

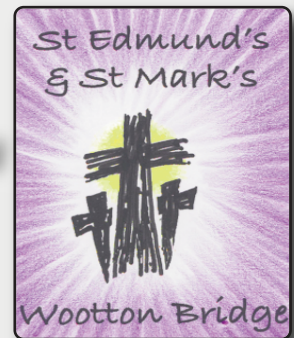
**MARCH 2024**

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(by our wonderful volunteers)

**THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON**

# The Bridge

*Building Bridges in the Community*



## Giving up on giving up?



So here I am, writing this article with a cup of tea and a chocolate biscuit to keep what passes for my inspiration flowing. "What?" you say, "A chocolate biscuit? Aren't you supposed to be a Christian? And don't Christians give such things up for Lent?" Well, yes, some do, and they find it a useful discipline to follow. But, for others of us, giving up things is a bit of a distraction. The real task for Lent is putting one's spiritual house in order, in preparation for the challenging period of grief and celebration which is the Easter season right at the end of March this year.

The clue is in the word "Lent" itself, which is derived from an Old English word for Spring and itself refers to the lengthening of the days at this time of year. Our Christian Lent is not so much about giving things up, or in former times actual fasting, as it is about a kind of inner Spring cleaning as we all wake up to the possibilities of the new season, and those of us who are Christians prepare once again to celebrate the joy of Jesus' Resurrection.

In the decades since I came to live on the Island, more and more people have been planting spring bulbs, especially daffodils, in gardens, public spaces and roadside verges. It can be almost magical to come across a fine show of spring colour in the most unexpected of places. After the daffodils, in places such as Firestone Copse, we will have the wood anemones (or 'wind flowers' as Charles Darwin called them) and then the wild bluebells. In the midst of such beauty, Lent does not need to be gloomy or deprived.

This year, the early date of Easter has presented our team at The Bridge with something of a challenge, because what would normally be the publication date of our April issue is actually Good Friday. So we have brought forward the publication date to March 22nd, and our copy date is now March 8th. This will be our Easter edition, but, by way of advance notice, you will also find the times of Easter services on page 3 of this edition.

David Bennison 

**For March services, please see Page 3**





## Wootton TV Stars!

All of the children in Year 5 recently entered the Isle of Wight writing festival, submitting their short stories for the 500 word competition. We submitted the most entries from all schools across the Island, all of which were then sent off to be judged.

This work followed a recent visit we had from Charles Dickens'

Great Great Grandson Ian who spoke to the children about his Great Great Grandfather's life and his writing. The children were really enthused to write following his visit. Members of his extended family were the writing judges and with one family member being a publisher, we were so delighted to have been part of this. One of our pupil's work has made it to the top ten which is so exciting, Piper's story can be read below.

Following on from this I then received an email from a presenter at BBC South Today sharing that he would be producing a film about the connections between Charles Dickens and the Isle of Wight, to mark the 175th anniversary of the summer he spent on the Island and that he would like us to be involved with the project.

The children were incredibly excited to be involved with this, the whole class were filmed completing a writing activity with several children then interviewed about their work and what particularly encourages them to write.

We are so proud to have been a part of such an exciting opportunity and you may have even spotted us on South Today when the footage was shown!



Mrs Jane Wilford  
Headteacher

## THE LOST WAY

I was only a fifteen year old girl and my life was about to change forever...Already I was slipping off the boat. "You can't do this Emily, I'm your sister!!!" I said sorrowfully. Emily drops her sweaty hand, and I roll down into the deep vast sea. Well that's what Emily thought...

I grabbed on to a small thin stick and waited for Emily to look down. **BANG!!!** I punched her in the face, and she fell just like I did, and all we could see was complete darkness. I woke up not knowing where I was, I grabbed on to Emily. "W-w-where are we?" I got up and looked around.

"I don't know where we are, anyways aren't you the oldest you're supposed to be figuring out important stuff?" Emily says with an annoying attitude. I take a step into the warm tropical ocean and then I see a glimpse of a dark strange figure. "Did you see what that was?" I ask. She doesn't reply, I wonder where she went. Where was she? Did she leave? Who was that dark mysterious figure? Did it take her? I saw it again, what was it? I need to know, I need to investigate!

I look around it's a beautiful bright green colourful forest. I see it again, I ran as fast I could and then I stopped... I scream in agony, in pain. My vision goes blurry and I faint. My pain hurts even more and I scream, but not because of my pain, something else. It was creepy, it was looking at me with a huge white smile but in a glimpse it was gone. I pant like a dog. A scream awakens the exotic forest. It sounds like Emily, could it be? I rush towards the sound like a tiger catching its prey. There's a weird dungeon right in front of me, should I go in it? Should I risk my life for the sister that was only just mean to me? Should I go in there and save my sisters life? Of course I will because that's what a brave sister would do!!!

