

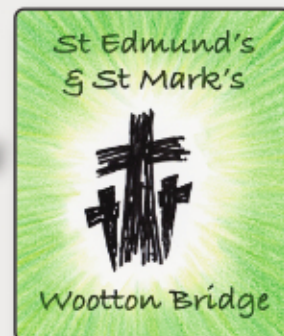
JULY & AUGUST 2026

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THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Dwelling a Pause

My late mother-in-law liked to eat quite slowly, and would often suggest that we "dwell a pause" between the courses of a meal. I don't know how widespread the use of this elegant phrase now is, but it is certainly still in use in our family. As you will see from the masthead, your *Bridge* magazine is about to dwell its own summer pause, and there will be no separate edition next month. You might like to keep this copy to hand, as the advertising pages make up a kind of reference directory to services in the village.

This moment of pause also gives us a change to reflect on the fact that this is the fifty-sixth year of publication of *The Bridge* magazine, and that not many village publications continue in circulation for that length of time. When you consider that several dozen people are involved in the production and distribution of each edition of the magazine, you realise those 56 years of publication are the work of probably hundreds of people. This is an important aspect of what makes this a community and not just a church magazine.

To the founder of the magazine, Rector George Rayner, this idea was self-evident. As he saw it, and as we still see it, the Church is an integral part of the whole community, so it is natural that what we do should have a community focus. George had been a printer before he trained for the ministry, so almost the first thing he accomplished after his arrival in 1969 was to acquire a printing press (he was really good at 'acquiring' things), set it up in a shed at the back of St Mark's church, and start producing the magazine, to which he gave both its name and its motto "Building Bridges in the Community" - a tradition we are proud to continue. After George left in 1989, publication continued, thanks to the efforts successively of Doreen Gazey, who looked after the magazine until 2006, Trevor Wheeler, who originated the present format and layout, and produced the magazine for some thirteen years, and now Warwick Hammerton whose many innovations include the introduction of colour. Alongside these stalwarts, the team of volunteer folders, bundlers and deliverers ensure that the 1700 or so professionally printed copies find their way into letter boxes and on to shop counters. Which they will do once again when publication resumes in September.

For our front page picture, we have a view of the Bridge that gives the magazine (and the village) its name, not as it is now, but as it was before the more recent rebuild. Enjoy the summer as we dwell our pause.

David Bennison

For July & August services, please see Page 3



Overcoming Adversity

Throughout life we often face 'bumps in the road' - challenges and difficulties are experienced by all and this includes children.

At Wootton Primary, through our school values and motto, 'Every child can achieve success' we have the privilege of supporting children to overcome the challenges that they may face. By building emotional resilience, fostering a growth mindset, and providing a nurture-first environment, enables our children to flourish and grow building a strong skill-set to manage the hurdles that life brings. As a school our goal is to equip children with the coping skills needed to bounce back from setbacks, for example when not succeeding with assessments as they would like to have done or sorting friendship issues or battling personal struggles. Our role is not just to provide academic experiences but also to help build resilience and strength.

One way we do this is taking our Year 6 children on a four-day residential to Aldershot at the end of May. When we first share the information with the parents and children at the start of the school year in September, each year we have several children who say they do not want to come. This year was no exception however we were blown away by the incredible confidence and perseverance that several children displayed, and for one child this was literally just a few weeks before we were due to go. One child had originally said they did not feel they could stay away from home for that long but changed their mind at the last minute and joined us. For some children this was the first time that they had been away from home, yet the children were incredible with them all taking part in every activity and we had such fun.

One child in particular, who has physical barriers to navigate, he came along and tried everything as we were able to adapt activities for him. It was such an honour to support him and be part of his experience and being able to make memories for him. He has been encouraged too by a young adult who is currently completing a supported internship with us.

Meredith has cerebral palsy and has had to battle her way through her education since starting school yet she is considering completing further education now to be able to work with children.

I am always so humbled when I observe our children facing barriers in life yet they push through and show us the way. Meredith is such an inspiration to the children and staff and we are so pleased that she is working alongside the team at Wootton.

So, when life brings some trials maybe take a moment to think of how lucky we are to have children and young people at Wootton Primary who will not let their physical or emotional difficulties define who they are. If they can push through adversity, I think we all can!



