

JULY/AUGUST 2023

DELIVERED FREE
(by our wonderful volunteers)

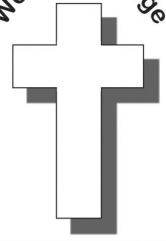
THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community

St Edmund's
& St Mark's

Wootton Bridge



Ride, stride, learn, sit, chat



It cannot be said too often. St Edmund's Church is the oldest, the most beautiful and (particularly at this time of year) the coolest building in Wootton (or Wootton Bridge if you prefer). It is not the fault of the builders that the church is hidden at the Northern edge of the village. Until not much more than a century ago Wootton was little more than a haphazard collection of farms and cottages, mostly built along road alignments that were only established when St Edmund's had been in existence for more than half a millennium, and which then passed the little church completely by.

Partly because our beautiful old church is so out of the way, the Friends of St Edmund's have held an Open Weekend there almost every year, usually at the time of the August Bank holiday. Aside from the opportunity to meet, chat, have a cup of tea and consult Parish records, there are always interesting displays on the history and life of the building. It is the ideal opportunity to learn fascinating things about our

village and life in former times, when people were as fond of the St Edmund's as we are today.

This year, we are changing the dates of the Open Weekend from the August Bank Holiday to the weekend of 9th and 10th September, to coincide with the Ride and Stride fund raising event of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Historic Churches Trust, a charity which supports us and which we in turn support. You will find more details of the Open Weekend elsewhere in this issue, but do please put the dates in your diary and plan to visit us. We think you'll be glad that you did.

You have probably also noticed that this is the July/August issue of *The Bridge*, so there will be no separate issue next month, when the hard working editorial and distribution teams will be taking a break. You should see the next issue in early September, shortly before the St Edmund's Open Weekend.

David Bennison 

For July and August services, please see Page 3



Wootton Primary Says Goodbye!

Several years ago, the school community worked together to establish our school values. At this time our older children referred to us 'growing' them and sending them off to grow into bigger things. This led us into a discussion about harvest which in turn brought us to our values REAP, ensuring that our children are Respectful, Empowered, Aspirational and Persevering. It is at this time of the school year that we celebrate how our children have really instilled

these values, ready to move on to their next stage of learning, whether that be their new class in school or moving on to Secondary.

We are so proud of our Year 6 children who have worked so hard to conclude their time at Wootton. Following their SATs, I had the absolute pleasure in joining them at their residential visit to Aldershot. We stayed in little pods for three nights and four days and completed a range of activities, however the biggest learning was them needing to be independent from making their bed to getting the right equipment at the right time! We were blessed with beautiful weather too and I am so grateful to the staff that gave up their time to support this visit.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception class in September and working with many new families for the next seven years!

In the meantime, on behalf of all at Wootton School, have a wonderful summer and if you would like to come along to our summer fayre on Friday 14th July 3-5pm it would be lovely to see you.



*Mrs Jane Wilford
Headteacher*



Book Reviews

by Yvonne Gilbert

Some of the glamour from a TV personality has brushed on to us because we know the new Resident Botanist on this year's Springwatch. This is the young Leif Berenson. His first book *'The Orchid Hunter'* published in 2017 was successful enough to go into paperback.

Leif (pronounced to rhyme with safe) is the grandson of Reverend Canon Howard Barker and his wife Jean of All Saints Church, Ryde. Our Wootton Parish has enjoyed Howard and Jean's friendship and help for many years, particularly during a referendum. We knew of Leif's work at Kew and later the hard work coupled with his PhD while his second book was in the making.

When *'The Orchid Hunter'* was promoted last year by The Medina Bookshop in Cowes, Margaret King and I were in the enthusiastic audience for Leif's lecture. Several of us now have autographed copies of the book - the signature in the fashion of all famous people - quite undecipherable.

Leif's second book, *'Where the Wild Flowers Grow'* is a joyous and inspirational trek through the UK and Ireland. The author's diary gives minute details of his journey in search of wild flowers and the feel of earth, shale and soil where they lurk. No stranger to puzzled bystanders, like Sherlock with a spy glass, he was asked on a camp site lawn: 'Have you lost something?' 'No, just looking for plants' was the answer from our dishy Botanist.

