

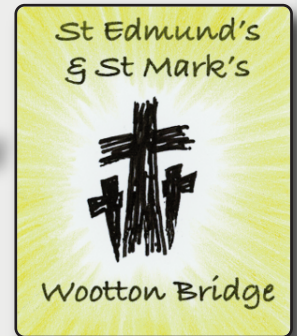
**MAY 2026**

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**THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON**

# The Bridge

*Building Bridges in the Community*



## A good mix?

Just as this issue arrives in your letter box or on the shop counter, we shall be in a time of local elections and their aftermath. As you probably know, we don't do politics in *The Bridge*. Both the magazine and the church that brings it to you are for everyone, and we don't use our limited space to discuss things that might set people apart from each other.

Like everything in life, that only works to a certain extent. The church obviously cannot pretend that the election is not happening, or that it is of no concern. What we can do is remember and pray for the candidates - all of them - in the knowledge that they have put themselves forward for election, which is a risky and painful process. We can and do pray that our local government will work in the best interests of the whole community, and that it will wherever possible find ways to respond to different perceptions and resolve competing priorities. Given the generally negative view we tend to have of politics and politicians, it is as well to remind ourselves that they too are human and as much in need of the love of God as the rest of us.

You might have reservations about the church engaging with politics even to that limited extent. Religion and politics do not mix, you might say. My picture above is part of the world famous set of sixth century mosaics in the church of San Vitale in Ravenna, which was for a while the western capital of the Byzantine empire. The image is of the emperor Justinian, surrounded by the clerics and military staff who ran his empire. No-one seems to be enjoying the occasion, but then I might be a bit bored after 1500 years on the same wall, even with the nice picture of the empress Theodosia and her ladies on the opposite side of the room. However we see it, the picture does tell us that the people of those far-off times thought that religion and politics did mix successfully, at least in the mosaics on the wall.

The chocolate eggs were eaten and the Easter bunny forgotten long ago, but the Church is still celebrating the Easter season, which continues for forty days to the Ascension and then a further ten days until Pentecost. This is to my mind the most beautiful time of year on our Island, with the bright green foliage and succession of Spring flowers showing us the blessing of new life that is such a central part of the Easter message. We pray that you and yours may too be blessed in this continuing Easter season.

David Bennison 

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

# A Day Not Wasted

My late husband used to say that a day when you didn't learn anything was a day wasted. No one wants to waste a day, time is precious, especially when you reach my age.

I love quizzes. I love setting them and taking part in them. It is satisfying to test yourself, and it certainly feels good when you are surprised by how much you actually know. At least that is my excuse as I sit watching YouTube at 2.30am, promising myself that I will go to bed after this movie or Trivia quiz. I suppose it is a form of addiction but less harmful than some, and it can be put to good use.

More than 20 years ago my late husband and I began putting on pub quizzes in the Cedars. When he passed away, my daughter stepped into the breach and we carried on, moving first to the Falcon in Ryde and then the Castle. We raised money for the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and I seem to remember that we had made nearly £10,000 before Covid put a stop to our endeavours.

I thought post covid was the end of the road, but as conditions improved, the landlord of the Newport Ale House asked if we would like to put on a fortnightly quiz in aid of Ability Dogs for Young People. That was three years ago and we have been a regular fixture there ever since. Sometimes one of the 'Ability Dogs will attend, presumably to keep an eye on us and make sure we are doing everything properly, but more likely to eat crisps and have a fuss made of them. They are remarkable creatures and we are privileged to be able to help.

Recently we have been hosting quizzes at the Church Close Community Hall and people seem to be enjoying them. It is a lovely hall and so nice to have a venue that's easy to get to without a car. We are lucky to have somewhere for people to meet, and avoid loneliness and isolation.

It is a challenge thinking up new rounds and trying to gauge what people will find entertaining and not too much of a struggle. We call them Fun Quizzes and hope that participants will find them so. We would hate anyone to get 'nul points'!

