

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

WINTER EDITION

DECEMBER 2017



Contacts Directory

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Bob Wallace: 768 011

Bedford Borough Councillor

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Hall Booking

Memorial Hall - Naomi Groves: 07722 876 252

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

Schools

Wootton Upper: 767 123

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 - Laura Spavins: 767 785

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Malcolm Chalmers: 07864 295520

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

2nd Wootton Rainbows - Vickie: 602146

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

Brennan School of Dance: 822 831

Brownies Tuesday - Denise: 314 030

Brownies Wednesday - Rebecca: 07721 686868

Brownies Friday - Jodie: 07799 140 668

Cubs - Christopher: 304 588

Country 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

Marston Vale Forest School: 07811 087 322

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 Society - Pete: 07975 596 164

Women's Institute - Kath: 765 333

Wootton Rangers FC - Steve: 751 611

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662





04	Chairman's Report
06	Parish Clerk's Report
07	Dates for your Diary
09	Wootton Baptist Church
11	Borough Councillor Report
12	Bizzy Bees
14	St Mary's Pre-School
17	Wootton Village Agent
18	Chris Ashpole
19	Wootton Vale HLC
22	Outstanding Issues
24	Oddfellows
26	Wootton W.I
27	The Forest of Marston Vale
28	Wootton Library
30	Wootton Vale PPG
30	Poppy Appeal
31	Remembrance Day
34	Wootton Pre-School
35	Wootton Lower School
36	Wootton Upper School
40	Tre-ligion



Editor in Chief - Sue Playford

Editor - Gareth Lloyd

Design & Print - Bespoke Media
www.bespokemedia.org

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 the 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 accept any responsibility for bad service or workmanship received.

Next Issue: March 2018

Copy Date: 1st February 2018

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**

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



The parish council wants you to be able to know what is going on in the village - be it development, new facilities, or better opportunities. Members do their best to bring information to your attention - and would always encourage you to read this newsletter, visit our Facebook page and website, plus noticeboard information.

Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended either, or both, Greenspace Infrastructure Plan workshops, the Neighbourhood Plan launch and completed the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires, which were delivered to households at the end of October. This information will help to plan for a better village, with improved facilities and infrastructure. There will be more questionnaires and opportunities for you to comment.

Village Improvements

The following improvements have or are being implemented by the parish council:

- Raised Bus stops to enable passengers with buggies, wheelchairs, etc. easy access on and off the bus;
- Installation of real-time bus information at a number of bus stops (being considered at the time this was going to print, but hopefully will happen in 2018);

- A new footpath to complete a circuit of the recreation ground was recently completed - meaning there is no need to cross the car park;

- Removal of one kissing gate (footpath from Tithe Barn Road into the recreation ground), to allow better access for wheelchair or mobility scooter users and those with buggies;

- Christmas lights along Bedford Road between Fields Road and Cause End Road. We hope you like the display and welcome your comments. Our intention is to extend the display further - where would you like to see lights?

- We received many compliments on the three planters along Bedford Road and would again welcome your views on where to place additional ones;

- The proposed regeneration of the Jubilee Gardens area (providing play equipment for 0-5 year olds, with a focus on sensory equipment and items to appeal to children on the autistic spectrum) is now at the funding stage. An application is currently being submitted to Veolia;

- We are lobbying Bedford Borough Council for traffic safety measures including a crossing for the lower school (Bedford Road), crossing near Hanover Court (Bedford Road) and average speed cameras.

Berryfields Community Centre

At the time of publication, the parish council is still waiting to learn if it will be appointed the Management Entity for the centre and when it will open. Look here, on our website or Facebook page for further updates.

Remembrance Sunday

I would like to thank Cllr John Wheeler, Steve Rowse and every club, organisation and individual who helped organise or attend this year's parade. It was a great turnout which did the village and those who were remembered, proud. I would also like to thank Chris Ashpole and her helpers for raising monies for the Royal British Legion. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the "Great War" and Wootton will again remember them all.

And Finally

I would like to thank everyone who helped organise and/or attended the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. I would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Police non-emergency number
101

Fly tipping
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Noise complaints
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Dog fouling/Being walked
on the recreation ground
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I would like to start by thanking **Brian Doggrell** for his work with the parish council. Brian recently resigned and there are currently two casual vacancies. If anyone would like further information please let me know. As a starting point, some information is available on our website (including guidance on eligibility and a guide for councillors): http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=10151003.

