



# WOODCHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

The village community working together

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

#### Sundays:

- Museum Open** 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Outpost Church** 10:00am-12:00pm in the S&G Community Centre, Lower Road
- Karate** 10:00am-12:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre

#### Mondays:

- Pilates** 9:00am-10:00am in the Memorial Hall
- Tai Chi and Qigong** 10:00am at the S&G Community Centre
- Knit and Natter** 2:00pm - 3:30pm in the Jean Mealham Lodge
- Line Dancing** 2:00pm - 4:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre
- Junior Tennis coaching** Red-3:30pm, Orange 4:30pm, Green/Hand Ball 5:30pm, Hard Ball 6:30pm at the Tennis Club
- Beavers** 6:00pm-7:00pm in the S&G Community Centre
- BodyTone** 6:15pm-7:00pm 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
- 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
- Social 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
- Junior Tennis coaching** Red/Orange-4:00pm, Green/Hard Ball-5:00pm the Tennis Club
- Rainbows** 5:00pm-6:00pm in the S&G Community Centre
- Fish and Chips** 4:30pm-7:30pm in the Village Car Park
- Brownies and Guides** 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](http://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-3:45pm 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:

- Thu 1<sup>st</sup> **Social Prescribers** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> **Woodchurch Steam Rally** - at Little Engeham Farm
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> **Woodchurch Steam Rally** - at Little Engeham Farm
- Morning Worship with Baptism** - 11:00am at All Saints Church
- Tue 6<sup>th</sup> **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
- Auditions for Treasure Island** - 7:30pm in the Annexe
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> **Auditions for Treasure Island** - 7:30pm in the Annexe
- Thu 8<sup>th</sup> **Citizens Advice** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> **Woodchurch Garage Sale** - 10:00am - 3:00pm around the village
- Craft Fair** - 10:00am - 4:00pm at the Jean Mealham Centre
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> **Holy Communion** - 11:00am at All Saints Church
- Hymns and Pimms** - 6:00pm at All Saints Church
- Tue 13<sup>th</sup> **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> **Mural Opening** - 2:30pm at the Jean Mealham Centre
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup> **Proms and Music Fest** - 7:00pm at the Jean Mealham Centre
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup> **Proms and Music Fest** - 2:00pm and 7:00pm at the Jean Mealham Centre
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> **PPG Meeting** - 6:00pm in the Annexe
- Tue 20<sup>th</sup> **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
- Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe
- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> **Woodchurch Yard Together** - All weekend at All Saints Church
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> **Benefice Holy Communion** - 11:00am at All Saints Church
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> **Museum Open** - 10:00am -4:00pm (Bank Holiday)
- Tue 27<sup>th</sup> **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

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





## WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL • **UPDATE** •

This month's update is included in the attached Parish Council quarterly update.

### Parish Council meetings

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**  
**7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe**

### How to contact your Parish Council

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

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

**By phone:** 01233 861381

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

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

**Through the contact form on the Parish Council Web site:** [www.woodchurchhub.uk/parish-council/](http://www.woodchurchhub.uk/parish-council/)

### HELP NEEDED AT THE HUB

The HUB is looking for one or two volunteers to help to support the community in The HUB on Monday mornings from 10am till 1pm. This could be every Monday, or to share with other volunteers on alternate Mondays.

This is a good opportunity for you to help provide positive support to the community in a safe and sociable environment. No previous experience is necessary as full training and support will be given. The role isn't technical but a basic confidence using the Internet and email would be an advantage. The HUB team of volunteers is always available to assist and you will get to know a lot of new people from within the village - and beyond.

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



### **Woodchurch Patients Participation Group (PPG)**

Our next PPG meeting is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

All Woodchurch Surgery Patients welcome!

We are pleased to confirm our speaker will be Brigid Lohrey, Corporate Speaker for

**HypoHounds - Diabetic Alert Assistance Dog Charity**

If you would like to receive PPG Surgery updates and details of speakers for the meetings, please contact Philippa at [philippa@woodchurchhub.uk](mailto:philippa@woodchurchhub.uk)

### Temporary Bus timetable for August (2A)

Road Closure Woodchurch Road, Tenterden  
29 Jul 2024 to 30 Aug 2024

Due to roadworks by SGN, Woodchurch Road will be closed for up to 5 weeks and we will be unable to operate between Woodchurch and Tenterden on the normal line of route.

Buses will divert between Woodchurch Doctors Surgery and Tenterden via Oakhurst Corner and the A28 in both directions.

A temporary timetable will be in operation during this closure to help keep a reliable service during this lengthy diversion.

#### **The temporary route diversion - both directions:**

Tenterden - St Michaels - High Halden - Church Hill - Plurenden Road - Great Engeham - Woodchurch - Shadoxhurst Road - Great Engeham

Bus times in Woodchurch - Bonny Cravat / Surgery

#### Ashford to Tenterden

##### Monday to Friday

08:32, 10:00, 12:37, 14:00, 16:10, 18:37, 19:50

##### Saturday

09:03, 11:30, 14:00, 16:00, 18:27, 19:50

Shirkoak Park - 12 minutes later

#### Tenterden to Ashford - Monday to Friday

07:14, 07:50, 09:27, 11:10, 13:47, 15:10, 16:02, 17:20, 18:38, 19:48

#### Tenterden to Ashford - Saturday

10:13, 12:40, 15:10, 15:57, 17:10, 18:38, 19:38

Shirkoak Park - 15 minutes earlier

The full timetable can be downloaded from Woodchurch HUB  
<https://woodchurchhub.uk/>

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

#### **ROAD CLOSED - Woodchurch Road** **22<sup>nd</sup> July - 28<sup>th</sup> August July 2024**

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED

Description: SGN Gas network maintenance

#### **ROAD CLOSED - Redbrook Street** **1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED

Description: KCC Road surfacing

#### **ROADS CLOSED - Redbrook Street** **6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Closure in force: Road Closed

Description: South East Water

## WOODCHURCH SURGERY UPDATE

July has been an amazing month for sport and August is going to keep giving with the Olympics uniting so many different nations and cultures. It is incredible to think of so many people coming from so many different places living together for 2 weeks and the infrastructure that needs to be put in place, including an entire medical facility. This seems so far away from the restrictions of the pandemic.

While it is admirable that people will be inspired to take up sports from these events, it is important to choose the right exercise. The NHS live-well website encourages over 65s to



focus more on strength and flexibility and less on high-intensity exercises. As we get older our bones become more fragile and our joints stiffer leading to more imbalance and risk of falls. Activities that raise the heart rate should be encouraged for 150 minutes a week which includes heavy digging/gardening, carrying heavy shopping etc and doesn't need to be formal exercise.

For people that find moving regularly and exercising more challenging we do have local classes to improve balance and fitness. These are known as "Wobble" classes and can be done sitting or standing.

People often stay for a bit afterwards so has a slightly social side too. If you're interested please ask the Surgery.



We also have regular free Healthcoaching sessions which are run weekly with the aim of getting to 5km by the end of the sessions. This can be walked, run or just attempted. The current course has just started and the next 10-week course starts in October. It is paid for by the PCN and has had great feedback - if you are interested have a look at this: <https://www.b2rhealthcoachingservices.co.uk/>

Whooping cough is still high in the community and we encourage any pregnant women to ensure that they get fully vaccinated to help protect your newborn baby. I think there have been 5 baby deaths attributed to whooping cough which is 5 too many in view of the availability of a vaccine. Uptake is much lower now than in 2017 which may be a bit of vaccine fatigue after covid - if you aren't sure please ask and we can talk things through.

### [Badminton at the Memorial Hall](#)

We are looking for 1 or 2 more badminton players for Thursday evenings. We play weekly from about 7.30 to 10 pm. Just turn up with your racket, you will be very welcome. Shuttles are provided.



We have to say a sad farewell to our ST3, Lauren James, who has now qualified as a GP and will be working locally at Kingsnorth for a couple of days a week after some well-earned time travelling. It is really pleasing that a lot of our trainees are staying local when they finish.

We do, however, welcome a new ST3 called Dr Joseph Ebbrell who will start in August and we also welcome back Dr Parisa Tarrunum as an ST2. Furthermore we welcome a new Healthcare Assistant Laura Hilder, I am sure that you will give them all your usual Woodchurch welcome.

On behalf of Woodchurch Surgery I wish you all a good August full of sunshine and exercise.

Jack Hickey GP.

<https://www.woodchurchsurgery.co.uk/> 01233 860236

### [Margaret Morris Movement](#)

Margaret Morris Movement - Gentle exercise for the over 50's are having a break in August and September, returning on 3rd October - Alannah

### Surgery Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



Hamstreet  
Dental Clinic

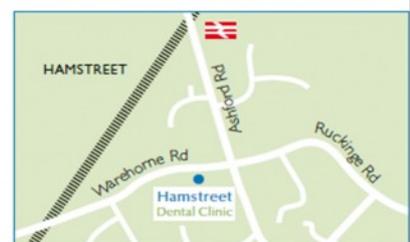
Welcomes You



### Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic  
Warehorne Road  
Hamstreet  
Kent TN26 2JJ

 Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848

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

## Make A Difference



# All Saints Church



Dear Friends in Woodchurch,

I have asked our curate Maria to write a letter of introduction to everyone this month. Maria is a curate - this is a three year training programme for those who are called to be a Vicar or Chaplain in the Church of England. She will be serving in our Parish of Denswood (Woodchurch, High Halden and Bethersden) for her curacy - we are delighted she has joined us.



I have been asked how we are doing financially, and how much money we were able to raise at our recent Porch Swing Blues concert, so I am setting this out here. We had a wonderful evening at the concert on 15th June, and I am very grateful to our volunteers, and to those of you who supported the event. We raised a total of just over £1700, which is a fantastic achievement. It was great to welcome so many into the church for what felt like a real community event.

Overall, the church is in better shape financially. We have been very fortunate to obtain a national lottery community fund grant to cover repairs to the East Wall and the boundary wall (£18,000), so work has now been able to commence.

We have also been very fortunate to have received a bequest of £25,000 from a long-standing member of the congregation, and we are very grateful for this. We hope to use part of this donation to fund a disabled ramp and glass door entrance to improve accessibility for wheelchair users and those with pushchairs and prams.

However... looking after All Saints Church is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge! We now have issues with our boundary wall next to the school playground, and we have another £18,000 estimate to put things right (currently seeking other estimates). We have some funds to put towards this repair, but we also have bills to pay. Our average monthly running costs for All Saints is £3,600 made up of:

- Parish Share (we pay the diocese for cost of clergy and overheads) - £2,050
- Insurance £530
- EDF electricity £440
- Clergy and other staff expenses £350
- Other expenses and utilities £230

Thanks for your understanding and continued support as we work hard to keep your church open and a sacred space and a community building in the centre of Woodchurch.

If you are able to help with either a one-off or regular donation, then you can do so either by following this link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/woodchurch-all-saints-ashford/> or by contacting our treasurer Jeff Kirby [Jeffrey.kirby@btinternet.com](mailto:Jeffrey.kirby@btinternet.com) or please telephone me on 01233 820266.

I am very sad to hear that Phil Gardiner has died. Phil was hugely supportive and passionate about our fundraising work at the church, and also sat on our Building Projects Committee. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jean and all of their family at this sad time. May he Rest in Peace.

God Bless everyone this Summer.

Reverend Sue  
01233 820266. [revsuerose@outlook.com](mailto:revsuerose@outlook.com)

Dear Friends

I am writing this two weeks after my ordination as deacon in Canterbury Cathedral. It was a joyful celebration shared with Reverend Sue, Reverend Mike and others from Denswood Parish. Graham and I have been living in High Halden for a month now.



We would both like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the incredibly warm and friendly welcome. We have enjoyed our first weeks getting to know people and we look forward to continuing to do this in the coming weeks.

If you see what looks like a lost curate wandering around looking for something, please feel free to stop me and chat!

Before coming to Denswood, we had lived in Ashford for six years. We both come from international families and have both travelled for work and leisure. Now, we feel a strong affinity to Kent and we are excited to get to know this area better and all the lovely walks and nature trails offered.

With a particular interest in social justice, I am delighted to be joining the Inclusive Church of Denswood Parish and look forward to welcoming all to our church community. Completing my geography degrees in South Africa, I moved to England for postgraduate study focusing on health and human rights. For over 20 years I participated in action research and voluntary work related to social justice.

I had the pleasure of teaching at Warwick, St Andrews, the University of Maastricht and University of Cape Town. I recently completed a Masters degree and my thesis explored spiritual friendship between women chaplains. It is wonderful to now have my nose out of the books and be active in our community.

For some people, August is a month for rest and relaxation, and I wish everyone a peaceful time. For other people, paid and unpaid work will continue, but hopefully there will be opportunities to catch glimpses of summer sunshine, flowers and creatures.

Peace and prayers

Maria



**\* Anna  
Chaplaincy**  
for older people

Dear Friends, as you will know a group called Remember When We Were Young was started some weeks ago. We would now like to extend this group to people who find themselves alone or feeling isolated following a bereavement or just in need of company now and again.

We meet in the Memorial Hall annex in Woodchurch once a fortnight and the atmosphere is one of friendship, peace and a chance to share with one another a chat and lunch.

This group has been suspended during the summer, but we would like to start up again in the autumn. We will issue further information soon.

There is no charge, but donations are welcome because we are self-funding.

It is always helpful to have a rough idea of the number of people who would like to join us. If you are interested in giving the group a try, please contact.

Ann on [07754949111](tel:07754949111) or Rev. Sue Rose on [01233 820266](tel:01233 820266).



**[Introduction to home curing and smoking](#)**

Woodchurch Smokery will be holding an introduction to meat curing and smoking at home at the Jean Mealham Centre on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September from 12:00 to 4:00.

You will learn how to safely produce a range of tasty cured foods at home without the need for specialised equipment. These will include:

- Smoked cheese - Home cured bacon and gammon**
- Smoked salmon - Air dried meats**

Tickets are available from The HUB. The cost is £10 per person to cover the cost of ingredients. Any profits will be split between Woodchurch Museum and the Jean Mealham Centre. Yes you **will** get to taste what we produce.

# Together We Thrive



## Fun Tea Club

Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and games,  
Music and movement, plus tea and biscuits!  
**Everyone Welcome!**

**Every Monday**  
**Starting July 1st 2024 1.30 to 3.30 pm**  
**Rolvenden Village Hall**  
**£5 per person**

**Contact : Donna 07736 993578**  
**or Email**  
**[donna@dementia-experience.com](mailto:donna@dementia-experience.com)**  
**The Dementia Experience CIC**

# DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING



When & Where

Date **Monday 19th August**

Time 10am- 1130am

Location Old Post Office  
Coffee Shop  
Woodchurch  
TN26 3PA



The Dementia Experience CIC  
[www.dementia-experience.com](http://www.dementia-experience.com)  
[clara@dementia-experience.com](mailto:clara@dementia-experience.com)

Come & join others who  
have family members  
with dementia

Training for the new season continues on the green throughout August on a Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8. Our Saturday morning sessions will be tailing off with the commencement of our pre season friendlies from 10th August. We start this with a double header with the First team taking on Hawkhurst and the Reserves taking on Lenham. These fixtures will also see the outing of our new kits for the season. We are very grateful to Tim Bourne at Kent Holiday Cottages for continuing to sponsor our first team kit, whilst we are delighted to announce a new sponsor for the reserves kit who is also from the village. A huge, huge thanks go to Dean and Annabelle Webster of South East Timber and Damp for agreeing to sponsor our Reserves for this and next season.



Walking Football lads had a successful outing to the Hamstreet festival, where they retained the Woodcock Trophy. Our own Phil Johnson also represented the Kent County Vets team in their fixture against Sussex Vets which finished 0 0 but Phil did manage to start a bit of aggro.

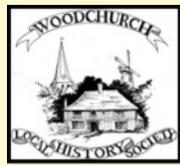
#### Lottery Results for July

- 1st £100 Cheryl Chapman
- 2nd £35 Aubrey Robinson
- 3rd £10 Chris Sargeant
- 4th £5 Chris Woodcock
- 5th £5 Eben Maidment

Many thanks for those taking part.

Richard

### Woodchurch Local History Society



The Woodchurch Local History Society, which normally meets on the first Monday of the month in the village Memorial Hall, is presently having a mid-summer break. During the break we have organised two events (one in July and the other in August). Our July society visit to the Woodchurch Village Life Museum, which was accompanied by a summer tea, was a delightful occasion and a great success.

Our August event is scheduled for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and it encompasses a visit to Brogdale Farm near Faversham. Brogdale Farm is famous as the site for the national collection of apple and fruit trees. We meet at about 1pm in the car park and then spend the next hour in a tractor drawn carriage touring the extensive fruit orchards. Afterwards we will have a cream tea in farm's restaurant. The cost is £15.50 per person and is also open to ex-members of the WLHS and their families (especially those with children and grandchildren). If any ex-member of our society is interested in joining us then please contact me as soon as possible.



Our talks programme starts again in the Memorial Hall at 7:30pm, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have Ken Brooks give us an illustrated presentation entitled 'The Strange Story of how a large group of fishermen, squatters and others in the 19<sup>th</sup> century settled on a piece of land and thought they could evade the law by declaring 'American style' independence. Big mistake!

Our half yearly membership fee, starting in September, is £5 and covers three or four talks until December. However, if you wish to come to the September talk as a visitor then the fee will be £3 at the door. There is no need to book - just turn up on the night. Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Geoff [01233 860393](tel:01233 860393).

### WOODCHURCH REMEMBERS

July saw the start of school holidays, family holidays and a generally quiet period for us. We have nonetheless kept busy restoring the Memorial Bench in All Saints Churchyard.



The bench was presented by the village to All Saints in 2014 as part of the centenary remembrance of WW1, organised by the late Major Michael Drummond-Brady then chairman of the Woodchurch RBL.



The bench was showing its age and bits were falling off so we decided it was time to restore it. The result can now be seen at the War Memorial where anyone can sit and contemplate the service of the fallen or just enjoy the surroundings. My thanks to Neil McKay who took the lead on this.

We have further plans for remembrance and intend to make what we produce interesting, watch this space.

Don't forget military service is not required to join Woodchurch Remembers, everyone is welcome, call me on [07796 228212](tel:07796 228212) or speak to any member.

Don Grant.

### Memorial Hall Coffee Morning

The next Memorial Hall Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September - 10am till midday in the Memorial Hall.



### Items For Future Newsletters

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

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

## Woodchurch Village Shed



At long last we are well and truly on our way. We will have the base installed on the 7<sup>th</sup> August and the shed itself on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to have the electricity supply installed by the 15<sup>th</sup>, then the work really starts on fitting the shed out. We have been donated some units and benches so work will get underway as soon as we have the electrics and insulation in.

We have spent the last 2 Thursdays preparing the site ready for the shed. We had time too to give the grass around the site a good trim and we will continue to look to improve the facilities there where we can.

We already have commissioned jobs to do for various sections of the village, so getting fitted out quickly is important.

We still meet on a Thursday from 10am to approx 1 pm.

I look forward to sharing more good news with you all.

Best wishes

Neil - 07717 861319

## WOODCHURCH GREAT GARAGE/YARD SALE

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024 10am-3pm

Organised by Woodchurch HUB



A wonderful opportunity to put out a table- or a few.

Sell all those 'treasures' you've been sorting in the past few months.

All welcome - sellers and buyers.

Tour the village streets on this day.

No cost to anyone- the profits are yours!

Enjoy the day by also visiting the Craft Fair that is being held at The Jean Mealham Centre.

To be included on the map please email

[enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchhub.uk) or visit The HUB

**There is still time to register on the map  
Over 20 locations currently registered**

## Tai Chi

Come join us at Tai Chi For Beginners class starts Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> 10:55 Woodchurch Community Centre.  
Contact Emma 07587 167756 [taichiforyou@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taichiforyou@hotmail.co.uk)

# Mural Opening



Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>

August, 2.30pm

**At the Jean Mealham  
Community centre**

All welcome!



# CRAFT FAIR

The Jean Mealham Centre,  
Lower Road, Woodchurch TN26 3SQ

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August

10am-4pm

Lots of Stalls,  
Something for Everyone

Tombola

Refreshments



FREE  
Entry and Parking



Enquiries: June Raley 07826 742487  
[juneandsuz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:juneandsuz@yahoo.co.uk)

Members and guests at Woodchurch WI's July meeting recalled the forensic events of the 2004 Tsunami. David Tadd, leader of the British forensic delegation told of his Team's efforts to identify the many thousands of people killed in the disaster.

On Boxing Day, twenty years ago a huge undersea earthquake near Thailand set off a vast human disaster that was to impact upon many nations. The Thai government sought international help with the disaster. Following a COBRA meeting in London David was invited to put together a British team to help recover and identify the dead. Within the following week the team was vaccinated, had formed a shopping list of vital equipment and gathered together photographers, scientists and forensic experts. They left Heathrow within a matter of days carrying all these essentials plus satellite phones and water. The Australian Federal Police were the first to arrive on the scene, but was soon followed by further international teams. The water surge had been so great that victims were even found several miles inland. The British team chaired the process of identification and it was agreed by the coroners that the post mortems should declare every victim had died from drowning.



Identification of the 5,600 victims was a huge and complicated task. Using, where possible, dental or medical records, cross matching finger prints, DNA and physical features it was possible over the next 15 months to finally identify the many thousands of bodies. It was essential to get the process completely correct. The final British missing person list of British subjects (about 125 people) was sent to the police college at Hendon where Family Liaison Officers were linked to the British families involved in the disaster.

Repatriation of the British bodies came through Heathrow airport where the West London coroner had the paperwork double checked before allowing for funeral director collection. This was a huge disaster for Thailand but a massive example of international support and cooperation.

Next month will be our summer outing (Members only). We plan to visit Godinton for a tour of the house and a cream tea.

On Tuesday 10th September Jean Surrey will be giving a talk entitled "Grandma's Workbox". The competition will be something beginning with "W"; do join us at 7.15 in the Memorial Hall. We look forward to meeting you then. Or take a look at our website [Woodchurchwi.weebly.com](http://Woodchurchwi.weebly.com)

**Save the Date: WI Christmas Market**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November In the Memorial Hall  
Would you like a table?

Contact Josie on [josie.mackie@btinternet.com](mailto:josie.mackie@btinternet.com)

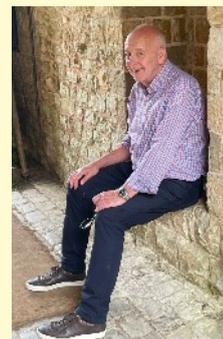
Cost: £10 per table



**Philip Gardiner 1-3-1952 / 16-7-2024**

"Phil was the first person I met when I moved to the village. He welcomed me with open arms" Just one of the many tributes that have flowed since Phil's passing on 16/7/24

Phil moved into the village with Jean in July 2018. Almost immediately he and Jean set about becoming involved in village life. He volunteered with a number of different organisations. He enjoyed working at the Woodchurch museum and took a great interest in the history of the village. His natural inclination to welcome people and help them feel at ease was a great asset to the museum and he enabled visitors to ask questions and get the most out of their trip. He also regularly volunteered at the Hub and enjoyed helping people with their queries, often making phone calls on their behalf to track down a service or piece of equipment. Delivering the village newsletter was another task Phil greatly enjoyed. He stopped to chat with anybody and everybody on his round eventually returning home much later than anticipated much to Jean's amusement!



Phil had the knack of putting people at ease and he could on occasion be very persuasive! The prizes he obtained for the 2024 carnival bear testimony to his amiable geniality. The same could be said for his part in securing acts for concerts in All-Saints church which were invariably enjoyable and profitable. Phil played an active role in the church fund raising team and was very committed to helping the church in financially difficult times. In addition, he was an integral part of the All-Saints coffee morning team where his care, kindness and compassion ensured all were welcomed.

Phil was always happy to make time to talk and perhaps more importantly listen to anyone. Although in the village for a relatively short period of time Phil made a difference. He will be remembered with great fondness and sadly missed by all who knew him.

The service for Phil will be held at 12:00 on the 15<sup>th</sup> August at All Saints Church

Rest in Peace Phil.



**All Saints Christmas Tree Festival**

**6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December - Even bigger and better!**

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Details to follow soon .....

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MEMBER



**Citizens Advice Bureau  
At Woodchurch HUB**

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

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

## WOODCHURCH VILLAGE LIFE MUSEUM

Susan's Hill TN26 3RE

To commemorate the coronation of King Charles III, the children of Woodchurch Church of England Primary School were asked to create a drawing on a piece of white cloth.

All these pieces have been put together to make a tapestry-like exhibit which has been used as a focal point of the new temporary exhibition entitled 'The Royals'. There are lots of artefacts covering many of the coronations, weddings, jubilees and deaths.

Why not pop along and see the work of the children from Woodchurch School?

For more information contact us at  
[enquiries@woodchurchheritagetrust.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchheritagetrust.uk)  
or phone 01233 860586

or visit our Web site [www.woodchurchheritagetrust.uk](http://www.woodchurchheritagetrust.uk)



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

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

### July 2024 Draw Results

1st prize	£50	Emma Taylor	838
2nd prize	£30	Sheona Taylor	1124
3rd prize	£20	Peter Spice	720



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### Village Lost Property at The HUB

If you find any lost property around the village please bring it to The HUB.

If you have lost something around the Village please let The HUB know as it may have been handed in.



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[Lemontearflexology.com](http://Lemontearflexology.com)

### 'Breaking news from Woodchurch Players'

We are happy to announce that on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October we will be presenting "Songs from the Shows". The cast are now in rehearsals and in fine voice.



On the 14<sup>th</sup> December we are inviting all members of the players to a free evening of fun and Christmas celebration. Food will be served. This evening is to thank all who support us by being members and coming to our productions. If you are not a member, you can access the membership form on line at Woodchurch Players, or by contacting Kim Parmee on 07879015146.

#### PANTOMIME TIME

Next years pantomime will be Treasure Island. Auditions will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August. 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall Annex.

The dates for the performances are :- 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

We look forward to seeing you, whether it is performing, participating in some way or coming to watch.



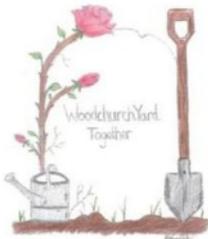
**SUNFLOWER  
 COMPETITION**

**Lets have some fun!**  
 Woodchurch in Bloom invite you to enter our competition to grow either the tallest, largest face or the funniest face Sunflower.  
 Entry forms available at the HUB and [www.woodchurchinbloom.com](http://www.woodchurchinbloom.com)  
**Judging 31st August 2024**

*WoodchurchYardTogether ("WYT")*

*Our next volunteer gardening weekend in the Churchyard is:*

**24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
 August**



*Keeping in Touch:*  
 Email: [woodchurchYardTogether@btinternet.com](mailto:woodchurchYardTogether@btinternet.com)  
 Or follow us on Facebook   
 Search: 'WoodchurchYard Together'

**WOODCHURCH 2026  
 CARNIVAL**

With Patrick Byrne announcing he is now stepping down as the Chair of Woodchurch Carnival, we would like to say a special thanks to him for not only bringing the Woodchurch Carnival back to the Village through his determination and drive, but also ensuring, along with the committee members, both in 2022 and 2024, that the events have been a massive success.

Thank you too to all the committee members who have now decided to step away from the 2026 committee - an incredible amount of hard work and dedication from all.

Now that Patrick has 'hung up his boots', some of you may think the Carnival is over.....?

You've got to be kidding..... your 2026 Carnival Committee are just getting started!!!

So, to help us gather feedback and to build on the huge successes already, we would really like to hear from you.

Please visit <https://uk.trustpilot.com/review/woodchurchcarnival.uk>  
 Or point your phone camera at the QR code below to leave us a review:

Want to be part of a fun energised team?

Then why not find out more about joining or supporting your 2026 Woodchurch Carnival Committee! For more information, please email [enquiries@woodchurchcarnival.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodchurchcarnival.uk)

**Creating your Woodchurch Carnival 2026!**

From your 2026 Woodchurch Carnival Committee  
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# WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

### New Parish Council Website

It is anticipated that a new Parish Council website will be rolled out in August. This will ensure that the council meets the necessary requirements including accessibility.

All the latest Parish Council news and documents will be posted there. Historical information will be migrated over. The existing tab on the Woodchurch Hub webpage will link you to the new site.



### Your Community Explained

Woodchurch is blessed with a plethora of volunteer-led organisations, charities and not for profit companies which can make it difficult for residents to understand who does what.

Here is a list with a brief description of each:

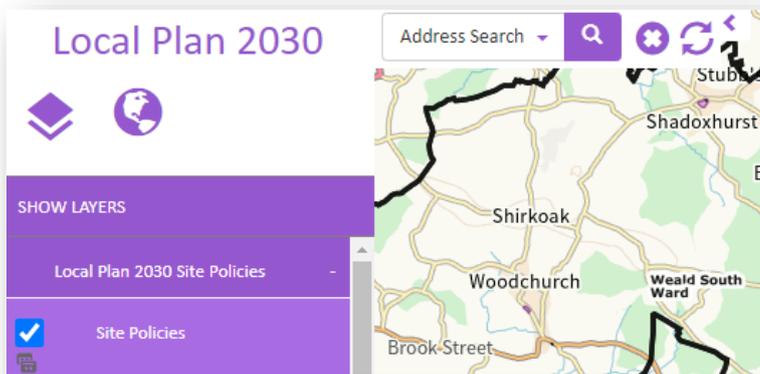
- **The Parish Council:** is your democratically elected body in the village, and its members (Councillors) represent you. By law the Parish Council needs to have at least 4 meetings a year, however we meet every fourth Thursday of each month with the exception of December which is the third Thursday. The Parish Council is not to be confused with the Parochial Church Council.
- **The Parochial Church Council:** is the governing body for our village church.
- **The Village Green** (excluding the new wildflower meadow or Village Green Extension): is owned by the Woodchurch Village Green Charity, however, the Parish Council will continue to maintain most of the assets situated on the village green.
- **The Hub:** is owned by the Parish Council but is leased at a nominal fee to the Woodchurch Community Information Exchange which is a Community Interest Company (CIC).
- **The Memorial Hall:** is managed by a charity - Woodchurch Memorial Hall Trust.
- **The Windmill:** is owned by Ashford Borough Council but is managed by a charity, The Society of Friends of Woodchurch Windmill.
- **The Village Life Museum:** is also managed by a charity - the Woodchurch Heritage Trust.



### Access to Funding

The Parish Council will seek funding to pay for projects at every opportunity as a measure to reduce costs to you the council taxpayers.

The Parish Council may also know of possible opportunities for local community groups to access funding information, and assist or direct those organisations in the right direction



## Ashford Borough Council Local Plan to 2030

The Local Plan to 2030 is the long-term plan for housing and commercial development in the Ashford area. Initial submissions from developers identifying land for housing and other uses have been received by Ashford Borough Council and are now being evaluated.

Several sites in Woodchurch have been initially identified. There is always an interesting debate between the need for homes, clean energy and the need to preserve the rural feel. We hope that as many residents as possible will get involved in that debate when the formal consultation phase begins later this year or early 2025.

## Planning Applications

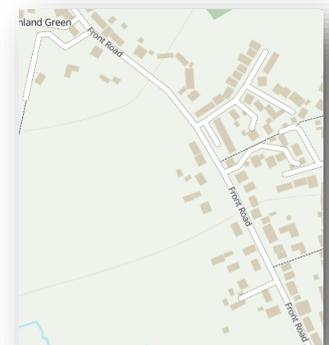
The Parish Council looks into each planning application in some detail, considering the benefits versus the disadvantages to the community, before concluding with a decision. However, the Parish Council is only a consultee in the planning process, which is hoped will help shape Ashford Borough Council Planning Department's final decision.

Application	Location	Parish Council	Ashford Planning
PA/2023/2051	Land S/E of Bridge Close.	Object	No decision
OTH/2024/0828	37 The Green	Comment Submitted	No decision
AP-90667	82-120 Front Road. Appeal re 21/01284/ AS	Prior objections and comments stand	TBC
NOT/2024/1002	Great Engeham Farm, Bethersden Road	Support	Prior approval given
PA/2024/0948	Cruttenden Farm, Brook Street	Support	Approve with conditions
PA/2024/0956	Forkeeps, Shadoxhurst Road	Support	Approve with conditions
PA/2024/1214	Woodchurch House, Brook Street	TBC	No Decision

## CALA Homes Planning Appeal Under Section 78 of The Town & Planning Act 1990

The Parish Council upheld all its prior comments and objections at the June meeting and agreed to send a representative if required.

The Planning Inspectorate has now confirmed that the appeal is being dealt with by way of an hearing on **08/10/2024 10:00 at the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL.**



# HOUSE KEEPING

## Overgrown Hedges

As a reminder homeowners are responsible for maintaining vegetation that is on their property but overhangs footpaths and highways. In the interests of safety please ensure that passersby have safe passage past. Contrary to popular belief, hedges maybe trimmed during the nesting season, provided there aren't any birds nesting in the hedge concerned. If in doubt you can have them inspected by an accredited wildlife officer prior to cutting.



Any hedges that are impeding the use of footpaths should be reported to KCC on **03000 419191**, by clicking [here](#) or scan the QR code.



## Potholes

Unfortunately Potholes continue to blight the region. It is really important that residents continue to report these to KCC so that the district council are kept informed of their locations. It is best to report any directly to KCC Highways by phone on **03000 418181**, by clicking [here](#) or scan the QR code.



In addition, feel free to send photos and the location to the Clerk on [clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk) once you have reported them to KCC.



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**Singleton Village Hall**  
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August 2024**  
10am – 2pm

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## VACANCIES



We have four openings to become parish councillors. This is a great opportunity to be a member of a dynamic council about to embark on some new and interesting projects. No prior experience is required.

Please contact the Clerk on [clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk), or one of the current Councillors whose details are available on the website ([www.woodchurchhub.uk/parish-council/](http://www.woodchurchhub.uk/parish-council/))

## QUARTERLY REPORT

The Council is achieving the majority of its ongoing activities as set out in The Village Plan, and running costs remain within budget.

A maintenance agreement is in the process of being finalised with the Woodchurch Village Green Charity, allowing for the Council to continue to ensure that the assets and amenities around the green remain in good order.

Some of the planned new projects are active, though physical work is yet to commence. There has been plenty going on in the background, obtaining advice and quotes, and we expect several projects to get materially underway in the second quarter.

An opportunity to apply for a capital grant was identified in late April, and an application has been made to Ashford Borough Council for up to **£10,000**. It was decided to combine two projects, the power upgrade to supply project and revamping the public convenience, as it was considered that this would stand more chance of success in securing the funding as a single larger project, rather than two. A decision from Ashford Borough Council is expected after the **23rd of June 2024**.

Total running costs for the first quarter were **£7,900** (including staffing costs of **£4,270**) plus VAT of **£424**. Total income including precept amounted to **£23,326**.

As of the end of June, reserves comprised **£80,873** in the savings account and **£6,102** in the current account. Total **£86,975**. However, a payment of **£891** to The Village Green Charity was not made on time, therefore reserves should have been **£86,084**.

The second and third quarters are likely to be very busy for the Council with ongoing activities and engagement of new projects.

## MEET THE COUNCIL



Neil McKay



Rob Woods



Gina McKay



Wade Nash



Lucy Quinn  
(Chair)



Ian Philo  
(Clerk)

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall Annexe at 7pm on Thursday 22nd August 2024.**