



WOODCHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

Our village community working together

December 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 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

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:

ZUMBA 9:30am in the Memorial Hall

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 2nd **When We Were Young** - 10:30am in the Memorial Hall Annexe

Thu 5th **WLHS - Members Evening** - 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall

Fri 6th **Social Prescribers** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm in The HUB

Christmas Tree Festival - Until 8th at All Saints Church

Music at The Bonny - 7:00pm

Sat 7th **A Truly Magical Christmas** at the Rare Breeds Centre

Sun 8th **Family Fun Celebration** - 10:00am at All Saints Church

Candlelight Prayer - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

Tue 10th **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

Bonny Quiz Night - 7:00pm at the Bonny Cravat

WI - Lasso around the Moon - 7:15pm in the Memorial Hall

Sat 14th **Woodchurch Players** Evening of fun and Christmas - in the Memorial Hall

"Billy No Mates" meal at The Six Bells

Sun 15th **Carols and Mulled Wine** - 6:00pm at All Saints Church

Mon 16th **Dementia Coffee Morning** - 10:00am in the Coffee Shop

When We Were Young - 10:30am in the Memorial Hall Annexe

Tue 17th **Evening Prayer** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

Quiz Night at The Six Bells - 7:00pm at The Six Bells

Wed 18th **Songhaven Festive Concert** - 2:00pm at Woodchurch House

Thu 19th **Village Shed Open Day** - 10:00am at the S&G Community Centre

Parish Council Meeting - 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe

Sat 21st **Christmas Concert** - 2:30pm at the Jean Mealham Centre

Carols by Candlelight and Allen Theatre Organ Concert - 7:00pm at the Jean Mealham Centre

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

Tue 24th **Family Nativity** - 4:00pm at All Saints Church

Wed 25th **Morning Worship** - 10:00am at All Saints Church

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





The next Parish Council Meeting is on 19th December at 7pm in the Memorial Hall Annexe.

Windmill Latest



The Parish Council has applied to have the windmill designated as an Asset of Community Value. The Legal and Democracy Division at Ashford Borough Council has now validated the application, and we will hear by 15th January 2025 as to whether the mill has been added to the List of Assets of Community Value.

In the meantime, the "Portfolio Holders" at Ashford Borough Council, who are responsible for the windmill, have deferred putting the sale recommendation before Cabinet to next year. We are still keen to hear any comments you may have, please contact the Clerk on: clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk

An Update on The Hub Work and The Carpark

Work has commenced on installing a new cable to The Hub building, but unfortunately UKPN encountered a major problem and all work has come to halt while we await UKPN to resolve the issue. This has meant that the toilet refurbishment has also been delayed. The latter is now hopefully due to commence the first week in January. We apologise for any inconvenience caused while work is ongoing.



The Preliminary Budget



At this time of the year, you will be hearing a lot about precepts. The precept is the portion of your council tax that is allocated to parish councils to cover the running costs of the village that the parish councils carry out for the residents.

The preliminary 2025-26 budget was presented at the 28th November Meeting. The Parish Council will be considering a number of options open with regard to the remainder of earmarked funds. The Parish Council will finalise the budget, deciding the precept request over the coming months.

Community Wardens

Following the decision by Kent County Council to withdraw the Community Warden from several wards including Woodchurch, the Parish Council has been investigating alternative methods of reintroducing one to the village. Please contact the Clerk with any views you may have on the subject.



Supporting Your Community

The Parish Council has been providing support to your local groups and organisations around Woodchurch. Apart from physical support the Parish Council has been awarding grants and donations. Unfortunately this year's budget for financial support has been exhausted, however there will be fresh funds available from April 2025.

Please see the Parish Council Website for the Grants and Donations Policy and the application form.

Ever Thought of Becoming a Councillor?

We currently have a vacancy for someone to join a dynamic council.

