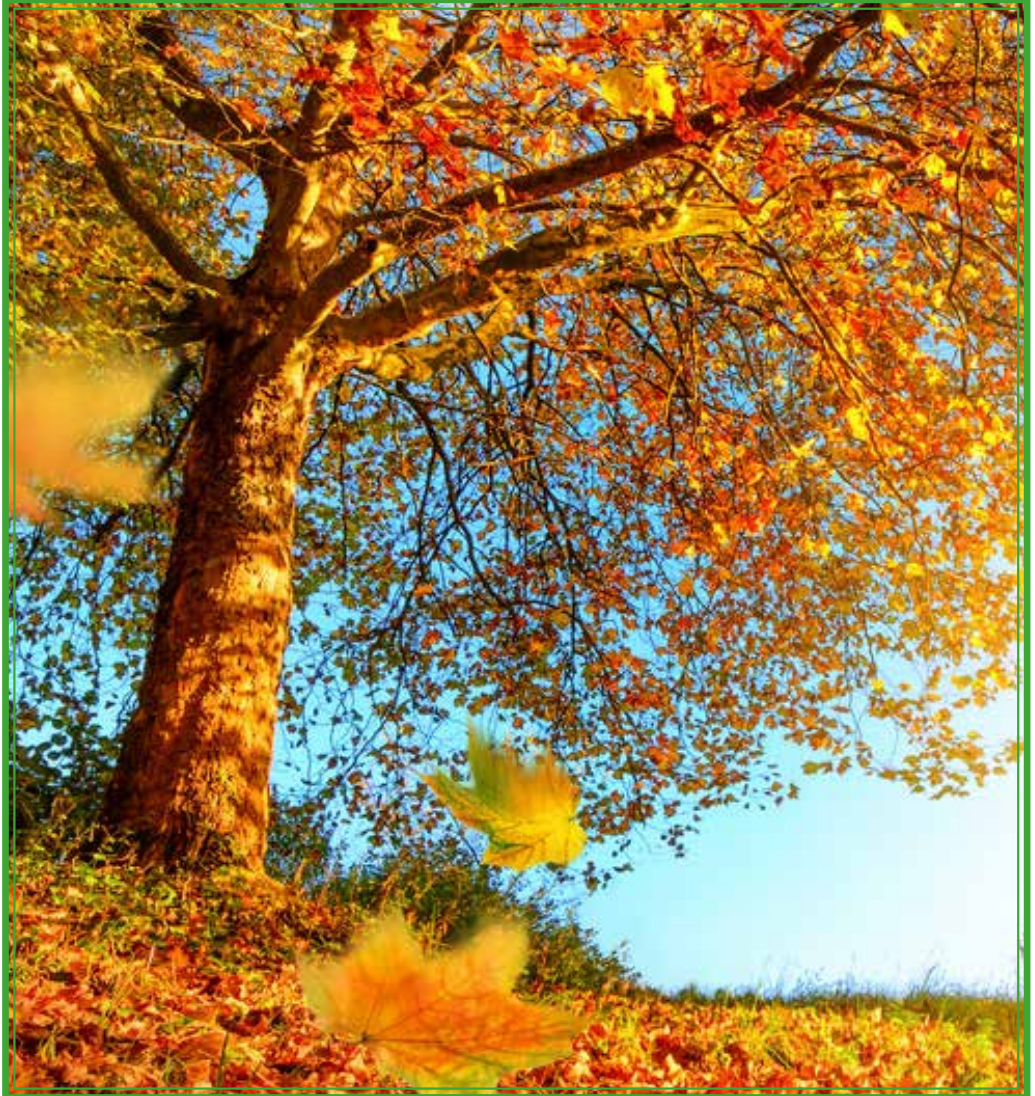


The
Wootton
P A R I S H N E W S

AUTUMN EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2016



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Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Jenny Lambert: 767 488

Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings

Sue Playford: 07531 930 788

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Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

Police

HQ: 841 212

Beat Manager: 842 433

Non Emergency: 101

Anti-Social Behaviour: 276 037

Good Neighbour Scheme: 07717 770 247

Playgroups

St Mary's - Mary: 767 158

Bizzy Bees - Nicky Draper: 767 785

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Bill Brady: 07767 013 222

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 St: 750 234

Kempston, Cater St: 849 090

Kempston, King St: 852 222

Kempston, St John St: 851 323

NHS Direct: 0845 46 47

Wootton Facilities

Pharmacy: 765 166

Post Office: 768 368

Library: 766 061

Village Club & Organisations

1st Wootton Rainbows - Elaine: 765 419

1st Wootton Boys Brigade - Allan: 319 269

1st Wootton Girls Brigade - Nicola: 319 269

Acorn Quilters - Dorothy: 409 566

Badminton Monday - Chris: 07740 939 109

Badminton Thursday - Freda: 270 638

Badminton Juniors - Colin: 270 283

Beavers - Louise Ward: 07753 811 910

Bowls Monday - Viv: 855 383

Bowls Thursday Rena: 768 012

Brownies Tuesday - Denise: 314 030

Brownies Wednesday - Tina: 768 293

Brownies Friday - Jodie: 07799 140 668

Cubs - Christopher: 304 588

County Players - Wendy: 401 460

Explorers - Kit: 07792 372 570

Group Scout Leader - Kit: 07792 372 570

Guides - Gill: 856 566

'55' Club - Arthur: 768 405

Patacake Baby/Toddlers - Chau: 07854 885 746

Royal British Legion Wootton Poppy Appeal

Organiser - Chris Ashpole: 07865 051 453

Scouts - Dave: 07780 954 307

Tang Soo Do - Andrew: 07748 653 220

Wootton Golf Soc. - Pete: 07975 596 164

Women's Institute - Kath: 765 333

Wootton Rangers FC - Steve: 751 611

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662





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Editor in Chief - Sue Playford

Editor - Gareth Lloyd

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Editorial Notes:

Wootton News is overseen by an Editorial sub group of the Parish Council. While every effort has been made to ensure that 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 he Wootton News Editor (gareth.t.lloyd@googlemail.com) by the copydate. Advertisements are usually half page (£30 for black and white, or colour). If you wish to advertise then please send your details to the Editor. The advertisements are taken in good faith and we cannot except any responsibility for bad service or workmanship received.

Next Issue: December 2016

Copy Date: 31st October 2016

The Wootton News can be read online at:
woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk

If you have any comments or opinions on how to improve the Wootton News, please send them to Sue Playford (Parish Clerk):

WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
or call on **07531 930 788**



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Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*

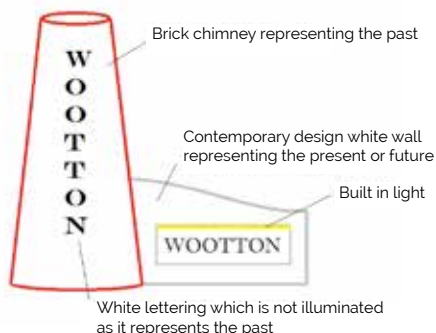


Gareth Lloyd

I would like to start my report by welcoming **Bob Hensher, Neera Regmi and Samantha Sanderson** to the parish council. I would also like to thank **Bill Brady** for everything he has done for our community not only was he a parish councillor, but the coordinator of Speed Watch and First Response and a member of Street Watch.