The accounts for 2016-17 are now signed off by the external auditors, BDO LLP, and are also available to view on our website (hardcopies are available on request). That information will be included in the annual report (still being drafted).

The parish council recently increased the amount available through its **Small Grants Scheme** – it is now a maximum of £1,000 per request. The grants policy and application form are also online – please visit: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=2014112. I can also provide paper copies (and advice) as needed – as always, if you know of an organisation in need of financial assistance, pass this information on or ask a representative to contact me.

The glass recycling bank at the recreation ground is proving popular and is now the

proud owner of an industrial-strength padlock thanks to the clever individual(s) who decided to lift the back and liberate its contents. Never a dull moment.

Three planters installed earlier this year along Bedford Road have been well-received and the parish council is looking to install further planters given their popularity. Do you have a location in mind? I did have one suggestion along Cranfield Road, just past the double-mini roundabouts as you head towards Cranfield, which wasn't taken forward earlier – do you agree? Do you have an alternative location? Please let me know.

One other issue I have been asked to raise is **unsafe cycling on footpaths**. I don't intend to go into detail on general rules and regulations – that is covered in detail by Central Government, however I have been made aware of a craze of late amongst older, teenage children – to cycle at speed towards pedestrians in order to intimidate. This has been happening throughout the village and a number of residents have asked me to raise awareness. If you know someone who thinks this is a fun thing to do – it isn't and it most definitely won't be if someone is hurt. If you would like more information on Central Government's Highway Code for cyclists – please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-for-cyclists-59-to-82>.

By the time this newsletter is delivered the Christmas tree and new Christmas street lighting will hopefully be in place – thank you to all who attended the carol service and I hope you enjoy the (increased) lights this year. We do hope to extend the lights down Fields Road in 2018 – for details of that project (plus more) do look elsewhere in the newsletter.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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 *2017-18*

DECEMBER 2017

6th Dec	Wootton Play Equipment	7.30pm
13th Dec	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
13th Dec	Full Council	7.30pm

JANUARY 2018

3rd Jan	Wootton Play Equipment	7.30pm
10th Jan	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
10th Jan	Full Council	7.30pm
17th Jan	Roads and footpaths committee	7.00pm
17th Jan	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group committee	8.00pm
31st Jan	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
31st Jan	Leisure & Amenities committee	7.30pm
31st Jan	Finance & General Purposes committee	8.00pm

FEBRUARY 2018

7th Feb	Wootton Play Equipment	7.30pm
14th Feb	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
14th Feb	Full Council	7.30pm
21st Feb	Fun Fest	7.00pm
28th Feb	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
28th Feb	Leisure & Amenities committee	7.30pm
28th Feb	Finance & General Purposes committee	8.00pm

MARCH 2018

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

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

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Wootton Baptist Church

As it's nearly Christmas again, I was walking by one of the major stores in Milton Keynes, when I saw the words 'Bring Merry back'. I think it must be related to Christmas as the window displays are very Christmassy. The greeting, 'Merry Christmas' is usually used in America, rather than the 'Happy Christmas' used in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately in the last few years even the greeting 'Happy Christmas' is rarely heard. I wonder why this is? Has this country become so commercialised that we are afraid to use the name 'Christ'? (Other than a swear word.)

The birth of Jesus Christ divided History. It's now 2017 years since the birth of Jesus. Of course the shopkeepers try to take advantage of the millions of presents bought at this time of the year. But do people really think about what Christmas is all about?

The birth of Jesus Christ was foretold hundreds of years before it happened. In the first book in the Bible, Genesis, it tells us that someone would come to overcome sin and evil. Then there are those wonderful passages in Isaiah chapter 9, where it says, 'unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given'. It's there that we get those wonderful words, 'He will be called, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace'. O how we need the 'Prince of Peace' in our world today! Not just the Nations of the world, but us as individuals. Then in Matthew chapter one, after giving all the Genealogy of Jesus, it says, 'This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.'

