

THE **WOOTTON** **PARISH NEWS**

March 2014





AR REHAB SPORTS THERAPY



Do you want to increase your level of activity but feel held back by a recent or long term injury or just lack of fitness? Do you suffer from aches and pains after playing sports or after a long stressful day at work?

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Editor in Chief– Sue Playford
Editor– Gareth Lloyd
Graphic Design– Artistic Layout
ArtisticLayout@gmail.com

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.

Front Cover

Picture taken by Gareth Lloyd, A Blue Tit in a Cherry Blossom tree.

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). 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/>)

Dog Holiday Care

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**FREE
PARKING**



THE MAYOR'S FREE PARKING DEAL

A ground-breaking deal to attract shoppers and visitors and provide a welcome boost for businesses is now available in Bedford town centre.

The Mayor's Free Parking Deal offers free parking at all council-owned town centre car parks for up to two hours every Saturday

Mayor of Bedford Borough, Dave Hodgson, said: "The message is loud and clear: Bedford is open for business. Two hours free parking on Saturdays will boost local trade and encourage local residents and those from further afield to visit and spend money in Bedford town centre. At a time when many other town centres are struggling, we are investing to make Bedford a vibrant and busy town centre. However, there is no room for complacency and other major projects including the brand new bus station, the heritage-based regeneration of Bedford High Street and the recently completed £6million redevelopment of The Higgins Bedford show Bedford Town Centre is well and truly open for business."

There is more information, including a map of town centre car parks and a Q&A on the Mayor's Free Parking Deal on Bedford Borough Council's website at www.bedford.gov.uk/parking

Wootton Parish Council

Chairman's Report



Gareth Lloyd - Chairman

Well, it is the end of January and I am sitting at my desk preparing to write this report. Out of my window I can see the rain is still pouring, making this the wettest January since records began. I wonder how much more damage this weather will cause the roads and paths around the village? The Borough Council is responsible for their maintenance, and the Parish Council continues to chase for remedial works to be done. The Parish Council only has one voice however, so if you too would like to see something done, you can

file a report via their website, by following this link:

(<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/parish-council/report-it/>).

No doubt later this year we will have another hose pipe ban, which should mean it will be a hot summer. Let us hope so, as the Parish Council are currently organising the annual fun day on the recreation ground. The date of the event is Saturday 5th July – times to be decided. Anyone wishing to have a free stall will need to contact the Parish Clerk, Sue Playford. We are also considering the possibility of live music into the evening. Please get in touch if you would like to be a part of this event.

The results of our recent Dog Control Order Consultation are in. The majority (86%) of the survey agree with the proposals. These will be discussed at the full council meeting on 12th March, ahead of a final decision.

Wootton Baptist Church.

As I write, it is the middle of January and we have had no real winter weather yet. What has the future for us, another 1947 or 1963? Or will we just have a mild winter? The future is not ours to know, not even the weather forecast.

2014 is a significant year for this nation. We will remember that the 'Great war', started on 28th July 1914, and the men who first went to war, expected victory by Christmas. Tragically, it dragged on until 11th November 1918 with all its horror and bloodshed. No doubt the media will remind us of it over the next few months. Our local War Memorial reminds us of the names of those who died and its good to see them remembered again by their names being given to the roads on the new Berry Fields Estate. Ie. Moore Close and Ashpole Avenue.... It is said that the Country who forgets its past is in danger of repeating it. The future of the men who gave their young lives for this country was not known to them and their expectations were the same as ours.

It brings to my mind the writings of King Solomon, in the Bible, who is said to be the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote in Ecclesiastes 8: verse 7, ' Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come.' (Read Chapter 8, it's interesting.)

We live about 1000 years after that was written. Since then, another Man has come into the world, someone who was promised five or six thousand years ago. He said, in John's Gospel, Chapter 3 and verse 16, 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life.' The Man who said that was Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God.

King Solomon knew that it was impossible to know the future. But Jesus Christ said the future could be known though faith in Him, but only as far as everlasting life is concerned. The future is in God's hands. I like the little hymn, written by Joseph Parker, 'God holds the key of all unknown, and I am glad, if other hands should hold the key, or if he trusted it to me, I might be sad.'

On March 2nd, so we have planned to hold the 178th Anniversary of the Chapel building at 10.30am and 6.00pm. Easter is late this year, we have planned to hold our Easter meetings on Friday, 18th April at 6.30pm. Then on Sunday, Easter Day, 20th April at 10.30am and 6.00pm, when we will be celebrating Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death. This gives us hope for the future.

Our meetings are open to everyone, and you will be welcome.

Rob Stanton. (Deacon.)

Determined to make a difference?

Become a volunteer in 2014



NYAS is a National Children's Rights Charity that supports children and young people within the care system. One of the ways in which NYAS supports young people is to provide volunteers that act as Independent Visitors. Independent Visitors are adult volunteers who give some of their time each month, to befriend a child or young person who is looked-after by their local authority that may have little or no contact with family members. IVs build a relationship with the child or young person they are matched with based on trust, mutual respect and shared interests. Being an IV is a varied, interesting and challenging role; one week you could be walking in the park, or going to the cinema the next you could be supporting the young person at an important meeting. IVs support the young person they are matched with, helping them when they are facing difficulties or changes in their lives; they act as positive role models and relate to the child or young person in an appropriate way.

