

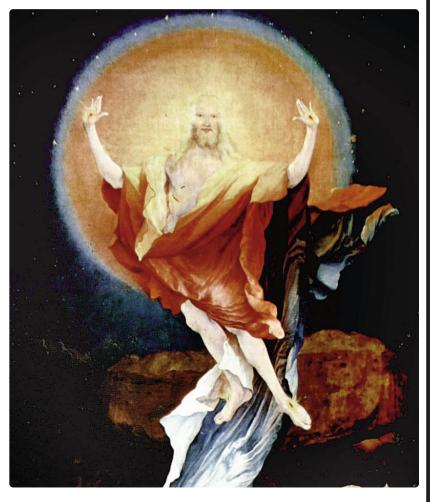
## **A Wondrous Thing**

In the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world which gave us the foundation of our culture, Jesus of Nazareth is the most fully documented figure. That is remarkable in itself, because during his short life on earth, he completely refused to accept any worldly wealth, fame or power. He was loved by the ordinary people he encountered and infuriated both the authorities and the self-

appointed religious reformers of his time by showing up their hypocrisy and double dealing for what it was. If we were to meet up with him in our own age, I have no doubt that we would find him to be just as charismatic, just as hard-hitting, and just as disruptive as he was two thousand years ago.

Those people who thought that they could get rid of Jesus by unjustly condemning him to the painful and humiliating death of a criminal soon found out that they could not have been more wrong. Within a couple of generations, his message had become a process of religious revival that had spread throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. However we understand the events of that first Easter, its real wonder is in what it so quickly came to mean for so many people, and in how its message of hope and love has endured down the millennia into our own secular and materialistic age.

The illustration on this page is part of a painting that I have loved for many years, ever since I was given a book of



art prints of pictures by the artist, Matthias Grünewald. This painting was made in the early sixteenth century, and is part of a large, folding altarpiece which is now at Colmar in Alsace. Sadly, the painting is normally hidden inside the folded altarpiece, which is only rarely opened up for display. But, even in reproduction, this image expresses, as clearly as any I know of, the idea that, at this and every Easter time, the resurrection of Jesus is a wondrous thing indeed

David Bennison 🚻

For April services, please see Page 3

## LOST ON THE TITANIC - 112 years ago

contributed by Doreen Gazey

Nineteen Hundred and Twelve looked set to be a very good year for William Cheverton. One of ten children, William who lived with his parents, William senior and Emma at Mill Street, Newport, had joined the merchant navy when he left school and travelled the world. Now, aged 27, he was engaged to be married to his sweetheart.

William had worked his way up to become a First Class saloon steward with the White Star Line, sailing regularly out of Southampton on the ocean-going liners. In April 1912, William was offered a highly desirable job - the chance to serve on the largest and finest steamer in the world......the RMS Titanic.

Titanic sailed from Southampton at noon on Wednesday, 7 April. Crowds lined the waterfront, and as she passed the Isle of Wight, many local people watched her stately progress. She was eleven storeys high, a sixth of a mile long and carried 2240 passengers and crew. Most of the crew came from Southampton, but a few were from the Island.

When the Titanic called at Queenstown, where many young Irish emigrants boarded, bound for a new life in America, William Cheverton posted a letter to his parents. He wrote telling them of the excellent voyage and his hopes of doing well especially on the return trip when a very large list of American passengers was booked - and he had expectations of some exceedingly good tips.

At 11.40pm on Sunday, 11 April, Titanic struck the iceberg. There were no bells or sirens, no general alarm. Stewards, William Cheverton among them, went from cabin to cabin rousing their sleepy First Class passengers, coaxing them into lifejackets and helping them to the lifeboats.

The rest, as we know, is history. The Isle of Wight County Press summed up the tragedy on page 8 with the headline: 'APPALLING SHIPPING DISASTER, LARGEST LINER SUNK, LOSS OF OVER 1500 LIVES, ISLANDERS IN DEATH ROLL'.

A number of local crew members were listed as dead or missing.

There were seven stewards, one stewardess and a fireman, two others from Ryde, quartermaster Walter John Perkis aged 36 and newly married Second Steward aged 32. Quartermaster Perkis was given charge of Life boat 4 which launched from the Titanic's Port side at 1.50am and with just 34 passengers. It could have carried 65.