Jesus was born, but He really came to die. His birth was wonderful, but his death was more important. He died in our place to free us from the guilt and condemnation of sin. Without the death of Jesus Christ we would always be afraid of God's judgement. Jesus died in our place. All we have to do is accept the free gift of salvation which is offered to us in the Bible. Look at the book of

John: chapter 3 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.'

How about finding your Bible and reading about the birth and death of Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas everyone, may it also be a peaceful one for us all, both as a nation and for each one of us.

Our Christmas programme is:

Friday December 15th at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall, Carols with the Salvation Army Band and Songsters. With refreshments and a speaker. No charge.

Sunday 17th December at 10.30am and 6.00pm: Carol Services.

Christmas Eve: **Sunday 24th December at 10.30am:** Carol Service and **6.00pm** 'Carols by candle light'

There will be no service on Christmas day.

All of our services are open to everyone and everyone is welcome. Our church is a place of Public Worship.

Rob Stanton.

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Wootton News A round up of 2017

Well, here we are coming to the end of another eventful year and, as usual, Wootton has given us a lot of challenges! There have been good times and bad times, fun, joy and upset. A constant amidst all this has been a great community spirit with churches, schools, clubs, organisations and individuals giving their all to improve village life.

There was another successful **Fun Day**, while there were many Lower and Upper School events including tea parties and singing for residents, to Lower School pupils soaking the Head Teacher Mr. Tavener and myself with 1400 water balloons at the end of the summer term! The Car Fest, church events, plays, concerts and pubs are all doing a great job raising monies for various charities. Wootton Charities also do great work to help local families.

There has been a lot of disruption with **burst water pipes**, the installation of new services and building works. The Parish Council and I have been working hard to minimise the disruption with the various developers which has been difficult, but we are starting to achieve a good working relationship. Projects around the village will now be starting at long last, including the widening of the footpath on Fields Road; a crossings by the surgery and Lower School on Bedford Road; a traffic island on Bedford Road by Hanover Court; improved parking in Manor Road; raised bus stops around the

village to assist elderly / disabled residents and parents with buggies, and measures for safer routes to schools. We are still working on more projects to improve the village using monies collected from the new housing developers.

I have been pleased to be able to help organisations this year with my **Council Ward Funds**. Projects include: laptops for Wootton Upper School pupils to help elderly residents improve IT skills; a new Community First Responder kit; IT equipment for Bizzy Bees; special chairs for the elderly at Wootton Baptist Church, and contributions to Wootton Lower School trips.

There have been a couple of notable developments in the wider Borough recently. Firstly, **Bedford Hospital and Luton & Dunstable Hospital** have announced their intention to merge, with assurances given that this will secure the future of maternity, A & E and paediatric services in Bedford. While we await further details, councillors are cautiously optimistic that the arrangement will be positive for Bedford Hospital.

Secondly, the Government has announced a £3.5m contribution to a planned **£4.8m road reconfiguration in Bedford** by the Council between the Paula Radcliffe Way roundabout, Clapham Road and Manton Lane. It is envisaged that the scheme will begin in the summer of 2018 and be completed by spring 2020.

On another note, winter is coming and keeping warm can be difficult, particularly for older persons. **Age UK** Bedfordshire is offering advice to help. For more information call 01234 360510 or visit <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bedfordshire/>

Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to the schools and village organisations that have helped me this year, the Parish Council and of course especially to Gareth Lloyd, Sue Playford and the many Bedford Borough officers who have put up with me. I hope you all have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year.



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

MEMORIAL HALL, BEDFORD ROAD, WOOTTON, BEDS, MK43 9JB

Website: www.bizzybeespreschool.org

Email: bizzybeespre_school@btconnect.com

Tel: 01234 767785

Bizzy Bees Pre-school has been running since 1972 and serves the local community. We are registered with OFSTED and are a member of the Pre-School learning alliance. Bizzy Bees Pre-School offers term time only day care for children aged 2 years to school age. The manager has Early Years Teacher Status and leads a team of 8 qualified and experienced staff to provide children with high standards of care and education. (we are a volunteer managed pre-school and welcome persons from the community with appropriate skills to join our committee).

Opening Times:

Monday to Friday - 8.30am-3:45pm.