If you are motivated in serving and helping your local community then this is an excellent opportunity. There are no formal qualifications required. If you have any interest or questions then please email the Clerk on clerk@woodchurch-pc.gov.uk

Recent Planning Applications We Have Considered

Application	Location	Parish Council	Ashford Planning
AP-90667	CALA Homes	Object strongly due to potential flooding	Upheld the appeal
PA/2024/1651	Newlands, Redbrook Street	Support	Approved with Conditions
PA/2024/1859	Newlands, Redbrook Street	Support	Approved with Conditions
PA/2024/1795	Keepers End, Shadoxhurst Road	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1788	Swallow Barn, Boldshaves Lane	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1795	Keepers End, Shadoxhurst Road	Support	Approved with conditions
PA/2024/17772	37 The Green	Continue to Object	Waiting Decision
AP-9-702 3351385	Balcony Farm, Haycross Lane	Object	Waiting Decision
NOT/2024/2043	Vernacular Homes Ltd, The Spinneys, Susans Hill	Support providing application meets all housing policy requirements	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/1988	64 Lower Road	Support	Waiting Decision
PA/2024/2135 & PA/2024/2142	Fairview, Bethersden Road	Support	Waiting Decision

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.woodchurch-pc.gov.uk/contact-us/



From the Woodchurch Museum Archives A snippet from January 1899 Parish Magazine

Very faint praise indeed for the Parish Council during 1898, presumably from the Rector !

"The Parish Council pursues the even tenor of its way, if it has not yet done any great amount of good it has been useful in small matters, and has had at least the merit of not running counter to the wishes of the majority of the Parishioners."

WOODCHURCH SURGERY UPDATE

December in the NHS is full of anticipation. Having just completed the busy flu and covid clinics we wonder how long we can pause for before the winter chesty coughs kick in.

There is a national "antibiotic stewardship" scheme which tries to reduce the number of antibiotics prescribed to reduce potential side effects and most importantly to reduce drug resistance. TARGET stands for "Treat Antibiotics with Respect; Guidance, Education and Tools" and there are a number of patient leaflets designed by the Royal College of GPs to offer guidance for common conditions.



For example, most infections do clear up by themselves and just need a bit of supportive care to help symptoms: Middle ear infections within 7-8 days; Sore Throat 7-8 days; Sinusitis 14-21 days; Common Cold 14 days; Cough or Bronchitis 3-4 weeks.



The leaflets are widely distributed to pharmacies and can be found [on the RCGP website](https://www.rcgp.org.uk) (although not very easily). There are also resources on www.antibioticguardian.com around antibiotic use and a detailed booklet for parents available by searching for "whenshouldiworrybooklet". Looking at all these resources, they seem to give sensible advice.

The big news from the Surgery is that we have introduced a new dispensing system called Titan. This has been in the ether for several months but finally it went live on 4th November. I take my hat off to the dispensary team who have got to grips with it in super-fast time.



The prescriptions link electronically and the process adds a number of layers that help deal with medication safely. I really appreciate the patience that has been shown by everyone and strongly believe that it will lead to a safer, more effective process. There is a built-in messaging system that should notify you when it is ready, however there are some gremlins within - I apologise to the people that received multiple messages and have opted out of this until we know it is working properly.

We have a new trainee, Dr Suraj B K, who will start in December and I am sure you will all give him the Woodchurch Welcome.

We are human too and also hugely excited in anticipation of Christmas, along with all the festivities that go along with it.

Merry Christmas on behalf of the team at the Surgery,

Jack Hickey - GP

www.woodchurchsurgery.co.uk
01233 860236



TREATING YOUR RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION (RTI)



Your infection

- ☐ Middle-ear infection
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Sinusitis
- ☐ Common cold
- ☐ Cough or bronchitis
- ☐ Other infection

Most are better by

- 7 to 8 days
- 7 to 8 days
- 14 to 21 days
- 14 days
- 3 to 4 weeks
- Days

How to look after yourself and your family

Have plenty of rest
Drink enough fluids to avoid feeling thirsty
Ask your local pharmacist to recommend medicines to help reduce your symptoms or pain (or both)
Fever is a sign your body is fighting the infection. It usually gets better by itself in most cases. You can use paracetamol if you (or your

child) are uncomfortable because of a fever
Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes and wash your hands with soap to help prevent spreading infection to your family, friends and other people

Never share antibiotics and always return any unused antibiotics to a pharmacy for them to dispose of safely.