NYAS are looking to recruit volunteers within your local area and would be keen to hear from anyone that would like further information about becoming an IV. NYAS provides accredited training, on-going support and a budget to spend on fun/positive activities as well as out of pocket expenses. You don't need any special qualification to apply just some determination to make a difference oh and a good sense of humour is essential!!

You can find more details about NYAS at www.nyas.net or email ruth.gaisford@nyas.net or call 01296-432540.

bpha in the community

As part of our work within the community, we are offering our residents the opportunity to pop in and chat about your home or get advice on budgeting, employment support and training amongst other things. The team will be available between 10am to 4pm in the café at The Hub, Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road on the following dates:

Winter	25 February 18 March
Spring	15 April 20 May
Summer	17 June 22 July

We look forward to meeting you there.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the team on



Parish Clerk's Report

I can't believe we are already looking at spring and beyond, but here we are. I would just like to remind people of the following schemes and projects that the Parish Council is either funding, looking to get off the ground or has an interest in:

⇒ Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme – if you could, or you know of someone else who could benefit from this, or you would like to get involved, take a look at the article elsewhere in this newsletter for further information and contact details.

⇒ Neighbourhood Forum: thank you to those who have already contacted me. Your details have been passed to Gareth Lloyd who is overseeing this. It's not too late to join, so do please get in touch if you are interested in helping to shape Wootton for the future.

⇒ Community Speedwatch: there are currently four volunteers who will soon be visible on the roads, educating those who continue to speed through the village.

⇒ Community First Responder Scheme: posters were recently displayed in the village noticeboards and if anyone would like further information please let me know - I can put you in touch with the relevant contact.

Sue Playford

WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com

07531 930 788.

My councillors are continuing to work with the Borough Council and several Wootton residents to help resolve the poor state of many of our roads and footpaths, as well as pushing for an improved bus route to include Fields Road.

Finally, we are on our way with preparations for this year's fun day – Saturday 5th July (times to be confirmed). If you would like a stall (it will be outdoors again this year on the recreation ground), or have any bright ideas, do please let me know.

Wootton Country Players and Wilstead Players present a night of two short plays, *The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter and *Teechers* by John Godber.

Ben and Gus are waiting for their next assignment. Ben is reading his newspaper; Gus is flooding him with questions about their assignment. The dumb waiter is sending endless demands for things which Ben & Gus cannot deliver and Gus just cannot stop going to the toilet. This short play will have the audience captivated right from the start with its suspense, comedy, drama and action.

"Teechers" is fast moving, inventive and highly entertaining. Three senior pupils of a modern Comprehensive School use the end of term play to exuberantly sketch the new drama teacher's progress through two terms of reluctant classes, cynical colleagues and an obstructive caretaker. This play will stretch the imagination of cast and audiences alike and should not be missed.

Friday 25th & Saturday 26th April at Wilstead Village Hall

Friday 2nd May & Saturday 3rd May at Wootton Village Hall.

7:30pm

Tickets £7.50.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact Wilstead Box Office 01234 740782 or go online at www.countryplayers.org.uk

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Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre reaches 4,000!

Practice list

With the coming of the New Year the practice passed a major milestone in that the patient list size went over 4,000. Also, given that we are currently caretaking the Shortstown Surgery, we have increased our practice area to encompass Shortstown and the Wixams. This increase in area will mean more residents now have the opportunity of registering which will allow us to develop a wider range of services and offer more flexibility between the sites. As the practice grows in size, it also means that we are able to attract more practitioners who offer services more locally.

Staff News

Having worked with us for the past 18 months on a locum basis the practice is delighted to welcome Dr Patel to the team. Dr Patel has proved to be very popular with both staff and patients and so we feel that he will be a very important part of the practice as we grow and move into the future. Dr Patel specialises in dermatology and we would like to congratulate him on achieving a distinction in his Dermatology Diploma.

We have employed the services of Claire Alajooz. Claire is a Physician Associate. Physician Associates are the English Trained equivalent of the American Physicians Assistants (Like Shannon Dudley). She works in a very similar way to Shannon and has mainly been providing Urgent access services.

We mentioned, in the last Wootton News, that Teresa was about to leave us. She has now departed and the practice and staff would like to wish a hard working person who was very popular with all our patients a restful, long and happy retirement.

Bus

You will probably be aware that the surgery bus service has been withdrawn by the council. There are alternative services available for a small charge as follows:

- For Bedford Borough area residents – Door-to-Door (01234) 345327
- For Mid Beds Council area residents – Link-a-Ride (01525) 840511

www.link-a-ride.co.uk/

The practice and the Patient Participation Group (PPG) are also looking for volunteer buddies who would be willing to assist people to access the surgery. Please contact the surgery if you can help.

