



WOODCHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

The village community working together

April 2024

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:

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 9:45am and 10:45am at the S&G Community Centre

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

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 3:30pm at the Tennis Club

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

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

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 Jean Mealham 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

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

Junior Tennis coaching 3:30pm at the Tennis Club

Pizza Van 5:00pm-8:00pm in the Village Car Park

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

Yoga 10:00am-11:15am in the Jean Mealham Studio

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

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

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 6:00pm-7:15pm in the S&G Community Centre

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

Thursdays:

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

In The Mix 1:30pm-3:30pm in the Jean Mealham Centre

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

BodyBlast 6:00pm-7:00pm on the Memorial Hall

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

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

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

Fridays:

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

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

Adult Tennis coaching 5:30pm at the Tennis Club

Other Events:

Mon 1st **WLHS** - Ed Adams "Ashford's Worst Day" - 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall

Thu 4th **Social Prescribers** - 1:00 to 4:00pm in The HUB

Sat 6th **Village Litter Pick** - 8:00am at The HUB

WYT - All weekend at All Saints Church

WIB "Give and Take" - 10:00 at All Saints Church

Sun 7th **Morning Worship** - 11:00am at All Saints Church

Tue 9th **WI - Behind The Scenes of TVs Golden Years** - 7:15pm in the Memorial Hall

Wed 10th **"Remember when we were young"** - 11:30-1:30 in the Annexe

Thu 11th **Boldshaves Gardens - National Garden Scheme** - 2:00pm-6:00pm

Fri 12th **Music at The Bonny - "Wasted"** - 9:00pm

Sat 13th **Coffee Morning in aid of Young Carers** - 10:00am-12:00am in the Memorial Hall

Sun 14th **BCP Holy Communion** - 8:00am at All Saints Church

Bonny Cravat Boot Fair - 9:00am-12:00am

Mon 15th **Dementia Coffee Morning** - 10:00am-12:00 in the Coffee Shop

Thu 18th **Annual Parish Meeting** - 7:00pm in the Annexe

Sun 21st **Morning Worship** - 11:00am at All Saints Church

BCP Evensong - 6:00pm at All Saints Church

Music at The Bonny - "Moss Cassa" - 6:00pm

Wed 24th **Boldshaves Gardens - Gardening with disabilities plant fair** - 10:00am-3:00pm

"Remember when we were young" - 11:30-1:30 in the Annexe

Kent Police Drop-In Surgery - PC Darren Laker - 2:00pm-3:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre

Thu 25th **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

Sat 28th **WYT** - All weekend at All Saints Church

Spring Salsa Party - 7:00-10:00 at the Jean Mealham Centre

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



Annual Parish Meeting, Thursday 18th April 2024, 7pm in The Annexe - open invitation

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

All residents are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting (alternatively referred to as the Annual Meeting of Electors) which will be held in the Memorial Hall Annexe. The focus this year will be on the councils [Draft Annual Plan and Budget 2024-2025](#), copies of which are available for comment from The HUB, from the Parish Council Web site and will be available at the meeting. We will also explain the Call for Sites process (see below)

Slight reduction in Parish Council tax

Despite increasing costs and an ambitious plan for 2024-25, the Parish Council is the only one of the five tax-levying bodies not to increase its element of the Council tax. The table below shows how your Council tax for 2024-25 is made up and what percentage of it goes to each authority. Change from 2023-2024 shown in brackets ()



- 73% going to Kent County Council (increase of 4.75%)
- 12% going to Kent Police and Crime Commissioner (increase of 5.3%)
- 9% going to Ashford Borough Council (increase of 3%)
- 4% going to Kent Fire and Rescue (increase of 3%)
- 2% going to Woodchurch Parish Council (decrease of 0.2%)

Call For Sites

The recent call for site by Ashford Borough Council (ABC) saw over 330 responses across the borough, with 8 being within Woodchurch. The full list is freely available on ABC's website. Over the coming months ABC's planning department will be sorting through each individually, filtering out the ones that don't meet the relevant requirements. Later this year a "short list" will be sent out for consultation with parish councils. At that point comments reflecting the views and opinions of the residents can be reflected back to ABC. Just because a landowner has responded to the "Call" does not mean that it will necessarily make it to the next stage. Woodchurch Parish Council will keep residents informed.



Potholes Update

KCC has been awarded an extra £8.6 million from the Department for Transport to tackle defects across roads in Kent. To report any potholes, please use the online reporting tool: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/potholes or by phone on 03000 418181



Elections 2024-25

The date for the upcoming General Election has not yet been set but residents will go to the polls on May 2nd to elect the next Kent Police and Crime Commissioner.



Parish Council meetings

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 25th April 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe**

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public so please come along - as we value your questions and suggestions. We are here to support the village and so it is important that you let us know the things that are important to you.

Councillor Vacancies

Sadly Clr. Catherine Sales has stepped down from the council. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the hard work she has put in.



If you would like to help shape our village community please contact the Clerk for more information - or contact any of the councillors if you would like an informal chat to see what is involved.

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

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

Upcoming roadworks in and around Woodchurch
Information from KCC and one.network

ROAD CLOSED - Redbrook Street - Near Plurenden Road
8th April April 2024

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED
Description: OpenReach

ROAD CLOSED - Susans Hill - Near Woodchurch Museum
20th - 26th April 2024

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED
Description: South East Water Utility Repair

ROAD CLOSED - Bethersden Road, Just past Shirkoak Park
25th - 26th April 2024

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED
Description: OpenReach

ROAD CLOSED - Appledore Road - Just past B2067
30th April - 1st May 2024

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED
Description: OpenReach

WOODCHURCH SURGERY UPDATE

After a couple of weeks of Kate Middleton getting a lot of stick for various reasons the press have done a major U-turn following her cancer diagnosis. As a doctor the lack of detail always frustrates me but I appreciate that even such a public figure is entitled to her privacy. What it may do is raise concerns for people that if someone so young, slim, looked after and rich has developed cancer so what hope for the rest of us? The reality is that at 42 cancers are still uncommon and the median age for cancer diagnosis is 66 years old - so half of cancer is diagnosed older than this age.

Generally children are most at risk of brain, bone and blood cancers (leukaemia/lymphoma), then as we enter our teens testicular tumours join the cohort. Into our 20s and 30s cancers become less of a common diagnosis until they rise again in our 40s. During this time skin cancers like melanoma, breast cancers, thyroid cancers and genetic bowel cancers become increasingly common. Over 50 all of the cancers become more common but the average age of bowel, breast, prostate, lung, ovarian, bladder, pancreatic and skin cancer are all in the 60+ age range.

We all tend to worry about cancer and the diagnosis can send shockwaves through a family, however there is a lot of progress in treatment and support for people and their families living with cancer. The Cancer UK website has a lot of really useful information about the many sides of living with cancer and is a good resource to look through. It also has a focus for healthy living - it almost seems silly to say but avoiding smoking, excessive alcohol, obesity and excessive sun/UV will reduce the risk of cancer as will staying active and eating healthily.

It would appear that Kate had a more longstanding problem and it was felt time to intervene, only later the sample has been looked at on a cellular level and cancer has been found. This highlights the need to be symptom driven at this age and report ongoing changes that arise. These can then be investigated but routine screening is only done for people at risk from genetic factors such as a diagnosis of bowel cancer in a first degree relative under 50, or part of the national cervical smear programme. As a 42-year-old her bigger threats to life would generally be from mental health problems or road traffic accidents. However from this age there is more risk from developing high blood pressure, high cholesterol and musculoskeletal problems like arthritis.

We have the long Easter weekend which falls at a good time for a break as we will have reached the end of the year for chronic disease monitoring. Although the new year starts on April 1st the contract with any changes to targets doesn't usually get delivered to us for a couple of months in its' final form. The murmurings in general are really about the development of cardiovascular disease and the role of cholesterol in this. New evidence suggests that anyone suffering from "chronic kidney disease" would benefit from a statin to reduce cardiovascular disease so there will be more

work in this area. It really seems that lowest is best for all ages.

We have waved a sad farewell to Kim Field who has retired but welcomed Georgia to the reception team who has hit the ground running. Otherwise the team will be back after Easter, full of chocolate so energy restored for full steam ahead.

Best wishes on behalf of the Surgery, Jack Hickey - GP


Surgery Opening Hours

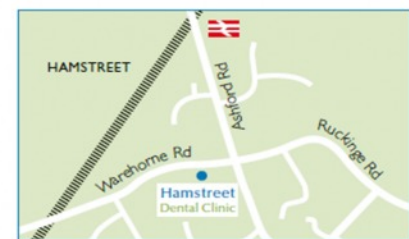
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic
Warehorne Road
Hamstreet
Kent TN26 2JJ

 Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848

Email: hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com

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Dear Friends,

A Happy Easter to everyone in Woodchurch. It has been lovely to visit the school for RE lessons and to welcome everyone into church for the school Easter Service this week.



I wanted to take this opportunity to mention our church finances. I know that some of you will feel that the church is wealthy and should not need to ask for money. However, this is not the case locally. This is a difficult time - the recession has hit us in the same way it has hit many of our families.

We will continue to provide "Here to Help" using separate charitable funds which runs the Foodbank, and provides vouchers for families who are struggling and other help such as counselling for some children. We will continue to run the Youth Group each week - we employ a youth leader using funds reserved from the sale to the Mission Hall years ago, and we also have a youth worker provided by Kent County Council. We will continue to run "Remember When We Were Young", and have been grateful for a grant from the Windmill Trust to support this important club for those suffering with memory problems and dementia. Our church tries to support the village in all sorts of ways.

Our difficulties are with our church building. We are very grateful to those who support coffee mornings and fundraising events, and we have just about managed to keep a balance of what we spend paying our bills (building insurance alone is over £600 per month). However, we now have emergency work identified to the East wall and roof which will cost £12,000. We can pay for the roof works, but the remaining £11,000 is currently unfunded. We are applying for grants which may help. We also have a generous bequest due which may help, but we would also like to install new glass doors and a disabled access as a lasting memory to the person who died.

Our accounts can be made available to anyone interested, and we are grateful for any offers of help. Our current plan is to delay the repair until around August in the hope that we can fundraise and get grant funding so that it is affordable then. We have been advised that we really cannot last another winter without repair.

Please get in touch if you can help.

God Bless. Reverend Sue

The American Deep South comes to Woodchurch

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Saturday, 15th June 2024

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or if you prefer, visit: WOODCHURCH HUB 01233 861381
(Open Monday-Friday 10.00am-1.00pm Saturday 10.00am-12 midday)

All monies raised supporting All Saints Church

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy D DAY Landings

WOODCHURCH IN BLOOM

INCORPORATING

WOODCHURCH GARDENING SOCIETY

We're excited to share the following 'Woodchurch in Bloom' activities as we build up and support



Painted Pebbles - we're inviting you all to paint a pebble with a **Carnival** theme and hide it around the Village for others to enjoy finding!

Reminder the Carnival is **8 June** so start hiding them as soon as you can!

.... And remember if you spot one in the Village, take a photo and share on social media, tagging 'Woodchurch in Bloom' & 'Woodchurch Carnival (Kent) 8th June 2024'

'Woodchurch Remembers' are looking to make a permanent memorial with them afterwards too

Poppy Crafts - we're inviting you all to use your

imagination in creating a poppy or remembrance related craft - eg crochet, pictures, painting etc

We will be asking for all the poppy/remembrance related items to be placed at a designated area in the Village in the run up to the Carnival to create a beautiful Woodchurch tribute to the 80th Anniversary of D Day

WOODCHURCH ART SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2024



SAVE THE DATES!



Friday 24th May 7pm - 9pm

Saturday 25th May 10.30am - 4.30pm

Sunday 26th May 10.30am - 4.30pm

Admission Free

We look forward to seeing you all again this year

Woodchurch Yard Together ("WYT")

We have 2 volunteer gardening weekends in April in the Churchyard:

6th & 7th April

&

27th & 28th April

use, which would include 'Woodchurch in Bloom' activities.

To help our bid, we need to understand the level of support for what we do as volunteers in keeping our Churchyard tidy, as well as activities organised by 'Woodchurch in Bloom'. Our beautiful Churchyard is maintained solely by volunteers and we rely completely on donations for money towards fuel and tool purchase and maintenance.

The survey is available from: <https://forms.gle/5Nvry8fw2UjKDJEh6>

Woodchurch in Bloom website www.woodchurchinbloom.com

Hard copy from Woodchurch HUB

Are you able to help us to weed around some of the beautiful roses either side of the paths to the Church, whenever you have a few minutes/hours spare?
If interested, we'd love to hear from you using email below or leave a message for Philippa via the HUB - Thank you

Bonny Cravat

Spring has sprung and we are already starting to enjoy some warmer weather and a nice cold beer in the sunshine!

April is going to be an exciting month here. We're kicking off with live music from Wasted on Friday 12th at 9:00pm. We then have our first ever Bonny Boot fair, taking place at 9:00am on Sunday 14th! It will be held in the field behind the pub, but we do have limited spaces available so book yourself a pitch now to ensure you have a space! Please contact the pub for more information on pitch charges and arrival times.

One of our favourite performers, Moss Casa, is returning on Sunday 21st at 6pm. Hopefully we will see some more sunshine and can all enjoy some tunes with a cold beer on the terrace.

We hope everyone has had a lovely Easter and can't wait to see what April will bring.

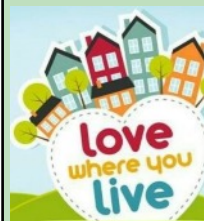
Love as always, The Bonny family



Woodchurch Spring Village Clean Up 2024

Saturday 6th April

To help our industrious village litter pickers and the growing number of individuals who regularly clear the ditches and hedgerows in and around the Woodchurch, please come and join us on Saturday 6th April to participate in our Spring Village Clean Up.



Bags, high viz jackets and litter pickers will be available - but if you have your own then please bring them along.

See you outside The HUB from 8am.

Woodchurch Morris

Mayday is fast approaching and the Woodchurch Morris are ready to spring into action at (about) 7:00 am on the morning of Wednesday 1st May. So come along to the car park on the Green to enjoy the early morning fun and welcome in the Spring. See you there.



PHOTOS NEEDED FOR MURAL!

Dear Woodchurch residents, thank you so much for all the contributions of photos for the mural so far! However, more are needed in order to make the photo montage, so I am broadening the criteria and encouraging you to submit your favourite photos of Woodchurch. These can be pictures ranging from those taken of the landscape on a sunny day to pictures taken with friends. Anything which you would value seeing on the mural and think captures a key aspect of Woodchurch (this can be community, nature, architecture etc) Ideally pictures would be good quality, but grateful for any submissions! Feel free to get in touch regarding any questions or queries. To submit photos and/or contact please use this email: pollyae4@icloud.com

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WOODCHURCH WINDMILL UPDATE

It has now been over 5 years since our Mill was damaged and despite efforts from both The Society of Friends of Woodchurch Windmill and The HUB throughout that time Ashford Borough Council (the legal owners of the mill) continue to procrastinate. Over the past couple of months there have also been several attempts by our Borough Councilors to get more information - which sadly also appear to be being ignored.

Squirrels



Woodchurch scout group are introducing a new section. The latest addition to the scout family. This section is known as Squirrels and is for boys and girls aged from 4 to 6 years old. Our unit will be held at the Scout and Guide Centre, Lower Road, Woodchurch on a Friday evening between 5.30 and 6.30pm. The first meeting will be Friday 19th April..

For more details please contact Julian West (Group Scout Leader) on 07887 748692 or Lynn Hall (Group Administrator) on 07771 541451.

BOLDHAVES

Boldshaves Garden

The garden (and Tea House) at Boldshaves is now open for the season on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 2-6pm. Entrance £7.50.

Guided tours for clubs and societies can also be arranged on any day of the week, morning or afternoon. Please call 01233 860283 or email masseypd@hotmail.co.uk to arrange.

On Wednesday 24 April the garden will be open from 10-3 for the Gardening with Disabilities Trust Spring Plant Fair. For tickets in advance, please see the GDT website www.gardeningwithdisabilitiestrust.org.uk

www.boldshaves.co.uk



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Where & When

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Time	10- 1130am
Location	Old Post Office Coffee Shop Woodchurch TN26 3PA



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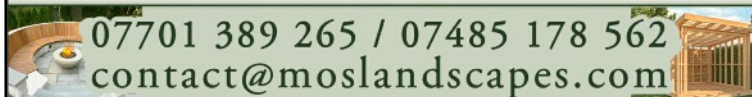
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WOODCHURCH CARNIVAL

Our Carnival on Saturday 8th June 2024 is in line with several other groups in the village this year, the theme respecting D-Day 80th anniversary. At the time of writing this piece it's 78 days to the actual official anniversary of D-Day and that means its only 80 days until **your** Carnival.

We write using the words your Carnival as we really need to have your support as our country had 80 years ago and you gave us 2022 when the Carnival returned.

We have identified the costs for running this event so that it is free to attend and funded to make it affordable and allow all to enjoy. We have sadly had a funding application rejected, solely because we could not demonstrate community "want" for the carnival through numbers at our open day and hits on website, social media and applications for the parade.

Although this has been disappointing for the team, we are still determined to bring you a day full of fun and entertainment, so we are reaching out to you again to please show support and let us know you want this, not just this year but in the future.

As well as the fun and community aspects, the Carnival has many other objectives including putting Woodchurch on the map so local businesses can gain revenue. Helping us helps all!

What you can do for us, visit the website and social media pages and talk to friends and family about the day and make plans to join us. We have a great line up for all - Funfair, Bands, Theatre group, WW2 fly overs, military theme static vehicles, Stalls, food and yes Beer! We have a huge raffle with some great prizes including a flight in a vintage aircraft, plus much, much, more.

We need more people for:

The parade. We have some special guests to be announced. They will lead off the parade and open it, we really need more floats and people to take part. Fancy it or need more information then call Pat [07584 075008](tel:07584075008). The trophies are waiting to have your name on them!

Stalls are growing in numbers, but we need more for retail of craft and other unique items. Some local organisations and groups will have stalls for you to visit. Last year's feedback from stall holders was that they had the best sell of all time! Want a stall to speak to Millie [07703 640215](tel:07703640215)

We have some **key sponsors** who have assisted us in getting some money and in supporting us. We would like more. Hannah has been working hard to get these so businesses and organisations can market themselves. On this huge event approximately 3000 people attended in 2022 and we had visitors from as far as London. One of our aims is to support local businesses and I am sure local businesses gained a lot of revenue from 2022. Want to know more speak to Hannah on [07835 271669](tel:07835271669)

Our arena sponsored by [Tenterden Garden Centre](#), gives an opportunity to put a display on for your organisation/group. We have several great displays but if you want to be part of that it's not too late. We are not forgetting our four-legged friends. Our dog show will be back again this year. "woof". Want to be involved? Call Gina on [07594 436997](tel:07594436997).



The Carnival is a major event for the village and has a legacy going back a long way and so we ask you please to support Woodchurch Carnival.

"Your Carnival needs you!"



enquiries@woodchurchcarnival.uk

Live Music Line Up 2024!



12pm
Whiskey & Wine





1.15pm - 2.15pm **OPEN MIC**

2.30pm
Clumsy Colin

3.45pm - 4.30pm **OPEN MIC**



4.45pm
Miss Holiday Swing & The Swingtones



hosted by Sam Griffin from Radio Ashford



On a miserable, dank, dark and wet, March evening Woodchurch WI celebrated its 97th Birthday with wine, nibbles, chocolates, cake and a musical interlude with Romney Marsh busker, Rainbow Pete (aka Mr. Peter Brown)! Rainbow Pete, (so called on account of his brightly coloured attire of a purple shirt, red waistcoat, multi coloured trousers and hat), told us of his own personal, musical journey, which, he felt, began with that world-wide well known gibberish song "Ging Gang, Goolie, Goolie", so beloved of the Scouts & Guides Movement. Obviously, as he grew from his teenage years, he acquired a more eclectic taste in music. He learnt to play the drums and guitar and with his group "The Beat Rays," played Beatles songs like "Eight Days a Week" for £7 an evening in various Northern bars. He became a PE teacher and his wife was a Nurse and sometimes in their spare time they would go busking for charity, singing songs like "You are my Sunshine" and "Drunken Sailor". Then in 1977 Pete, his wife and their two young children moved from Manchester to live in New Romney. Since retiring, Pete decided to invent the persona of "Rainbow Pete" and now busks locally on the Marsh supporting various well known charities, like Macmillan, Comic Relief and Children in Need. Currently the chosen charity is Food Bank FareShare, Kent. Pete's anecdotes were adeptly interspersed with songs, such as "Under the Boardwalk" and "I'll Never Find Another You" by the Seekers, which we were all encouraged to join in with by singing lustily, or by adding the appropriate beat, using the various shakers and maracas provided. All in all, it was a very entertaining evening - thank you, Pete!

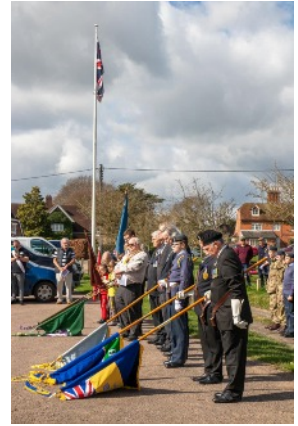


The "S" competition was won by Lynn with her knitted Sooty and Sweep characters, with Barbara coming 2nd and Margaret O. 3rd. On 9th April at 7.15 pm in the Memorial Hall the competition letter will be "P" and Mr. Wilf Lower will be our Speaker with a talk entitled "Behind the Scenes of TV's Golden Years". The clocks will have jumped forward into Spring, so do join us if you can and visitors can, of course, be assured of a warm welcome!

WOODCHURCH REMEMBERS



On a gloriously sunny morning on March 16th 2024, the whole community of Woodchurch came together to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of a crash of an USAAF B24 Liberator Bomber at Oakhurst Farm on Brook Street, in which 7 of the crew were killed. Every generation was represented - from a 6 year old Rainbow to a 96 year villager who witnessed the crash. To mark this sad incident, a memorial oak tree was planted on the green near the village flagpole and new memorial Roll of Honour Board was dedicated in the Memorial Hall to commemorate all of the 31 military personal who died within the parish boundaries in WW2 and on operations from Woodchurch Airfield. Principal civic guests were Air Marshal Christopher Nichols representing Lieutenancy of Kent and the Mayor and Mayoress of Ashford.



We would like to extend our thanks to all the groups in the village who participated in bringing this project to fruition. In particular a small group of villagers from the "Greatest Generation" who were living witnesses to world changing the events which occurred in our village in WW2. On behalf of the whole village, "thank you !"



Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy D DAY Landings

WOODCHURCH IN BLOOM 1944 2024

INCORPORATING
WOODCHURCH GARDENING SOCIETY

Front Garden Competition

The theme to incorporate into your garden for this year's competition is **Wildlife and Scarecrows**. *Get creative and have fun!*



The closing date is 27th May and judging will take place on 31st May and 1st June. The awards of Gold, Silver and Bronze plus an overall Platinum award for the best front garden will be presented at this year's Woodchurch Carnival celebrations on Saturday 8th June coinciding with the 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings.

Entry details and forms will be available from April online via www.woodchurchinbloom.com or via the **Woodchurch HUB**

Help our village grow healthy and happy ~ together

Come and join us in making our village even more beautiful
email: woodchurchinbloom@hotmail.com or visit our website: woodchurchinbloom.com



Photos courtesy of Scott Stevens - Habile Photography

Woodchurch Local History Society

The Woodchurch Local History Society (WLHS) meets on the first Monday of the month in the village Memorial Hall at 7:30pm. Our meeting on Monday 1st April features an illustrated talk by local author Ed Adams - his subject will be 'Ashford's Worst Day - The Great Air Raid, 24th March 1943'.

Ed Adams has written a book about Ashford's experiences during WW2 and this time he will focus on the town's worst day in terms of bomb damage and in the number of casualties. On 24th March 1943, the German Luftwaffe set out to bomb Ashford's Railway Works but the raid also resulted in many neighbouring roads and businesses being wrecked. Worse still, 52 civilians died and a further 78 residents were seriously injured. The accompanying photo is of Hayward's Garage which was destroyed that day.

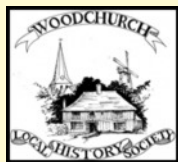


The pupils at the local primary school had a lucky escape. Miss Adams, the head teacher, heard the sirens and very quickly moved her schoolchildren to the safety of bomb shelters built under the playground. Much to the relief of the gathering parents no child was affected. Miss Adams received an award for her actions.

Next month, on Monday May 6th we have ex-teacher and local historian Josie Mackie give us an illustrated presentation called 'Creeping Like Snails - A History of Schooling in Woodchurch'. She will tell us how village schooling was conducted from the earliest recordings to the present time. The talk will be in the Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30pm.

Members of our society pay an annual subscription of £12 and visitors pay £3 at the door. If you wish to come as a visitor on April 1st or May 6th then please do so - you will be very welcome. There's no need to book - just turn up on the night. New members are also very welcome.

Hope to see you then. Thanks, Geoff [01233 860393](tel:01233860393).



Woodchurch Village Shed

Hi all, just giving you an update on our progress. We continue to do small maintenance work around the Community Centre, doing our best to keep it in good shape. In March our Planning application was considered by the Parish Council without objection. It now goes to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) in the 2nd week of April. We are looking for help to move the existing shed to its new location then we can get moving on preparing the site for its new shed. We have been very lucky, a new resident has offered some help with our electrics. More at a later date. Hopefully at the next newsletter we will have some more good news. For more information contact Neil on: [07717 861319](tel:07717861319) or neilmckay0730@gmail.com



The Rare Breeds Centre has Fun at the Farm for all the Family



There's lots to explore and discover at The Rare Breeds Centre this year, so why not join us for a day of fun.

This spring our animal barn has new animals to meet! Our lambing tunnel is home to all the adorable new lambs and don't forget to head to the goat's pen to see and stroke the tiny pygmy goats born late March.

Take a stroll or hop aboard the tractor ride for a trip to the top of the farm and back. But wait, have you heard the exciting news? We have a brand-new accessible trailer as part of our tractor rides! This means that wheelchair users can now join in on the fun too!

Fly through the air on our zipline, rule the castle from our Hill Fort or snake around the tunnel maze at just one of the playparks. Explorers are wanted! Let the kids negotiate bridges, test balance and swing on tyres, all whilst avoiding the marsh trolls at Mysterious Marsh. Do you dare to enter?

Whatever the weather its always ice cream weather! Stop at one of our food outlets to find a selection of ice creams, coffees, and snacks. Or if you are feeling a bit more peckish, make your way to our Granary Restaurant to enjoy a wide variety of freshly prepared food, with vegan and vegetarian options available. And for the parents who are in need a caffeine boost, all barista coffees are available, with milk alternative options too.

If you are visiting during school holidays or weekends, we have the perfect activity to use up some of the kids never-ending energy! Join us at the pig racetrack at 3:15pm for a chance to take part in our famous pig racing or help cheer along from the sidelines.

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 adults with learning disabilities to achieve their aspirations for how they wish to live, learn and work.

Check out our website for all the activities on during your visit, available at no extra cost. 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

QUIZ Saturday 20th April

7:30 at The Memorial Hall
Tables up to 6 people
£5 per person
Bring your own refreshments

To book a table contact Josie:
josie.mackie@btinternet.com
Organised by Woodchurch WI

WOODCHURCH VILLAGE LIFE

MUSEUM

Susan's Hill TN26 3RE



The museum opened for this season on Good Friday, March 29th. It will be open every weekend, Saturday and Sunday and on Bank holidays from 10am to 4pm until the end of October - and at other times by arrangement. This year there are new exhibitions one of which has an exhibit created by the children of Woodchurch CofE Primary School to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. The kids will also love the Wheels of Time

Do come and see these new exhibitions. Entrance is FREE.

For more information contact us at
enquiries@woodchurchheritagetrust.uk
or phone 01233 860586



Thank you for everyone who has continued to support the Museum by subscribing to our 150+ lottery draw for 2023/4.

Tickets are still available for the remainder of the draw. For more information please contact Joyce via The HUB -
enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk or 01233 861381

March 2024 Draw Results

1st prize	£50	Paul Brann	188
2nd prize	£30	Emma Taylor	837
3rd prize	£20	Amy Felstead	394

Notes from the editor



I cannot believe that I have been editing the Newsletter now each month for nearly 5 years - since August 2019. Over the years we have seen it grow from two and a half pages to the current regular 12 pages - with some months having difficulty squeezing it all into 16! I am grateful to all of the organisations and individuals who regularly provide me with news and information as to what is going on in Woodchurch - but I know there are other village groups out there who may not be aware of how they can also be included.

The deadline for copy to reach us is usually five days from the last day of the month - with an email prompt being sent out to organisations several days before that. If you would like to be added to the reminder list then please contact The HUB. Being on the list does not commit you to providing something each month - but it may prompt you if you have forgotten.

We can accept the information in most formats, but Word (docx) documents or PDFs or text are preferred. Simply email them to enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk (or drop them into The HUB) before the monthly deadline. If your information contains event dates, we will endeavour to add these to the Community Calendar but it would be helpful if you could specifically bring these to our attention.

ADVERTISING

This magazine is produced, edited, collated, and delivered by VOLUNTEERS and is printed at The HUB. It is delivered free of charge to over 1,000 households in Woodchurch (and beyond). To cover the costs of production we rely entirely on our advertisers and sponsors. Annual advertising begins from the May edition and we encourage exiting sponsors to continue to support us and the village. Adverts can be a range of sizes and durations to suit every organisations needs. You can find more information on The HUB Web site: [The HUB > Newsletters](#) and if you would like to advertise with us please contact [Gina McKay at The HUB](#).

Thank you all for taking the time to read and contribute to the Newsletter each month. If you have any comments as to how it could be improved, please let us know. Also if you would like to become part of the editorial and production team please contact us.

Best Wishes - Wade

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Normandy D DAY Landings

WOODCHURCH IN BLOOM

INCORPORATING WOODCHURCH GARDENING SOCIETY

GIVE and TAKE

Saturday 6th April 10.00am – 1.00pm

All Saints Church – look out for WIB Gazebo

Spring is here and we are sorting our gardens out! Do you have plants or seeds to **SPARE** and **SHARE**? Bring them along – See what you can find. Come along and hear our exciting plans for this years' **Carnival!**

Help our village grow healthy and happy ~ together

Come and join us in making our village even more beautiful
email: woodchurchinbloom@hotmail.com or visit our website: woodchurchinbloom.com

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