NOVEMBER 2026

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THE CHURCH PARISH MAGAZINE OF WOOTTON

The Bridge

Building Bridges in the Community



Safely Gathered In?

It might seem odd to find a harvest picture on the front page of our November edition, especially when the title above is a quotation from a harvest hymn. By now the churches have already had their Harvest Festivals, and Autumn is inexorably declining into Winter. But November brings its own harvest, of memories of the passing year and of years already past.

Our memories are a big part of who we are; they define, for good or ill, our relationships with each other, with the reality of our lives, and (we Christians would say) with God. St Paul, writing to the argumentative Christians in Corinth, says “I planted the seed i... but it was God who made it grow.” Every harvest is the product of a relationship between the human grower and the created order of which she or he is part.

November is the month of remembering, with the twin Festivals of All Saints and All Souls at the beginning of the month, Advent at the end of the month and Remembrance Sunday in between. Part of what we do as we gather in our harvest of memories is to put them in some kind of order, and hopefully to find some sort of balance between the debits and the credits in our own personal balance sheet.

Some memories bring us joy and a kind of spiritual warmth. Others, unfortunately, are much less easy to harvest and “gather safely in”. The process of coming to terms with painful or problematic memories can be difficult and protracted. But reconciliation, with oneself, with others or with God, is itself a harvest of sorts, to be gathered in and be thankful for. And a large part of reconciliation may be the understanding of difficult memories in a new way.

This November, all of us at St Edmund’s and St Mark’s wish you joy and peace in your remembering, and, as the cold sets in, offer you a warm invitation to any and all of the services listed on Page 3.

David Bennison

For November services, please see Page 3

Reading in a New Way



Mrs Jane Wilford
Headteacher

If you have been a resident in Wootton for some time, you may recall me writing about our passion for reading at school, our mantra, 'Reading is the key', is referred to frequently in school to encourage children to move away from their screens and read!

We celebrated the Island's Literary Festival in October and were fortunate to have some authors come to visit. Darren Simpson, the author of 'Lykewise', spent an afternoon with Year 6 sharing his book and inspiration to write, however the highlight of the week was a visit from a 4-legged author!

Teddy the Shetland joined his author Alice Goring in a visit to our younger children. Teddy spent the afternoon in school and you can imagine the excitement of having a real pony in the hall! Teddy is a therapy pony and has visited hospices and schools gaining quite a celebrity status! He has appeared on the BBC News and also Blue Peter to raise the awareness of therapy pets.
During his visit the children got to hear about the books he appears in and how he is the pony hero of *'Teddy Goes to London'*. The children also had the chance to give Teddy a stroke and hear about his adventures.

It was wonderful to see the children so excited about reading and they have all been enthused to read the books that the author very kindly donated to the school.







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 (no class on 23rd/30th November). **Sarah's Crafty Café** Tuesdays 10am-11:45am £3. Sounds Familiar singing group (with Christmas carols) Tuesdays 11am-12pm. **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. **Dog Cafe** Thursdays 12pm-3pm with **The Great Pup Quiz** at 1:30pm. **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 5:30pm-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.alisfinessfusioniow.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 November 2026

Sun 1st
8am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's
9.30am Sunday Brunch at St Mark's
5pm Commemoration of the Faithful Departed at St Edmund's

Wed 4th
11.15am Café Communion Service at St Mark's

Sun 8th
10am Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion Service at St Mark's
3pm Memorial Service (St Edmund's Churchyard)

Wed 11th
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

Sun 15th
9.30am Morning Worship at St Mark's
5pm Traditional Evensong at St Edmund's

Wed 18th
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

Sun 22nd
10am Patronal Festival Holy Communion at St Edmund's

Wed 25th
9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Edmund's

Sun 29th
11.15am Plurality Holy Communion at St Mildred's
5pm Advent Carol Service with Cantus Vesperi at St Edmund's

All welcome

Poems for Remembrance

In Praise of Women - I might be biased!!

Women through the ages
Have been given a role to play;
To keep those home fires burning
While their menfolk were away.

Though cast into the background
A woman still holds sway;
She has methods of ensuring
That things are done her way.

