

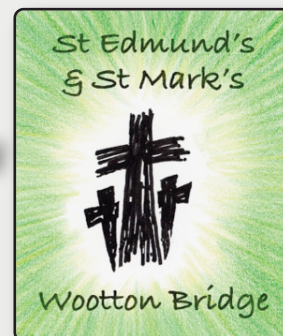
SEPTEMBER 2026

DELIVERED FREE
(by our wonderful volunteers)

THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Weather, or not.

I learned during my travels abroad as a teenager and young man that we Brits have something of a reputation for always talking about the weather. At the time, my standard response was that these islands have a lot of weather to talk about. That remains true, of course, but during the intervening years the conversations about the weather have changed. The very evident effects of climate change, howsoever caused, are never very far from our thoughts these days.

As I write this, the fine weather on St Swithun's day (15 July) was almost a month ago. True to the legend, we have hardly had a drop of rain since. That's appropriate, in a way. Swithun, is almost a local saint; he was Bishop of Winchester and the Island was in his Diocese. Unfortunately, there is almost no reliable information about him. Confusingly, the stories of his life seem to have nothing to do with the weather, but we remember his name because the weather on his feast day is supposed to determine the weather for the next forty days.

By the time you read this, you will know whether or not (pun entirely intended) the weather broke at the end of Swithun's forty days. Breaks in the weather are always the stuff of legend. Those of us who were around during the hot summer of 1976 will recall that the Government of the day, late as ever to the party, finally appointed a Minister for Drought, and the very next day it poured with rain. But, for the story I really like, I am indebted to the Revd. Len Fox, whose second article about the apostles also appears in this issue.

When Len was the vicar of St John's church in Ryde, he would often lead services at what was then Bishop Lovett Middle School just over the road from the church. Once, during a prolonged spell of hot weather, Len was due to take a service at the school. To the bemusement of the Head Teacher and staff, Len led the pupils outside into the extensive grounds of the school and taught them an Indian (political correction: Native American) Rain Dance. Len did not tell me how he had learned the Rain Dance; my guess is that its authenticity left something to be desired. But it seems that everyone had a good time and the pupils returned to their classes refreshed. That very afternoon, the weather broke, and there was a massive downpour ...

In retirement, Len is now very much part of our parish here in Wootton. Sadly, advancing years have put Rain Dances beyond the capabilities of most of us. We just have to wait and see "weather" or not our parched gardens will soon be granted some refreshment.

David Bennison 

For September services, please see Page 3

St Edmund's Church Open Day



The St Edmund's Church Open Day was held on Saturday 18th July. The theme of the displays this year was *'Caring for Nature and the Environment'*. There was a range of interesting displays, including information and exhibits from The RSPB (Ian Plummer), The Hampshire & IW Wildlife Trust (Tina Whitmore), The Red Squirrel Project (Helen Butler), a local botanical artist and retired Wootton Tree Warden (Jill Salter), the IOW Scout Association display board showing the interest badges on conservation and environmental issues that Scouts at all levels can take. There were also display boards from the Brownies & Rainbows from Newport showing their interest in the natural world and the environment. It was good to see how involved young people are in learning to care for our world.

There were representatives from all the organisations except the Scouts, Brownies and Rainbows. The reps were kept busy answering questions and providing additional information. There was a display about Eco Church *'Your Church caring for God's earth'*, explaining that St Edmunds Church is now part of the Eco Church movement, with information leaflets for visitors to take away. Lots of 'Networking' took place as new contacts and friendships were made.

Wootton Primary School was invited to take part. The Reception Class carried out a survey of the birds seen in the school grounds during a week in May. The Year 5 pupils took up the challenge to each write an Acrostic poem based on the word WILDLIFE. These were on display in the Church.

Tina Whitmore has offered her support and resources in providing practical activities, so the school children can become involved in Eco Church in the future. An Eco Church Bird Box, designed by Stephen Capps, was on display. It also served as a suggestion box for Eco Church ideas. One suggestion put inside the box was, "Would Stephen Capps consider making these bird boxes to order?"

A video display showing 'The Story of the Church Bell' was running on a 'loop' on a television screen, along with some beautiful wildlife pictures taken by local photographers.