*Mrs Jane Wilford
Headteacher*



**Wootton Community Primary School centers its ethos around the core values of R.E.A.P.
RESPECT EMPOWERED ASPIRATIONAL PERSEVERING
"Every child can achieve success"**

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. 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. Adult's Tap Dance Class with Suki Thursdays 10am-11am £8.50 per class. 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. Barre Concept IOW with Laura Thursdays 6pm-7pm (Seniors) or 7:15pm-8:15pm (All) £10 per class. Wootton History Group There are no meetings at the Old School in July and August. The group resumes its monthly meetings in September. Wootton Crafters 2nd & 4th Saturday of month 10am-4pm £7 per session. Antiques & Collectibles Fair 3rd Sunday of month 10am-3pm. **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.

Moving Meditation We practice Qigong Tai Chi every Wednesday 10am at the Methodist Church hall. Qigong is a low impact easy to follow gentle slow moving exercise. Beginners welcome! For more info contact Julie on 07788 431773.

Church Services in Wootton during July & August 2026

Services during July

Wed 1st	11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's
Sun 5th	8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
	9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's
Wed 8th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 12th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Mark's
	6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Wed 15th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 19th	9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's
Wed 22nd	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 26th	9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's
	6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Wed 29th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

Services during August

Sun 2nd	8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
	9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's
Wed 5th	11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's
Sun 9th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Mark's
	6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Wed 12th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 16th	9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's
Wed 19th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 23rd	9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's
	6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Wed 26th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 30th	9.30am Plurality Holy Communion at St Mark's

All welcome



Who are the Apostles?

Revd. Len Fox



A few weeks ago there occurred one of those coincidences which makes life so rich.

We heard it first on the radio, a parish priest told the story of a member of her congregation who was asked to take a test by the Home Office, "if you are a Christian name the 12 apostles", was one of the questions.

The man had moved to this country a few years before. He had made contact with the local church, been baptized and now wanted to settle here. He could not answer the question but as the parish priest said there were people in the church who had been faithful members for over 50 years who couldn't name all of the Apostles. Could you? Give it a try (a list is

given at the end of this article for you to check your answer).

Lo and behold, a few days later, in church the following Sunday we were asked to name the 12 apostles. Could we? No we could not. Our table of six faithful Christian people, aged 12 to 84 years, couldn't get it right; it seems familiarity with a text we must have heard many times over years listing the names isn't enough of a test.

Knowledge is not a guide to faith, which is much more about the relationship we have with Jesus and our following of his wisdom and teaching. That is more significant.

Thanks to W R F Browning's The Oxford dictionary of the Bible.

Matthew, James, Simon Peter, James and John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew (Nathaniel?), Matthew (Levi?), Thomas, James the less, Thaddaeus (Judas the son of James?), Simon the Cananean or Zealot, and Judas Iscariot—afterwards succeeded by Matthias.

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 is "Caring for Nature & the Environment" and it is anticipated that displays and representation from the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) will be included. 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'. Pupil artwork from Wootton Primary 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 - churchwarden@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk, or just come to St Edmunds on the day. All help would be very much appreciated. We will be setting up from 9.30am.



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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. 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 meetings Wednesday 9th July & 13th August.

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 meetings Wednesday 8th July & 12th August.

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 July
(no meetings during August)

8th July - Member's Meeting. Speaker from the Donkey Sanctuary
17th July - Coffee morning somewhere enjoyable.
22nd July - Kurling social event.
23rd July - A Kardan trip.
29th July - Evening meal at the 8 Bells in Carisbrook.

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.

Don't forget our Craft Club too.



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Further details Harry or Sally on **(01983) 638198**.

All conversations are entirely confidential.

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.

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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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This is a person-centred ministry of spiritual care for older people of all faiths, cultures, spiritualities and contexts, and for their families and carers. The Anna Chaplain also offers advocacy for older people within church and community, they work with people living independently and within residential and nursing homes. The work of the Chaplain is defined by the wants and needs of their individual parish and is adapted accordingly.