The Cheverton family waited anxiously for news of William's fate, but it wasn't until two months later that his body was recovered from those icy waters. It was 370 miles from where the Titanic sank. His was body number 334 and he was found with two fellow islanders who were Titanic stewards, but no memorial marks his resting place, all three bodies were hastily returned to the sea. His heartbroken parents, Emma and William, were unable to claim or bury the body of their eldest son. Neither was poor William's spirit able to rest easy until his last wishes had been respected.

His favourite sister was known affectionately as Little Nell as the 29 year old was crippled and had been born dwarf. As she would never marry or be able to support herself William had promised always to look after her. From his earnings of £2.9s a week he sent his mother at least £18 a year for his sister's keep.

The Titanic's wealthy owners offered just £54 for William's loss. The Judge at Newport County Court ordered the White Star Line to pay maximum compensation of £300. The case went to the Court of Appeal where three judges dismissed the appeal and William's sister finally got her money.

tb

#### **1st Wootton Scout Group**

by Rachael Brett - Group Scout Leader

Following the history article on 1st Wootton Scout Group from Peter Flynn (Page 11, March '24 edition) I am hoping to keep the community updated with a monthly newsletter from our group.

As I pass my first 6 years in Scouting and take on new roles for the future I am always amazed at the hard work given by all the volunteers and young people

involved. On to our news.....

The young people in our Beaver section have been working hard towards their builder badges and team work challenges. It is always a joy to see them working together in both sporting activities and the start of pioneering; building towers from materials such as marshmallows, spaghetti and balloons. The challenge being to not eat or pop the materials they needed for the towers. Two of our Beavers joined the Godshill Beaver Colony for a sleepover and walked to the Donkey Sanctuary, which was great fun.

Akela and Dahinda from our Cubs section have volunteered for a number of years with 1st Wootton and have seen those young people who started as Beavers and have now joined our team of leaders. As three more Cubs achieve their silver award and move into the Scout patrol groups we are sure they will strive to meet the challenges presented to them.

Our Scout group this term have been working on a DIY challenge which has been both challenging for the young people and those leading them. The Scout group have also made pancakes and are looking to spending more time out doors in the summer. The conclusion with pancakes is that chocolate and strawberries are much nicer than the savoury recipes we experimented with.

It is also a pleasure to see some of the faces from our Explorer section as they joined the scouts on a hike and carried out volunteering in the other sections for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and leadership belts. If you have any interest in volunteering or joining our Scout Group please feel free to contact me on 07593 700985, or email 1stwoottongsl@gmail.com and I will be happy to answer any questions.

Rachael Brett - Group Scout Leader

Church Services in Wootton during April 2024 (Please be aware that all services of Holy Communion are subject to a priest being available to take the service)				
Please feel free to wear a mask if you would are more comfortable with it and hand sanitiser is available. We are now able to offer the St Mark's Brunch service to everyone.				
	ST EDMUND'S		ST MARK'S	
APRIL Sun 7th Wed 10th Sun 14th Wed 17th Wed 24th Sun 28th	0800 Evensong 0930 Holy Communion 1830 Evensong ** 0930 Holy Communion 0930 Holy Communion 1830 Evensong **	APRIL Wed 3rd Sun 7th Sun 14th Sun 21st Sun 28th	<b>No</b> Café Communion 0930 Sunday Brunch 1000 Holy Communion + Explorers (**) 0930 Morning Worship followed by the Big Mac Talk 0930 Holy Communion	
(**) Please note the later times (Summer Time)		(**) Please note	(**) Please note the later times (Summer Time)	



## HYMNS FOR ALL 1 - by John Lea

Do you like singing hymns? You don't have to be in church necessarily. You could hum them at the office, when you are gardening or doing the washing-up. You do not have to have a trained voice or be able to read music. No one has the authority to ban you from singing hymns and there is no charge for doing so. The point is that hymns were created for the ordinary person to sing and enjoy.

