November 2026 **Issue 2**

NEWSLETTER

WITTERINGS COMMUNITY FORUM AND CARE SHOP

vitale care at home

Our sponsors for this edition

LAKEVIEW GRANGE
CINNAMON LUXURY CARE

A friendly first point of contact for local support, guidance and community connections

The **Witterings Care Shop** has now been open for more than a month, and it has been wonderful to welcome a steady stream of local people through our doors. Visitors have come to us for advice and support on a wide range of issues, and our friendly staff and volunteers have been pleased to listen, offer guidance and help people find the right information or service.

This is our second newsletter, and we hope it will become a useful way to share news, highlight local services and keep everyone up to date with what is happening in our community. We would be very grateful for your feedback on our first edition, including anything you particularly enjoyed and any suggestions that could help us improve future issues.

We would also love to hear from local groups, clubs and organisations. If you have a community activity, event, service or item of interest that you would like us to feature, please get in touch. By sharing information, we can help more people discover the support, opportunities and activities available locally.

As the days grow shorter and winter begins to draw in, please remember that you do not have to face the colder months alone. If you need guidance on keeping warm, managing rising costs or finding practical support, do come and see us. Our wonderful staff and volunteers are here to offer a warm welcome and help you find the advice you need.

HERE TO HELP
SUPPORT | GUIDANCE | COMMUNITY

We look forward to seeing you at the **Witterings Care Shop** and to hearing your ideas for future newsletters.

Care Shop News: Volunteers, New Services and Support

This month we have had regular volunteers returning to support the **Care Shop**, providing a friendly greeting to our service users. We have also welcomed new volunteers.

In November, we will start recruiting volunteers for our Robins service. We will be looking for volunteers who can complete a series of training sessions to support service users at the end of life. If you think this is something you might be interested in, please pop in and see us to find out more.

Our volunteers support us in so many ways and greatly enhance the services we can offer. If you would like to offer your time—an hour or so a month, a morning a week or more—please contact us or drop in and see us.

Our newsletter this month and for the following five months has been kindly sponsored by **Lakeview Grange Care Home** and **Vitale Care**.

Jackie Cridlin, the Lakeview Grange Home Admissions Advisor, was also kind enough to provide us with a very pleasant venue in which to meet while we were waiting for the opening of the Care Shop.

We continue to offer our grateful thanks for all the support given to us by **The F.G. Woodger Trust**, without whom none of this would be possible.

We need to start looking to the future and ask that, if you are able, you make a small donation to us. Suggested amounts are displayed on the desks in the Care Shop. We have gratefully received biscuits and cakes, along with some lovely flowers, but in order to continue offering further support, we would be very grateful if you would make a donation when you are happy with our support. Donations can be made in cash, by card (we have a card machine in the **Witterings Care Shop**), or direct to our bank:

Business Premium Account – Barclays
Account name: Witterings Care
Sort code: 20-79-31
Account no: 5026 4873

We will continue to build and offer new services. Our bereavement group starts this month, facilitated by Alison O'Connor on the last Thursday of the month – see below for details. Please give us a call if you could benefit from this group. We will also offer a carers' group in the next few months. Please drop in and register as a family carer if you would like to join.

It has been an absolute pleasure to meet so many of you and offer our support. We look forward to seeing you again and meeting new service users as we grow.

Witterings & District Care Shop
8 Shore Road, East Wittering, West Sussex PO20 8DZ **Tel:** 01243 962008
Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm
Email: mail@witteringscommunityforum.uk **Web:** https://witteringscommunityforum.uk

Together After Loss

You Don't Have to Face Grief Alone…

Losing someone we love can leave us feeling lost, isolated and unsure of where to turn. Grief is a very personal journey, and there is no right or wrong way to experience it. Sometimes, what we need most is simply a safe place to talk, listen and be around people who understand.

We are pleased to introduce **Together After Loss**, a new friendly and informal monthly gathering for anyone who has experienced bereavement.

Held at the **Witterings Care Shop** on Shore Road, the group will provide a warm and welcoming space where people can meet over a cup of tea, share memories and experiences, or simply spend time with others who understand what it is like to live with loss.

There is no pressure to talk and no expectation that you have to share your story. You are welcome to come along, have a cuppa and simply listen. Whether your loss was recent or many years ago, you will be made very welcome.

First gathering

Thursday 29th October at 11am, then the last Thursday of each month at 11am also.

Grief can sometimes make us feel that we are walking a very lonely road. By coming together, we hope to create a supportive community where friendships can grow, and nobody has to feel quite so alone.

Support and friendship — together, we can take one step at a time.

Community Spotlight

Tina Davis

A life dedicated to supporting others



Tina is one of the trustees of the Witterings Community Forum and a volunteer.

I am profoundly deaf and communicate using BSL, SSE and hands-on signing. After many years of visiting the Witterings in our motorhome with my husband, children and grandchildren, I knew this was where I wanted to retire. Six years ago, I made it my home.

Before retiring, I worked as a Deaf Community Services Officer in Surrey County Council's social work department, later joining Sensory Services at Sight for Surrey. Although I took early retirement, I remained with the team as a part-time Welfare Benefits Adviser, representing deaf and deafblind adults at tribunals.

Why I volunteer

Volunteering gives me the opportunity to use my experience and skills to support the local community. Giving my time feels meaningful, and I know that every contribution can make a difference.

A message for future volunteers

If you have hearing loss and are thinking about volunteering, take that first step. Hearing loss does not mean you have less to offer. Your experiences may give you a unique understanding, patience and compassion that can make a real difference to others.

There are many ways to volunteer. Choose an opportunity where communication works for you — and remember, your contribution matters.

Faith, Friendship and Community

Spotlight on Harbour Churches

Welcome to this update from the **Benefice of West Wittering with Birdham and Itchenor**, where our three coastal parishes continue to grow together in faith, friendship and service. Set within the beautiful landscape of Chichester Harbour and the Manhood Peninsula, our churches remain committed to offering a warm welcome and building strong connections across our villages.



St Nicholas, Itchenor | St Peter & St Paul, West Wittering | St James, Birdham

Supporting Young Families

Ducklings, our baby and toddler parent-and-carer group, continues to be a much-loved part of benefice life. As one of the first TRANSFORM projects, it meets weekly during term time and offers local families with preschool-age children a friendly place to connect, find support and feel at home.

Children and Youth

Our children and young people remain at the heart of all we do. *CONNECT, EXPLORE* and *Tower Groups* provide welcoming social and discussion spaces led by our youth workers. *CONNECT* takes place four times a month during term-time One Church Sunday services, while *EXPLORE* and *Tower Groups* meet outside school hours in local community spaces.

Growing in Faith Together

There are also many opportunities for people of all ages to learn, pray and grow in faith. These include the *Alpha Course*, Bible studies and our network of smaller groups, known as *Harbour Groups*, where faith is explored through friendship, conversation and shared life.

Looking Ahead

We are grateful for the two faith schools in our benefice and for the many people who help make our churches places of worship, learning, friendship and service. As we look ahead, the **Benefice of West Wittering with Birdham and Itchenor** continues to offer spaces where community can flourish and faith can grow. We warmly invite you to join in, get involved and be part of the life we share together.

Community Warden's Monthly Update



Hello, I'm Barry Faust, and I'm fortunate to be the local **Community Warden** for East and West Wittering, Earnley and Bracklesham, a role funded by Chichester District Council and the Parish Councils. It is a real honour and privilege to serve this community. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

This month, I would particularly like to highlight the law relating to e-scooters, as well as share news about our weekly coffee morning and provide a brief update on local issues.

E-Scooters: An Update on the Law

Since 29 June 2026, police officers have not been required to issue a warning before seizing a vehicle under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002.

The change was introduced by the Crime and Policing Act 2026 to help police intervene more quickly when vehicles are being used in an antisocial manner. It is particularly relevant to motorists and e-scooter users involved in alleged careless or inconsiderate driving, car meets, car cruising, street racing, off-road driving or other vehicle-related antisocial behaviour.



Motorists should also be aware of a further change. Since 22 July 2026, the period for which certain seized vehicles may be retained before disposal has been shortened.

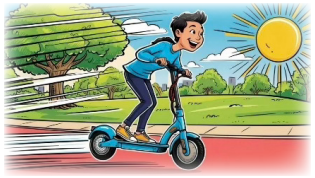
In some circumstances, a driver or rider could therefore face the immediate seizure of their vehicle and have much less time to take the necessary steps to recover it.

E-Scooters Are Motor Vehicles

Under the Road Traffic Act 1988, e-scooters are classified as motor vehicles. This means they are subject to the same legal requirements as other motor vehicles, including insurance and a valid driving licence. As powered transporters, they are treated as motor vehicles for the purposes of road traffic law.

It is illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter—or e-scooter—in a public place, including on pavements, roads and in parks.

If you do so, you could receive a fine and penalty points on your driving licence, and the scooter may be seized by the police.



A privately owned e-scooter may only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. If you are stopped while riding on private land without permission, the e-scooter can be seized without a warning.

A seized e-scooter may not be returned and is likely to be destroyed.

Police have seized more than 300 e-scooters and illegal e-bikes so far this year—please don't let yours be one of them.

Friday Coffee Morning

Don't forget our friendly weekly coffee morning at Bracklesham Barn, every Friday from 10am to 12 noon. Run by me and a team of volunteers, it offers tea, coffee, toast, jam and marmalade—including some homemade varieties—as well as locally sourced honey. At the end of each month, we also serve locally sourced free-range poached eggs. There are regular guest speakers and special events, including cream teas and a barbecue, as well as the possibility of trips out twice a year.