Breakfast club 8.30am-9am

From September we have run breakfast club with great success for our 3-4 year olds, we have now extended that to our 2 year olds as well and look forward to welcoming more children.

From September Bizzy Bees have been using Tapestry, the innovative, interactive online journal, recording all the learning and fun of children's early years education and sharing with parents. We are awaiting the delivery of two Ipad Pro's to be used with the children to enhance their learning and development.

Bizzy Bees Pre-School Committee would like to thank everyone who attended our 4th

annual scarecrow festival, it was our most successful one yet raising just over £600, all of which will go back to the preschool and help support our children in their learning. We had some great group entries by Boy's Brigade, Girl's Brigade, Marsden Vale Forest School, Shelton Lower School, WI, Pathfinders & Wootton Lower School as well as individual entries by families from our community.

Winner of the Group:

Wootton Lower School's Gru and his minions, with Bizzy Bees's Humpty Dumpty as runner up.



Winner of the Individual:

Brett Family's Dragon won the individual with Ireland Family's Puss in Boots as runner up.



We look forward to running this event next year so watch out for our 5th Annual Scarecrow Festival next October!

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our Bizzy Bees mascot, as can be seen below:



We are excited to announce that for Children in Need 2017 we will be holding a Mad Hatters Tea Party, where all

proceedings will go to Children in Need, the children will be encouraged to dress up alongside the Bizzy Bees staff.

We will also be holding our annual Christmas Party for the children on **Friday 15th December** with lots of fun and games planned for the children.

Some dates for diary:

Mother's Day Morning

Friday 9th March

Easter egg eggstravaganza

Friday 23rd March

Lastly we have updated our website which we are excited to share with you all. Please feel free to take a look.

www.bizzybeespreschool.org



Looking for Tree Information and Historical Facts?

Ever wanted to take a nostalgic look back at tree planting in the village over the decades?

Pamela Stevenson (retired Tree Warden for the parish council) has kindly passed on her files (paper and DVD) to the library (Lorraine Road) for all to view.

They can be found in or near the reference library area.



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

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



We have been learning about dinosaurs this term. With the enthusiastic help of the staff the budding young palaeontologists have been designing their

own dinosaurs and creating lots of colourful artwork. The children have been exploring some of the vocabulary associated with prehistoric animals and discussing carnivores and herbivores. The children played in a cave role play area, where they ate dinosaur bones and drank dinosaur blood!!!! Dinosauers were frozen in ice and some very excited children used hammers and toothbrushes to excavate them.

During the autumn months the children have gathered leaves; and used them to create artwork, leaf printing and leaf collage. The children have been learning about hedgehogs and hibernation. They have made fork painted hedgehogs and salt dough hedgehogs using twigs.



We have been celebrating Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light. The children took part in a variety of Diwali-themed craft activities, such as making diva lamps, rangoli

patterns and listened to a traditional Diwali story. The emphasis of the story was about being kind and helping each other. Having a Diwali-themed week has introduced the children to different religions and cultures.



We have been celebrating Bonfire Night, with the children painting firework pictures and learning about fire safety. They used words which described the sounds fireworks make – such as whoosh and bang. The children experimented with movement and used their imagination pretending to be 'fireworks'. The children made a Guy Fawkes and watched him burn in the preschool garden, while eating marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate.

On Friday 17 November the children and staff attended preschool in their pyjamas to raise money for Children In Need. The children took part in lots of fun activities which included eating Pom-Bears for snack and a visit from Pudsey Bear himself!!!



General Information

St Mary's Playgroup opened in 1967 and operates from the main room within the Church Hall. Children have access to a fully enclosed, grassed outdoor play area. St Mary's Playgroup supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Playgroup has six qualified members of staff. All our staff have many years' experience of working with children and their maturity and training ensure that those who come to the playgroup have a positive learning experience.

St Mary's Playgroup receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care. The setting serves the local and neighbouring community.

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

Term time opening hours:

Monday
9.00 - 12.00

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
9.00 - 16.00

Thursday
9.00 - 15.00

POEM Good Questions

Nobody knows exactly the day Jesus came down to the earth.
The Church of the Nativity-they say is built on the site of His birth
No one is able to comprehend how a virgin girl could have conceived
A child, by the Holy Spirit. How can such a thing be believed?

But then, on thinking it over, we may not know how when or where
It's just WHY He was born is the question
Why on earth was the Son of God here?
Well...

It's because God the Father so loved the world
That his sent His own son down to earth
To live and to die in our place-THAT is why
We remember the time of His birth.
Accept and believe and you then will receive
The best Christmas gift ever given
To love and be loved by our God from above
Who came so we could join Him in Heaven
John 3. v.16

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Wootton Village Agent News



Village Agents provide a free, confidential service and are here to help people over 65 with a variety of issues – large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council. We are all DBS checked and operate in the strictest confidence. Andrea is the Village Agent for Wootton.

Book your **Winter Wellbeing visit** – we are running a winter campaign designed to help improve the wellbeing of older people over the winter months. The visit involves lots of information, helpful tips on how to stay warm and well and a benefits check. Also, a few freebies such as purse bells, carbon monoxide alarms, plug-in night lights and room temperature cards will be on offer to those who book. Phone Andrea to book now!

Don't be lonely this winter - **The Silverline Telephone Helpline** is there to help. Everyone can feel lonely from time to time, but for many older people, loneliness is an ongoing issue, especially in the winter. Silverline provides a wonderful service where a volunteer phones once a week for a friendly chat. They also offer a letter writing

service, where regular correspondence is exchanged between a volunteer and an older person.

Help with form filling – many older people aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Andrea can help identify which benefits you can claim by doing a confidential benefits check. She can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms.

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



Chris Ashpole

Chris very kindly sent in an article which featured in September's edition of the Wootton Newsletter. Unfortunately, it was not reproduced in full and did not do her justice on her visit to Buckingham Palace. We're very happy to reproduce below that section of her article:

"On Tuesday 23rd May 2017, I was privileged to attend a Buckingham Palace garden party – The invitation was given for 49 years of service (Poppy selling and assisting with the organisation of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for Wootton). Also for donating 96 pints of blood to date.

As one was allowed to take a guest, I took my 98 year old Wootton born and bred mum Joan.

My cousin Bruce Robinson chauffeured us to and from Buckingham Palace and took us on a delightful excursion of London after the event. The day was a most memorable occasion".

Below is a picture of Chris and her mum Joan, on the day:



Just ahead of publishing this article, we were contacted by a Wootton resident who wanted to express their thanks and appreciation for all that Chris does

– not just fundraising for the Royal British Legion, but her work for the village as a whole. This is what was received:

"I wanted to write to you about my friend Christine Ashpole. She does so much for the residents of Wootton and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. This year, because she can't do door to door collections, she has set up shop outside of her house to collect for poppies. She's supported the appeal for over 50 years and was recognized for this achievement in June when she went to the Palace Garden Party with her mum.

As I write this she is edging the grass around the Wootton Memorial so that it looks perfect for tomorrow's Remembrance services. She works tirelessly for this charity and all the villagers of Wootton. She's a friend to many and I would love for an article to appear in the Wootton News showing how much she is appreciated for what she does. She embodies what it is to be a real "Woottoner".

We are more than happy to include that – well done Chris.



(Do look for Chris' article elsewhere in this newsletter, written by herself and detailing how much was raised for this years Poppy Appeal).

Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre

First of all Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre would like to wish all our patients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Doctor, Doctor, I keep thinking I'm a Christmas bell!

Just take these pills – and, if they don't work, give me a ring



Christmas and New Year

The Surgery is open as usual over the Christmas period apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. If you require medical attention during this period please contact NHS direct on 111.

Please ensure you request your repeat prescriptions in good time to allow the surgery and the pharmacy at least 3 working days to have your prescription ready for collection and to ensure you do not run out over the festive period.



Staffing Updates

Donna has just joined our nursing team. Along with Cara, who has just completed her prescribing course, we now have two highly specialised nurses who are trained in minor illness and so, will be supporting our GPs by running some of our *Urgent Access* clinics. Our nursing and support team is very proactive now with:

Christine Jarratt -
Clinical Manager (Nurse Specialist)

Anne-Marie Duranthon -
Women's Health Specialist

Cara Garney - Nurse Specialist in Minor Illness/Diabetes/Asthma & COPD – a Prescribing Nurse

Donna Dady – Nurse Specialist in Minor Illness – a Prescribing Nurse

Megan Collins – Treatment Room Nurse

Samantha Hale – Health Care Co-ordinator / Phlebotomist/ Health Care Assistant

Anne Meyern - Health Care Co-ordinator

This team allows us to deliver a comprehensive nursing cover to provide specialist nursing care and advice. Please ask at reception if it is appropriate to book with a nurse.

