

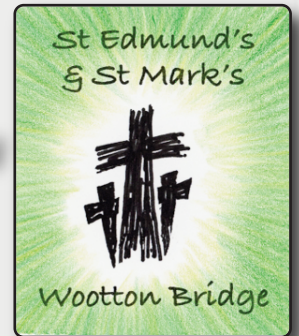
OCTOBER 2026

DELIVERED FREE
(by our wonderful volunteers)

THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Evening Songs at St Edmund's

So here we are, already well into Autumn and three quarters of 2026 already gone. Every year we ask ourselves how that happened, how each year seems to rush by more quickly than the one before, and we wonder why the world seems to change ever faster and ever more inexplicably. But at least in the village there is one place where time seems to pass more gently and perhaps even a little more slowly. A place where, for almost a thousand years, the people of Wootton have come to find peace and comfort, and hopefully new strength to face life's challenges. Hidden away at the end of Church Road, that place is St Edmund's Church.

People are often confused by the fact that there are two active Anglican churches in our relatively small community, both of which have the status of parish churches. In fact, St Edmund's and St Mark's share the job of being "the" parish church, and we hold services in both. The smaller and quieter services tend to be at St Edmund's, while the main Sunday service and the larger special services tend to be at St Mark's. Thus the Sunday evening services have for a number of years mostly been at St Edmund's

In recent years, we have held the traditional Evening Prayer (or Evensong) service on two Sundays a month. It is noticeable that, as attendances have declined, fewer churches are now holding evening services of any kind. We feel that it would be a pity to give up completely on Sunday evening services, but it is clear that some change is needed.

Starting on **18th October**, we shall be holding just one evening service a month, usually, on the third Sunday at **5pm** at St Edmund's. The form of this service will alternate between a contemplative sequence of prayers and music (often called Taizé style) and the traditional Evening Prayer/Evensong. The sequence will begin with the Taizé style service on 18th October and continue with Evening Prayer on 15th November.

Of course, in the famous words of General von Moltke, "no plan survives contact with the enemy", in this case the "enemy" being simple force of circumstance. The December evening service will be on the second Sunday of the month (13th December), and will be a Christmas Carol Service. We would love to see you on any of these Sunday evenings, or indeed at any of the services which you will find listed on Page 3.

David Bennison 

For October services, please see Page 3



An Outdoor Classroom



Mrs Jane Wilford
Headteacher

We are so fortunate to still have an active and thriving PTA (Parent Teacher Association) who are a group of parents, carers and school staff working together to raise money for extra resources and experiences that benefit all the children at Wootton Primary. Over the last year we have been working hard to raise funds for an outdoor classroom to enhance our learning. We have the perfect space to do this by adapting our sensory garden which needed a little bit of attention over the summer holidays. Over two very hot days, our amazing volunteers put in around **11 hours of hard work**, completing **six huge dump runs** and clearing an enormous amount of overgrown vegetation. Trees were brought down, fencing posts removed, the small pond was filled in, and the garden was given a much-needed makeover. There were chainsaws, industrial trimmers, trailers full of tools and even a few encounters with mice and some very large spiders!

We are also so grateful to several local businesses who supported the task. **Rosetta Gardening** donated their time and industrial trimmers to help tackle the overgrown grass, **Wight Reclamation** generously donated a huge tonne bag of compost and **AP Plumbing** who supplied us with the majority of the tools we needed to complete the garden clearance! Now we have a clearer space we are ready to get the foundations in place for the classroom but thankfully we have still managed to keep our growing boxes and small trees in place.

If you are able to offer a donation to our project please see the details below or contact the school office. We really hope by the spring this will be in place and the children will continue to thrive at our school.

tb



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- ★ Know an organisation or individual who may be willing to donate or sponsor our project?

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Sort Code: 54-41-07
Account Number: 45190038

Every donation, no matter how small, brings us one step closer!

GET IN TOUCH!

