

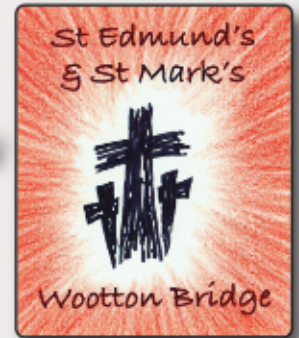
JUNE 2026

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THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Another fine mess?

As I write this, we are still in "no mow May" For the past couple of years, and again this year, we are leaving a large part of the grass in our garden (which has never justified being called a "lawn") to grow long, as an encouragement to wildlife. As a result we have had many more butterflies and other insects, as well as birds such as goldfinches, visit the garden than when we mowed the whole area.

Now this isn't about "re-wilding" (whatever that may be). Nor is it just an excuse for not cutting the grass; we still have to mow the bit we keep short. And it certainly isn't a plan to let the garden just do its own thing. If we did that, we'd actually reduce the diversity, as the brambles and bindweed would take over in no time. It's just our attempt to make a bit more space for the wildlife who are our neighbours too.

Among the many TV programmes celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, there has been a series documenting the wildlife in some truly beautiful gardens, all over the UK. What I found most fascinating about the series was the way in which even owners who had gone to great lengths to attract the wildlife into their gardens were still unaware of much of what was happening, in some cases above their heads or below their feet. We cannot hope to emulate much of what they have done. But many of us can find places in our gardens where a less thorough use of mower and shears will encourage the wildlife. Of course that precept does not apply to bindweed, bramble, mares tail and the like. In our garden, those are pulled up, regardless.

Interestingly, I find that this slightly messier approach to gardening does not always sit well with those visiting friends who were brought up in the Percy Thrower school of manicured lawns, bedding plants and tidy herbaceous borders. I hope that they have been watching Sir David's programmes, that new light has dawned, and that they stop asking me when I am going to cut the rest of my grass.

Of course, any article on Page 1 of *The Bridge* must have a mention of that Jesus guy we annoying Christians insist on talking about. One of his two big laws is "love your neighbour as yourself". I guess that this law applies in the garden as well. Even when my neighbour is a beetle.

David Bennison

P.S. What about slugs? Just don't ask ...



For June services, please see Page 3



Using Our Locality




Mrs Jane Wilford
Headteacher

Our children are fortunate to have wonderful school grounds which we endeavour to use as much as we can to bring learning alive to our classes. However, we seek to expose the children to the many different 'gems' in our local area that they may not have experienced before and over the last term we have used two different venues to enhance the children's learning experiences.

A few weeks ago our Year 4 children dressed up as evacuees to spend the day at Havenstreet railway to consolidate their World War 2 topic. Every child really looked the part with their homemade gas masks and paperbag sandwiches. They walked from school to the station in Wootton to catch the train and spent the day at the railway. One child said it was the 'best day of their school life' which is so good to hear.

Another class had a visit to St Edmunds Church to enhance their learning about religious buildings and enjoyed a talk delivered by Harry Kirby. The children were really fascinated by the beautiful stained glass windows and asked some really thoughtful questions.

Several of our children attend our alternative provision in the afternoon and they took a walk around Wootton Rec to see the different trees and plant life. They were however saddened at the amount of rubbish they saw on their journey.

So it is with events like this that we realise just how lucky our Wootton school children are to have their experiences at school on their doorstep and the wonderful area our school is in. 



Havenstreet Evacuation



Havenstreet Evacuation



St Edmund's Guided Tour



St Edmund's Guided Tour

Friends of St Edmund's Open Day

"A date for your diary" - Saturday 18th July from 12noon


The Open Day is back again this year as a special event to raise funds for the upkeep of our nearly 1000 year old St Edmund's Church. This year it will have its Quinquennial (every five years) inspection by an architect qualified in the particular care of listed buildings. The Building Trust raises funds to help remedy any identified problems.

This year the theme of the event is "Caring for Nature & the Environment" and it is anticipated that we will have displays and representation from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The hope is that this will be a community event, involving Scouts, Guides and Brownies who have been invited to show the content of their proficiency programmes in 'Conservation and the Environment'. The artwork by pupils at Wootton Primary school was enjoyed at the Open Day last year, and the pupils have been invited to take part again.

There will be a video display of interesting plant and wildlife pictures, taken by various local photographers and one video showing the repair and re-hanging of the Church bell in 2001.