Kelly Darwin our treatment room nurse will sadly be leaving us at the end of November – we wish her all the best in her new job.

We have had some changes in our Admin Team. Lisa and Nessa have left. However, Clare has now joined the team. Clare brings with her a wealth of experience having worked at another practice in Bedford for the past three years. At the time of writing we are busy recruiting for the second vacancy.

Sadly Dr Miten will be off sick for a few months so Dr Ghir, who some of you may have met will, be working 2 days a week on a regular basis. We are looking to increase our GP team to meet the demands of our increasing patient list as the new houses are built and occupied.



*Doctor, Doctor I feel so unfit!
You need to go to an elf farm*



Flu

The flu season continues. It is very important that if you are eligible you attend for you vaccination. We are still offering flu vaccinations to:

- All children 2 and 3 years who date of births are between 01.09.2013 to 31.08.2015
- All patients who are in an at risk category between 6 months to 65 years
- All patients aged 65 years and over

Please note all children in reception class, Year 1, year 2 and Year 3 will be vaccinated at school and should attend there for their vaccination as we do not get provided with enough flu vaccinations for these children. There will be a catch up programme in school for those that have missed the vaccination day in school.

Immunisations/Vaccinations

Babies born after 1st August are now being vaccinated against Hepatitis B. The vaccination is included in the present five in one (now becoming the six in one) vaccination of the routine childhood immunisation schedule. This will be given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age.

**AN IMMUNISED CHILD IS
A HEALTHY AND PROTECTED
CHILD !**



Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) PAWC

Public Health England has reported an increase in the incidences of measles cases. We are asking people to check that they have had two doses of the MMR vaccination. If you are between 16 years of age and 30 years of age and are not sure if you have had two MMR vaccinations please contact us to check.

Shingles vaccine

We can now offer this to all patients when they reach their 70th birthday. So please book an appointment with the nurse. All

patients aged 71, 72, 73 or 78 and 79 years of age are eligible for vaccination. Once you are 80 years of age you are no longer eligible for a Shingles vaccination.

ACWY Meningitis vaccination

These are now being given in schools to all children around the age of 14 years of age. Other groups eligible are adolescents who are 18 years of age on 31st August 2017 (ie: born between 01.09.1998 and 31.08.1999), who have not received one before, patients up to 25 years of age, patients also eligible are 19-24 year olds who are going to university for the first time. We will provide these vaccinations in the surgery. Please book an appointment with our nurses.

Whooping Cough vaccinations

All pregnant ladies need to be vaccinated at 16 weeks or over of pregnancy. This vaccination will help protect your baby for the first 8 weeks of their life.



*Where does Santa go when he's sick?
To the elf center!*



If you need help or advice for any of the following issues:

- C-card
- Chlamydia testing
- Condoms
- Contraception (including coils)
- Emergency contraception
- HIV testing
- HIV care and treatment
- Psychosexual service
- STI testing

Then please contact the **iCaSH** service on **0300 300 3030**. The clinic helpline is open Monday-Saturday. Alternatively there is a sit and wait session for under 25's at Kings Brook, 5 St Johns, Bedford, MK42 0AH at the following times:

Mon - 14.00 - 16.30 Tue - 15.45 - 18.15
Fri - 12 - 14.30 Sat - 13.30 - 16.00

New Development

Some of you will be aware that the overgrown area on the site has recently been cleared and there are now vehicles and site cabins on it. Sadly this is NOT in preparation for our new building. We agreed with the developers of the new ExtraCare facility, (being build on the site next to us), that they could use this to help ease parking on Fields Road.

With regard to our new building, the surgery team is continuing to liaise Bedfordshire CCG and Bedford Borough Council with the aim of getting this built as soon as possible.