Do you have a favourite hymn? Even non-churchgoing know a hymn or two probably from their schooldays. But is it the words that you like or is it the tune or perhaps both? I must have played at over 500 weddings in my life as organist at different churches. I always liked to meet the happy couple and enquire what hymns they wished to have. Invariably the answers were 'Onward Christian Soldiers, 'Jerusalem' and 'All things bright and beautiful'. Churchgoers chose perhaps the more suitable 'Love Divine' Praise my soul', or 'Lead us heavenly Father'.

The dictionary tells us that *hymn* comes from Greek *humnos* or Latin *hymnus* and means a song of praise to God or a saint. However, many people know that hymns are not always songs of praise. The BBC programme 'Songs of Praise' for instance, includes hymns that might be penitential or seasonal.

Hymn-singing is as old as Christianity. There are many references in the New Testament – After the Last Supper, St Matthew tells us 'when they had sung a hymn they went out into the Mount of Olives 26.30. St. Paul urges the people of Ephesus in his letter 'speak to yourselves in hymns' v5.19 and to the Colossians 'teach one another in hymns and psalms' 3.16. From the latter it sounds as though Paul distinguished between hymns and psalms. He, of course, would have known all the psalms of David.

Congregations often find psalm-singing more difficult than hymns which is why hymns became more popular. Many hymns have been based on psalms. The best known are the many versions of Psalm 23 – 'The Lord's my shepherd', 'The Lord my pasture I'll prepare or 'The King of love my shepherd is'. Psalm 90 is the basis for 'O God our help' while 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven' is a paraphrase of Psalm 103. Many of the *praising* hymns are based on the last 10 psalms of the 150 in the Bible. The reason that hymns are easier to sing than psalms is because they are metrical usually with rhymes which is exactly why hymns exist at all. We do not know definitely what kind of hymn they sang after the Last Supper. It may have been a psalm. You may be surprised to know that the first metrical hymns were sung as recently as the 18th C. At that time quite a battle raged between one faction that thought only psalms should be sung in church and that the new-fangled metrical versions should be banned. High churchmen considered it illegal to sing watered-down versions by the Evangelicals favoured hymns because even the poorly-educated could learn them by rote. And so eventually hymns became the norm for congregations and it was left to trained choirs to tackle psalm-singing.



Ancient & Modern Hymn Book

The English Hymnal

In the 18th C. hymn papers would be given out to members of the congregation and collected up after the service. As you can imagine the papers began to look a bit tired with use with creases and dogeared corners while the print became quite illegible. There were a few local efforts at making booklets of the sheets but it was John and Charles Wesley, themselves prolific hymn-writers, who instigated the collections into books of hymns. A certain Bishop Heber was among the first who successfully gathered the most popular into a hymnbook. He called it 'Hymns written and adapted to the Weekly Church Service'. Perhaps not the most succinct title. In time Hymnody developed into the large volumes which several churches use to this day. The Evangelicals had their 'Songs of Praise', the Anglo-Catholics preferred 'English Hymnal' while the middle-of-the road worshippers used 'Hymns Ancient and Modern'. Naturally there was much duplication and the most popular hymns found their way into all three. In the second half of the 20th C attempts, some more successful than others, were made to include more modern words and tunes. And yet many of us still cling to the well-known, most of which were written in Victorian times.

So, is it the words or is it the tune or is it both? Next time I will concentrate on the words.

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

**KEEP ACTIVE MOVE MORE CLASSES.** BINSTEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAYS AT 11.20am AND WHIPPING-HAM 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. CON-TACT: **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 FUR-THER INFO GO TO 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** 

#### 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 second Thursday of each month. If you would like good company and laughter, and to exercise *"the little grey cells"* whilst eating cake, do come and join us. We would love to see you. Each month's programme is different so we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Next session: Thursday April 11th.

#### Stay & Play @ St Mark's Church

Looking for somewhere to take your young child on Thursday mornings? St Mark's is extending its former Little Lions club to all children (with their carers) eight years & under. The next sessions will run on Thursday April 18th & 25th from 9.15 – 11.30 and includes a range of play and craft activities. There is no charge (a small donation would be very welcome but is not expected). Free toast and a snack available to all, and free tea/coffee for adults. We hope to see you there! If you have any gueries please email welcome.stmarks@gmail.com

#### 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.

#### Mark's Brothers Breakfast/Brunch Gathering

This group now meets on the second Wednesday of each month (April 10th) at 10.30am - 12 noon in St Mark's coffee lounge. The opportunity for the men of the village who would like to sort the world to rights over just a coffee (if you're not a fan of bacon) or include the bacon butty too. 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.