On the coastal mudflats near Barmouth he tasted salty seaweed. This was Common Glasswort, used historically in glassmaking. It is interesting that there are thousands of species of seaweed with at least 600 in British waters. According to the book by Vincent Doumeizel, a United Nations Food Adviser, plants could be the answer to almost every environmental problem we face.



The author bluebell hunting with a little helper on the South Downs Way.

Where the Wild Flowers Grow: ISBN 9781529349573

The Orchid Hunter: ISBN 978-1-78072-352-5

tb

Church Services in Wootton during July/August

(Please be aware that all services of Holy Communion are subject to a priest being available to take the service.)

The relaxation of COVID regulations means that it is no longer necessary to book for services but you will be asked to sanitize your hands.
Please wear a mask if you would feel more comfortable with it.
We are now able to offer the Brunch service to everyone!

ST EDMUND'S

JULY

Sun 2nd	0800 Holy Communion
Sun 9th	1830 Evensong
Wed 12th	0930 Holy Communion
Wed 19th	0930 Holy Communion
Sun 23rd	1830 Evensong
Wed 26th	0930 Holy Communion

AUGUST

Sun 6th	0800 Holy Communion
Wed 9th	0930 Holy Communion
Sun 13th	1830 Evensong
Wed 16th	0930 Holy Communion
Wed 23rd	0930 Holy Communion
Sun 27th	1830 Evensong
Wed 30th	0930 Holy Communion

ST MARK'S

JULY

Sun 2nd	0930 Brunch Service
Wed 5th	1115 Café Communion (*)
Sun 9th	0930 Holy Communion + Explorers
Sun 16th	0930 Morning Worship
Sun 23rd	0930 Holy Communion + Explorers
Sun 30th	0930 Songs of Praise at St Mark's

AUGUST

Wed 2nd	1115 Café Communion (*)
Sun 6th	0930 Brunch Service
Sun 13th	0930 Holy Communion + Explorers
Sun 20th	0930 Morning Worship followed by the Big Mac Talk
Sun 27th	0930 Holy Communion + Explorers

(*) If you would like to come to Café Communion, please leave us a message on the parish answerphone 301880 or email stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com.

tb

A TALE FROM THE MAGISTRATES' COURT

by Doreen Gazey

One day, back in the 1850s, two horse-drawn traps collided on the Freshwater Road. Seeking damages, the farmers took the case to Court in Newport.

The richer farmer had engaged a lawyer from Portsmouth, but cunning as he was he could not undermine the poorer farmer's evidence, nor that of his brother who had also been in the cart. Then the farmer's young son took to the witness stand. He looked a bit dim - a real country bumpkin - and his stammered evidence supported that of his father and uncle.

The wily lawyer decided to cross-examine: "Tell me," he said, "on your way to Court today, did you discuss this case with your father?"

"Yus SURR", admitted the country lad.

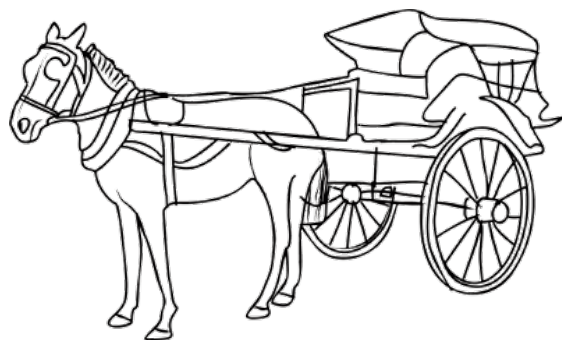
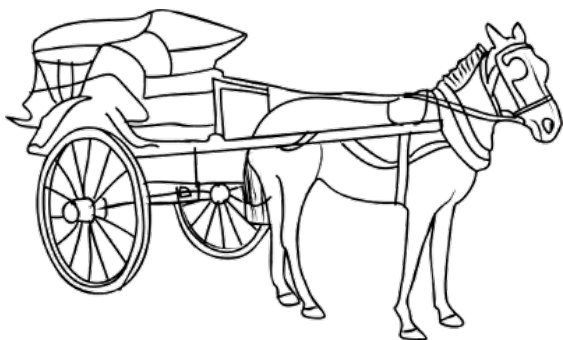
"And did your father instruct you as to what to say?"