Website

The practice is aware that our current website is becoming somewhat dated. We have therefore decided to update it. The

site will be given a fresh new look and feel. It will be far more intuitive to use with new features to help you get information on our services quickly and easily. Most importantly of all the new design is optimised to work on all platforms including smartphones and tablets. This is currently under development and we hope to be launching it very soon so keep a lookout at www.woottonvale.com.

With the upcoming launch of our new website, now would be a great time to register to use our online services. These allow you to: Book and cancel appointments; order repeat prescriptions and see test results. To register for online services, please ask at reception.

What did Santa say to the smoker?

Please don't smoke, it's bad for my elf!



Brennan School of Dance

ISTD BALLET, MODERN THEATRE, TAP AND JAZZ

FLEXIBILITY, POINTE WORK, COMMERCIAL HIP HOP AND

MUSICAL THEATRE

Classes held in Bromham and Wootton for 18 years.

Highly qualified and CRB checked teachers.

100% Examination Success

Show and workshops

Ballet from 2 1/2 years of age

Modern Theatre and Tap from 5 years of age

To register for January or more information



Contact

The Principal, Rebecca Tredray

01234 822831 07974458677

www.brennanschoolofdance.co.uk

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item	Location	Deadline
------	----------	----------

Berryfields ditch

Berryfields

Ongoing

A risk assessment and report was sent by WPC (1) to BBC (2) and Persimmon Homes, setting out health and safety concerns – initially in September 2016. Persimmon Homes' response did not address all concerns and a further report was sent in August 2017 (having given them time to undertake further works). Persimmon have yet to respond

Bus stop facilities

Throughout the village

Ongoing

WPC agreed (9th August 2017) to spend CIL monies (3) to upgrade all bus stops within the village to make them disable-friendly. This will include raised kerbing and tactile paving. The proposal will NOT extend to Fields Road at the present time due to proposed works (including footpath and road resurfacing) by BBC. It is understood BBC will commence the bus stop upgrade works in December 2017

CCTV

Recreation Ground

Ongoing

A proposal to upgrade cameras at the recreation ground (to HD) has just been approved by WPC – with the inclusion of additional cameras to provide better coverage (including the Jubilee Garden area which is earmarked for regeneration)

Christmas street lighting

Bedford Road initially

Ongoing

WPC has installed Christmas street lighting along Bedford Road. The wish next year is to extend the scheme and include Fields Road – or possibly other areas

Community Centre

Berryfields

Ongoing

WPC is still in talks with Persimmon Homes and is still chasing regularly to get an answer on whether it will be appointed as the centre's Management Entity. WPC has appointed a conveyancer to assist with the process. Until a firm proposal is received and agreed by all parties, it remains unclear when this will be resolved. WPC is doing all it can to bring this to conclusion

Covanta Incinerator

Stewartby parish

Ongoing

WPC has previously resolved to support MMAG (Marston Moreteyne Action Group) in its fight to halt the proposed Covanta EfW Incinerator, but not in financial terms. Posters are displayed in noticeboards, Borough Councillor John Wheeler, Cllr Neera Regmi and at least one member of the public from Wootton attend MMAG meetings when possible. For fuller information please visit MMAG's website: <https://mmetag.wordpress.com/covanta-proposal/> or contact WPC

Dog and Litter bins

Throughout the village

Ongoing

WPC is often asked why additional dog bins are not placed at various locations in the village – in particular Potters Cross and the area into the Forest of Marston Vale. Both BBC and the Forest of Marston Vale have stated they will not consider additional bins (they would be responsible for emptying them) as they do not have the resources. WPC has asked them to reconsider

Local Plan 2035**Throughout the village****Ongoing**

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

Marston Vale Innovation Park**Towards the A421****Ongoing**

WPC has employed Andrea Pellegram Ltd (Planning Professional) and submitted a robust objection to this proposal – particularly a B8-style distribution warehouse. BBC approved the proposal despite WPC's and numerous objections and WPC is currently deliberating what, if any, further action to take

Neighbourhood Plan**The whole civil parish of Wootton****Ongoing**

WPC has employed APC Planning (Planning Professional), Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and Regeneration Positive (Neighbourhood Plan Professional) to aid with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. This will give residents a greater say in the future of the village. The plan has now launched, Green Infrastructure Plan workshops held and the first Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire deadline has just passed

