

Communications Report for Full Council

9th February 2011

Wootton News

The Wootton News (WN) is put together with the help of many volunteers, who should be recognised for all the hard work they have put into this edition. I would first like to thank Cllr Hall and Cllr Wright for all the time they have spent proof reading the Wootton News. I would like to thank Sue Bolton for collecting all the money from advertisers of past editions and from all the advertisers of this edition. For the first time in a long while, all advertisement money has been paid. Finally I would like to thank all the volunteers who deliver the Wootton News to the community.

The Printing of the Wootton News for the year 2011 has been awarded to Copykatz. By increasing the number of copies to 2500 has actually made it cheaper than last years prices for 1700 copies.

I have delivered some of the extra WN to homes outside of the parish (Wootton Road, Home Road, Ibbett Close, Ridge Road, Wood End Lane, The Chase and Upper Shelton Lower School). A note was attached to each one saying that if you wished to continue to receive the WN, then we need volunteers to deliver it. Volunteers are to give their details to the Parish Clerk. So far I have had one volunteer to deliver along Wootton Road.

Fun Day - Wootton in Bloom

Now that the Wootton News has been put to bed, my attention now turns to the Fun Day. To get more residence to attend we are planning on running a competition for children to design a garden in a shoe box. We are also asking local clubs to put on demonstrations and have more stalls. Inside the Village Hall we will have a Bar and will be serving cream teas. Outside, on the recreational ground we are planning to have stalls, an arena for shows, a stage for bands, a small children's fair, a BBQ, ice cream van and a car boot sale. On the car park behind the village hall we are hoping for a Fire appliance, Police car or bike, A Santa Pod car and Classic cars.

In January I e-mailed most of the local groups/clubs in Wootton asking for them to run a stall and/or put on a demonstration. Seven weeks later and I have had very little response. Last weekend I visited the Woburn Craft fair and talked to a few craft stalls that I thought would be appropriate for our fair (Soft toys, Glass ornament makers, Honey/Jams makers, Owls rescue charity). I can now confirm that the Rose & Crown will run the bar; Canine Partners (charity that train dogs to help the disabled) will put on a demonstration and run the cream teas. The Kempston Fair will let me know next week if they can attend. A Triumph classic car group said they would come along, and an archery club has surveyed the field and said that they would like to attend too. I have contacted several people about bands playing live music, and have asked the local martial arts and dance groups to do demonstrations on the day.

Website

The traffic to our village website is slightly higher than this time last year. We are receiving 200 to 300 visitors a month. However, this is not at a level where we can use the website as an effective advertising tool. I estimate that around 5% of the villagers are viewing our pages. I am hoping that we might receive some feedback on how to improve the website from the article in the Wootton News. I have thought about adding games to the site to attract more visitors.