"Yus SURR. He done that, Surr".

"Oh, he did, did he", purred the advocate, sensing a kill. "Then you must tell me exactly what he told you to say".

"Well sur", replied the boy. "He said, Thomas, there'm a mighty smart lawyer coming over from Portsmouth. And he'll ask you questions. And he'll catch you out. So there be only one thing you can do. You tell the truth, and no 'arm can come to you. And that's what Oi done, Surr. Bain't Oi right, Surr?"

And the poorer farmer won his case.



tb



14TH - 16TH JULY 2023

Royal County Showground, Newport, Isle of Wight

lionheartfestival.co.uk

The heart of Lionheart

For many years we've prayed for church unity and revival for the Isle of Wight and south coast, for people to be awakened (and reawakened), join together and return to the Father's Heart. And in 2022, after years of planning and waiting due to Covid, we had the first Lionheart Festival. We were blessed to have established worship leaders such as Noel Robinson, Danny Oates, Rob Westall, Graham Kendrick, and our own Island worship groups join us at the Royal County Showground, to praise, worship and celebrate God.

What is Lionheart?

As Lionheart we love God, love His church and love to introduce people to Jesus.

"Lionheart is about bringing of the Body of Christ to join together, One God, One Church, One Body, united in praise to Jesus. A time of soaking, refreshing and restoration, as we worship and praise together. Teaching to build us up. And time for reflection and prayer."

Lionheart is not just for the Island. Lionheart Festival is hosted by the Island but is for everyone across the UK, and beyond. Lionheart is not a church and the vision is not and has never been a church plant. The long-term vision is as a central resource for churches and organisations, providing space, resources and outreach to unify and support churches.

Lionheart 2022

In the first year, there were powerful testimonies...

- of people giving their life to Jesus,
- of people 'stuck' in their Christian walk, who were powerfully touched,
- and that those who came on their own, said they felt safe and made lasting friends.

We experienced the Body of Christ come together especially in Holy Communion on the Sunday morning. And the kids loved the bouncy castles, the Open the Book and the water pistols squirt area!

We spent time with those who were not yet believers, including trades people at the Festival, who told us it was 'beautiful', like nothing they had experienced before and ask to come back and help again!

And before we had even had a chance to 'pack down' the 2022 Festival we had people ask us 'what date is Lionheart next year?' So, we're now preparing for Lionheart 2023!

Lionheart 2023

We are preparing for this year's festival with...

- a mix of amazing worship, from worship groups from the island and across the UK
- both children's ministry and youth ministry, making it a truly **all age festival**.
- a communion on the Sunday again so the Body of Christ across the Island can come together in fellowship.

We have worked in partnership with churches across the Island with an invitation to come to serve and be served.

We know as Believers our great commission is to go into the world and make disciples. So we also encourage believers buying a weekend ticket to bring their 'not yet believer' friends and relatives to come to the festival for a nominal fee. They will get to experience God and 'the church' as a united body in celebration in the great outdoors.

LIONHEART 2023 - SPREAD THE WORD AND GET INVOLVED!

We'd love you to join us in growing Lionheart into what God has purposed...

1. Buy your ticket and come to Worship

Buy your price freeze tickets [HERE](#) (while prices hold)

2. Volunteer to help serve the body of Christ

Volunteers get a further 25% price reduction for doing only two short volunteer shifts.

There are 'seated' and 'roaming' tasks. Find out more about volunteering [HERE](#)

[Please note. You must buy a [weekend ticket](#) to volunteer. Roles are agreed after tickets are bought.]

