

# 2025



The volunteers at The HUB wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2025



# WOODCHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

Our village community working together

January 2025

Contact us: Telephone 01233 861381 Email enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk Web www.woodchurchhub.uk

OVER 1,000 COPIES distributed every month in the Woodchurch area

## WOODCHURCH Community Calendar



### Weekly events:

#### Saturdays:

**Boot Camp** 9:00am-10:00am on the Village Green

#### Sundays:

**Museum Open** 10:00am to 4:00pm

**Outpost Church** 10:00am-12:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

**Karate** 10:00am-12:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre

#### Mondays:

**Pilates** 9:00am-10:00am in the Memorial Hall

**Tai Chi and Qigong** 10:00am and 11:00am at the S&G Community Centre

**Knit and Natter** 2:00pm - 3:30pm in the Jean Mealham Lodge

**Line Dancing** 2:00pm - 4:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre

**Junior Tennis coaching** Red-3:30pm, Orange 4:30pm, Green/Hand Ball 5:30pm, Hard Ball 6:30pm at the Tennis Club

**Beavers** 6:00pm-7:00pm in the S&G Community Centre

**BodyTone** 6:15pm-7:00pm in the Memorial Hall

**BodyFlex** 7:15pm-8:00pm in the Memorial Hall

**Scouts** 7:30pm-9:00pm in the S&G Community Centre

#### Tuesdays:

**Pilates** 9:00am-10:00am, 10:15am-11:15am and 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Memorial Hall

**Coffee Morning** 10:00am-12:00pm in All Saints Church

**Puzzle Club** 2:00pm-4:00pm in the Jean Mealham Lodge

**Cubs** 5:30pm-7:00pm in the S&G Community Centre

**Karate** 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Jean Mealham Studio

#### Wednesdays:

**Pilates** 9:00am-10:00am in the Memorial Hall

**Museum Volunteers** - maintenance and gardening 9:30am-12:00pm at the Museum

**Social Pop-In** 2:00pm-4:00pm Tea and coffee and boot fair marquee at the Jean Mealham Centre

**Junior Tennis coaching** Red/Orange-4:00pm, Green/Hard Ball-5:00pm the Tennis Club

**Rainbows** 5:00pm-6:00pm in the S&G Community Centre

**Fish and Chips** 4:30pm-7:30pm in the Village Car Park

**Brownies and Guides** 5:45pm-7:15pm in the S&G Community Centre

#### Thursdays:

**Art Society** 10:00am-1:00pm in the Memorial Hall

**Margaret Morris Movement** 2:15pm-3:45pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

**BodyBlast** 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Memorial Hall

**Badminton** 7:00pm-11:00pm in the Memorial Hall

**Karate** 7:00pm-9:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre

Previous editions of the Newsletter can be found on The HUB Web site [www.woodchurchhub.UK](http://www.woodchurchhub.UK)

#### Fridays:

**Squirrels** 5:30pm-6:30pm in the S&G Community Centre

**Adult Tennis coaching** 5:30pm at the Tennis Club

#### Other Events:

Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> **Social Prescribers** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> **Country Night** at The Bonny - 7:00pm

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> **Parish Eucharist** - 11:00am at All Saints Church

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> **CARM** - 10:30 in the Memorial Hall

**Anna Chaplaincy** - 10:30am in the Annexe

Tue 7<sup>th</sup> **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

Thu 9<sup>th</sup> **Citizens Advice** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> **WI - The National Needlework Archive** - 7:15pm in the Memorial Hall

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> **Parish Eucharist** - 11:00am at All Saints Church

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> **Anna Chaplaincy** - 10:30am in the Annexe

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> **Quiz Night** at the Six Bells - 7:00pm

Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> **Music at The Bonny** - Lima - 8:00pm

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> **Holy Communion** - 11:00am at All Saints Church

Tue 28<sup>th</sup> **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

Thu 30<sup>th</sup> **Quiz Night** at The Bonny - 7:00pm

The Full Community Calendar can be found at [www.woodchurchhub.uk/community-calendar](http://www.woodchurchhub.uk/community-calendar)



### It is time to confirm your events in the Community Calendar

It is the beginning of a new year and we take this opportunity to begin with a blank calendar to ensure that the published information is as accurate as possible. The calendar has already been updated with the events that have been confirmed for 2025, however some clubs, societies, and organisations may have not yet done so and so their events may no longer be appearing.