I creep in trying not to make a sound - I saw a glimpse of something. I shiver with fear. I race down not looking at anything around me, I knew everything was a distraction! I see my sister but was it my? Was it really her or was it just another distraction. "Emily is that you?" I say shivering still. No it wasn't her it couldn't be! Then black evil destructive monsters surrounded Emily. I scream with fear. This all was a trap, a trap that would end my life. "No please, I don't want to die!" It races right towards me like a cheetah. I race up the stairs but no... It was too late, I'm going to die there's no chance I will survive. I gave up. And no one ever came back for me. Would they...

THE END!



## CONSERVATIVE AND LIBERAL HALLS “BUMBLE’S LANE”

contributed by Doreen Gazey

The building now known as Bumble’s Lane was built in 1914 as a Conservative hall, but owing to wartime restrictions was not finished at that time.

In 1924 it was completed by the addition of a hall. The hall was 40 feet long, 25 feet wide and 12 feet high at the eaves. There was seating for 200. The cost of the project was £380, all but £80 of which was subscribed by local Conservatives who also paid for the furnishings.

The hall was opened in August 1924 by Mrs. Morgan Hickman, wife of a former Conservative candidate, at a ceremony attended by various local dignitaries and a large crowd of residents.

As well as its original political purpose, the hall was used for many years to stage village entertainments. Most of the shows of the now defunct Amateur Dramatic Society were staged there from the 1930s until the Society was wound up in 1961. Village pantomimes and other entertainments took place there. Many older residents recall taking part in these.

Mr. Ron Cheverton of New Road kindly supplied the words of a song from a performance of Cinderella, staged in the late 1930s.

A song from a performance of Cinderella, sung by the Ugly sisters:

“We’re going to the ball,  
There’s going to be drink and all,  
The Sloop is providing it mostly I think,  
There’s coffee from Abells for those who don’t drink,  
But when the wine’s ready, I’ll tip you the wink”

The Sloop Inn is still functioning. Abells was a grocer’s shop located on the site of the (1980s) village post office.

After its closure in 1961 the hall was used for a time by a cosmetics manufacturer. It was re-opened by the Rector, George Rayner, in 1981 as a shopping arcade. The name derives from his old English sheep dog Bumble who “assisted” in the opening ceremony.



tb

### Church Services in Wootton during March 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 be 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

##### **MARCH**

Sun 3rd	0800 Holy Communion
Sun 10th	1700 Evensong
Wed 13th	0930 Holy Communion
Wed 20th	0930 Holy Communion
Sun 24th	1700 Evensong
Wed 27th	0930 Holy Communion
Thurs 28th	1900 Holy Communion

#### ST MARK'S

##### **MARCH**

Sun 3rd	0930 Brunch Service
Wed 6th	1115 Café Communion at St Mark's *
Sun 10th	0930 Holy Communion and Explorers
Sun 17th	0930 Morning Worship followed by the Big Mac Talk
Sun 24th	0930 Holy Communion
Tue 26th	1800 Stations of the Cross
Fri 29th	1000 Good Friday All Age Family Service
Sun 31st	1000 Easter Sunday Holy Communion

(\*) 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



## George Rayner, Founder of *The Bridge*

*This final instalment of George's own account of his life tells of his life in retirement, which of course was not really retirement at all.*



Revd. Canon George Rayner

George and Hazel moved into retirement to Glastonbury in 1989, but after a short rest, he was invited to officiate at Wells Cathedral and in some local Methodist and Anglican Churches. George also was involved with Church education there, being a Bishop's Visitor of Schools and an Ofsted Inspector of RE, a Cathedral Chaplain and member of the Cathedral Education Committee.

In 1993 he was asked by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to try and bring together a group of tiny rural parishes, (total population 675 with 6 ancient parish churches) entitled "The Six Pilgrims" where George had been taking services since 1992. This was a voluntary task, George refusing any payment for his services.

Despite misgivings by the authorities, the six parishes were encouraged to "work and worship together", with good regular congregations and giving a sound financial footing.

George enjoyed being a real parish priest with time to visit and get to know the generous and cooperative people, who had been neglected by the Diocese, but now were being presented as an example of good, practical rural ministry.

Both he and Hazel found this the most congenial and happy part of their long ministry. George thought after 10 years with the "Pilgrims" he should finally retire, and they both returned to the Island in 2002.

Since then, George has been involved in vacancies at Wroxall, Bonchurch, St. Lawrence, Gatcombe, St. Saviour's, Shanklin and Swanmore, but with increasing immobility, had to decide to hang up his dogcollar.

His only comment on it all, and the future was, "I have had a wonderful life, with a wonderful wife, worked with some wonderful people and I'm ready to move on" (Hazel, sadly died of a brain tumour in 2009).