	Weekend tickets	Volunteer Weekend tickets	Day tickets
Adult	£45	£33.75	Fri £25 / Sat £38 / Sun £25
Teen/OAP/Student	£35	£26.25	Fri £15 / Sat £25 / Sun £15

3. Bring a 'not yet believer' with you – a friend or relative with an additional £5 NYB ticket! When you purchase your ticket please then go to 'Products' and add the NYB ticket.

4. Spread the Word! Tell people about Lionheart!

- Like, comment on and share on [facebook.com/Lionheartfestival](https://www.facebook.com/Lionheartfestival) and [instagram.com/lionheartfestival](https://www.instagram.com/lionheartfestival)
- Sign up for newsletter updates on our website lionheartfestival.co.uk

5. Ask your church and friends to support us and get involved

- Please **distribute our bookmarks** which takes you straight to the website
- Buy a **banner** to display on your Church building - for just £40!
- We'd love to have a **Lionheart Rep** in your church for regular contact & pass on news

6. Support us with your prayer and finances

- **Pray for our success** – for the board, the team and all the people involved.
- **Donate [HERE](#). Or fundraise for us** – contact us at info@lionheartfestival.co.uk

tb

For Your Diary ... What's On ...

KEEP ACTIVE MOVE MORE CLASSES. BINSTAD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAYS AT 11.20am AND WHIPPINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AT 9.45am, 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 4pm. AND FRIDAYS AT 10.10am at ARRETON VILLAGE HALL. Go at your own pace exercise program to help improve strength, stamina and balance. CONTACT: **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

KEEP ACTIVE RELAX MORE (K.A.R.M.) CLASSES. SANDOWN BROADWAY CENTRE ON MONDAYS AT 4.15pm AND WHIPPINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AT 2.45pm. A gentle movement program to calm and relax the body that is easy to learn and based on Tai Chi principles and can be done seated or standing. CONTACT: **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

BREATHE EASY ISLE OF WIGHT SUPPORT GROUP FOR ISLANDERS LIVING WITH CHRONIC LUNG CONDITIONS. MEETINGS HELD AT ARRETON VILLAGE HALL ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 2PM TO 4PM. FOR FURTHER INFO GO TO [HTTPS://BREATHEEASYIOW.ORG](https://breatheeasyiow.org) OR CONTACT: **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

PARKINSONS UK ISLE OF WIGHT HAVE REGULAR WEEKLY EXERCISE CLASSES AT ARRETON VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAYS AT 11.15am, 12.25pm and 2pm SPECIFICALLY SUITED FOR ANYONE LIVING WITH PARKINSONS. FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

Little Lions Toddler Group

This group meets at St Mark's Church 10 to 11.30am, July 12th & 19th at St Mark's Church (no sessions in August). Being a new parent can be very lonely and it is always helpful to meet people who are walking the same path. So if you are a new parent, or a parent with lively toddlers on your hands, come and join us. Your children will learn to play with other children and you can talk to people who are on the same difficult journey as you. £2 per session - coffee and sympathy provided! On the first Wednesday of the month, Wootton Methodist Church runs a Messy Church session.

Elephant Club

A social group for people living with memory loss and for others just wanting an afternoon of good company.....and cake. If someone you care for has memory problems, the ELEPHANT CLUB will be meeting at St Mark's Church between 2-4pm Thursday July 13th and August 10th. If you would like to exercise "*the little grey cells*" whilst having a laugh and eating cake, do come and join us. We would love to see you.

WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODISTS

Every Monday Morning 10.am till 12 noon. Come and enjoy coffee and chat at Wootton Methodist Church from 10am-12 noon every Monday until further notice. Everyone welcome.

Whitgar Morris, meet in the coffee lounge at St Mark's on Tuesdays 7:30pm - 9:30pm. New members, dancers or musicians welcome. For further details ring 880118.

Marks Brothers Bacon Butty Group

This group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10.00am (**NOTE - new day of second Wednesday at 10.30am from August**) in St Mark's coffee lounge. The opportunity for the men of the village who would like to sort the world to rights over a coffee and a bacon butty. Please let Harry Kirby know if you will be attending. A small, voluntary, contribution towards costs always appreciated. 07814809083 or harryskirby@btinternet.com The group is very friendly and welcoming.