The enemy is at the gates,
The end has surely come!
But no, she is preparing
A pot of tea and scones.

Unflappable and unafraid
And always in control;
There'd be a clean shirt waiting
When you came off patrol.

Brave pioneers who crossed the plains,
Giving birth in covered wagons.
Fighting all that life could throw at them
Like veritable dragons.

Courageous and unbreakable
While their men explored and roamed,
It was the task of womenfolk
To make in each new land a home.

Where would men be without women,
Facing the practicalities of life
For when you've conquered yet another world -
You come home to your wife.

Mary Buswell

A Gunner's Day

A gunner's day is very long,
He wakes up early, singing a yawn.
The sun is still asleep in bed,
He rubs his eyes and shakes his head.

He eats some food and drinks some tea,
There's lots to do, no time to be free,
He checks his plane and checks his gear,
His friends are ready, standing near.

Up in the sky the plane flies high,
White fluffy clouds go drifting by.
The air is cold, the wind is loud,
The plane goes zooming through the cloud.

They work together, doing their best,
Helping each other, never a test.
At last they fly back home again,
Safe on the ground after the plane.

He feels so tired, but also proud,
He smiles and talks with his friendly crowd.
He rests at night, the stars shine bright,
A gunner's day is busy - day and night.

Unknown

Wootton has its own Tapestry - Doreen Gazey

The tapestry is part of the Wootton Millennium Project, which included locations around Wootton, with the help and advice from the WI. Various people were involved with ages ranging from 9 to 90. The images reflected Wootton life past and present and used a variety of styles, from cross stitch, painting and even to wood (this was about the railway and was created by our oldest contributor) and the old rectory built in the 1860s which was finally replaced in 1969 by the current building. Some of the Tapestry can be seen hanging in the Brannon Way Post Office.





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.

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 12th 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 11th November.

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 November 2026

11th - Members Meeting: 'Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is! A pantomime Dame is coming to talk to us.
20th - Coffee morning at one of many favourite venues.
21st - Hands- on Crafting for the Festive Season.
25th - A Christmas Sing Along.
27th - Christmas Shopping

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.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you!

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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

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Digital Security and Online Safety

The UK Cyber Security Centre continues to warned 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 vigilent!

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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.

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



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1st Wootton Scouts

Come along to Wootton Scout Hut on 1st November, between 2pm and 4pm, for an afternoon of tea, cake and Double Take. The acapella musical duo will sing vintage songs, while you relax with hot drinks and a huge range of cakes available.By attending this pleasant afternoon, you'll also be supporting several young Scouts to achieve their ambition to attend an international expedition to the USA next summer.

No booking necessary, just come along. Cakes priced separately. We hope to see you there.

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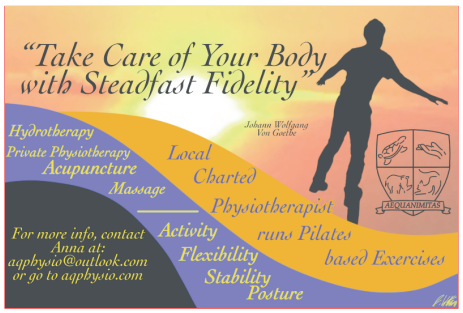
This is a person-centred ministry of spiritual care for older people of all faiths, cultures, spiritualities and contexts, and for their families and carers. The Anna Chaplain also offers advocacy for older people within church and community, they work with people living independently and within residential 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/

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 Nov 6th, 20th & Dec 4th,18th. £2.50 per person. Contact Colin on 882588.



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CONCERT
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Wootton Bridge Townswomen's Guild
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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.

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Pop into Parkside Pavilion, Vectis Road, East Cowes, PO32 6HN, to meet some of the team 01983 296592.

www.communityspirited.com

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

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

All sections open to boys and girls.
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Contact Rachael on 07593 700985 for further details

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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 islandrabbit@outlook.com. All welcome.

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.

Friday, 4th December ~ Our now traditional " Seasonal Social"
With buffet lunch, raffle and entertainment.