I also set a monthly quiz for St Mark's 'Elephant Club'; nothing to do with weight, just memory. Hopefully, dredging up information about the '50's and knowing who starred in Brief Encounter will help to keep the little grey cells functioning in good order. Memories are so precious and their loss can be a tragedy that can impair our sense of who we are, and who we have been.

Answering questions on '60's rock bands, and animal habitats probably isn't recommended therapy by health professionals as a reliable method for keeping those precious memories intact, but I do believe it helps.

I have to believe that, or I have lost my excuse for sitting up late into the night doing Quizamp on YouTube.

Mary Buswell 



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

(see more events on Page 5)

**Fun, local, physiotherapist-led**, Pilates based movement and balance classes. Wednesdays 4.30-5.25 or 5.30-6.25, St Marks Church Coffee Lounge. Flexible terms: no need to pay ahead - you only pay for the classes you attend. For more information and spaces contact Anna on aqphysio@outlook.com

What's On at The Old School Centre (T) 01983 882820 (E) hello@theoldschoolcentre.org

**Buzzy-Bean Café** Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm with a low-cost menu, 1st regular drink free! **MoJo Yoga with Jo** Mondays 6pm-7:15pm £10 per class. **Sarah's Crafty Café** Tuesdays 10am-12pm £3. **Paracise with Helen** Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:15pm £5 for 1st class, £9 PAYG or £28 for month. **Afternoon Quiz** Tuesdays 1:15pm free. **Pilates with Alison** Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:15pm £8 per class. **Heartcare Wight Cardiac Rehab** Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm Free / GP referral only. **Move & Stretch with Suki** Thursdays 11am-12pm free/donations. **Knit & Knatter with Kate** Thursdays 1pm-3pm instructor available 2nd / 3rd Thu of month free/donations, donations of wool/knitting needles will be gratefully welcomed. **Adult Intermediate Tap with Suki** Thursdays 4:30pm-5:30pm £8.50 per class. **Wootton History Group** 1st Friday of month doors open at 2pm for 2:30pm-3:30pm £4 per session. **Wootton Crafters** 2nd & 4th Sat of month 10am-4pm £7 per session. **The Power Of Self-Esteem** 5-week funded course Mondays starting 1st June 10am-1pm £10 deposit + £20 materials fee (a huge saving on cost thanks to The National Lottery Awards For All), this is a structured & accredited CPD course, contact Steph at 07976009087 or visit [www.theoldschoolcentre.org/courses](http://www.theoldschoolcentre.org/courses).

Are you a community group or activity looking to hire a venue? – complete our booking request form via [www.theoldschoolcentre.org](http://www.theoldschoolcentre.org) to enquire.

**Ali's Fitness Fusion** - Thursdays at Wootton Bridge Community Centre - 5.30pm is Rockbox Fitness (A stress busting, therapy session. Punch, kick, and smash sticks to classic and modern rock tunes, 6.30pm is Fitsteps (Strictly Inspired Dance Fitness Class). Classes also at Binstead Community Centre on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Contact ali\_ontheisland@yahoo.co.uk or [www.alisfitnessfusioniow.com](http://www.alisfitnessfusioniow.com)

**Short Mat Bowls** - Every Tuesday in the Wootton Community Centre at 10am. It is £5 per session to include tea & biscuits and finishes about 12.30. Please contact Colin on 882588.

**"Sounds Lively"** - Hello all of you singers. We are a mixed singing group, and always open for new members. Our choir leader is a talented musician and we sing in a range of musical styles: Traditional, folk, and international songs, and always focus on harmony. There are no auditions or a need to read music. Although we do take our music seriously we have fun too. We are: A friendly bunch and stop mid-session for tea/coffee. Where: Newport Scout Hall, Woodbine Close, Newport. When: Wednesdays 10:30am – 12:30pm. Cost: £5 per session (term time only). Contact: Alison 07731 933 286.