The Fun Fest this year was the biggest and best we have had and I would like to thank Mark Atkins, Claire Bennett, Brian Doggrell, Naomi Groves, Sue Playford and John Wheeler who helped with the planning and running of the day. If any local businesses would like to promote their goods, products or services at this event, do please let the clerk know. If you would like to give us some feedback on how we can improve the event please complete the survey on our website (woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk).

The parish council are looking at ways to improve the look and feel around the village. We have two projects that we would value your input on. The first project is the **Wootton Sign on Fields Road**. The response received has shown that residents want something different as shown. If anyone wishes to submit their own designs that describes Wootton's past/present and future in a unique way, please send them to the Clerk by Monday October 3rd and the



designs will be displayed in the December edition for a final vote. The other project is **"Wootton in Bloom"**. We are looking at installing three 4 tier planters around the village. We welcome your views on this. Please complete our survey printed elsewhere in this edition.

A **"Roads and Footpath Safety Steering Group"** has been formed to look at various issues around the village, such as congestion outside the shops, speeding, poor quality footpaths and additional footpaths – to name just a few. We would welcome more residents of Wootton to help with this group.

Finally I would like to remind people that we hold a **drop in session** on the **first Saturday of the month** in the **library between 10am and 12 noon**. So please come along and have a chat with the parish and borough councillors.

Parish Clerk's Report *Sue Playford*



WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
07531 930 788

Since my last report I am sad to report the **resignation of Bill Brady**, a valued member of the parish council who is also heavily involved with other community projects within Wootton. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the parish council and I wish him and his family and friends the very best.

Bill's resignation left the parish council with three vacancies for a short while, however I am very pleased to report that all have now been filled. I would like to welcome Bob Hensher, Neera Regmi and Samantha Sanderson as new members and I look forward to working with them all for the good of the parish.

Congratulations to Debbie Brown who was the lucky winner of £50 of Amazon vouchers, having successfully completed the parish council's quiz at the **Fun Fest** on 9th July. The quiz was designed to give a brief insight into our proposed Neighbourhood Plan. The findings can be found on our website (<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>) and if you would like to learn more about the Neighbourhood Plan please contact either myself or Gareth Lloyd, Chairman. As always, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making this year's Fun Fest the best and biggest to date – everyone on the Fun Fest committee, stall

holders, the Fox & Duck PH, those acts who took to the stage and arena (Hammers Choir, Tang Soo Do display, Classic Mini display, Krisgar Magic show, The Keeleys, Acoustic Boo, Eastwood and SugaSoul) and D&G Noble for the continued use of their lorry as centre stage. The biggest thank you as always though simply goes to Mark Atkins who works above and beyond – securing the music and arena acts and ensuring everything comes together on the day.



You may not be aware that **WPC** provides **allotments** for Wootton residents, based at Hall End (along Hilly Lane, as you drive away from The Chequers PH). By the time this report goes to print there will be no waiting list so if you have ever contemplated your own allotment (we offer full or half plots) then why not now? If you would like further information on this, please let me know and I will put you in touch with our allotments officer, Alison Reed Thomsett.

Office Location:

The Hub,
Wootton Life Methodist Church,
Cause End Road, MK43 9DE

Office Hours:

During Term Time

Monday 10am - 12pm

Wednesday 10am - 12pm

Office Hours:

During School Holidays

Monday 10am - 12pm

(Hours may be subject to change, so feel free to telephone in advance to ensure the office will be open).

Dates for your Diary 2016

SEPTEMBER

7th	Wootton Play Equipment Committee	7.00pm
14th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
14th	Full Council	7.30pm
21st	Roads and footpaths committee	7.00pm
21st	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group committee	7.45pm
28th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
28th	Leisure & Amenities committee	7.30pm
28th	Finance & General Purposes committee	8.00pm

OCTOBER

5th	Wootton Play Equipment Committee	7.00pm
12th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	7.30pm
26th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
26th	Leisure & Amenities committee	7.30pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes committee	8.00pm

NOVEMBER

2nd	Wootton Play Equipment Committee	7.00pm
9th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
9th	Full Council inc precept	7.30pm
16th	Roads and footpaths committee	7.00pm
16th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group committee	7.45pm
30th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
30th	Leisure & Amenities committee	7.30pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes committee	8.00pm

Please check noticeboards and the parish council website for any changes to timings and/or cancellations.

All meetings are held at the Memorial Hall on Bedford Road, with the exception of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Roads and Footpaths Safety Steering Group and Wootton Play Equipment Working Group which will be held at The Hub, Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road
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As usual, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries with which I or the parish council can assist. I have set out below some recent developments which may be of interest:

The new roundabouts and crossings at Fields Road, Bedford Road and Church Road have now been resurfaced and the work is completed. I am continuing to push for Fields Road to be resurfaced, pavements improved and a new crossing opposite the Medical Centre. The timescale for this is reliant on the water board replacing the pipes down Fields Road for the new development; once this is done then the resurfacing can start. I have no timescale for this at the moment but work is planned to start on the new housing development in spring of next year.

The borough's Highways team has been busy clearing paths, cutting back trees and bushes around Wootton; this is an ongoing programme, so if you know of any bad areas please let me know so they can be added onto the list if they are not already on it. Pot holes are still an issue and they are being dealt with on an ongoing basis along with kerb stones and yellow lines.

I am chasing **Persimmon** regarding the opening of the three new shops by the Lower School at Berryfields as these are now badly needed to serve the local residents. I believe these will be built next year and then put into the hands of an estate agent for occupation. I will keep you updated.

The new steering group for roads and footpaths in Wootton met in July and I will be submitting their recommendations to Highways for consideration.

Bedford Hospital no longer has a **Hyper Acute Stroke Unit** (HASU) following the resignation of one of its consultants. HASUs are responsible for treating patients in the crucial 72 hour period after a stroke, particularly by identifying and removing blood clots. Bedford Hospital's HASU operated from Monday – Friday between the hours of 9am – 5pm, with patients in need of the service outside of these hours taken to Luton & Dunstable Hospital, which has a 24/7 HASU. Patients who would have previously accessed the HASU at Bedford Hospital will now instead be taken to Luton & Dunstable or Stevenage. They will then be brought back to Bedford Hospital to access rehabilitation and inpatient services after 72 hours if they are in a stable condition but are unable to go home.

Last year the **South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)**, which is made up of public and private sector organisations in the region (including the borough council), submitted bids to receive government funding to support a range of schemes designed to drive economic growth. One of the bids focussed on alleviating congestion in Bedford town centre. As part of its subsequent Local Growth Plan, the government announced that the borough council would receive £11m for this scheme, with the council now working with the Department for Transport

on how this sum can be best used to take pressure off the road network, with various options being discussed.