Please contact us at:

woottonprimarypta@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you!

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. Barre Concept IOW with Laura. Family-friendly session Mondays 9:30am-10:30am £10 per adult/over 14s. £2 for under 14s if they join in. Free for children not joining in. MoJo Yoga with Jo Mondays 6pm-7:15pm £10 per class. Sarah's Crafty Café Tuesdays 10am-11:45am £3. 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. Line Dancing with Grace Fridays 9am-9:45am (High Beginners) £6 per class or 10am- 10:45am (Beginners) £6 per class. Wootton History Group 1st Friday of month doors open at 2pm for 2:30pm-3:30pm £4 per talk. Slimming World with Georgina Fridays 4:30pm-6:30pm charges apply. 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 October 2026

Services during October

Sun 4th

8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's

Wed 7th

11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's

Sun 11th

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Mark's

Wed 14th

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

Sun 18th

9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's
5pm Evening Service (Taize style service) at St Edmund's.

Wed 21st

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

Sun 25th

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mark's

Wed 28th

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

All welcome



A Little Hidden Gem

Sylvia Gregory

Passed by hundreds of people every day just off a busy roundabout on the edge of Wootton village lies a “little hidden gem”. Many people are unaware of what lies behind the iron gates at the Wootton Common end of Briddlesford Road. Some may have noticed the headstones, yes it is an old cemetery but few will know the history which that piece of land holds.

We need to go back to the time when much of Wootton and Briddlesford Road areas were part of the Parish of Arreton. In 1885 a meeting of Arreton parishioners voted to proceed with the construction of a new church at Wootton Common on land which had been donated by its owner Mrs Mary Nunn Harvey of Shanklin for that very purpose and for provision of a burial ground. The church was named St Michael's and All Angels. However it was commonly referred to as “The Iron Church” since it was constructed of a wooden frame, clad on the outside with corrugated iron. A Sunday school was also built on the site. In 1892 the churchyard was consecrated. The iron church was in regular use until the early 20th century and often attracted large congregations.

However with the building of a more permanent church; St Mark's in Station Road Wootton some years later, the “iron church” was made redundant and taken down. The iron railings around the perimeter of the church grounds along with those around the tombstones were removed during the second World War as part of the government's major salvage drive throughout the country and were never replaced. The church itself was sold.

Over the years that followed the churchyard became overgrown until 1994 when a group of Wootton parishioners set to clear it and renovate it during which a brick built path was rediscovered. Today it meanders from the iron gates on Briddlesford Road through the trees to a memorial bench. Like many cemeteries and churchyards in the UK it has become a haven for all kinds of wildlife. Now over the seasons more than a 100 species of flowering plants including wild orchids can be found in Briddlesford cemetery. Despite the busy roads and lack of parking it's well worth a visit, especially in spring and early summer when it's a joy to behold! Access by foot is the best way (the number 9 bus stops right outside!). The cemetery had its regular summer cut. The new groundsman did an excellent job during which the brick path was cleared of weeds and some old dead tree branches taken down. The path is once again back to being a real feature in the cemetery. This exercise was repeated by the Wootton Scouts a few years ago.

Maybe you have a distant relative buried here in the cemetery?

More information can be obtained from a publication entitled “The church at Wootton Common” by Doreen Gazey the Wootton Parish Church Archivist who undertook its detailed historical research; it includes many photographs and lists of those buried and the many plants which can be found in the cemetery. This publication also contains some interesting historical information of the area.

Alternatively please visit the Wootton Bridge Historical website.

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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 meeting Thursday 8th October.

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 14th October.

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 October 2026

7th Oct - A visit to the Donkey Sanctuary
14th Oct - Members meeting this month is 'Flower Arranging.'
21st Oct - Kurling afternoon with the Newcurch ladies.
23rd Oct - Coffee morning
28th Oct - Kurling social evening.

Don't forget our supper club. This month we are enjoying a Meet at The Lifeboat in East Cowes. Also we are enjoying our book club, bowling, games evenings and an amble.