When to get help

If any of the below apply to you or your child, get an urgent assessment from a healthcare professional. If your child is under the age of 5, go to A&E immediately or call 999.

Your skin is very cold or has a strange colour, or you develop an unusual rash
You have new feelings of confusion or drowsiness or have slurred speech
You have difficulty breathing. Signs that suggest breathing problems include:
breathing quickly
turning blue around the lips and the skin below the mouth
skin between or above the ribs getting sucked or pulled in with every breath

If you (or your child) have any of the following symptoms, are getting worse or are sicker than you would expect (even if your temperature falls), trust your instincts and get medical advice urgently from NHS 111 or your GP.

You develop a severe headache and are sick
You have a red, swollen tongue
You have redness, swelling and pain around the eyes or the ears
You develop chest pain
You have difficulty swallowing or are drooling
You cough up blood
You are peeing very little, or not at all
You are feeling a lot worse
Your child has a middle-ear infection and fluid is coming out of their ears or they have new deafness

Less serious signs that can usually wait until you visit a pharmacist or your next available appointment

You are not starting to improve a little by the time given in the 'Most are better by' column in the table above
You have mild side effects such as diarrhoea. Get advice from a healthcare professional if concerned

Back-up antibiotic collection

Back-up antibiotic prescription to be collected after days from / only if you are not starting to feel a little better or you feel worse.

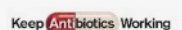
Colds, most coughs, sinusitis, ear infections, sore throats, and other infections often get better without antibiotics, as your body can usually fight these infections on its own

If you need antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed. Never save them for later and do not share them with others. For more information, visit: www.antibioticguardian.com.

Why it is important to take antibiotics as prescribed

Taking any antibiotics makes bacteria that live inside your body more resistant. This means that antibiotics may not work when you really need them.

Antibiotics can cause side effects such as rashes, thrush, stomach pains, diarrhoea, reactions to sunlight, other symptoms, or being sick if you drink alcohol with the antibiotic metronidazole.





Reverend Sue revsuetose@outlook.com 07748 982128
 Reverend Mike mikeredrose63@hotmail.com 07846 601141
 Reverend Maria denswoodcurate@gmail.com 07716 815275



Woodchurch Village Shed

Just a quick update on the progress of the Village Shed. Since the last Newsletter we have managed to have the second phase of the electrics installed. We now have serious light and a plethora of electric sockets. We are in the process of fitting an all weather canopy to help protect us against the outside elements. The next steps are to start work in kitting out the Shed itself. We are fortunate to have had a number of donations from people in the village to help us on our way. We still need considerable funds and materials to help us get up and running in serious style, as they say, "Slowly, slowly catchee monkey." We will get there in the end.



We are planning to have a kind of open day on Thursday 19th December from 10 am to approx 1pm. There will be mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls and a selection of hot and cold drinks. Due to the time of year and space we do have limited space so if you are interested in coming along can you please book a place via my email, neilmckay0730@gmail.com by the 14th December 2024 please.

We are at the Scouts and Guides Community Centre, Lower Road.

Best wishes Neil

neilmckay0730@gmail.com

07717 861319

WOODCHURCH REMEMBERS



The year is drawing to a close so a quick review is in order along with a word about hopes for 2025.

Before going any further thank you to everyone who contributed in any way toward Remembrance Day on Sunday 10th November, either by assisting us or attending to pay tribute at the War Memorial. I apologise for the technical hitch that left us without a bugle call, leading to some confusion, it certainly won't happen again. Strictly it was not technical, but the lack of a bugler/trumpeter. If anyone can help us with this I will be very grateful and I can in fact supply a trumpet. On a happier note your generosity at the church service raised £230.44p for the Poppy Appeal. You will see in the photo below that we have arranged the poppy wreaths and secured them against the wind; they will be removed in January and appropriately disposed of.



In March, we held a ceremony to plant an English Oak to commemorate the American Airmen who lost their lives in the crash of a Liberator Bomber in 1944. We erected a roll of honour of all airmen from various nations who fell while serving at Woodchurch Airfield. There is more to come on this subject as we research it further, so watch out for details in future newsletters.