I am continuing to work closely with the Parish Council, schools and local community to sort out issues and improve Wootton during this time of major development and all the problems that go with it! I would like to thank the Clerk Sue Playford and Parish Councillors for all the hard work and dedication they have put into Wootton and

will no doubt continue to do so. Without their efforts a lot of things would never get done in the village.

On a final note it was so nice to see so many of you at this year's Fun Fest. It was a great day and once again I would like to thank the many people that made this possible and am looking forward to Fun Fest 2017.

Street Watch

Wootton Parish Council has had a Street Watch scheme within the village since March 2016. Wootton is the first village within Bedford Borough to start a Street Watch scheme, although a number of villages within Central Beds already have such schemes.

Patrols within the village have concentrated on the areas of the Recreation Ground, and other areas of high pedestrian traffic. It has been rewarding to be spoken to by residents who have said how much they like the scheme. Amongst other matters, a patrol was able to report an abandoned van to Police. The van was removed within 6 hours. Wootton currently has 6 volunteers and a new person has recently applied to become a member. We unfortunately lost a valued member due to ill health. We wish him all the best.

What is Street Watch? Street Watch is about local residents promoting good citizenship and supporting a better neighbourhood by patrolling their own streets. They provide visible reassurance and appropriately engage in local issues that matter most in our community. The presence and activities of Street Watch members will have a significant and positive impact on quality of life issues within our community. Street Watch members liaise with local police to encourage positive information sharing and partnership working. Street

Watch is a way of ensuring our streets and open spaces do not fall prey to those who may wish to engage in activities that undermine our communities.

What does Street Watch do?

The purpose of Street Watch is:

- To prevent crime by increasing visibility and maintaining a caring and cohesive community.
- To assist the police by promoting effective communication and the prompt reporting of activity.
- To increase feelings of safety by promoting a sense of security and community spirit.

By being proactive, Street Watch will be supporting vulnerable members of the community and vulnerable areas, helping people take pride in their communities.

Volunteers are asked to commit 2 hours every month to patrol. Training is provided by Bedfordshire Police, and each volunteer is equipped with a high visibility jacket, a torch and a notebook. There will be a local coordinator to ensure patrols are targeted at appropriate places and times, and volunteers will patrol in pairs. Volunteers will not be expected to intervene in any incident. If you are interested in becoming a member of Street Watch, please contact the Wootton parish council clerk.



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Adventurer

The first hot-air balloon to 'land' in Wootton.

The first manned aerial voyage in history was made in a Montgolfier hot-air balloon by Pilatre de Rozier and the Marquis d'Arlandes in Paris on the 21st November 1783. In calm weather the flight lasted four hours and travelled five and a half miles.

One hundred plus years later hot air ballooning was becoming more accessible. On the evening of the 16th March 1891 the sighting of a low flying hot-air balloon was made by two men, Pennyworth & Gills, walking near Wootton. They noticed that the balloon had a rope dangling from the passenger basket, but the basket appeared to be without occupants. The balloon was descending, becoming so low to the soil that the rope was trailing on the ground. The men decided to follow the balloon in the hope of a reward for its capture. Eventually the rope snagged in a hedge near Dimmock's farm and the pair moored it, and thereby the balloon, to a tree. Shortly thereafter the last of the hot air left the balloon envelope and the entire assemblage collapsed to earth. On inspecting the basket the men noted the name painted on the side, ADVENTURER, and found in the basket a large dagger, blood stains, sand, a pressure device and a thermometer. Suspecting foul play they reported their "capture" to the police. Superintendent Pryce arrived, arrested the balloon and began an investigating into the suspicious circumstances. But to no success for there were no local reports of dead bodies or missing balloons. An article about the incident appeared in the local paper and was subsequently taken up by the national press. In due course a letter was received from Messers. Williams and Smith of Battersea, London, claiming the balloon and describing their adventure and the probable cause of the bloodstains.

On that breezy day in Battersea Williams



and Smith (both wealthy men but relatively inexperienced balloonists) had filled the envelope at about 4.00p.m. They ascended to a height of some 5000 feet. Above Battersea they were drifting northwest towards Chelsea when the balloon started a sudden, unexpected, descent. Sand ballast was quickly discharged and the balloon just managed to avoid rooftops, but the sudden loss of ballast caused the balloon to rapidly ascend. They stated that at 10,000 feet the balloon stabilised but the weather was terribly cold and they decided enough was enough. So they vented a little hot air to descend. The descent was disastrous, far too rapid. The basket violently hit open ground near Neasden causing Williams, who was holding a grappling line and hook, to be thrown firstly onto the basket side where he badly gashed his arm on the hooks of the grapple, and then he was tumbled overboard. With the loss of Williams' weight the balloon rose quickly. Smith had failed to open the hot air emergency release valve. Again the balloon stabilised at high altitude and Smith feared he might freeze to death. He cautiously released more air but the same rapid descent as before led to a crash landing, this time near Harrow. Smith jumped out, the balloon thus lightened once again shot up. Eventually running out of lift and having drifted much further to the north, the balloon came down to rest in Wootton.

The dagger had been used to slit open the sand ballast bags. Smith & Williams gave up ballooning. Pennyworth and Gills were not rewarded. Spt. Pryce closed his case. The ADVENTURER had travelled some sixty miles in four hours but was never used again.

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item	Location	Deadline
Bus stop facilities	Throughout the village	Ongoing
Keeley End Pond	Bedford Rd/Keeley Ln	Spring/Summer 2016
Local Plan 2032 (now 2035)	Throughout the village	Ongoing
Neighbourhood Plan	The whole civil parish of Wootton	Ongoing
Overgrown hedge, damaged fencing & ash tree	Behind Lorraine Rd	Ongoing
Parking restrictions	Several sites in village	Ongoing
Roads and footpaths	Throughout the village	Ongoing
Street lights	Throughout the village	Ongoing
Traffic Management Issues	Throughout the village	Ongoing
Wootton in Bloom	Various sites within the village	2016
Wootton Village sign	Fields Rd entrance	2016

Any other information

WPC lobbied Bedford borough council (BBC) for improvements to bus stops within the village – including raised kerbing and tactile paving – without success. It has since been told developer contributions will not be available to use for several years and so has asked the borough councillor (John Wheeler) to see if BBC funding might again be available in this new financial year.

WPC is working with the lower school to regenerate the area – to include the addition of plants and shelter to attract a variety of wildlife. Rotavating works have now been completed and some planting undertaken. Further planting will take place in spring/summer 2016 and the lower school will be asked to care for some plants before they are established enough for planting. The duck house project remains ongoing but will be the last feature to be installed in the area.

WPC previously stated it DID NOT wish any further development to take place within the village. The Borough Council has since undertaken a call for sites which has pushed deadlines back.