Pre-Booked and Urgent Access Appointments

Further to our article in the previous Wootton News, we introduced our new Urgent Access system in the New Year.

This has proved very successful, as we are now able to offer a greater number of pre-bookable appointments, early in the day, which is convenient for working patients.

Please note the new Urgent Access clinic times which are as follows:

- Mornings - 09:30 to 11:30.
- Afternoons – by telephone appointment (NOT Wednesdays) – 15:00 to 18:00

Services at the Surgery

We are pleased to welcome the Community Alcohol Liaison Service to the practice. They will be offering their service from the practice on Mondays.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of people using the service, the scanning service has withdrawn from the practice.

SMS Appointment Reminder Service

The surgery wishes to improve the way it communicates with our patients. We are now able to offer an SMS text messaging service to remind you of your appointment. If you would like to take advantage of this service, we need your written consent – please either, email us at woottonvale.sms@nhs.net or, complete a **Consent Form** at the practice

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Library Corner

Interested in local history?

David Fowler will be giving one of his very popular local history talks on

Monday 28th April at 7pm.

The BBC and Glenn Miller in WW2 Bedford

Tickets available at the library

Family Fun events coming up

Dinosaur crafts

Saturday 22nd March – drop in between 10.30 and 12

Easter Crafts

Wednesday 9th April – drop in between 2 and 4.

Do you run a local children's group in Wootton and would like to visit the library? We can

Wootton Library is open on:

⇒ Monday from 2-6

⇒ Wednesday from 10-1 and 2-6

⇒ Friday from 2-6

⇒ Saturday from 10-1.

If you have any questions ring us on 01234 766061.

Heather, Library Manager.

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Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9DE**

**Open 10.00am -12.00pm
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat.**

Drop in for a coffee & a chat

**A wide range of hot drinks, including cappuccino,
latte & hot chocolate mountains; cold drinks,
snacks and cakes are always available.**

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FREE HOT DRINK
OF YOUR CHOICE**



**This voucher entitles you to one free hot drink at The Hub
Offer valid until 31st May 2014**

Easter Activities at the Forest Centre

Craft and Learning Sessions

45 minute sessions, £2.50 per child, running at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm. Suitable for age 4+ Booking essential. Please call 01234 767037 or book at The Forest Centre

Weird and Wonderful Animal Orchids

Mon 7th April - Which one will you choose to make: monkey, lizard, bee, fly, frog, butterfly or spider orchid? Have a go at making an animal orchid, find out about these strange plants and take part in our animal quiz.



Hare's Hidden Treasure

Mon 14th April - Hear about the jewelled hare and hidden treasure. Make your own treasure map of the park. Where would you choose to bury treasure?



Easter Trail

Sun 20th and Mon 21st April, 11am - 4pm, £2 per child, includes prize. A self lead trail around the park to get your family out and about and enjoy a wildlife themed quiz. Suitable for all ages.

The Forest Centre
Station Road
Marston Moretaine
MK43 0PS

All profits go to the creation of
the Forest of Marston Vale

WOOTTON NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

Cause End Road, Wootton MK43 9FE

At Wootton New Life we aim to have something for everyone

From the very young to the not so young. You'll find a really warm welcome any Sunday morning from 10.00am when we have The Hub open for coffee before the service, which starts at 10.30am. We have a relaxed style of worship that is open to all. We have groups for children and young people and once a month, usually on the second Sunday of the month, we have a free breakfast available in The Hub from 9.45am followed by an all age service. If you haven't been to church before or for a while, or perhaps you're looking for something different, why not come and try us out?

The Hubbub Youth Café is open every Friday during term time from 3.00pm – 5.00pm for anyone in school year 7 and above. There's tuck, snacks, cake, hot & cold drinks. It's a safe place to come and relax after a hard week at school and either just sit and chat or play on the Wii, have a game of table tennis or snooker. We have trained youth workers on duty and all are welcome.

For pre-school children come and try our toddler group 'Pat-a-Cake', every Thursday during term time from 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Coming up.....

Tuesday 4 th March	6.00pm	Wootton & Stewartby Churches Pancake Party
Thursday 10 th April	4.00pm	Mad Hatter's Tea Party
Easter Sunday	9.45am	Easter Breakfast
	10.30am	Family Easter Communion Service

Our facilities are available to hire for parties or one off occasions as well as regular weekly activities. Just email bookings@woottonnewlife.org.uk for more details and to check availability.

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

Wootton Upper School



International Links and Opportunities

As the coming centenary of the outbreak of The First World War begins to appear on our collective horizons, it is important that our community continues to offer students the opportunity to engage with an array of cultures, belief systems and values.

The above thought (or reflection) seems especially relevant having read some of the diaries of soldiers of the Great War, recently released on-line by the Imperial War Museum. The whiff in 1914 of ‘seeing action before it was all over by Christmas’ was, of course, with hindsight so sadly misplaced. Anyone who has visited the War Cemetery at Langemark and seen at first hand the names of ‘the class of 1914’ cannot but be struck by the need for our community to be more outward-facing and inclusive.

