

Godshill Christmas Cracker

Our Christmas Cracker proved to be a real festive triumph, transforming our picturesque village into a vibrant centre of celebration for all throughout the whole of the day.



Photo by Tracy Curtis

With an array of activities and attractions for all ages, the event succeeded in bringing the community together in festive spirit and joy culminating in a magical lantern parade accompanied by our joyous All Saints bells. We also welcomed our newest addition to the village – Godshill Bakehouse who provided wonderful free goodies throughout the day.



Photo by Tracy Curtis

A Magical Start to the Day - The festivities began bright and early especially for our youngsters. A wonderful breakfast in the Griffin, where Santa made a much-anticipated appearance. Laughter and excitement filled the air as they enjoyed a wholesome start to their day in his company.



Photo by Tracy Curtis

Fun for All: Dogs and Their Owners - Not to be outdone by their human companions, dogs donned their finest fancy dress and, together with their proud owners, embarked on a muddy walk through the village. The fun continued back at the Griffin, where best doggie outfits were chosen.



Photo by Tracy Curtis

Markets and Festive Shopping - Godshill was bustling with markets set up in the Methodist Church Hall, the School, Scout Hall, and All Saints Church. Stalls brimming with festive treats and handmade gifts. Adding to the excitement, the newly opened Godshill Bakery welcomed everyone, while all the regular shops joined in the festive trade.



Photo by Tracy Curtis



Photo by Tracy Curtis

Santa's Grotto and Face Painting - In the afternoon, Santa was on the go again in his Grotto in the Taverners, delighting children and families. Our talented face painting team added an extra touch of whimsy, decorating happy faces with colourful designs and spreading smiles throughout the village.



Photo by Tracy Curtis

Street Entertainment and Community Talent - the newly established Godshill Guisers spirited performances captured the imagination of crowds. They were well supported by the Eye of the Dawn dancers who further enlivened the atmosphere.







Godshill Matters



GODSHILL COMMUNITY CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Christmas Quiz

in aid of
Godshill Matters

Wednesday 17th December 2025

Starts at 7pm
Teams of up to 8
£2 per person to enter
Raffle
Accumulator Prize




Kitchen open till 8pm
Bar open till 9pm
Book a table at
www.heritagepubs.co.uk/griffin-godshill
The Griffin, Godshill PO38 3JD
TEL 01983 211115

"An open group of like-minded residents and businesses aiming to enrich village life in a supportive, collaborative & sustainable way. We want to build a strong & resilient community, taking care of each other & the natural & built environ in which we live."



Godshill Matters

STOP PRESS NEWS!!! PRIZE FOR THE BEST XMAS OUTFIT

Christmas over. Presents away in the cupboard.
Indigestion tablets all gone, hangover cures all used up.
Now what?

It's time for another quiz!



The Griffin in Godshill is hosting an extra Godshill Community Charity Quiz on News Years Day at 7pm.

Stop watching the telly box and come and join
"Quizmaster Andy" for a fun quiz!

All the usual stuff, including a raffle and the
Accumulator Prize.

£2 per person to enter, teams of up to 8. All proceeds
will go to a charity chosen by ballot on the night, so
come and vote for your favourite good cause!

Book your table at
www.heritagepubs.co.uk/griffin-godshill
Tel 01983 211115

MERRY QUIZMAS!

Cracker Lantern Parade

As darkness fell a colourful lantern parade wound its way through the village.



It started at the school and set off up Church Hill as the bells rang out for all to hear.



All photos by Tracy Curtis

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang waiting to join the lantern parade.

"We were thrilled to see the entire village coming together for this event. Every group has brought their own special gifts to the Cracker, making it a truly collaborative celebration. Thanks to everyone for making it such a special day"

Chris Slann, Chair, Godshill Matters

Festive Singalong in the Griffin.

The lantern parade ended on the terrace in the Griffin Garden.

Those who were on the parade were joined by family and friends for a singalong of popular songs led by a troupe of happy singers from Godshill Primary School.



All photos by Tracy Curtis



Cracker Belling

During the day, many intrepid souls climbed the steep steps to the ringing chamber to try their hand at bellringing.



A number of people, on hearing the bells whilst queuing at the Godshill Bakehouse asked around to find out what was going on. Discovering that there was the opportunity to have a go at bellringing, they left the queue and high-tailed off up Church Hollow.

Godshill Guisers on the streets

The Guisers were finally let loose on the public giving not one but four shows during Christmas Cracker.