WPC is aiming to draft a Neighbourhood Plan which will give residents a greater say over any future development within the village. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meets every other month. Please let the Chairman Gareth Lloyd or Clerk Sue Playford know if you are interested in joining this group or helping with ongoing publicity. Some areas have now been yellow-lined but WPC is chasing BBC to establish why some areas remain outstanding.

The ash tree has now been removed (although the trunk remains in place). WPC understands BBC are planning works to the damaged fencing – it is not yet known if this will be a full replacement scheme or repair works.

Some areas have now been yellow-lined but WPC is chasing BBC to establish why some areas remain outstanding.

The newly formed Roads & Footpaths Safety Steering Group had its first meeting on 20th July. A number of issues have been identified – for further details please check the draft minutes published via WPC's website. Please note they are still in draft form only, at this stage. http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=3322934 Please let the Chairman Gareth Lloyd or Clerk Sue Playford know if you are interested in joining this group or helping with ongoing publicity.

WPC has responsibility for 36 columns within the village – the rest are the responsibility of BBC. WPC has replaced three at Potters Cross. Two remain outstanding at Hall End – it is hoped ongoing issues between Allan Peacock (Street Lighting) Ltd and UK Power Networks will soon be resolved. BBC has its own replacement programme running alongside.

The double mini-roundabout is in place as is a pedestrian island – further works to the roundabout will follow. The works are being carried out by Persimmon Homes – WPC has been requested to ask for any queries to be forwarded to the BBC's Highways Helpdesk (highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk, 01234 718003). A new footway link is proposed from Cranfield Road into Church Road and plans are also in place to widen part of the footpath at Hall End.

Three sites have initially been identified for planters – it is hoped more sites will follow. Further information on the proposal can be found elsewhere in this edition.

WPC are looking to install a new village sign on Fields Road. Design suggestions feature elsewhere in this edition.



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If you are considering volunteering and feel you might be interested in working on this project, please email recruit@ageukbedfordshire.org.uk for further information on opportunities available.



Wootton Baptist Church

The new roundabouts at the junction of Bedford Road and Fields Road seem to be working well. I did have my doubts, but 'well done' to the council. I looked at them recently and the mini roundabouts reminded me of a man I met in Yorkshire while I was on holiday. He was handing out cards in the street and I got talking to him. He tried to convince me that the world was flat and not a globe and that all the 'evidence' coming through the media, was all just a trick. I really thought those days were gone. However I looked up the website on the card and found that after giving all the guff about a flat world, there was a book to buy! Money was obviously at the back of it. I wasn't tempted.

How can anyone rebuff all the evidence we see in the sky and which comes from the space missions. With all the travelling done today, if the world were flat, someone would have by now fallen off the edge!! Even the Bible tells us that 'God sits on the circle of the earth' Isaiah 40: 22. Job 9: 22 tells us that 'He (God) is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations of the South.' I think I would much rather believe what God's word says than what a man dreams up in his mind.

Have you ever thought of what an amazing God we have? He provides us with an amazing world, which we have messed up. He even provides us with a Way back to Him, when we have treated Him as if He didn't exist. The Way He provided was through his Son, Jesus Christ who came to make it possible for us to know God. He died



and was raised from the dead to show us His power over death. And we can know Him by repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ.

The holidays are over once more and the children are back in school. Another summer gone. Hope everyone enjoyed their holidays. We hold our **worship services** each **Sunday at 10.30am** and **6pm** and there is a **Coffee Morning** each **Tuesday from 10am to Noon**. **Everyone is welcome.**

Look us up on our website
www.woottonbaptistchurch.org.uk

Rob Stanton

For the deacons and Fellowship of the Baptist Church.



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

At Bizzy Bees we enjoyed a busy summer term with our children thoroughly enjoying their performance of the 'Hokey Cokey' at Wootton Lower School May Fayre where we also ran a very popular tombola stall and were delighted to be visited by faces old and new.

Our 'Bizzy Bees' were offered a variety of activities including fun outdoor play with more children learning to ride bicycles without stabilisers, caring for plants and flowers in the garden area and taking part in seaside themed craft activities using a range of resources.

Our 'Sports Day' was a great success even though it took place on the hottest day of the year! The children took part in running, sack, egg and spoon and creepy crawly races all cheered on by proud parents, grandparents and family friends. The tables were then turned as the children cheered when their mummies and daddies took part in

very competitive egg and spoon races! Delicious Cream Tea were then enjoyed by all, to round off a very enjoyable morning.

The term ended with our annual 'Teddy Bears Picnic' where we welcomed some of our new starters and said our goodbyes to our older children leaving for school. The children had fun on the bouncy castle, enjoyed their picnics and played together in the park.

We would like to wish our summer leavers all the very best as they start school in September and extend a warm welcome to all of our new starters; as well as welcoming back our existing Bizzy Bees children for the beginning of an exciting autumn term.

Bizzy Bees 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.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2016

In order to help maintain the past excellent money totals raised for the 'RBL Poppy appeal' in this growing village of Wootton. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone could assist the Appeal by helping with door to door collections - the collecting period is from **24th October to November 11th**.

If you are able to help this worthy cause in anyway whatsoever please be good enough to contact **Chris Ashpole** (Poppy organiser) for more information on **07865 051 453**.



Village Agent News

Village Agents provide a free, confidential service and are here to help the over 60s with any issues you may have – large or small. We are a team of six who work part-time for Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, and are funded by Bedford

Borough Council

Assisted Bin Collection Scheme – Did you know that if you are unable to move your black/orange/green bin or sacks to the road side for collection because of a disability or medical condition, you may be eligible for an Assisted Collection.

Discounts on Council Tax – Most people know they can claim a 25% discount if they are living alone. However, did you know you may also be eligible for the same discount, if there are two people living in a dwelling, one of whom has a mental health impairment such as dementia.

Walking for Health – Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity runs a number of "health walks". Getting active can sometimes be difficult. These accompanied walks are short & you can go at your pace, so it's a great way to start getting active with support.

Tibbs Dementia Services - This is a local organisation dedicated to providing a range of accessible services and activities for people living with dementia and their carers. This includes music for memory sessions, an early support programme for those with a recent

diagnosis, & weekly drop in sessions. They can also arrange home visits.

Trips – Wheels in Motion are running four more day trips from September onwards. These are aimed at the over 60s who may have mobility issues which makes using regular transport difficult. Venues include Milton Keynes shopping centre and Wicksteed Park Christmas Special. There are still a small number of places if you act quickly.

Help completing benefits forms - We can also help you complete Pension Credit, Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Personal Independence Payment, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms.

For more information about anything above, please call **Andrea your Village Agent** on Freephone **0800 039 1234**. This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, & we aim to call you back within 48 hours



Bedford Borough
Council

Get fit, build Self-Confidence and learn a Martial Art

The Wootton Dal Poon Tang Soo Do Academy has been established for 15 years in the Village Hall, teaching and developing the young and not so young in the art of self-defence.