## Quarr Abbey Events

12 - 16 May 2026 Isle of Wight Spring Walking Festival	27 June 2026 Abbey Picnics Quarr Abbey Food & Drink	28 June 2026 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm New Carnival Workshop – Mini Carnival Dance
24 May 2026 3:00 pm Concert by Romerike Vocal Ensemble	27 June 2026 10:30 am - 12:00 pm 'Pop Up' Singing For Fun Session	28 June 2026 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Ryde School Swing Band
12 June 2026 11:00 am - 12:00 pm New Carnival Workshop – Headdress & Wristband	27 June 2026 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm Summer Serenade	28 June 2026 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sea Gels Shanty Band
24 June 2026 11:00 am Guided Tour of the Church	28 June 2026 Abbey Picnics	29 June 2026 Abbey Picnics
26 June 2026 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Summer Fundraising Supper & Raffle	28 June 2026 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm New Carnival Workshop – Simple Flags, Wavers & Shakers	29 June 2026 10:00 am - 5:00 pm A Celebration of Island History



## Church Services in Wootton during May 2026

Sun 3rd	8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's 9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's	Wed 20th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Wed 6th	11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's	Sun 24th	9.30am Pentecost Holy Communion at St Mark's 6.30pm Evensong with Cantus Vesperi at St Edmund's.
Sun 10th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Mark's 6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's	Wed 27th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Wed 13th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's	Sun 31st	9.30am Plurality Holy Communion at St James' Church.
Thu 14th	10am Plurality Ascension Holy Communion at St Edmund's.		
Sun 17th	9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's		All welcome



## My Wootton


Oh! to be in Wootton now that Spring is here,  
 Oh! to be in Wootton at just any time of year.  
 I've lived here in the village since 1993,  
 My heart is here; I'll only leave to seek Eternity.

It has no pretty cottages around a village green,  
 But it's set in lovely countryside, begging to be seen.  
 A landscape isn't perfect without water of some kind,  
 The creek adds that tranquillity so soothing to the mind.

In the year 1087 St Edmunds church appeared,  
 It stands there still, a sentinel for nigh on a thousand years.  
 It has seen so many weddings, so many vows of love;  
 And laid to rest departed souls en route to Heaven above.

We have another parish church, built more recently  
 St Marks, where you will surely find true hospitality.  
 Genuine warmth and friendship await as you enter here  
 The true meaning of the Christian life is there for all to share

So much history surrounds us, and the past we may extol  
 But a happy village future should be our only goal.  
 Well, that's my take on Wootton, my lovely village home;  
 I'm happy here with good friends, why would I ever roam?

Mary Buswell 

## A Blueprint for Life


"It doesn't matter who or what you deem Jesus to have been, his blueprint for living was the perfect one. Love one another"

My late husband Chris said this many years ago, and now our grandson Phillip repeats it back to me and, I am happy to say, agrees with the sentiment.

Towards the end of his life Jesus would have come across a group of men who were following a very different blueprint from his.

Jesus hated injustice and he would have been surrounded by it in those final days in Jerusalem. The powerful Jewish Governing body, the Sanhedrin were, if not actually responsible for all the dreadful events that were coming, were certainly complicit in making things worse. Working in concert with the High Priests, Judges and Elders, they were charged with running the city of Jerusalem for all its diverse citizens. They had succeeded in turning the Temple into a profitable commercial enterprise and charging pilgrims to pray and enter therein, threatening

them with damnation if they failed to hand over what little money they had. This is surely not the work of a man of God. In the midst of other people's poverty, they lived well. Then along came Jesus, who descended on them as the Wrath of God, throwing out the defilers of His Father's House. He declared that anyone could pray without ceremony and wherever they liked, and without paying. No wonder the Priests hated and feared Him, as he seemed bent on endangering their comfortable existence. His was the voice of equality and brotherly love. His fate was sealed as he spoke out against their entitled lifestyle. Today he would be called a hippy; he preached love and peace, a fairly alien concept, as was his assertion that all men are brothers to be treated equally. He also insisted that we should care for each other. I would love to have been able to see their reaction to that instruction!