#### The "Crafty Ladies"

We meet on Wednesday afternoons at St Mark's Church, Wootton, from 1.30pm '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 £5 a session, with the first one free.

Please call Jan on 882381 for more details

**CREEKSIDE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)** - A warm welcome awaits you on the first Wednesday of each month (except August) at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Wootton Bridge, IOW. We meet at 7.15pm. Come and see what we get up to and make new friends. Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact: Marlene 01983 685266.

#### **Creekside WI Activities for April**

April 4th- We will be enjoying a delicious afternoon teaApril 10th - Members Main Meeting The Isle of Wight Council are going to talk about recycling.April 24th - Kurling plus food with Alverstone WI

Don't forget our Book Club, Craft Club, Amble, Coffee Chat and Bowling. Keeping you active in 2024.

The Monday games and chat in the Zoomiverse sessions will be back when the weather closes in.



## The Church Parish Magazine of Wootton — April 2024

'solutions by Angela'

Call 07912 432 835

The Bridge

it needs contributors!

that interests you, contact:

David Bennison on 882783

No job too small

**Please call Mike** 

07710 085898

Wootton Bridge

Townswomen's Guild

Please join us or call

Kath 01983 293589

Contact: 07376741576

with

Wight Sax & Friends

Saturday 11th May 2024

7 - 9pm

Wootton Bridge

Retiring collection for St Edmund's Church

**Building Trust; Refreshments** 



01983 884208



Teams of 4 are welcome to the drives held in the Methodist hall (parking in Station car park). The next meetings will be on April 19th. £2.50 per person.

Contact Colin on 882588.

#### EVERY FRIDAY AI 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.

## **GRANGE FARM** HOLIDAYS

Red Squirrel Lodge (Gold Award) Self Catering Holidays (Wheelchair Friendly) OPEN ALL YEAR • 3 Bedrooms, Sleeps 6 · Short Breaks Available • Play Area & Accessible Garden & Grounds (including wildflower meadows) •Dog Friendly (limited to one dog please) Off Road Parking

Contact: Sarah Chatfield Grange Farm, Staplers Road, Wootton. Tel: (01983) 882147 Email: info@grange-farm-holidays.co.uk Web: www.grange-farm-holidays.co.uk

### **GEOFF LEATHER** Independent **Funeral Directors** 24 HOUR SERVICE - CHAPELS OF REST -

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volunteers, please contact David Bennison on 882783.





## THE WOOTTON REPAIR SHOP

We are a workshop that specialises in repairs and restorations of vehicle parts, antiques, toys, tools, trophies, family treasures and more. It's always worth a call to see if we can help bring your project or family antique back to life.

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## The Bridge

is Wootton's community magazine And it needs contributors!

Do you have a story of local interest to 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 layout your articles; even if you "can't write", we can help.

If contributing to *The Bridge* is something that interests you, contact David Bennison on 882783

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**Thank you** for your renewals, which have enabled us to continue producing *The Bridge* in 2024.

Andrea

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#### For fun, adventure and skills for life, come and join 1st Wootton Scout Group Reg. Charity 1005194

 Beavers
 6 - 8yrs Monday 6.15 - 7.30pm

 Cubs
 8 - 10½yrs Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm

 Scouts
 10½ - 14yrs Tuesday 6.30 - 8.30pm

 Explorers
 14 - 18yrs Thursday 7- 9pm

All sections open to boys and girls. Adults welcome to train as Leaders.

Contact Rachael on 07593 700985 for further details



HUNT

GROUF

Pritchetts Way,

FOREST

The Church Parish Magazine of Wootton — April 2024

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#### IWUFT Wootton Bridge History Group

Meets on the first Friday each month in the Scout Hut, Wootton Rec. Doors open 2pm. Talk starts at 2:30pm. New members welcome. £4 per person, £3 to IWUFT members (with membership card), includes refreshments after

**Friday April 5th.**WW1 Community Archaeology Studies at Golden Hill Fort by Dr. Ruth Waller. Well known to the group, Dr Waller is an excellent speaker. Her presentation covers a recent project by ordinary, untrained volunteers from the local community to learn archaeology and uncover the past at a local site.Join us on the treasure hunt, and discover what they found! Not to be missed.