The club have just returned from Dublin for the 5TH IRISH INVITATIONAL TANG SOO DO CHAMPIONSHIPS. Both Gup Belts and Black Belts attended. All team members returned with medals. The medals were won for either victory in "semi contact" sparring contests or "Open Hand" and "Weapons" Forms judged by a panel of senior Master Belts.

A number of club members are currently preparing to take their Black Belt grading this year as the club grows and goes from strength to strength.

The Bedfordshire Dal Poon Tang Soo Do Academy is part of the European Tang Soo Do Federation (ETSDF). The ETSDF teaches one of the oldest martial arts. Tang Soo Do is a traditional Korean martial art based on the ancient Korean kicking style of Tae Kyun, and the soft, flowing movements from the Chinese Martial Arts systems.

Whilst Tang Soo Do has the rituals and discipline of a traditional martial art it equips every student with effective modern self-defence knowledge, techniques and capabilities.

The clubs Chief Instructors are Masters Andrew and Stephanie Johnson, 4th Dan Master Belts who have trained and

developed 1st and 2nd Dan Black Belts plus European and World Competition Champions.

Classes are held in Wootton Village Hall every Thursday from 6.30pm.

All ages are welcome.

Visit the Dal Poon Tang Soo Do website for more details.

www.dalpoontangsoodoacademy.co.uk

or call **Andrew Johnson**

Senior Instructor on **07748 653220**.

First class is free.

It is a great way to get fit, just come along and try it out.



September's the month to make new friends

Oddfellows Friendship Month

If your social life's in need of a shake-up, or you're ready to start adding some extra names to your contacts book, then the Oddfellows Bedford Branch, based in Wootton, has declared September a great time to take action and make new friends.

As part of its annual Friendship Month campaign, throughout September the local society will be hosting special events for people to come together locally, have fun and try something new. The Oddfellows' Friendship Month events are open to everyone and include:

Saturday 17th September, lunch at the Tavistock Carvery, Bedford, **£6** for carvery, 12.30pm, (booking required)

Saturday 24th September, join us for Croquet at the Ancell Sports Ground, Stony Stratford, 10am, **£5** (booking required)



Wednesday 28th September, drop in for coffee as part of a new friendship group, The Hub, Wootton Methodist Church, Wootton, 10.30am to 12pm

Based in Wootton, on the industrial estate of Bedford Road, the society's members regularly get together to enjoy social events such as talks and trips out, lunches, craft sessions and coffee mornings.

The Oddfellows is also offering a **chance to win** a luxury afternoon tea for two and £100 spending money in a free prize draw on its campaign website at www.friendshipmonth.com.

To find out more about these and other events call **Ailie Redman** on: **01234 768914** or email: **Ailie.Redman@oddfellows.co.uk**





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- NHS Medicines Review Service: speak to ARIF or RAJ
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www.woottonpharmacy.co.uk

Bedfordshire Day

You may remember back at the beginning of last year when it was announced that Bedfordshire Day was to be the anniversary of the birth of John Bunyan – 28th November. Well time is moving on and Bedfordshire Day will soon be upon us again and The Friends of Bedfordshire Society are keen to see how people are going to celebrate.

They have a few suggestions of their own, flying the Bedfordshire County flag from your home is one of their main ideas. Your workplace may also have a flag pole which could accommodate a county flag. The county flag is a great symbol of the county and they want to see it being displayed with pride all over Bedfordshire.

Other suggestions include more simple ideas like having a Bedfordshire Clanger for dinner, a much more tasty way of remembering Bedfordshire's rich heritage. It's a celebration, right? So why not have a party? The promotion of Bedfordshire is surely going to be remembered best when people get together and celebrate with one another. One great idea would be to buy locally supplied food and drinks for any event to show just how great the produce



in the county is.

There are going to be events held across the county so why not get involved and visit one of the celebrations being held in Bedfordshire.

Whether you're going to take part by something they've already suggested or you have a completely new idea The Friends of Bedfordshire want to hear about it, they are online:

www.friendsofBedfordshire.org.uk,
on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BedfordshireSociety
and on twitter **@FriendsOfBeds**.

Tell everyone and show that you care about your county.

Sand in my shoes

A man once set out on a journey. He knew that the way might be rough
He'd been warned of the pitfalls and dangers so expected that things might be tough.

His path led him up through the mountains, over rivers and valleys as well
And sometimes the going was easy, and sometimes he stumbled and fell.

On reaching the end of the journey, his friends crowded round him to say
"Tell, what were the trials you encountered. What hampered you most on the way?"

He replied "It was not the steep mountains-or the torrents and rivers I crossed.
It wasn't the dark gloomy forest when I feared all the time I'd be lost.

No, it was not these parts of the journey, though encounters I never would choose
But the thing which I found most oppressive, was simply the sand in my shoes"

**Knowing Jesus and Making
Jesus Known** to all is the
heartbeat of St Mary's.

Sunday Services

9am Prayer Book Service

10.30am Morning Service -
including young people's
groups.

Encompass *Messy Church*

Monthly on Thursdays

3.45pm Church Hall

22 Sept, 20 Oct.



Christianity Explored

Regular groups; see our
website.

Pathfinders (ages 9-13) Weds

7pm term time Church Hall

J@M (ages 14-18) Sundays

7.15pm term time at 52A
Church Rd.

Wrigglers Parent & toddler
group. Every Monday in term
time 10am at Wootton Baptist

Men Behaving Dadly Group for
Dads and their 0-12 year olds.
Last Sat of the month 10am.
Contact the Church Office or
visit the website for details.

Lunch Club Monthly on
Mondays, 1pm, Church Hall
12 Sept, 10 Oct.

Revd Peter Ackroyd: 768391

Revd Lucas Durant: 313122

Church Office: 765375

**We are a referring agent for
the Bedford Foodbank. If
you know of anyone in crisis
contact us in confidence.**



Life Explored?

What's the best gift God could give you?
Why is lasting happiness so hard to find?

Life Explored is a new group at St Mary's, taking a
sympathetic look at what we live for, exploring how God
promises to meet the hunger of our hearts.

Thursdays from 15 September.

More information on our website, or phone 768391.

Sunday 2nd October

Join us for our

Harvest Thanksgiving

Services: 9am & 10.30am

*when we will also be giving thanks for the successful
completion of our stonework restoration project*
followed by Harvest Lunch 12.30pm at the Church Hall

Flowers & Teas: 2.30-5pm

Church will be open if you would like to see the harvest
decorations and enjoy a cup of tea.

Sat 10 Sept

Sponsored Bike Ride and Hike

Supporting the *Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust* – whose
grant funding helped our recent Stonework Restoration
Project. Anyone can ride with us – sponsor forms available.

Sunday 13 November 10.30am Service of Remembrance

www.stmaryswootton.org.uk





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

Email: stmarys5@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01234 767158

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

The children enjoyed celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday. The celebrations included learning about the Queen, recognising the Union Jack flag, dressing up in 'red, white and blue' and enjoying a tea style street party. The children were also invited to provide a three dimensional art display for St Mary's Church with the theme 'Queen Elizabeth II'. Every child made a collage flower in red, white and blue; and used their hands to make handprints on paper to decorate a tablecloth. A fun week was had by all!

