



THE
WOOTTON
PARISH NEWS
December 2012



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If you have any comments or opinions on how to improve the Wootton News, please sent them to Sue Playford (Parish Clerk) WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com or call on 07531 930 788.



Editor in Chief - Sue Playford
Editor - Gareth Lloyd



Wootton News

- Next issue March 2013
- Copydate 1st February

Front Cover

We are always looking for new pictures to go into the Wootton News. Please send your pictures to: WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com

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Wootton News Editorial Notes

Wootton News is overseen by an Editorial subgroup of the Parish Council. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is accurate, the Parish Council accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It should be noted that articles written by individuals do not necessarily represent the views of the Council. Please send all articles to the Wootton News Editor (gareth.t.lloyd@googlemail.com) by the copydate.

Advertisements are usually half page (£25 black & white, £40 Colour) and restricted to local residents. If you wish to advertise then please send your details to the Editor (gareth.t.lloyd@googlemail.com). The advertisements are taken in good faith, and we cannot accept any responsibility for bad service or workmanship received.

A pdf copy of the Wootton News can be found at the bottom of the Parish council's home page (<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>)

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Why not come along to our craft group and perhaps learn a new skill? The next three meetings will be held on:-

Tuesday January 8th,

Tuesday February 5th

Tuesday March 5th

The meetings are held at 8pm in the Memorial Hall, all are welcome.



Wootton Parish Council Chairman's Report

Hello everybody,

Well another year has come and gone, and the logs in my chimney are swept and ready for another winter in Wootton!



John Wheeler - Chairman

By the time you read this report your preparations for Christmas will no doubt be well under way and I am sure you will be looking forward to seeing family and friends over the festive season. Do spare a thought for those who might be on their own at this time; if you know of anyone, why not pop in and say hello?

As always, there is a lot going on in Wootton over the Christmas period – in churches, clubs and pubs to name but a few. Do please check our noticeboards, website and Facebook page for further details.

I am sad to report that Maurice Wolfenden has resigned his position on the Parish Council after years of service, and I, together with the rest of the Council, would like to thank him for his work and wish him well for the future.

We are still actively looking for full funding for the proposed skate park. It is hoped funding could be secured as early as the beginning of 2013 - I will keep you updated on this.

The new housing development is now in full swing and the Parish Council is continuing to secure the best outcome for the village. I would like to thank Cllr. Bob Wallace for his hard work.

I would also like to thank Sue Playford, our clerk, and Sue Bolton, our Responsible Financial Officer and members of the Parish Council for another year's hard work. They have all played a part in ensuring the parish runs smoothly and effectively.

Finally all Parish Council members and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dates for your diary

9 th Jan 2013	Planning & Environment
9 th Jan 2013	Full council
30 th Jan 2013	Planning & Environment
30 th Jan 2013	Finance & General purposes
13 th Feb 2013	Planning & Environment
13 th Feb 2013	Leisure & Amenities
13 th Feb 2013	Communications
27 th Feb 2013	Planning & Environment
13 th Mar 2013	Planning & Environment
13 th Mar 2013	Full council
27 th Mar 2013	Planning & Environment
27 th Mar 2013	Finance & General purposes



Please check noticeboards and the parish council website for all timings, and in case of any cancellations.



The Royal British Legion, Wootton, would like to thank everyone who was involved with this year's Poppy Appeal, and attended the parade on the 11th November. Further, detailed information will appear in the next Wootton News.

Carers Awareness Event

NHS Bedfordshire and Carers in Bedfordshire are working in partnership with the Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre to host an event on the 29th January 2013 to identify new and hidden carers in order to prevent them from becoming ill as a result of their caring responsibilities.

Date: 29th January 2013
Time: Drop in between 10am and 1pm
Venue: Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre
Fields Road, Wootton, Bedford



**Bedfordshire
Luton**

It is estimated that there are approximately 15,000 carers in the Bedford Borough area but only a small proportion of these are identified as carers and access services to support them in their caring role.

If you provide care or look after a family member, friend or neighbour who is ill, frail or disabled, or who has a mental health or substance misuse problem then that makes you a carer. You can therefore access information, support and advice to help you in your caring role.

The event in Wootton is open to all carers from the Wootton practice as well as carers from the Marston and Canfield practices. Staff will be on hand to offer information and support around accessing carer's assessments, breaks, support groups and training. Refreshments and pampering treatments will also be available.

For more information, please contact Carers in Bedfordshire on 0300 111 1919.

Help Wanted

The Wootton News is brought to you by a fantastic group of volunteers who produce the articles, design the newsletter and, most importantly, deliver the newsletter. We are looking for a few more volunteers. We need help with the following: -

- Delivering the Wootton News around St Mary's Road.
- Distributing 3 boxes of newsletters to 6 or 7 volunteers who deliver the Wootton News.
- Holiday and sick cover. When our current volunteers are unable to deliver, we need someone to do their round.

Without these volunteers we would not have this newsletter. If you can help please contact Sue Playford.

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Parish Clerk's Report

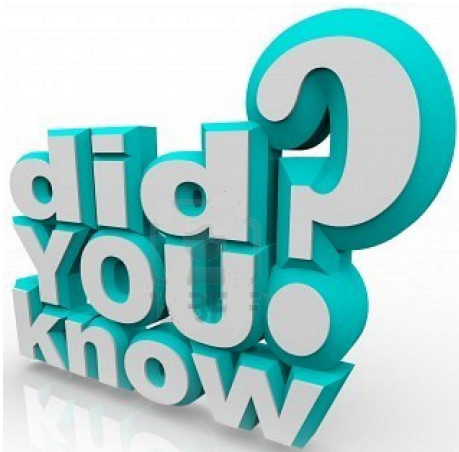
The Remembrance Sunday service was once again very well attended and it was heartening to see so many of the village youngsters take part in this special service, made all the more poignant this year with Sunday itself being the 11th.

