

WOULDHAM PARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS DELIVERING IN THE AREA

YEAR 2024/5





Wouldham Parish Council Chairman's Report for year 2024/5

The year began with Cllr Andy Marr being elected as Vice Chair and myself being elected Chairman for another year, Unfortunately, 3 Parish Councillors were unable to attend the AGM

TRAFFIC

Throughout the past year, the Parish Speedwatch group has carried out numerous sessions and it has become apparent that trying to educate drivers is harder than we all thought possible. My very sincere thanks go to the small but dedicated team of Ian, Tony and Rose, who have now been joined by Caroline (one of our new Parish Councillors) for their efforts to bring safety to our village.

Our MP, KC Councillor, Head of Kent Speedwatch and the Police Commissioner have all attended sessions, separately, so no in fighting!

The No Entry on the High Street is now approved and signed off, although the sign NO ENTRY to some people, has the addition below "BUT NOT ME". No Entry is NO ENTRY TO ALL.

The parking problems seem to be increasing, especially Worrall Drive. The Council have put forward various solutions but so far have met with brick walls. We will keep pressing.

ROADS

We have continued to report potholes and lobby KCC to resurface Pilgrims Way and repair the speed humps along Hall Road. There has been limited success in ensuring the No Entry is suspended when diversions are in place (although it is still referred to as One Way!)

OPEN SPACES

Our Open Spaces around the Parish are a constant fight to keep cut and tidy. The money put aside for this work comes from KCC and your precept payment. Unfortunately, this total sum is not enough to carry out the work. KCC will not increase their share, so guess who must pay more.

The safety report on play equipment was cosmetic, but some items with issues were dealt with by staff and Councillors. By the time this report appears, the area around the electric substation should look a lot tidier and the fence will be completed.

The Allotment Association elected Ashley as their new Chairperson. They are being run in a new style and this has had, as usual, its teething problems.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is to return to the fold of the Parish Council, although the majority of the "ladies of the committee" will still be in charge. Our Village Hall has become a hub for the Parish offering coffee mornings, craft classes, youth clubs, judo, girl guides, brownies, and rainbows to name just a few of the regular users.

Our Parish Clerk is still arranging various educational activities for all ages and abilities with great success. All these items are for the benefit of our residents.

APPOINTMENTS

The Council appointed a Youth & Community Worker Ann-Maire Church, who has had an impact on the Parish by arranging a Summer Fayre with numerous stalls and sports events in August 2024 in the Recreation Ground. As part of her youth activities, two different aged group youth clubs have been re-started in the Parish. One in the local primary school and one in the Village Hall. Recently two trips have been arranged taking the youth club members to different venues. One group went to the Cinema and the other ten pin bowling. The Wouldham & Burham mini-coach was used for both of these excursions. Ann-Marie has also started a Chatter & Craft group and is starting to become more involved in other activities in the Parish.



Two further Parish Councillor have been appointed they are Cllr Luke Church and Cllr Caroline Collier-Ward.

Our Parish Councillors take on various duties and my thanks go to all of them for their diligence and application. We have responsibility for ground maintenance, Cllr Tracey Yard chases the company regularly, Cllr Caroline Collier-Ward on Speedwatch, Cllr Jane Miles for safety, and Cllr Luke Church for general maintenance.

ADMINISTRATION

The change of Auditor, which occurred due to our previous auditor retiring, has meant some changes to our paperwork, all of which the Parish Council has done in a certain way since year dot, although none of this affects our day to day running. Although the Clerk is being asked to do certain items three times a year and not once. This means three lots of extra paperwork but no significant change to our finances gained.

ACHIEVEMENTS

An event which was very well attended by all parts of the parish, despite the very windy conditions, was the D Day 80th celebration including a Beacon Lighting. The header on the beacon was changed by Cllr Andy Marr and lit by KC Councillor Andrew "can you take a photo" Kennedy. The fish and chip van was coerced into making an additional appearance and it was so successful that they ran out of fish. All of this event organised by our clerk Tina Miles assisted by the "ladies of the committee" again and mentioned in dispatches outside the Parish.

A new Wednesday walking group was set up by Gillian Streeter, and this has proved to be very successful. Thank you Gill for taking the time to arrange these walks.

The Little Litter Pickers are still running in Peters Village once a month and my thanks go to Ashley for continuing this group activity.

A few weeks ago, we took part in the National Village Clean Up. This also proved to be successful with 10 villagers collecting over 12 bags of rubbish in just a couple of hours.

During 2024 we arranged two trips on the mini coach. One was to Rochester Cathedral to see the Scriptorium which was an illuminated historical light display within the Cathedral, and the other to Leeds Castle to see the Christmas Light display. These proved very successful. We also ran a few different venues to local Christmas markets.

The over 60's club is still running in the Waterman's on Tuesdays.

A more physical activity which is still running on Sunday mornings is the Mammoth Rugby group.



We have now completed two of the longer running projects which we believe will improve the safety and wellbeing of our residents.

Three new benches have been installed by the Parish Council in the vicinity of the football pitches in Peters Village, these benches have replaced the three original ones supplied by the Parish Council that were vandalised beyond repair. The Parish Council has also placed a further bench on the pathway in Hall Road as a halfway house for our more mature residents visiting the Co-Op, and collecting children from the school.

A further project which involved the installation of lighting along the pathway in the Recreation ground has now been completed after several attempts at finding a solution which was efficient and also cost effective to the residents. I thank everyone for their efforts in this matter, and trust our residents will now feel safer at night.

When the Village shop closed, one of the problems was the defibrillator on the outside of the property as it needed electricity to keep it in working order. After many discussions with local organisations no solution seemed possible until very recently when a resident agreed to it being installed on the front wall of their property. We have now installed a defibrillator outside 165 High Street. The Parish Council's thanks go out to the resident who has allowed it to be installed on their property for this very kind gesture.

December saw the Clerk and the Chairman tackle the precept for 2025/6, which the Parish Council agreed to in a special meeting held in January. The precept figure is actually a small decrease on last year's figure, whilst other authorities increased their monetary figure.

All our meetings are advertised on our website, and on the notice boards around the Parish, which are being updated or replaced. All our meetings are open to the public with a section of each meeting open to the public to ask questions or bring suggestions, we do NOT hold any secret meetings. Further to this, it has now been agreed that all our meeting dates and times will be entered onto Facebook.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, Tina, our Clerk, Ann-Marie, our Youth and Community Worker, Liz and Russell, who help keep our Village litter free, for their superb diligence and hard work this year. Also a special thank you to a growing group of people in the Parish who get themselves involved in setting up various activities for their fellow residents, giving of their time and effort freely without seeking for reward.

Eddy Bell
Chair
Wouldham Parish Council

Youth Club and Community Activities Report: September - April 2025

Youth Club

(Tuesdays, 5.30-7.15pm Village Hall/Thursdays 5.45-7.30pm, All Saints Primary School)

- **Junior Session (8-11 years):** Consistently full at approximately 18 attendees weekly
- **Senior Session (12-16 years):** Weekly attendance ranges between 8 and 15 attendees

Activities Delivered:

A diverse programme of activities has been implemented for both junior and senior sessions, focusing on engagement, fun, and development:

● **Safety & Awareness:**

- *Personal safety talk by Simon, KCC Community Warden.*
- *Distribution of free personal alarms and hi-vis keychains.*

● **Interactive Games & Problem Solving:**

- *Escape room puzzle games, giant chess.*

● **Literacy & Creativity:**

- *World Book Day celebrations: bookmark making, distribution of £1 book vouchers.*

● **Cultural Awareness:**

- *St. Patrick's Day festive bead jewellery making and banners.*
- *Chinese New Year: creation of printable snake lanterns, snake hangers, and fortune cookies.*

● **Environmental Awareness:**

- *Recycling Day: designing canvas bags.*
- *Making bird feeders for the RSPB Big Bird Watch.*
- *Remembrance Day: crafting plastic bottle poppies for display.*

● **Craft & Design:**



- *Pom pom keychain making*
- *Foam clay creations*
- *Christmas card making*
- *Valentine-themed crafts.*
- *Christmas wreath making*
- *Christmas bauble painting*

- *Easter crafts*
- *Screen printing sessions*
- *Mother's Day activities: bouquet making, cake decorating, and card creation.*

● **Active & Recreational Games:**

- *Regular access to pool, Mario Kart, air hockey, table tennis, laser tag, basketball, and archery.*

● **Extra Youth Club Events:**

- *Festive Christmas disco with a buffet and inflatable castle (for younger attendees). Pancake bar. Halloween discos with Wouldham Girlguiding.*

● **Easter Half Term Activities Program:**

- *Two very successful trips to Cineworld and Hollywood Bowl.*
- *A well-attended Easter craft session.*
- *A fun-filled games afternoon on the Rec.*

Wins: (feedback taken from parents feedback forms)

● **Reported Positive Impact on Confidence and Social Skills:**

- ✓ *Increased confidence.*
- ✓ *Development of independence.*



- ✓ *Formation of new friendships (especially for children from different schools).*
- ✓ *Enhanced social interaction and a sense of belonging (particularly for new residents).*
- **Positive Feedback on Enjoyment and Impact:**
- ✓ *Parents consistently report their children's enjoyment and the positive impact of the youth club and the half term activities.*
- **Community Value:**
- ✓ *Recognition of the youth club as a valuable community asset providing positive engagement for young people.*

Challenges:

- **Managing Varied Senior Session Attendance:**
Fluctuating numbers make consistent activity planning challenging.
- **Resource Management:** Balancing costs of materials and activities with affordable participation fees requires careful management, especially when organizing off-site trips.
- **Volunteer Support:** Consistent volunteer support for the younger session has been challenging at times.



Craft & Chatter Club:

- Commenced in September 2024 with a regular attendance of 8 to 16 individuals.
- **Remembrance Day Contribution:** Created a poppy crochet display for the village green.
- **Ongoing Community Projects:** Currently working on a

Wouldham wall hanging with Kent Adult Education (KAE) and bunting for a future "VE day" event.

- **Social Connection and Skill Sharing:** Provides a valuable space for social interaction and peer-to-peer skill sharing (e.g., crochet).

Community Events:



- **Summer Fair 2024:** Despite the weather, it was a successful day and lots of learning for future events.
- **Great British Spring Clean:** significant litter collection from a few local residents.
- **Youth Club Halloween Party** (in collaboration with Wouldham Girlguiding): Successfully organized and delivered.

Future Events:

- **Community Lunch:** Preparations are underway.
- **Summer Market (Proposed):** Initial discussions are taking place.

Overall Progress:

Significant progress continues to be made in providing engaging and beneficial activities for young people through the youth club, with an expanded range of offerings through holiday programs. The positive parental feedback highlights the program's valuable impact on children's development and well-being. The Craft & Chatter club continues to be a valuable community asset. The desire to unite the two ends of the village through community events and clubs remains a continued issue, but we are seeing more and more encouraging progress in fostering greater connection across the community.

Ann-Marie Church – Youth & Community Worker, Wouldham Parish Council

Wouldham & Burham Minibus report for year 2024.

The minibus ran for the whole of 2024 but the take up of membership and the support received for the trips was very disappointing.

We reduced the cost of each trip in the hope of encouraging more people to join and partake in the scheme. This meant they only paid £5 per person return, but this too, did not seem to encourage use of the minibus.



We had two extra evening trips which saw our volunteer driver Tina Miles (Parish Clerk) behind the wheel.

The first one was to the Scriptorium event held in Rochester Cathedral, and the other was in December to see the Christmas Light event held at Leeds Castle. Both these trips were very well supported, and the Leeds Castle trip was fully booked. Both these events required tickets to be purchased in advance of the events.

We also ran a few different venues to local Christmas markets, and places for Christmas shopping. The Brookside and Mereworth Wines trip was poorly attended as was the Elmcourt trip. However, the trips to Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury Christmas Market were a success.

Since the beginning of 2025 the uptake for the weekly shopping trips has dropped off considerably.

All shopping trips are notified to members well in advance by email or post, and via Facebook pages (Wouldham, Burham, Eccles) a week in advance. However, since mid-April the Facebook notifications have ceased, as this did not seem to help with numbers for the shopping trips.

We have tried to look at other ticketed events such as Chartwell, Hever Castle and Penshurst but only 6 people showed any interest in each of the venues. Tickets are expensive and with the £10 travelling cost for the return it works out as follows:

Chartwell House, Studio, Gardens	£35 each	Children	£25
Hever Castle and Grounds Seniors	£30	"	"
Hever Castle adults under 60	£31	"	"
Penshurst Place and Gardens	£30.	"	"
			£25

These prices were for off peak times and may vary if the trip is in the summer school holidays.

There have been 2 trips for the Youth Clubs which were successful, but again, this relied on Tina as the driver as no other volunteer drivers have come forward.

Rose Bell – Co-ordinator



Wouldham Chess Club. Yearly Report.

The Wouldham Chess Club was opened on 5th April 2024.

The club was opened with a donation which paid for the Village Hall for the first month. To begin with there was support for this club, but it gradually fell into decline.

We did run a Save the Children event and we managed to raise an incredible amount of £230.00

However, despite further donations to try to keep the club running, the club had to close on 22nd November 2024 due to lack of support.

Rose Bell - Organiser



Bell Ringing, Yearly Report



The bells started ringing again over 30 years ago. A band of friends and encouraged by the Rector, they learnt how to handle the big church bells and have been available for weddings, funerals and special festivals as well as calling the faithful on Sunday mornings. However, over the years, we have aged and there is very little commitment from new members.

So, it is with sadness that we have decided to disband the group and return the responsibility back to the Church.

If anyone would like to get a band together again, please contact: revnickyrallins@outlook.com

Tina Miles – Tower Captain

Chair Exercise – Age Concern

The class has been going just over a year now and it has grown to have almost 20 people when everyone is there but we usually have at least 16 people each session

Everyone seems to enjoy the class and they laugh and interact together. Some live alone so it helps them to meet others and laugh together

They have all improved in some way, whether it is better posture or knowing how to get up after a fall and some could not get up from the chair and now can do it easily.

Better leg strength, arm mobility and creating new friendships has all lead to a noticeable growth in confidence

Its so lovely to see them each fortnight and they are like a small family supporting and encouraging each other.

Sue Larkin, Head of Wellbeing
Kent Rivers, Age Uk



Coffee Club – Wouldham Village Hall



Coffee Club runs on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and provides an opportunity to get together for a chat over a 'cupper' and home-made cake. Whilst numbers vary, there are usually between 15 and 20 people coming regularly. It has been really nice this year to see more men come along. The age group is also very diverse, with little ones who play with the toys to older people who want support and guidance to younger adults who want to feel part of the community.

PERRINS CHARITY – 2025

This Charity was set up soon after the death of Lily Blanche Perrin from Hastings, who died on 15.12.1920 leaving a legacy of £200 for the people of Wouldham.

For many years the folk of Wouldham responded to an advert in the Parish Magazine, completing an application form.

Sadly, those who really needed the money often did not complete a form, being too proud to accept charity.

The criteria being that they had to:

- ★ have lived in Wouldham for over 10 years
- ★ are 70 years of age or older
- ★ at the discretion of the Trustees who are known to be in need of financial assistance.

Vouchers were given to spend in the local shops and food hampers were distributed for several years.

Today we rely on the knowledge of locals to help us compile a list of the elderly who we feel need support.

The funds for the charity are held in Investments with the CCLA . There is a very limited amount of money coming in to the charity from the legacy now. In 2024, about £208 was received.

The charity has been very lucky to receive donations from the Co-operative Store in Wouldham to the value of £200 in 2024 and sponsorship from DG & JW Gore.

This has allowed approx. 25 Co-operative vouchers to the value of £25 each to be handed out to residents in the last 2 years.

The sole Trustees are now Catherine Gore and Marie Rayner.

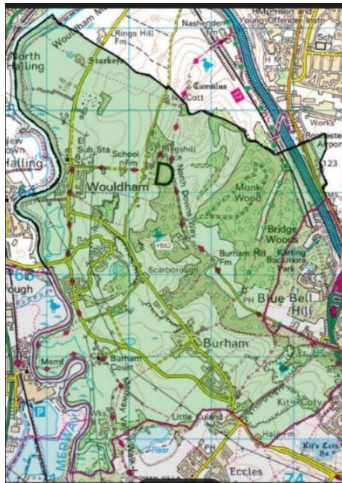
WE would welcome any further sources of funds and if anyone would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact us.

Catherine Gore - Trustee



Kent Police - Annual Report 24-5

I have collated the investigations created between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 for the Burham and Wouldham ward, which is shown on the below map. Within this area, there were 491 investigations logged on our system during this time period.



The most prevalent categories of investigation are as follows:

- Domestic Abuse investigations
- Common Assault
- Theft from Shops and Stalls
- Harassment without Violence
- Actual Bodily Harm
- Theft from a motor vehicle
- Criminal damage
- Residential burglary of unconnected buildings
- Engaging in controlling/ coercive behaviour
- Theft of motor vehicle

Some of our work this year has included:

- Working with local shops to reduce the incidents of shoplifting and bring perpetrators to justice
- Proactive patrolling of hotspot areas linked to vehicle thefts/ residential burglaries
- Speed checks on Knowle Road and enforcement of the no- entry sign on the High Street
- Domestic abuse investigations/ protecting vulnerable people/ bringing perpetrators to justice

Please feel free to share my email address with the community if anyone has any areas they wish the neighbourhood team to focus on throughout the next year and we can look to prioritise these issues.

Georgia Marshall | PC 46015982 Email: Georgia.Marshall@kent.police.uk

GIRL GUIDING ANNUAL REPORT

The 1st Wouldham Girlguiding units have been running really well this year, with lots of support and nearly full packs for all 3 units, Rainbows aged 4-7, Brownies aged 7-10 and Guides ages 10-14.



We have had support from KCC with purchasing the Guides flag; from Trenport - helping purchase the easter eggs from the Easter fun day, from the Coop awarding us £250 to purchase unit supplies and hedgehog homes and from TMBC a grant to enable us to purchase unit Neckers and a greenhouse for our Girlguiding allotment plot.

All the support has given our Girlguiding more opportunities to develop their skills and love for nature. We can't wait to wear our new Neckers that the guides designed at our next event, which is a big county event called Mayhem.

I am looking to start a ranger unit for girls aged 14+ to run alongside our guides unit, giving more girls to opportunity to continue their guiding journey.

Thank you for all the support from the WPC with the hall rent and supporting us at events like D-Day parade and Remembrance Day.

Ashley Crowdey – 1st Wouldham Girlguiding units

Organisations/Groups active but not responded: All Saints Primary School, Medway Green School/PTA, All Saints Church, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Over 60's, Mammoths, Peters Village Community Centre.