Mary Buswell 

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

(see more events on Page 3)

**KEEP ACTIVE MOVE MORE CLASSES** WHIPPINGHAM VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAYS AT 9.45am, 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm. AND FRIDAYS AT 10.10am at ARRETON VILLAGE HALL. At Bembridge Steyne Park Hall now on Tuesday mornings at 9.15am and 10.20am. Go at your own pace exercise program to help improve strength, stamina and balance.

**KEEP ACTIVE RELAX MORE (K.A.R.M.) CLASSES** SANDOWN BROADWAY CENTRE ON MONDAYS AT 4.15pm. 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.

**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).

**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.

**KEEP ACTIVE BETTER BALANCE** From mid-April there will be a **new** class at Whippingham Community Centre at 12.15pm on a Wednesday. Improve better balance and strength. Stay strong, steady and confident on your feet.

FOR FURTHER INFO ON ANY OF THE ABOVE CLASSES CONTACT **ANDY SAVAGE 07779 616189**

**Elephant Club** - A social group for people living with memory loss, their carers and friends, 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 on the second Thursday of each month (**please note that June has had to be cancelled**). 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 May 14th.

**C.A.M.E.O. Wootton Together** - The Living Well & Early Help Service has now launched its Wootton Together sessions under the new name of C.A.M.E.O WOOTTON TOGETHER held at the CHURCH CLOSE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CHURCH CLOSE, WOOTTON PO33 4QD. Weekly sessions every Monday from 2pm - 4pm. Please come along for a cuppa and chat with your neighbours and access information and guidance from a range of visiting organisations and support from the LWEH team. For more information please see the Living Well & Early Help Service Facebook page, look out for the flyer being posted to local addresses or check the noticeboard at the community centre. **Free to attend**, we really look forward to seeing you there. Bring a friend if you can. Michelle 01983 240732.

**WOOTTON BRIDGE COFFEE MORNING** - This is held every Monday between 10.00 - 12.00 at Wootton Methodist Church Hall. Come for coffee and a chat, we even have a corner shop. Parking is available in the Steam Railway car park. Everyone welcome.

**Pilates and Yoga with Jo (Wootton Bridge Community Centre)** - Various classes on Monday morning and Wednesday morning/evening. More details from Jo at [joannemunt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joannemunt@yahoo.co.uk), also on 07726215526

**Mark's Brothers Breakfast/Brunch Gathering** - This group meets on the second Wednesday of the 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. Next meeting Wednesday 13th May.

**The "Crafty Ladies"** - We meet on Wednesday afternoons at the Church Close Community Hall, 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 now **£3 a session**, with the first one free. Please call Jan on 882381 for more details

**Wootton Table Tennis Club** - Friday mornings at Brannon Way Community Centre, from 9.30-12.00. Cost: £3.00 per session (first week is free). Equipment provided. Friendly group catering for all abilities. 07894169706. Just come and try it.

**CREEKSIDE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)** - A warm welcome awaits you on the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Wootton. We meet at 7.15pm. Come and see what we get up to & make new friends. Visitors & new members are always welcome. Plenty of free parking in the Steam Railway Car Park opposite. Come along & have some fun. Contact: Marlene 01983 685266.

### Creekside WI Activities for May

13th May	Our annual showcase of beautiful member's Crafts and photography.
22nd May	Coffee morning with lots of chat.
27th May	Kurling with delicious food.

Another month of fun packed events. Ladies why not come along and meet new friends whilst having fun. Visitors are always very welcome to join us

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For more information please contact Hilary by:

Tel: 07769588644

Email: annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

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Green fingered volunteers wanted 'to help us grow'. Are you a gardening enthusiast/group on an allotment waiting list wanting to connect with others growing flowers or vegetables? We have a greenhouse and raised beds to use for free. In turn your help will improve the area for all.