Ladies why not come along and meet new friends whilst having fun. Visitors are always very welcome to join us at the Members Meeting on the second Wednesday in the month. It starts at 7.15pm at Wootton Methodist Church Hall in Wootton. Plenty of parking in the Haven Street Railway car park. Why not give it a try?

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!

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

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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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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 & Nov 6th, 20th. £2.50 per person.

Contact Colin on 882588.

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We are at Methodist Church Station Road every 3rd Friday of the month 2-4pm

Please join us or contact Lesley at lesley@kitechillfarm.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?

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solentpropertycare@gmail.com

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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)

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, 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.

Friday, 6th November ~ " Bee Keeping Through the Ages" ~ Carol Bradshaw"
We are all aware of the importance of bees in our ecosystems. But when did they first come here? How did our ancestors keep them? A very interesting talk.

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 Living Water - Season of Creation



"Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows." This year's theme explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful vision of hope and ecological

healing. Set within exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation showing water flowing, at first a tiny stream that grows deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged ecosystems. During the current water crisis, Ezekiel's vision stands in sharp contrast to the reality of that which we face. According to the United Nations UN News, 1.7 billion people lack basic hygiene services at home, and 2.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water - that is 1 in 4 people on the globe! As climate change intensifies, and groundwater extraction increases, several countries are now reaching a so-called point of "water bankruptcy" (UNU), that is a condition marked by irreversible losses of natural water capital. Access to drinking water is a human right for all, the water crisis unfairly affects vulnerable communities, future generations, and non-human life that has no voice in political or economic systems. These are some of the many challenges:

(1) Water becomes unaffordable for the poor. (2). Impact on health and of water borne diseases. (3). Impact of industrial discharge of chemicals and other pollutants into rivers. (4) Increasing water consumption fuelled by the datacentres and the energy production required for our digital activities, including for

use of artificial intelligence. (5) Poor governance and corruption by companies and governments. (6) Impact on food security by droughts, floods, storms and desertification. (7) Salination of the soil due to sea level rise or over exploitation of aquifers. (8) Violence over competition due to scarce water supplies.

Many issues lead to migration, pushing people into exile, with loss of homes and culture. Impact on the natural world is devastating according to the World Wide Fund for Nature. We are facing catastrophic declines in aquatic wildlife, with freshwater populations dropping by a staggering 85% and marine populations by 56% in the last 50 years (WWF). From a theological perspective, this crisis reflects broken relationships between humankind and God, within the human family itself, and between human beings and other living beings. Furthermore, it is of paramount importance to stress that water pollution has implications related to social justice and money (<https://seasonofcreation.org>) 'Many of us in and around Cowes on Saturday morning found ourselves without water for our showers and morning cuppa. Imagine if this had continued into the day, and the next. Suppose it became the norm, water becoming scarce and worth more than gold and more difficult to get ahold of? Let us look forward for our children and grandchildren, friends and neighbours and pray for a more structured approach through our community for a sustained way of living whilst taking care of our world.

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.

Community Speedwatch

An update from our Chair Sarah Redrup on Speedwatch:

Our Community Speedwatch volunteers have continued to be out across the village this year, monitoring speeds and helping to make our roads safer.

So far in 2026, we have carried out sessions monthly across the village. 107 speeding vehicles have been recorded, their details were passed to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary. During one of our recent sessions, on Station Road in July, we recorded 25 speeding vehicles in just one hour. This was the highest number we have recorded during a single Wootton Speedwatch session since we started the scheme.

Speedwatch is not about catching people out or issuing fines. It is about reminding drivers of the importance of sticking to the speed limit and identifying locations where speeding is a recurring problem. Across the Isle of Wight, 455 first and second warning letters were triggered between January and June this year. Alongside 29 cases involving motorists recorded on multiple occasions and three high-speed incidents, these drivers received home visits from Police officers.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers who give up their time to run these sessions. We are always keen to welcome more people to the team, so if you're interested in getting involved, please contact the Parish Council.