There was a steady flow of visitors during the day, with a lot of interest in the displays. People chatted with friends and neighbours as they enjoyed the refreshments. *Graces Bakery* had kindly donated some of the refreshments again this year. The day ended with a celebration of poems, readings and songs on an environmental theme; the songs were accompanied by *Wight Sax*.

At the end of the day, Lynn Peppitt, (A Trustee of the St Edmunds Church Building Trust & Membership Secretary of The Friends), thanked everyone who had taken part or helped in any way to make the day so enjoyable. A total of £120.24 was raised in cash, with the donations made using the card reader still to be added to this.

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 September 2026

Services during September

Wed 2nd	11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's
Sun 6th	8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
	9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's
Wed 9th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 13th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Mark's
	6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Wed 16th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 20th	9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's
Wed 23rd	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
Sun 27th	9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's
	6.30pm Evensong at St Edmund's
Wed 30th	9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

All welcome

Who are the Apostles? (continued)

Revd. Len Fox

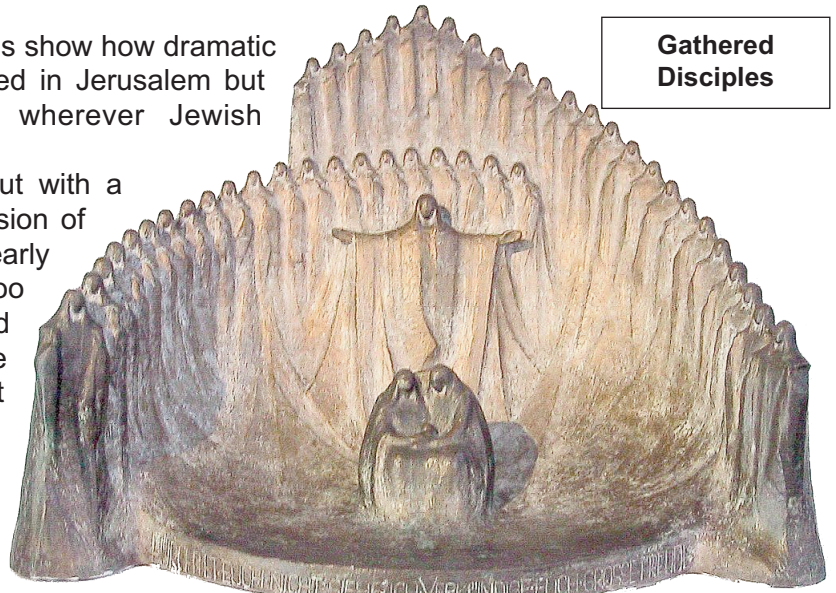
In the last edition of *The Bridge* we tried to name the 12 apostles Jesus Christ chose to go out to spread his message. Jesus had many other followers and after his trial, death and resurrection, one of them, Mary Magdalene, met Jesus in the Garden of the tomb and was told by him to go and tell the apostles and other disciples that she had seen Jesus, that he was alive and the power of God had brought a great change in him. She became known as an apostle.

The events recorded in the Acts of the Apostles show how dramatic the actions of the apostles were. They started in Jerusalem but spread out across the Roman Empire, wherever Jewish communities had been established.

These early Christians rooted in Judaism but with a command to tell all the world that Jesus's vision of the love of God was for everyone. A very early convert was a Rabbi Paul of Tarsus. He too claimed that title Apostle. He had persecuted the church but, because of a Vision he received on one of his journeys to arrest Christians, he became a believer. He was convinced that Jesus was alive and was for everyone. So began a new movement in the Jewish faith which brought considerable tension for the small community of Christians. From the earliest days of the Christian community the title Apostle became used more widely than just the original 12.

Judas Iscariot was replaced by Matthias, a follower of Jesus from the beginning; Barnabas was a companion of Paul and known as an apostle, as was a lady Junia. The original apostles continued their work, especially Peter. The work of apostles continued across the Roman Empire in spite of hostility and persecution, and so it has down the ages. As the Christian community grew it ceased to be a group within Judaism and became a universal faith, with a distinctive understanding of the love of God and the meaning of Jesus's life, death and resurrection. The distinguishing factor in all the lives of Christ's apostles is a call to be sent out on a divinely commissioned task.

We cannot say how many have been given this responsibility in the hundreds of years since the first 12 were appointed by Jesus but can hope that there are still men and women who feel this call for themselves and respond.