**TO OUR VALUED ADVERTISERS**

Thank you for your renewals, which have enabled us to continue producing *The Bridge* in 2026.

**GERVASE LAIGHT PLUMBER**

Kitchen & Bathroom Installation  
General Plumbing Maintenance

CITY & GUILDS QUALIFIED  
— Free estimates —

**RELIABLE SERVICE AT A REASONABLE PRICE**

Tel: 01983 760544  
Mobile: 07909 902004

**Community Spirited**



Established in 2007, we dedicate our care and support between Wootton and East Cowes. Our professional carers are local too so we are never far away from you if you need our help and support.

Here are some of the services we offer:

- Personal care and medication
- Home help & support
- Outings - shopping, out for a drive, for lunch or to appointments.
- We also care for loved ones whilst the main carer has some respite.
- We support people living in care homes for outings.

Creating Memories - Dementia daycare  
Wednesdays 10-1pm  
Now FREE with thanks to CS Cafe.  
Please phone for a full information pack.

CQC registered - rated GOOD  
Pop into Parkside Pavilion, Vectis Road, East Cowes, PO32 6HN, to meet some of the team 01983 296592.  
[www.communityspirited.com](http://www.communityspirited.com)

**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

**DOMESTIC CLEANING & IRONING SERVICES**

PRACTICAL HELP & SUPPORT  
FULLY INSURED. NO AGENCY FEES  
PLEASE CALL ANGELA  
07912 432835

**Solent Property Care**  
General maintenance services and Carpentry

Solent Property Care Specialist woodwork repair – tired windows or doors?  
Don't replace them – repair them!  
Bespoke wardrobes, cupboards, sheds & fences etc.  
Call John Davey on 07402 516 745  
[solentpropertycare@gmail.com](mailto:solentpropertycare@gmail.com)

**EXTRACTA CLEANING**

For all your cleaning requirements  
Carpets & Upholstery - Sofa/Rug Cleaning  
End of Tenancy Cleaning - One off Deep Cleans  
Hoarder Clean Ups - Environmental Cleans  
Free Estimates - Fully Insured  
28 Years Experience

Home: 01983 528720  
Mobile: 07967531576




**IWUFT Wootton Bridge History Group - now known as the Wootton History Group -**

From the 1st May 2026 onward, we will be meeting on the first Friday of each month (except July & August) at the "The Old School", New Road, Wootton. Cost is currently £4 per person which includes refreshments. The 1st May meeting will still have a talk by Edward Nash, but the title will now be "A Knight and His Armour". For further information, please contact Helen Williams, Group Leader on 882037 or email [islandrabbitt@outlook.com](mailto:islandrabbitt@outlook.com)

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: Rev Gina Hoff*  
**Sunday Morning Service 10am**  
**Evening Services as announced**  
**Minister's Message**

### Creation Care

Many of us like to have a neat lawn, perhaps a British passion, once we have started its difficult to 'let it go'! However, 'No Mow May' is back this year, bringing another boost of much-needed nectar to pollinators across gardens, parklands and verges as gardeners throughout the UK pledge not to mow their lawns for the month. The movement was started in 2019 by conservation charity Plantlife, who is once again urging people to keep the mower locked up for another month to allow spring plants a chance to set seed before the first cutting, making for healthier, more diverse lawns. Additionally, this gives wild plants to get a foothold in May, to feed bees, butterflies and other pollinators through the summer. <https://www.countryfile.com/news/no-mow-may-why-you-should-lock-up-your-lawnmower-on-1st-may>



*Wootton Bridge  
Methodist Church*

Looking after the gift of the natural world used to be seen as a bit of a hippy tree hugger pastime, however as time has gone on and the planet has got warmer and floods and storms and droughts have affected many countries throughout the world, we are having to face the facts. Alan Davies has a podcast on BBC Sounds 'Life without Bees'. He explains about the loss to our survival without them. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002r4y1/episodes/player> God has given humans stewardship of earth, meaning to take care of it and its residents, animal, vegetable and mineral. To take care, look after, respect and nurture for the good of all. No mow May is a pretty easy way to take part in that. Why not give it a try and let the plants and wildlife, bees and bugs have a better chance!