For our part at Wootton Upper School, we have an excellent range of opportunities for students to broaden their understanding and perceptions by seeing other parts of the world. This term alone we have students visiting Austria, Berlin, California and Iceland, as well as ourselves hosting students from Bremen. In addition, we are actively developing links with partner schools in France and Spain, and of course we have long-established musical concerts with our partner school in Bamberg.

It is equally important that we are aware of, and celebrate the values, traditions and practices of other faiths, and our recently published Faith Calendar for 2014 is a further illustration of this commitment.

As the summer of 2014 approaches, an aspect of our planning for the forthcoming academic year is how we can work with our partner schools abroad to commemorate the events of 1914-1918. I would hope that our students travel with their eyes, minds and hearts ‘open’ to the world around them and that we recognise that there is so much more that unites (rather than divides) our world.

A.R. Withell
Headteacher
Wootton Upper School

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Sudoku

	3				
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		6			4
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				5	

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6				8	9	7			D		2				5
A	5	E		D			6						8		
				F	1			A				D	7	E	
	0	A				D						4		2	
			2			5	4	E	0		C	9			1
4	7		9		3	0					D	E			8
				A		9	7		5	8	4		D	3	F

Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme

Recovering from an operation? Feeling unwell?

Usual 'good neighbour' away on holiday? Then why not call

Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme

Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme is a group of friendly, DBS checked and fully insured volunteers offering short-term and occasional help with:

Lifts to hospital, medical appointments Minor DIY tasks

Emergency grocery shopping Befriending Dog walking

Taking pets to vets Help with form filling and correspondence

Help is free with the exception of a 45p per mile charge for transport and £1 each way for trips within Wootton

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Report it – where?

Abandoned Vehicle	Bedford Borough Council Environmental Services	01234 718060
Animal Fouling	Bedford Borough Council Environmental Services	01234 718060
Anti-Social Behaviour	Police	101
	Bedford Borough Council ASB hotline	01234 276037
Barking dogs	Bedford Borough Council Noise Coordinator	01234 718099
Blocked drains and gullies	Bedford Borough Council Highways	01234 718003
Fly-tipping/Fly-posting	Bedford Borough Council Environmental Services (if on the public highway)	01234 718060
	Parish Council (Recreation ground, Memorial Hall play area, cemeteries)	07531 930788
Grass cutting	Parish Council (not all areas are maintained by the Parish Council the Clerk can advise further)	07531 930788
Missed bin collection	Bedford Borough Council Environmental Services (Highways and household)	01234 718060
	Parish Council (Recreation ground, Memorial Hall play area, cemeteries)	07531 930788
Pavements	Bedford Borough Council Highways	01234 718003
Pot Holes	Bedford Borough Council Highways	01234 718003
Street lighting	The Parish Council has responsibility for some, but not all lighting columns within the parish and can forward information to the Borough Council as needed 07531 930788/01234 718003	



(For the majority of Bedford Borough Council issues, online forms can also be completed via their website page – visit: www.bedford.gov.uk.)

BBCllr Paul Prescod can also be contacted on

Telephone: - 01234 768251 or

email: - paul.prescod@bedford.gov.uk.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The 2013 Remembrance Service, held at St Marys Church was very well attended, with various local organisations turning out in full splendour! Thanks very much to the following who helped raise the overall 'Wootton Poppy Appeal 2013' excellent Total of £4,105.54

A special thank you to those that helped with the collection including:

C. Ashpole, S. Billington, A. Bochaton, B. Burraway, L. Cochrane, T. Corby, N. Franklin, A. Head, T.Hodge, B. Keech, D. Minney, V. Minney, J. Nurse, D. Peters (Travelodge), A. Sanders, S. Sanders, A. Stapleton, Rev P. Stephens, D. Sullivan, E. Sullivan and R. Syson.

Organisations:

Blue Cross, Chequers Inn, Cock Inn, Fox and Duck, Legstraps, Chemist, Club 2000 Bingo, One Stop, Only You, Post Office, Garage, Wootton Healthy Living, Co-Part Stewartby, Stewartby Church, Stewartby Club, Stewartby Senior Citizen Trust, Stewartby Common Room, Askew Services, St Mary's Church, Hanover Coffee Morning, Wootton Lower School, Wootton Upper School, Open University - (Berrill Reception, Human Resources, Marketing, Purchasing/ Finance, Shop, East Campus), Kempston Daubeney School, Busy Bees Playgroup.