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### Memories of Hot Cross Buns (Vivienne Loveless)

In the 1970's my dad owned the Post Office, in the High Street, Wootton which is now Miga the Chinese takeaway. In those days you only could get hot cross buns in Easter week, not like it is today, when they are on the menu 365 days a year. The buns were nicer too, as they were large and very spicy. Not like today's poor specimens.

In those days any post for Wootton was sorted at Wootton Post Office in a shed in our back garden. They used to deliver post on Good Friday, so my dad would get up as usual, at 0530, to supervise the postmen, who were sorting the post. As a special treat he would have brought from Wrays the bakery (where the Veterinary Surgery now is) hot cross buns for the family, and the postmen. So my mum and I would be woken to the lovely smell of hot cross buns that he would bring up to us in bed with a cup of tea, and the postmen would have had a hot cross bun to go with their tea, before they started their rounds. Wrays the bakery was the last of the bakers shops in Wootton. In the 1950's when we came to live in Wootton there were three bakers shops. Cannings in the High Street which is now a private home. Island Bakeries which is now Wisteria Gallery, and Wrays now the Veterinary Surgery.



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## 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**

### 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 March 14th.

### 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 sessions will run 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). Next sessions: March 7th, 14th & 21st. Free toast and a snack available to all, and free tea/coffee for adults. We hope to see you there! If you have any queries please email [welcome.stmarks@gmail.com](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 second 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. Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact: Marlene 01983 685266.

### **Creekside WI Activities for March 2024**

This month the speaker is Tina Parsonage, speaking on Rylance House Miniatures.

**March 28th** - Kurling - but not on ice!

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For more information please contact Hilary by:

Tel: 07769588644

Email: [annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk](mailto: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). The next meetings will be on March 8th and 22nd. £2.50 per person.

Contact Colin on 882588.

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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 March 1st.** "A History of Nursing" ~ Sonja and John Drewry. A very polished presentation and tribute to an honoured profession. The full history from the beginning, part costumed drama, part illustrated talk, not to be missed!

**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. All welcome.

### WOOTTON SCOUT HALL FOR HIRE.

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

Contact Peter on 883385 or [peteflow@uwclub.net](mailto:peteflow@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

We are now in the time of lent. A time when often folk give something up - chocolate is a favourite.

This year, as we work through the days until Easter Sunday on the 31st March, let's think of something extra to do each day. Many small acts of kindness, added together, make a massive difference.

God bless.

*Frances Balham*



### **Preachers for March**

3rd	March	10.30am	Binstead	Short and Snappy Communion
10th	March	3pm	Rev Frances Balham	
17th	March		Shir Whittingstall	
24th	March		Mrs Jane Dronfield	
31st	March		Mr James Pellow	



**FOR FUN, FRIENDSHIP  
AND FOOD.  
COME ALONG AND JOIN US.**

## **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**

### **PRAYERS FOR LENT AND EASTER**

Lord God, we come to you as the source of all peace asking that you send your Spirit to strengthen and uphold those pursuing an end to violence, embolden those with a heart for truth and justice, and amplify voices of wisdom and restraint.

May the light of peace and reconciliation overwhelm the darkness of destruction.

*Amen*

---

Risen Lord,  
shed your light on those who live in the shadow of death and warm the hearts of those who have lost hope, that they who daily bear the cross of hunger may find your Promised Land, and move from slavery to freedom.

As we proclaim your Easter song help us to die to greed and rise to justice, to abandon apathy and take up action, that rich and poor together may travel the road to freedom, and be restored to your resurrection life.

*Amen*

## 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*  
Vacancy  
Linda Pitcher, *V.Chair*  
Lee Lemon  
Vacancy  
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](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk)

website:

[www.woottonbridge.org.uk](http://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](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk)  
New IOW Councillor for Wootton Bridge, Sarah Redrup  
Email [sarah.redrup@iow.gov.uk](mailto: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.*

**Community Drop in Clinic** - A drop-in clinic will commence from Friday 1st March 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.

**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 5 volunteers and ideally need a few more plus a coordinator. If you are interested, please contact us by either email, [clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk), by phone on 01983 884555, or pop into the office.

**Party in the Park** - Next year's Party in the Park will take place on **Saturday 6th July 2024**. This is our annual afternoon fete and evening music picnic. It is very much a village event and this year there will be lots of food and craft stalls, various performances in the arena, an ice cream van and music.

If you would like a stall, then please contact the Clerk on 01983 884555 or via the Wootton Bridge Parish Council Facebook page. To make the event a success we are still in need of volunteers so if you can help in any way, please let us know.

**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.

### Chair's Message – Cllr Barrie Hailstone

It gives me much pleasure to appraise residents of what your Parish Council has been doing. At long last, after two letters sent to the Police Commissioner, we now have the cooperation of the Ryde Police Officers. We have been informed that not only has the case regarding the vandalism of the Defibrillator has been reopened, that the culprit has been arrested and charged. The offender will face the Youth Offending Tribunal for appropriate sentencing in due course, however there is some doubt that the PC will be reimbursed for the damage incurred to the Defibrillator.