*Reverend Gina*

At Wootton Methodist Church on Maundy Thursday we were very honoured to enjoy a Tenebrae Service with Reverend Gina Hoff. Please try and reserve next year's date and share it with us - it was the first for many of us and remember, we are all amongst friends. G.R.



### Preachers for May

3rd May James Pellow  
 10th May Local arrangement  
 17th May Rev Gina Hoff - Communion  
 24th May Lorraine Webb  
 31st May Local arrangement



**TG** FOR FUN, FRIENDSHIP  
 AND FOOD.  
 COME ALONG AND JOIN US.  
townswomen's guilds

### WOOTTON BRIDGE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

**WE HOLD OUR MEETINGS ON THE 3RD  
 FRIDAY OF THE MONTH (not Aug).  
 START 2PM AT THE METHODIST CHURCH,  
 STATION ROAD.  
 FREE 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.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT LESLEY

[lesley@kithillfarm.co.uk](mailto:lesley@kithillfarm.co.uk)

## THE OLD SCHOOL CENTRE

NEW RD | WOOTTON BRIDGE | IOW | PO33 4HX

*Supporting community wellbeing & inclusion*

A diverse timetable to join groups, activities & events

**Visit our website at [www.theoldschoolcentre.org](http://www.theoldschoolcentre.org)**

See 'For Your Diary' in *The Bridge* or our website for details

**Buzzy-Bean Café**  
 Tues & Thurs 11am-3pm



### KEEP IN TOUCH

**Sign up - free membership & receive updates**



Scan the QR code for our short membership form or visit our website

**[hello@theoldschoolcentre.org](mailto:hello@theoldschoolcentre.org) | 01983 882820**

\*please visit our social media or website for updates or changes

Check our website  
**What's on** page for the latest activities, prices & timetable info...



*together*



**Looking for a venue?**

Scan the QR code for our booking request form or visit our website

## 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:

Linda Pitcher, *Chair*  
Sarah Redrup, *V.Chair*  
John Roberts  
Jane Allen  
Ian Yeo  
Kim Massey  
Lee Lemon  
Jon Smith  
Sophus Magill  
Don Willsmer  
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. 9.00am-2.00pm;  
Fri: 9.00am-2.00pm

### BEAT OFFICER

Please see Facebook when the Beat Officer is in the office or messages can be left/passed on by staff in the office.

## WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

tel: 884555  
email: [clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk)  
website:  
[www.woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woottonbridge-pc.gov.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-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk)  
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.

### Village Survey

We are currently looking for grant funding to improve the play park at Wootton Recreation ground. In order to have the best chance to achieve this, we need support from the residents so please email us at [clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk) or pop into the office to let us know your ideas and thoughts.

One of the issues that residents were concerned about in our Village Survey was cleanliness, bins and dog waste. There were very frequent mentions of the following:

- More litter bins and dog waste bins, especially in St Edmunds Walk and the recreation ground
- Regular emptying and maintenance of existing bins
- Concern that overflowing bins lead to litter blowing around

We have asked the Isle of Wight Council for more dog bins. They have said they cannot add dog bins or normal bins currently as they are at capacity for emptying these and are therefore not able to quote for new bins. We do have the schedule for bin emptying so if you spot any bins that need emptying, please get in touch with Island Roads at 01983 822440.

A big thank you to those residents who regularly litter pick around the village. We have litter pickers in the office which residents are more than welcome to use to litter pick on their walks.