King George and the Turkish Knight



A CHRISTMAS
MUMMERS PLAY

PERFORMED BY THE
GODSHILL GUISERS



"Always look on the bright side....."



Christmas Cracker 2025

More snaps of the day.



Godshill Gems W.I.

November was a month of chocolate, reading, eating, bows & arrows plus crafting – we like to ring the changes.



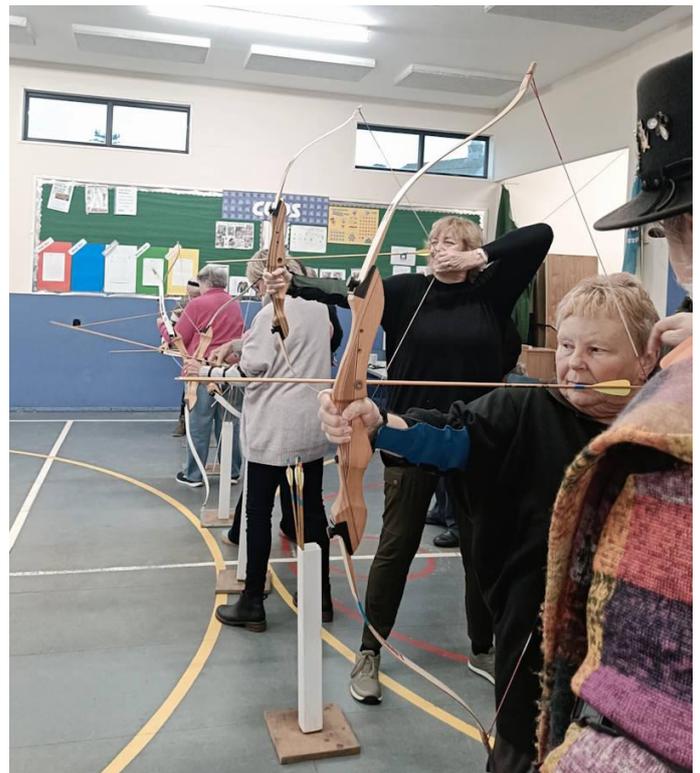
Christmas came early to the Godshill Gems W.I. with ChocAlicious, the artisan chocolatiers from Newport, at our November meeting. Sharing the history behind the discovery of the cocoa bean, the Aztec's gift from the Gods and how it transformed into yumminess. Taster packs were distributed and consumed with glee. A confectionary quiz followed with lots of scratching of heads. The winning team scored 22 out of 24, and the second placed team scored 21. Proving, we know what we like! Colleen Murphy won the "guess the number of Smarties in the jar", with closest amount of 750.



The Book Group met to discuss 3 books as reading genres were split. The choices – By Your Side (Ruth Jones) / Vita & The Birds (Polly Crosby) / The Sky Beneath Us (Fiona Valpy) were all recommendations by members of the group.



Next stop, the Isle of Wight College restaurant for a 3 course Christmas Lunch, cooked and served by students learning the hospitality and catering trades. Sporting Christmas outfits, we pulled crackers, wore the hats, laughed at the jokes, drank mulled wine, and partook of mince pies and coffee to finish. Everything was scrumptious.



On to..... Archery, led by ISAC. The golden rule "Do not shoot anyone"! After practical tuition came pointing and squinting at the targets. Not to show we knew where they were, but to identify our dominant eye and which arm would be used to draw our bows. Then we were ready to let our arrows fly.

Unbelievably, most hit the targets and a few bullseyes were achieved. Half time refreshments demolished with gusto, we then attempted bursting balloons!



Finally the Gems got creative. A Craft Taster Session gave the members that attended, the opportunity to make a decoupage style Christmas card, crochet a festive tree decoration and fashion a paper poinsettia. Concentration was high, achievements were rewarded, glue, paper, wool and laughter filled the hall. Jill Green became the first lucky winner of the raffle craft basket.

**THE GODSHILL GEMS W.I. COMMITTEE
WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY
TO WISH EVERYONE
A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
AND A MEMORABLE NEW YEAR**

For more information, contact Sandy - sandy2471@gmail.com

Ward Councillor's Report

Caroline Gladwin braved the bad weather and joined us at our December Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Gladwin reported on Isle of Wight Council matters including devolution discussions & vote and discussions with Richard Quigley MP on the Hospice and farmers inheritance tax.

Cllr Gladwin confirmed that she will continue to push the IoW Council legal department for resolution of the Bats wing (Church) path issue and investigate holding constituency surgeries in the Post Office. You can contact Caroline at:

Caroline.Gladwin@iow.gov.uk

Godshill Primary School

Half an hour to go until the first performance of the Bethlehem Bake-off.



A huge thank you to the newly opened Godshill Bakehouse who have kindly baked and donated these four loaves for the play!

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR RECEPTION 2026

Orsted GRADING GOOD

MUSIC MARK MUSIC MARK SCHOOL 2024 - 2025

shift it

GODSHILL PRIMARY

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

stay and play for Reception 2026

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who came, it was so lovely to meet you all.

office@godshillprimary.co.uk
01983 840 246

It was lovely to see so many new and familiar faces at our Reception 2026 stay and play session, thank you all for coming. Please don't worry if you couldn't make it as we have our final stay and play event on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 3:30pm-4:30pm. We would love to welcome you to come and see our school.

7 (Godshill) Troop, Army Cadet Force Groups

Following two busy poppy selling Saturdays and Remembrance Sunday Parades at Godshill and Ventnor we thought you would all like to know 7 (Godshill) Troop raised just short of £1000 for the Royal British Legion Appeal – an amazing achievement.



Charitable giving is instilled in all of our Cadets from the outset. We asked them if they could donate to this year's Isle of Wight Christmas Toy Appeal. We are pleased to say 16 gifts were donated. A few more Isle of Wight children in need will be getting a little something this Christmas.



The Troop have just completed one of the biggest events of the year, December Company Weekend from 5th to 7th December at Jersey Camp in Porchfield.

This weekend saw around 90 Cadets from across the Island continue with ongoing training in subjects such as Shooting, Fieldcraft, First Aid and Navigation in the hope they could be tested and pass subjects

and work towards completing their Star group training and move on to the next level.

As well as all the hard work, Cadets love the December weekend because on the Saturday night there is a Christmas 'Mess' function where the Cadets dress up and have a sit down meal. Each of the five Troops also have to perform for the 'Y Factor' and this year the task was to perform a dance routine to a piece of music – 7 (Godshill) Troop did Boney M's Rasputin (with the Russian kicks!).

In addition, a number of Cadets were promoted, and end of year awards presented our VIP guest, the County Commandant, who came over from the mainland and gave a speech commenting on how immensely proud he was of the standard of training and professionalism of both the Cadets and Adults of Gallipoli (Isle of Wight) Company.

At 7 Godshill Troop we were very pleased to achieve 6 promotions with 4 cadets being promoted to Lance Corporal, 1 from Lance Corporal to Corporal and our senior cadet at Troop achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Additionally one of our Cadets won the prestigious Rosie Adams Award which is awarded by the Officer Commanding to someone he thinks has overcome obstacles and difficulties to achieve much in the Army Cadet Force.

... and finally for 2025, on 14th December, we will see four of our Recruits complete their Basic Training and become full Cadets, attending a Pass Out Parade in front of friends and family, where they will receive their cap badge and Cadet flash.

7 (Godshill) Troop would like to thank the Village for all their support over the year and wish you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to updating you with our exploits in 2026!

For further information visit

<https://armycadets.com/find-a-detachment/>

and enter PO38 1BA



The Godshill Community Charity Quizzes - GCCQ

Quiz No 4 was held at the Griffin on Wednesday 19th November and once again saw a good turnout. The proceeds were going to support Ability Dogs 4 Young People and a large contingent from the charity joined us, complete with some beautifully behaved dogs in training.



Ten teams took part and were all on good form as every team got over 50% of the questions correct, the first time this has happened. Are the players getting better or are my questions getting easier? One of the themed rounds was a "connections" round, the connection being, appropriately, "Hounds". The puzzle round was also dog-themed, being 20 pictures of famous cartoon dogs. The winning team, with a score of 47 out of 60 was "The Brixtonians", a renamed and slightly depleted version of the quiz number 3 winning team, "The Bristolians". Let's see if they can make it third time lucky at the next quiz! "Jack and Jills" were second and the "Godshill Matters" team were jubilant after coming a commendable third and celebrated long in to the night!

The accumulator was worth £120, but unfortunately Keith from "Always A Chance" was unable to recall that "Venta Belgarum" was the Roman name for Winchester, which means the accumulator will be worth £140 at the next quiz.

The evening concluded with the usual raffle (Dave's team nabbed the tea bags!!) and

raised a total of £260.30 for Ability Dogs 4 Young People.

Random dog joke :

*A dog walks into a pub and says to the barman "Can I have a pint of lager and a bag of crisps please?"
The barman says "Wow! That's incredible! You should join the circus!" The dog replies "Why? Do they need electricians?"*

GCCQ number 5 followed on 3rd December and was in aid of the Isle of Wight Radio Christmas Toy Appeal, whereby all the funds raised were used to purchase toys to donate to the appeal. We had ten teams again, and again they all managed to score over 50%! One of the themed rounds was all about toys and the puzzle round was about pop song titles containing girls' names. "The Godzillians" emerged victorious with a score of 48 out of 60, so well done to them.

On Friday it was off to the toy shop to spend the £270 raised on a selection of toys to donate to the Isle of Wight Radio Christmas toy appeal! Many thanks to the staff at The Works in Newport for their valuable assistance and their generous discount, allowing us to buy even more toys!!

The next Godshill Community Charity Quiz is our Christmas Special in aid of Godshill Matters on Wednesday 17th December at 7pm at The Griffin. Booking essential! In its short existence, The Godshill Matters volunteers have brought such joy and fun to the village – this is real charity in action! Keep an eye out for all the fun that they and the Parish Council are planning for 2026.

Happy Christmas to all our "quizzers" and here's to raising lots more money in 2026!

Andy "The Quizmaster".

**STOP PRESS
AN EXTRA QUIZ HAS BEEN ADDED ON
NEW YEARS DAY!!**

GCCQ – Coming Soon!

Here is the list of charities we will be supporting in the New Year.

1st January - New Years Day Evening Quiz
(Charity to be chosen on the evening)

7th January - The Motor Neurone Disease Association (IOW)

21st January - RSPCA (IOW)

4th February - Alzheimer Café

18th February - IOW Donkey Sanctuary

4th March - IOW Youth Trust

18th March - Wessex Cancer Support

All quizzes start at 7pm and are open to teams of up to 8 people. Entry fee is £2 per person.

A big thank you to all who have supported Godshill Community Charity Quizzes!

Andy "The Quizmaster"

Slow Down campaign

Godshill Matters has submitted an application to the Police and Crime Commissioner to purchase and install two Vehicle Actives Speed Awareness Signs in the village.



The outcome of the application won't be known until Spring, so fingers crossed everyone.

All Saints Church

Our annual carol service will be taking place at 3pm on Sunday 21st December. Afterwards there will be mince pies and sherry. As usual with our services, well-behaved dogs are welcome.

NO MORNING SERVICE THIS DAY.



There will be our traditional Christmas Day Sung Service at 10:30am. There will not be refreshments after this service.

On Boxing Day at 11am there will be a said service. There will be no refreshments after this service. Well behaved dogs welcome.

You can use this QR code to make a seasonal donation.



mnda

motor neurone disease
association

Godshill Community Charity Quiz Night
in aid of

Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association

IOW Branch

Wednesday 7th January 2026

Starts at 7pm

Teams of up to 8

£2 per person to enter

Raffle

Accumulator Prize

Kitchen open till 8pm

Bar open till 9pm

Book a table at

www.heritagepubs.co.uk/griffin-godshill

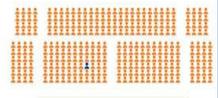
The Griffin, Godshill PO38 3JD

TEL 01983 211115

Six people are diagnosed every day. More than 5,000 people are fighting MND at various stages of the disease. **Six people die each and every day.**



A person's lifetime risk of developing MND is around 1 in 300. That's one person in an average size cinema screen.



1st Godshill & Rookley Scouts

As we approach Christmas and the end of term, we have lots to celebrate at the Scout Group. 4 Cubs (Mae, Darcy, Sophie & Rafi) have completed the Chief Scouts Silver Award and 1 Scout (Laanii) has completed the Chief Scouts Gold Award.



Three of our scouts attended the World Scout Jamboree selection weekend for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight and all have been offered places either on the Jamboree to Poland or a US road trip in 2027. They have already started fundraising for their amazing trips.

Following our recent pleas for extra adult help, we are delighted to welcome Robin and Julie to the Scout Group. Robin, an experienced leader, is taking on the role of Group Lead Volunteer. We are still keen to expand our team of adults helping both at the weekly meetings and behind the scenes.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all helped to either build our recycled pallet Christmas tree or make decorations to go on it for the Brighstone Christmas tree festival. Our creation is on display at the Pearl Centre until the end of December.



At the end of November, we held our annual Christmas wreath fundraising workshops which saw 51 people make beautiful festive decorations.



Scouts 
**CHRISTMAS
TREE
COLLECTION** 
SUNDAY JANUARY 4TH

Godshill, Rookley,
Chillerton, Whitwell, Niton,
Chale. Text
07555766305
with your address.

Collections
between 10 - 2pm

£5

£5 donation will go to 1st
Godshill & Rookley Scout
Group

🌲🌟 Good news! We'll be collecting real Christmas trees again after Christmas for a small donation 🤗🤗 No need to stress about what to do with yours – we'll take care of it for you! 🌱

For more information about our Scout Group, please contact Mary Kershaw on 07407 370331.

Godshill Walking Group

Well, we have certainly been blessed with fabulous weather on our walks this year, and the recce for our upcoming Christmas walk was no exception! .



This one is a bit loopy (aren't we all!) and starts at Merstone this time with an up and over loop ending – yes you guessed it – at the Griffin for yet more loopy fun!



So – let's make our December walk the biggest, brightest, cheeriest of them all! Seasonal dress welcomed, silly hats, Christmas jumpers and all that! And bring some small choccy treats for sharing with the group – there are 2 x choccy stops scheduled – but we can chomp away whilst we walk too!! Suggest we pack 3 or 4 little bite size treats each.



Essential info:

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Meet at our usual spot at the Godshill main car park for 11am. Don't be late as we need to be catching the no 2 bus at 11.09 to get us to the start in Merstone (£3 or bring your bus pass).

It's a super easy route, just 4.5 miles, over mostly flat and relatively mud free paths and tracks. Not even a stile!

All welcome – including newbies to the group!



Cant wait!.

For further details contact Alison on(alison@godhillmatters.org.uk).

Godshill Matters Social

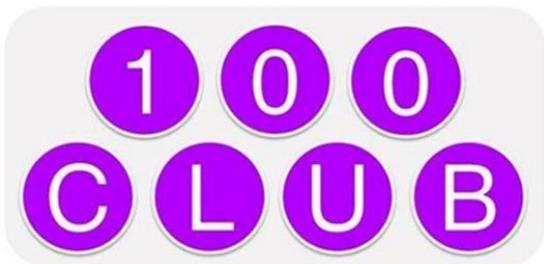
Volunteers and Friends gathered in the Griffin to celebrate not only a highly successful Christmas Cracker but also a wonderful 2025 which has seen the birth of an amazing community spirit through the massive efforts of those involved in both Godshill Matters and the Parish Council.



The evening kicked off with the final performance by our Godshill Guisers. It was also their first and only indoor performance.



Many thanks to King George for pressing his subjects into selecting the winning balls at our social get together in the Griffin.



December winners:
1st Prize: £40 No. 92 Nina Roe
2nd Prize: £10 No 68 Anonymous
3rd Prize: £5 No 94 Chris Slann



Godshill Village Survey

Here is a brief summary of the results. These will be analysed more closely and the information used to help create the budget for 2026/27.

An outline draft budget for the Parish Council will be available after the January meeting and a final budget will be set at the February meeting.

GODSHILL VILLAGE SURVEY - A BRIEF SUMMARY

18-30	31-50	51-70	Over 70
8	25	48	41
7%	20%	39%	34%

Which of these needs creating/improving?

Road safety/speeding	85
Road conditions	78
Indoor Rec/Leisure facilities	58
Community events	47
Environmental cleanliness	31
Allotments/Comm Gardens	30
Safety and security	29
Outdoor Recr/Leisure facilities	22
Education/Training facilities	9
None of these	1

What types of community activities/events would you like?

Workshops/classes 4 all ages	51
Social Club	50
Village Coffee Mornings	50
Music & arts events	50
Community clean-up days	45
Low Cost Meals/Warm Spaces	36
Cultural festivals	36
Youth Club	35
Sports clubs/events	30
After School Club	15
Parent and Babies Club	14
None of these	10

Upgrade Central Mead building to be a community space

Help in some way to make this happen	46
Help run this community space	6
Hold events / parties here	14
Meet for chat & cheap refreshments	60
Social club, I'd join	54
Do not need another community space	21

Which would you support in 2026/27?

Central Mead building as a flexible community hub/warm space	70
Matching external grants for village projects	24
Green space and biodiversity work (trees, planters, wildflower areas)	54
May Close repairs and equipment fund	30
Community mini-grants (for local groups or events)	38

Next year's budget - which do you prefer?

A — Hold (0% increase)	35
B — Small Invest (+£6/year)	42
C — Add. Invest (+£12 per year)	47

How would you like to receive Godshill information and invitations?

E-mail	60
Paper Newsletter	43
Noticeboards	28
Website	38
Social Media	34

Would you like to see open discussion Village Forums?

Yes	41
Yes & attend	59
No	24

Recommend the village as a great place to live

Average	8.40
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1st IoW Festival 1968 - Godshill

The very first Isle of Wight Festival in 1968 was actually held in Godshill. Tickets were 25/- (shillings) or £1.25 in new money. But...What was the festival like? What was the impact on the village? Does anyone remember?



Godshill Matters is considering an application to the Past Futures Fund to run a reminiscence project exploring memories of that time.

We would need to identify volunteers who would undertake some oral history gathering training before working with community members who do acutely remember what it was like here back in the summer of 1968.

If you are interested in doing some oral history training or remembers the very first festival, please get in touch

alison@godshillmatters.org.uk

Godshill Working Groups

Don't be shy, come and join in and help make Godshill the place you want it to be!



AMENITIES & ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Donoclift oversaw the completion of the hedging work adjacent to the public conveniences including planting of new bushes adjacent to the building.

Greening – Cllrs Mansell & Jackman attended the Annual Conference of the Greening Campaign in Petersfield.

The first training session was held for volunteers from Central Rural who will be carrying out thermal imaging on households this winter.

Arrangements have been made for the next four months, to close two of the three toilets, leaving only the disabled toilet open.

COMMUNICATIONS

Creation and administration of the Godshill Village Survey. Godshill Gazette November Issue.

PLANNING, ROADS AND BYWAYS

Isle of Wight Council PFI failed to give an answer to the Bats Wing path issue, even though they promised an update by the 14th of November. Cllr Donoclift has continued to request updates from Isle of Wight PFI and he and the Clerk have secured apologies and a more senior direct contact.

Discussions with Godshill Matters suggest that enough volunteers have now come forward to re-start Speedwatch in the February/March timeframe. Chris Slann will take on the organisational role previously performed by Andy Snart who has agreed to continue as a member of the team.

Church Path – News Soon?



It seems not. We know everything is currently stuck in the IoW Council legal department.

Village Green

The go ahead has been given to repair the wall currently protected by the orange barriers. However, it is not known when the work will actually be done.

Sharing Your Gazette

If you're reading an electronic copy, why not forward a copy to friends and family, even to those over on north island.

Printed Copies Available

We currently have a small budget available to enable us to print some black and white copies of the Gazette for those without the internet.

If you would like a printed copy or you know of someone who needs a printed copy delivered, contact Stephen, the Parish Clerk and give him name and address.

Printed Copy to View

From next week, there will be full colour copies of all Godshill Gazettes for you to view in the Post Office.

These copies will be kept in plastic files and can be viewed whilst you are in the Post Office. These are our only printed copies and must not be removed from the Post Office.

Have Your Say!

Simply email what you want to say, ideally including an appropriate photo and we will do our best to include it.

Godshill Gazette is for everyone in our community. If there's something that matters to you, it probably matters to others. Let us share that for you.

You can also phone the Parish Clerk (07763 665812) – you may need to leave a message – but we'll get back to you.

Email your submissions to:

comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

Last Word

Next month's Gazette will be published on Saturday January 17th along with draft minutes from the January Parish Council meeting.

DON'T FORGET – we also have latest news items on the website and our Facebook page. We also have less frequent updates on X (Twitter) and Instagram. So, if you have anything you'd like to share, email it to:

comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

If you know of a group that has not yet appeared in the Gazette, please let us know and we will do what we can to get them in the next issue.

Same goes for events that are not currently included in the Village Calendar on the home page of the website.

PLEASE don't wait to be asked, get writing or ringing and let us know what you want to share with the rest of the village.

Email us at:

comms@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE

Contacting the Parish Council.

You can contact the Parish Council at:

clerk@godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

Phone: **07763 665812**

This number will be answered by Stephen Cocket, our parish clerk, during our office hours:

**Monday, Wednesday and Friday
9:30am to noon**

At other times the phone will be monitored but calls are likely to go to answer phone.

www.godshill-iow-parish.gov.uk

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