This just leaves me on behalf of Woodchurch Remembers to wish everyone in Woodchurch a very Happy Christmas and the very best for 2025.

Margaret Morris Movement Gentle exercise classes will continue as normal on Thursdays at 12:15 pm in the Scout and Guide Community Hall

Surgery Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm



**Hamstreet
Dental Clinic**

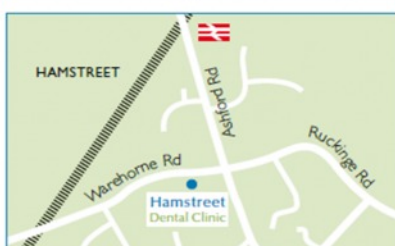
Welcomes You



Where to find us...

Hamstreet Dental Clinic
Warehorne Road
Hamstreet
Kent TN26 2JJ

Find us on facebook



Tel: 01233 733848
Email: hamstreetdentalclinic@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Bureau At Woodchurch HUB

Ashford Citizens Advice now holds regular, confidential consultation clinics at Woodchurch HUB on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 1pm to 3pm.

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

Please note that there will not be a clinic in December
Any enquiries please call the office main on 01233 626185

In November, Woodchurch WI learned all about silver-smithing with a talk and demonstration given by Helen Sharp. After a career as a BBC journalist Helen explored a variety of crafts from spinning and soap making before finally settling on silver-smithing. She showed the simple tools required to make her jewellery. These included pliers, cutters, a cook's blow torch, a mandril for sizing rings plus different hammers used to create textured effects within the silver. There are two sources of silver; aiming for sustainability over mined ore Helen uses silver recycled from NHS X-rays.



Having demonstrated how to cut and solder wire for a ring, Helen went on to describe the ways in which stones are set. A gypsy set is whereby the stone is inset flush with the ring surface. Another type of setting is within a "cup" on a mount. Members were fascinated by the amount of silver jewellery Helen had brought to sell and took advantage of some pre-Christmas retail therapy. A fascinating talk!

Our Christmas meeting and festive talk is on December 10th 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall when we welcome back Pete Allen. His presentation entitled "A Lasso Around the Moon" tells how, on its release, the film "It's a Wonderful Life" was a box office disaster but has since gone on to become as much part of Christmas as mince pies and carols.

The committee and members wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year are looking forward to seeing you at our meetings in 2025.

Find our website at Woodchurchwi.weebly.com or our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WoodchurchWomen'sInstituteEastKent

Bonny Cravat

Christmas is nearly upon us and we have a few exciting events we'd like to get you know about happening at the Bonny this month.

First off on Friday 6th December we have DJ Chrissie with her amazing disco and karaoke. Following on from that on Tuesday 10th December we have the return of our quiz night. Starting at 7pm so be sure to book your teams in now.

As we mentioned before, the Bonny will be closed on Christmas Day this year, however will be open and serving food all day on Boxing Day!

And just like that we will be saying goodbye to 2024 and welcoming 2025. To do this, DJ Chrissie will be back on New Year's Eve seeing us in to the new year with some amazing tunes. Come up for a night of drinking, dancing and great entertainment!

Thank you for all of your support during 2024. We hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! Love as always, The Bonny

Christmas

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Christmas Supper Club

Friday 13th December

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT & CAROLS

Celebrate Christmas with a
carol singalong,
organ concert by Chris & Jo Powell,
festive lights, delicious treats
& good cheer!

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

2:30 PM - CONCERT ON THE
ALLEN THEATRE ORGAN

7:00 PM - CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
FOLLOWED BY ALLEN THEATRE
ORGAN CONCERT

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



The Six Bells Inn

It only feels like yesterday when we were putting up the Christmas Decorations in The Bells. They do say time goes faster as you get older and how very true that is. All of us here at The Bells have thoroughly enjoyed the time which we have spent with all of our customers over the past year and we have one more month of 2024 to make more memories.

Firstly, we wanted to just say a few words about November, we started with 10th November and Remembrance Sunday, Matt and Co came back to prepare the Traditional Sunday Roast and I cannot thank everyone enough for the amazing day which everyone here experienced. Without fantastic staff and the amazing community spirit and of course "The Special Customers" Woodchurch, The Bells and The Bonny would not be what they are, so a Huge "Thank You" from all of us xx

The Quiz Night was organised chaos as always but full of laughter, with improvised question reading due to the microphone not behaving itself again !! But you will all be pleased to know that the microphone has now been retired so hopefully no more technical problems for the Quiz Tuesday 17th December!!

We have our Annual "Billy No Mates" meal Saturday 14th December so if you would like to enquire more then please do speak to any of us about it (not sure if this is politically correct anymore but it is a Tradition so we'll carry on until we are told otherwise).

We do have some "Special Nights" coming up but the details are yet to be finalised but following the success of our first Candlelight Acoustic Night, we have some more evening planned which will be rather interesting !

Now, New Years Eve, we have the Thaiso Food Truck coming again from 5.30pm to 10.30 pm or until they have sold out so, please pop in early to avoid disappointment This will be accompanied with the amazing voice of "Hannah" who will be seeing us into the New Year.

Finally, Merry Christmas to one and all, why not come and enjoy the Traditional Decorations and relax with old and new friends, we cannot thank you enough for making every day and every month memorable so this is an enormous thank you from all of us to all of you.

With Love as Always

Gillian's Coffee Morning - A date for your diary

Saturday 22nd February 2025 at the Memorial Hall
In aid of



More details next month

DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING

Come & join others
who have family members
with dementia



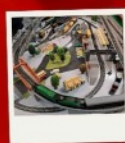
Old Post Office Coffee Shop
Woodchurch
TN26 3PA

Monday 16th December
10am- 1130am

Christmas Wonderland At The Jean Mealham Centre Lower Road, Woodchurch TN26 3BQ

Christmas festive displays

Throughout December
Weekdays between 2.00-4.00pm



▲ Miniature train set
display



▲ Magical light displays



▲ Mega Marquee will be
open for tonnes of bargains

▲ Loads of car parking



Free entry!
Donations welcome

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mince pies

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www.woodchurchhub.uk or contact The HUB

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musclewhisperer@outlook.com



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.



YOU DREAM IT, WE PLAN IT

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Pre-booking is essential

Visit Father Christmas in his elf-built grotto
EVERY WEEKEND from 16th Nov until 24th Dec.
Entry £12.50 per child, includes magical Christmas tree experience and age-appropriate gift
BOOKING REQUIRED

SEN GROTTO OPENING
WE BELIEVE CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE FUN, SAFE AND MAGICAL FOR ALL.
This year for SEN children and their families we are offering grotto visits between 10am - 3.30pm
Sunday 17th November and 9am - 10am Saturday 7th & Monday 16th December, sessions are marked gold in the booking system. **BOOKING REQUIRED**



Limited weekday sessions are available! See the booking engine for further details

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An encouraging run of results sees Woodchurch Firsts tied in first place with 2 other teams at the top of the Ashford league before the league splits into two after Christmas. Reserves are going well too, currently sitting in 8th, which would put them second after the split.



The walking football teams have had mixed results. The over 50s are currently sitting 6th in their league, however the over 60s are second behind Herne Bay in their respective league.

Our lottery has finished for the year and we will be restarting it the early part of the year coming.

We are really sorry that we were unable to run the dinner that we normally put on in the village. Our head chef was taken unwell and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Thank you very much for all the support we have received and we would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a safe and lovely Christmas.

[Join us this festive season at the Rare Breeds Centre!](#)

This December, our much-loved Truly Magical Christmas event returns, bringing magic and joy to the whole family! Step into our enchanting grotto, where little ones can enjoy an interactive experience with Santa and his cheeky elves. Every paying child will receive a special gift from Santa himself, and you can capture the moment with a professional photo to cherish forever.



But the fun doesn't stop there! Explore our festively decorated farm, packed with exciting activities for all ages. Follow our Christmas World Trail, get creative with seasonal crafts, and indulge in delicious festive treats from our Granary Restaurant.

Looking for indoor fun? You can now book Soft Play sessions without paying full entry to the farm! Even better, Soft Play will remain open on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout winter, when the rest of the farm is closed.

