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WOOTTON
PARISH NEWS

March 2013

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Wootton News

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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.



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Front Cover

Picture taken by Gareth Lloyd, village pond near Bedford Road.

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

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/>)

O.P.I

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www.beautybyapril.co.uk

Check out my Facebook page as well as Twitter.

I hope to hear from you soon. Have a Nice Day!!

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

On behalf of the Wootton Sub Branch of the Royal British Legion, I would like to thank all villagers who gave so generously to the Poppy Day Appeal in November. In total, £3,643.07 was raised.

A special thank you to those that helped with the collection including: Messrs: B. Burraway, W. Cook, A. Head, B. Keech, S. Sanders, Rev. P. Stephens, D.

Peters, D. Minney. Mesdames: C. Ashpole, A. Bochaton, J. Champion, L. Cochrane, N. Franklin, T. Hodge, V. Minney, A. Sanders, D. Sullivan, E. Sullivan, R. Syson.



Organisations: Wootton Blue Cross FC, Chequers PH, Cock Inn PH, Fox & Duck PH, The Legstraps PH (formerly the Rose & Crown), Chemists, One Stop Shop, Wootton Post Office, Only You, Wootton Garage, Copart, Healthy Living Medical Centre, Club 2000, Stewartby United Church, Stewartby Club, Askew MLG Services, Hanover Court, Wootton Upper School, Wootton Lower School, Stewartby Seniors Club, St. Mary's Church.



Wootton Parish Council Annual Report

Hello everybody and welcome to a new and exciting new year.



John Wheeler - Chairman

The parish council received many comments on how nice the Christmas tree and service were last year, and I would like to add my own thanks to those already given to everyone who helped organise it. Let's try and go one better this year!

We have excellent news regarding funding for the proposed skate park. The team led by Gerald Bygraves has now raised nearly £103,000 – mostly from Veolia, Bedford Borough Council and other local fund raising. Wootton Ramps & Riders – a group of local youngsters and their dedicated mothers - approached the parish

council last year with this idea, and I take my hat off to them for their hard work to date. A public open meeting will be held at The Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, on 6th March at 7pm for anyone who wishes to discuss this proposition.

One final note; I am increasingly aware of concerns regarding parking in and around the village. Please can I ask that you be considerate towards other road users and pedestrians alike by not causing obstructions or parking on pavements.

Did You Know?

The parish council recently co-opted Dee Dillistone as a member, filling the casual vacancy that was advertised at the end of

2012. A warm welcome to Dee, and I am sure she will be an asset to the parish council.

I have received a number of MUGA bookings – all for football teams at present - and these can be found either via our website: <http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/village-facilities/wootton-muga-facilities>, or on the noticeboard opposite The Cock Inn PH. The MUGA is available for free play at all other times.



Did you know that the Wootton Parish Council is now on Facebook?

We have had many hot topics on Facebook including speeding in the village, in response to which the Parish Council are currently looking for 'Community Speed Watch Volunteers'. We have received lots of positive feedback about this year's Christmas tree and advertising for events in the village.

For those who don't know what Facebook means, the answer is community.

There are many communities in Wootton, all linked together by people simply talking to each other, which is what Facebook is all about.

There are the communities of the people who drink in The Fox and Duck or The Blue Cross, and the community of the people who shop at the Post Office or at One Stop, and in days gone by the people who shopped at Wootton Stores or The Wool Shop. The one thing that has always held us together is that all of these communities are linked by people talking to each other and spreading information, which makes these seemingly separate communities one big family. Sure, some people call it idle gossip, but if more people know all of the information, there's more chance that the information will get to the people that can help. This is how Facebook can help us spread information about local events, people in need and amenities the community needs.

Follow us at www.facebook.com/woottonparishcouncilbedfordshire

Wootton WI

Ladies – do you like having fun? Don't be slow - join in and have a go!

Wootton WI was formed in 1919 and is still going strong. It's a great place to learn new skills and make new friends. We have interesting and varied speakers, quizzes, competitions, trips out, pub meals and parties – you can join us for a taster session, only £3.50 including refreshments.

March 20 th	Charles Rennie Mackintosh	Rob Kendall
April 17 th	Annual Meeting	
May 15 th	Women in Espionage	Bernard O'Connor
June 19 th	Ark Wildlife Hospital	Jackie Burke/Paula Bonarius

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

If you've not been into Wootton New Life recently then why not drop in for a coffee and see what's going on. Our building has been through a transformation and we think you'll like what we've done. All of our facilities are available to hire – just complete the booking enquiry form on our web site and we'll get in touch with you.

The building now has two large multipurpose halls, a small meeting room and 'The Hub' which is an annexe at the side of the original building. All are welcome to drop in anytime we're open to have a look round.