All welcome

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Hall including modern kitchen, central heating, rear garden etc. Reasonable rates.

Contact Peter on 883385 or petefiow@uwclub.net for bookings.

WOOTTON BRIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

(Station Road)

Minister: **Rev Gina Hoff**

Sunday Morning Service 10am

Evening Services as announced



Minister's Message

'Eating Together, making mealtimes matter'



As many of you know I am the Minister of five different churches on the IOW in the Methodist Circuit. I have been here for two years now and getting to know people has been an important part of my journey.

In each church we have times when we sit at a table to share a meal, and 'chew the fat'. Sometimes we go to Appley and have a Sunday roast, other times we have homemade soup and bread, sometimes a 'bring and share' meal or a 'cake & cuppa' after a Tea Service. Each of these times is a wonderful way to share stories, bring up difficult subjects, laugh at jokes, listen to each other and share our woes. It builds us, as a community, together. In scripture, Jesus shared meals frequently because the dining table was a central space for building relationships, breaking social barriers, and symbolising God's Kingdom. In the ancient Near East, sharing a meal was not just about physical hunger; it was a public declaration of unity, trust, and equality. Who you sat with defined who you belonged to. Welcoming Outcasts and Sinners: Jesus intentionally dined with tax collectors, outcasts, and social "sinners" (such as Matthew and Zacchaeus) to show that God's grace and mercy were open to everyone, shocking the religious elite. Meals often exposed human arrogance, such as when guests fought for places of honour, prompting Jesus to teach humility and radical hospitality (like inviting the poor instead of the wealthy). Sharing food tied back to deep biblical traditions of covenant. It foreshadowed spiritual communion, such as the Last Supper with His disciples and the ultimate "marriage supper of the Lamb" in eternity. Eating ordinary food grounded Jesus's ministry in real human life, turning everyday hospitality into a primary venue for teaching forgiveness, and restoration.

I recently read an article about families, some who rarely sit together and share a meal, *'Now everyone may have their own plate, their own room, their own screen. Not eating together but simultaneously'*. While this can be helpful for children with additional needs to help them focus on eating, for others it can detract from the positive aspects of sharing a meal and others do not have that choice if they live on their own (my recommendation here is that we invite folk to join us for a meal regularly if we can). The communication between the generations around the table, learning from others fears and hopes can be a valued learning life tool, to alleviate stress and anxiety (although not for everyone). Even small interactions like passing the salt and pouring a glass for someone else is an important interaction that builds our relationships together.

Perhaps we can take a leaf from the book of life from Jesus, our grandparents, other cultures like Greece and Italy where family meals are central and those who still do eat here at the table together. Less screen time and more talking time, getting to know each other better, is a great way forward for our family life and community engagement experiences.

May God bless you this month, Rev. Gina

townswomen's guilds

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.

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@kitehillfarm.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

Buzzy Bean Café – Espresso Yourself!

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...



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.

Beat Surgeries
Beat Surgeries will be at the Parish Office on 25th November from 10-10.45am:
Please pop along to chat to our PCSO or let us know any concerns you would like passed on.

Wreath Making
The Old School will be offering subsidised wreath making workshops with Sarah every Tuesday throughout November and December for only £10 per person. Booking is required so please contact the Old School on 01983 882820 or email hello@theoldschoolcentre.org

Roving Nativity
The Parish Council are in the process of arranging this year's Christmas Festival which will be on ***Friday 11th December 2026***. We have decided to hold the event in the Old School Centre in New Road. The roving Nativity Play will start from the top of St Edmunds Walk (6.30pm) and make its way to the Old School.
In the Old School, there will be mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies as well as drinks for the children. There will also hopefully be craft and charity stalls for those last-minute gifts. If you would like to have a stall they are £10 each – please contact the clerk on 01983 884555 or email: clerk@woottonbridge-pc.gov.uk

Friday 11th December – 6.30 – 9.00pm
From 6.30 p.m - Roving Nativity Play commencing from the top of St Edmunds Walk, Wootton Bridge.
7 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. - Carol Singing, Refreshments and hopefully Charity and Craft Stalls.