Please take the time to confirm your dates, times and venues for 2025. If they no longer appear then please let us know by emailing the details to [enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk), or by leaving the information with The HUB.

**If you don't let us know, neither will the village**

# All Saints Church



Dear Friends,

We have very much enjoyed all of the Christmas preparations and events in the village this year. With three villages to cover, we don't manage to attend everything in each village, but we try to ensure that members of our clergy and ministry team attend as much as we can.



Our Christmas Tree festival was very successful once again. My thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who work so hard to organise and run this event over the whole weekend, our local societies and businesses who sponsored and decorated the trees, those who came along to entertain our visitors (including the school choir) and of course the great number (over 400) who came to visit, including Father Christmas and his elf. We raised around £2,000 which is being split between the church and a £1,000 donation to Catching Lives - the charity helps the homeless in Canterbury and East Kent, including the provision of a winter night shelter in Canterbury Cathedral - you can find out more here <https://www.catchinglives.org> A huge thank-you to everyone who supported the event. It was wonderful to see everyone who came to visit.

Revd Maria and I have very much enjoyed watch the carol concert and school nativity, and we had a lovely school Christmas service in church to end the term. Thanks also to those who attended our 'Carols and mulled wine" evening in church which was very enjoyable too. Revd Mike and Ann Tiplady have enjoyed visiting Woodchurch House to make christingles and to hold their Christmas Service; as I write this, we are still looking forward to our Christmas Eve service (with Mr Christingle!) and our Christmas day service.

During January we won't be having services every week - a mix of holidays and some rest time for our volunteers There is a service in Bethersden when we haven't got one in Woodchurch - St Mary's High Halden is closed after the service on 29<sup>th</sup> December until March so our new toilet can be installed. Please join us for our Epiphany service on 5<sup>th</sup> January at 11am.

All of our team at All Saints wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2025.

Every Blessing,  
Reverend Sue - [01233 820266](tel:01233820266). [revsuerose@outlook.com](mailto:revsuerose@outlook.com)

## Citizens Advice Bureau At Woodchurch HUB

Ashford Citizens Advice now holds regular, confidential consultation clinics at Woodchurch HUB on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 1pm to 4pm.

These are walk-in sessions so you do not need to book.  
For more information please contact The HUB.

## Woodchurch Village Shed

December has been a good month for us in terms of progress. While I was away the team managed to start fitting out the shed with donated kitchen units, we now have the start of a proper workshop. Just this week we picked up some of the donated tools from James on The Green, a good number of tools that give us a big start to a proper workshop.



Today, the 19<sup>th</sup> December we were donated a good dust extractor that will help us work safely. The same day we had our Open Day and we had a good attendance all in all, along with our regulars we had 16 people turn up for coffee, tea, hot chocolate, sausage rolls and mince pies. We had a small display of our short history and where we have come from, our progress and what we are aiming to do in the future.

We also had Andy, now a regular visitor from Tenterden Shed who is always full of good advice and ideas. We also have Dave who is full of positive thoughts both in fund raising and ideas for our layout.

Our next steps are to give the Shed a good coat of paint then build some work benches ready to become fully operational. I will keep you all posted.

If anyone can make a contribution towards our development costs it would be greatly appreciated - Account details below:

Bank:	Lloyds Bank
Account name:	Woodchurch Mens Shed
Sort Code:	30 98 97
Account #:	80933962

For more information please contact me at [neilmckay0730@gmail.com](mailto:neilmckay0730@gmail.com).

## HELP KEEP THE COMPLIMENTS COMING IN 2025

Yes, we all like to receive compliments and as a village we get many - through our multiple organisations, about The Green, all the clubs and societies that are available to join, The Hub, The Parish Council, all of the village activities and events that regularly take place...

But... (*and there is always one of those*)... who are the people making all this happen? The answer is that it is mainly volunteers from within the Woodchurch community.