The children looked at swan feathers through a magnifying glass and then used the swan feathers to paint with; and we watched their creativity take flight! Using feathers helped them to develop their fine motor skills and hand-eye co-ordination, both of which are important pre-writing skills.

The children participated in a mini sports day. Amongst the activities the children were challenged to take part in, was an obstacle course, a running race, a jumping race and an egg and spoon race. Parents, friends and family were invited along to see the children take part, and receive certificates and a medal at the end of the session.



The children planted some seed potatoes; and were responsible for watering and watching them grow. On Monday 18th July some very excited children dug up their potatoes; and stayed for a lunch of sausages, new potatoes, baked beans and peas followed by strawberry jelly and ice cream.

We finished the term with a Pirate Themed Leavers Party. The children enjoyed having a picnic in the playgroup garden, hunting for pirate treasure in the sand and playing on two bouncy castles. All the children had a great time before breaking up for the summer holidays.

Sadly a number of children are leaving us at the end of the term to go on to 'big school'. Everyone at St. Mary's wishes them all the very best of luck and hope they enjoy the next stage in their education.

General Information

St Mary's Playgroup operates from the Church Hall and has been serving the local community since 1967. We are staffed by fully qualified play leaders. We can take pre-school 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 or Tracey on 01234 767158. Alternatively you can call in to pick up an enrolment form.

Term time opening hours:

Monday 9.00am-12.45pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9.00am-15.00pm

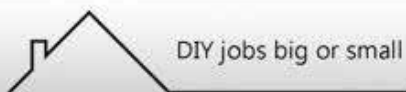


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Paul, Selina, Harry and their team would love to welcome you to The Legstraps, whether it be for a coffee, light lunch or even a three course meal.

The kitchen serves an ever changing menu of modern British food, using only the best ingredients sourced locally.

Sunday lunch is a relaxed time, a choice of two roasts are set along side our a la carte menu serving 12.00pm - 4.00pm.

Every Tuesday 10am-12pm we hold a Mother and baby/toddler coffee morning, with great cake and coffee.

Christmas is now happily around the corner and we are still taking party bookings.

So why not come and join us for some festive cheer!



enquiries@thelegstraps.co.uk

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Wootton Good Neighbours

Governments may change but our gratitude to those who donate to our group remains the same; it also applies to our volunteers who carry out the tasks our clients request with care and a smile. Thank you all.

If you ask for a donation you will no doubt be offered money in some form or other, but **there are other ways to donate**; offering time to help others is one way. Therefore, we are requesting that you consider doing this by volunteering to join our group and gifting your time to assist with our daytime activities. We look forward to hearing from you.

In April we started by having an approved mileage list to places like hospitals, doctors and dentists etc. (outside of the village), the charge of

£1 each way still applies to visits to the medical centre within the village. The driver will inform you of the charge you will need to pay. However, it will be less than other groups carrying out the same type of help.

Thank you for reading this. If you require our assistance please call:
0771 777 0247.



Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre Patient Participation Group

What a great day the Fun Fest was. I hope many of you were able to visit our stall and a good number of you also took part in our quiz, which seems to be as popular as ever. There were only two people with all correct answers so these were put into a 'hat' with the lucky winner drawn being the lady from the Win A Mini stall. (Many apologies for forgetting to write down your name). I would also like to say a big thank you to the organisers of the Fun Fest for putting on another brilliant day.

The PPG have recently handed out a short questionnaire to patients at the Health Centre with regard to starting a Virtual PPG (VPPG) A VPPG gives patients the chance to help form the future of their practice with ideas and opinions by means of surveys carried out online. It means you don't have to attend meetings in person

but can still be involved with achieving the sort of practice that suits us all. We had a very positive response and the practice will be informed of this in the hope we can use their expertise in getting a VPPG up and running in the not too distant future.

If you do have the odd hour or two on the **first Tuesday of the month at 6pm** and feel you want to give something back to society then feel free to join us at the surgery. You don't need any NHS background and it's an interesting way of learning about the NHS from another angle other than as a patient. You can give as much or as little time as you want. Message us through our Facebook page, leave a note in the PPG suggestion box if you want to contact us or ask at the surgery.

Wootton Upper School News

Billy Elliot

Billy Elliot sold out on all four nights with the cast getting a standing ovation each night; it really was one of the best ever productions staged by the school. A very special performance took one night to celebrate the teaching career and retirement of Mark Thompson, Vice Principal. Lots of Mr Thompson's former colleagues were invited to the performance that night and before the show a letter from the Secretary of State for Education thanking and congratulating Mr Thompson for his thirty seven years teaching at Wootton Upper School career was read out to guests.



Auditions for the next school production, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" have already taken place; this will be performed between Tuesday November 8th and Thursday November 10th before going on tour to Bremen later in the month.

Sporting successes

While the Rio Olympics are still fresh in the memory, the school is celebrating its own incredible sporting successes. Samson Ma'asi played for England's U16 Rugby Team and Beth Dix for the U18 England Netball Team. Both have donated their England kit which we will put on show in the Theatre Hall. Harry Huang is the U15 European Badminton singles champion whilst Bartek Krzyzanski played for

England's U18 Touch Rugby Team. Kye Charlton-Brown won the bronze medal in the shot-put at the English School's Athletics Championships in Gateshead having already become county champion.

Kye (pictured with his bronze medal) was one of five Wootton Upper School Athletics County Champions; two of whom - Ashleigh Hyde winner of the 3000m and Sinead Stovell, who broke the county record winning the 1500 metre steeple chase - live in the village. Earlier in the year Sinead won the girls' intermediate girls' Bedfordshire Cross Country whilst Jamie Viney won the boys' race!



Science success

Two Year 10 boys, including Wootton resident, James O'Hara won the senior chemistry prize at the STEM East Science Fair over at Duxford; this is the first time we have won a prize in this competition.

Art Competition success

Katie Lansbury, Y10 won first prize in the Harpur Trust 450th Years of Enriching People's Lives competition winning both £100 for herself and £500 for the Art Department.

Music Concert

Thank you to all of you who came along

to support the summer concert, which this summer took place at Kimberley for the first time. We are especially grateful to all of those residents who helped host one of the forty German students from Bamberg who were with us for the week and performed so wonderfully at the concert.

New style of school report

We have changed our end of year school reports so they are more traditional and include individual comments from teachers on each students. Thank you for your feedback; if any parent still wishes to let us know what they think of the new report please send an email to our Mr Frazer, Vice Principal c/o

hwarlow@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Staff news

The school's two new Vice Principals have now settled into their new roles. Mrs McMorn is Vice Principal for Pastoral and Inclusion. She has made a number of changes and already met lots of parents. Mr Frazer is Vice Principal for Teaching, Learning and Assessment. In September we welcome Mrs Ashton, Assistant Principal who will lead the science department where she will be supported by three new appointments. We also welcome a new Head of Business Studies, Mr Kane, who is very ambitious to see the Business Studies department grow.

Governor News

Thank you to those parents who have contacted the school to indicate a willingness to join our governing body. I would like to thank Cllr. John Wheeler for his continuing support of the governing body and for helping to find funding for new stage lights.

Forthcoming dates 2016

First day of term

Monday 5th September

Awards Evening

Weds 14th September

Open Evening

Thursday 22nd September

Marston Vale students & parents

4:30p.m.

Holywell students & parents

5:00p.m.

6th Form Open Evening

Thur 13 October

Half term

24th – 28th October

School Play

8th – 10th November

Training Day

Friday 25th November

Concert

Thursday 8th December

Last day of term

Friday 16th December

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NEWS FROM THE WOODS

We have been very busy this summer! Pond dipping, bug hunting, taking part in the Big Butterfly Count, getting creative with leaf art, clay modeling, fairy and elf dens and of course taking part in International Mud Day.

Our toddler group on Thursday mornings is always popular and we are happy to welcome new faces every week. We start again in September with our regular

session. Our home ed group runs on Thursday afternoon during term-time and is rapidly growing. Our Saturday group has formed a tight bond and have fantastic adventures. We run regular holiday sessions too. All our sessions are child-led but structured. We encourage wild play and provide various activity stations for children to create their own adventures and games.

Come and explore our beautiful, woodland and see for yourselves!

For more information please go to:

 marstonvaleforestschoo.co.uk

 [marstonvaleforestschoo](https://www.facebook.com/marstonvaleforestschoo)

Contact: Shona Perrett

Telephone: 07811 087322

Email: info@marstonvaleforestschoo.co.uk

"There is no wifi in the forest but we promise you will find a better connection"



Marston Vale
Forest School



First, we would like to thank everybody involved in our third annual charity day in May. We raised £655 for the Luton and Dunstable Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Wootton Village v Harry's Heroes (Harry, being held in the front row, was born at 29 weeks and is the reason for supporting NICU)

We are looking forward to the new season with the adult team playing at the rec. on Saturday afternoon and the under 16s playing on Sunday afternoon.

Bedfordshire County Football League "Hop" (an excellent day of football to show off the qualities of the Bedfordshire County Football League and the hospitality of the clubs involved)

We have been invited to host the third of this year's annual "hop" games on 1st October, kick-off 4.30 pm in the rec. There will be food, programmes, club badges, teas and coffee available to

purchase on the day. We are expecting a lot of programme collectors from across the region, so please come along and support this community day.

We are always greatly appreciative of the support we receive from local businesses and spectators and hope to return this with success.

Yours in sport
Graham Norman
Manager

Wixams Academy

Parents deciding on their choice of a Bedford Borough secondary school can now put their child's name down for a brand new academy opening its doors at Wixams in September 2017.

There will be places for those from the new Wixams development and neighbouring areas like Wilstead, but also for children from Kempston, Elstow, Wootton and Bedford itself, as well as those living in Central Bedfordshire locations like Marston, Ampthill and Flitwick. Subsidised mini buses will be available on two key routes for the first year, to allow easy access to the brand new building at Wixams.

Construction work will begin within the next few months and the academy will be open for the autumn term of 2017 for Year 7 pupils (aged 11) under the new two tier 'secondary school' model. Eventually the academy will grow to offer a Sixth Form as those pupils progress.

"As part of the high quality educational offering, there will be a broad curriculum for those joining us at age 11 and the academy will specialise in science and technology to give students a head start in developing the skills needed for the future," explained Principal Paul Spyropoulos,

"We are offering a new and different educational choice, focussing on raising aspirations and standards of academic achievement."

"There will be an extended school day so that students can benefit from a

wider curriculum including technology, science, extended projects and enrichment."

Wixams Academy will be run by Bedford College Academies Trust (BCAT), a multi-academy trust. BCAT and its members provide the very best education to over 15,000 students in and around Bedford, an organisation including Bedford College, Shuttleworth College and The Bedford Sixth Form. BCAT's members were also instrumental in establishing the highly successful Bedford Free School.

For further information about their next Information Event and how to apply visit **www.wixamsacademy.co.uk** or call **01234 291745**.



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The hub



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woottonnewlife.org.uk

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breakfast available from 9.45am.
Please check the website for dates.
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Forest of Marston Vale

Hello from the new Community Engagement Officer at the Forest of Marston Vale!

I'd like to introduce myself – my name's Jo Roberts, and I took up the post of Community Engagement Officer at the Forest of Marston Vale in June.

I'm looking forward to meeting the local communities in the Vale, and working with as many different groups as I can. There are so many different ways to engage with us – from visits to the forest with your school, events in the woods with your local group, planting trees – either on your own sites or on newly created woodland sites – and anything else you can think of.

If you would like to contact me about anything to do with the Forest, please e-mail me at jo.roberts@marstonvale.org or call me on **01234 762608**.



101 is now the number to call when you want to contact your local police – when it's less urgent than 999

- My car has been stolen
- My property has been vandalised
- I want to talk to someone about a crime
- I suspect someone is selling stolen goods
- I suspect drug dealing in my neighbourhood
- My phone has been stolen and I need a crime number

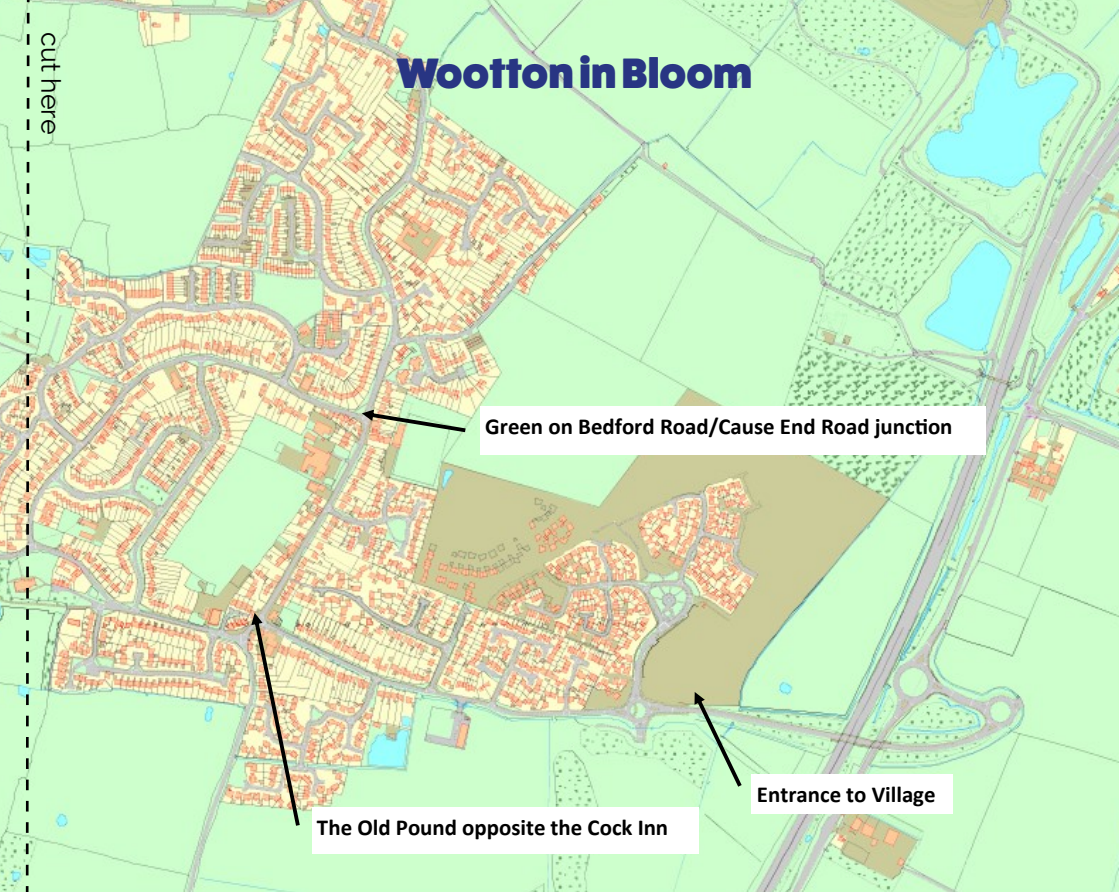
Calls from landlines and mobile networks cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day or how long your call.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired you can textphone 18001 101