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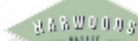
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Green fingered volunteers wanted 'to help us grow'. Are you a gardening enthusiast/group on an allotment waiting list wanting to connect with others growing flowers or vegetables? We have a greenhouse and raised beds to use for free. In turn your help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

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

Andrea
Mobile Hairdressing

Fully qualified and experienced hairstyling in your own home.
Please phone 612395

This space could be yours!

Please contact:
bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonnbridge.org.uk

This space could be yours!

Our aim is for this magazine to reach every home and business in Wootton. The Bridge is published ten times a year, with approximately 1700 copies being distributed each time. Because we operate with the generosity of volunteers our advertising rates are very reasonable!

Please contact:
bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonnbridge.org.uk

Wootton Bridge Townswomen's Guild

We are at Methodist Church Station Road every 3rd Friday of the month 2-4pm
Please join us or contact Lesley at lesley@kithillfarm.co.uk

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

Beavers 6 - 8yrs Monday 6.15 - 7.30pm
Cubs 8 - 10½yrs Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm
Scouts 10½ - 14yrs Tuesday 6.30 - 8.30pm
Explorers 14 - 18yrs Thursday 7 - 9pm

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

Contact Rachael on 07593 700985 for further details

HUNT FOREST GROUP

Sales, Spares & Service at your local John Deere dealer

Isle of Wight
Pritchetts Way, Rookley Industrial Estate, Rookley, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 3LT Tel: 01983 721 426

Open: Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm, Saturday: 8am - 12pm
www.huntforest.com - Email us at info@huntforest.com

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Don't replace them - repair them!
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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.

Please note - there are no meetings during July and August

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 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

SALT There are many different salts from different parts of the world and found in different terrains, inland from caves or from the sea. Some are more familiar to us, some are more flavoursome and nutritious even. Some have additives to stop them 'caking', others are different colours from the natural environment from which they have been formed.

I really enjoy a Greek salad (minus the feta cheese) in the summer, made with sliced delicious IOW tomatoes, a thinly sliced red onion, olive oil, lemon juice, fresh basil and Kalamata olives. Simple and tasty. However, without a pinch of salt it doesn't have the same depth of flavour or umami satisfaction. Jesus spoke of his followers as being 'salt of the earth', bringing a particular kind of flavour to life within their community. He also says if we lose our saltiness how can it be restored? In life there are always opportunities for a 'new start'. To get fit, change our diet, meet new people, start a new hobby, it is the same with our spiritual lives, it is never too late to give God a

chance, to say a prayer, pick up scripture and join a faith community. Not all at once maybe!

So this summer, I'm going to enjoy lots of Greek salad, definitely with salt (not too much..) and enjoy the flavour. I also hope to bring something to those I meet, the hope and love that Jesus gives and be salt. Have a great summer.



Salt and Light - Matthew 5: v13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. v14 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. v15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. v16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Every blessing, Rev. Gina Hoff



**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
Sarah Redrup, *Chair*
John Roberts
Jane Allen
Ian Yeo, *V.Chair*
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, Tony Raffe
Email: tony.raffe@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 Chair and Vice Chair

At the May Parish council meeting, Cllr Sarah Redrup was elected as Chair and Cllr Ian Yeo was elected as Vice-Chair. Councillor Redrup has said she is looking forward to the chair role and ‘working positively’ with residents, community groups and councillors to see how the council can help support the village. She thanked Cllr Linda Pitcher for all her hard work during the past year.

Post Office

Just a reminder that the Post Office in Brannon Way is open every Wednesday morning from 9.30-12.30pm.

Biodiversity Walk and Litter Pick

We are holding a **Community Litter Pick on Sunday 19th July, 10-12pm**. We will meet at the Parish Office where we will be coordinating the Clean-up and give you an area to clean. Equipment is provided and there will be refreshments available. It will also be a great opportunity to meet some of the Parish Councillors.

We are also organising a **Wootton Nature Walk on Sunday 26th July from 11am - 2:30pm**. We will be starting and finishing at Brannon Way car park and stopping at the Woodmans Arms for a complimentary drink. The walk is approximately 3.5 miles – taken at a gentle pace and is fairly easy going along footpaths and gravelled byways but sturdy footwear is recommended. You may wish to bring binoculars and a bird book. Unfortunately, it's not suitable for those with mobility issues as stiles will be crossed.