Winter Wellness
The Footprint Trust We will be holding a Winter Help Cafe at No.64 High Street Newport on 5th November from 10am - 1pm. Get free information to cut household bills, maximise your income and stay warm and well in your home. Speak to Foodbank, Footprint Trust, IW Council, Southern Water, Healthwatch, SSEN, AGEUK, Pan Together, Wight Sense, Smoke Free Island, Working Towards Wellbeing, SWAY, Isorropia and others.
For more information contact: info@footprint-trust.co.uk Phone: 01983 822282

Wootton Play Park
The Play Park equipment at the Recreation Ground has now hopefully been installed as it was due to go in at the end of October. If this hasn't happened, we will chase IOW Council and keep you updated on our social media page.

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

RUNNING A RAILWAY

(The Isle of Wight Steam Railway and the people who operate it)
by Doreen Gazey



What does it take to run an award winning tourist attraction?

The Isle of Wight Steam Railway, is one of the premier Tourist attractions on the Island. The Company operates 5 miles of track running from Wootton, through Havenstreet to Smallbrook. There are four stations to maintain, along with a unique collection of carriages, wagons, and steam locomotives, up to 150 years old, virtually all of which has operated on the Isle of Wight in the past. Managing all this is a small nucleus of full time paid staff and unpaid volunteer workers, who carry out an enormous range of tasks.

A number of the volunteers were with the Railway since the beginning. They had vivid memories of the time in 1971 when they found out that the trackway was about to be taken up. They only had 48 hours to move all the rolling stock from storage at Newport to Havenstreet, over a track badly affected by a landslip at Wootton Station.

Volunteers can work anything from a few days or weeks each year, to several days a week. Not all are from the Isle of Wight. Some holiday here in order to work on the railway. Others do the same in reverse direction and spend time on other lines such as the Bluebell Railway.

The staff, both salaried and volunteers, have a wide variety of backgrounds and come with many different skills and experiences in varying professions such as engineering, business, journalism, tourism, even the church. For some of them it is an opportunity to utilise the skills they acquired in their working lives. For others it is a complete change of direction and an opportunity to learn something new.

When the visitors have gone home at the end of the summer, do the staff take the rest of the year off? Not a bit of it! Vegetation maintenance and grass cutting proceeds 52 weeks a year, in all weathers. Sleepers, rails and track need constant upkeep and repair, while painting, Forth Bridge style, also goes on year round. You only have to compare the coaches in use, with their elegant livery, to the decidedly down-at-heel ones still awaiting restoration, to see the amount of skill and dedication involved. Carriages have formerly served as "mobile" homes, seaside chalets, sheds, and chicken hutches. Sometimes the staff find themselves carrying out duties above and beyond. Among other things they have been film extras, royal escorts and drivers. When the late HRH the Duke of Edinburgh visited the island for the Admirals Cup in 2001 he paid the railway a visit, and rode on a train packed with children and Havenstreet residents.

So why does this team of workers do it? The work can be arduous and time consuming. Smart uniforms and the well-kept appearance of the stations reveals the pride they take in their work. Some of the staff, apart from enjoying railways wish to do something worthwhile in their retirement, and find satisfaction in continuing a long-term interest. They enjoy meeting the visitors and sharing this interest with them and their fellow workers, giving something back for the pleasure that trains have given them.

As well as all this, the Isle of Wight Steam Railway is preserving part of our National Heritage for future generations to enjoy.

Note – I enjoy the railway as it reminds me of the days as a school girl in Lincolnshire when I used to travel to school by train, until Dr Beeching came along and then it was the school bus. At the end of term we used to have parties and one year a parent gave us some home brewed wine. Luckily none of us liked it as being drunk in school uniform would certainly have gotten us into trouble.

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

Note to 'Bridge Deliverers'
the Dec '26/Jan '27 issue will be available to pick up from the Churches on FRIDAY 27th November 2026

Solution - October Sudoku

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

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

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY



11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month We will Remember Them

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(12 noon) for December 2026

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

E-mail Addresses

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bridgeads@cofeparishofwoottonbridge.org.uk

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

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