Holiday Fun Club returns for summer - The popular Holiday Fun Club, for primary age children, held at St. Mark's Church returns on three Tuesdays during the school summer holidays. These sessions will be longer and include lunch. The usual games (hopefully indoor and outdoor), art and craft activities plus stories and quizzes will be available. The sessions will be led by experienced and DBS checked staff. The Tuesday dates and times are: 25th July 10am – 3pm, 8th August 10am – 3pm and Tuesday 22nd August 10am – 3pm. To book, please email funclub.stmarks@gmail.com stating name, age of child, preferred dates of attendance and any dietary requirements. Closing date is Friday 14 July. Places will be confirmed on Monday 17 July. Steve and Sue (Club leaders)

CREEKSIDE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI) - Everyone welcome at 7.15pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Wootton Bridge, IW. Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact: Marlene Cassidy 01983 882718.

Activities for July

8th - Party in the Park
12th Members meeting. Speaker is Sarah Lang 'Granny had one of these'.
12th Craft afternoon
16th Kurling evening
19th Quarr Abbey tour

Activities for August

There is no main Members meeting in August
4th Garden visit
17th Shanklin Theatre visit

Don't forget our Book Club, Amble, Coffee and Chat and Monday games in the Zoomiverse sessions.

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**If contributing to *The Bridge* is something
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More details
from David
Bennison on
882783



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The "Crafty Ladies"

We meet on Wednesday afternoons at St Mark's Church, Wootton, from 1.30 p.m. 'till 4pm.

We would like to welcome new members to our friendly group, who get together to enjoy a variety of different crafts, no experience necessary. Come in and join us for a natter and a coffee/tea as well. Age is no barrier!

It's £4 a session, with the first one free.

Please call Jan on 882381 for more details

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EVERY FRIDAY **Al Anon**

(family and friends of alcoholics) meet in Wootton so if alcohol is, in any way, affecting your life, this is the safe place to talk. Your anonymity is key to our success. Further details Harry or Sally on **(01983) 638198**. All conversations are entirely confidential.

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This is a person-centred ministry of spiritual care for older people of all faiths, cultures, spiritualities and contexts, and for their families and carers. The Anna Chaplain also offers advocacy for older people within church and community, they work with people living independently and within residential and nursing homes. The work of the Chaplain is defined by the wants and needs of their individual parish and is adapted accordingly.



For more information please contact Hilary by:

Tel: 07769588644

Email: annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

Website: <http://www.cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk/anna-chaplain/>

Military Whist Drives

Teams of 4 are welcome to the drives held in the Methodist hall (parking in Station car park) on the 7th and 21st of July at 7.15pm (NOTE: no Aug or Sept meetings).
£2.50 per person. Contact Colin on 882588.

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The Bridge

is Wootton's community magazine
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tell?

Is there a piece of local history you
would like to share?

Do you want to publish information
about local activities?

**If you do, we'd like to hear from
you.**

We can help you put together and lay-
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even if you "can't write", we can help.

**If contributing to The Bridge is
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WOOTTON YOUTH CLUB (WYC)

WYC is a place where young people can meet with friends and join in a range of activities such as ball sports, cookery, table tennis, badminton, pool, table football, film nights, art projects, community help projects and visits to PGL Little Canada to participate in the available on-site activities. We have a café, offering various tuck items and refreshments. The young people jointly help in programming the weekly sessions and activities. Our team of trained, professional staff (including special needs support) are here to ensure the young people have fun and help them understand the world around them.

As youth workers we have time to talk through any questions and concerns.

We are located at the Old School on New Road in Wootton and session times are:

Thursdays Night 8-16 years 6.30-8.30pm

WYC welcomes young people from surrounding areas and friends from other parts of the Island also.

Please contact us for more information and do check out our WOOTTON YOUTH CENTRE Facebook page.

Contact email: woottonbridgeyc@gmail.com or message us on FB: wootton bridge youth club

Tom Pellet, Senior Youth Worker

WOOTTON SCOUT HALL FOR HIRE.

Hall including modern
kitchen, central heating, rear
garden etc. Reasonable rates.

Contact Peter on 883385 or
petefiow@uwclub.net for
bookings.

WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH (Station Road)

Minister: Revd David P. Plumb BA. Tel: 884694

Sunday Morning Service 10am

Evening Services as announced

Final Minister's Message

As many people know I will be retiring as from the end of July and so this will be the final time that I put pen to paper, to write the Minister's Message for the magazine. May I say it has been a joy to be able share God's message into so many homes during my nine years back on the Island. We will remain living here and after a time of relaxation and reflection I am sure you will see me return to the pulpit again. The words that I would like to leave with you are not from Scripture but from Frank Sinatra. In this wonderful song it closes by saying 'and did it my way'. My prayer is that I actually did it God's way.

*And now the end is here
And so I face that final curtain
My friend I'll make it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain
I've lived a life that's full
I travelled each and every highway
And more, much more
I did it, I did it my way
Regrets, I've had a few
But then again too few to mention
I did what I had to do
I saw it through without exemption
I planned each charted course
Each careful step along the byway*

*And more, much, much more
I did it, I did it my way
Yes, there were times I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, when there was doubt
I ate it up and spit it out
I faced it all and I stood tall and did it my way
For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself then he has naught
Not to say the things that he truly feels
And not the words of someone who kneels
Let the record shows I took all the blows and did it my way*

My God continue to bless you

Rev David Plumb

Preachers for July & August

2nd	July	Ordinary	Local arrangement
9th	July	Ordinary	Plumb - Short & Snappy
16th	July	Ordinary	Local arrangement
23rd	July	Ordinary	Burt
30th	July	Ordinary	Izzard
6th	August	Ordinary	Local arrangement
13th	August	Ordinary	Fowler - Short & Snappy
20th	August	Ordinary	Watson
27th	August	Ordinary	Wiggans

tb



**Summer days
Enjoy them
with**

**Wootton Bridge Townswomen's
Afternoon Guild**

Their next meeting will be held

On Friday JULY 21st

2pm to 4pm

This month's subject

IOW Heritage

Plus a lively monthly lunch

Methodist Church Station Road

Wootton Bridge

Pauline 759350 or Janet 864104

FRIENDS OF ST EDMUND'S OPEN WEEKEND

Saturday September 9th to Sunday
September 10th, 10am to 6pm daily.

Our main theme this year is *Transport
Through The Ages.*

All help gratefully received.



tb

**OPEN
WEEKEND**

PARISH COUNCIL information

Meetings:

Meetings: usually third Tuesday in every month (except August) at 7pm in The Old School, New Road - details at HIC, on village noticeboards and on website.

Parish Councillors:

Barry Abraham
John Ward
Trish Evans
Dave Burley
Barrie Hailstone
Daryll Pitcher, *Chair*
Linda Pitcher, *V.Chair*
Lee Lemon
Christopher Cory
Ian Yeo
Liz Kingston, *Clerk*
Lorna Morey, *Assistant Clerk*

All can be contacted at the HIC on 884555.

Office opening times:-

PARISH COUNCIL
Mon. Closed;
Tues. 9.00am-2.00pm;
Wed. 9.00am-2.00pm;
Thurs. Closed;
Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm

BEAT OFFICER

First Tuesday in month
10am-12 noon or messages can be left for the Police.

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

5 Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way,
Wootton Bridge, Ryde, IW
PO33 4NX

tel: 884555
email: clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk
website:
www.woottonbridge.org.uk

Full details of all facilities available at the HIC can be obtained from the Parish Clerk or on the website.



Wootton Bridge
PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Liz Kingston, Clerk – Wootton Bridge Parish Council.
Telephone: 884555. Email clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk
Local IW Councillor for Wootton Bridge:
Daryll Pitcher - Telephone 883840
Email daryllpitcher@woottonbridge.org.uk

Wootton Bridge Parish Council has a Facebook page – please “like” – which displays all the latest information and you are welcome to comment on any topic.

