# Wootton Courtenay declares itself the grumpiest village in the UK



Residents of Wootton Courtenay, a small village near Minehead in Somerset, are humourously claiming the title of the "grumpiest village in the UK." With a population of approximately 269 people, the locals are rallying around the concept of a "Grumpy Club" proposed by villagers Bill Hodgson and his wife, Marion Jay. The idea, amusingly, has garnered significant interest among residents, who have expressed a desire to have weekly meetings to share their grievances.

Marion noted the level of engagement from the community, stating, “From the reaction we’ve had from villagers, the invention of Grumpy Club isn’t so much an April Fool, but a gap in the market.” The sentiment reflects a collective urge within the village to vent and bond over shared complaints.

In a particularly spirited turn of events, local Paddy Parnell has stepped forward to hold his candidacy for the position of chairman of the proposed club. He humorously introduced his credentials by listing some of his own "pet grumps," highlighting a common theme of frustration felt among the villagers.

The village’s aspirations to embrace its grumpy persona comes amidst broader grievances in the region regarding the impact of tourism. Nearby Bibury, also in Somerset, has been facing its own challenges with an influx of visitors, particularly those attributed to social media platforms. Residents there have voiced concerns that the picturesque village, often referred to as the "most beautiful village" in the UK, has become overwhelmed with tourists, leading to chaos on its narrow streets.

Chairman of the Bibury parish council, Craig Chapman, has been vocal about these issues, acknowledging the residents’ plight and the need for action. “Whilst the residents of Bibury acknowledge that we live in a lovely village, the pressures put on us by the sheer volume of tourists visiting and coaches bringing tourists has become intolerable and unacceptable,” he stated. Chapman elaborated on the inadequacies of the village’s infrastructure, asserting that it is unsuitable for larger coaches due to road narrowness and the problematic location of existing coach bays.

Residents’ frustration towards the disruptive influence of tourism is echoed in discussions circulating on platforms like Reddit, where users from the vicinity have suggested measures such as banning coaches or placing restrictions to mitigate the impact. One local expressed that visitors often demonstrate a lack of respect for community boundaries, exacerbating tensions between inhabitants and tourists.

As the Grumpy Club in Wootton Courtenay prepares to launch and tackle local grievances, neighbouring Bibury grapples with the challenges of managing tourism, with both villages illustrating the complexities faced by rural communities in the face of modern tourism pressures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://whatsthejam.com/comedy-and-humor/grouchy-locals-make-their-village-the-grumpiest-in-country/> - This article supports the claim that Wootton Courtenay is being humorously referred to as the 'grumpiest village in the UK' due to the establishment of a 'Grumpy Club'. The club was launched to provide a platform for locals to share their grievances.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wootton_Courtenay> - This Wikipedia entry provides information about Wootton Courtenay, confirming its location near Minehead in Somerset and detailing some aspects of its local governance.
* <https://whatsthejam.com/category/comedy-and-humor/> - This website section provides additional humorous content related to various topics, including the concept of grumpiness or dissatisfaction among communities.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is mentioned as a source for the article; however, without specific content confirmation, it serves as a reference rather than direct support.
* <https://www.google.com/search?q=Bibury+tourism+concerns> - While not a specific article, this search query provides access to numerous reports and discussions about the tourism challenges faced by Bibury, reflecting the impact of increased visitor numbers on rural communities.