The MUGA refurbishment was undertaken during October, and the MUGA is now available for bookings. A number of teams have already booked this facility but there is still availability. The MUGA also remains available for individual free play, so do please visit the website or the noticeboard by the Fields Road/Bedford Road junction for fuller booking details.

I hope everyone is once again enjoying the Christmas tree at the Cause End Road/Bedford Road junction. Thank you to everyone who came to the carol service earlier this month and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. See you in 2013.



Sue Playford
WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
07531 930 788.



There are some 80,000 local councillors in England – all volunteers. In addition to conforming to the Code of Conduct, a councillor must also:

- attend meetings when summoned to do so; the notice to attend a council meeting is, in law, a summons, because they have a duty to attend;
- consider, in advance of the meeting, the agenda and any related documents which were sent to them with the summons;
- take part in meetings and consider all the relevant facts and issues on matters which require a

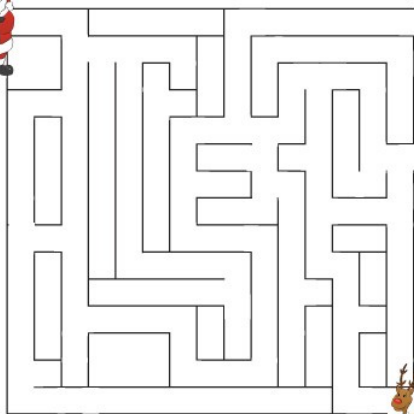
decision, including the views of others expressed at the meeting;

- take part in voting and respect decisions made by the majority of those present and voting;
- ensure, with other councillors, that the council is properly managed;
- represent the whole electorate and not just those who voted for them.

A casual vacancy on the parish council was advertised in October, and this position is still available. If you are interested and would like more information on becoming a councillor, do please let me know.

Christmas Maze

Can you help Santa find Rudolf?



Have you heard about

ENCOMPASS?

Encompass is St. Mary's version of a nationwide initiative: 'Messy Church'.

Who's it for? All the family



What happens at Encompass?

We arrive after school at 3.45pm for a cup of tea, squash & biscuits.



At 4pm we begin with all sorts of fun - craft, competition & games (recently we made working rockets!)

At 4.45pm we listen to a Bible story, pray & sing.

At 5pm a hot meal is provided.

Then it's time to go home



Encompass is free (though donations welcome towards food and craft)

Why not join us on: 22 Nov, 24 Jan, 28 Feb.

Christmas at St. Mary's



Sat 15 Dec	7.30pm	Concord Singers concert
Sun 16 Dec	4pm	Christingle
Sun 23 Dec	10.30am	Family Nativity Service
	6pm	Lessons & Carols by candle light
Mon 24 Dec	4pm	Family Carols
	11pm	Midnight Communion
Tues 25 Dec	9am	The Lord's Supper
	10.30am	Family Service

St Mary's – Winter 2012

St. Mary's is at your service!

- * **Monday's Lunch Club** for senior citizens friendship, chat & a hot meal. 1.15pm at the Church Hall: 10 Dec, 14 Jan)
- * **Men Behaving Dadly** a monthly toddler group for Dad's & their 0—5's on Sat 10am at the Hall: 24 Nov, 26 Jan.
- * **Wrigglers Coffee Morning** a weekly parent & toddler group 10am held at Wotton Baptist Church in term time.
- * **Young People's groups - every Sunday at 10.30am**
- Pathfinders** - school years 5-8 every Weds 7pm at the Hall.
- J@M - school years 9+ every Sun 7.15pm at the Hall
- * **Christianity Explored** a short course to discover more about what Christians believe.
- * **Mid-week Bible study groups**
- * **A daily, popular playgroup** (tel: 767158)

Regular Sunday Services

9am	The Lord's Supper/Morning Prayer
10.30am	Morning Service with groups for young people and crèche
6pm	Evening Service

**Knowing Jesus; Making Jesus
Known to All'**

Vicar: Peter Ackroyd 768391 vicar@stmaryswootton.org.uk
Curate: Sam Haigh 766317 curate@stmaryswootton.org.uk
Church Office: 765375 office@stmaryswootton.org.uk
Our monthly magazine 'Focus' is available in the Post Office & Library.



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk Follow us:



Wootton Country Players

Details:

Upper Badger's Bottom and the Beanstalk.

Can Jack save the village of Upper Badger's Bottom from the evil Giant? Can Dame Mankey thwart the dreadful Sir Richard? Can Jill find her true love? Can Basher and Crusher avoid a custard pie in the face? Answers to all these burning questions, and the effect a handful of magic beans has on Upper Badger's Bottom, come along to Upper....sorry, Wootton Village Hall, Church Road, Wootton from Thursday 17th January to the 20th .

Jack and the Beanstalk

Wootton Village Hall

Church Road

Wootton

Thursday January 17. 7.30pm

Friday January 18. 7.30pm

Saturday January 19. 2.30pm

Saturday January 19. 7.30pm

Sunday January 20. 2.30pm.

Tickets: £7.50 (£6.50 conc.) £22 family (2 adults, 2 children) Group £55 for 10.