The Café @ The Hub is open every morning except Tuesday from 10.00am – 12.00pm. We have an ethical buying policy for coffee and cold drinks supplied through Kingdom Coffee and a range of biscuits, crisps, cakes and snacks are always available. Every Friday from 3.00pm – 5.00pm we have Hubbub Youth Café for Yr 7 and above – they can play on the Wii, have a game of table tennis or just relax in the café. If that sounds good, why don't you come down to 'Knit & natter' on a Monday or Games@The Hub on a Wednesday so if you fancy a game of cards, a board game, table tennis or a play on the Wii and enjoy a freshly ground cappuccino or latte or a traditional filter coffee why not give it a try. EVERYONE welcome and for men we have 'Man Friday' – a grown up 'youth club' that meets on the last Friday of each month – all men are welcome.

Coming Up.....

Sunday 10 th March	9.45am	Breakfast
	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service

In the week before Easter the church will be open for an Easter mediation & prayer – see our notice board or web site for details

Easter Sunday	9.00am	Holy Communion
	9.45am	Easter Breakfast
	10.30am	Family Easter Service
Tuesday 9 th April	4.00pm	Mad Hatters Tea Party

Come and join us any Sunday morning at 10.30am. We have all age 'Messy Church' on the second Sunday of each month with breakfast in The Hub from 9.45am and Cafe Church every Wednesday from 7.45pm.

Find us on Facebook (Wootton New Life Methodist Church), see our web site for details of our regular activities or call us on 01234 768 222 and keep up to date with what's going on, we hope that you'll join us when you can.

www.woottonnewlife.org.uk

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Parish Clerk's Report

The issue of dog mess in and around the village remains the number one topic for a lot of residents – many of you have emailed or called in at the office to see me and voice your concerns. I am in the process of arranging a meeting with the Dog Warden (who is employed by Bedford Borough Council). I have invited him to attend a meeting of the parish council so that a way forward to try and address this problem can be found. I will keep you updated as and when I hear more. You may be interested to learn that Ben Fogle recently covered this topic on Daybreak – people with concerns were invited to email him at: daybreak@itv.com. Please include your name and contact telephone number.

Another issue that I have received concerns about is the (occasional) late delivery of this newsletter. As you may be aware, delivery is undertaken by councillors and volunteers. Thank you to each and every one of you who helps to ensure it is delivered at the earliest opportunity. If anyone reading this is also willing to volunteer please let myself or Gareth Lloyd know. The more

Sue Playford

WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com

07531 930 788.

helpers we have, the lesser the workload for all.

It might still be winter, but the parish council are already putting plans together for this year's Fun Day, which will take place on Saturday 6th July between noon and 4pm. Although still in the early stages, if you would like to be involved in some way, either as a volunteer, stall holder, or you have an activity that you would like to showcase in the arena, do please let me know.

Charity Party Night for Keech Hospice Care



Despite the snowy conditions the 6th annual Charity Party Night in aid of Keech Hospice Care was once again held at Wootton Blue Cross Football Club on Saturday 19th January 2013.

This year the entertainment was provided by one of the country's finest comedy ventriloquists "Jimmy Tamley" who had travelled all the way from Devon to provide a great evening's entertainment with his superb range of comedy characters. A well supported raffle was followed by dancing the evening away to the Keith Stewart Disco.

I would like to say a really big thank you to everyone who has supported the event over the last six years either by donating a prize for the raffle, by buying raffle tickets and by coming along and helping to make the events so enjoyable.

Special mention should go to Wootton Blue Cross FC for again kindly providing the venue free of charge and their team of bar staff who did a great job on the night. Thanks also to Alma Hudson for all her help and support over the years. Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to Ian Davis (AKA Dings Entertainment) for supplying great entertainment for the last four years.

The evening raised a grand total of £1621.00 for Keech Hospice Care. I am delighted to tell you that in six years this event has raised **£10,529.50** for this very worthy cause.

Unfortunately due to increased work commitments I will not be able to run this event in future but I'm hopeful that someone will take on the running of the event so this great local night out can continue.

Chris Donovan

Dates For Your Diary

10 th Apr 2013	Planning & Environment
10 th Apr 2013	Annual Parish meeting
24 th Apr 2013	Accounts sub-committee
24 th Apr 2013	Planning & Environment
24 th Apr 2013	Leisure & Amenities
8 th May 2013	Planning & Environment
8 th May 2013	Annual Council meeting
8 th May 2013	Full council
29 th May 2013	Accounts sub-committee
29 th May 2013	Planning & Environment
29 th May 2013	Finance & General purposes
6 th July 2013	Fun Day



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

PRO BONO PUBLICO

A legal term used to indicate, “For the good of the public”. In the parish council’s case it is our way of seeking the assistance of a solicitor to act on an occasional basis in the best interests of Wootton parish. If you are qualified to act in legal matters and wish to contribute to “the good of the public” by offering your services please contact the clerk to the council whose address is given on the contacts page.

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Get involved in the Gateway

Since 2001, many Wootton residents have taken a stake in the Marston Vale Trust's new woodlands between Wootton and Kempston. They braved the cold and planted trees; a deeply satisfying activity with benefits for the individual that can last a lifetime. It seems to have worked for me.

Having created a network of woods, collectively known as Bedford's Green Gateway – stretching from Button's Ramsey at Wood End to Van Diemen's Land, close to the A421 - we are very keen to encourage people to keep visiting and enjoying them as they change; season to season and year to year. The woods will be (actually they already are) wonderful places for wildlife and they will certainly be very important to keep the landscape beautiful in the future. We hope local people feel that these are their woods and will use them more and more. Their surfaced paths are great for walking, cycling and running and there's space enough to fly a kite or kick a ball around. For hide and seek there couldn't be a better venue.

With a little imagination, lots of pursuits might be magic in a wood. Would the woods suit an occasional sports club training session? Outdoor theatre or music could be exciting in a wood; guides and scouts could do all sorts of guidy and scouty things; woods make brilliant outdoor classrooms (there are after all, five schools within easy reach). Could a village fete happen there? Wouldn't a summer evening WI or other meeting be wonderful in a glade in a wood?

Come with ideas

I might be getting into flights of fancy here but then again, perhaps not! I would however, like to hear what you think. I have arranged a short meeting and walk which will be a chance to chat about the sites and their enormous potential for local people. If you would like to get a bit more involved, please come along. As well as finding out what you think, my aim is to explore the possibility of local people helping to plan a summer event (don't know what it might be), that's where you might come in. Come with ideas and expect to share them around.

Date for your diary

Sunday 14 April, 10.00am – 1pm at the Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, Wootton, which will include a 1 hour walk into part of the site, so please bring coat and boots if necessary.

It would be very helpful if you could let me know if you plan to be there.

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Wootton Christmas Tree

The parish council received many compliments with regard to the Christmas tree, and would like to thank everyone who helped to make it possible:

- Steve Brown, who not only gave his time freely, sourced and made a donation towards the cost of new LED lights, but ensured that all electrical safety aspects were covered.
- Julian Dennis and his colleague Steve, who erected and removed the tree.
- 1st Wootton Brownies who chose the carols and switched on the lights – they worked first time unlike last year!
- The churches of Wootton – St. Mary's – Peter Ackroyd, Wootton Baptist Church – Rob Stanton and Wootton New Life Methodist Church – David Goodson.
- And lastly, a big thank you to everyone who came to support and sing at the carol service.

As always, if you think of anything that could have been done differently or improved upon, please let the Clerk know!

IT HAS BEEN A FUNNY OLD YEAR!

DIAMOND JUBILEE - EARLY DROUGHT! During THAT drought of 2012 - January to March *and it didn't rain!* Some native Field Maples were planted around Wootton to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee..... oh! the times they had to be watered - but thankfully they are surviving.

TSUNAMI And then it was bird nesting time and from the end of March into May *and it rained.* A miniature camera set up in a blue-tits nesting box was watched by us with joy and wonder, how do these tiny birds find the energy. By the 20th April she had laid 7 eggs and just sat and sat, while he brought her any food he could find...*and it rained.*

Come the 3rd May and the eggs had hatched, there were seven little babies..... *and it rained.* We supplemented their diet with meal worms but the babies needed nice fat caterpillars and there were none..... *and it rained.* Checked with the RSPB - nothing we could do - we had to leave it to the parents to try and find food.....*and it rained.* By 13th May with their eyes now opened, there was a great clamouring for food, their wing feathers grew rapidly and the nest collapsed inwards with all the exercising and the rush to be fed.

And then disaster, it was very quiet and the parents were not feeding the babies, please fly little birds.....we monitor the nest but there was no sign of life - the seven little babies have all died - of starvation. The RSPB told us that thousands of birds have died this year due to the cold and wet..... *and it rained.* We weighed the tiny corpses and they weighed just 06grams each.

OLYMPICS There was no rain - a whole fortnight and..... **it did not rain - the sun shone** - the glorious **Olympics** happenedand most of us stayed indoors to watch it!

LOW LIFE Trees dying of thirst, birds gasping for food, HM Queen shivering up the Thames but – joy! the Olympics in glorious sunshine.

None of the above mean anything to the low-life - from the scattering of blue sackfuls of garden walls and coping stones along the whole length of a road in Wootton to the recent discovery of a most disgusting double mattress left on a grass verge also abandoned in Wootton - you must have been glad to get rid of that.

Now that you can contemplate life while fouling your pretty new mattress do remember that it costs YOU as well as us to have your filthy cast-offs removed.

"PS..and as for the person who has off loaded their 'satin' covered beds and their heaps of discarded floor-tiles onto the roadside in Wootton just this week.....please note that Bedford Borough Council has been informed. I do wish you would realise that YOU are paying a share of the hundreds of pounds it is going to cost the rest of us to do your dirty work for you -and yet you could take your filth to the tip FOR FREE - one day maybe we will name and shame!"

Wootton Craft Fair

Again it is time to thank everyone who attended the craft fair, and as a result we are able to give £500 towards the proposed skate park.

Acorn Quilters and Craft Club

At a request from Keech Cottage Childrens' Hospice, members of the club are starting a sensory quilt for use in the music room. We are making a large floor quilt, and will incorporate as many different textures as possible. Anyone is welcome to come along to the Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm, to help with this, or bring other crafts to do.

Randalls Farm Nature Reserve

Your local Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve and Education Centre at Randalls Farm Nature Reserve in Stewartby provides free self-guided wildlife activities for families throughout the seasons. We have a trail for you to navigate your way around the reserve. Children will be issued with explorer backpacks that have all the kit you need to be a nature detective including pond dipping and minibeast hunting equipment. The back packs change through the seasons with an array of different activities for you to try. Have a great day out exploring and getting close to nature, there is another world out there to discover.....



Dates include;

April Holiday Wildlife Fun- Monday 8th April to 12th April

May half term week- Thursday 30th May and Friday 31st May

Weekend open days

Sunday 19th May

Sunday 2nd June

Saturday 13th July

Saturday 10th August

The activities are free but any donations are appreciated.

Booking is essential, please call 01234 768542 or

email christina.biggs@wildlifebcn.org

Wootton Blue Cross Football & Social Club

Weston Park, Bedford Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9JT

Tel: 01234 767662 Email: woottonbluecross@gmail.com

The club moved into 2013 on the back of its' traditional New Years Eve celebration. The hall was full of happy young parents and family members old and young all enjoying themselves. The children even being led in a surprise fun dance session by the club's Grounds man Jason Thompson. We think this worked him harder than the challenges of maintaining the pitch during the season. What worried him was being asked "When can we have a Family Night again". Anyway as a result we will be having another Family night on the Saturday night 30th March of the Easter Weekend. Prior to that we have planned a St Patrick's Day Irish Fun Night on Saturday 16th March featuring a live band.

Due to the weather so far this year the home football fixtures for the Wootton Blue Cross Team and Eastcott's senior team who also play their home matches at the ground have been thrown into a backlog situation, which unfortunately puts additional pressure on the players, managers and officials. Looking on the positive side the Blue Cross team (The Blues) have started this season in Division 1 of the United Counties League with new manager Charlie Standish in a respectable fashion. Achieving some wins and draws (one famous draw being against Rushden & Diamonds) as well as unfortunately some losses. The team is beginning to take shape with many new local players now featuring in the squad. Eastcotts under manager Sean Alexander were promoted this season into the Division 2 of the Bedfordshire County League and have also started their campaign well. Both teams would welcome support during any games they play and as a Committee we welcome new faces either supporting the Football teams or as new members enjoying the facilities of the Social Club side, which we must point out is run as a "not for profit club" by the way.

Borough Cllrs Report



Through the efforts of Cllr Paul Prescod, Hall End Rd is currently being resurfaced through Bedford Borough Councils road improvement programme. Cllr Prescod said "I am very pleased that Mayor Dave Hodgson is continuing to support the fight back against deterioration in our roads".

More good news for Hall End Rd which, along with Keeley Lane, is getting new road signs and more horse signs by the end of this financial year.

related directly to closure of pubs and the strong promotion of home entertainment.

In recent weeks the bad local trend is showing a tendency to reverse through the bringing back into life after death of The Cock Inn by a great new lady host. Karen from the beginning of her tenure has showed her willingness to support live acoustic music, first by inviting local singer songwriter Mike Carter Jones to try an evening then by encouraging a once a week music night in the lounge bar - selecting Tuesdays for preference. Mike immediately contacted old friend Dick Peake - who had also lost his own music pub at Cranfield to closure last year - to join him and the show has not looked back.

5 evenings have now been completed at the Cock - and everyone has seen more people coming to listen and more friendly musicians coming to join in - showing that there is a strong wish in the village for a live music evening which does not drown you out - as well as a good knowledge of all types of popular music. The music played and sung on Tuesdays has no pretensions to grandeur but similarly takes no prisoners from any category ranging from strong pop and blues influences to contemporary and traditional folk traditional folk songs ballads - and even a bit of rock thrown in. In short the musicians are all accomplished buskers and given the incentive can put on everybody else's music as well as their own - skills not necessarily held by commercial artists increasingly pampered by sophisticated recording techniques.

Whether this evening at The Cock Inn now started will last or dwindle as so many others have done in these difficult pub days - remains to be seen. What is certain is that it critically depends on local support and interest as well as the small band of dedicated players who often travel substantial distances to put the evenings on. We shall see - but in the meantime - through the encouragement of our lovely Karen - a good start has been made where there was none before.

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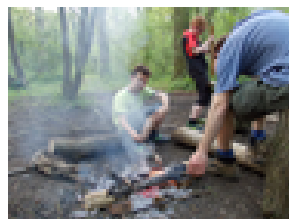
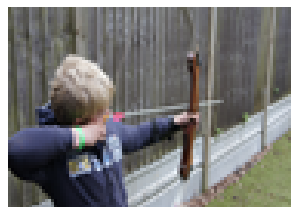
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Library Corner

Looking for a way to have fun with your toddler on the long cold afternoons?

Join us on Mondays between 2.50 and 3.10 for stories, rhymes and crafts. (term time only)

Hugless Douglas is visiting Wootton library in March. Contact us at the library for more details.

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

We still have a few places available for 8 – 12 years olds to join our **Chatterbooks** reading group. We meet once a month on Wednesdays at 4.30 – joining is free, just ask!

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

We are looking for a volunteer to help nervous beginners get started on the computer. Think you could help?

Opening Times:

Monday 2-6

Wednesday 10-1 and 2-6

Friday 2-6

Saturday 10-1

If you have any questions
just pop in or ring us on:

01234 766 061

Heather, Library Manager.

Wootton Rangers Youth FC

It seems a long time ago now but the kids Christmas disco was a huge success with a lot of players and their friends coming along and enjoying the disco and games not to mention seeing some of their managers in Santa “onesies”! Big thank you to our fund raising team who organised the event and to the Parents and Managers who helped out.

On the football front the seasonal weather has had its usual impact on the football at this time of year with a lot of games postponed due to waterlogged or frozen pitches but still a lot of games played and all our teams going well in their respective Leagues.

We will be setting up a new Under 7 team and Under 12 team for next season so if your child is interested please either contact one of our Managers or email us at

woottonrangersyfc@gmail.com

Steve Thomson

Chairman

Wootton Rangers Youth Football Club



Wootton Golf Society

Based around the village of Wootton in Bedfordshire with approximately 35 members, we have had a very productive year in 2012. We started the year with our first match at Mowsbury in February and although the weather was generally wet throughout the year we managed to play all of our matches through to December

where we played at The Bedford (Great Denham). During the year we visited courses in Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire as well as having a weekend away at Wensum Valley in Norwich.

Craig Freestone, local to Wootton had a very productive year winning the coveted Player of The Year as well as the Doubles Competition with his father Tony. Tony also won the Seniors Trophy which was held at The Cromwell. Our Captains Day was held at the lovely course at Elton Furze in Northampton and was won by Paul "Jacko" Jackson. Our annual Stroke Play event was held at Beds & County and was taken by Ben Ruffhead another Wootton local.

We travelled to Mentmore to play 36 holes for our Championship Day which was a very wet day, however another youngster Kieran Day took the honours by a comfortable margin. Our Wootton Cup was held at Wensum valley in Norwich and was a hard fought competition with Keith Ashpole stealing the show beating his younger brother Alan. Our Singles competition is held throughout the year and again is well fought, this year our only junior, Joe Bygraves won the competition beating a number of talented players on the way.

We culminated the year with our presentation evening which was held at The Wootton Blue Cross in December, a great evening was had by all.

Our events for 2013 are booked which includes our annual trip away, this year being held in Kent. We are playing a number of new courses this year, including travelling to Staverton Park and Collingtree Park in Northamptonshire.

We always welcome new members and if anyone is interested in joining or wants any further information, please visit our website

www.woottongolfsociety.com or ring Pete on 07724812403





WOOTTON'S PROPOSED SKATE PARK



Notice of Open meeting

Wednesday 6th March 2013 at 7:30pm - Wootton Memorial Hall, Bedford Road.

Wootton Parish Council invites you to attend an open meeting to discuss the latest developments with regards to the proposed skate park for the Recreation Ground, Church Road, Wootton.



This will be an opportunity to discuss any issue or concerns regarding the proposal and a skate park technician will be in attendance to provide assistance and advice.

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Email: manjsskk@yahoo.co.uk

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Mobile: 07939 395423

Wootton Baptist Church

The Wootton Baptist Church Building in Bedford Road, was opened in 1836 and was built by people who were known as ‘ Dissenters’. These were people who could not agree with the doctrines of the Established Church. It was and still is a ‘free church’, not bound to any other organisation.

Although still a ‘free church’ we have fellowship with other churches in the village and share in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we find it in the Bible and together, from time to time, join in Proclaiming this gospel to the village.

We have our Sunday services at 10.30am and 6.00pm, and the children go to their own meeting during the service in the morning.

The Young people also meet on alternate Mondays, for Adventurers, for Lower School age children at 3.45pm to 5pm, straight after school. The older young people meet at 7.00pm to 8.30pm for ‘Rock Solid’. They enjoy games, craft, singing, talks and general activities which children enjoy and of course, refreshments.

On Tuesdays, there is a coffee morning from 10.0am to mid-day, for everyone. We cater for children and there are things for them to do. It is a good time to meet folks and have a chat.

Also on alternate Tuesdays the ‘Women’s meeting’ meet at 2.30pm for a time of fellowship. There is always a speaker, to bring a relevant message.

On Thursday evenings at 7.30pm we hold a Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Usually visiting speakers bring the word of God to us.

There are also Home groups which meet on Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more details, ring either Rob Stanton on 766293 or John Lambert on 767739.



Wootton Ramps & Riders

We would like to thank members of Wootton WI for a £500 contribution towards the Wootton Skate park funds. This money was raised at the Craft Fayre held in November 2012 . The Craft Fayre committee,

Dorothy Warman, Eileen Matthews, Sue Randall, Anne Howell and Vivienne Cook dedicate a lot of time from May each year to organise this popular event in the village.

On the day of the Craft Fayre, Wootton Ramps & Riders attended to help set up, clear away as well serving lunches to stall holders. Wootton WI then invited the Ramps & Riders team to their meeting in February to present the cheque for £500.

Many thanks again for all the support from the Wootton WI as well as the financial contribution which will help us to complete the project for our community.

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Have you heard about **MONDAY'S LUNCH CLUB ?**

Lunch Club meets monthly on a Monday at 1pm in the Church Hall. For just £3 you can come along and enjoy a delicious hot meal. We had a superb Christmas dinner in December!

After the meal there is an optional activity. Recently we have made Christmas crafts, had a quiz, entertainment and lots more. We have a day out in the summer.



Why not join us on:
11 March, 15 April, 13 May, 10 June
To book a seat contact Norma Smith
on 768462

Mothering Sunday

Sun 10 Mar 10.30am Mothering Sunday



Easter



Sun 24 Mar 10.30am Palm Sunday Service

6pm Holy Week Service

Good Friday 10.30am Family Service

(29 Mar) 2pm An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sun 6am Sunrise Service (Hall End Rd)

(31 Mar) 10.30am Family Communion

St Mary's – Spring 2013

St. Mary's is at your service!

- * **Monday's Lunch Club** for friendship, chat & a hot meal. 1pm at the Church Hall.
- * **Men Behaving Dabdy** a monthly toddler group for Dad's & their 0-5's held on the last Saturday each month 10am at Wootton Baptist Church:
- * **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 |

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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:



REDEMPTION.

Scarecrow found a penknife, it was lying on the ground
He thought "Someone is sorry that they've lost it I'll be bound"
The blades had gone quite rusty and the handle wasn't there
In fact the thing was somewhat in a state of disrepair..
But nonetheless our scarecrow thought he'd keep it for his own
And bending down he sharpened up the penknife on a stone.
He found a piece of wood and sat in silent contemplation
Wondering what to make, then had a flash of inspiration.
A river ran beside the field, so if he made a boat
He could take it to the water's edge to see if it would float.

Carefully he carved away, then made a little mast
Pushing it right down inside the wood to make it fast.
He took his pocket handkerchief and tearing it in two
Made as good a pair of sails as anyone could view.
He gazed upon his little boat with joy and loving pride
Then went across the field until he reached the riverside
Bending stiffly over, Scarecrow launched his little boat
Looking down with bated breath to see if it would float.

It bobbed along quite merrily, the river here was wide
Then suddenly a current took it to the other side
It was no longer within reach; he ran along the bank
Watching it in anguish lest it hit a stone and sank.
The river ran beneath a bridge. The boat sailed bravely on
Thought Scarecrow, "I must rescue it before it's really gone"
The river turned a corner-Scarecrow ran with all his might
Then sadly saw his little boat go sailing out of sight.

Two weeks later Scarecrow thought he'd take a walk to town

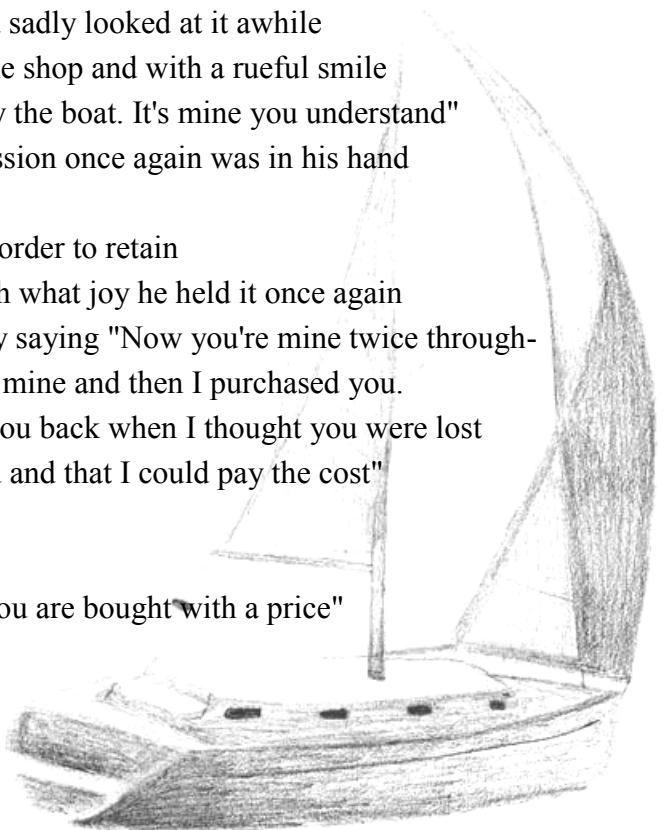
He reached the High street with it's shops and ambled slowly down
Then all at once he stopped- and he was staring in surprise
For there, right in the window and before his very eyes
Was the little boat he'd made, it was the very same.
He recognized his handiwork. He recognized it's name.
But there it was put up for sale. The tag said '50 pence'
"How can it be" the scarecrow said, "It just does not make sense"

And yet, the more he looked at it, the surer he became
That the boat he'd lost and this one here were both the very same.
"It is my boat " the scarecrow said, and looked at it with pride
So I must buy it back again" and thereupon, he sighed
For fifty pence was all the worldly wealth that he possessed
(He kept it in his pocket close against his scarecrow chest.)
He took the money out and sadly looked at it awhile
And then he walked into the shop and with a rueful smile
Said "Please, I'd like to buy the boat. It's mine you understand"
And soon the prized possession once again was in his hand

He had given all he had in order to retain
What was his own, but with what joy he held it once again
He hugged it to him closely saying "Now you're mine twice through-
Because you started life as mine and then I purchased you.
I made you then I bought you back when I thought you were lost
How glad I am I found you and that I could pay the cost"

Rebecca Cook (c)

1 Corinthians 6 12. " For you are bought with a price"



There is a wood at Wood End, a church at Church End, a Bourne (spring) at Bourne End. But where is the hall at Hall End?



Hall End Cottages 1978

Chequers Public House

The parish of Wootton like many Bedfordshire villages is comprised of “Ends”. The derivation of the Ends is usually self explanatory but the absence of a HALL within Hall End sent the author to the local archive offices to try to find the HALL’s location.

Hall End is named as an entity on a 1760 map. A HALL would have predated that map. There is no evidence of a HALL on the map. Researching the history and topography of Hall End shows there was a small area of common land at the meeting of Hall End Road and the unsurfaced roadway/footpath (known locally as the “Causey”) that leads across the fields to Wootton village. This common land, then known as Hall Green, was enclosed during the 1832 Enclosures Acts and given to the Lords of the Manor the Monoux family . At the end of the Causey there are is a cluster of terraced cottages, the oldest dating from 1790. These cottages could not be the HALL and neither could it have existed on the common land of Hall Green.

Most of the recently built houses in Hall End were constructed on green field sites. Many of the older properties display the date of their construction, ruling them out of the likelihood that the HALL stood on their sites.

Nowadays Hall End Road runs from the junction (locally know as “Tinkers Corner”) of Keeley Lane to the Upper School. On a 1927 map the road from the Keeley junction to the Chequers p.h. in Hall End is given as Mile End Road, probably because the distance from Bedford Road via Church Road and Hall End Road to Tinkers Corner is exactly one mile. At Tinkers Corner there is a hamlet of old cottages, none grand enough to warrant the title Hall. Also there are the remains of a small brick works which still bears the name “The Brickyard”.

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A significant grade 1 listed building now known as Hall End House is next to the Chequers p.h. It presently resembles a significant period construction. It was rebuilt in the 1980s and whilst it is of 17th century oak frame construction, it is an amalgamation of 4 small cottages described in 1927 as being variously one or two bedroomed, in very poor, awful condition, with no water, an earth closet, but substantial gardens. The valuer at that time noted the monthly rents paid to a Mr. Blakeman were in present day equivalent: 16 pence/41 pence(2)/51pence.

That leaves The Chequers p.h. also considered to be of 17th century or earlier construction. It is possibly on the site of an older building. It is unclear when the Chequers first served beer, the first recorded Landlord of the Chequers being Thomas Curtis in 1822. The Chequers was part of the estates of the Lords of the Manor until 1914. The Chequers is noted in 1922 to have had “4 bedrooms, cellar, kitchen, barn, pail closet, tap room and a bar described as *large but in a poor state*”. Given the small population of Wootton in general and Hall End in particular and the relatively low levels of disposable income, why would the Chequers have both a tap room and a large bar?

Was the Chequers bar the first HALL in Hall end?

Or did a farmer with the surname Hall work the land, which became known as Hall’s end?

Answers to the parish clerk.

St. Mary's Playgroup

Established 1967

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

Tel: 01234 767158

The children at St Mary's Playgroup have had another busy term experiencing lots of fun activities.

On Friday 14th December the older group children performed their version of 'The Christmas Nativity' to a captive audience of family and friends. The children sang several songs such as "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" "Away in a Manger" "Rock Baby Jesus" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

During the last week of term the children stayed for a festive Christmas dinner with crackers and hats.

We finished the term with a Christmas Party. They enjoyed singing and dancing and plenty of party food. The children were very excited when Father Christmas dropped by to deliver some presents. All the children had a great time before breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

Kung Hei Fat Choi! 新 年 快 乐

This term we have been celebrating Chinese New Year. We have identified and discussed the twelve animals that make up the Chinese horoscope, and our art and craft projects have included designing masks, making lanterns and 'Chūnlián' decorations for arranging around the door. We have been learning some Chinese words and songs, writing Chinese characters and numbers.

All these activities are geared towards fulfilling our objectives of understanding and respecting cultural differences whilst actively participating in Chinese customs.

At St. Mary's Playgroup, the children have plenty of opportunity to play outside in our wonderful grassed play area, should they choose. We have places to run, hide, dig, climb, slide, paint, draw, experience sand, water and much, much more.

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 can take preschool children from 2 years upwards. We accept childcare vouchers and can apply for Nursery education grant funding for 3 and 4 year olds.

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.

Term time opening hours:

Monday 9.00am-12.45pm

Tuesday 9.00am-15.45pm

Wednesday 9.00-15.00pm

Thursday 9.00-15.00pm

Friday 9.00am-15.45pm

Can you help?

The two pictures below were sent to the parish council by Rob Stanton (Wootton Baptist Church). Rob is quite keen to find out more information, and wonders if anyone can help.



The picture which looks like a flower queen festival, was taken at the 'little school' at Wootton, which was next door to the Cock Inn PH. It was taken around 1920. His father's family came to Wootton in 1917 and farmed at Broadmead farm, Wootton Pillinge. They left there around 1931. Rob can identify two people – one is his mother's sister and another is his father's sister. Can anyone identify the others?

The other picture looks as though it was taken at a business premises of some kind, and has a photograph of his mother, Doris Ivy Walker/Stanton at the top left. She would have been about 18 years old and so the photograph would have been taken around 1918. He knows she worked at the lace factory in Bedford Road, near Keeley Corner and again wonders if anyone can confirm this, or recognise anyone else in the photograph. Does anyone know the significance of their triangular badges?

If you are able to help in any way, do please let Rob know. His contact details can be found on page 37.



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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 Councillors

Claire Bennett 07876 637 938

Gerald Bygraves: 07792 842 601

Malcolm Chalmers: 07864 295 520

Stephen Cruse: 07888 899 915

Dee Dillistone: 07968 199 006

Brian Doggrell: 767 445

Naomi Groves: 07722 876 252

Bill Hall: 852 299

Paul Prescod: 768 251

David Price 07534 006 012

Paul Quirk: 768 832

Steve Rowse: 07813 007 797

Bob Wallace: 768 011

Tree Warden

Pamela Stevenson: 764 337

Bedford Borough Councillor

Paul Prescod: 768 251

Hall Booking

Memorial Hall Naomi Groves: 07722 876 252

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 Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower School: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact School: 768 239

Police - HQ: 841 212

Beat Manager: 842 433

Non emergency 101

Anti-Social Behaviour 276 037

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: 767 865

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: 849 090

Kempston - King Street: 852 222

Kempston - St Johns Street 851 323

NHS Direct: 0845 46 47

Wootton Facilities

Pharmacy: 765 166

Post Office:: 768 368

Library: 766 061

Village Clubs and Organisations

1st Wootton Rainbows - *Elaine*: 765 419

Acorn Quilters - *Dorothy*: 409 566

Badminton Monday - *Chris*: 07740 939 109

Thursday - *Joan*: 825 047

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 - *Kit*: 07792 372 570

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 330 169

Tang Soo Do - *Andrew*: 07748 653 220

Wootton Golf Society - *Pete*: 07724 812 403

Women's Institute - *Eileen*: 768 235

Wootton Rangers FC - *Steve*: 751 611

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662

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			8			1	
	5			4			
4			1			2	6
5							9
7		8			5		4
				1			4
	3				8		
	8				2		9

5	6				
			1		
4			5	3	
	2	5			1
		4			
				5	6

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Wootton Fun Day



Saturday 6th July 2013



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Can you dance?
Do you have a talent?



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