In 2025, could you help 'swell the ranks' by volunteering for a few hours - monthly, weekly, or even just occasionally? There will always be something of interest that you can do. Contact [enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk), phone [01233 861381](tel:01233861381) or pop into The Hub in The village car park.

**VOLUNTEERING  
MATTERS**



## WOODCHURCH SURGERY UPDATE

Everyone at the Surgery is looking forward to welcoming you in 2025. It seems incredible that Christmas has come and gone so quickly and we can look forward to the next one now. I have to say that I had a great couple of days off and it was a brilliant time to relax with the family.

I unexpectedly picked a friend up from the William Harvey on Boxing Day and was pleasantly surprised to see everyone in good spirits. I was shocked, though, to see the wards so full and apparently new areas with beds in that I don't remember seeing before. It was definitely a good reminder that if we look after ourselves as best we can then we stand in a better position to avoid being in a bed there ourselves.

Unfortunately, some admissions are unintentionally contributed to by complications related to medication. Although we have a number of checks, sometimes the holes in the Swiss Cheese align and something slips through. Please make sure that if you take medication that you have a review done at least once a year. It is likely that you need a blood test or a physical check to monitor and if you think this hasn't happened in the last 12 months then it is worth booking in a review. Please also make sure that you are aware that some medication should be stopped if you are at risk of dehydration from an acute illness - this can prevent unintended complications.



We have welcomed two new trainees to the team and both have settled in well. Dr "B K" has joined us for 4 months and splits his time between us and the hospice; Dr Chika Ohio is with us full time and should be completing his training in August 2025 as long as his exams go to plan.

We continue to grow as a Surgery and are looking to grow the team. We have advertised for some more talented people to join our team, so if you want to be part of the brilliant team or know someone that might be interested please get in touch. We are looking forward to welcoming a new nurse, receptionist/administrator and dispensary manager over the next few months.

We now push through dry January and welcome the Year of the Snake at the end of the month for the Chinese New Year. I'm looking forward to that and wish you all a very happy British New Year on behalf of the Surgery.



Best wishes to you all, Jack Hickey - GP

### Village Lost Property at The HUB

If you find any lost property around the village please bring it to The HUB. If you have lost something around the Village please let The HUB know as it may have been handed in.


### Surgery Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



### Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic  
Warehorne Road  
Hamstreet  
Kent TN26 2JJ

 Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848

Email: [hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com](mailto:hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com)

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**WOODCHURCH  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month in the Memorial Hall.

Our meeting talks for 2025 are:

**14<sup>th</sup> January** - "The National Needlework Archive", A talk by Barbara and Geoff Turner

**11<sup>th</sup> February** - Annual Meeting and "My Life in the Navy". A talk by Mike Rose

**11<sup>th</sup> March** - "The Living Landscape". A talk by Kristina Boulden

**8<sup>th</sup> April** - "Women in Aviation". A talk by Anna Astin

**13<sup>th</sup> May** - "Anxiety". A talk by John Black

**10<sup>th</sup> June** - "Concorde". A talk by Guy Bartlett

**8<sup>th</sup> July** - "Bob Newhart Rides Again". A talk by Joe Mendell

**August** - Date and time to be arranged

**9<sup>th</sup> September** - "Bats in the Belfry". A talk by Martin Newcombe

**14<sup>th</sup> October** - "Getting Paid for Seeing Amazing Things". A talk by Brian Russell

**11<sup>th</sup> November** - "Christmas in Wartime". A talk by Judi Knight

**9<sup>th</sup> December** - "East Kent Chorus Barber Shop Singers".

Do visit our Facebook page or check out our programme for 2024 on our website at [woodchurchwi.weebly.com](http://woodchurchwi.weebly.com)

We look forward to meeting you soon.



Parish Council Website: [www.woodchurch-pc.gov.uk](http://www.woodchurch-pc.gov.uk)  
The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 at 7pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

**Windmill Latest**

We should know by 15th January if Ashford Borough Council has agreed to add the Woodchurch windmill to the List of Assets of Community Value. If successful this would give the community six months to decide if it wishes to purchase the asset once the mill is put on the open market, or match any successful agreed auction sale price.



If you have any views or suggestions then please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk

**Old Cast Iron Litter Bin Anyone?**

The Parish Council will be deciding where to put the new bins in January. Would anyone be interested in any of the old cast iron ones? There will be 8 available in the first phase for a minimum donation of £20 each. If you are interested contact the Clerk



**The Draft Budget for 2025-2026**

The Parish Council will be agreeing the budget for 2025-2026 at the next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025. Ashford Borough Council announced the "tax base" on which parish councils set the precept (the amount the parish council collects in your council tax). For Woodchurch this would mean an insignificant change should the precept remain unchanged.

**Community Wardens**

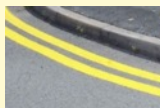
As an update following the decision by Kent County Council to withdraw the Community Warden from Woodchurch, the Clerk has approached other parish councils to ascertain if there is any interest in sharing the cost for one, to cover those parishes.



Please contact the Clerk with any views you may have on the subject.

**Yellow Lines?**

At the recent Parish Council meeting it was agreed to ask residents for their views on installing yellow lines around the school. There will be a public consultation put out to the village on the topic, which will then be reflected back to East Kent Highways. Additionally East Kent Highways will be installing 30 MPH roundels on the road surface approaching the village along Bethersden Road.



**Safety and Security**

We have been looking into security around the village, and would like to explore alternatives to installing CCTV. The Council feels that it needs to demonstrate good value for money to the residents before any decisions are made.

**Ever Thought of Becoming a Councillor?**

We currently have a vacancy for someone to join a dynamic council. If you are motivated in serving and helping your local community then this is an excellent opportunity. There are no formal qualifications required. If you have any interest or questions then please email the Clerk



**An Update on The Hub Work and The Carpark**

The cablework has been completed, and UKPN have confirmed that there is now three phase power to the green cabinet adjacent to the Hub building.



The WC refurbishment is due to commence early January, temporary toilets will be provided while the work is being carried out.

Once again we apologise for any inconvenience caused while work is ongoing.

**Potholes**

It is best to report any directly to KCC Highways by phone on **03000 418181** or online at [www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/potholes](http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/potholes)



**Water leaks**

If you see a water leak in the road these should be reported to South East Water by phone at 03330 000365 or online at [www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/emergencies/report-a-leak](http://www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/emergencies/report-a-leak)



**Recent Planning Applications We Have Considered Over The Last Two Months**

Application	Location	Parish Council	Ashford Planning
PA/2024/1795	Keepers End, Shadoxhurst Road	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1772	37 The Green.	Continue to Object	Approved
AP-90702 3351385	Balcony Farm, Haycross Lane.	Object	Waiting Decision
NOT/2024/2043	Vernacular Homes Ltd, The Spinneys, Susans Hill	Support providing application meets all housing policy requirements	Prior Approval Given
PA/2024/1988	64 Lower Road	Support	Approved
PA/2024/2135 & PA/2024/2142	Fairview, Bethersden Road	Support	Waiting Decision
AP-90720 3355619	Annexe, Cruttenden Farm, Brook Street	Continue to Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/2209	1 West End, Susans Hill	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/2281	Clappers Mead, Bethersden Road	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/2230	Stonebridgelands, Front Road	Support	Waiting Decision

## How to contact your Parish Council

**In person:** By talking to one of your councillors - details on the Parish Council Web site

**By email:** [clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk)

**By phone:** 01233 861381

**Through The HUB:** Place your correspondence in a sealed envelope marked "Parish Council" and deliver to The HUB

**By post to:** Woodchurch Parish Clerk, c/o The HUB, Front Road, Woodchurch, Kent, TN26 2PA

**Through the contact form on the Parish Council Web site:** [www.woodchurch-pc.gov.uk/contact-us/](http://www.woodchurch-pc.gov.uk/contact-us/)

**Margaret Morris Movement** gentle exercise for the over 50's will restart on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 14:15 at the Scouts Community Centre.

## Items For Future Newsletters

If there is something that you would like to have included in future editions then please send them to:

[enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk)

## Make A Difference



## Upcoming roadworks in and around Woodchurch

Information from KCC and one.network

### **ROADWORKS - Brook Street (Woodchurch House)**

**9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January**

Closure in force: Traffic Lights

Description: Highways Improvement Works

Responsibility: KCC

### **ROAD CLOSED - Brook Street (near Brook Farm)**

**13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Closure in force: Road Closed

Description: New service connection

Responsibility: South East Water

### **ROADWORKS - Front Road, Woodchurch (Kirkwood Avenue)**

**20<sup>th</sup> January 08:00 - 16:00**

Closure in force: Traffic Lights

Description: Replacing bus stop pole

### **ROADWORKS - Brook Street (near Moor Lane)**

**27<sup>th</sup> January**

Closure in force: Traffic Lights

Description: Remedial Works

Responsibility: South East Water

### **ROADWORKS - Brook Street (near Haycross Lane)**

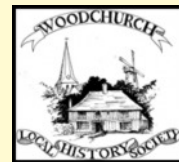
**30<sup>th</sup> January**

Closure in force: Traffic Lights

Description: New Service Connection

Responsibility: UK Power Networks

## Woodchurch Local History Society



The WLHS generally meets on the first Monday of the month in the Village Memorial Hall at 7:30pm. We are presently having a winter break but we will meet again at our AGM on Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. After that, our talks programme will start on Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will hear David Tadd tell us how the Metropolitan Police tracked down the Brighton bombers who nearly assassinated Margaret Thatcher. The rest of our talks programme is listed below.

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> - AGM and a short talk.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> - David Tadd 'How the Brighton Bombers were Brought to Justice.'
- April 7<sup>th</sup> - Ed Adams 'Kentish Clerical Errors - An Hilarious Look at Priestly high Jinks and Misdemeanours'.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> - Andrew Ashton 'Kill or Cure - 200 Years of Popular Remedies'.
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Melody Foreman 'The Wreck Hunter - How one man uncovered the stories of many airmen who crashed in Kent during WW2'.
- Summer Events
- September 1<sup>st</sup> - Josie Mackie 'The Butcher, the Baker and Candlestick Maker - A look at 300 Years of Woodchurch Shops'.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> - Rebecca Warren - 'Witchcraft in 17th Century Kent - Murder and Mercy at Maidstone Assizes'.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Michael Smith 'Tom Crean - The Unsung Hero of Antarctic Exploration'.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> - Members Evening. A Christmas get together followed by a short talk of local interest.

We always welcome new members and look forward to seeing visitors. Membership fees for the society are currently £12 per year with visitors paying £3 at the door\*. If you would like to join our society then either come to our AGM or to any other meeting. Similarly, if you fancy any particular talk then please come as a visitor - just turn up on the night. There is no need to book.

\* Our subscription rate may change at the AGM - this is unlikely but possible.

We look forward to seeing you.

Geoff [01233 860393](tel:01233860393).

**You could advertise your company here from as little as £10 per month**

**Visit the HUB Web site for more information**

**<https://www.woodchurchhub.uk/the-hub-old/newsletters/parish-newsletter-advertising/>**



## [In memory of Geoff Loynes \(1934-2024\)](#)

Geoff Loynes was born near Hereford on 20 August 1934. By WW2 the family had moved to London; then Geoff was evacuated to Minehead (Somerset). After getting back to London, he found his way to the Rudolf Steiner Waldorf School in Forest Row (East Sussex). His father worked for Walt Disney as an animator.

Geoff lived alone in Battersea and Streatham and spent a lot of time in the big South Kensington museums. He used to dream of having his own museum. In 1972 Geoff and Daphne met through a 'lonely hearts' newspaper column and married in Streatham. They first lived in Swanley and then Wrotham Heath. Later they were at Stelling Minnis and Brookland at Brooker Cottage. Charlotte was born in 1973 and Danny in 1974.

Professionally he was a cartoonist who worked on many well-known animated films - The Beatles "Yellow Submarine", "Bananaman", "Mr Men" and "Aladdin" were perhaps among his best known. Geoff followed his father into this trade without any training; he was self-taught. He also appeared in several films and on TV, including "Where Monsters Go", "Inventions that changed the World", "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", "Merry Christmas Mr Bean" and he was the face of Christmas in many of the Comet adverts.



The family came to Woodchurch in 1979 and settled at Hornbrook Manor Farmhouse. By the early 1980s Geoff was collecting local historical artefacts, which soon filled his barn and outhouses. This included the 1901 Brougham (a carriage). Geoff also acquired a horse called Meg. He hitched Meg to the Brougham and offered horse-drawn transport for Woodchurch weddings. In his spare time he enjoyed being Father Christmas in the village hall to amuse the young.

In 1983 Geoff decided that Woodchurch needed a village museum to house his collection and appealed in the parish magazine for like minds to come forward and help, following which the museum project with fund raising and exhibitions was launched. One of these was the 1985

'Woodchurch at War' display in the village. Over the next few years, Geoff was joined by others, and in 1989 they had found a site for the Museum, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century barn to erect upon it. That year Geoff also helped to establish "Wings and Things" (the Woodchurch air show) that was held at Little Engeham Farm with the aim of fund-raising for the Museum. This event would be held for the next 18 years, growing annually with over 8,000 people attending the last show. One of the highlights of Wings and Things was "Geoff's field" in which he organised many vintage fairground rides for the enjoyment of the visitors.



Around 1994 Geoff became the museums Life President and Joanna Lumley opened the Museum in 2001.



In August 2012 Geoff and Daphne moved away from Woodchurch after 33 years here. First they lived at Bonnington and finally settled in Basingstoke, nearer the family. Even after moving away, Geoff remained dedicated to Woodchurch and to the museum.

In 2014, Geoff and Charlotte enjoyed an afternoon garden party at Buckingham Palace, an event for people who had "achieved something important". Unassuming Geoff was mystified as to how he had been invited and was amazed that the organisers seemed to know all about his work to create the museum.

Towards the end of his life Geoff suffered from dementia and he died on Saturday 7th December 2024 of a heart attack.

Throughout his life, and following the announcement of his death, Geoff received many tributes from people who knew him or had met him.

- "We were greeted by one of the sweetest, most amazing museum men I've ever met. He had love and dedication oozing from every pore." - Amanda
- "An incredible Father Christmas!... Love and thoughts with his family xx" - Lucy
- "A great man and will be greatly missed by the village for whom he did so much. Everyone who came into contact with him, will remember him fondly. God bless" - Julian

Geoffs funeral will be held at Redan Road Cemetery, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 4RW at 1:00pm on Friday 3rd January 2025.

This will be followed by a reception at Island View, Shortwood Copse Lane, Basingstoke. RG23 7GU

Geoffs family have requested no flowers but donations would be appreciated to either:

**Woodchurch  
Village Life Museum**



**Alzheimers  
Society**



### [HELP NEEDED AT THE HUB](#)

The HUB is looking for volunteers to help support the community. This could be by being a reserve volunteer in The HUB office, helping update the Community Calendar, assisting with the monthly Newsletter.



If you are new to the village, newly retired, or just want to help by giving some time to the community in 2025, this would be the perfect opportunity. The HUB team of volunteers is always available to assist and you will get to know a lot of new people from within the village - and beyond.

For more information please contact The HUB  
[enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk) - 01233 861381

# Homecare you can rely on



### Our local team of care professionals can help with:

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To find out more call or visit:

- 📞 01233 560400
- ✉ [southkent@godoakshomecare.co.uk](mailto:southkent@godoakshomecare.co.uk)
- 🌐 [godoakshomecare.co.uk/south-kent](http://godoakshomecare.co.uk/south-kent)



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Call Toby on 07806 613297 (24/7) • [www.simplekentfunerals.co.uk](http://www.simplekentfunerals.co.uk)





# Anna Chaplaincy

for older people



Dear Friends

We would like to welcome you to join us in the New Year. Our aim is to provide a safe and confidential environment to those who are worried about memory loss, isolation, loneliness or have suffered bereavement and would like to meet with folk in the same situation.

The dates for the next few months are as follows and you are invited to join in any one of these, or all of them. We will be in the Memorial Hall Annex from 10:30 until 12:30 every other week.

- 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025
- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025
- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025



## FROM PETER NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



May I start by wishing all residents, your families and friends a very Happy Healthy New Year. If we have our health we are blessed.

May I also thank the editors and their production efforts for this excellent communications platform. As we all enjoy the modern media communications this plays an essential part in reaching those who only have a land line phone.

### INTRODUCTION for new readers.

My name is Peter New I am a Police Volunteer with Kent Police and work in Community Neighbourhood Watch across the whole Ashford District. My Force number is 91725.

I will be producing a NHW Plan for Woodchurch in partnership with the Woodchurch Parish Council.

My priorities to address the risks within Woodchurch will be clearly laid out with one of the main ones being how to develop and grow the Neighbourhood Watch membership within the village. If you have not yet joined, please do. It is completely free. In order to communicate as widely as possible within Woodchurch I will contribute regularly through this Newsletter, the Woodchurch HUB, Community and Business Facebook groups, through the Parish Council Web site and also directly through email.



## Beat the January blues by visiting the Rare Breeds Centre!



Even if it's cold and wet, the fun never stops at the Rare Breeds Centre! Rain or shine, there's plenty to explore and enjoy!

Visit our Children's Barn and meet an adorable lineup of animals! Say hello to rabbits, guinea pigs, ducks, chickens, piglets, goats including the charming Domino and PJ, and our beloved Highland cow, Huckleberry. Climb aboard our covered, accessible tractor-trailer ride for an exciting tour of the farm! See how many different animals you can spot, and let the driver know if you'd like to make a stop at Mysterious Marsh, home to the mischievous marsh trolls. There, you can cross winding bridges, test your balance on beams, swing on tyres. Rule the castle at our Hill Fort or navigate the twists and turns of the tunnel maze, even soar through the air on our thrilling zipline, just one of the exciting playparks waiting for you!

Warm up during your visit with a stop at our Granary Restaurant, where you'll find a delicious selection of freshly prepared dishes, including vegan and vegetarian options. Need a caffeine boost? Treat yourself to a barista-made coffee, with a variety of milk alternatives available to suit your preferences!

The best part? Did you know that with every visit to The Rare breeds Centre, you are also supporting our charity, Canterbury Oast Trust, which supports people with learning disabilities and autistic adults to achieve their aspirations for how they wish to live, learn and work. Stay tuned to our social media channels and website for the latest updates, special offers, and upcoming events! And don't forget to book to guarantee entry. We look forward to welcoming you!

For more information please call [01233 861493](tel:01233861493) or visit [www.rarebreeds.org.uk](http://www.rarebreeds.org.uk)

### If you would like to be part of the Woodchurch Neighbourhood Watch, please can you let me have your name, address and email address. With these I can directly target alerts of imminent issues that are affecting Woodchurch.

I DO NOT BOMBARD YOU! If you get too many emails you will stop reading and you could miss the vital message. Read my general alerts in the Newsletter and on Facebook - but if I do write to you there is a specific threat nearby.

I will also encourage you all to build smaller communication groups for your roads (using WhatsApp for example) or just by being a good neighbour to someone nearby.

### TO JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There is nothing to do or pay, just read any email I send out if there is any crime nearby. Everything is free you just read and stay safe. I was fire service for 34 years so REMEMBER EVERYTHING I DO IS ABOUT PREVENTION

Peter New ([peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com)) and [07768 437422](tel:07768437422)  
KENT POLICE VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



## WOODCHURCH VILLAGE LIFE MUSEUM

**150+ Club 2025**



Woodchurch Museum would like to thank everyone in the village who has helped support the museum over the years. As many of you know, even though the Museum is run entirely by volunteers, in order to remain open we need to raise over £8,000 each year just to cover our operational expenses (insurance, security, utilities, ongoing maintenance and conservation costs). The money that is raised each year through your generous support of the 150 plus club really helps us to reach this goal.

If you would like to help support the Museum into 2025, which the chance to win one of our three cash prizes each month, you can do this by subscribing to our prize draw. For just £20 for the year you will be allocated four numbers that will be entered into the draw. Each month three numbers are selected randomly and the lucky winners will win either £50, £30 or £20. The winners each month are announced in the Newsletter.

The first draw for 2025 will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> January so please ensure that you have bought your numbers before then. We can accept many different forms of payment, including Cash, Bank Transfer (BACS) or Cheque (sorry but we do not yet accept cryptocurrency - but we are working on it ☺). You can pay at The HUB, at 62, Lower Road or by contacting either Gina or Joyce, who can arrange for someone to visit you.

For more information please email the Museum at [enquiries@woodchurchheritagetrust.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchheritagetrust.uk), leave us a message on 01233 860586 or contact The HUB.

**Why not make a 2025 New Years Resolution to come and visit the museum when it opens for the 2025 season in April.**

## The Village Pump - 32 years ago

2025 will see the Village Pump restored to its former glory. When it was painted by a Woodchurch resident in 1993 it attracted comment from throughout the village. Below is an article by Reggie Pellett that appeared in the 1993 Parish Magazine concerning the fetching of water from the pump.

### OUR VILLAGE PUMP

How nice to see the village pump painted in two-tone. Congratulations Mister Frain - excellent job!

I wonder how many readers realize what a jubilant day it must have been in 1878 when the village pump was installed. Men, women and children lined the road with buckets to get their first taste of fresh water. Some would have been used to drinking rain water, contaminated with all kinds of bacteria as the rain ran down the roof and into large wooden barrels placed at the side of the house.

Many, I feel, were in for a shock on receiving their quota, with the weight of water they had to carry away. For a couple given two gallon buckets of water the weight would be forty pounds (18.144 Kilograms).

I can imagine the following conversation taking place after a very short distance,

"I'll tell you what, Mary, I'll make my husband fetch this water next time for he jolly well knows I'm in no fit state."

Some, I feel sure, didn't appreciate the real advantage of fresh water -

"I don't care what you say, Rosey, that 'er well water don't make a cup of tea like that 'er rain water!"

"O! Joe Tiller is right, drinking water should come from the clouds above, and not from water under the ground".

"The trouble with you my husband, you're too darn lazy to go and fetch it."

"No I aint!"

"O yes you is!"

Previous editions of the Newsletter can be found on The HUB Web site [www.woodchurchhub.UK](http://www.woodchurchhub.UK)



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## Bonny Cravat

Happy new year to you all from all of us at the Bonny!

We're kicking 2025 off with a great one! Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January we have our first country night; so pop on those boots and hats and get yourselves up here for a fantastic night.

Our quiz night proved very popular before Christmas and will be returning but this time on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm. Call us now to book in your team!

Wrapping up the live music for January we have the lovely Lima on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm!

Once again, we hope you all had a fantastic start to 2025 and hope to see you all soon!  
Love as always,  
The Bonny family.



## The Six Bells Inn

Happy New Year to Everyone from All of Us Here at The Six Bells

Followed by A Huge Thank You to Everyone that has supported us during the past year.

No one knows what the future holds for any of us but being part of this Wonderful Village with such amazing people and the warmth of friendship will get us through whatever 2025 holds for us all.

We do have our Quiz Night on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January (and no Play-Doh or Turkeys will be involved !!)

There are plans a foot for some exciting new ideas which will become clear closer to the time.

With Fondest Best Wishes and A Very Happy New Year from All at The Six Bells xx



Wishing you all a very Happy & Healthy 2025 from us all in Woodchurch in Bloom!

We've had a busy couple of months with all our festive WIB activities... Elf doors, Woodchurch "pop up choir", introducing our "KIND ELF" to Woodchurch and of course the Christmas tree switch-on - a huge Thank you to everyone who has supported us and joined in the festive fun!



There are too many people to thank individually however we would like to say a particular thank you to the following:

- A special Thank you again to the family of the late Bob Turk for ensuring his wishes to donate the beautiful Christmas tree to the Village again, were followed through
- Woodchurch HUB and Woodchurch Parish Council for the additional lights for the tree
- Harvey Pilcher and Phil Quinn for installing and securing the tree

## 'WoodchurchYard Together' (WYT)

*THANK YOU to all our 'WoodchurchYard Together' volunteers, helpers and supporters throughout 2024!*

*With over 1500 volunteer hours, £1200 spent on fuel and tool maintenance (all from donations), alongside plenty of laughter and of course cakes, we're proud to have made a difference!*

*Back again for more from 15 & 16 February*

**More exciting WIB activities and events already planned for 2025:**

- "Give & Take" seed & plant swap - Spring 2025
- Flower & Produce Show - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Sunflower Competition - judging date tbc
- Village Christmas Tree switch-on - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2025