



WOODCHURCH PARISH NEWS

The village community working together

February 2021

Contact Us - Tel: 01233 861381 - Email: enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk - Web: www.woodchurchhub.uk

OVER 800 COPIES distributed every month in the Woodchurch area

WHAT'S ON IN WOODCHURCH IN FEBRUARY



Weekly events:

Wednesdays:

Fish and Chips 4:30pm - 7:00pm in the Village Car Park

Thursdays:

Pizza Van 4:30pm - 7:00pm in the Village Car Park

Other Events:

Sun 7 th	10:00am - 11:00am Morning Worship - (via Zoom)
Sun 14 th	10:00am - 11:00am Morning Worship - (via Zoom)
Mon 15 th	All week - Woodchurch in Bloom - National Random Acts of Kindness.
Sun 21 st	10:00am - 11:00am Morning Worship - (via Zoom)
Thu 25 th	7:00pm - 9:00pm Woodchurch Parish Council meeting (via Zoom)
Sun 28 th	10:00am - 11:00am Morning Worship - (via Zoom)

Lent is traditionally a season of 40 days of penitence and fasting. I don't know how you feel about Lent this year, but I feel as though I have done nothing but give things up for the past year.

I've given up hugs, holidays, dinners with friends, weddings, christenings, singing, Christmas with my family: I could go on, but I don't need to. Because you all know exactly what I mean.

The idea of giving anything else up just makes me want to weep- or spit feathers- maybe both..... **BUT** if we think of Lent as a time when we turn away from the things that distract us from God's love; and turn towards the things that reconnect us with God's love, that might be more helpful.

Here are some things which might help you to do that:

GET OUT...

Spend time outside every day if you can- even if it's just a few minutes- and jot down in a notebook or journal what you see, and what you are thankful for. For me, as I hear a bit more birdsong, and see a few more green leaves, and watch the early shoots of bulbs popping up, there is a real gladness in the coming of Spring. I am reminded of God's goodness and my own part in creation and it lifts my spirits.

GET WRITING...

You might want to get in some writing paper and go through your address book- try writing a letter or an email every day to someone you care about- maybe somebody you haven't been in touch with for a while- thank them for their part in your life as a friend or neighbour. Pray for them.

GET A BIT OF PEACE AND QUIET...

If you are not already in the habit of praying, try this: After you've had your breakfast each day, find a quiet spot, light a candle, and just spend five minutes quietly. It doesn't have to be complicated. Ask God to be with you through the day. Ask for God's help in knowing His presence. Ask for peace in your heart as you begin the day. Say the Lord's prayer.

This Lent, be kind to yourself, take things gently, remember that God's love is all around you. And whatever you do, don't give up.

Every Blessing

Reverend Sue



Dear Friends,

I am sure that many of us might have found January a long and difficult month. We had to take the tough decision to close the church again for worship services after our Christmas service. I know that some people were disappointed and really look forward to meeting in church, but we have to keep everyone safe at this time.

On Ash Wednesday - 17th February this year, Christians mark the start of Lent - normally with a service in church, but this year we are online.

The HUB will remain open "virtually" during February. The HUB building will remain physically closed until government guidelines allow us to fully reopen. If you are in need of support during the lockdown, or need access to facilities offered by The HUB (e.g. printing, photocopying or laminating) then please phone 01233 861381 or email enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk.

Any items for the newsletter- please contact the Woodchurch Hub

Tel: 01233 861381 Email: enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk

Woodchurch Surgery - January 30th Update

I'm sorry for providing a slightly late weekly update in an attempt to make sense of the events of the week and the weeks to come. As I looked out of the window I was disappointed not to see a carpet of white snow this morning and realised that it was another day of muddy puddles. It was only a forecast though and the weather feels as uncertain as the delivery of vaccines.

On Wednesday we were told that we will have nearly 1200 Pfizer vaccines coming to Charing on the 2nd February which need to be given at Charing surgery within 5 days. The admin team have been busy inviting those over 70 and those shielding and Charing have been trying hard to adapt their surgery into a building that can function as both a safe vaccination hub and still delivering care to their patients. The practice managers are reacting to really last-minute information to deliver this vaccine.

On Thursday I learnt what a "preposition" was in Libby's year 5 English on-line learning (it is amazing how much primary school work I have to google).

On Friday I learnt that there is a national target to have offered vaccines and administered them to everyone over 70 and those shielding by the 14th February. The rate-limiting step is reliable stock of vaccine but with this target we can hopefully negotiate to get better supplies.

Vaccination hubs:

Having been told that the vaccination program will be GP-led patients are now receiving letters inviting them to vaccination hubs, such as in Folkestone. The admin team have been fielding calls from patients having to decide whether or not to take up the invite. This is a new tactic to try and reduce inequality as some areas have been slower to start vaccinating.

These are genuine invites although I understand that there may be unscrupulous people out there trying to defraud by getting your personal information. The invites might require you to enter some personal information to make the booking but nothing more than is already on the invitation. There will be no need to enter any passport numbers/driving licence details or bank details.

Because we are reacting from one week to the next we cannot book in patients until we know we have the vaccine and then we will call you. By all means book at a vaccination hub and please email us to tell us so we do not invite you to the surgery as well - kmccg.woodchurchsurgery@nhs.net. The only time frame I can give is that we aim to have vaccinated all those over 70 years of age and clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding) by 14th February. We then can move on to cohort 5.

Reminder about the cohorts:

- 1 Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- 2 All those over 80 and frontline health and social care workers
- 3 All those over 75
- 4 All those over 70 and clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding)
- 5 All those over 65
- 6 All those between 16 and 65 with underlying health conditions (ie those who would be offered the flu jab)
- 7 All those over 60
- 8 All those over 55
- 9 All those over 50

It is easy to get caught up with the vaccination program and when I have spoken to a few patients they have apologised for "causing a fuss" when we "must be so busy". I am very grateful for their

considerate comments, however, we do remain open for primary care (GP and nursing stuff). Please do not put off contacting us if you are concerned or are unwell and please don't stop monitoring long term conditions like diabetes and heart disease. If you are taking medication it is important to monitor it as usual to prevent unwanted complications.

Routine appointments at the hospital and new routine referrals have been suspended for the time being but all urgent referrals (such as suspected cancer) are going ahead as usual so please be responsive to new symptoms that may need investigation.

Every vaccine given is a step closer to recovery of our freedom and the economy but please remember to get your flu jabs (we are a bit low on the under 65s with long term conditions), and report new symptoms of concern to us. We look forward to seeing you all and there is no such thing as "a fuss".

Best wishes on behalf of the Surgery

Jack Hickey - GP

In Memory of Willy Franklin 1930 - 2020

Sadly, Willy (Wilhelmina Johanna) Franklin, wife of Michael, passed away on December 31st. Willie was born in Heenstede, Holland, on the 6th February 1930 and was one of eight children. Willie and Michael moved to Woodchurch 10 years ago and from the beginning Willy was very active in supporting the village. She regularly listened to the children at the school read and she also supported many of the village clubs and societies. As she became less mobile she continued to provide her support by way of delivering home-made cakes to others working around the village.

Her funeral is to be held on February 4th at the Weldon Crematorium, Horam at 1pm (13:00 GMT). Her funeral ceremony is to be web-cast and if you wish you can log on to www.obitus.com, Username: Xazi4338, Password: 049277. Click on at ca 12:45pm.



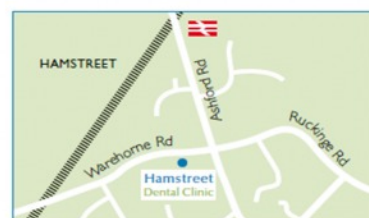
Surgery Opening Hours

Monday	8.30am to 5.00pm	Thursday	8.30am to 5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am to 6.00pm	Friday	8.30am to 5.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am to 5.00pm	Saturday and Sunday	closed

Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic
Warehorne Road
Hamstreet
Kent TN26 2JJ

Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848

Email: hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com

Woodchurch WI: 2020 and into the Future!

2020 started well for Woodchurch WI with three excellent speakers, although for our March meeting several of our more elderly members were not present, as they had already been advised to shield and this only served to add to the slight sense of edginess. But a complete lockdown followed all too swiftly after that meeting and, sadly, the Committee was forced to abandon all the carefully laid plans for the remainder of the year. Nevertheless, WI Ladies are known for their determination and resourcefulness and so, once we had got over the initial shock of the situation, the Committee gradually devised ways to keep in touch safely with all our members. Josie produced a monthly newsletter containing various articles of interest, an opening paragraph from Lynn, (the President), perhaps a recipe of two or a piece on some local historical interest, or a quiz and, delightfully, grandchildren of one of our members provided a selection of silly jokes, which were guaranteed to lighten the mood! As the lockdown technology improved, we braced ourselves to learn about the possibilities offered by these advances and so it wasn't long before we had successfully set up a monthly quiz on Zoom. It's not the same as meeting in person, but it comes a very good second and we all felt virtuous for trying to stir up the old brain cells. Sandra also set up Whatsapp groups so members were able to talk to each other throughout. Then a welcome easing of the restrictions in late July and August allowed six (appropriately distanced) people to meet outdoors in a public place or a garden. This enabled us to hold a series of Garden Parties and so, in groups of six, we were finally able to meet up in person, have a good natter and enjoy a cream tea or two in the glorious summer weather - bliss!



Unfortunately, the weather gradually became more autumnal and soon, regretfully, the garden parties became a distant fond memory. In order to alleviate the tedium of the increasingly shorter



and darker days, we set up a raffle and so two lucky members excitedly received a beautiful bouquet and a bottle of wine on their doorstep each month. In addition in December every



member also received a pink Christmas bag containing a box of mint chocolates and - very optimistically - a full and varied programme for 2021! You might reasonably suggest that this was a little unrealistic, particularly in view of our present situation, but with the current good news regarding three possible vaccinations, we felt it was important to be "super ready" to start up again as soon as it is legitimately safe for us to do so. If the virus and the past year have taught us anything, it is the need for preparation, adaptability and flexibility. It might happen in July when Peter Allen will be the speaker on the history of the Theatre Royal, or perhaps we will be able to enjoy a catered lunch at the Jean Mealham Pop In Centre (please note - members only) in August. September's speaker is Anna Astin with her talk entitled "Jolly Hockey Sticks" and later in November a talk on "The Golden Age of Transatlantic Luxury Liners" is scheduled, culminating at the end of the year with a "Musical

Entertainment" by The Ruby Sisterz. Visitors (and potential new members) are always welcome for a small fee at the door and meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.15 pm at the Memorial Hall. The only real criteria for membership is that you do have to be a woman - sorry chaps, but the clue is in the name!

That being said, some of our meetings are open to all comers. A couple of years ago we had one such meeting, which proved extremely popular and was well attended by members and other halves on account of its universal appeal, about the famous and unique Street Artist, Banksy. So - Ladies - something to consider for the future!

Woodchurch Local History Society

The Society has provisionally booked the Memorial Hall for the first Monday of the month, starting on March 1st. 2021 and until at least June 7th. The latest pronouncement from the Government, which envisages schools possibly opening on Monday March 8th suggests that our first Monday meeting might be April 5th (or later). However, it could be that most of our members, whilst being vaccinated once would not have had their second jab by April. So, at the time of writing, the opening date of our talks programme is still uncertain. We will keep you informed. During the last month or so we have sadly lost two present or previous members. Our sympathy and condolences go to their families.



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- **Winter Wonderland Walk** - we encourage you to continue to walk around all the village planters, enjoying the early signs of the bulbs now appearing and in support of 2 of the '5 steps to mental wellbeing', as laid out by the NHS - 'Being physically active' & 'Pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness)'
- **Random Acts of Kindness week** - we have this fun & important event planned for the week commencing 15th February. Its national Random Acts of Kindness day on 17th February, so we thought we would extend across the week, encouraging all villagers to get involved and we are delighted our village School is getting involved too.



What you need to know to get involved: Please plan acts of kindness that you are going to commit to week commencing 15th February and then write them down/ draw on one of the blank wooden hearts that will be left outside the HUB. Please then hang your heart on the railings around the HUB using the ribbon provided at some point during that week.

As Charlie Mackesy's quote above reminds us, every day should be 'world kindness day' - hopefully, the activities we have planned will help encourage this further, for the benefit of all.

- **Magical Moments** - we have a SURPRISE in store for the village - all we can say is keep your eyes peeled as you walk around the village from 13th February!!

To find out more or get involved, in any of our activities, please do get in Touch:

Linda Baker - THRIVE Well-being Lead: 07795 383945

Philippa Jones - Chair: 07774 608281

WoodchurchinBloom@hotmail.com

Museum 150+ January Lottery Draw

Support your local museum- you could win a £50/£30/£20 prize every month.



An annual ticket costs £12 in September. Now selling for £8 for 8 months. For more information please contact Joyce Nash via The HUB - enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk or 01233 861381

1st prize	£50	Gerald Bristowe	533
2nd prize	£30	Terry and Brenda Roberts	56
3rd prize	£20	Debbie Hackworth	220

Why not advertise your company here?

Visit the HUB Web site for more information and prices

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Photocopying and Laminating at The HUB

We can now scan, print, copy and laminate A3 pages and can print booklets.

Photocopies (per side)	A4 b/w - 10p, A4 colour - 15p
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We had our first meeting on 21st Jan although a little different with online conversation the team was up beat and keen to move the group forward, great to have new faces at the table or should I say screens.

We are still keen to have more join us and the aim is to maintain our common aims below, the benefits of joining the group is that you have a say in what we do for the community but also have access to our new events list that we will be holding for group members only.

So, if you are looking for enjoyable times and good celebrations all you need to do is contact us on Face Book or contact Pat Byrne 07584 075008.

No doubt we are all looking forward to getting out and we are not sure what that looks like yet but we decided that planning should be made for the following dates and your diaries:

19th June Picnic on the Green (community event)
 10th July Group event
 13th November Group event
 14th November Remembrance (community event)
 December tbc Christmas Float (community event)

Further events will be made for the group, so why miss out come join. Part of the committee now includes some young adults so we are really looking forward to what they say and bring us oldies on.

We hope the dates give you a lamp to look forward to and hope you all stay safe in these times.

The Big Thin Red line is an open group formed with no political agenda, our aims are:

- Maintain key public and military connections with the village Bring together the village as a community and forge and maintain the spirit of virtuous honest acts.
- The chance to bring organisations and events together with a presence of the big thin red line for a one aim cause the village
- Support organisations, businesses with internal revenue spend in village at our events.

Regards the team at The Big Thin Red Line

[Ashford Astronomical Society](#)

While we have been unable to use the hall at Woodchurch we have been presenting meetings via Zoom on the last Friday of each month.

February 26th - Rebel Star: The Sun's Greatest Mysteries, by Colin Stuart. Colin takes us on a tour of the Sun and outlines what we have learned about it in recent years.

March 26th - The Dark Side, by Stephen Serjeant, Society for Popular Astronomy President. Steve discusses dark matter, dark energy, and gravitational waves.

April 30th - At the Gates of Valhalla, by Andrew Lound. Andrew provides a multimedia presentation about the phenomenon of aurorae, on Earth and other planets.

All meetings are held via Zoom and are free to join. Anyone wishing to attend should email chairman@ashfordastro.org.uk to request the joining details.

[Boldshaves Garden](#)

We plan to re-open the Gardens at Boldshaves from Monday, 22 March 2021. The Gardens will then be open daily (including weekends and public holidays) from 2-6pm. The Cliff Tea House will also be open at those times, serving teas, coffees and light refreshments. Entry costs £5 per person (free for children under 14), and season tickets are available on application, price £30. All being well, plants will once again be available for sale.

We will be offering guided 'Nightingale Walks' through the woodland here during the weeks of 26 April and 3 and 10 May, when the nightingale mating season should be at its height. No pre-booking is required, and we will simply head off with whoever is on the Tea Lawn at 6pm on each evening of those weeks. Price £5 per person. If you have never heard nightingales in season, do not miss it: over the past 40 years we have lost 90% of our nightingales in this country through ignorance and destruction of their natural habitat. We are fortunate here in Kent to offer some of the UK's last natural nightingale habitat and can therefore appreciate them in all their musical glory.

We are delighted to confirm that we will once again be hosting The Wealden Literary Festival at Boldshaves over the weekend of 26/27 June: see www.wealdenliteraryfestival.co.uk after Easter for programme and other details.

And on Sunday 4 July the Gardens will be open as usual, with all proceeds going to the National Garden Scheme (plus a contribution to a local Kent mental health charity, Kent Minds).

We look forward to welcoming you, and in many cases welcoming you back, to Boldshaves in 2021.

All good wishes,

www.boldshaves.co.uk



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WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL • UPDATE •

Firstly, the Parish council wish to offer their thanks to the Dr Hickey and his team at Woodchurch Surgery for the stirring work they are doing rolling out the COVID 19 vaccination program in what are, for everyone, extremely challenging times. The Parish council have had numerous reports and feedback of how impressed patients have been with how well organised and efficient the roll out has been, so huge thanks to all who have played their part in this, it is greatly appreciated.

In other news, the PC has been addressing the issue of the bus stop outside of Shirkoak Park. This has been damaged and there have been some delays in making it safe to use again. Immediately prior to the January meeting we were given the go-ahead from our insurers to initiate the repairs, so please bear with us while this work is completed.

Finally, it's wonderful to see so many villagers out and about taking their daily exercise around the village and along the many wonderful countryside paths within the parish, be it muddy in places! As lockdown continues it's consequently important that we all continue to respect other walkers, our natural environment and farm animals by:

- Parking carefully to not block pavements, access to gateways and driveways
- Maintaining the hedges on the boundaries of your property to ensure that pavements and footpaths are clear and passable.
- Leaving countryside gates and property as you find them
- Following paths and giving way to others where it's narrow
- Leaving no trace of your visit by taking all your litter home
- Keeping dogs under effective control, especially near other walkers and sheep in lamb
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it (don't leave poo on verges, paths or in bags tied to trees!)
- Following advice and local signs
- Obeying social distancing measures
- Washing your hands

Remember you can report a fault to a stile, path, bridge, drain, etc to the KCC using their websites:

For the countryside public right of ways:

<https://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams>

For the village roads and pavements:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Alternatively please talk to a member of the WPC or contact the Hub and we would be happy to review the fault and report if necessary. Above all, continue to enjoy our lovely village and countryside!

There are several ways you can 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
- By phone: 01233 733994
- Through The HUB: [Place your correspondence in a sealed envelope marked "Parish Council" and deliver to The HUB](#)
- By post to: [Woodchurch Parish Clerk](#)
Keg Barn, Hornash Lane, Shadoxhurst, Ashford, Kent, TN26 1HX
- Through the contact form on the Parish Council Web site: www.woodchurchhub.uk/parish-council/

[Shared ownership house for sale in Bridge Close](#)

A well presented two bedroom house situated on a quiet development in the rural village of Woodchurch in Kent. The property comprises of a kitchen, living room, conservatory and large garden, two bedrooms and bathroom, large front garden laid to lawn and off-road parking for two cars.



Applicants must have a local connection to the village of Woodchurch or to the surrounding villages of Warehorne, Kenardington, Shadoxhurst, Appledore, Tenterden, High Halden and Bethersden

To contact English Rural directly call Terri Browning on 01483 540872. Alternatively you can contact Jilly on 07884 49277 for further information, or to arrange a viewing.

If you would like to apply and have a local connection to Woodchurch or the surrounding villages, please go to the English Rural Web Site and complete their application form <https://englishrural.org.uk/applying-for-a-home/> or email terri.browning@englishrural.org.uk

Woodchurch - 75% share £195,000
(Monthly rental charge 258.42)



Little World Herbs

Profile of a village business

We have been growing herbs at little world since 1995 when Lucy first started studying Herbal Medicine at the School of Phytotherapy in East Sussex. We run regular herbal workshops on growing and using herbs, and making creams, ointments, tinctures etc. These will be starting again in spring, we also offer herbal consultations, craniosacral therapy and deep tissue massage.



In December 2020 we opened the Herbarry at Bloomsburys in Biddenden which is a herbal dispensary, shop and clinic, we are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 - 4pm where you can pop in for herbs, vitamins, supplements and advice. As an essential shop we will remain open during the lockdown.

For more information ring us on 01233 860 633/ 07548 383828.

www.littleworldherbs.co.uk



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Items For Future Newsletters

The purpose of the Woodchurch Parish Newsletter is to inform the residents of Woodchurch what is going on in our village and we are keen to share as much of what is happening as we can.

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

enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk

- * forthcoming events
- * club/society reports
- * announcements
- * interesting facts
- * memorials
- * photos
- * adverts
- * etc. etc. etc.

CARM has offered befriending services for many years, supporting older, lonely people across the community. Our volunteer befrienders have never been more vital than throughout the COVID crisis. In 2020 CARM made 63 new befriending matches, helping us to support those people who really need it. Although our volunteers are currently unable to visit in-person they have been providing weekly phone calls. In January 2021, during lockdown, the CARM befriending volunteers have reached out and provided around 3000 minutes of befriending phone calls each week. If you think you, or someone you know, could benefit from a weekly call, please get in touch with the befriending team.



We are always looking for new befriending volunteers in the local area. Volunteer befrienders make weekly phone calls/ visits to a lonely, isolated older person in the local area. Due to current circumstances this will initially be phone calls, visits will follow as soon as circumstances allow.

This is an ongoing volunteer role to help us support people in the community. If you feel you can commit to this role, please give us a call.

Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh (CARM) - 01233 758122.

Charity number 1184552

Woodchurch Community Calendar

As we move into a brighter new year, we are anticipating that village events will begin to return to a normality. As restrictions ease and your club/society becomes more active, please let us know so that you will be included in the Community Calendar.

The Community Calendar directly feeds into the Newsletter calendar and so it is important that you help us to keep it up to date. Please send event details, and updates, to enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk.

The full Community Calendar can be found at www.woodchurchhub.uk/community-calendar - where you can also add your own event suggestions.

Bin collection days for Woodchurch have recently been added to the community calendar.



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