What's Happening Locally?

At present, I have no major issues to report. We do have e-scooters and e-bikes being ridden in the villages, which can be disruptive. This is not happening every day, and I hope the new legislation will lead to more illegal vehicles being confiscated, reducing both their use and the risks associated with them. If you see one being ridden, please call 999 and report it immediately as a potential crime in progress. Your call will be assessed, and the police will respond as appropriate.

My email address and contact details are provided at the end of this article if you need to get in touch.

Speak soon,

Barry Faust
Email: bfaust@chichester.gov.uk
Tel: 07825 681547
Local Community Warden for East and West Wittering, Earnley and Bracklesham.

East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council

East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council is based at Bracklesham Barn. As your local council, we're here to listen to residents, speak up for our community and help make the parish an even better place to live. Most of our funding comes from council tax paid by local residents, which we use to support local services and represent the community, particularly on planning matters.



We're really pleased with everything **EWBPC** has achieved recently. We've added solar panels to the roof of Bracklesham Barn, helping us make considerable savings on electricity bills. We're also giving the Barn its first refresh since 2011, making it a more welcoming space for all the groups and classes that meet there, as well as for celebrations such as retirement and birthday parties. Over in Stocks Lane, we've replaced the old, rusting bus shelter, and we've improved the paving slabs at Kingfisher Parade too. Although the paving isn't our responsibility, it had become a serious trip hazard, so we were happy to step in and help.



We're replacing public benches around the parish as they become old and unsafe. We've also created a peaceful memorial space on Bookers Green, where people can remember their loved ones with a commemorative

plaque. As well as that, we will be supporting the Christmas tree event held in East Wittering and organising our second Christmas afternoon tea at Bracklesham Barn, to be held on 14 December. Please contact our Parish Secretary if you are interested in coming. Our annual Summer Picnic was a great success for the community, with craft stalls and activities, a car boot sale, and circus activities and a Nerf event enjoyed by children and adults alike!

We also provide financial support for a range of local services and activities, including the Community Warden, the Youth Worker, the Mobile Tip, the Manhood Peninsula Officer, the allotments, extra grass cutting and additional bin emptying. In addition, we contribute towards street lighting.

Looking after Downview and Barn Park is another of our responsibilities. We've encouraged football on both fields, and it's been great to see both the youth and men's teams doing so well.

We were delighted to launch our Community Awards for the first time last year, and we're looking forward to doing it all again in 2027! We'll share more details in the new year, when nomination forms will be available for Business with a Heart, Young Person of the Year and Community Champion. We'd love to hear about the wonderful people and businesses making a difference in our community.

Our Parish Council meetings take place on the second Thursday of every month, and everyone is warmly invited to join us. You'll find the full meeting timetable on our website: https://ewbpc.org.uk/. Whether you're interested in planning, how we look after our assets and open spaces, or anything else happening in the community, please feel free to come along—we'd be delighted to see you!

Op Regroup

Op Regroup is a not-for-profit organisation covering the Witterings, Chichester, Bognor Regis and beyond. It holds a monthly breakfast in Bognor Regis and a weekly coffee morning at Calamity Jane's tearoom in East Wittering.

Supporting veterans is more important than ever. **Op Regroup** offers a warm, welcoming "safe space" where veterans and their family members can get the help they need, without the worry of red tape or judgment.

The monthly breakfasts and weekly coffee mornings are a great chance for veterans to get together with like-minded people, enjoy a chat over a brew and perhaps tuck into a bacon sandwich. Everyone is welcome at **Op Regroup**, whatever their age or branch of service, and the invitation also extends to colleagues in the blue-light services.



The friendly team of five includes two Army veterans and three civilians, who together bring more than 10 years of experience in veteran welfare. The team has also been busy caring for the village war memorial, so if you spot them there, do give them a wave and say hello. They also work closely with the local Royal British Legion.

To find out more, visit **Op Regroup's** website or Facebook page, where you can connect with the team and see what they do. You can also pick up one of their business cards from us or from Calamity Jane's.

Facebook Page: **Op Regroup**

Website: www.opregroup.co.uk

Lakeview Grange – Dementia Talk

We are delighted that **Lakeview Grange** has kindly agreed to be a part of the sponsorship of this newsletter and are incredibly grateful for their support of our local community. On Tuesday 17th November at 6.30pm, **Lakeview Grange** is also hosting a free event that is an informative evening titled 'Dementia Talk', with Jacquie Pond from Sage House. Lakeview will be pleased to welcome local residents, friends and families, but booking is essential. For a place, simply email **Lakeview Grange** directly or if you would like any further information: lakeview.enquiries@cinnamoncc.com.



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