### Wootton Directory

On our website there is a Wootton Bridge Directory of the clubs and activities available in the village. Just let us know if there are any to add or any amendments to be made

### New Office Hours

The Parish Office will no longer be open on Mondays. The new hours will be Tuesday - Friday 9-2pm. Feel free to pop in with any concerns or queries you may have; we also offer a photocopying service and the pop-up post office is available Wednesdays mornings too.

### Cllr Sarah Redrup - Your Isle of Wight Councillor

I would like to start by saying a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported me in 2023. Your encouragement, kindness and trust have meant so much to me, and it has truly been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the community of Wootton Bridge.

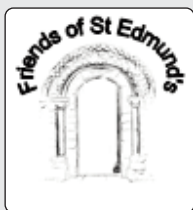
I chose not to stand for re-election this year, as my partner and I are hoping to start a family and I felt it was the right time to take a step back to focus on that next chapter. However, it's not goodbye as I will continue as a Parish Councillor and the Speed watch Coordinator.

Over the past term, I've been proud to play a part in supporting our village and to work alongside fellow councillors and residents on the issues that matter most to our community.

I would also like to warmly congratulate the newly elected councillor, and I look forward to working proactively with them and the wider Parish Council to continue delivering key projects for Wootton Bridge

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-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk)

Liz Kingston – Clerk



## **“The Friends of St Edmund’s”** **The First Thirty Years**

“Friends of St. Edmund’s”  
St Edmund Church Building Trust



### **The “Friends of St. Edmund’s” - Need you!!**

Last month you may have read the article saying that the ‘St Edmund’s Church Building Trust’ and ‘The Friends’ began 30 years ago. The building itself is just a little older at nearly 1,000 years; but to keep this wonderful historic building maintained and open for use by us all there has to be constant fund raising.

The Friends are the fundraising arm of the Trust that is a registered charity. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to become a Friend and it doesn’t cost a fortune, just £5 a year, but if you wish to add a further donation it would be most appreciated. You don’t have to be a church-goer or live in Wootton to join.

All you have to do is fill in the application form that can be found either in St Edmund’s or St Mark’s church or on the parish website - [cofeaparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk](http://cofeaparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk), download, print and complete the form then return it to the Membership Team at the address on the form.

We will be celebrating the 30 years with an Open Day at St Edmunds on Saturday 18th July – why not come along and enjoy the displays celebrating the natural world that is all around us and become a member then?

*Lynn Peppitt*  
Trustee & Membership



### **ST JAMES’ CHURCH EAST COWES**

Calling all Jigsaw Puzzle Fans!

Could you be part of our Team making up Jigsaws for our Jigsaw Puzzle Festival in August?

We will supply the jigsaws and boards.  
We will deliver and collect.

For more information  
please call us on 07779 018693

**'The Bridge'**  
 is delivered **free**  
 to over 1,750 homes and  
 businesses in Wootton  
 Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'  
 the June '26 issue will be available to  
 pick up from the Churches on **FRIDAY**  
 29th May 2026

Solution - April Sudoku

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

If you have any particular  
 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-pc.gov.uk

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

# 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.

## Screen-free Week



**May 4th - 10th**  
 Annual event to encourage  
 us to unplug from digital  
 entertainment and spend all  
 that free time playing,  
 reading, daydreaming,  
 creating, exploring, and  
 connecting with family and  
 friends.

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**'THE BRIDGE'**  
 Copy deadline date:  
 TUESDAY 12th May 2026  
 (12 noon) for June 2026

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**ST EDMUND'S and ST MARK'S CHURCH**  
 Churchwardens: Harry Kirby and Steve Beynon  
 (stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com)  
 For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact us at:  
 stedmundsandstmarks@gmail.com or leave a message on 01983 301880  
 (we will respond as soon as we can)  
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All queries concerning  
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 please telephone  
 David Bennison on  
 882783, or the  
 Churchwardens.

### E-mail Addresses

Send your advertisements for inclusion  
 in 'The Bridge' to:  
 bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

Send your articles, news, diary dates and comments  
 about 'The Bridge' to:  
 thebridge@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk