

# Welcome to Wield



**Wield Village Hall**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This short booklet is intended to offer brief facts and information you might find useful about the village of Wield (both Upper & Lower Wield). If you find any inaccuracies or have any suggestions for future editions, please contact The Wield Parish Council (WPC) Clerk, Mrs Jean Frost (clerk@wieldpc.org.uk)

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Alwin Hutchinson (Chairman WPC)

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## **Basic History**

Wield means “open upland country”, and the first human settlement dates back to Roman times. Gradually a farming (mainly sheep) community formed, and by Tudor times the village had become prosperous. Queen Elizabeth visited Wield in 1591. Contact with the outside world remained limited right up until WW1, with electricity not available until mid 1930, a peaceful and essentially rural life prevailing. Today, gas and mains drainage have still to arrive.

## **Brief Facts**

Wield is 150m above sea level, in the heart of the Hampshire uplands. The population of Wield (Upper & Lower) is approximately 60 children and 180 adults: there are 100 Houses. Wield is still an agricultural community with a variety of family farms and a winery, although few villagers are now actively involved in farming, instead happily retired or busy commuting daily to work. There is also a light industries site at Barton Farm just outside Wield on the way to Alresford. Lower Wield has a pub (The Yew Tree), Upper Wield the Church (St James) and the village hall. The green in Upper Wield belongs to the village as does the Village Hall.

## **Broadband**

BT superfast Fibre is available in Wield.

REDRAW (tel: 01803 500 009) continues to operate its wireless system.

### **Bus**

A CanGo bus operates a “Hail & Ride” service between Alresford and Basingstoke. The bus will stop anywhere on its route: there is no longer a requirement to reserve beforehand. Timetables are at the bus shelter in Upper Wield and on the notice boards in Upper & Lower Wield.

### **Children’s Play Park**

There is a small, safe play park next to the Village Hall in Upper Wield

### **Church**

St James' church (12 Century) is in Upper Wield. It contains a magnificent tomb to the Wallop family and also houses Wield's WW1 war memorial. Services are held on most Sundays (matins, evensong or communion): details and timings are advertised in the monthly magazine “The Oxdrove”. All are welcome.

### **Citizens Advice**

The nearest Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) is in Alton (0344 4111 306). Free advice is available on almost anything.

### **Defibrillators**

Wield has two heart attack defibrillators, each in an old fashioned red phone box, one in Upper Wield by the bus stop next to the village green, and one in Lower Wield at the northern end on the Bradley road. The devices are released from their secure storage holders by entering a code provided

by any "999" operator. (NOTE THAT THERE IS NO PHONE IN EITHER OF THE TELEPHONE BOXES). Instructions for use are clearly shown on the device. Any concerns or observations should be passed to the WPC Clerk, Mrs Jean Frost, ([clerk@wieldpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wieldpc.org.uk))

### **Doctors/Dentists**

The nearest doctors & dentists are:

**Four Marks** - Boundaries Surgery (17 Winchester Rd, Four Marks GU34 5HG) tel: 01420 562153

**Alresford** - Alresford Surgery (Station Rd, Alresford SO 24 9JL) tel: 01962 732345.

**Dentists** – (incl NHS) in Alton & Alresford

### **Footpaths**

There is a wide network of footpaths within the Parish, mostly well maintained and marked. (Map: OS Sheet 144 – Explorer Series). Remember to close any gates behind you to keep livestock secure. If you have any comments regarding upkeep or access difficulties, please let the Parish Council Clerk know (Mrs Jean Frost, [clerk@wieldpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wieldpc.org.uk) ).

### **Garages**

Garages which do repairs and MOTs can be found at Barton Farm (Ropley Motors) just outside Upper Wield and in nearby Alresford (Wilcan Motor Company). The nearest petrol station is in Four Marks (3 miles away, beyond Medstead).

### **Hospitals A&E**

Nearest A & E facilities are at Basingstoke Hospital (Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital, Aldermanston Rd, Basingstoke, RG24 9NA) and Winchester Hospital (Royal

Hampshire County Hospital, Romsey Rd, Winchester SO22 5DG).

### **Kennels**

The nearest kennels (Gay Dogs) are in Bradley (beyond Lower Wield).

### **Letter Boxes**

There are two Post Office letter boxes: one in Lower Wield (next to the telephone box at the Bradley end of the village & one in Upper Wield (opposite the Notice Board on The Green).

### **Local Attractions**

- Hattingley Valley Winery: Lower Wield
- The Watercress Railway Line: Alresford - Alton
- Cinema complexes: Basingstoke
- Theatres: Basingstoke, Winchester, Guildford

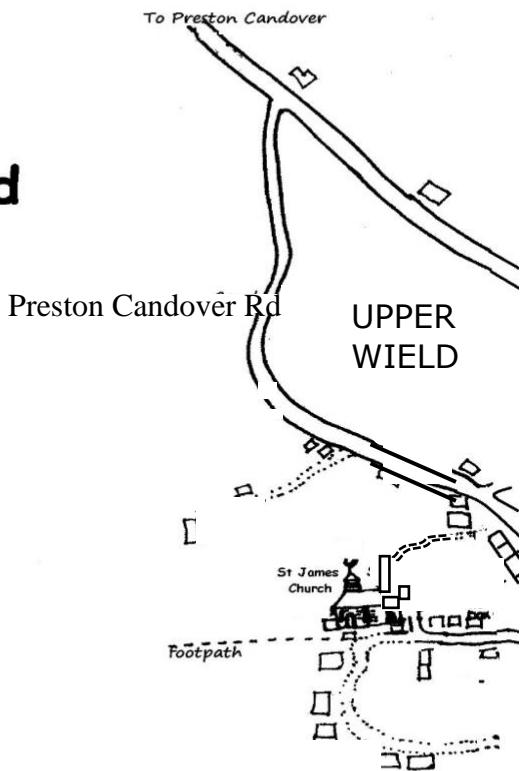
### **Monthly Magazine - The Oxdrove**

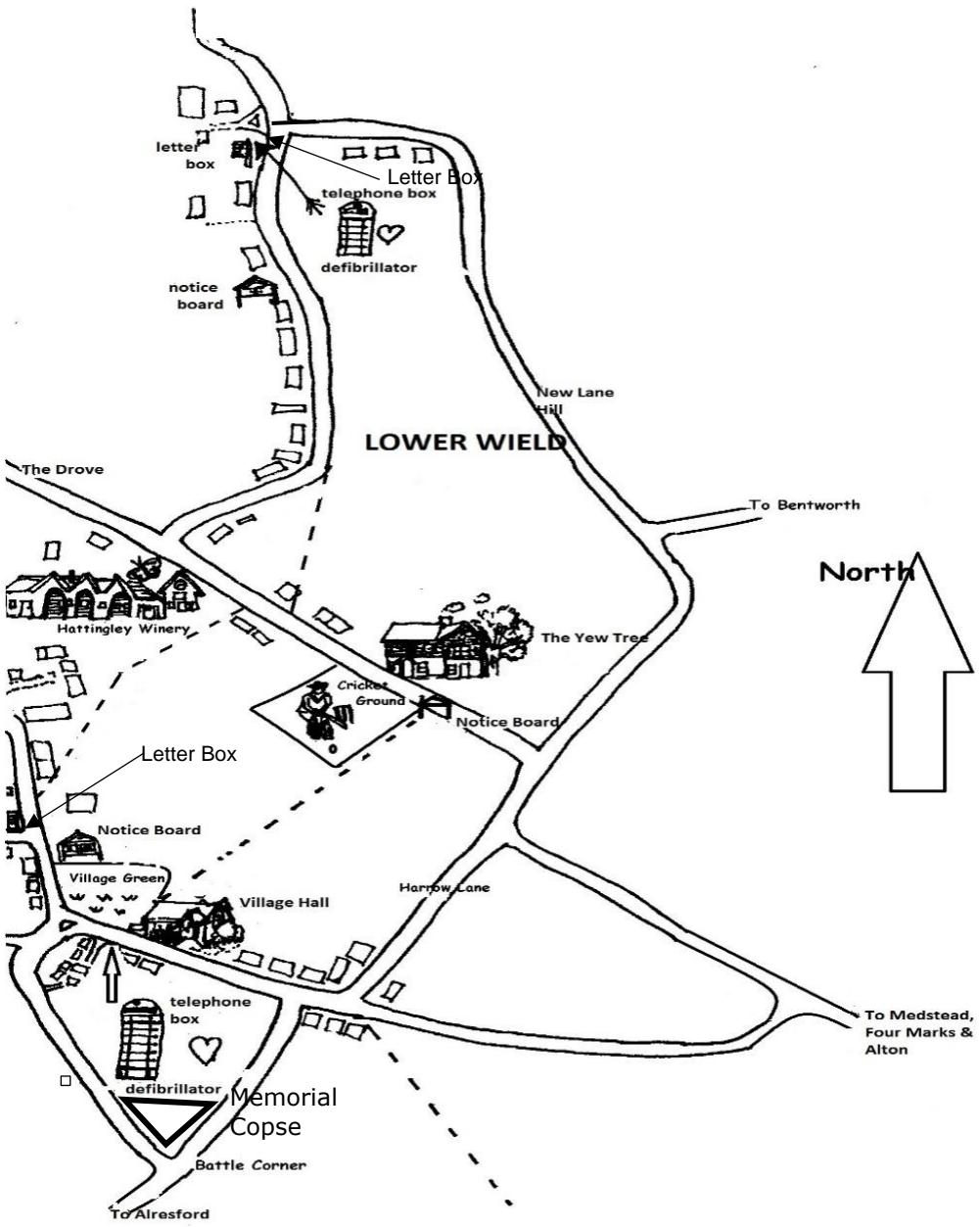
The Oxdrove is a monthly magazine distributed to all householders in Wield and the nearby villages of Bradley, the Candovers and Northington. It gives details about church services throughout the local area but is not simply a church pamphlet. There is much useful contact information about nearby facilities and activities and also advertisements from local tradesmen.

### **Notice Boards**

There are three notice boards, where *inter alia*, information about Parish Council meetings is posted: in Lower Wield one near the north corner of the village (outside Pitters Farm) and a second one (shared with the Cricket Club) opposite The Yew Tree pub: in Upper Wield, one at the west end of the Green.

# Map of Wield





## **Post Office**

The nearest Post Offices are in Preston Candover, and in Medstead (The Handy Stores).

## **Pub**

The very popular Yew Tree pub is in Lower Wield. It serves meals including bar snacks, has a children friendly garden and welcomes walkers and dogs. It is closed on Mondays.

## **Schools**

In addition to primary & secondary schools in the area, there are two pre-schools (or nurseries) in Medstead and one in Preston Candover.

## **Shops**

Nearby shops:

**Preston Candover** (2 miles): Post Office/village Shop.

**Medstead** (2 miles): The Handy Stores, a small grocery, newsagents & Post Office (newspapers delivered).

**Four Marks** (3 miles): small parade of shops (including a baker & coffee shop) and a Co-op store.

## **Sports**

**Cricket:** Wield has a cricket club with adult and junior players. Matches - both home (on the cricket ground opposite The Yew Tree pub in Lower Wield) and away - are played on Sundays throughout the summer. Cricket tea is a popular village activity!

**Tennis:** There are active tennis clubs in Preston Candover & Medstead.

**Bowls:** There is a club in Medstead

## **Taxi**

K5 Taxis (see advertisement in The Oxdrove) operate from Upper Wield. They are a reliable and affordable taxi service to eg Heathrow, Gatwick, London etc.

## **Vet**

The nearest vet is in Four Marks (Cedar Vet Group) tel: 01420 562 048 with branches in Alton and Alresford.

## **Wield Education Trust (WET)**

Wield has an unusual education trust. Its purpose is to help village children with a grant towards the cost of educational benefits (eg piano lessons) not normally provided by the local authority. Entitlement extends to any child (under 19 and in full time education) resident for more than six months in the Parish of Wield. The Trust also organises tennis coaching in Wield during the school Easter holidays and makes an annual gift to each child of an educational book of their own choice.

Further details and application forms are available from the Wield website ([www.wieldpc.org.uk](http://www.wieldpc.org.uk)) or the WET Chairman (Mrs Barbara Wells tel: 01256 389468 email: [wells@wieldpc.org.uk](mailto:wells@wieldpc.org.uk))

## **Wield Parish Council (WPC)**

The elected councillors who represent your interests in village matters (along with their principal responsibilities) are:

Kate Gibbons ( Clerk Sp)  
Robert Grande (Footpaths)  
Alwin Hutchinson (Chairman)

Nick Lailey (Roads)  
Roland Richardson (Environment) & website)  
Ben Robinson  
Georgie Alderson Slater (Ex Officio – defibrillators)  
Jean Frost (Clerk)

If something about your village (Upper or Lower Wield) concerns you, contact the Clerk (Mrs Jean Frost Tel: 01420 561136; email: [clerk@wieldpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wieldpc.org.uk)) or attend one of the regular WPC meetings, held in the Village Hall, Upper Wield and advertised well in advance on the village web site and notice boards.

### **Wield Village Hall (WVH)**

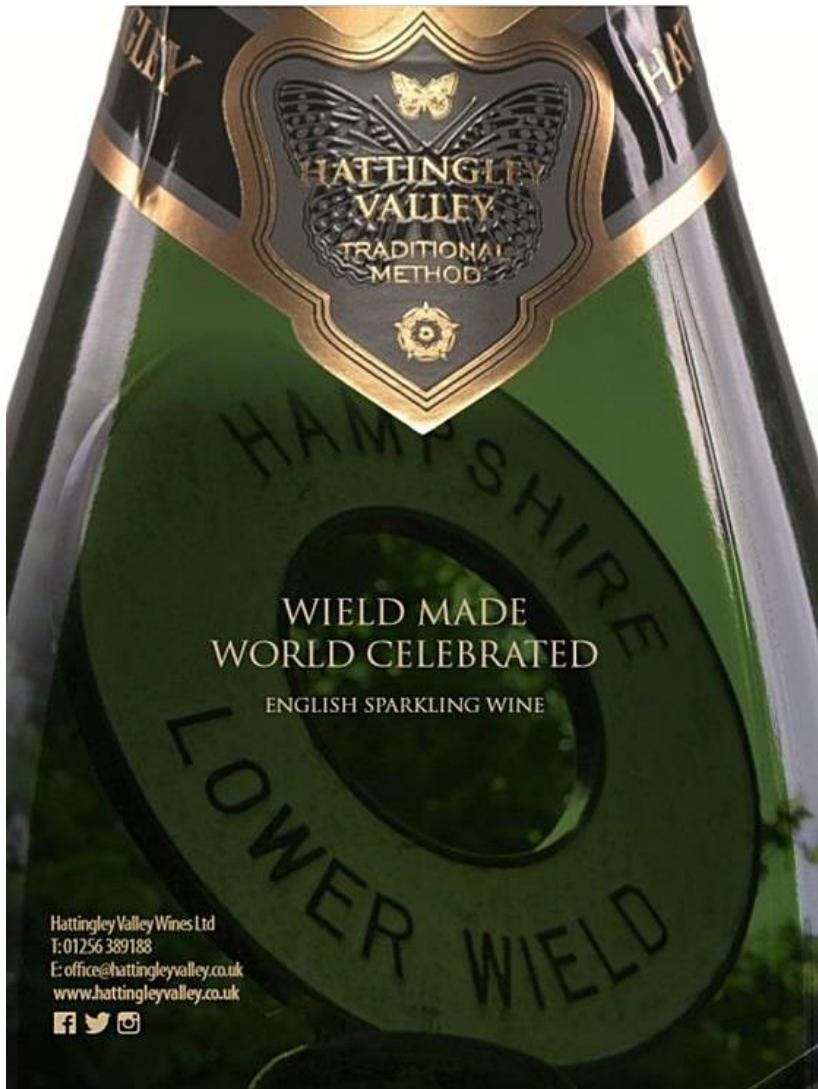
The village hall (originally the school) is in Upper Wield. It can be booked for private functions: tables and chairs can be hired separately.. For details (including costs, availability and for bookings), speak to Georgie Alderson Slater in Upper Wield (tel: 07506 145 130, or email: [g.alkanaan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.alkanaan@hotmail.co.uk)). Village functions are held in the Hall from time to time, as are film shows in the darker months (advertised on the village web site – [www.wieldpc.org.uk](http://www.wieldpc.org.uk))

### **Wield Web Site**

The Village has its own web site ([www.wieldpc.org.uk](http://www.wieldpc.org.uk)). It lists future events and details of village activities.

### **Wield Women's Institute (W WI)**

The Wield WI is a small friendly group that meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1930hrs in the Village Hall. Activities include outings, guest lectures, films and fun: new members are welcome.



Dec 20