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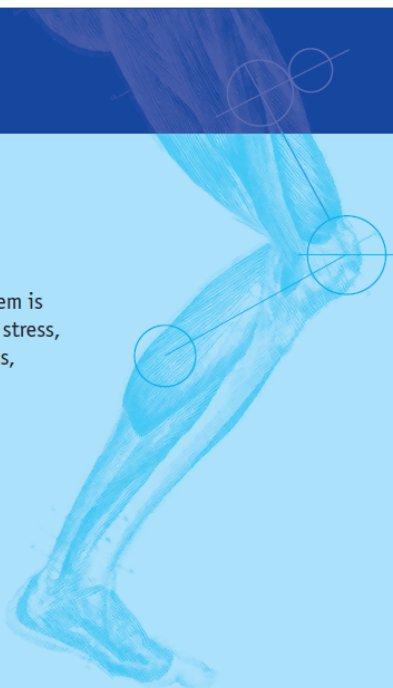
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St. Mary's Playgroup

Established 1967

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

Tel: 01234 767158

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

Raw talent was out in force on Friday 13th December when the children proudly donned their costumes and performed their version of 'The Christmas Nativity' to a captive audience of family and friends. Mary, the Playgroup Leader, narrated the stages of the display telling the story of the birth of the baby Jesus. The story was interspersed by several songs such as "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" "Away in a Manger" "Rock Baby Jesus" and culminated in the cast singing "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.

At the beginning of this term St Mary's Playgroup underwent an OFSTED Inspection. We are pleased to announce that the outcome was 'good' and we feel that the extracts given below will give you a flavour of what the full report contains:

"Staff teach children about early mathematics through modelling language and helping children to understand size, shape and colour."

"Staff track children's progress well, in order to monitor their achievements and plan for their next steps effectively."

"Staff are warm and affectionate with children helping them to feel secure when they are unsettled."

"Staff demonstrate a good awareness of how to keep children safe in their care."

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-15.00pm

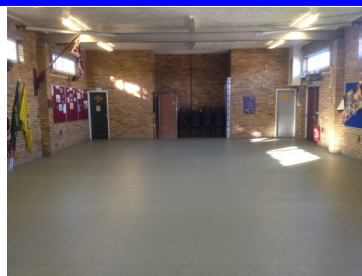
Hall for Hire

Wootton Scout Hut is now available to hire for Children's Parties, Birthdays, Weddings, Meetings for individuals or groups.

The hall is suitable for up to 80 people and has a kitchen with serving hatch, toilets, plenty of parking, garden and use of tables and chairs.

The fee to hire is £10 an hour and there are discounts available for people linked with the group or regular bookings.

The group work with local company MCA Entertainment who supply Discos, Bouncy Castles, PA Hire and Children's Entertainment at a reduced rate if you book the hall.



For more information or to book the hall please contact Vicky on 01234 311386 or 07872316948.

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Borough Cllr Paul Prescod

27th January 2014 marked the beginning of two multi-million pound projects that will bring investment, jobs and new opportunities to Bedford Borough.

After decades of dashed hopes, work has begun on the brand new bus station. The Bus Station Regeneration Scheme includes the brand new bus station, new shopfronts, the refurbishment of the Allhallows multi-storey car park as well as the already completed surface car park at Greyfriars and new public toilets.

The demolition of the current bus station began on the 27th January, and it will be replaced by a brand new, modern, attractive bus station- to be completed this year!

Work to demolish the Town Hall also began on the same day. This is part of a wider regeneration project that will bring town centre cinema back to Bedford, build a new footbridge over the river, create new opportunities for riverside dining and provide a brand new public space.

In more local news, the deadline for the allocation of my Ward Fund is fast approaching and I am happy to say that it has now been committed to projects throughout Wootton. This includes donations to various local groups for equipment, for example the 'Pat A Cake' Toddlers Group, and the Wootton Rangers Football Club. Money has also gone to the Wootton Blue Cross to refurbish the community hall.

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Wootton Women's Institute

How good are you at arranging flowers? If like me you could do with a bit of help why not come to our meeting on 19 March and enjoy a talk/demonstration by Marion Blackman on 'My life as a Florist'.

Our Annual Meeting is on 16 April but don't be put off by the title as we only spend a small amount of time on business, the rest of the evening will be quizzes, refreshments and social time.

I have often wanted to start researching my family tree but where do you start? On 21 May we have Jeremy Stuehmeyer as our speaker who will give us his in-depth knowledge on how this can be achieved.

All our meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, Wootton at 7.30 pm.

Visitors are always very welcome, just turn up and try us, only £3.50 for a good evening out.



Izzy, wizzy, let's get Bizzy making learning fun!

Bizzy Bee's have had an exciting first term. We have introduced home visits for new starters and have enjoyed trips around the village and to the park. During the first half term our topic was "All About Me". We made ourselves from different foods in the kitchen and from filling clothes with straw in the garden area and adding faces. We looked at our clothes, families and favourite television characters, realising that we are all different. We ended the half term with a Halloween party,

we dressed up, played games and enjoyed spooky food.

Our second half term started with Bonfire night activities and food and celebrating Diwali making some beautiful diva lamps which lots of us are still enjoying being lit at home. We then learnt about different people who help us and enjoyed visits from an ambulance, policewoman and car, fireman and fire engine, lollipop lady, nurse and looked at and used lots of different mobility aids. We were allowed to explore the emergency vehicles, going up and down on the ambulance ramp, sounding the sirens and jumping on board the fire engine. We also dressed up and used our own emergency vehicles at Bizzy Bees.

Towards the end of the half term we enjoyed making Christmas cards, gifts and decorations and had a Christmas concert where we entertained our Mummies, Daddies and other relatives and friends and also had great fun at our Christmas parties where a visit from Santa was enjoyed. On our return from Christmas we are looking at winter and celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentines Day. We are always very busy and have lots of fun.

For those new to the village Bizzy Bee's Pre-School offers term time only day care for children aged 2 years to school age. To find out more please visit our website at www.bizzybeespreschool.org, visit us at the Memorial Hall or telephone us on 01234 767785 for a prospectus.



General Property Maintenance & Home Improvements



The Look

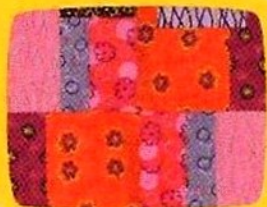
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Knowing Jesus and Making Jesus Known

is the heartbeat of St Mary's. All are welcome as we explore this week by week in church and at the events listed here.

Sunday Services

9am Prayer Book Service

10.30am Morning Service

6pm Evening Service

Christianity Explored

One life – what's it all about?

Regular groups; all welcome

Young people

Groups for all ages

See website for details

Pathfinders (ages 9-13)

Weds 7pm Church Hall

Encompass *Messy Church*

Monthly on Thursdays

3.45pm Church Hall

27 Feb, 27 March.

Lunch Club

Mondays, 1pm, Church Hall

10 Feb, 10 Mar, 12 May.

Men Behaving Dadly

Last Sat of the month

10am at Wootton Baptist

Wrigglers

Parent & toddler group

Every Monday in term time

10am at Wootton Baptist

Revd Peter Ackroyd: 768391

Revd Sam Haigh: 766317

Church Office: 765375

stmary's & You wootton

Christmas at St. Mary's was a wonderful time with so many joining us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the King of all creation! The church building looked incredibly 'Christmassy'! There were different services to suit everyone from carols and readings (with only candles to light our service sheets!) to Family Carols at 4pm – a very popular service and a wonderful way to start the Christmas celebrations.

Easter Festival - the churches in Wootton and Stewartby are hosting a series of community events leading up to Easter. **Love Wootton** will run from 10-17 April. There will be something for everyone: look out for the programme in March! One **Love Wootton** event will be the return of Take-a-Break - our holiday club for the 55s and over. There will be crafts, puzzles, knitting or just quietly reading newspapers and enjoying cakes and tea. On Mon 14 & Tues 15 April at the Church Hall during the day. Contact us for more details or to book.

By the time you read this we hope to finally have a fully functioning church clock, new projection and amplification facilities and be well on the way to being able to repair the hole in the tower roof.

Mothering Sunday at St. Mary's

10.30am Sun 30 March

Easter Services

Palm Sunday 10.30am Sun 13 Apr

Good Friday 10.30am Family Service

(18 April) 2pm An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sun 6.30am Sunrise Service (*Hall End Rd*)

(20 April) 10.30am Family Communion

St Mary's collects gifts of tins and non-perishable foods for the **Bedford Foodbank** and we are also a referring agent. If you know anyone in crisis who needs help to provide food for themselves or their family - contact:

01234 768391/765375 in confidence.

www.stmaryswootton.org.uk



Dates for your diary

9th Apr 2014	Planning & Environment
9th Apr 2014	Finance & General purposes
23rd Apr 2014	Planning & Environment
23rd Apr 2014	Accounts
23rd Apr 2014	Annual Parish Meeting
14th May 2014	Planning & Environment
14th May 2014	Leisure & Amenities
28th May 2014	Planning & Environment
28th May 2014	Annual Council meeting
28th May 2014	Full council
28th May 2014	Accounts



Please check noticeboards and the parish council website for all times and/or cancellations

WOOTTON PET CARE

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Are you too busy during the day or do you work full time but would like your pet exercised or checked?



**Weekends Away
Holidays**

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**Days Out
Exercising**

The Bedfordshire Dal Poon Tang Soo Do Academy

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 Stephanie Johnson are 3rd Dan Black Belts and instructors at the Wootton Club. The club was established in 2001 and since then we have developed over 20 black belts, plus European and World Tournament Champions. Andrew and Stephanie are professional IMA approved instructor, and are fully CRB checked.

We foster a family atmosphere within the club, encouraging all students to reach their potential, build friendships and support each other. We always ensure that training sessions are safe, disciplined, fun and well supervised; we place great emphasis on this considering the extremely physical nature of our classes.

Our classes follow the same format and consist of stretching, physical conditioning as well as the teaching of forms (Hyungs), one step self-defence techniques and free-sparring. Above all our students develop self discipline, respect and self confidence. We grade students every three months so they can advance in their development through the belt system.

Andrew and Stephanie plus a team from Bedfordshire will be competing in the 10th IMA World Championships due to take place on Saturday 28th June 2014 in Dublin, Ireland.

Stephanie will be hoping to bring back championship medals when she leads the UK team competing against teams from Europe and the USA.

Classes in Wootton are every Thursday from 6.30pm to 7.45pm.

Contact Andrew Johnson on 07748 653220 for more information. First class is free. Just come along and try it out.

Andrew and Stephanie are professional IMA approved instructor, and are fully CRB checked.



St. Mary's Clock

by Hazel Sanders - Church Warden

In the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible it says that “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ... a time to mourn and a time to dance,... a time for war and a time for peace.” We are fortunate that God knows the right time for everything, because it is not always easy for us to know, and in Wootton, in September 2013, it became even harder to know what time it was.



The clock on the tower of St Mary's church is one of those things that no one pays much attention to when it is working, but since it ground to a halt several months ago many people have commented on how much they rely on it as they travel around the village, to time their dog walks, to check they will get to school on time or to know when it is time to rest from gardening and go inside for a cup of tea.

This clock was installed in 1884, replacing one that had been there since 1662. It was manufactured by Smiths of Derby, the same company that have installed or restored some of the world's finest clocks such as St Paul's Cathedral clock and the 'Harry Potter Station Clock' in St Pancras Station in London.

The technical bit for those interested – it strikes the hours, and chimes dong dong on the quarters, it shows the time on a 5'0" diameter copper convex dial (which was restored in 1988) and is a three train flatbed with pinwheel escapement.

The clock is still hand wound every week by members of St Mary's Church. But four months ago despite much gentle fiddling and tweaking and humming and haaaing it was impossible to keep it going. There was just too much friction to keep the pendulum swinging.

In mid January 2014 Smiths of Derby came to dismantle, clean, check, tweak, and diagnose. They removed several cracked pulley wheels which will need to be copied and recast. They



took away a pin wheel which will need to be replaced, and have cleaned and lubricated and polished and adjusted. It is hoped all the new parts will be made and refitted by the end of February, at a cost of approximately £1900. So by early March you should be able to hear the clock chiming out across the village and you should once again know the “time for everything”.

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Kimberley College - Open House

Saturday 26th April 2014

from 1.00 - 2.30 p.m.



Kimberley College is delighted to invite the local community to tour the new Sixth Form STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) College on its first Open House on Saturday 26th April.

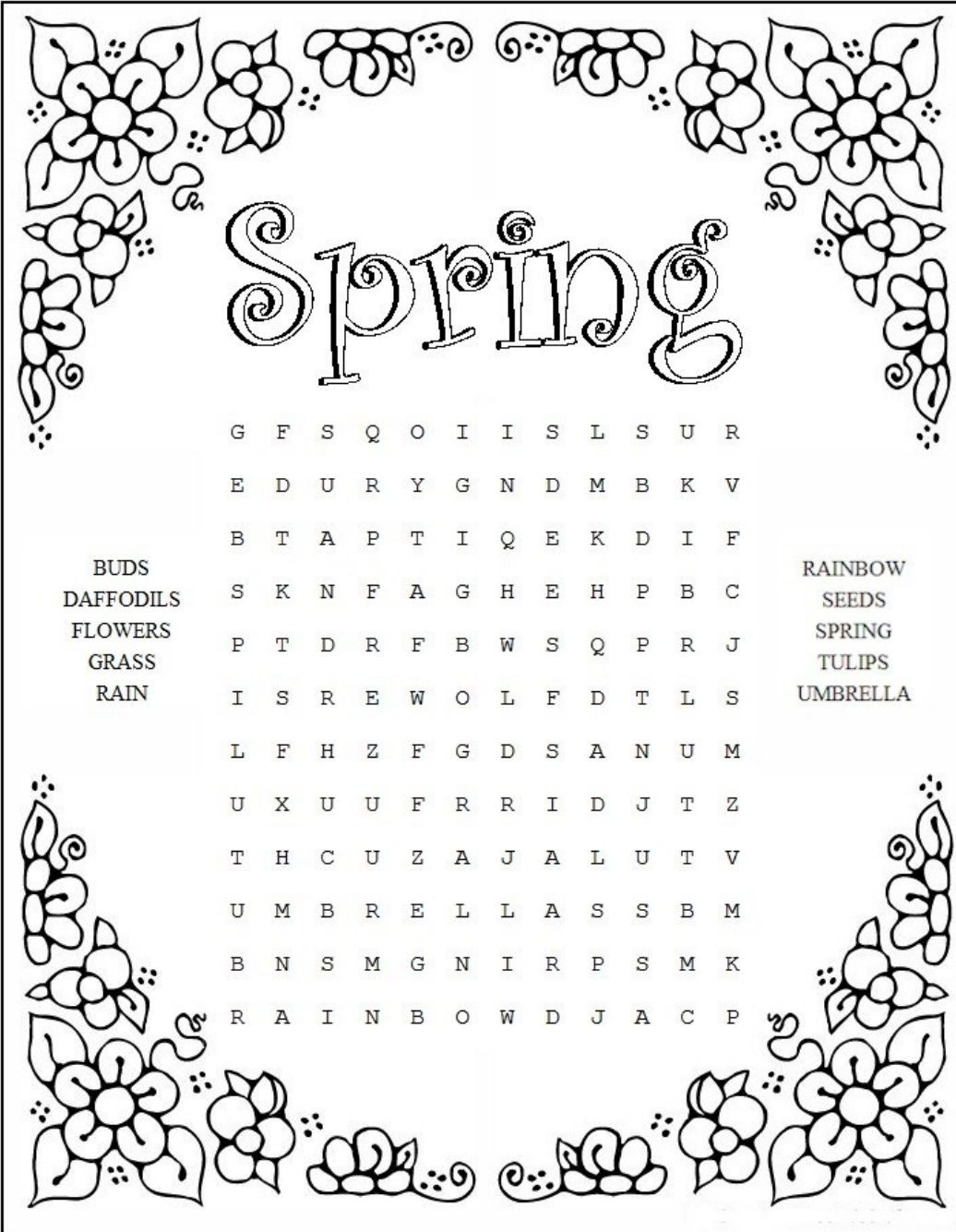
The college is located on the site of the previous Hanson brickworks in Stewartby and the state-of-the-art building was intended to be their national headquarters. Wootton Academy Trust applied to the Department for Education for funding to acquire the site and convert it into an outstanding 16-19 STEM College, and the refurbishment of the building by Kier Construction has been first class.

