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To Bee, or not to Bee . . . that is the question

by Nicola Broadsmith

I've been watching the bees a lot lately. They're such busy little critters. It may sound melodramatic, but without bees we would all die.

Actually, that's true! Why? Bees are absolutely vital for pollination. In fact they are a "keystone" species. A Cornell University study in 2006 showed that in the USA, $14 billion-worth of seed and crops were dependent on bees for pollination; in the UK that figure was £200 million. Without bees, plants are in jeopardy!

Over the past century, bees have become more prone to disease ... and numbers are declining. You may have heard of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). This is a huge issue in the USA in particular. Industrial-scale fruit farming needs hundreds of hives, which are transported vast distances from field to field. Stressed out, bombarded with electro-magnetic waves from mobile phone masts, consuming the nectar, pollen and corn syrup from genetically-modified crops, blasted with pesticides and herbicides, attacked by varroa mite . . there are many theories explaining the prevalence of CCD. The single thread that connects all of these hypotheses is that the bees' poor little immune systems are shot to pieces!

Here in the UK, did you know that 25% of the 256 native bee species are listed as endangered? Your garden is "now the principal habitat for many species of wild bee" according to The Ecologist.

There are several ways that you and I can help:

1. Grow the types of plants that bees like - the RHS has several downloadable plant guides if you need inspiration!
   a. Early-flowering plants are especially good for newly-emerged queen bees who hibernate over winter.
   b. Herbs and 'cottage-garden' plants are always a good choice! Pop down to Care In The Garden for a good selection.
   c. Avoid double-flowering types.
   d. Bees especially need June-flowering plants.
   e. Aim for a variety of nectar-rich plants throughout the year.
2. Bees need water . . . but they can't swim. A gravel-filled dish of water will allow them to drink without danger of drowning.
3. Leave the weeds! This may be tough, but bees love dandelions!
4. Reduce the use of pesticides/herbicides - try more natural methods of pest and weed control where possible.
5. Hedges and sheltered areas of longer grass make good nesting places for solitary bees and bumblebees.
6. Why not make a recycled 'bee house'!?
7. The IW BeeKeepers Association (IWBKA) run training sessions for new beekeepers at the IWBKA Teaching Apiary at Quarr Abbey.
8. If you have a honey bee swarm, there are several IWBKA swarm collectors. Dave Cassell deals with East Wight swarms (including Wootton) tel: 407674

Let's make Wootton – and the rest of the Island – a bee-friendly and bee-utiful place to be! Sweet!

For more information: www.theecologist.org www.bumblebeeconservation.org www.rhs.org.uk www.iwbka.org.uk (The Isle of Wight BeeKeepers Association) www.facebook.com/OneTwoGreen - taking small green steps to a better world . . . together!

"I've set fire to the hedge!" *by Jo Cooper*

It was a particularly hot Easter Monday, Carolyn, Daddy and I were in the garage. He was showing us what a lathe did. Suddenly Mummy's worried face appeared at the window in front of us.

She looked anxious, but spoke clearly enunciating every word so Daddy, who was deaf, could read her lips. "I've set fire to the hedge!"

The spruce hedge surrounded our house and back garden. It was eight foot high and three foot deep and was very dense. The fire was on the left hand side of the garden. The hedge extended up towards the house. There was a large Prunus tree which hung over the hedge and house. The situation was serious. Everything was very dry as we had not had rain for weeks. The fire could easily have spread and taken the whole hedge, then the tree and reach the house.

"Oh my God!" Daddy said as he went into action. Unperturbed, he acted swiftly. He picked up the ladder from the garage and leant it up against the hedge just to the left of the fire. He was now in between the fire and the house. He knew that all evergreens are oily and, unchecked, the fire would quickly spread along the hedge. My sister Carolyn was sent to phone the fire brigade. The fire raged ferociously. A whole section of the hedge was full of smoke. As I watched there was a gentle puff of wind which cleared the smoke and I saw a strong red fire burning fiercely. The pampas grass in front of the hedge was also engulfed with red flames. I loved staring into a warm friendly fire in the sitting room in winter time. This was an angry fire. I went indoors out of the way. Mummy got three buckets, and filling one while the other bucket was left to fill by itself in the kitchen sink, she ran down the garden carrying the precious water to Daddy.

Carolyn came into the garden. She looked apprehensive. She relayed a message from the fire brigade to Mummy. She spoke clearly: "The fire brigade are busy with a heath fire at Brading and ask if we can manage?" Carolyn had proudly told them that her Daddy had been a fireman in the war. I watched from the safety of the sitting room. Daddy was up the ladder emptying the water onto the source of the fire, while Mummy ran up and down the garden carrying buckets of water.

At one stage I went to my bedroom and on my knees prayed to God for help. The firefighting went on for a while and then the tempo slackened as the fire died down and eventually was out. My professional firefighting Daddy, still up the top of the ladder, damped down the remains of the hedge. "It's such a hot day. The air is very dry and it might ignite again," he explained. "But all is well. Carolyn, will you tell the fire brigade please?"

Carolyn returned to the phone: "My Daddy has put out the fire and he said to tell you that all is well." A while later the family came together at the site of incident. Daddy had his arms around Mummy who had black smudges on her cheeks and nose. I looked at the new hole in the hedge. All that was left were blackened branches on two trunks. The hedge was still green on either side of the damaged hole and through this gap there was now a clear view of the field on the other side.

"We're just going down to the church," Carolyn announced and we wandered out of the garden. This visit was nothing to do with thanking God for our deliverance; it was to simply play on the tombstones.

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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
Ross Edmunds
Ken Morris - *Chairman*
Peter Mundell
Daryll Pitcher
Linda Pitcher
Steve Porter - *Vice Chairman*
Barbara Port
Mike Waddleton
Carole Wolton
Liz Kingston, *Clerk*

All can be contacted at the HIC on 884555.

Office opening times:-

PARISH COUNCIL
Mon. 10am-1pm; Tues. 10am-1.30pm; Wed. - closed all day; Thurs. 10am-1.30pm; Fri: 10am-5.30pm

BEAT OFFICER
First Tuesday in month 10am-12 noon or messages can be left for PC Lesley Metcalfe

WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
5 Joanne's Walk, Brannon Way, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, IW PO33 4NX
Telephone and Fax 884555
email: wbpc@onwight.net
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

Election Time

The election has happened and your new parish councillors are:
Barry Abraham, Ross Edmunds, Ken Morris, Pete Mundell, Daryll Pitcher, Linda Pitcher, Barbara Port, Steve Porter, Mike Waddleton, Carole Wolton.

And your new County Councillor is: Barry Abraham

PARTY IN THE PARK — Saturday 22 July, 2017

Fete 12 noon - 5pm. Music / picnic 6pm - 10pm

Planning is well underway and the Working Group intends it to be even better than previous events. We are asking for all stalls to register by the 1st July and forms are available at the office or by telephoning 884555.

We will of course have the usual village stalls, bouncy castle and annual tug of war. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available in the Scout Hut throughout the afternoon, and the Rugby Club will have a bar and barbecue.

The evening music and picnic will start at 6.00pm and will feature an eclectic mix of music and song for all tastes. Don't forget to bring your own seating/rugs and picnic and soak up the atmosphere as the sun goes down. There will be the usual raffle which will be drawn in the evening and all proceeds will go towards a nominated charity

Liz Kingston - Clerk

POLICE DROP-IN SESSIONS are held at Wootton Bridge Help Centre, Brannon Way from 10am to 12 noon on the first Tuesday of each month. Please call in if there are any matters you wish to discuss with our local police officers.

DIAL 999 WHEN THERE IS IMMEDIATE DANGER OR YOU WITNESS A CRIME: DIAL 101 WHEN IT'S LESS URGENT

Dial 101, a 24-hour confidential number to report noisy neighbours, abandoned vehicles, dumping and fly-tipping, drunken and rowdy groups, broken street lighting, etc.

You will talk to one of a team of highly trained people who will report the problem and keep you posted on progress.

U3A HISTORY AND GENERAL GROUP

The History and General group had their first meeting in the Community Hall, Church Road, Wootton. Our next meeting is on Friday, June 2nd and will feature Maddy Dobson and a talk on Herbalism. This will be followed on Friday July 7th with an outing to Ventnor Park where members can enjoy a Putting competition for which we have a Trophy. Any U3A member is welcome to take part, or you can just have tea and cake in the shade, under cover if wet. There is also the Green Gym at the back of the park and a view of the sea.

Parking on the road by the Park is free, and the main bus route has a stop there as well. Any U3A member can join us either at Wootton or the Park. There is no meeting in August and we resume on Friday, September 1st with a compete programme of speakers and interests organised for us by Helen Williams. If you are interested in our group please email me at: louisonwight@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 721646.

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News from Wootton Community Primary School

I wonder how many of you have recently thought about fronted adverbials, relative clauses or modal verbs and adverbs? Year 6 have been put through their paces during their SATs week and shown great resilience and strength to tackle questions of the many things that they have been learning since starting school 7 years ago. During this time the staff have had many debates around the staffroom table at lunchtime, discussing the importance and relevance of many of the new terms used now in education. For example, speech marks have been rebranded as 'inverted commas' and 'conjunctions' in place of 'connectives' — it has amazed me at how adaptable our children are to move with constant changes in education. We are so proud of our children at Wootton Primary School and embrace all that the changes that the Department for Education throw at us!

The staff are constantly looking at ways to ensure learning is fun, such as the Year 1 children being able to come to school dressed as pirates, inspiring them to write and learn about maps. The Year 5 children brought the poem, *The Highway Man* to life, devising their own drama piece which they performed beautifully, using their own sound effects and props to bring the extract alive. I am delighted that we are able to continue to offer the children an exciting curriculum as we work together to move the school forward. As we now move into the summer term we are beginning to support the children with their next phase in learning, for our Year 6 children this means that transition to High School. We have exciting plans in place over the next few months, such as devising new class names and creating new school rules; all of which we will continue to share with you.

Jane Wilford
(Headteacher)

WOOTTON YOUTH CENTRE

Wootton Youth Centre (WYC) is a place where young people can meet with friends, make new ones and join in activities such as football, cookery (with the Four Seasons Cookery Academy), water volleyball (in the summer!), table tennis, quizzes, table football, art projects, film nights.

We have a café, offering tuck, ice lollies, toast and the most amazing hot chocolates! The young people that attend WYC help in programming session activities, parties, trips and fundraising events. We have amazing support from PGL staff, including monthly activity trips for the cost of weekly subs (£1). Our team of trained, professional staff (experienced in supporting special needs) are here to support the young people to have fun and help them understand the world around them. As youth workers we have time to talk and are able to advise, signpost and educate young people about an array of concerns and questions.

Our great facilities are located at the Old School on New Road in Wootton and session times are:

Mondays	Junior Night	8-11 years	6.30-8.30pm
Tuesdays	Senior Night	11yrs-Year 8	6.30-9pm
Thursdays	Drop in Café Night	Year 9-Year 11	7.00-9pm

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

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can give you any further information and please check out our WOOTTON YOUTH CENTRE Facebook page.

Tesni Challis, Lead Youth Worker. Mobile: 07947 664443

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A WEDDING MYSTERY

by Doreen Gazey

In the more than 20 years since I was appointed Parish Church Archivist I have dealt with quite a variety of enquiries ranging from assistance with school projects to locating burials. On occasion I have a mystery to deal with.

One such began in 2008 with an enquiry from the mainland. The enquirer was planning a ruby wedding celebration for his sister and since he was a boy at the time of the wedding asked me for help. We began with a wedding photograph which was certainly taken at St Edmund's. However, there was no record in our registers. Next step was the Record Office where we eventually found the wedding record in the Binstead registers. We were mystified and then looking through the history of Holy Cross, Binstead, inspiration struck.

The year of the wedding, on November 22nd, 1969, was the year of a fire at Holy Cross. Major damage was caused and in fact as I looked further into the story I found that the church was not reopened until 1971. Services were held in a variety of local churches until then. The family lived on Kite Hill and no doubt St Edmund's must have been the most convenient for the wedding, which was actually conducted by the Vicar of Binstead.

There are two windows commemorating the reopening in Holy Cross. Why not pay a visit. Since the churches of St Edmund's and St Mark's, Wootton, Holy Cross, Binstead and St Peter's Havenstreet are now officially part of a plurality (several parishes with the same incumbent) with Veronica Brown as parish priest, I decided this story would be a good one to use at the annual Open Weekend. I have obtained some extra material, which will make an interesting display. Come and look.

Grateful thanks to Jo Cooper for supplying me with some photographs and as always the Record Office staff who have been a great help over the years.

If anyone has an article suitable for The Bridge magazine please contact David Bennison on 882783 or Trevor Wheeler on 883674.

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10am - Brunch (St Mark's)

2nd Sunday
10am - Sung Eucharist (St. Edmund's)
6pm - Evensong (St. Edmund's)

3rd Sunday
8am - Holy Communion (St. Edmund's)
10am - Sung Eucharist & Explorers (St. Mark's)

4th & 5th Sundays
10am - Sung Eucharist (St. Edmund's)
6pm - Evensong (St. Edmund's)

Wednesdays at 9.30am — Service at St. Edmund's with Holy Communion

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Evening Services as announced. Junior Church meets 10 am

Minister's Message

I read on the website today (May 12th) that tomorrow should be the first time the new floating bridge transports people and vehicles between Cowes to East Cowes and visa versa. Although there has been a launch in place transporting passengers across the River Medina there is no doubt that the floating bridge has been very much missed. This made me consider how much we take for granted. These include the beauty of the Island, friends and family but especially our Lord God. We often turn to God when we find ourselves with problems and concerns but when things appear to be going well it is too easy to put God to one side.

I cannot guarantee the new floating bridge will be in place tomorrow but I can guarantee that God will always be there for us. Let us not take our God for granted.

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You alone

Blessings, Rev David Plumb

Achievements before the age of 10

At the age of three, the 19th-century English philosopher **John Stuart Mill** was able to read Greek.

At the age of four, **Lulu** sang in public for the first time.

At the age of five, **Natalie Wood** appeared in her first film.

At the age of five, **Tori Amos** won a scholarship to study the piano.

At the age of six, **Shirley Temple** was awarded an honorary Oscar 'in grateful recognition of her outstanding contribution to screen entertainment during the year 1934'.

At the age of seven, **Fred Astaire** was performing in vaudeville.

At the age of eight, **Jamie Oliver** was cooking in his father's pub.

At the age of nine, **Macaulay Culkin** was cast as the lead character in *Home Alone*, the film that made him famous.

At the age of nine, **Ruth Lawrence** passed A-level maths.

Quiz answers: **Battles** - 1. The Wars of the Roses, 2. Dieppe, 3. The English Civil War, 4. Russia, 5. Wellington, 6. Yorktown, 7. Dungeness, 8. World War II, 9. China, 10. The Battle of Normandy. **Animals** - 1. Bats, 2. Tree sloth, 3. Orang-utan, 4. Desert rat, 5. World's smallest (12 inches high), 6. Irish elk, 7. Monkey, 8. Viviparous, 9. Chickens, 10. Turtles. **Famous Britons** - 1. Thomas Sheraton, 2. Malaria, 3. William Baffin, 4. Havelock Ellis, 5. Lord Nelson, 6. Alan Turing, 7. Sir Christopher Wren, 8. Oliver Cromwell.