If you'd like to volunteer for Speedwatch or get involved in any of our community activities, please contact us at clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk or pop into the Parish office.

Beat Surgeries

Beat Surgeries will be at the Parish Office on the following dates from 10-10.45am:

- 28th October
- 25th November

Please pop along to chat to our PCOS or let us know any concerns you would like passed on.

Wreath Event

There will hopefully be another Christmas wreath making event this year held at the Old School Centre. More information will be given but please get in touch if you are interested.

Party in the Park

We are beginning work to bring back Party in the Park in 2027! We're looking for volunteers who could help with everything from entertainment and traders to posters and setting up on the day.

CPR Sessions

Thank you to the residents who have expressed interest in CPR sessions, we will keep you informed.

Brity First Aid, who work in partnership with British Red Cross and St John Ambulance on first aid training and education, have put together a free page for your area showing the defibrillators in and around Wootton Bridge - <https://brity.co.uk/communities/wootton-bridge>

If you have any areas of concern, or want to report any incidents, please either visit the Parish Office in Brannon Way, or contact us by phone (01983 884555) or email clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk

Liz Kingston – Clerk **tb**

Confessions of an Elderly Technophobe

I was thinking about my mum the other day; actually I think about her most days, but this was about a particular aspect of her life. She died suddenly in 1978, when I was 36 years old. I still miss her and often quote some of her slightly odd sayings. My personal favourite is 'What an awful day, you wouldn't think it was the same day as yesterday'. Perhaps that is immortality?

She loved going to the cinema, so it was a shame she passed away before she had a video recorder. The fact that she could have

watched her favourite films whenever she liked would have been marvellous to her. However I struggle to imagine her panic and utter confusion when asked for her pin, or user name, or password. I think it is just as well that she never encountered any of these things. The amount of information that older people are expected to remember and understand is terrifying.

You have to wade through so much information making a simple phone call that by the time you reach the appropriate person or department, you have almost forgotten why you called in the first place. Or is that just me?

I had to prove I was a human being by matching up little cartoon drawings in order to buy a £12.99 handbag online the other day. I can't check my mail without assuring my mobile phone that, yes, it is me.

I do realise that extensive security is needed in these days of clever, cold hearted scammers, but still it can become a worrying problem for those of us of advancing years.

As we grow older, memory naturally fades and our mental faculties are not so good. This isn't necessarily the curse of Dementia, but simply a natural development. At this point in our lives, many of us have difficulty coping with all the technical information that we are supposed to store mentally. "Don't write anything down" we are told, but that's asking too much for most of us.

I am weary of being told how much easier everything is on the Company's website. It isn't. My phone and computer do not appear to conform to the rules, which makes it harder to make it easier.

Does every generation complain that life is getting too complicated? I suppose they do, for we must complain about something. For me the rot set in with the vanishing of the ten bob note.



Yes - they really did exist. Worth around 50p today

Mary Buswell 

Quarr Abbey Events

01 October 2026

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Food Evening – Mexican Evening

Abbey Teashop Food & Drink

08 October 2026

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Food Evening – It's all in the Pudding

Abbey Teashop Food & Drink

15 October 2026

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Food Evening – Laura's Corned Beef Hash

Abbey Teashop Food & Drink

22 October 2026

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Food Evening

Traditional Fish &

Chips

Abbey Teashop Food &

Drink

05 November 2026

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Traditional Beef Stew Evening

Abbey Teashop Food & Drink

21 January 2027

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Traditional Beef Stew Evening



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

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'
the November '26 issue will be
available to pick up from the Churches
on FRIDAY 30th October 2026

Solution - September Sudoku

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

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

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

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.

HARVEST

A difficult season
doesn't mean your
faithfulness is
wasted. Keep
sowing, keep
trusting, and keep
believing.....

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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.

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