Gathered Disciples

Caring for our world

In May this year, Sir David Attenborough celebrated his 100th birthday.

His words have inspired millions of people to care for our planet.

"The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water, and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it. The natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living".

"We need to work with nature, not against it. To restore stability to our planet, therefore, we must restore its biodiversity, the very thing we have removed. It is the only way out of this crisis that we ourselves have created. We must rewild the

world!"

"The fact is that no species has ever had such wholesale control over everything on Earth, living or dead, as we now have. That lays upon us, whether we like it or not, an awesome responsibility. In our hands now lies not only our own future, but that of all other living creatures with whom we share the Earth".

"As a species, we are expert problem solvers. But we haven't yet applied ourselves to this problem with the focus it requires".

"It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides a home not just for us, but for all life on Earth."



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 meeting Thursday 10th September.

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 buttie 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 9th September.

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 September (Hurray! Creekside WI Ladies are back)

9th Sept -Main meeting (visitors welcome), Bembridge Coastal Watch.

12th Sept - Jumble Sale.

18th Sept - Coffee Morning - always enjoyable.

23rd Sept - Kurling Social Evening - we love a good meal, challenge and a laugh.

30th Sept - Games evening with a raffle

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 book club, supper evenings and ambles.

GREEN CLEAN

Be green while we clean!

Eco-friendly domestic cleaners, with our own products & equipment, want to clean your home or office.

Local, friendly, reliable, insured
To discuss your requirements call Julia

01983 716464
Mobile: 0788 0784 906



ROOFING AND BUILDING

Tel: Richard
(01983) 611422

Slates, Tiles & Flat Roofing - Lead Flashings, Valleys & Bays, etc. - Insurance Re-roofs & any size repairs - Emergency water ingress & plumbing. General Building & Contract Work.

Mobile: 07971 815301

Steven CHAPPLE

(incorporating Paul Chapple Heating)

**PLUMBING and HEATING
COMPLETE BATHROOMS
and TILING**

Telephone: 612611

Mobile: 07774 892712



CIPHE
Chartered Institute of Plumbing
and Heating Engineering



Join the Choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

**Do you enjoy
singing?**

St. Mark's Church
Choir meets on
Thursday evening

6.00-7.00pm. We sing

inspiring and uplifting hymns and anthems. No experience necessary. Our practices are for preparing the choir to sing at church services and occasional social performances.

Come along and give it a try.

Any questions please e-mail:

David: drmc196822@gmail.com

houseproud !

'solutions by Angela'

quality cleaning & ironing services

*practical help and support that works for you
(further assistance readily available)*

Call 07912 432 835

Hayward

Painting & Decorating

Services

Interior and Exterior

Tel. **07947 103347**

timhayward123@yahoo.co.uk

Full Insurance

Plumber / Handyman

Taps, WCs, Basins, Sinks and
showers renewed and installed.

No job too small

Please call Mike

07710 085898

Washing machine repairs

Fast, friendly, and affordable

Island-wide service

Don't replace it - repair it!

Contact John on, 07791 995773

JR Alpha Services - Wootton Bridge

PROFESSOR CLEAN & CLEARANCE

Local House Clearance experts. Whether it's a house, rental, garage, garden, any items.

We specialise in hoarding issues and bereavement clearance. We are a family run business that provides an outstanding and professional service Islandwide. Committed to environmentally responsible practice.

FULLY LICENSED - CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

Contact: 07376741576



WOOTTON TYRES

THE ISLE OF WIGHT'S PREMIER TYRE SPECIALIST

THE FAST FIT CENTRE with while you wait service

• **TYRES • TYRE REPAIRS • SERVICING • BRAKES • EXHAUSTS**

• **DIAGNOSTICS • WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

Looking for professional car mechanics that can help you with car repairs, servicing, exhaust replacements and more? Wootton Tyres can help you with all your vehicle servicing and repair needs for a fantastic price!

01983 885 070

www.woottontyresltd.co.uk

UNIT 9, WOOTTON BUSINESS PARK,
WHITERAILS RD, WOOTTON PO33 4RH



W | Williams

ISLE OF WIGHT

Tel: 01983 883333

LOCAL INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENTS

- With you from start to finish -

**41 High Street, Wootton
(next to Chemist)**

• OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK •

www.williamsisleofwight.co.uk

sales@williamsisleofwight.co.uk



* **Electrical** *
* **Estimating** *
* **Services** *

Available for all those electrical jobs,

Prompt reliable service,

Give Dean a Call Today.

Mobile - 07787 512800

Email - dses@hotmail.co.uk

Digital Security and Online Safety

The UK Cyber Security Centre continues to warn that we should all expect increased cyber, scamming & phishing attacks. Don't open unexpected emails, click on suspicious links or respond to unexpected phone calls, especially from banks asking you to move your money.

Keep your devices updated and please remain vigilant!



WIGHT PEST CONTROL

The Islands Trusted Pest Control Experts

- Same-Day Or Next-Day Service
- Fully Insured
- Over 15 Years Experience
- BPCA Level 3 Accredited



01983 645200

07488 985976

www.isleofwightpestcontrol.co.uk



TREE CARE SERVICES

- TREE SURGERY
- HEDGE TRIMMING
- STUMP GRINDING
- TPO APPLICATIONS
- ISLAND ROAD NOTICES
- 23M CHERRY PICKER
- 35M CRANE & GRAPPLE SAW
- GARDEN CLEARANCE

Fully Insured • Free Site Visits Island Wide

Contact us for a FREE no obligation quote

LANTRA City Guilds NPTC

07513 055 779

greenscapesiw@gmail.com

www.greenscapetreecare.co.uk

IVY HALL B&B and Holiday Cottage

**Mill Square,
Wootton Bridge**

01983 884208

EVERY FRIDAY **Al Anon**

(family and friends of alcoholics) meet at **121 High Street, Newport**, so if alcohol is affecting your life, this is the safe place to talk. Your anonymity is key to our success.

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.



FOOTWORKS MOBILE FOOT CARE

Philip Southward PRFHC

TREATMENTS INCLUDE:

NAIL CUTTING, CORNS, CALLUS,
DIABETIC FOOT CARE, INGROWING TOE
NAILS, FUNGAL AND THICKENED NAILS

07541 900409

philip_southward@yahoo.co.uk

MEWS STEVE

Single storey gutter cleaning.
Exterior painting including sheds,
fences and garage doors.

FREE ESTIMATES — REASONABLE RATES

Please call 07908 213885

E-mail: StevenMarkWarren938@gmail.com

MIKE O'DELL Painter & Decorator

30 years experience
Registered independent
tradesman

**07398 113635 or
(01983) 409659**

H. V. TAYLOR & SON LTD INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

45 GREEN STREET, RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT, PO33 2QE.
TEL: 01983 562082 WWW.HVTAYLOR.CO.UK



Serving the Island since 1905

Offering Tailor made funerals from Cremations to Burials

Funeral Director
Mr Richard Myers



GEOFF LEATHER

Independent
Funeral Directors

24 HOUR SERVICE

— CHAPELS OF REST —

PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS

45 Upper St James Street,
Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1LG

Tel: 529090 (24-hr)

DON'T FORGET . . .

Please tell our advertisers

that you saw them in

*The
Bridge*

Solutions Crystal Solutions Ltd

Caters for all your Electrical and
Digital needs

Electrical Work

Installations, Repairs, Inspection and Design

No Job too small

Computer & Digital

Set-up, Installations, Networks, Help, Advice

steve@crystal-solutions-ltd.co.uk

Mobile 077 1028 2950

Tel: (01983) 529023

A1 Garage Doors IW

Your local specialists for . . .

Garage Doors • Roller Doors

Remote control operators

Security Shutters & Grilles

— Same day Repair Service —

• **IW 884600** •

www.a1specialists.co.uk

Fancy keeping fit this year?

Then why not help deliver *The Bridge* magazine here in Wootton.

If you wish to join our band of volunteers, please contact David Bennison on 882783.

*This space
could be
yours!*

Please contact:

bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk



SERVICING
MOT
BRAKES
SUSPENSION
TYRES
DIAGNOSIS

COLLECTION & DELIVERY (IOW ONLY) AND
PRE-BOOKED COURTESY CARS AVAILABLE!*

CALL US TODAY ON 01983 885510 OR VISIT
US AT HARWOODS, LUSHINGTON HILL GARAGE,
PO334RD

ANNA CHAPLAIN (Hilary Baldwin)

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/>

Military Whist Drives

Teams of 4 are welcome to the drives held in the Methodist hall (parking in Station car park). The next meetings will be on Oct 9th & 23rd.

£2.50 per person.

Contact Colin on 882588.

Please let our advertisers know that you saw them in *The Bridge*

"Take Care of Your Body with Steadfast Fidelity"

Hydrotherapy
Private Physiotherapy
Acupuncture
Local
Charted
Massage
Physiotherapist

For more info, contact Anna at: apphysio@outlook.com or go to apphysio.com

Activity runs Pilates based Exercises
Flexibility
Stability
Posture

Adam Wolfgang Von Gelle



 **Andrea** 

Mobile Hairdressing

Fully qualified and experienced hairstyling in your own home.

Please phone 612395

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

 **ALLAN'S**
Domestic Appliances
repaired and serviced

WASHING MACHINES, TUMBLE DRYERS, COOKERS, GHD'S, VACUUM CLEANERS, etc.

Call 883790 Mob: 07723 340454
E-mail: allanswootton@gmail.com
Over 25 years experience



This space could be yours!

Please contact:
bridgeads@cofeaparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

THE OLD SCHOOL CENTRE NEEDS YOU!



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.

TAXI SERVICE

Wootton Bridge

01983 28 28 22

Saloon Cars

Lady Drivers Available

Please book early to avoid disappointment

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.

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

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@kitehillfarm.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

 **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

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)

Meetings first Friday of each month (except Jul/Aug) at the *"The Old School", New Road, Wootton.* £4 per person incl refreshments. Doors open 2pm. Contact Helen Williams, Group Leader on 882037 or email islandrabbitt@outlook.com. All welcome.

Friday, 4th September ~ "20th Century Architecture on the I.O.W." ~ Ben Cracknell.

Ben is an acknowledged expert on architecture and will share with us some of the many notable and remarkable buildings here on our Island.

Friday, 2nd October ~ " Brick Making on the I.O.W." ~ Sarah Burdett

Island brick manufactories, now a lost craft. Today we shall learn when, where, how and who in an absorbing presentation.

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

The Abundance We Waste, The Hunger We Ignore

Matthew 25:35 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat'.

I was struck recently by an article of a decision one council made in the UK about scrapping the supermarket school holiday voucher system for children on low incomes coupled with a recent campaign by Save the Children UK to reflect on the scandal of scarcity in our land of plenty. We live in a nation that often prides itself on progress, comfort, and wealth. However, a crisis is unfolding right under our noses, hidden in plain sight. According to the latest data from the *Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)*, there are 4 million children living in poverty in the UK. roughly 27% of our youth - nearly 1 in every 4 children - are growing up in homes where basic needs are a daily struggle.

The tragedy deepens as we look more closely, we do not have a problem of supply; we have a problem of stewardship. Figures from the *Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)* show that the UK generates over 10 million tonnes of food waste every single year. Households alone throw away roughly 6 million tonnes of that total. We scrape good food into the bin, let vegetables rot in our crispers, worth billions of pounds which across this country is enough to feed tens of millions of people. We are burying our blessings in landfills while our neighbours go hungry. However, the ground beneath our feet is shifting. As we look at the extreme weather battering our country, we are seeing forced shortages in our farming produce due to climate change. Our farmers are facing what the National Farmers' Union (NFU) calls catastrophic conditions. Droughts and record-breaking dry

spells have left vegetable crops stunted, grain yields plummeting by 30% or more, and water supplies are critically low. While we throw away millions of tonnes of food, the natural systems that provide that food are breaking down. Climate change is forcing shortages upon us, warning us that the days of "plenty" are numbered. If we do not learn to share and steward what we have now, the scarcity of tomorrow may be far more severe.

Jesus did not view hunger as a separate political issue; He viewed it as a direct demonstration of love. He explicitly encouraged us: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" (Matthew 25:35). When the disciples looked at a crowd of five thousand hungry people and suggested sending them away to buy their own food, Jesus firmly replied, "You give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37).

Christ's message is one of active compassion. If we have more than we need, it is not so we can build bigger barns or buy bigger bins; it is so we can build longer tables. Together let's ensure that our communities don't just survive but thrive, let's give generously, share what we have, only buy what we need and ensure we support those who depend on their neighbour. You and me.

Every blessing, Rev. Gina Hoff 



Wootton Bridge
Methodist Church



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.



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.

Play Park Update

The IOW Council have informed us that they now have capital funding available for upgrading the play park at Wootton Recreation Ground which is brilliant news! Our Village Survey last year demonstrated that upgrading the play park was of a very high priority for residents, so it is wonderful that this is going to happen.

The Council have obtained three alternative proposals from KOMPAN, a well-established and highly regarded playground equipment provider. These three different inclusive multi-play options are to replace the piece of equipment that was recently removed. They will also be installing a new swing seat.

They have shared these designs with Wootton Community Primary School so that local children can be involved in selecting their favourite one. They felt it was important that the children using the play area had an opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process. It is very exciting that the play park will soon be having new equipment. Plans of the three options can be viewed at the Parish Offices (Brannon Way) and we are looking forward to seeing the final selected design.

We are hoping to gradually upgrade the other equipment in the play park so please let us know any further thoughts or ideas you have.

CPR Sessions

Would you be interested in learning CPR and other potentially lifesaving first aid skills?

We're exploring the possibility of running CPR training sessions in Wootton, giving local residents the opportunity to gain the knowledge and confidence to respond in an emergency. If enough people would like to take part, we will look at arranging a session in the village. If this is something you'd be interested in attending, or if you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with us at clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk.

Wootton Nature Walk

Thank you so much to Councillors Sarah, Jon and Sophus for organising the lovely Wootton Nature Walk at the end of July. Jon was a fabulous guide and said, “we had a lovely walk learning about the wildlife that makes Wootton so brilliant. From Ancient woodland to wood pasture that uses farming techniques to maximise biodiversity. We were on the lookout for squirrels, dormice and bats but unfortunately, they were far too shy, we did however see some gorgeous Belted Galloway cows. History came alive learning about the ruins of Fernhill house and local residents shared the stories and personal anecdotes about the surrounding woods and farms! All finished off with a nice, refreshing drink at The Woodman's!” Thank you to all those who joined the councillors; we are hoping to organise more nature walk events soon so we will keep you updated.

Big Tidy Up

A big thank you to the lovely residents and Councillors who gave up their time on Sunday 19th July to litter pick in the village. In total we collected 9 bags of litter. Thank you to Councillor Jane Allen and Trish Evans for making delicious cakes - very much needed after all that picking!

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

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 

Finding a Local Defibrillator

(Where are they and how to use them)

Did you know that Wootton currently has multiple defibrillators sited around the village?

What is a defibrillator?

A defibrillator is a device that gives a jolt of energy to the heart. It helps get the heart beating again when someone is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped.

You might also hear it being called a defib, a PAD (public access defibrillator) or an AED (automated external defibrillator).

How to use a defibrillator

If someone is in cardiac arrest, call 999 and start CPR. If you're on your own, do not interrupt CPR to go and find a defibrillator. If it's possible, send someone else to find one. When you call 999, the operator can tell you if there's a public access defibrillator nearby.

Anyone can use a defibrillator. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions.

Many defibrillators also have visual prompts and images showing how to use it.

The device checks the person's heart rhythm and will only tell you to give them a shock if it's needed. You cannot shock yourself or someone else accidentally.

Steps to using a defibrillator

Step 1: Press the green button to switch on the defibrillator and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Remove the person's clothing above the waist.

You might have to remove some items of clothing and most defibrillator packs have tools like scissors to help you to do this. It might feel odd or embarrassing but do not let that stop you. Remember, this is a life-or-death situation.

Step 3: Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the person's bare skin. Put one pad on each side of the chest as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.

Step 4: Once you have attached the pads, stop CPR and do not touch the person. The defibrillator will then check the person's heart rhythm.

Step 5: The defibrillator will decide whether a shock is needed. If so, it will tell you to press the 'shock' button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the person without you needing to do anything. Do not touch the person while they're being shocked.

Step 6: The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been given and whether you need to continue CPR.

Step 7: If the defibrillator tells you to continue to do CPR, continue with chest compressions until the person shows signs of life, or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.

Isle of Wight Rugby Football Club
(Recreation Ground) **PO33 4NQ**
Available now 24/7

Wootton Primary School **PO33 4PT**
Varied hours

2A Rectory Drive **PO33 4QQ**
Varied hours

Tesco Express **PO33 4LX**
Varied hours

37-39 High Street **PO33 4LU**
Varied hours

The Cedars **PO33 4QU**
Available now 23/7

Wootton Bridge Parish Council
Available now 24/7 **PO33 4NX**

Wootton Bridge Medical Centre
Varied hours **PO33 4NW**

Harwoods Garage **PO33 4RD**
Available now 24/7

Briddlesford Farm Cafe **PO33 4RY**
Varied hours

Fishbourne Car Ferry **PO33 4EU**
Available now 24/7

Isle Of Wight Crematorium **PO32 6NJ**
Varied hours

The Woodmans Arms **PO33 4RQ**
Varied hours

Kite Hill Nursing Home **PO33 4LE**
Varied hours

Wootton Methodist Church **PO33 4RE**
Varied hours

Sources: www.defibfinder.uk/ and <https://brity.co.uk/communities/wootton-bridge>

IN AN EMERGENCY
Ask for an ambulance. Stay on the line, they will tell you exactly what to do.

CALL 999

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR IS?

WOOTTON BRIDGE | Public defibrillators and urgent care near you

12 DEFIBRILLATORS | **5** PUBLIC A&T | **7** LIMITED OR RESTRICTED

WHERE THE DEFIBRILLATORS ARE
NEAREST FIRST, MEASURED FROM THE CENTRE OF WOOTTON BRIDGE

- 1 Defibrillator: Wootton Primary School Chapel (Recreation Ground) PO33 4PT **24/7**
- 2 The Cedars (Cedars Pub) 2 Station Road, Wootton, PO33 4QU **23/7**
- 3 Defibrillator: Isle Of Wight Rugby Football Club, 17-19 High Street, Wootton PO33 4LU **24/7**
- 4 Defibrillator: 2A Rectory Drive, Wootton, PO33 4QQ **24/7**
- 5 Defibrillator: Harwoods Garage, PO33 4RD **24/7**
- 6 Defibrillator: Wootton Methodist Church, PO33 4RE **24/7**
- 7 Defibrillator: Wootton Bridge Medical Centre (Wootton Health Centre Reception) Wootton, PO33 4RW **24/7**
- 8 Defibrillator: Wootton Bridge Parish Council (Warren's Hall, 3 Station Way, Wootton, PO33 4RX) **24/7**
- 9 Defibrillator: Briddlesford Farm Cafe, PO33 4RY **24/7**
- 10 Defibrillator: Fishbourne Car Ferry, PO33 4EU **24/7**

Plus 2 more devices nearby. Scan the code below for the full list map.

A DEFIBRILLATOR TALKS YOU THROUGH IT

- Call 999** Ask for an ambulance. Stay on the line.
- Start CPR** Push hard and fast in the centre of the chest.
- Send for the defib** We'll get you the defib and we'll come with it.
- Follow the voice** The defib will talk you through every step.

NEAREST EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
St Marys Hospital Emergency Department
St Marys Hospital, Park Road, Newport, PO22 8TG
01983 822099

NOT AN EMERGENCY?
111
Free 24 hours a day. NHS 111 will tell you where to go and can book you in.

Full defibrillator map, local NHS services and free online first aid training
www.communities/wootton-bridge

Brity © 2024 Brity Ltd. For the people of Wootton Bridge. Defibrillator information comes from the national public register and may change, please call 999 first.



Material courtesy of The British Heart Foundation and <https://brity.co.uk/communities/wootton-bridge/>

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

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'
the October '26 issue will be available
to pick up from the Churches on
FRIDAY 25th September 2026

Solution - July/August Sudoku

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

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

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.

International Day of Peace

21st September

Created by a United Nations
resolution to provide a globally
shared date for all humanity to
commit to Peace above all
differences and to contribute to
building a Culture of Peace.

Any article published in
The Bridge is copyright and may
not be used without the author's
permission.

'THE BRIDGE'
Copy deadline date:
TUESDAY 8th September 2026
(12 noon) for October 2026

The publisher does not necessarily hold
the same views as those expressed by
contributors and reserves the right to
refuse or alter material.

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

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

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