Refreshments will be served throughout the event and the day will end at 4.15pm with readings, music and poetry by both local and famous writers.

Please come and enjoy this event to support the young people and all the volunteers involved and visit St. Edmund's Church on Saturday 18th July.

If you would like to help on the day, please contact us on the following email address – churchwarden@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk. If you are unable to do this please just come to St Edmunds on the day, any help you can give would be very much appreciated. We will be setting up from 9.30am. 



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-11:45am £3. **Paracise with Helen** Tuesdays 12:30pm-1:15pm £5 for 1st class, £9 PAYG or £28 for month. **Afternoon Quiz** Tuesdays 1:30pm free. **Pilates with Alison** Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:15pm £8 per class. **Heartcare Wight Cardiac Rehab** Wednesdays 6:30pm-7:30pm £7 per session / 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's Tap Dance Class with Suki** Thursdays 2pm-3pm £8.50 per class. **Barre Concept IOW with Laura** Thursdays 6pm-7pm (Seniors) or 7:15pm-8:15pm (All) £10 per class. **Wootton History Group** 1st Friday of month doors open at 2pm for 2:30pm-3:30pm £4 per talk. **Wootton Crafters** 2nd & 4th Sat of month 10am-4pm £7 per session. **Are you a community group or activity looking to hire a venue? – complete our booking request form via 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

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.

LOOSE HEADSTONES

There are four headstones in St Edmund's graveyard which have become very loose, and three of them have had to be laid flat for safety reasons. The headstones affected could all be secured back in place relatively simply, and relate to the following people:

MAY MCGILL (Died 1980)
HELEN FISHWICK (Died 1983)
PETER PROCTOR (Died 1985)
WILFRED BIRKBECK (Died 1986)

If you are a relative/descendant of one of the above-named would you please let the churchwardens know what you intend to have done. The churchwardens may be contacted by email at churchwarden@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk Please be aware that if no action is taken the Parochial Church Council will be obliged to have the headstones laid down, with the inscription underneath to avoid weathering. Thank you.



PRAYERS

Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us the tranquility that only your peace can bring. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our relationships and communities.

Amen

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in times of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Church Services in Wootton during June 2026

Wed 3rd	11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's	Sun 21st	9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's
Sun 7th	8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's 9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's	Wed 24th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Wed 10th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's	Sun 28th	9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's 6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Sun 14th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Mark's 6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's		
Wed 17th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's		

All welcome



Time for a RANT!

Yesterday I watched a small child have a complete meltdown outside Tesco Express. His wonderful parent just knelt and held him whilst all the anger and frustration poured out of him and I thought "why can't I scream, shout and kick out at everything too?" (There's a sermon in there.) Can you tell I have had a bad week?

For quite a while now technology that ordinary people have to use has been getting more and more complex and it has got to the point where I find myself completely bewildered by it and panicking before I have to face whatever challenge some organisation has decided that I must now do. I have managed to get on top of the extra layer of banking security but I need to have both the computer and the phone to hand to manage it. Today I needed to get into an ISA account but I didn't receive the access code – why not I ask myself? It seems 'they' were verifying 'my trusted device' but they hadn't told me what they were doing!! Why do I have to work out these problems because they are too lazy to communicate and when they do communicate, why is it always in language that I don't understand?


I was once asked to click on the 'hamburger' icon but it looked more like a sandwich to me. Why not put a labelled button – I was looking for the log out button. I am definitely an 'unappy' person – I refuse to use apps on a telephone because the screen is too small to be able to read easily and there are just too many opportunities to push the wrong button and then how do you go back to sort it out? But every day I receive emails telling me to download an app to do something that used to be so simple. Even my son-in-law, who works in IT, says that technology has become over-complicated and we need to go back to about 2005.

Two weeks ago I needed my driving licence to identify myself and I couldn't find it anywhere.

Then I discovered I couldn't find my passport either. This meant I had no means of identifying myself to anyone! (I had needed them both a few months ago to identify myself to get MY money from an account). I turned out every drawer in the house multiple times and started to clean my way through all the rooms (not such a bad thing) to try and find them. The search consumed my every waking thought and, last Thursday, I asked the members of the St Mark's Discussion Group to pray that I would find them. Three hours later my husband found them in a box file amongst his papers. I was jubilant – I felt like the woman in the story told by Jesus in the book of Luke, chapter 15, verses 8-10). She had lost a coin (she only had 10) and she searched high and low to find it. When she found the coin she was so happy she told all her friends and had a party!

I know there are 'bad actors' out there who are the modern day equivalent of highway men and I know that all this security is the institutions' way of keeping us (or more probably them) safe but could they please test out their wonderful schemes first on the generation that didn't grow up with computers!

Thank you for reading this – I feel better now!

Name withheld for security reasons! 



BBC's Pilgrimage Series



We have spent some wonderful hours recently watching the BBC's Pilgrimage series. We were first drawn to it as we plan to visit Holy Island during a future holiday in Northumberland. The 'Road to Holy Island' is the eighth in this series and we have now watched all previous seven episodes.

The long-running documentary series brings together celebrities from different walks of life and belief systems to embark on historical pilgrim routes.

The group (a different set each time) trek through some of Britain's or Europe's well established religious routes. Each participant brings a unique perspective, from practising faith to atheism, making the journey an occasion for interfaith discussion and self-reflection. There is humour as well as serious questioning throughout the journeys. Their conversations have been very thought-provoking for them as a group and for us as viewers.

We can highly recommend this series which can be found on BBC iPlayer. You can also access details of pilgrimages here in the UK by visiting www.britishpilgrimage.org website. If you choose to try one of these please let us know.

Sue and Steve Beynon 

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. **NO MEETING IN JUNE,**

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, 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 The group is very friendly and welcoming. Next meeting Wednesday 10th June.

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 June

- 13th - Ten Pin Bowling
- 10th - A relaxing Member's Meeting i.e. Reflexology with Lisa.
- 12th - Dig out your fascinators it's Race Afternoon with posh nibbles.
- 17th - Amble
- 19th - Coffee morning somewhere beautiful.

24th - Kurling usually with a delicious meal.

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 at the Members Meeting starting at 7.15pm.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you.

Lots to look forward to.

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St Edmund's Church Celebration Open Day

Saturday 18th July 12 noon to 4.30pm

"Caring for Nature & the Environment"

Displays from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) Eco Church and other community organisations.

There will be a video display of interesting wildlife pictures, taken by various local photographers and a video showing the restoration and re-hanging of the Church bell in 2001.

Refreshments will be served throughout the event

The day will close at 4.15pm with readings, music and poetry by both local and famous writers.

If you would like to help on the day, please contact us on:
Email: churchwarden@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk
Come along and join in with this special day!

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For more information please contact Hilary by:

Tel: 07769588644

Email: annachaplain@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

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

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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.

This space could be yours!

Please contact:
bridgheads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

DOMESTIC CLEANING & IRONING SERVICES

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

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

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

Solent Property Care
General maintenance services and Carpentry
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

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

Wootton History Group
(previously known as IWUFT Wootton Bridge 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 after. Doors open 2pm.

Fri June 5th 2:30pm ~ "The History of The Postal Service" ~ Arthur Reeder.
For further information, please contact Helen Williams, Group Leader on 882037 or email 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 petefiow@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

God's Acre



Caring for God's Acre is the conservation charity for Burial Grounds across the UK Protecting Wildlife - Preserving Heritage - Involving People Saturday 6th June to Sunday 14th June 2026
 If you are interested in counting wildlife in your local churchyard or cemetery – visit this page to learn how to get started and share your records.



*Wootton Bridge
Methodist Church*

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/churches-count-on-nature-faqs/>

'Love your Burial Ground Week is a celebratory week which has been running for many years. Caring for God's Acre has been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June – in any way you choose. We've seen history talks, picnics, volunteering work parties and even abseiling teddy bears!' enquiries@cfga.org.uk.

As I was searching for inspiration about the article for the June edition, I found the above encouragement from CGA, there are not many Methodist Churchyards, however there are many attached to Parish churches and council owned ones. Often places of reflection and remembering, they can also be places of respite and a chance to sit and enjoy the sounds and sights of the natural world. My Mother died in 2020 and is buried at Springwood Woodland Cemetery, a beautiful place buzzing with insects and the call of birds. These places offer another important space to count wildlife, so if you are interested you could do your own survey in a local cemetery or churchyard. Connecting with the natural world is a profound way to recognise the creativity of God and the immense value of nature. When you spend time outdoors, you often feel a sense of awe, peace, and closeness to the Creator, especially if you are involved with recording and contributing to the record of all that resides in the local resting place. "God of life, we praise you for the beauty of creation, its richness and variety and for the goodly inheritance you offer us, from green downland to the deep salty seas, and for the abundant world we share with your creation".

Every blessing, Gina



**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 (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



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

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 | 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

website:

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.



Wootton Bridge
PARISH COUNCIL

Report from Liz Kingston, Clerk – Wootton Bridge Parish Council.
Telephone: 884555. Email: clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk
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.

Your New Elected Councillor

Congratulations to Tony Raffe, the newly elected councillor for Wootton Bridge. We look forward to working closely with Tony to tackle resident's concerns and how to improve the village.

A huge thank you to Councillor Sarah Redrup for all her hard work and enthusiasm over the last few years. Sarah has been incredibly pro-active and has set up Speed Watch, organised VE day and Party in the Park activities as well as liaising with the council and residents over many issues. We are thrilled Sarah will be staying on as a Parish Councillor and will continue with Speed Watch

The Best Kept Village Awards

The Best Kept Village Awards commenced on 1st May 2026. The criteria includes the amount of litter, the village notice board being up-to-date, and the overall state of tidiness. Please help to do your bit by keeping Wootton litter-free.

Big Tidy Up

Thank you so much for everyone who helped at our Big Tidy Up on 25th April! We were lucky it was such a beautiful day. A huge thank you to PGL Little Canada for their volunteers and Briddlesford Lodge Farm Shop for very generously providing café vouchers.

Don't forget we have litter pickers and hoops in the office if anyone wants to borrow them whilst on a walk.

Website

The website will shortly be updated to ensure it meets accessibility requirements. The new Wootton Directory featuring clubs and activities being held in the village can be found on there at <https://woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk/clubs-societies/>.

Wildheart Sanctuary

Get ready, get set... Run Wild!

Help us celebrate our 50th anniversary in style by signing up to our new 5K fancy-dress fun run on Sunday, 5th July! Starting and finishing within the grounds of the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary, and taking in some of the Island's best beach views, Run Wild is the perfect opportunity to lace up, dress up and let out your wild side! Every step will help us raise vital funds to support the incredible rescued animals in our care. So, join the stampede and help make Run Wild a roaring success!

Register here - <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/RunWild2026>

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.

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

Liz Kingston – Clerk 



Wootton Bridge Townswomen's Guild

(Who we are and what we do)

The National Townswomen's Guild has been running for a good number of years and the Isle of Wight Guilds have been a part of that. The Wootton Bridge Guild started in late 2022. The National T.W.G. is now a thing of the past, folding up last year and the Isle of Wight now run their own federation on the Island.

Wootton Bridge Townswomen's Guild meet at Station Road Methodist Church every third Friday of the month. We hold a Guild meeting that starts at 2 pm until 4 pm. Here at Wootton we are a small but friendly group of women and run various things for our members which includes visiting speakers, a monthly lunch club and entertainment, including cream teas and events such as Halloween, Easter and Christmas parties.

We welcome new members to our club for a small annual fee to cover costs.

Please try us out. For more information contact lesley@kitehillfarm.co.uk or 883261. Kath Sutton – Chairwoman.

(See our poster on Page 9)

Lesley Abraham 

KEEP WOOTTON TIDY!

We pride ourselves in being a tourist island with good walking routes for our visitors. The footpath between New Road & St Edmund's Walk is part of the network classed as the "Coastal Path", as advertised in tourist guides, and we regularly see walkers using it.



At the moment it isn't very welcoming either for visitors or the residents who use it regularly, especially disabled people who have to use a walker, due to dog fouling on the pathway plus the overgrown edges with brambles and branches reaching into the path. There's litter thrown into the bushes and to make it even worse some residents have been using it to dump their garden rubbish.



In the past the edges were trimmed regularly by a contractor for the council but that doesn't seem to be happening anymore!

So please do your part - pick up after your dog, take your litter home and be a good neighbour by taking your garden rubbish to the tip or have a garden bin then your garden waste will be taken away for you and turned into compost. All good for the environment!

A Resident 

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**
26th June 2026

Solution - May Sudoku

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

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.

FATHER'S DAY
Sunday June 21st

Thank you for all the little
things you do and the big ones
too.

I appreciate you more than
words can express.

You've taught me the true
meaning of strength,
kindness, and love.

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'THE BRIDGE'
Copy deadline date:
TUESDAY 9th June 2026
(12 noon) for July/August 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)

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

All queries concerning
The Bridge magazine
please telephone
David Bennison on
882783, or the
Churchwardens.

E-mail Addresses

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in '*The Bridge*' to:
bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

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