Party in the Park

Don't forget Party in the Park is on the 8th July from 12pm at Wootton Recreation Ground - join us for a dog agility show, Haven Falconry display, refreshments, stalls, games, face painting and live music. We will also be running a raffle with prizes including wine, a Steam Railway pass, PGL half day of activities for 12 children including meals, flower bouquet, Woodmans Arms meal vouchers, yoga or pilates lessons at Your Space, beer hamper and many more!

Antisocial Behaviour

We have had several incidents of antisocial behaviour recently in Wootton. If you have been affected by any form of antisocial behaviour please report it to the police. Their website can be found at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/> where you will see a 'report' button. When you click on it scroll down to 'Report antisocial behaviour'. The more incidents reported, the more likely it is that the police will take action. It is hoped that the police will soon be starting up a regular monthly 'surgery' where you will be able to pop into the Brannon Way office and chat with a local Police officer about any concerns and issues you may have. Some of you may have received a survey to complete; if you have please do fill it in (it is anonymous).

Electric Vehicles

The new charging point is now up and running in Brannon Way car park. The provider is MER and it is 56p a unit as of 14th June. It is a type 2.22kw charger and the council have informed us that whilst your electric vehicle is charging, you can park for free for 4 hours maximum.

Doctor's Surgery

There are currently no updates on the relocation of the Doctor's surgery. Optio have had an increase in requests and therefore there is an urgent need for more volunteer drivers or else they will have to start restricting numbers - please contact Tina on 01983 522226 if you can help.

Environmental Officer

The Parish Council has engaged the services of an Environmental Officer to tackle some of the low level and anti-social behaviours that can unfortunately blight our community. The EO will be working at random times and days each week and has initially been asked to concentrate on fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Council meetings are held at the Old School in New Road every 3rd Tuesday of the month – details of these are available on our website as well as on our noticeboard outside our office.

Chair's Message – Cllr Barrie Hailstone

At our recent May Parish Council meeting my Councillor colleagues entrusted me with the appointment of Chair of the Parish Council. I deem this to be an honour to be so elected. I hereby promise the Residents of Wootton Bridge that I will endeavour to do my utmost to ensure that my Councillor colleagues and I will do our very best in providing a second-to-none service to you all. I believe you all are aware we are holding once again the Party in the Park on the 8th July after an absence of some time, mainly due to the Covid crisis. Please join us in the festivities and we, the Parish Councillors, look forward to meeting you all there. If anyone has any questions of us or is concerned with any matter, please draw it to our attention and we will act accordingly. Of course, as per previous advice given you are always welcome to attend our Parish Council Meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except in August when no meeting is held, to raise any matter of concern. If anyone wishes to put themselves forward to help with the festivities, then please contact our Clerk - Liz Kingston and/or the Assistant Clerk, Lorna Morey, you will be most welcomed. Thank you and stay safe.

If you have any areas of concern, or want to report any incidents, please either visit the Parish Office in Brannon Way, or contact us by phone (01983 884555) or email clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

Smuggler Tales by Doreen Gazey

Learning about smuggling on the IOW has proved most interesting. If you happened to be a descendant of one of the older families, your ancestors would inevitably have been smugglers.

It was potentially profitable, exciting, and, downright dangerous. A smuggling run was thoroughly organised. The first step would be to find the money to pay for a ship and cargo. Given the potential profits there was usually no problem with finding a patron. The less well off would possibly find the cash to pay for just one tub of brandy, the quantities and numbers involved rising according to the money available. The more well off members of the community, squire, farmer, or parson, found the rest. This could be around £100 which in today's money could be around £1000.

The profits could be much more. That is if you still had your cargo. Trips were planned for return on a dark night when you were less likely to be spotted. If you were seen then cargo might have to be cut loose and sunk, hopefully to be retrieved later.

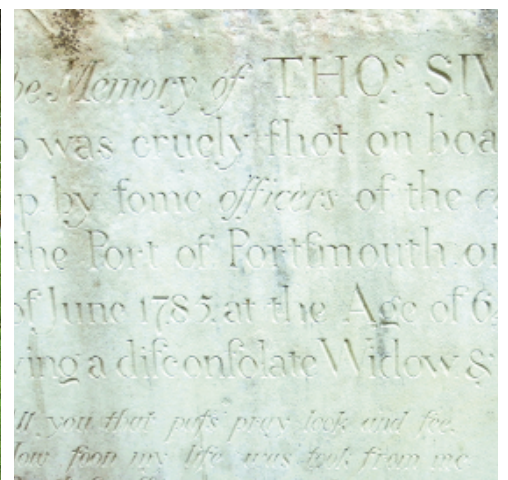
A great deal of ingenuity was employed to conceal cargo once it was landed. In Wootton, one unlikely hiding place was said to be the loft of the Methodist church. However, there was always the risk someone could find the goods and make off with them. Sometimes the revenue men would be the culprits unless they had already been bribed to turn a blind eye. This would be safer for them as any smuggler finding his cargo missing would be likely to take revenge. As it was revenue men were likely to be killed.

Once ashore, brandy would be adulterated with burnt sugar dissolved in water, making the eventual profit as much as one hundred percent.

Apart from the risk of violence, you might be caught and arrested. Being an experienced sailor could mean you would be pressed into the navy as Charlie Wheeler was, and sentenced to serve 5 years. When his ship docked in South America, he and a mate deserted and set out to find their way back to England only to be caught by an officer from his own ship. He had to serve the rest of his sentence and, when he finally reached home, (he had been gone for over 7 years), discovered his wife and family in the work house.

It was during the 19th Century that life boat stations were opened round the Island. As years passed many of the smuggling families joined life boat crews and over the years saved a good many lives, their sailing experience making them ideal crew members.

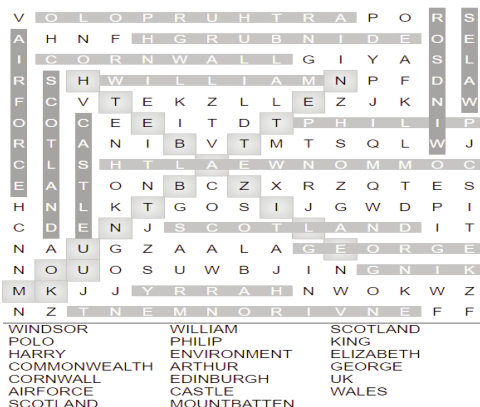
Smuggling was indeed a dangerous pursuit. In Binstead churchyard there is a memorial with a carved sloop. Thomas Sivell was shot by the excise men who suspected him of smuggling. Naturally his friends and family denied his guilt. The truth will probably never be known.



To the memory of Tho.^s Sivell who was cruelly shot on board his floop by fome officers of the cuttom of the Port of Portfmouth on the 15th of June 1785 at the Age of 64 Years leaving a difconfolate Widow & family.

'The Bridge'is delivered freeto over 1,750 homes and
businesses in Wootton

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'
the September 2023 issue will be
available to pick up from the Churches
on SATURDAY 26th August 2023

Wordsearch - June '23 Solution
King Charles III


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areas of concern, or want to
report any incidents, please
either visit the Parish Office
in Brannon Way, or contact
us by phone or email

Telephone:
01983 884555

Email:
clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk

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SUDOKU

Fill in the grid with digits in
such a manner that every row,
every column and every 3x3
box accommodates the digits
1-9, without repeating any.

Quotes for Summer

"Smell the sea, and feel the sky.
Let your soul and spirit fly."
Van Morrison

"Shall I compare thee to a sum-
mer's day? Thou art more lovely
and more temperate."
William Shakespeare

"A little bit of summer is what the
whole year is all about."
John Mayer

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Churchwardens: Ann Capps and Mary Peters

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stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com or leave a message on 01983 301880
(we will respond as soon as we can)

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