And there's more! This December, spend just £5 or more on weekdays at the Granary Restaurant, and you'll receive a free kid's lunch box. This offer is open to all visitors, including members. Visit our website for T&C's.

Don't miss out on the magic, book your tickets today and celebrate the festive season with us at the Rare Breeds Centre!

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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 once a week, every two weeks or simply 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

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Peter New (peternew1@aol.com)
Community Neighbourhood Watch

1. Father Christmas as we all know often stores extra Christmas presents in residents sheds.... **Criminals know this!!**



2. Residents store extra drink supplies in the run up to Christmas and New Year in sheds and garages **Criminals know this!!**

3. Christmas shoppers leave items in cars then going off for lunch before continuing shopping. **Criminals know this!**

4. Packing cars to travel the night before, **criminals will be aware and looking for targets.**

5. On Christmas day children playing with new Xmas gifts and leaving them outside properties and then going in for Xmas Lunch. **Criminals will drive around in vans and pick up items to hand.**

These are the types of risks we criminals will target. **CARS, VANS, SHEDS, GARAGES, BARNS, STABLES and any EXTERNAL STORAGE.**

Stay alert and vigilant as we head to Christmas when we have a great deal on our minds and our concentration can have lapses that criminals will prey on.

We also know that Internet shopping parcels and courier fraud will increase in the run into Christmas and then the January sales



REPORTING INCIDENTS and CRIMES including failed attempts at crime

My constant battle through 2024 has been getting people across the whole District to report all crimes no matter how small even attempts/failed crimes or near misses.

That project will need to become a crusade as we move into 2025.

THE POLICE ARE NOT CLAIRVOYANT! They must be told. Even if they cannot make a response immediately the information builds up patterns and trends and identifies "hot spots" It can help the police develop proactive patrols or can filter to people in Neighbourhood Watch like me to issue crime prevention advice to communities.

Stop making judgements "they won't come" "they are not interested"

If you report incidents, you will get a crime number or reference number.

If you feel you have not had the service you expected, with a crime number it can be followed on.

Please see helpful guidance below.

If in any doubt or you see a crime about to happen or in progress, make that a 999 call. Any doubts use 999 Force Control will be able to prioritise responses on operational activity.

Too many times people write what they have seen on Facebook can formally ask the question and follow up on but do not call the police.

Why I struggle with this is in my 35 years in the fire service nobody ever wrote on Facebook "the house opposite me is on fire" they rang 999 for the Fire Brigade.

The best example in the Woodchurch area would be hearing from the community that "drug deals" and "drug deliveries" are happening in the Woodchurch Village car park.

Firstly why? Well drug dealers know that in isolated car parks, especially in rural areas, they are unlikely to meet a passing police patrol car by chance as against a town area.

Sometimes those rural areas are poorly lit and there is not a great coverage of CCTV or camera doorbells. There may not be passing residents out walking late at night.

BUT - and here is the big question. Who has picked up the phone and reported what they have seen? Remember "crimes in progress" are a 999 call. I repeat myself the police are not clairvoyant! They must be called.

If they fail to respond and or act on intelligence, then the council can formally ask the question and follow it up.

PLEASE REPORT EVERYTHING

Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant

Never forget "CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN COMMUNITIES THAT CARE"

Your council care, your councillors care and residents I meet all care, and let me leave you in no doubt whatsoever...I care!

I look forward to supporting the community and council as much as I can to keep you firstly crime free as possible, but as important keeping you free from the fear of being a victim of crime also.

How can you help

To join Neighbourhood Watch in Woodchurch (which is completely free) just email me on peternew1@aol.com

May I wish each and every one of you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Thank you for your support, I really appreciate it.



Peter

Peter New

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch

Contacting Kent Police



Report a non-urgent crime or incident online at www.kent.police/report or click the **Live Chat** button



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger, call **999**



If you are hearing or speech impaired, use the textphone service **18000** or download the **BT Relay app**



Sign up to www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk to receive and respond to community alerts from your local officers



For non-urgent issues, if you are unable to get online, call **101**