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Battles

1. During which war did the Battle of Ferrybridge take place in 1461?
2. The raid on which French port by Allied forces against the Germans in 1942, resulted in a catastrophic loss of Canadian troops when the mission failed completely?
3. The Battle of Edgehill was the first battle fought during which war?
4. In which country is Sevastopol, scene of a successful siege in 1854-55?
5. Who commanded the British force which defeated the French at the Battle of Vitoria in 1813?
6. At which battle during the American War of Independence, were the British defeated, thus ending the war?
7. At which sea battle in 1652 did the Dutch fleet defeat the British?
8. During which war was the Battle of the Coral Sea fought?
9. At the Battle of Imjin River, during the Korean war, British troops were defeated by the forces of which country?
10. Which battle started with the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944 and lasted until the middle of August?

Animals

1. Which kinds of mammals comprise the order *Chiroptera*?
2. The order *Edentata* is comprised of anteaters, armadillos and which other mammal?
3. Which is the only great ape to be found outside Africa?
4. What is the alternative name for the North African jerboa?
5. What is special about the royal antelope?
6. Which large antlered animal's bones have been found in Irish bogs and in the UK, and although extinct its relatives live on in parts of northern Europe?
7. What kind of animal is a capuchin?
8. What term is given to animals whose young develop inside their mothers?
9. Cochin and Welsummer are breeds of which animal?
10. What kind of animals belong to the order *Chelonia*?

Famous Britons

1. Which cabinet-maker was born at Stockton-on-tees in 1751, his style being applied to many kinds of furniture in the late 18th century?
2. Scottish physician, Sir Patrick Manson discovered the means of transmission of which disease?
3. Which explorer discovered the great bay, between north-east Canada and Greenland, which has since borne his name?
4. Who wrote *Studies in the Psychology of Sex?*
5. Which famous seaman, son of a Norfolk clergyman, joined the navy at the age of 12 and died in 1805 having risen to the highest naval rank?
6. Which great computer genius committed suicide after being unable to come to terms with his criminalisation for being homosexual?
7. Which architect was also a professor of mathematics and of astronomy and helped to found the Royal Society?
8. Who had the title of 'Lord Protector of England'?

Sudoku

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The Bridge
Building Bridges in the Community

St Edmund's & St Mark's Wootton Bridge

So what if it were you?

In case you hadn't noticed, regular church services continue in Wootton, as they have for a thousand years or more. Of course, the services themselves are not like those of a thousand (or even 50) years ago; the Church, surprisingly perhaps, moves with the times. What does not change is that human beings always need spiritual renewal and refreshment. It is often easier to find those things in the company of others rather than on our own. The Church is a household of faith, and everyone in it, whether they have been coming all their lives or are with us for the very first time, is of equal value and equally loved.

In the household of faith there are chores to be done. Each service probably requires several dozen different jobs to be completed even before the Minister arrives. I wonder whether the almost universal preference for sitting at the back is in part due to a desire not to be noticed and lumbered with a job or two. If so, it is not a good plan; the Churchwarden who will be handing out jobs usually also sits at the back . . .

But suppose, just suppose, that the job you were asked to do was not lighting the altar candles or polishing the collection plate, but actually leading the service? Leading services is what we have the clergy for, surely? Well, yes and no. While the Church requires that some services are led by ordained clergy, many can be, and here in Wootton regularly are, led by lay people.

Partly, this is because there are fewer clergy than there once were. As you will know, we now share our parish priest with Binstead and Havenstreet, and Veronica can't be in three places at once. Much more importantly, we lay people get involved because everyone in the church, lay or ordained, shares in its ministry, so everyone has jobs to do. And what those jobs actually are can turn out to be a real surprise.

If you are going to do a job, it's a good idea to get some training. Perhaps foolishly, I recently put my name down for a Worship Leader course. Even before the training was finished, my name was on the service rota (Veronica was a project manager in industry before she was ordained, and doesn't miss a trick). Having now led some services, I have learned that it is both scary and rewarding, and very different from doing just one part of the service, like reading a lesson or saying the prayers.

So come to St Edmund's when there is an evening service (they are currently on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 6pm), and you will find that it is lay led, sometimes by me. If you think that you can do a better job than I can, do tell us. Our household of faith welcomes new volunteers with open arms.

David Bennison