I am a little disappointed to note of some inaccuracies in last months Bridge relating to “Homebray House, Wootton”. I can assure residents that your Councillors are fully acknowledgeable of this complex. Furthermore, our Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month which usually means we meet in the latter half of the month.

I can advise that we have been in contact with the IOW Council in respect to the condition of certain roads. Once I have more news on this subject I will report accordingly.

A resident of Fishbourne Parish contacted me, as she thought her property fell within Wootton Bridge, to assist in her campaign to get Island Roads/IOW Council to install safer crossing points in the Kite Hill area, along with that of the Bridge. Your PC cannot interfere with matters pertaining to another Parish, but I did stress that Wootton PC would coordinate all efforts to assist Fishbourne PC in their endeavours. WBPC is very conscious of the safety of all our residents and visitors within our village environment and beyond.

*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](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge.org.uk)*

Liz Kingston – Clerk 



## Wootton Scouts

(by Peter Flynn, former Group Scout Leader. Now Quartermaster)

Scouting in Wootton started in 1911 as a Sea Scout Troop but little has been recorded until 13th June 1916 when the troop was formally registered. The troop was then led by the Rev. C.L. Blake as the Scoutmaster and J.C. Hennah as Assistant Scoutmaster. The County Press states that as the old registration (or Warrant) dated 1910 was not pursued, it would assume therefore that the troop was in existence around that time. I know the troop was in existence in 1916 -1917, as evidenced by the photograph, and was led by a Mr Mazagon. Photographic evidence however does show that Wootton Sea Scouts did exist during that time. Little has been found until 4th February 1942 when 4th Newport was registered. No further records have been discovered until 1965. A statement in The County Press dated August 21st reported on the closure of the Group and the transfer of their assets to 4th Newport. It also stated that 1st Wootton was initiated in 1947 and through the years had attained considerable success in sea training. Boys from the Troop had achieved high honours at the Warsash Marine training school and did well in the Merchant Navy, so it would appear that some time between 1916 and 1947 the Group had closed. Nothing further has been recorded until April 1969 when a previous link with a Cub pack in Newport was formed at Wootton. It was decided that the Group be named as 4th Newport and Wootton.



Wootton Sea Scouts dated 1916

In April a Cub Pack was formed at Wootton. Because of the link already forged with Wootton it was agreed that the Pack be linked with the 4th and the name tab on the shoulder to be 4th Newport (Wootton Section). Leaders of the Pack joined forces with 1st Chale and Niton Group and ran a Pack Holiday at Corf (IW) for approx 20 Cubs. It was a very successful event. Preliminary talks started with Wootton parents, with the blessing of the DC, on the possible formation of a Scout Troop. The response was encouraging.

On Saturday 2nd October 1976 saw the Group move into a small room above the youth club in the old Wootton Primary School in New Rd. A year later permission was granted for a garage to be built to house the camping equipment. That meant we didn't have to go up in the loft of the School anymore to access some of the equipment. Our main camping items were stored in a church hall in Newport which is now Morrison's café and the boats were stored on the Wootton Creek green. Strange set up really when the 'Sea' Scouts stored the camping equipment and the 'Land' Scouts looked after the boats.

By 1984 the Newport section closed down and Wootton was re-registered as 1st Wootton. From 1999 until 2007 we occupied the small room above the youth club. Then we decided we needed our own HQ as the lease on the room was running out. Plans were drawn up, planning permission sought, fundraising in earnest began and after a lot of back breaking work by parents and leaders the present HQ now in Wootton Recreation ground was opened by Major General Oliver Roome (The President of the Isle of Wight Council) on 29th October 1999.

Just like any other Scout Group in the world, we all suffer from lack of leaders. If you are interested in becoming a Leader with 1st Wootton please contact Rachael on 07593 700985 or email 1stwoottongsl@gmail.com.



More information on the Group can be found at:

<https://Isle of Wight Scouting Heritage.blogspot.com>



## 'The Bridge' is delivered free

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businesses in Wootton

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'  
the April 2024 issue will be available  
to pick up from the Churches on  
**SATURDAY 23rd March 2024**

### What are the two words?

Discover the two seasonal words from  
the following mixed letters.

**RHEATPSPAYE**

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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**

4					1		5	
6			3				1	
			7	6				
		2	6	7			4	
	4		1		3			9
	1			2			7	5
5		8		1				3
				3			6	
	6	3				5		4

## 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.

### MOTHERS DAY

March 10th

"A mother is  
she who  
can take  
the place of  
all others  
but whose  
place no one else  
can take."



Cardinal Mermillod

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David Bennison on  
882783 or the  
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