101 is available 24 hours a day.



Wootton in Bloom



Green on Bedford Road/Cause End Road junction

The Old Pound opposite the Cock Inn

Entrance to Village



Our idea is to install three, 4 tier planters in the location shown above. The planters will give us flowers most of the year. More planters can be added later if this is a success.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Would you like to see these planters installed?

Yes

☐

No

☐

Please return this to Sue Playford, 3 Longden Close,
Haynes, MK45 3PJ or email answers to:
WoottonParishClerk@Gmail.com
by Monday 3rd October 2016

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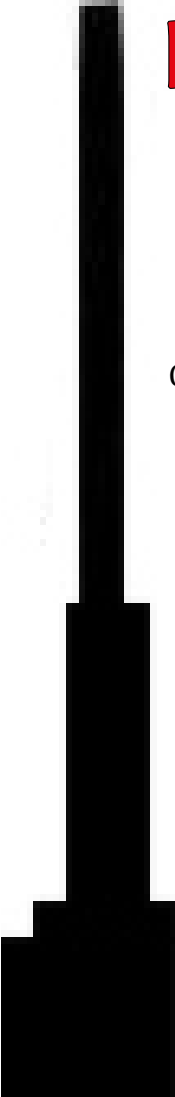
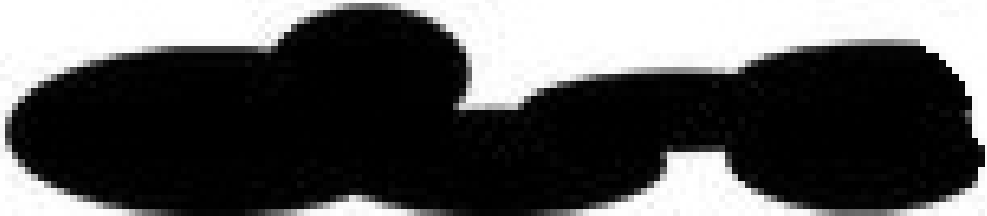
The Hub

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9DE

woottonnewlife.org.uk





No Covanta Incinerator in Marston Vale

Clearly everyone who fought the Covanta proposal will be deeply disappointed to learn that Covanta is partnering with Veolia to resurrect the massive Incinerator adjacent to the Millennium Country Park/Forest Centre - which received planning permission in 2013 following a lengthy battle by local Groups and Residents.

This is not the end of the road.
The Environment Agency
is yet to give its approval

What You Can Do
Visit www.mmetag.com

- Download Posters and Information Leaflets- Display and use to help spread the word to others.
- Keep in touch with the campaign by signing up for email updates and signing the on-line petition
- Remain ready to object to the Environmental Permit when the time comes

MMAG

Marston Moreteyne Action Group



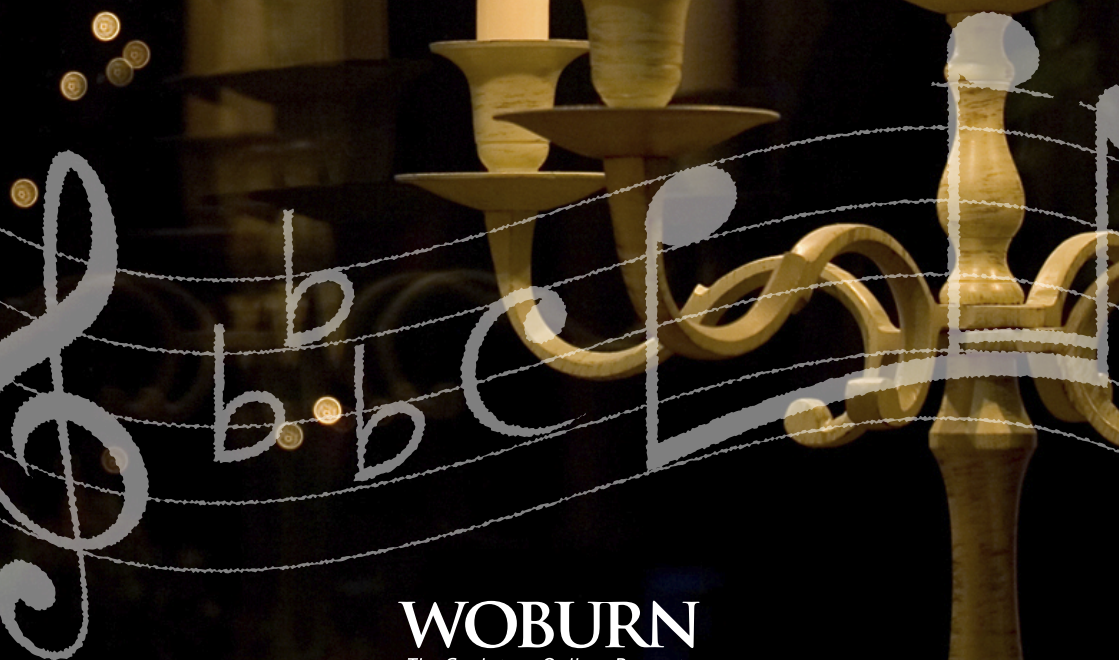
www.mmetag.com



VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS

BY CANDLELIGHT

This is the second event organised by Sarah Jane - if you wish to learn more about upcoming musical events please either telephone 01234 766583 or email sjcmusicevents@gmail.com or visit her website - sjc-music-events.com (currently being rebuilt).



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FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016