Please visit <https://woottonbridgeiow.org.uk/countrysidewalk.php> for more information on the route or pop into the Parish Council office for a leaflet.

Book Swap

Thank you so much for all the residents who have brought in pre-loved books and given them a new home. We have a large selection of books from lots of different authors and genres so please pop into the office; we are open Tuesdays to Fridays 9-2pm.

Tony Raffe

Hello from Your New Councillor

My name is Tony Raffe and I'm your newly elected councillor for the Wootton Bridge Ward. I've lived in and loved this community for years — you'll even find me at Wootton Table Tennis Club when I'm not attending council meetings.

My priority is simple: to be a councillor who is visible, accessible, and gets things done for residents. Whether it's roads, planning, or local services, I want to hear from you.

Please get in touch at tony.raffe@iow.gov.uk — I'm always happy to help.

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 

Isle of Wight Street Pastors

(Suzanne McCaffery - Street and School Coordinator)

Isle of Wight Street Pastors first started in 2009 to support the night-time economy. Our mission is to care, listen, and support people in urban areas, especially during the night-time. We focus on offering a friendly and non-judgmental presence on the streets to those who may be vulnerable, whether they're dealing with the effects of alcohol, looking for assistance, or simply need someone to talk to.



Our team consists of trained volunteers from local Christian communities who walk the streets, particularly on weekends, to offer help in areas where nightlife and social activity are prominent. We offer practical support such as helping people home safely, providing water and first aid, and offering emotional care to those who may be feeling isolated or distressed.

Street Pastors work closely with local authorities, including the police and emergency services, to create safer environments and reduce antisocial behaviour. We operate with a spirit of respect and love for all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Our core belief is that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity, and we seek to demonstrate God's love by offering care and support to those in need. Whether it's through a kind word, a helping hand, or simply being a calming presence, Street Pastors are here to make a difference in the lives of people within our communities.

We currently operate in Ryde and Newport Friday and Saturday nights. When we are patrolling in Newport, we also open our Safe Space which is situated in Newport bus station. This opened in July 2024 in partnership with Southern Vectis and Hampshire & IOW Police. We also patrol at events such as Cowes Week, Pride, Scooter Rally and some carnivals. Recently we have also been asked to patrol at certain events at Robin Hill alongside the security teams.

For years we would patrol outside the IOW Festival but in 2024, after many meetings with the organisers we were allowed to patrol inside the festival site. As the festival is a big event, we put a call out to mainland Street Pastors to come and help us. In 2024 and 2025 we had around 50 volunteers, this year we have around 64 confirmed from the island and mainland. In 2025 we also were allowed to have a festival safe space which is also returning for 2026. Whilst at the festival we work alongside the wellbeing and safeguarding teams and security. We are the only Christian charity that is allowed to patrol the site and not stay static at a base.

It is a fantastic opportunity to show the love of Jesus to thousands of people and to have so many conversations and to be able to help anyone in need.

We also have a wonderful team of Prayer Pastors who pray for us whilst we are out on patrol. They pray for prayer requests we put onto a WhatsApp chat group.

We also started another project in 2012 called School Pastors. We mentor students either on a 1:1 or group basis on things such as anxiety, resilience, bereavement and self-harm and also run lunch clubs and patrol the outside areas at break times. Currently we are in four schools each week, Lift Ryde, Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Bay (senior).

As a charity we rely on volunteers, donations and grants to be able to carry out our work.

If you think you could help in anyway, please get in touch.

Suzanne@iowstreetpastors.org.uk 



'The Bridge'
is delivered **free**
to over 1,750 homes and
businesses in Wootton

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'
the Jul & Aug '26 issue will be
available to pick up from the Churches
on FRIDAY 26th June 2026

Solution - June Sudoku

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

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

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

SUMMER IS HERE!

- Hair gets lighter
- Skin gets darker
- Water gets warmer
- Drinks get colder
- Music gets louder
- Nights get longer
- Life gets BETTER

QuotesGram

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ST EDMUND'S and ST MARK'S CHURCH

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(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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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

<https://www.cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk>