



WOODCHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

The village community working together

September 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 and 10:55am at the S&G Community Centre
Knit and Natter 2:00pm - 3:30pm in the Jean Mealham Lodge
Line Dancing 2:00pm - 4:00pm in the Jean Mealham Centre
Junior Tennis coaching Red-3:30pm, Orange 4:30pm, Green/Hand Ball 5:30pm, Hard Ball 6:30pm at the Tennis Club
Beavers 6:00pm-7:00pm in the S&G Community Centre
BodyTone 6:15pm-7:00pm in the Memorial Hall
BodyFlex 7:15pm-8:00pm in the Memorial Hall
Scouts 7:30pm-9:00pm in the S&G Community Centre

Tuesdays:

- Pilates** 9:00am-10:00am, 10:15am-11:15am and 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Memorial Hall
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 time 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 5:45pm-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 in 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 in the Memorial Hall
Badminton 7:00pm-11:00pm in 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:

- Sun 1st **Morning Worship** - 11:00am at All Saints Church
Mon 2nd **WLHS - Strange Story of Hastings 'America Ground'** - 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall
Tue 3rd **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
Thu 5th **Social Prescribers** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB
Fri 6th **Home Curing and Smoking Course** - 12:00 at the Jean Mealham Centre
Sat 7th **Memorial Hall Coffee Morning** - 11:00am
Sun 8th **Holy Communion** - 11:00am at All Saints Church
Tue 10th **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
WI - Grandmas Workbox - 7:15pm in the Memorial Hall
Thu 12th **Citizens Advice** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB
Sat 14th **Dementia Experience Fundraiser** - 5:30pm at Woodchurch Wine
Music at The Bonny - Unit 48 - 9:00pm
Sun 15th **Morning Worship with Baptism** - 11:00am at All Saints Church
Evensong - 6:00pm at All Saints Church
Tue 17th **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
Thu 19th **Bingo and Music Bingo at The Six Bells** - 7:00pm
Sat 21st **Woodchurch Yard Together** - All weekend at All Saints Church
Sun 22nd **BCP Holy Communion** - 8:00am at All Saints Church
Harvest Celebration - 11:00 at St Marys Church High Halden
Tue 24th **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church
Thu 26th **Parish Council Meeting** - 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe
Fri 27th **Music at The Bonny - DJ Chrissie** - 8:30pm

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





New Parish Council Website

The Parish Council Website is now live and can now be found at:

www.woodchurch-pc.gov.uk



The Hub Power Supply and Public Convenience

The Parish Council would like to thank Ashford Borough Council for awarding a grant of £11,000. These funds will help pay for the power upgrade, toilet refurbishment and provide electricity to the Village Green.

The council has engaged with UKPN to commence the cabling at the earliest opportunity. This will involve a trench having to be dug across the car park, whereas this will cause some inconvenience, we aim to keep disruption to a minimum.

Litter Bins

Over the coming months we will be rolling out new litter bins, gradually replacing the existing cast iron ones with larger hooded ones, which will help control the problem of overflowing litter.

If anyone has an interest in purchasing the existing cast iron bins, please contact the Clerk or one of your Parish Councillors.



Allotments

In line with the Village Plan, The Parish Council is investigating feasibility of allotments, this would be subject to the availability of land. If anyone has any interest, or any land owner wishing to provide space for allotments, could you contact the Clerk at clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk



Planning Applications We Have Considered Over The Past 2 Months

Application	Location	Parish Council	Ashford Planning
AP-90667	CALA Homes	Object strongly due to potential flooding	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1354	Forty Acre Oast, Shadoxhurst Road	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1384	Annexe, Cruttenden Farm, Brook Street.	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1403	Village Pump, Front Road	No Comment	Waiting Decision
NOT/2024/1458	Balcony Farm, Cuckoo Pitt Lane.	Support with conditions	Waiting Decision

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 26th September 2024, in the Memorial Hall Annexe.

Potholes

It is best to report any directly to KCC Highways by phone on 03000 418181 or online at

www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/roads/potholes



Water leaks

If you see a water leak in the road these should be reported to South East Water by phone at 03330 000365 or online at

www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/emergencies/report-a-leak



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 - Church Lane, Shadoxhurst **5th - 6th September**

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED

Description: OpenReach

ROAD CLOSED - Church Lane, Shadoxhurst **16th - 18th September**

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED

Description: South East Water

ROAD CLOSED - Susans Hill - near Little Robhurst **16th September 08:30 to 15:30**

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED

Description: OpenReach telegraph pole replacement

ROAD CLOSED - Redbrook Street **18th September 08:30 to 17:00**

Closure in force: ROAD CLOSED

Description: South East Water

Memorial Hall Coffee Morning

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



WOODCHURCH SURGERY UPDATE

It always feels like the start of a new year in September as the children go back to school and the slightly less busy summer is behind us at the Surgery. We look forward now to the build-up of the winter bugs and working on projects to ease the winter pressures. It is pretty obvious really that we all need more people working and more appointments but it is never that simple as there are only so many people to go around.

We hope that a successful Flu and Covid vaccination program helps and we will get started with that in early October. Last year we had a really successful "turn up on the day" session that saw an amazing community spirit, however the weather was kind and being a month further into winter we are going to pre-book appointments. You will soon receive a text that you can use to book in using the link or please book in the normal way - appointments are set up for booking already. You are eligible if you're over 65 or are over 18 and have a long term condition. Have a look at the home page on our website for a list of qualifying conditions: www.woodchurchsurgery.co.uk.



September sees some great health events and is Alzheimer's awareness month. There are some really exciting whisperings about drugs that may be able to help prevent Alzheimer's or slow the progression but nothing that is yet available for us to use. This is great progress as dementia is the leading cause of death now and can have a significant impact on patients and their families. I would hope that in the next 5 years we are using some of these medicines in the UK on the ground.

There is also a week of eye-health awareness. Losing your sight is something that a lot of people are fearful of and vision is something that many of us take for granted. Not only



can an optician check for early signs of developing eye conditions, they can examine the smallest blood vessels that we can properly examine. Therefore if they see damage to the blood vessels in the eyes it might suggest that you are at risk of other things such as heart disease or cerebrovascular disease. The optician picked up a cholesterol deposit before I had any heart symptoms and perhaps taking that statin early saved my life.

On a lighter note, there is world chocolate day on 13th September. I don't think that needs to be elaborated on any further...

There is plenty in the press about GPs voting for some form of industrial action. As we are independently contracted to the NHS there is no risk of strike but the GPs voted overwhelmingly against the government's imposed contract changes. What we are worried about is that there is not enough investment in Primary Care and as a result 50 surgeries have closed in Kent over the last 7 years as they cannot afford to run. There are talks about "Collective Action" and a number of things have been mentioned,

however I can reassure you that we will not take part in any action that would adversely affect patient care so you will not see any difference in how we operate.

Our new Health Care Assistant, Laura Hilder, has hit the ground running and we have welcomed our GP trainees Parisa Tarunnum and Joe Ebbrell to the team. I'm looking forward to the excitement and inspiration from the weeks of Paralympics ahead of us and will use that to motivate me to get back out running after a month off.

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

www.woodchurchsurgery.co.uk 01233 860236

Surgery Opening Hours

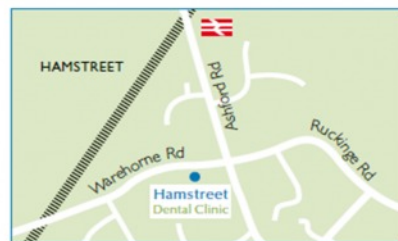
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic
Warehorne Road
Hamstreet
Kent TN26 2JJ

Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848

Email: hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED AT THE HUB

The HUB is looking for volunteers to help support the community in The HUB office from 10am till 1pm. This could be every week, every two weeks or on our list of reserve volunteers. 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 - 01233 861381



All Saints Church



Dear Friends

This week I have been thinking about the reading from Ecclesiastes which is often chosen for funerals, and includes the lines "a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance". Sometimes our lives are just full of ups and downs, as is the world around us.



Recently my Mum fell at home, and we have been celebrating that after a month in hospital, she has managed to get home. The Olympic Games were full of joyful moments, but we also saw the sadness of those who were injured, or did not quite achieve what they were hoping for. In Woodchurch we have recently experienced the joy of weddings and wedding blessings in church...then there is the sadness of this being a time when we have also had lots of funerals and interments of ashes.

One of the great gifts we have as human beings is the ability to experience and share our emotions. I think that is one of the reasons I love the reading from Ecclesiastes (Chapter 3 Verses 1-8) - it just seems to sum up all these times - like the ebb and flow of the sea, we all experience joys and sorrows. Perhaps the sad times help us to enjoy the good times even more.

When Alfred Lord Tennyson's closest friend died at the age of 22, he wrote "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all". This sums up what it is to be human - we dare to love those closest to us, despite the fact that we know we will one day be separated from one another.

Sometimes we might all ask the question "Where is God?" in times of tragedy and sadness? For me, God is right here. When we are grieving, God grieves with us. When we are feeling sad and lonely, we might experience the love of God through the words of comfort offered by those around us. At my lowest times, I have been encouraged by knowing that others are praying for me.

If you are experiencing a difficult time, please don't suffer alone. I and my clergy and lay colleagues are able to offer support and help confidentially, and we will always be ready to listen - please get in touch.

God Bless

Reverend Sue - 01233 820266. revsuerose@outlook.com

Parish of Denswood 

All Saints Woodchurch

COME FOR
COFFEE
AND
CAKE

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



Tuesday 24th September
10am to 12pm



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

All Saints Church 6-8 December

*Would your club, society, or community like to
sponsor and decorate a tree?*

Please let us know by 9 September

Lots of exciting plans for a fabulous festival !

Email linnbaker@gmail.com Tel: 07795383945



Boldshaves Garden - Open on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday afternoons from 2-6pm. Tea Room also open whenever the garden is open.

Plenty of parking. No dogs in the garden please. If you would like to organise a guided tour for a group of friends, a gardening club or other local society, please contact us on 01233 860283.

www.boldshaves.co.uk

 **BOLDHAVES**

Bonny Cravat

Well wasn't August an absolutely stunning month!

We had our first ever music festival in aid of Sands - still birth and neonatal death charity and we'd like to say a huge thank you to absolutely everyone who was involved, donated raffle prizes, helped us set up and came to support us on the day! Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised an astonishing £3,845.00!!! We are absolutely overwhelmed with this amount and can't thank you all enough. This money will help so many families who are going through such horrendous times! Thank you all again and we hope to see you all again next year for another great day!



September seems to have come round very quickly and before we know it Halloween will be here and then Christmas!!! But before that, we have some brilliant music lined up for you here at the Bonny. Starting off on Friday 14th September at 9pm we have the fantastic Unit 48 and then at the end of the month, DJ Chrissie, soul cat sounds on 27th from 8:30. We have such a great time on music nights so please do pop the dates in your diary and come and see us for a sing and a dance...

Thank you all again to everyone for your ongoing support, we really have had the best summer and hope you have too!

Love as always,
The Bonny family

The Six Bells Inn

BINGO AND MUSIC BINGO AT THE SIX BELLS



THURSDAY 19th SEPTEMBER EYES DOWN 7PM
WITH JOHNNY QUO

6 GAME BOOKS FOR £6
5 GAMES OF NORMAL BINGO & 1 GAME OF MUSIC BINGO
BIG PRIZES FOR ALL WINNERS

PROCEEDS TO WOODCHURCH VILLAGE GREEN
PAVILION FUND

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR TABLE WITH THE SIX BELLS



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 6th 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.

Jean, Becky and Adam would like to thank everyone who came to Philip's farewell.

We were overwhelmed by the love and support from family and friends. The village community was outstanding in showing their care which meant so much to us in making Philip's farewell special.

We would also like to thank Reverend Sue for a wonderful service and The Six Bells Pub for working so hard and looking after everyone

DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING

Monday 16th September

10am- 1130am

Old Post Office Coffee Shop
Woodchurch
TN26 3PA



The Dementia Experience CIC
www.dementia-experience.com
clara@dementia-experience.com

**Come & join others who
have family members
with dementia**



For those of you with a sweet tooth, Annabel will be coming to Woodchurch MP on Monday 7th October to give a Halloween-themed cupcake decorating workshop.

Do come along and give it a try!

The pre season continues.

Our first team have now played two fixtures, winning away at Elham 2 0 and away at Ticehurst 4 3. Ticehurst are in the East Sussex league but Elham are considered to be a title contender in our league, so a very good result.

The reserves have also played a couple of times winning both home and away against Lenham reserves and winning at home to local rivals Smarden.

The last pre season friendly is on the 1st September with the first team taking on the reserves.

Our Sunday team have also had 2 wins, away at Ticehurst and at home v Mersham reserves both victories 4 2.

Meanwhile our walking football team had an entertaining 7 5 victory over newly formed Cheriton.

Our lottery draw will take place next week, so the results will be in next month's newsletter



From the NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

I am very grateful for the opportunity to connect with the residents of Woodchurch via the HUB Newsletter.

My background is a very long career in the fire service. Prevention is the key to my work. Can we prevent crimes in the first place? If they occur, can we prevent further crimes whilst helping to provide as much assistance for the detection of crimes and the criminals that blight all communities. Then issue further crime prevention advice from lessons learnt from crimes that have occurred.

Some of the crime trends to be alert and vigilant for are set out below. Please, remember criminals will look for our vulnerable residents in the community, especially our elderly and those who live alone.

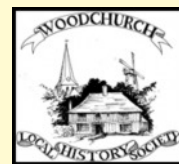
- ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
- CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- THEFT FROM VEHICLES, LEAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON SHOW IN A PARKED CAR. VANS CARRYING TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT ARE AT RISK
- THEFTS FROM GARAGES, SHEDS, BARNs, STABLES AND OUTBUILDINGS
- THEFTS OF INTERNET SHOPPING PARCELS FROM DOORSTEPS (VANS ARE NOW FOLLOWED, EVEN REMOTE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTIES ARE VULNERABLE)

Please join Neighbourhood Watch it is completely free. My contact details are below. Please report all crimes and attempted crimes, we must know what is happening to be able to offer help and advice and importantly further crime prevention advice.



Peter New. (peternew1@aol.com and 07768437422
Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch.

Woodchurch Local History Society



The Woodchurch Local History Society will recommence our programme of talks on Monday September 2nd after our summer break. The society generally meets on the first Monday of the month in the Woodchurch Memorial Hall at 7:30pm. Our next talk on September 2nd is 'The Strange Story of Hastings 'America Ground' by Ken Brooks. Ken has been to us before on two occasions and he is a hugely respected expert on the history of Hastings. The story of 'America Ground' at Hastings starts in the late 1700's and eventually



peters out by 1835. A large patch of land in the centre of Hastings town seemed to have no owner and this encouraged numerous smugglers, fishermen, squatters and workmen to settle on it.

They led a lawless life living in shacks and ship hulks. They tried to claim American style independence but were defeated by the Government in 1835. If you are interested in this strange and unique story then please come along to our meeting.

Our talks programme continues on Monday October 7th when Nathalie Cohen will give us a presentation on 'Archaeology and 2000 years of History at Smallhythe'. Nathalie was the leader of a National Trust excavation at Smallhythe investigating the Roman and Tudor age remains at the site.

Lastly, at our November 4th meeting we are scheduled to hear Keith Swallow talk about 'Nanny Goat Island'. This was the name given to Dungeness when the area was more isolated than it is now. Keith has written a book about the little known history of the area, mainly during the 19th century.

You are very welcome to come to any of these talks as a visitor by paying £3 at the door. There is no need to book - just turn up on the night at the door. We also welcome new members. As these lectures constitute a half year's programme we are able to offer half-yearly membership at £6. This arrangement will last up to December.

We look forward to seeing you.

Geoff [01233 860393](tel:01233860393).

Tai Chi For You

NEW Tai Chi 4 Beginners Class

STARTS Monday 1055am 9th Sept

Woodchurch Community Hall

Suitable for all ages & levels of fitness

E:Taichiforyou.co.uk M:07587 167756

Woodchurch Village Shed

Great news, the Woodchurch Village Shed now has a shed. It is on site, the first phase of electrics have gone in. We are waiting for a few additional bits to go in before we clad and insulate it. Then second phase electrics can be completed and tested.



We have had a visit from head of Medway Sheds who gave us some good tips. On the 31st August we have a small team coming from Tenterden Shed offering ideas and looking to see what we have done as they are building a new shed too.

On 22nd we have a representative from Axminster Tools coming along to give us some advice on a successful workshop set up and Safety.

Following that we need to start more fund raising to help us fit a good workshop/shed.

We meet on a Thursday morning from 10am to 1pm, tea/coffee and biscuits available. Just £3 a session.

Best wishes, Neil - 07717 861319

WOODCHURCH REMEMBERS



The 17th September 2024 marks the 80th Anniversary of the of Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem part of the campaign that liberated Western Europe from German Occupation.

During the battle one of our villagers, Pte Amos Fairbrother was recorded as Missing in Action while serving with the 2nd South Staffordshire Regt. Amos originally from London and living in Appledore, was courting Hilda Chaplin from Woodchurch before the War and played for the highly successful 1937 Woodchurch Football Team. He married Hilda in the Village Church in 1940 and then enlisted for the duration of the War. He transferred to the elite Airborne forces in 1944 anxious to see active service. One of the aims of Operation Market Garden was to capture the launch sites of V1 and V2s in Holland. This would have been particularly resonant with Amos who had seen the devastation caused by V1 to his beloved village while on leave to visit his wife and family.

Having landed by Glider near Arnhem on 18th Sep, he was reported missing on the 19th when he was last seen in the heavy fighting around the St Elizabeth's hospital when his unit was desperately attempting to relieve the 2nd Bn the Parachute Regt at Arnhem Bridge. Sadly Amos has no known grave.



His surviving daughter who still lives in Woodchurch has been invited by the South Staffordshire Association and the people of Arnhem on the weekend 19th-21st September to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by her father.

The next meeting of Woodchurch Remembers will be on Tuesday 17th September at 7pm in the Six Bells where we will pause to remember Amos.

For membership enquiries please call Don on 07796 228212.



*Please join
us in
celebrating*

Woodchurch on The Green **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

Join in with our Carol Singers

Something for the whole family including our

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, 30th November 2024

3pm 'til 6pm (Tree switch on 5pm)

ON THE GREEN AND IN THE CAR PARK

Margaret Morris Movement

Margaret Morris Movement - Gentle exercise for the over 50's have been having a break in August and September. We will be returning on 3rd October - Alannah

Woodchurch Yard Together ("WYT")

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

21st & 22nd

September

In August Woodchurch WI members went to Godinton House for a tour of the house and gardens followed by a cream tea.

The Godinton Estate consists of gardens and parkland in Great Chart on the outskirts of Ashford. Originally built as a Tudor hall house it now boasts many 17th century features and a 20th century garden designed by Bloomfield. Overtime the various owners have added additional wings and changed the facade.

In the 1400s the first owners were the Toke family. Captain Nicholas Toke, one of the many Toke descendants, had the longest continuous residency. By 1896 the house was owned by the Ashley Dodds who began the most extensive structural alterations. Mrs. Bruce Ward purchased the house in 1917 and her grandson Alan Wyndham Green inherited the property in 1951. Before he died (leaving no heirs) he was able to set up the Godinton Preservation Trust securing the house and its porcelain collection of Sevres and Royal Worcester, plus the gardens and parkland for the public's benefit.

Two excellent and well informed guides showed members the splendidly carved wooden paneling, portraits of the various owners and many of the downstairs reception rooms. Upstairs (in his bedroom) we traced Alan Wyndham Green's life story through his uniforms and the many different hats he had worn throughout his life, all strategically placed over his bed canopy. In the final room of our tour we saw a photo of Margaret Thatcher when she visited Godinton.



Following this very interesting tour, where we had learned so much, we retired to the tea room for a delicious afternoon cream tea or cheese scones. This was a most enjoyable summer event.

The next meeting will be 10th September - "Grandma's Workbox" by Jean Surrey. There will be two competitions - Something beginning with W, and for the Group Meeting Competition "A decorated child's trainer".

Do visit our Facebook page or check out our programme for 2024 on our website at woodchurchwi.weebly.com

We look forward to meeting you soon.

STOP PRESS!! - "SONGS FROM THE SHOWS"

11th /12th October 7.30 at Woodchurch Memorial Hall

Tickets have just been released and can be purchased through Ticketsource, the Woodchurch Player's Website, or Woodchurch HUB!

An ensemble of local, Kentish talent, will be coming together - for 2 nights only, to delight you with a dazzling selection of Musical Theatre songs, - from the very best of Broadway and West-End shows! From sparkling, sultry evenings in New York City, - ...with highlights from the powerful, 'West Side Story,' to the joys of, 'Guy's and Dolls,' - from the jazzy joints of 'Chicago,' - 'Cabaret' in Berlin, and much much more.

This promises to be a outstanding evening of song! - So - DO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS WHILST THEY ARE AVAILABLE! ??

In Memory of Bob Turk

08.04.1938 - 13.08.2024

Bob married his wife Judy in the All Saints Church, Woodchurch in 1959 and they were the first couple to have their wedding reception in the "new" Village Hall.

In 1963, Bob and Judy moved into Woodchurch following an invitation from his father-in-law William "Bill" Clark to work with him at "The Limes" poultry farm.



Bob and Judy had three children, Linda, Janet and Alison and they all attended the local primary school. Bob, with his easy and engaging nature, quickly involved himself in many of the local community activities. He was head of the primary school's Parent Teacher Association during which time he campaigned for the funds and was part of the team of volunteers who assisted in building the primary school's swimming pool. He was an active member of the Badminton Club, and, a highlight of Bob's year was preparing for and participating in the Woodchurch Carnival, for which, with his friend Den Harman, they created the original rolling horse which many of the villagers have grown to love over the years.

Although Bob worked away in Glasgow and Preston for many years, Woodchurch was always home. He fully embraced village life, attending dances, coffee mornings, enjoying visits to the coffee shop and latterly donating two trees at Christmas to the Village Green for everyone's enjoyment.

Bob had a gift for making everyone feel special and always gave the warmest, kindest welcome. He was the centre point for his family and will be sadly missed.

The service for Bob will be held at 11:30am on Wednesday 4th September at All Saints Church.



Woodchurch Scout Group

Race Night

6th October 2024

7pm Doors Open. First Race 7.30pm
Woodchurch Scout and Guide Hall

Tickets

£5 per Adult
£12 Family

Pay on Door



Food and Drink
Available

Twin Oaks

Your Local Handy Man & Gardening Services

Gardening Services



Mowing/ Strimming
Hedge Cutting
Weeding
Fencing/ Fence Maintenance
General Clearance



Bespoke Garden Features (*Pergolas, Bird Feeders, Dove Cotes etc.*)

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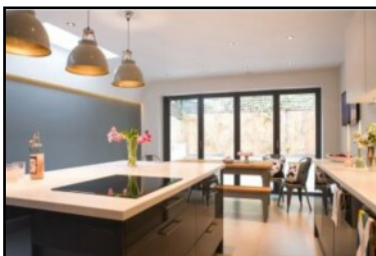


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These are walk-in sessions so you do not need to book.
For more information please contact The HUB.

WOODCHURCH VILLAGE LIFE MUSEUM

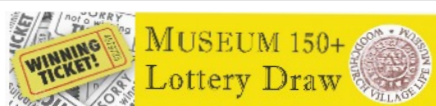
August is the penultimate lottery draw for 2024.



In order to clarify our end/beginning dates WVLM committee has decided to change to a January to December draw with a £20 annual subscription. We hope you still consider this good value with the 3 monthly prizes of £50, £30 and £20. Without your subscriptions, your donations when you visit and your support of any fund- raising events, our unique village museum would not exist. Our annual commitments for such things as insurance, alarm systems, services, conservation and general maintenance is well over £8,000.

We will still be welcoming visitors at the weekends until the end of October and are very happy to see people at our regular Wednesday 'housekeeping' mornings. Come and have a look around then, if you can't make the weekends.

Contact: enquiries@woodchurchheritagetrust.uk or phone 01233 860586 to arrange group visits or if you have any queries about the museum.



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 or 01233 861381

August 2024 Draw Results

1st prize	£50	Ivan Pilcher	413
2nd prize	£30	Brenda Hanks	283
3rd prize	£20	Ann Sharp	85



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Village Lost Property at The HUB

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

Woodchurch Windmill Update

Whilst it has been several months since we were last able to post any information regarding the windmill, after sustained lobbying by ourselves, the Parish Council and our local Borough Councillors, Ashford Borough Council finally agreed to a face to face meeting to update us of progress they had made since the last zoom meeting, over a year ago.



Unfortunately, as the minutes of the meeting below indicate, they have achieved no positive progress towards the mill restoration. Further, it is apparent that they are either unable, through financial constraints, or unwilling to work towards any resolution that would kick start any restoration works.

They are committed to "divesting" themselves of the mill at "market value" and commit the purchaser to full restoration, even though ABC has not committed any funding towards upkeep of the mill for the last 5 years. Even if the trustees of any charitable trust were to take on this proposal that would introduce personal liability which would be untenable, unless a generous benefactor was involved.

Whilst the mill remains in ABC ownership it complicates the viability of undertaking fundraising by third parties (eg, the Society of Friends of Woodchurch Windmill charity) to undertake work on the mill which would just serve to increase the market value of the mill for "divestment", to possible third parties.

We will continue to work as a team to try to achieve a satisfactory outcome, to result in restoration of the mill, but at the moment we are being stonewalled by a negative approach to these goals by Ashford Borough Council.

Meeting of Meeting With ABC 31st July 2024

Present. Woodchurch: Ian Philo, Wade Nash, Rob Woods, Mel Bailey.
ABC: Simon Betty, David Kemp, Victoria Cooper-Samways, David Ledger, Aline Hicks.

Woodchurch Mill representatives have been trying to get answers from ABC for the past 5 years, with ABC failing to provide any constructive response. At the last meeting, held on 24th August 2023, ABC recommended the sale of windmill.

<<comment: the divestment strategy for the mill has been has been agreed at ABC cabinet level. However, subsequently the decision to sell was deferred, with no reason offered>>.

It was highlighted that the budget at ABC remains severely constrained, and going forward they would like to seek a buyer on

the open market or at auction to achieve the correct market value. However, when pressed they were unable to suggest a guide price when asked. It was noted that the windmill has several restrictive covenants attached to its ownership, which would impact on the value. ABC would require any prospective buyer to abide by these covenants and listing requirements despite having allowed the mill to fall into disrepair.

Following storm damage in January 2019, ABC had the sails and fan tail removed, for safety reasons. ABC to date has made no attempt to make an insurance claim for the storm damage which would go some way to relieve the financial burden.

It is thought that up to £300,000 would require spending to bring the structure back to the condition when it was listed. If the mill were to fail to realise a bid at auction it remains unclear what value ABC would put on the mill given that any buyer would have to assume ALL repair costs.

ABC would not object to the mill being declared an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

It was noted that KCC had brought some of their mills up to scratch, and would be useful to ascertain how much KCC spent on the repair of each one.

<<comment: The KCC budget for maintenance and repair of the 7/8 windmills in their ownership has, we believe, been of the order of £2.5-£3million over the period since Woodchurch Windmill was damaged. Meopham windmill has recently had replacement sails, cap and fantail under KCC funding>>

It was suggested to ABC that the Mill should be added to the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register. This would add to the wider, formal, awareness of the plight of the Mill.

Action points.

- ABC to discover the KCC renovations cost of Meopham mill.
- ABC to look into why no insurance claim made and if one can be made now.
- Woodchurch to proceed with registration as an ACV.

A further meeting was penciled in for 2 months.

Mel Bailey
Chairman, The Society of Friends of Woodchurch Windmill

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