



WOODCHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

The village community working together

January 2023

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

OVER 900 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:

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

Mondays:

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

Tai Chi and Qigong 9:45am - 10:45am at the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

Baby Yoga 1:00pm-2:15pm in the Memorial Hall

Knit and Natter 2:00pm - 3:30pm in the Pop-In Centre Lodge

Line Dancing 2:30pm - 4:30pm in the Pop-In Centre

Beavers 6:00pm-7:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

BodyTone 6:15pm-7:00pm at the Memorial Hall

BodyFlex 7:15pm-8:00pm at the Memorial Hall

Scouts 7:30pm-9:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

Tuesdays:

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

Yoga 10:00am-11:15am in the Pop In Studio

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

Little Leaves Forest School 10:00am - 12:00pm under 5's Play Group based in Woodchurch

Winter Warmers 10:00am-4:00pm at All Saints Church

Community Warden 1:00pm-3:00pm in the HUB

Puzzle Club 2:00pm-4:00pm in the Pop In Lodge

Blend Youth Cafe 3:00pm-5:00pm in All Saints Church

Cubs 6:00pm-7:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

Wednesdays:

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

Museum Volunteers 9:30am-12:00pm at the Museum

Yoga 10:00am-11:15am in the Pop In Studio

Over 60s Pop-In 2:00pm-4:00pm Tea and coffee and boot fair marquee at the Jean Mealham Pop-In

Rainbows 5:00pm-6:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

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

Brownies and Guides 6:00pm-7:15pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

Morris Dancing Practice 5:00pm-6:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

Thursdays:

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

Previous editions of the Newsletter can be found on The HUB Web site
www.woodchurchhub.UK



Thursdays (cont):

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

BodyFlex 6:15pm-7:00pm at the Memorial Hall

BodyTone 7:15pm-8:00pm at the Memorial Hall Annexe

Badminton 7:00pm-11:00pm at the Memorial Hall

Explorers 7:30pm-9:30pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road

Other Events:

Sun 1st **Morning Worship** 11:00am at All Saints Church

Tue 3rd **Roadworks** - Bethersden Road. Opposite Shirkoak Park. Traffic control.

Roadworks - Front Road. Outside Model Shop. Traffic control.

Wed 4th **Six Bells Quiz Night** 7:00pm at The Six Bells Inn

Sun 8th **Newspaper Collection** Woodchurch Scouts

Holy Communion 11:00am at All Saints Church

Mon 9th **CARM** 10:30am to 12:30pm in the Memorial Hall

Thu 12th **Connecting Woodchurch meeting** 6:30pm at All Saints Church

Fri 13th **Music at The Six Bells** - Zips Duo. 7:00pm at The Six Bells

Sun 15th **Morning Worship** 11:00am at All Saints Church

Fri 20th **Snow White Panto** 7:30pm at the Memorial Hall

Sat 21st **Snow White Panto** 2:30pm and 7:30pm at the Memorial Hall

Sun 22nd **Holy Communion** 11:00am at All Saints Church

Snow White Panto 2:30pm and 7:30pm at the Memorial Hall

Thu 26th **Parish Council Meeting** 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

Fri 27th **Snow White Panto** 7:30pm at the Memorial Hall

Sat 28th **Snow White Panto** 2:30pm and 7:30pm at the Memorial Hall

The Full Community Calendar can be found at www.woodchurchhub.uk/community-calendar



Weekly calendar events sent directly to your email

Did you know that you can have the village calendar events sent directly to your email each week. If you would like to automatically receive the most up-to-date village events please email enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk or contact The HUB.





WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL • *UPDATE* •

Welcome to the latest edition of the village newsletter. We hope everyone had a very enjoyable festive break and are ready to welcome 2023.

Since the last newsletter the parish council has had some changes and welcomed Aniko Szocs as the new Clerk to Woodchurch Parish Council. Aniko has extensive experience and has been a clerk at a neighbouring parish council for the past seven years. Aniko has been the interim Clerk to Woodchurch since September until her formal appointment in November, starting officially in her role from the 1st of December. Aniko (known as Ani) does not live in the village but has ties to it through her mother-in-law who moved here from Ashford over 8 years ago to enjoy her retirement. Ani loves the strong community spirit in the village and is very excited to be part of seeing the council progressing and improving the services it provides for the residents. If you see her out and about say hi to her.



Apart from the new Clerk, residents might have noticed other changes. The Parish Council now has a Facebook page ([search for "Woodchurch Parish Council"](#)) to keep residents up to date with parish council news and other matters. Please be sure you follow the page to receive the latest news from the council. The parish council is also working on improving communication with the residents and hoping to install new noticeboards and improve its digital communication.

In December all parish councils set their budget for the next year, Woodchurch is no different. At the December meeting, after a very long deliberation, the Parish Council approved the budget and, following two years of not increasing its budget, agreed to increase the precept (local tax) for 2023-2024. This decision was reluctantly necessary due to the increases in employee costs (the Clerk and village maintenance staff) that have been absorbed over the past two years, the increased costs of maintaining the village (the village green, the public toilet and general ongoing repairs around the village). It will also help us to improve our communication within the village through the installation of new notice boards and Web site and provide Councillors with official .gov email addresses to enable them to comply with current data protection legislation. There are also plans to revamp the play area and plans are underway to modernise the pavilion and toilet.

If you would like to know more and be more involved, please come along to the parish council meetings which are usually held on the fourth Thursday of each month. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome. Please head over to the parish councils' website to view and save the meeting dates for 2023 - or contact the Clerk.

We hope to be able to welcome many of you in 2023.

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

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 Woodchurch HUB, Front Road, Woodchurch, Kent, TN26 2PA

Through the contact form on the Parish Council Web site: www.woodchurchhub.uk/parish-council/

Parish Council meeting dates 2023

Parish Councils meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday of each month in the Woodchurch Memorial Hall Annexe.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ➤ 26 th January | ➤ 27 th July |
| ➤ 23 rd February | ➤ 24 th August |
| ➤ 23 rd March | ➤ 28 th September |
| ➤ 27 th April | ➤ 26 th October |
| ➤ 18 th May | ➤ 23 rd November |
| ➤ 25 th May | ➤ 14 th December |
| ➤ 22 nd June | |

Upcoming roadworks in and around Woodchurch

Information from KCC and one.network

Roadworks - Bethersden Road, Woodchurch. Opposite Shirkoak Park

3rd - 5th January 2023

Closure in force: Traffic control (two-way signals)

Description: KCC Repairs to highway

Roadworks - Front Road, Woodchurch. Outside Model Shop

3rd - 5th January 2023

Closure in force: Traffic control (stop/go boards)

Description: KCC Pothole repairs

Road Closed - Susans Hill, Woodchurch

6th February 2023

Closure in force: Road Closure

Description: Southern Water utility repair

Road Closed - Front Road, Woodchurch. Outside Post Office

21st - 22nd February 2023

Closure in force: Road Closure

Description: South East Water remedial works



How to report highway problems including potholes, streetlights and broken signs

www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Foul Water Flooding Lower Road

Following the rain events on Monday 19th and Friday 23rd December 2022, foul water drains twice overflowed along Lower Road, raising levels in toilets, flooding gardens and in at least one instance, flooding the living space of a house.

Southern Water responded to the initial event by mobilising a series of pumping lorries and jetting equipment to the Woodchurch sewerage treatment and pumping station, plus sites along Lower Road. **Unfortunately, the potential cause for the foul water backup was not identified at that time.**



Drain overflowing at Lower Road / Front Road Junction (23/12/22)



It was not until after the second flood event, on the 23rd, when additional pumps, jetting equipment and a camera system were mobilised by Southern Water, that a potential cause for the blockage was identified. A 6x2x30 inch wooden plank (and associated debris) was subsequently removed from the 9 inch (225 mm) sewer pipe, aligned in the road between house numbers 71 and 93 Lower Road. We understand that the sewer pipeline then turns at this location by 90 degrees and reports to the sewerage works via a pipe aligned adjacent to the fields.

Should you have been impacted by either of these flood events and reported it to Southern Water on their emergency line (0330 303 0368), have recently made a complaint by phone (0330 303 0223), online (<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/contact-us>), or by letter, please can you advise The Hub who will then pass your record to your Parish Council, who will collate this information. In addition, to better understand the full impact of the events, representatives from your Parish Council intend to visit all those houses along the section of Lower Road that experienced a problem.

Finally, should there be a keen meteorologist within the village, who maintains a daily rainfall record, would you be happy to share your data with the Parish Council?



6x2x30 inch wooden plank that was removed from the 9 inch sewer pipe

KCC Highways

We aim to fix:

- Danger faults within 2 hours
- Safety Hazards within 7 days
- Routine faults such as potholes, streetlights and soft landscape issues within 28 days (unless we believe it to be more serious in which case it may be done sooner)
- Traffic Signals within 4 hours if they are urgent or within 7 days if less urgent
- Routine drainage cleansing within 28 days, but up to 90 days for complex issues
- All other faults will be scheduled to our planned maintenance

If you telephoned us to report this issue, please consider using our online fault reporting tool next time. It is the quickest and easiest way to tell Highways about issues and to see existing faults.

Find it at www.kent.gov.uk/highways



WOODCHURCH SURGERY UPDATE

I have been very lucky to have been able to enjoy the Christmas festivities away this year in the French Alps and am very grateful to the team. Back in March 2020 I was in the Alps when we were told that the mountains were closing and we should leave the next morning as Covid-19 was building and devastating parts of Italy. In this little part of France we are still being careful but people appear carefree and seem to have "moved-on". As a Surgery, we are still seeing positive results but people generally do not seem to be too unwell with it, which is good. Perhaps the lock-down, the jabs and natural evolution of a virus wanting to survive in human hosts has meant that we too will "move-on".

It feels that the biggest issues recently have been seasonal flu and the worry of Strep A. Seasonal flu is properly nasty and generally just needs a recuperation approach for 5-7 days but if you develop signs of a secondary infection at this stage, of a new fever or a new productive cough/shortness of breath, then we should probably see you and check your chest/sinuses/ears etc. We still have flu jabs so please phone up to book in to try and protect yourself. Our last six Covid jabs have been allocated and we do not expect to get any more for now.

Strep A is the normal bug that causes a bacterial sore throat/tonsillitis. Every year there have been rare cases of the very severe Strep A strain that has caused a very small number of very sick people and both children and adults have die from it. This year it seems a little higher and as a result we have seen a huge increase in presentations with sore throat and red rashes. Nationally, this has meant that antibiotics are in short supply - especially liquids. As a result we have gone a bit leftfield and are likely to give children a capsule to open and sprinkle onto jam or yoghurt, or tablets to divide and crush. It works the same way and in some cases is actually a lot easier and more tasty. A national mandate has even been signed off for Chemists to make some alterations to an antibiotic prescription if they do not have the one issued which illustrates the extent of the issue.

Please can anyone that has been "loaned" a sats probe or blood pressure machine by the Surgery be reminded that it was a loan and return it. Our quartermaster tells me that the stores are low and without them in stock we won't be able to monitor sick people in their homes and may need to admit people to hospital instead.

So, what for 2023? A good year will look like ongoing face to face appointments that are now the new-normal (again). A great year will be that we continue to feel the great support from the community and work hard as a team to serve you to the best of our abilities. Thank you to so many that have sent good wishes to the team and we were delighted with the response to our Christmas Tree in the Church. A brilliant tree among many!

With best wishes for 2023 on behalf of the Surgery, Jack Hickey - GP

Try Tai Chi & Qigong



The 1st class is free to all new beginners Monday 10:45am on the 20th or 27th February at the Woodchurch Community Centre. No need to book, suitable for all ages and levels of fitness.

For more information visit www.taichiforyou.co.uk or contact Emma on 07587 167756 or email taichiforyou@hotmail.co.uk

Margaret Morris Movement

The Margaret Morris Movement - Gentle exercise for the over 50's will resume classes on Thursdays from February 2nd 2023 at The Scout Community Hall from 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm.

If anyone would be interested in joining us, please could they contact me, Alannah, on 01233 770607, so that I can explain the details of the class and price and safety precautions to keep everyone safe.

Village Lost Property at The HUB

If you find any lost property around the village please bring it to The HUB. We will hold it there waiting to be claimed for four months. For any valuable or important items that we have handed in, we will place notices online, in the Newsletter and on social media. 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



Hamstreet
Dental Clinic

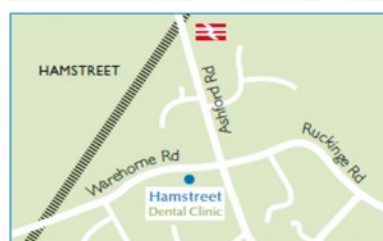
Welcomes You



Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic
Warehorne Road
Hamstreet
Kent TN26 2JJ

 Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848

Email: hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com

All Saints Church



Dear Friends,

It has been wonderful to see our village community coming together to celebrate Christmas and reach out to those in need in so many different ways.



Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Tree Festival in church such a success. Thanks to those who visited - it was wonderful to meet so many people from near and far; thanks to all of the community organisations who sponsored and decorated trees in amazingly creative ways, and thanks to those who helped in the church - we are blessed to have a group of volunteers who work so hard.

Thanks also to those who have helped to support our Here to Help scheme. Our foodbank has been well used, and regularly topped up using kind donations of food and by shopping using the cash donations we have received. We have delivered food parcels to those who cannot collect from the church, and we know that for some people "heating or eating" has become a reality. We also gave away £1000 in food vouchers to give a little extra help to local families this Christmas.

What's next? Warm space in church!

Those of you visiting the church recently will have noticed that our new heating system now enables us to offer a comfortable space for visitors. We are delighted that we have been successful in obtaining grant funding from Ashford Borough Council so we can offer a warm space for everyone in All Saints Church on Tuesdays 10am-4pm from 10th January until the end of February. Our popular coffee morning will continue with hot drinks and cake on offer in the morning, then we will be serving soup and bread from lunchtime. Dogs are welcome in church - please use the space as you wish - for a good chat; to read; to work or play using our internet, to play board games or do knitting or craft work. We are happy to offer transport if you are unable to get to the church.

No charge is made and everyone is welcome in church. If you are interested in volunteering to help with either coffee mornings or warm space afternoons, then please get in touch.

Happy New Year to everyone from all of the team at All Saints Woodchurch.

Reverend Sue.

01233 820266 revsuerose@outlook.com

Woodchurch Memorial Hall Caretaker Wanted

The Woodchurch Memorial Hall team are looking to appoint a part-time Caretaker. £30 per week.

For more information please contact The HUB
enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk 01233 861381

All Saints Woodchurch

Winter Warmers



Meet up for a chat
Find a quiet corner to read
Use our internet
Board Games
Puzzles and Games

Every Tuesday from 10th
January 10am-4pm

No charge - enjoy our warm space

Hot drinks, cake, bread and soup



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

WOODCHURCH PLAYERS - PANTOMIME 2023

BOOKING NOW

Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

Script by Alan P Frayn
Directed by Kim Parmee
Woodchurch Memorial Hall

January 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th at 7.30pm
Saturday 21st, Sunday 22nd, & Saturday 28th at 2.30pm

Booking on line @ www.Woodchurchplayers.com

Or in person at 'The Hub' Front Road, Woodchurch

Tickets cost £10 adults, children £8

Rehearsals are well under way for our January pantomime 'Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs'. The Players (who were first known as 'The Wednesday Club') have been performing a traditional pantomime in the village for many years.



So please come along and support us we bring you a colourful funny pantomime, a beautiful heroine, a handsome prince, a wicked queen and a traditional pantomime dame, not forgetting of course - Brainy, Smiley, Blushful, Grumbly, Snoozy, Sniffle and Dozy.

Knit 'n Natter

The knit 'n natter group are pleased to announce that their final contribution to the Ukraine Blanket appeal will be dispatched soon bringing the total sent to a magnificent seven.

The Six Bells Inn

Goodbye and Farewell 2022. Its time to start 2023 and for "The Bells" to start a new chapter but before we do, we must mention our fantastic December



The quiz, of course, was a memorable one where fun and laughter always manages to creep in. Our Festive Menu proved to be very popular with a large number of groups very successfully fed and watered with our restaurant area proving again to be such a wonderful extension to The Bells.

The "Billy No Mates" annual meal was so much fun with an excellent performance by our fabulous Chef, Kitchen Crew and Front of House Staff. However, this was slightly overshadowed by the amazing performance by a couple of the diners who should certainly audition for a part on the London Stage with their highly entertaining act !!

We opened Christmas Day for a few hours to say "Thank You" to all of you "Our Fantastic Customers", the warmth and support that you have all shown to all of us during the past year has been truly heart warming and we are so grateful. We promise that we will continue to keep "The Bells" at the heart of the village and support this incredible community.

The long-awaited return of the Annual "friendly" Bells verses Bonny football match took place on the Green on a fabulous sunny Boxing Day. A big thank you to the Woodchurch Football Association for allowing the use of the pitch, goals, football strip etc and the volunteer Referees and Linespersons (who I think were volunteered rather than volunteering by choice!!) A mention must go to Jack Bushell for arranging the Game and for organising our "Bells Team" recruitment drive (we had so many volunteers lining up to play for the Bells that it really was an all-inclusive Team which incorporated young and old(er), with some of the Woodchurch Football and Walking Football Team to staff Members and anyone who was associated with The Bells and wanted just be part of "The Bells" Team for the Match. We gave it our all and the genuine affection that our players and supporters showed was brilliant and every member of our team obviously holds the Bells dear to their heart.

However, the score line was still impressive with the Bells losing by only 4 goals to 2 to the Bonny but what a team we had and the supporters for the Bells were very vocal too and perhaps the half time refreshments of Beer and snacks may need to be reviewed before the next match !!!

We have our Final Farewell to 2022 being celebrated with our New Years Eve Country and Western Party Extravaganza. We look forward to seeing the John Wayne's and Calamity Janes out for a fun night.

Finally, just to mention our Quiz Night Wednesday 4 January and some live music by Zips Duo on Friday 13 January, this then only leaves it for us to say a huge "Thank you to you all" once again for such tremendous support throughout the Year and to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year

With love always
Emily and All at "The Bells"



Woodchurch CE Primary School

COMPASSION HOPE FORGIVENESS THANKFULNESS LOVE

Are you looking for a new challenge? We are looking for teaching assistants to join our team, providing support to individuals and groups of pupils in the classroom. Please see www.kent-teach.com for more information about the role or contact our school office

Have a look at our school website and social media pages to get a feel for what we are about.

www.woodchurch.kent.sch.uk

Private Sector Housing Strategy adopted

The Council has adopted a Private Sector Housing Strategy, which outlines the approach to ensuring that residents across the borough live in homes that are safe, well maintained and meet required standards.

Cabinet on 15 December voted to adopt the strategy after hearing that poor housing conditions can have a serious negative impact on both the physical, mental and wellbeing of its occupants. Currently the Council does not have a Private Sector Housing Strategy. It is important that everyone living in the borough can live in a safe, well-maintained home that is suitable for their needs. We understand good housing plays an integral part in the health and wellbeing of everyone living in our society and it is widely recognised that there is a direct link between poor housing and poor health. The Council is committed to ensuring that residents living in the private sector, whether that be as owner occupiers, or in rented accommodation, live in homes that are safe, well maintained and meet the required standards. The reliance on rented accommodation is expected to grow due to the high costs of buying a home and the limited supply of social housing. This strategy and action plan sets out how we intend to improve standards, tackle rogue landlords, help increase the independence of disabled people through the disabled facilities grants scheme, reduce fuel poverty and improve the energy efficiency of homes. This in turn is contributing to the delivery of our Corporate Plan themes of Caring Ashford and Green Pioneer. Carbon neutral target Cabinet was told that the strategy would play an important part of how the Council engages with the private sector in addressing energy efficiency within homes and reducing the use of fossil fuels, which is a key component in achieving the authority's carbon neutral targets. Failure to do this effectively will increase the risk of the Council not meeting its commitments to be carbon neutral by 2050. The Private Sector Housing team within the Council provides a number of services - these include disabled facility grants, dealing with complaints about landlords, ensuring standards are maintained in houses of multiple occupation and overseeing park home licence conditions. Its primary function is to work with landlords to raise standards by ensuring their properties comply with housing legislation.

The Private Sector Housing Strategy sets out how we intend to meet challenges and opportunities confronting the service and set out key priorities. While housing conditions in Ashford are generally good, there are landlords who are failing to meet their obligations. The private rented sector provides a valuable component of our overall housing stock. The strategy will not just focus on improving housing standards by improving living conditions, but also include a range of services to improve people's wellbeing. The private sector team is committed to improving housing conditions across all tenures. The Strategy includes a delivery action plan on the various services we provide, which will be reviewed each year.

The main challenges in ensuring the private sector housing stock is safe and well maintained are:

- Tackling irresponsible, rogue and criminal landlords in the private rented sector
- Bringing empty homes back into use
- Identifying and licencing homes in multiple occupation
- Ensuring disabled facilities grant funding matches increasing need
- Reducing number of households in fuel poverty
- Improving the energy efficiency of homes
- Implementing the forthcoming Renters Reform Bill

Next steps

The strategy setting out the action plan will be published on the Council's website in the near future.

Gerry Clarkson CBE, QFSM, BA (Hons)

Executive Leader - Ashford Borough Council

Scout Group Paper Collection

Woodchurch Scout group collect paper in the village on the second Sunday of every month. Please have your paper outside your property, visible from the road, by 9am. The proceeds from this help to run the mini bus which allows the scout group to get about for activities.

OUTPOST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO OUR...

SUNDAY SERVICES

WHEN? Most Sunday's 10.30am - 11.45am (See schedule below)

WHERE? Outpost Church meets at the Woodchurch Scout & Guide Community Centre, Lower Road, Woodchurch, TN26 3SQ

WHY? Songs, prayer, thought provoking messages, children's activities, nibbles, coffee & tea, a warm welcome!

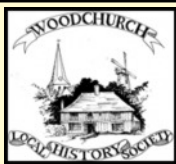


SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE:

JAN 01 - 10.30am	JAN 08 - 10.30am
JAN 15 - 10.30am	JAN 22 - 10.30am
JAN 29 - 10.30am	FEB 05 - 10.30am

outpostchurch@live.co.uk www.outpostchurch.co.uk

Woodchurch Local History Society (WLHS)



Our society's talks programme starts soon after the New Year with our first meeting which is our AGM on Monday 6th February at 7:30pm. The AGM will be followed by a short illustrated talk by local historian Jon Chaplin who will talk about the early origins of Woodchurch.

Our meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the month in the Memorial Hall, Woodchurch. The meetings start at 7:30pm. Our 2023 talks programme is below. You will notice that we have a break during the summer months during which time we organise some local visits.

We always welcome new members. Up to the present time our annual subscription has been £10 but at the next AGM in February we are expected to discuss future membership rates. Nevertheless, the fee will be modest compared to the benefit of being able to attend up to nine presentations and participate in some social events..

Visitors are also welcome to attend - just turn up on the night. All we request is a £3 visitor fee payable at the door.

Thank you, Geoff 01233 860393.

WLHS Programme 2023

- **February 6th** - Annual General Meeting and a short talk. Jon Chaplin and "The Origins of Woodchurch".
- **March 6th** - Melanie Gibson-Barton "Elizabeth Barton. Maid of Kent (and Aldington)".
- **April 3rd** - Don Grant "Ashford Police Investigate Wartime Agents and Spies".
- **May 1st** - Ken_Brooks "Social History of Ecclesbourne Glen and Fairlight".
- **June 5th** - Jennifer Godfrey "Suffragettes of Kent"

Summer Visits - tba

- **September 4th** - Jon Chaplin 'Romney Marsh on the Front Line'.
- **October 20th** - Alexander Hunt "All Things Nutty".
- **November 6th** - Pete Allen "Not Coming Soon. The Greatest Films Never Made".
- **December 4th** - Members' Evening.



MOVERS AND SHAKERS

FROM 8
WEEKS
TO 1 YEAR

With lots of singing, movement and interaction, Movers and Shakers incorporates traditional yoga poses and breath awareness into sensory fun. Each week I have a different theme for the ultimate sensory experience.

Movers and Shakers Baby Yoga and Sensory Classes at Woodchurch Memorial Hall on Mondays 1-2.15pm

Suitable from roughly 8 weeks up to on the move. Tea and Coffee served at the end. Get in touch for more information

happyfaceyogauk@outlook.com



Hardship Help for Families in Kent

If you are experiencing hardship, especially during the current cost of living challenges, please use the QR Code link below to access a

'Help with Hardship' guide. This includes the universal support available across England / Kent, as well as district-specific support.



The guide can also be downloaded from the **HUB Web Site**

Simple Kent Funerals

Relaxed, flexible, imaginative, economical, caring
Applefield Cottage, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch TN26 3QS
Call Toby on 07806 613297 • www.simplekentfunerals.co.uk

We work in an eco-friendly and environmentally-sustainable way and are certified as a net carbon neutral business

On a bleak, icy day in mid December there was bad news and good news for Woodchurch WI. The bad news was that, because of the inclement weather, it was deemed sensible to postpone our December meeting until the following week, when hopefully it might be just slightly warmer and the Memorial Hall car park would again be safely accessible. So, although it was disappointing, it was not such terrible news! Fortunately, the good news outweighed the bad, for on the very same day, we learned that our Christmas Tree had been voted "The Most Creative

Tree" by visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival in All Saints Church on 9th, 10th & 11th December, 2022.

The tree was bedecked with brightly coloured decorations of all shapes and sizes. There were elves, snowmen, miniature Christmas trees and snowflakes, wreaths, stars, baubles and beads, and presiding above them all, at the very top of the tree, was our late Queen Elizabeth II, with one of her faithful corgis by her side. Thank you to all those who voted for us and to all those members responsible for creating such an amazing array of beautiful adornments!



We are officially due to meet again at 7.15 pm on Tuesday, 10th January, 2023 (Happy New Year). May we take this opportunity to remind members that this meeting will be held at the Jean Mealham Pop In Centre in Lower Road, as the Woodchurch Players will be busy rehearsing in the Memorial Hall for their annual pantomime, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". We will be joined by Mr. Trevor Sayer, a volunteer from SERV Kent (Service by Emergency Response Volunteers also known as The Bloodrunners) who will talk about his volunteer work delivering blood products to major hospitals and hospices in Kent outside normal hours.

Do join us if you can!



The garden at Boldshaves will re-open for the season on Friday 24 March. Meanwhile, we are already taking bookings for group visits in 2023.

If you would like to organise a visit for your garden society, gardening club, WI, U3A, or other groups, please get in touch so that we can register your preferred date in the diary.

See www.boldshaves.co.uk for further details.

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FROM 11 JANUARY 2023**

In memory of George Rippon

With thanks to Geoff Turner

Just recently, we received the sad news that George Rippon had passed away after a long illness. Our condolences, thoughts and sympathy go to Pat and their son, Neil.

Many will remember George especially for his dry sense of humour and his "down to earth" approach to life. He will also be remembered for running the Woodchurch Men's Group over a number of years whose events included monthly talks and visits to various utilities such as power stations and modern water processing sites. Best of all were the organised rides in a coast guard speedboat around Rye Harbour and the annual BBQ.

George's funeral service took place at Charing's Crematorium on Tuesday 20th December and there will be a remembrance service for George at All Saint's Church, Woodchurch on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 2pm.

Six Bells Park

Although the evening of Friday 9th December was bitterly cold, residents of Six Bells Park had an enjoyable time lighting the trees at the entrance to the park, carol singing and enjoying mulled wine and nibbles.

The committee and residents would like to wish everyone in the village a happy New Year.

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Draw numbers for 2022/23 are still available
For more information please contact Joyce via The HUB - enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk or 01233 861381

December 2022 Draw Results

1st prize	£50	Nicola Davy	783
2nd prize	£30	Celia Davy	429
3rd prize	£20	Ann Tiplady	922

Woodchurch Village Life Museum

Wednesday January 18th 2023 will see volunteers resuming the weekly gardening and routine maintenance at Woodchurch Museum.

If you have half an hour to spare and would like to join them, you will be more than welcome - or just call in for a chat and a hot drink anytime between 9:30 and 12:00

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Proms Weekend

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday 1 July - **2.00 pm & 7.00 pm**
Sunday 2 July - **2.00 pm & 7.00 pm**

Current performers lined-up include:

Chris & Jo Powell

The Ruby Sisterz

Venue:

Jean Mealham Centre, Woodchurch TN26 3S

If you're interested in more details call Richard 07798 566849 / 01233 860 139

Jean Mealham Centre opens over Christmas

The Jean Mealham Centre was open on both Christmas Day and Boxing Day for village residents who were either on their own, or simply wanted to enjoy the Christmas period with others.

On **Christmas Day** afternoon a festive tea was available to everyone who popped in and on **Boxing Day** a full roast dinner was served to over 40 village residents.

Richard would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave up their time over the Christmas period to help cook, serve and to help make the days so enjoyable for everyone who came along.



Woodchurch HUB News

The HUB would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all of the volunteers who have helped us support the village during 2022. If you would like to join our team in 2023 please contact us.

December has been another busy month at The HUB. Although the doors were closed between Christmas Eve and New Year, we continued to support village residents who left voice messages or emailed us during this period. If you need help and we are not open, please do still get in contact and we will try to assist as quickly as we can.

Printing at The HUB increased further in December with more clubs and societies using us for their general printing needs. As well as printing the Woodchurch Community News each month we also print the newsletters for other local villages. The HUB is now being used by the local Church Benefice for their printing. Printing is provided as a community service and our charges are kept as low as possible to just cover our actual costs. If you would like us to do any printing for your club/society please contact The HUB for more information.

The **"meals-on-wheels"** service in Woodchurch is also coordinated by The HUB, working in conjunction with the Tenterden Social HUB. Our volunteers now deliver hot meals on a daily basis (Monday through Friday) to 12 village residents. If you would like more information about this service, either for yourself or a friend or relative, please contact The HUB for more information.

The HUB has continued to support village residents by collecting **prescriptions** from Woodchurch Surgery and we also assist with **hospital visits** in conjunction with The Surgery and The Jean Mealham Centre.

With all of the events taking place in the run up to Christmas, ticket sales were in demand during December. Don't forget that you can still buy your tickets here for the Woodchurch Players pantomime January performances of Snow White. If you have an upcoming ticketed event and you would like to use The HUB as your **Box Office** please contact us. The service is free and we can accept payment by cash and all major credit cards.