**May 3rd** "Yaverland Manor"  $\sim$  Bob Hyde. Local Historian Bob will share with us another of his entertaining and often humorous talks, this time uncovering the secrets and scandals of one of our local historic houses.

All welcome.

#### 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 Frances Balham

Sunday Morning Service 10am

## Evening Services as announced

#### Minister's Message

Dear friends

Easter is early this year, on 31st March we celebrate Easter Sunday, and churches throughout the world sing "Alleluia, Jesus is risen".

This year I am very aware of the dreadful, awful conflict within the Middle East, the land Jesus knew so well, and also beyond. In North Africa and the Middle East there are at this time more than 45 armed conflicts taking place, and there are believed to be up to 110 worldwide!!!!

We are fortunate in this country to experience 'peace'. We thank God for that. Yet we need to be aware that conflict isn't just about guns and knives. We need to be mindful that many, near as well as far, suffer in a multitude of different ways, and often suffer in silence.

Someone once said "be kind to everyone, for we never know what mountain they are trying to climb". Simple words, and yet deeply thought provoking, and, if acted upon, can be life-changing.

Enjoy all you do to celebrate this season of Easter, God bless

FOR FUN, FRIENDSHIP

WOOTTON BRIDGE

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

WE HOLD OUR MEETINGS ON THE 3RD

FRIDAY OF THE MONTH. START 2PM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, STATION ROAD. PARKING IN THE STEAM RAILWAY CAR PARK

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET TOGETHER WITH A GROUP TO TRY NEW THINGS, FOR FRIENDSHIP AND HAVE FUN. COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING. OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL KATH ON 293589

AND FOOD. come along and join us.

### Preachers for April

7th April 14th April 21st April 28th April

townswomen's quilds

Locally arranged Shir Whittingstall Rev Frances Balham Locally arranged

Short 'n Snappy Holy Communion

tb

Frances



Sunday, 12 May 2024



## 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 Sarah Redrup Barrie Hailstone, *Chair* Judith Hill Linda Pitcher, *V.Chair* Lee Lemon Alistair Dolan Ian Yeo Liz Kingston, *Clerk* Lorna Morey, *Assistant Clerk* 

# All can be contacted at the HIC on 884555.

Office opening times:-

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

#### www.woottonbridge.org.uk

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



Report from Liz Kingston, Clerk – Wootton Bridge Parish Council. Telephone: 884555. Email clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk New IOW Councillor for Wootton Bridge, Sarah Redrup Email sarah.redrup@iow.gov.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.

#### **New Councillors**

We would like to warmly welcome our two new councillors, Alistair and Judith, who were co-opted at our last Parish Council meeting in February.

#### **Community Drop in Clinic**

A drop-in clinic has commenced at Brannon next to the parish office. The sessions will be run on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10am to 1pm. The Living Well and Early Help team will be able to offer guidance and support from attendance allowance to local activities and anything in between. Pop in and have a chat and a coffee and see how they can help you.

#### The Real Junk Food Project

Every Thursday at 1.30pm, (finishes by 2pm) we will have a food recycle store in Brannon. They will mainly have bakery items, fruit, and vegetables. Donations for the items are welcome. Get there early as it goes quickly.

#### Spring Tidy Up

We are looking at this taking place on Saturday 20th April 2024 from 10am – 1pm. All are welcome - you can either tidy round your own street or come to the office where we will be coordinating the Clean-up and give you an area to clean. Equipment is provided.

#### D-Day

On the 6th June we will be lighting a lamp of peace at 9.15pm to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. All are welcome to join us. Terry's Fish and Chip shop will be taking pre-orders which will be delivered to the Rec. Please pre-order and pre-pay at Terrys before the 6th June. Cancellations will be accepted up to noon on the day otherwise no further refunds will be available.

#### **Community Speed Watch**

We are looking into setting up a Speed Watch in the village. We are now actively seeking people to help and run this. We currently have five volunteers and ideally need a few more plus a coordinator. If you are interested, please contact us by either email, clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk, by phone on 01983 884555, or pop into the office.

#### Chair's Message – Cllr Barrie Hailstone

I was saddened to learn that the Rugby Club have decided not to attend the Party in the Park Fete this year, after initially being involved. So far, we have received numerous inquiries from Stall Holders wanting to participate, along with others. I am confident it will be a great success. So, mark your diaries for the 6th July 2024.

Unfortunately, there is nothing to report on the village roads as I am waiting for advice from the County Hall Leader, that they have employed another person to the Highways Department.

We now have a full complement of councillors as two new members have successfully been co-opted at the February meeting. I am confident they will bring a good deal of vim and vigour to the Council.

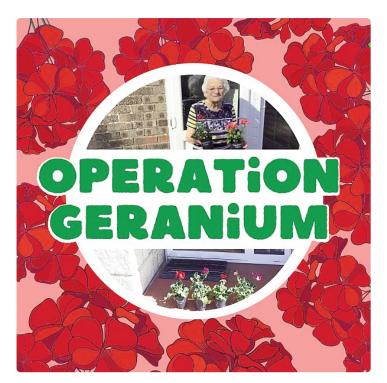
The PC has heard nothing more about the gravel extraction from Palmers Farm. As soon as we do, we will appraise you accordingly. It is much in our minds of the concern of many villagers of the potential health problems relating to Silicate exposure. Stay safe and be free from the Flu and Covid.

If you have any areas of concern. or want to report any incidents, please ei

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

## **Operation Geranium**

by Steve Double (Founder)



Operation Geranium, started out at Care In The Garden C.I.C plant nursery near Wootton in May 2020.

I have received funding to grow and purchase, Geranium Plants which I buy in the June for £2.00 each from Care In The Garden, and they are delivered to care providers and community locations for free by a cargo pedal bike company.

The Operation Geranium project has been supported by Age U.K. I.W, The High Sheriff's Fund, Wight Aid, Unison, Newport Business Association, Ryde Town Council, and many others has won some community awards and been featured in local news stories. Many of the articles can be searched for on line, but as yet I don't have a dedicated web site. I also produce local artists' postcards. Each series of 5,000 cards costs me £231.00 to print at St Mary's Hospital. I have distributed, since

the start, 45,000 free local postcards. I am also a full time volunteer, working in the local NHS.

If Operation Geranium interests you, for further information and sales I can be contacted on stephen.double00@btinternet.com

Steve (Founder)

## **Clement Selkirk Jones**

by Erica Hall

In February, we said "Goodbye" to Mr. Clement Jones, who will be missed by many of us in Wootton. Mr. Jones, or Clem as he was often known, was always ready to chat to passers by as he worked in his front garden. His garden was beautifully cared for and he spent many hours working there and helping other neighbours with gifts of plants and gardening tips. Mr. Jones was always making useful items for his own garden and for friends. Old scraps of wood were imaginatively transformed into wall trellis and decorative covers for plastic flower tubs. He made these for neighbours and many of us have items to remember him by.

On a visit to hospital in his late nineties - for 'a few check ups' - he impressed the staff at St. Mary's, who were delighted to have a patient who was so fit and active at that age.

Mr. Jones had reached the impressive age of 103 and until a few years ago, was still driving and always busy outside with regular maintenance work on his bungalow and his daily gardening.

Clement Selkirk Jones passed away peacefully at Merrydale RH on 12th February 2024 aged 103 years.

### The Church Parish Magazine of Wootton — April '24

Solution - March Sudoku What two words? Solution 'The Bridge' Discover the two seasonal words from the following mixed letters. is delivered **free** to over 1,750 homes and RHEATPSPAYE businesses in Wootton Note to 'Bridge Deliverers' the May 2024 issue will be available to HAPPY EASTER pick up from the Churches on SATURDAY 27th April 2024 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. St George's Day April 23rd 2024 'There is a forgotten, nay almost forbidden word. which means more to me than any other. That word is England." Winston Churchill The publisher does not necessarily hold Any article published in 'THE BRIDGE' the same views as those expressed by

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Copy deadline date: FRIDAY 12th April 2024 (12 noon) for May 2024

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Published by St Edmund's and St Mark's Church and produced by members of The Bridge Magazine Group. Printed by Bishops Printers 023 9233 4900

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