Students, currently based at Wootton Upper School, will begin moving to the new college at the start of the summer term and their learning facilities are simply outstanding.

‘This is a marvellous addition to the learning facilities for students in Bedfordshire’ said Michael Gleeson, the Principal of the college, and it would be fantastic for the local community to see at first hand the facilities which our students will enjoy.

Entrance to the site is via Green Lane, and guided tours will be available from 1.00 p.m. until 2.30 p.m.

Word Search



The word search grid is a 10x15 matrix of letters. It is framed by a decorative border of stylized flowers and leaves. The word 'Spring' is written in a large, elegant script font across the top center of the grid. The letters in the grid are arranged in a way that the words 'BUDS', 'DAFFODILS', 'FLOWERS', 'GRASS', 'RAIN', 'RAINBOW', 'SEEDS', 'SPRING', 'TULIPS', and 'UMBRELLA' can be found horizontally, vertically, and diagonally.

Spring

BUDS
DAFFODILS
FLOWERS
GRASS
RAIN

RAINBOW
SEEDS
SPRING
TULIPS
UMBRELLA

G	F	S	Q	O	I	I	S	L	S	U	R			
E	D	U	R	Y	G	N	D	M	B	K	V			
B	T	A	P	T	I	Q	E	K	D	I	F			
S	K	N	F	A	G	H	E	H	P	B	C			
P	T	D	R	F	B	W	S	Q	P	R	J			
I	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	D	T	L	S			
L	F	H	Z	F	G	D	S	A	N	U	M			
U	X	U	U	F	R	R	I	D	J	T	Z			
T	H	C	U	Z	A	J	A	L	U	T	V			
U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	S	S	B	M			
B	N	S	M	G	N	I	R	P	S	M	K			
R	A	I	N	B	O	W	D	J	A	C	P			

The Bridge

Rebecca Cook ©

It was March the sixth, on a Friday night
The night that the boat went down.
And some were saved from that ocean grave
But over a hundred drowned.
And men and women found strength to give
What none of them knew they had
And all of us cried for those who died
And the nation's heart was sad.

Though many were brave as they sought to save
There was one gave special heed;
He alone, all sixteen stone
Fulfilled a desperate need.
Between two girders he stretched himself
So formed a human road
And Andrew Parker became the bridge
Which was able to bear the load.

The night was black but broad was the back
And stout was the heart as he
Again and again took on the strain
To set those people free.
And but for the span made by this man
Still more lives would have been lost -
The need was seen for a go-between
And so over his back they crossed.

A smaller man or a shorter man
And the gap would not have been filled.
And engineer with all of his gear
Would not have had time to build.
And so many a voice was heard to rejoice
And many had cause for giving
Thanks to the man who had formed a plan
For them to remain with the living.

And then I saw how once before
Another escape was made
A bridge for all mankind to use
For none of us make the grade.
A man on a tree at Calvary
A bridge which was made of wood
Spanning the space with Heavenly Grace
By the only means which could.

As Andrew Parker became a bridge
To save men from the sea
So Jesus Christ stretched out his arms
To rescue you and me.
And one's name may go down in history
After he's dead and gone.
But the other one lives for ever more
As the bridge which goes on and on.

For try as men may to find the way
With platitudes and deeds
The bridge which was built when blood was
spilt
Is the one to fulfil our needs;
And unless I can see it is there for me
Then the chasm remains uncrossed
And a soul unforgiven this side of Heaven
Will remain forever lost.

Wootton Village Website
<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

Parish Council Chairman
Gareth Lloyd: 07808 391 204

Parish Council Vice Chairman
Malcolm Chalmers: 07864 295 520

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
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
Bob Wallace: 768 011
John Wheeler: 07979 998 206
Colin Willison: 930766

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

Good Neighbour Scheme - 0771 777 0247

Contacts Directory

Playgroups
St Mary's Mary: 767 158
Bizzy Bees Maggie: 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
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Wednesday - *Tina*: 768 293
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