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or Graham on 07950 923051

or Bedford Box Office 01234 269169

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Hard of Hearing by Rebecca Cook

I thought I heard the Christmas bells from way across the hill
I should have done, because that night the air was very still
But they were smothered by the clamour at the supermarket till.

I thought I heard some voices saying "Come let us adore."
And felt that I had heard that song sung somewhere else before
But it was hard to hear above the cries of "Give me more"

I thought I heard the clergymen inviting us to go
To worship as they had before, two thousand years ago
But most preferred to stay at home and watch a video.

"Come, we must leave our work for now" I heard the neighbours say
The Saviour of the world has come and this is Christmas day"
But I had presents to unwrap and couldn't get away.

I heard a voice from Africa come faintly to my ear
"We are dying of starvation" and I wiped away a tear
And turned the telly off because I didn't want to hear.

And then a voice said "Come and take my gifts of Peace and Grace
Only with these can you expect to save the human race"
But computer lost the message; it was gone without a trace.

I thought I heard God's voice announcing "I will come again"
But some one turned the music up and swallowed the refrain
And as nobody could hear of course then no-one gets the blame.

I nearly missed the voice say "This is my beloved Son
Who came to earth to save you for the wrongs which you have done"
Because all the world was shouting
"MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!"

Editorial note:

The last line of "Scarecrow and the Olympic Games" was missing and should have read:
"For anyway" thought Scarecrow as he went back to his place
"We can't all be a winner, but we can all join the race."

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Hypnotherapy allows you to tap into your subconscious thoughts and change them. During the session/s you will experience a real sense of deep relaxation. You will be aware of what is happening and what I am saying. **Hypnotherapy** will leave you feeling relaxed, positive and can free you of your unwanted habit.

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Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre & Hitchin

To make an appointment or for general enquiries please contact:

Manjit Sangha - 07974484759

Email: manjsskk@yahoo.co.uk



Bizzy Bees

Celebrations 2012...

Summer term ended with our Mini Indoor Olympics, a theme which has been running all term leading up to London 2012! The children built their own podium and everyone was presented with a gold

medal to commemorate the games.

On the 16th June we celebrated our 40th Anniversary and the completion of the new fencing with an Open Day. Everyone enjoyed a free BBQ and homemade cakes. Bizzy Bees pupils old and new released 40 red balloons over Wootton. We enjoyed a musical quartet, face painting, planting activities and a bouncy castle. Lots of memories and “where are they now?” moments were shared, as children and parents looked through old photographs.

Staff and children have begun a busy Autumn Term where we have been working on topics such as ‘All about me’, ‘My family’, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

Outdoor play comes high on the curriculum at Bizzy Bees and this term we have introduced a new outdoor music area, complete with chimes, pots, pans and metal spoons, and a new wooden outdoor kitchen to enhance our “mud play area” which has proved very popular!

At last our web site is live and you can find us at www.bizzybeespreschool.org

Bizzy Bees Pre-school offers sessional, lunch club and full day care 9.00am to 3.45pm term time only, for children aged 2 years to school age. All children are eligible for 15 hours free Nursery Education Funding from the term after their 3rd birthday and in some cases 2 year old funding is available. Further information available from Bizzy Bees Pre-school 01234 767785.



Memorial Hall Committee needs your help?

Some of you may know, that in addition to my Parish Clerk role, I have also been a Memorial Hall committee member and bookings clerk for the past year.

My role as Parish Clerk continues to become ever more busy, and so it is now necessary for me to stand down from the Memorial Hall duties. If you know of anyone who might be interested in taking these duties over – do please let me know, and I will be happy to provide fuller details of what is involved.



WOOTTON NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9FE

Friday 21st December
11.00am

Cafe Carols

Led by Rev Caroline Weaver

Cafe @ The Hub
open 10.00am – 12.00pm

All welcome



YOUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY CAFE



What's on *@ the hub?*

Monday/Wed
Thur/Friday/Sat
10.00am – 12.00pm
Drop in for a
chat & coffee

Wednesdays
10.00am – 12.00pm
Games @The Hub
Wii, dominoes, table
tennis etc.

Mondays
10.00am – 12.00pm
Knit &
natter

Fridays
3.00pm – 5.00pm
Hubbub
Youth Cafe
Year 9+
Wii, table tennis, table
football etc.



WOOTTON NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH
Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9DE
www.woottonnewlife.org.uk

Library Corner

We have lots of **family fun days** coming up.

Sat 8th Dec – Christmas crafts – drop in between 10 and 12.

Mon 17th Dec – Christmas story at 5.15 – bring your teddy.

Sat 2nd February – Chinese New Year crafts – drop in between 10 and 12.

Wed 20th February – Dinosaur crafts – drop in between 3 and 5.

Sat 23rd March - Easter crafts – drop in between 10 and 12 and make Easter cards.

Our **Chatterbooks** reading group for 8-12 year olds meets once a month on Wednesdays at 4.30 – joining is free, just ask!

Wed 16th January – 11am – 12. Coffee morning – Remember the 1970's.

Knit & Natter meets from 2pm on the 1st and 3rd Friday.

Wootton library is open:

Monday from 2-6

Wednesday from 10-1 & 2-6

Friday from 2-6

Saturday from 10-1

If you have any questions just
pop in or ring us on
01234 766 061

Wootton Vale Christmas Opening

Our opening times over the Christmas / New Year Period are as follows:

Monday 24 th Dec	- Open as usual
Tuesday 25 th Dec	- Closed
Wednesday 26 th Dec	- Closed
Thursday 27 th Dec	- Open as usual – no late night opening
Friday 28 th Dec	- Open as usual
Monday 31 st Dec	- Open as usual
Tuesday 1 st Jan 2013	- Closed
Wednesday 2 nd Jan	- Open morning, closed in the afternoon
Thursday 3 rd Jan	- Open as usual – no late night opening
Friday 4 th Jan	- Open as usual

Please note “Open as usual” means morning 08:15 to 12:30 and afternoon 14:00 to 18:15.

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- ◆ Reduces level of anxiety

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227164

Bedford's **Dal Poon Tang Soo Do Academy** have returned as champions from the IMA Tang Soo Do Championships, held on Saturday 20th October in Crystal Palace, London.



The Tournament this year was in honour of Master Nar, Chief Instructor of the European Tang Soo Do Federation and 7th Dan Master Belt, who celebrates his 35 years in training this year. Master Nar who instructed in Wootton for 10 years, now lives in Ireland and has further expanded the association there. The competition attracted over 200 competitors and involved teams from all over the

country as well as from Malta, Ireland and the USA.

Wootton students of all ages competed in open hand and weapons forms as well as free fighting competitions against competitors' from all nations. Team members won over 30 medals.

The highlight of the day was the Creative Demonstrations. Each club had put together a performance in honour of the anniversary tournament and the competition level was very high. Dal Poon Academy's Demonstration Team won 3rd Place, impressing the audience with their energetic performance of high kicks, weapon skills and technical breaks.

The team was selected and trained for the competition by Wootton instructors Andrew Johnson, 3rd Dan Black belt and Stéphanie Johnson, 3rd Dan Black Belt and 2009 IMA European Female Grand Champion. Stéphanie said, "I am extremely proud of the demonstration team who worked hard to deliver a great result in a tough competition.



Tang Soo Do is a traditional Korean martial art based on the ancient Korean kicking style of Tae Kyun, and the soft, flowing movements from the Chinese Martial Arts systems. Whilst Tang Soo Do has the rituals and discipline of a traditional martial art it equips every student with effective modern self-defence knowledge, techniques and capabilities.

Andrew and Stéphanie run classes in the Wootton Village Hall every Thursday from 6.30pm to 7.45pm. All ages welcome. Contact Andrew Johnson on 07748 653220 for more information. First class is free. It is a great way to get fit, just come along and try it out.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP 2012



Did you see groups of people wandering around Wootton with mad hair styles and hi-viz jackets on the morning of Saturday 27th October? Did you wonder what was going on?

Well, it was the annual Wootton Village Clean-Up in action. 70 people took part from the local Scouting and Guiding movement. Beavers, Rainbows, 1st and 2nd Brownies and Guides, their leaders and many parents scoured the village and collected 26 bags of litter, (10 of which were recyclable), two traffic cones, a metal pole and a road sign!

The Clean-Up coincided with 'Make a Difference Day' (MADD for short) which highlights the importance of volunteering. To celebrate this many people arrived sporting 'mad' hair which added an element of fun. A competition was held for the best styles and two of the winners are pictured here.

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the benefit of a tidier looking village. How long will it last? I'm not sure! Although the Scout and Guide groups organise the event with Pride in Bedford, anyone in the village is welcome to come along. In fact three people from Bedford took part. So why not give it a try next year. The date will be advertised in the newsletter. If you enjoy walking, meeting people and want to make a difference I'm sure you will find it great fun!

Parking at the Village Hall



A reminder and request please – when using the Village Hall facilities. The parish council has asked the Highways department to help improve parking outside the Village Hall. Whilst the matter remains on going with Highways, for safety's sake, could all users of the Village Hall please use the car park at the rear of the premises, rather than parking on Church Road or Squires Road.

Wootton boys become British Champions



From left to right: Adam Hollins, Jack Cheney, Jamie Lloyd & Luke Fisher

Adam, Jack, Jamie and Luke arrived at the Curborough Sprint track with everything to play for. After great wins at Shennington and Blackbushe, the British Pedal Car Championship was within their grasp. A good start saw the boys leading their class (U12) and in 2nd place in the class above (U14). Thirty five minutes into the eight hour race, when disaster struck and the steering column snapped.

A lesser team would have walked away, but these guys undeterred by the set back tried various methods to fix the car. After 1 hour 10 minutes, 2 broken saws, and 2 failed attempts the car was fixed. Now in last place, the four drivers dug in and gave their all. Each driver did the most laps they could manage at speed and then pitted, a fast change of driver and out again. Slowly over the next 5 hours they clawed their way back. With the track now in darkness the Wootton boys took the lead in the U12 race, and continued to push the U14 teams.

The boys were awarded the U12 British Pedal Car Championship, and 3rd place in the U14 British Championship.

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½ hr appointment: £25

1 hr appointment: £35

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Wootton Rangers

The season has finally started and our teams are filling the Rec and Wootton Upper School with football on a Saturday and Sunday. We have just started up an Under 7 side training Saturday mornings at Wootton Rec in addition to the other teams we run. Status update on our teams progress to date;

Under 16's Warriors – Division 1 Milton Keynes Youth League – Playing well in a tough division which they won a couple of seasons ago. Currently in fourth place after 3 games

Under 16's Pumas – Division 3 Milton Keynes Youth League – Currently in fourth place after 6 games and through to the second round of the League Cup following a 3-2 away win at second division Pitstone & Ivanhoe

Under 15's Tigers – Division 2 Chiltern Youth League – Currently third after 6 games with all the matches very close

Under 15's Lions – Division 4 Chiltern Youth League – Currently fifth after 5 games and through to the second round of the County Cup following a 3-1 home win against Houghton Athletic

Under 14's – Division 4 Chiltern Youth League – Currently seventh after 6 games in a division with a massive 14 teams in it.

Under 14's Girls – Chiltern Junior 7's – Only 1 division in this League. Great squad of players playing together in their first season. Improving as they learn to play as a team.

Under 12's – Division 3 Chiltern Youth League – Currently top of the table after 6 games having only lost once and into the third round of the County Cup following a 7-2 away win at Mid Beds Tigers

Under 10's – Beds Mini Soccer League – Mixture of results but playing well

Under 9's – Beds Mini Soccer League – Great squad of players playing some very good football

Under 8's – Beds Mini Soccer League – Non-competitive friendlies at this age group – Team gelling very well together

We have also arranged the Wootton Rangers kids Christmas Party for Friday 7th December 2012. Check out our website woottonrangers.co.uk for contact details of our Managers and Committee Members if you have a child who would be interested in joining the club or want to get involved in youth football or email us at woottonrangersyfc@gmail.com

Wootton Lower School



Our school has been working hard over the last year and has produced some excellent results. We have changed our approach on how we teach the children to read and the results have been outstanding. Not only have we seen progress in their reading far beyond anything achieved by the school in recent history, we have also seen a significant improvement in the quality of their writing. We expect this success to continue with

the introduction of a new, exciting reading scheme and our focus this year will now be on how we teach mathematics.

The school football team has started the new season well. The two Year 4 teams hosted their first tournament where we were blessed with a sunny Saturday morning in September. The school is very grateful to the Year 4 parents for doing an excellent job of organising the event and also to the local businesses for supporting the school. In addition to raising over £2,000 one of our teams won the tournament. A great result! Many thanks to Mr Witt and Mr Donovan who continue to help me train the Year 4 and Year 2 teams.

As the school celebrates its' 50th birthday (with **lots** of tea and cake – the latter kindly donated by Coromel Cakes) we have given it a couple of presents. The school now has a new website (www.woottonlowerschool.uk.org), a 'Learning Village' which provides a quality learning environment for small groups of children to work in and finally a pirate ship on the back playing field. We are now waiting for an anchor to go with the ship which is being modelled on the school logo.

After 8 Years PTFA service we are sad to say goodbye to Tina and her 'crew' and thank them all for their hard work over the years. As well as raising lots of money for the school, I know the children also really enjoyed the events put on by them. I would like to thank Mike Green who has stepped up to be the new Chair, Karl Berry for being the new Treasurer and Gayle Eames and Vikki Dillingham for sharing the Secretary role.

... and finally I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped with ur Senior Citizen Tea Party. Once again our guests enjoyed an afternoon of performances by the children and all left suitably full of tea and cake!

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Tavener
Head Teacher

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Wootton Golf Society

Is a local, friendly local Golf Society with about 35 members.

About Us:

We are based around the village of Wootton in Bedfordshire with approximately 35 members, established in 2009 we are a friendly group of golfers and welcome new members of any standard. Wootton Golf Society play once a month in and around Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. We also have singles

and doubles tournaments running throughout the year, prizes at each venue as well as trophies which are normally presented at our end of year Presentation Evening. If you require any further information about us or wish to join – please visit our website

www.woottongolfsociety.com or ring Peter on 07724812403



Wootton Baptist Church - Bedford Road

Friday 14th December 7.30pm – Carols with the Salvation Army at Wootton Village Hall. This is your opportunity to sing along with the band of the Salvation Army and, if you’re quick enough, choose a favourite carol. There will be mince pies afterwards. Come and start the Christmas celebrations with your friends in the village.

- Sunday 16th December 4pm for tea and 5pm for a special children’s service in the hall at the church
- Sunday 23rd December – Carol Service at 10:30am
- Sunday 23rd December – Carols by candlelight at 6pm
- Christmas Day Tuesday 25th December at 10:30am – a short carol service to celebrate the birth of Jesus
- Sunday 30th December – our usual services at 10:30am and 6pm

You are all most welcome to come and join in the singing every Sunday and on these special occasions

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.”
“Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.”

Wootton Women’s Institute

Many thanks to all who came and supported our Craft Fair, held on the 25th November. We hope you were able to find a gift or two for Christmas. Part of our profit will be given to The Ramps and Riders project in the village.

Our next three months programme is as below: -

December 19th	Music Unlimited	Jon Scott
January 16th	Paranormal Bedfordshire	Damien O’Dell
February 20th	Easter Cookery	Carol Jones

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1ST WOOTTON GUIDES



On the 22-29 July Wootton and Kempston guides went to Tolmers Scout Activity camp in Essex. I was the only one from 1st Wootton that went. My leader and 1 Young Leader came as well. While I was there I did all sorts of activities such as rock climbing, coconut climb, rope-a-phobia, slippery slope, abseiling, quad bikes and loads more. My favourite activity was abseiling and rope-a-phobia because I love climbing and high ropes.

In the middle of the week we went to South End. It was lovely and hot! We had some sausage and chips. At the camp there was a camp fire and a disco! They were both great. The theme was super-hero's so we had to bring a costume! I am in the front row wearing a Bat Girl costume. I wish to go there again!

Ysabella Tant

If you are interested in joining Guides, then contact Gill on 856 566

On Sunday 30th September 2012, 1st Wootton Guides took part in the annual Bedford Division Bridgewalk which is a sponsored walk around the river in Bedford. Each complete route is 1 mile and for each bridge that we cross or pass by we get marked off on our sponsor cards. We decided to make our own tutu's for the event and made these during one of our guide evenings. We were very easily recognised and even Jamie's dog had a colourful collar to wear. Some of us walked around the route and some even ran. We had a really lovely afternoon and it was lovely to see so many Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their families enjoying the afternoon.





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Staffing

2012 has proved a milestone in the development of the surgery. In some ways it has proved quite difficult as we have gone through a major transition in our clinical staff. Two of our Physician Assistants departed. Neil Erickson, who has been with us since we opened, retired

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and Rene Frasher moved back to Alaska. Shannon Dudley, our other Physician was away on maternity leave for 6 months. This has led to a lot of disruption, in our clinical team, and meant that we had to use locum GPs far more often than we would have liked.

However, as 2012 draws to a close, we are looking forward to 2013 with a new stable clinical team. Dr Nancy Murray has now been at the practice for over a year and has fully settled in as our lead full time patient facing GP. Dr Paula Yapp joined us in late April and gives part time cover and continuity of care on our busiest days of the week, i.e. Monday and Tuesday. Shannon has returned from her maternity leave. We have also recruited a new male GP. Dr John Richards, who some of you will remember from previously when he used to do regular Friday locum sessions for us, will be joining us in January working 3 days a week. We are really pleased that we have assembled a clinical team with a good mix of skills and abilities to take the surgery forward and meet the needs of the community.

New computer system

At the end of October we upgraded our computer system. Inevitably, this resulted in some disruption to our services, as we had to migrate all our patient data to the new system and then we had to be trained and get familiarised with how to use it. We are now used to the new system and are beginning to reap the benefits of the improved functionality and better features it offers so this should result in better performance and efficiency.

The new system will enable us to improve the experience of our patients and there are several ways that you will see these directly. Examples of these are as follows:

Text (SMS) messaging – this will enable us to send appointment reminders and updates about the surgery e.g. dates of our flu clinics direct to your mobile phone.

Online appointment booking – You will be able to access our appointment books directly and book an appointment that is convenient to you. Please note that this feature is coming in 2013.

Summary Care Record (SCR) – this is an electronic version of your essential health information which is stored in a central location. It means that Healthcare staff outside the surgery, will have access to information about medicines you are taking or allergies you have, if you attend when the surgery is closed or when you are away from home in another part of England. This means they can provide you with safer care. More information on SCR can be found at www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk. If you do not want to take advantage of SCR and would prefer that a summary of your health record is NOT shared outside the practice in this way then you must opt OUT of the scheme. To opt out of the summary care record you must state this in writing. To opt out you can

Come into the surgery and complete an opt out form

Continues on page 32

Download the opt out form from the www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk website, complete it and return it to the surgery, or

Use the “Patient Consent” page on the practice website www.woottonvale.com.

Please note that, the practice respects your privacy and confidentiality and therefore, we must receive your consent before we can start to send text messages and emails etc. You can give your consent, by either coming into the practice and requesting a form from reception or by completing the “Patient Consent” page on our website – www.woottonvale.com. Please note that it is important that you let us know if any of your contact details change. This is especially true of mobile numbers which change relatively frequently.

You can now follow us on “Twitter” at @woottonvale where you will find surgery news and updates.

Flu vaccinations

There are still some of our patients who have not yet received the flu vaccination. If you are over 65 or in an ‘At Risk’ group as defined by the Department of Health, (please see the list below), please contact the practice to book your jab.

Pregnant women

People who are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person

Chronic (long-term) respiratory disease such as **severe** asthma, COPD or bronchitis

Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure

Chronic kidney disease

Chronic liver disease such as hepatitis

Chronic neurological disease, such as stroke TAI or post-polio syndrome

Diabetes

A weakened immune system due to conditions such as HIV, or treatments that suppress the immune system such as chemotherapy

People who live with someone with a weakened immune system

2013 and beyond....

Many of you will be aware that the housing development on Fields Road is now proceeding very rapidly with the first new patients due to move in early in 2013. This will bring with it many new residents to the village and hence, new patients to the practice which will fuel the next stage of the surgery development. The greater the number of patients, registered at the surgery, the better, as it means increased funding, so we can employ more staff, with a greater range of specialisms and therefore offer a greater range of services to you. Furthermore, with

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more staff we can offer greater flexibility of opening hours to suit the needs of our practice population. This growth will also drive increased provision of community services, provided by other healthcare professionals, locally from the practice. We think that this is all very exciting and are really looking forward to serving you and our future patients in the years to come.

Practice Performance Update

In the last issue of Wootton News we reported that Wootton Vale had been ranked along the best surgeries in the country. Since then, the official results have been published and these show that we are ranked in the top 5% of practices in terms of patient satisfaction. Out of the more than 8,000 practices, in the country, Wootton Vale is ranked 337th. This makes us the second placed practice in Bedfordshire after a Dunstable practice which just pipped us, coming 333rd. Thank you to all our patients who completed the survey and gave us such a positive rating. We will make every effort to continue to serve you at the high levels which have led to this high ranking and strive to improve upon it!

Merry Christmas

The surgery and staff wish all our patients a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year



Sam (Otter) and Sally (Squirrel)

As usual the Beavers have been busy! So far this term the children have earned more badges by growing

seeds, learning new campfire songs, making plasticine models, taking part in the village litter pick and the

Remembrance Parade in November. We have also had our first Wootton Beavers Sleepover, with a Pirate theme. The children had great fun making pirate hats, hooks and treasure chests, and playing walk the plank and other pirate themed games. They had a lovely cooked breakfast and picnic lunch courtesy of our parent helpers then had to wash up their plates and bowls, which strangely they all did without any moaning! We are set to have our Christmas Party on 17th December and we are sure the Beavers will be just as excited by the thought of Christmas as they are every year!

The New Year will kick off with the children working towards their Promise Challenge Badge, along the way earning their Faith and Safety Badges, doing an Alphabet Hike, pancake tasting (of course!), junk modelling and much more.

Finally, we would like to thank all our Beaver parents who support us by helping out on our parent rota and helping the children with their badge work.

Beavers are aged between 6 and 8, so if you would like to put your child on the Beaver waiting list please contact Sam on 07778 610061 or alternatively send an email to sam.bloomer@hotmail.co.uk

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St. Mary's Playgroup

Established 1967

St. Mary's Church Hall, St. Mary's Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9HB

Tel: 01234 767158

It has been another busy start for us at St Mary's Playgroup with us welcoming lots of new children.

So far this term the children have been on a journey with the Little Red Hen. The story of 'The Little Red Hen' was read to the children accompanied by a set of puppets. Each child took it in turns to have a puppet and took on the speaking role for their character. They later played with the puppets at our table top puppet theatre. The Little Red Hen project has helped the children explore a variety of numeracy related concepts, which include sorting and matching, counting, recognising shapes and problem-solving.

Autumn has been a fun time for the children. We have been enjoying lots of outdoor and indoor activities involving leaves. Some of these include gathering leaves, using rakes and sweeping brushes in the garden and hunting for and counting leaves, conkers and pine cones. The artwork the children have created this autumn is wonderful. They have been painting leaves and then printing them onto paper. They have coloured and glued different textures onto cut out leaves to make a large autumn tree for our wall display.

Once every six weeks the children have the opportunity to have a cooked meal at playgroup instead of their usual packed lunch. On Wednesday 24th October some very excited children stayed for a lunch of sausage, beans and chips followed by jelly and ice cream.

General Information

St Mary's Playgroup operates from the Church Hall and has been serving the local community since 1967. The Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance. We are staffed by fully qualified play leaders. We cater for children from age two to five years.

At St Mary's Playgroup we plan activities which enable the children to have fun, learning through stimulating and imaginative play. Whether this involves making a gluey collage with pasta or autumn leaves; making a big, creative mess with sand, water and play dough; or balancing and climbing on the equipment indoors and out, we aim to provide a safe and happy environment.

If you would like to put your child's name down for a playgroup place, or require any further information please phone Mary on 01234 767158. Alternatively you can call in to pick up an enrolment form.



Kimberley STEM College

Community can play its part(s) in shaping the future of learning at Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College

A community wide consultation in Bedford Borough, and beyond, has been underway since 15th November 2012 to gather information and comments, which will shape the future of the proposed free school, Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College; to be based in the post code district MK43.

Designed to capture as many opinions as possible, the consultation will reach out to parents, students and the local community; including both the business and higher education communities. It will seek views on the impact of establishing this new college and ask people to give their thoughts on how the new Free School could ensure that it is really part of the local community.

Wootton Academy Trust would run Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College. This will be subject to the outcome of the consultation and a decision by the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove. The Trust currently runs Wootton Upper School, a highly successful school, also in the MK43 post code district.

Kimberley College would have its own principal who would lead the college day-to-day.

Simon O'Toole, chairman of Wootton Academy Trust said: "The proposed college will provide many new opportunities for students, staff and the wider community but we do need everyone to help us to shape that bright new future. There are many ways people can take part and we will welcome their input for a project which could really make a difference not only to the young people themselves but the community as a whole."

The proposers will be hosting a question and answer event on Thursday November 27th from 7:30p.m at Wootton Upper School and a 'drop-in' coffee morning on December 18th from 10:00 – 12noon, at Marston Vale Community Forest, which are open to all.

There will be a variety of ways in which everyone can put forward their comments in writing or in person. For more information please visit our website www.stemcollege.co.uk

Contacts Directory

Wootton Village Website

<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

Parish Council Chairman

John Wheeler: 07979 998 206

Parish Council Vice Chairman

Gareth Lloyd: 07808 391 204

Parish Clerk

Sue Playford: 07531 930 788

3 Longden Close, Haynes, Bedfordshire, MK45 3PJ

WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com

Parish Accountant

Sue Bolton: 741 492

Parish Councillors

Claire Bennett 07876 637 938

Gerald Bygraves: 07792 842 601

Malcolm Chalmers: 07864 295 520

Stephen Cruse: 07888 899 915

Brian Doggrell: 767 445

Naomi Groves: 07722 876 252

Bill Hall: 852 299

Paul Prescod: 768251

David Price 07534 006 012

Steve Rowse: 07813 007 797

Paul Quirk: 768 832

Bob Wallace: 768 011

Tree Warden

Pamela Stevenson: 764 337

Bedford Borough Councillor

Paul Prescod: 768251

Hall Booking

Memorial Hall Sue Playford: 07531 930 788

Village Hall Jenny: 767 488

Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Complex Booking

Sue Playford: 07531 930 788

Schools

Wootton Upper: 767 123

Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower School: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact School: 768 239

Playgroups

St Mary's Mary: 767 158

Bizzy Bees Ann: 767 785

St Mary's Church

Rev Peter Ackroyd: 768 391

Church Hall: 767 158

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Rev Caroline Weaver: 767865

Baptist Church

Mr Rob Stanton: 766 293

Roman Catholic Church

Father Seamus Keenan: 352 569

Doctor's Surgeries

Wootton Vale: 762 500

Cranfield - High Street: 750 234

Kempston - Cater Street: 849090

Kempston - King Street: 852 222

Kempston - St Johns Street 851 323

NHS Direct: 0845 46 47

Wootton Pharmacy: 765 166

Wootton Post Office:: 768 368

Wootton Library: 766 061

Police - HQ: 841 212

Beat Manager: 842 433

Non emergency 101

Village Clubs and Organisations

1st Wootton Rainbows - *Elaine*: 765 419

Acorn Quilters - *Dorothy*: 409 566

Badminton - *Chris*: 07740 939 109

Beavers - *Sam*: 768 794

Bowls - Monday - *Keith*: 768149

Thursday - *Rena*: 768 012

Brownies - Tuesday - *Denise*: 314 030

Wednesday - *Tina*: 768 293

Cubs - *Christopher*: 304 588

Country Players - *Wendy*: 401 460

Explorers - *Kir*: 216 883

Group Scout Leader - *Jenny*: 767 488

Guides - *Gill*: 856 566

'55' Club - *Arthur*: 768 405

Patacake Baby/Toddlers - *Chau*: 07854 885 746

Royal British Legion - *Alec*: 767 126

Scouts - *Mark*: 07772 330169

Tang Soo Do - *Andrew*: 07748 653 220

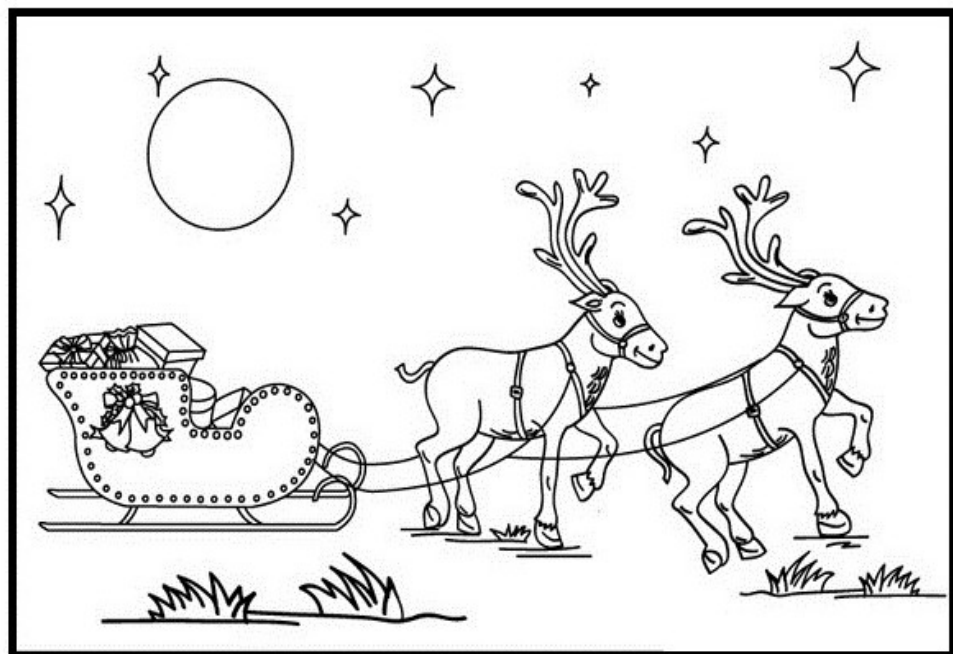
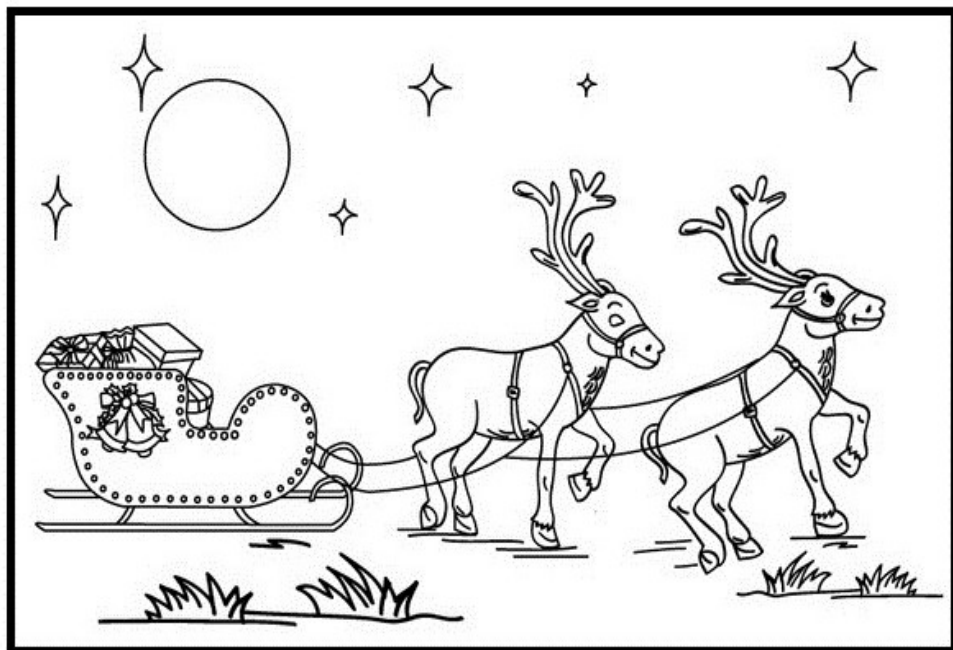
Women's Institute - *Eileen*: 768 235

Wootton Rangers FC - *Steve*: 751 611

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