and A level curriculum resulting in many school parties visiting East Head each year for a great day out.

## Parish Council Support...

**Parish Council support charities and local organisations to help residents of West Wittering.**

Every year West Wittering Parish Council helps organisations to support residents of the village by providing grants using its power under S137(1) of the Local Government Act. This power allows a Parish Council to incur expenditure which benefits residents of West Wittering when there is no other power that the Parish Council can use. Application forms can be found on the WWPC website

[www.witteringparishcouncil.com](http://www.witteringparishcouncil.com)

## Allotments

**West Wittering Parish Council have provided allotments on their land in Ellanore Lane for many years.**

With over 90 allotments for local people to rent to grow vegetables, a tree nursery and a small orchard, it is a hive of activity and is ably managed by the West Wittering Allotment Association for which the Parish Council is very grateful. If anyone is interested in having an allotment then please contact the Clerk on [Clerk@westwitteringparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@westwitteringparishcouncil.gov.uk)