Parking restrictions**Several sites within the village****Ongoing**

Some areas have now been yellow-lined but WPC continues to chase BBC as to why other areas still remain outstanding

Planters**To be determined****2018**

Three planters installed along Bedford Road have been well received. WPC is looking to install further planters – what locations would you prefer? (Please let the Clerk to the Council know)

Recreation ground footpaths**Recreation ground****Ongoing**

There is now a complete footpath in place around the recreation ground meaning there is no longer a need to cross the car park

Recreation ground remodelling works – Jubilee Gardens**Recreation ground****Ongoing**

Plans are to install additional play equipment aimed at 0-5 year olds (including sensory play equipment) and remodel the area to make it more open and accessible. A funding application is being submitted to Veolia

Roads and Footpaths**Throughout the village****Ongoing**

The Roads & Footpaths Safety Steering Group continues to meet every other month to raise issues for BBC to consider. Minutes to view are available at: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=10434511 (or request a hard copy from the Clerk to the Council)

St. Mary's churchyard footpath**St. Mary's Church****Ongoing**

Repairs to the footpath leading to the North Side Entrance from Church Road are ongoing

Funds have been earmarked to repair or replace as necessary, as both are in a poor state of repair. A fallen ash tree (December 2016) necessitated some works already and WPC will be liaising with St. Mary's to source a structural engineer to advise on further works required

Street lights

Throughout the village

Ongoing

WPC is in talks with BBC on a proposal for the ownership/maintenance of all street lights to be transferred to BBC

Key:

- (1) Wootton Parish Council
- (2) Bedford Borough Council
- (3) Community Infrastructure Levy is a levy local authorities (in this case BBC) can choose to charge (to developers), on most new built development in their area in order to raise funding to carry out infrastructure projects.

Please note this is a brief overview of ongoing/proposed projects and the list is not exhaustive. For fuller information on these or other projects, please contact the Clerk to the Council

The Oddfellows

Come and make some new friends!

The Oddfellows is one of the largest and oldest friendly societies in the UK, with over 310,000 members across 136 branches nationwide. We're a nonprofit mutual run by our members for our members and we do our best to improve the quality of people's lives through friendship, care and support.

We have branches across Beds & Bucks, but your local branch is in Wootton.

The Oddfellows members are a friendly mixed bunch, who regularly get together to enjoy free or inexpensive social events. Here is a summary of events coming up in the next few months - we would love you to join us:

Tuesday 23 January - Meal at Grand India, Bedford 7.30pm (booking required);

Tuesday 6 February - A talk on scams by Home Instead followed by tea and coffee 7.45pm at our local office - Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road, Wootton, MK43 9JB;

Thursday 8 March

- visit to John Bunyan museum and church followed by coffee and tea 2pm, £3 + refreshments;

Saturday 24 March - lunch at the Tavistock carvery, Bedford - 12.30 - £7 for carvery (early booking required);

Saturday 28 April - Walk from Old Warden Church 10.30am.

To find out more call :
Ailie Redman on **01234 768914** or email **Ailie.redman@Oddfellows.co.uk**

Facebook
Beds & Bucks District of the Oddfellows.

www.Oddfellows.co.uk



F & D KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

25, Hollies Walk Wootton

HAVING A NEW KITCHEN

WE CAN PLAN SUPPLY & FIT or FIT ONLY

APPLIANCES, SINKS, EXTRACTORS

WORKTOP CUTTING AND FITTING SERVICE

REASONABLE PRICES

DISCOUNT FOR THE ELDERLY

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K W Decorating

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Interior and exterior painting

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Over 25 Year experience, reliable decorator

City and Guilds qualified

Fully insured

References available

For a free estimate contact Kevin White

Tel: 01234 340335

Mobile: 07939 395423

Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

We have had a great few months with interesting speakers telling us about life in Tudor times, paramedic stories and a Beetle Drive. Now we are looking forward to Christmas with a party then onwards to 2018. Where did that last year go?

We would love to welcome new members and visitors so why not join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Memorial Hall Bedford Road and find out about WI. We hope we give a warm welcome to new people and an evening costs £3-50, not a bad outlay. We operate a savings scheme to save towards membership if you wish to join us, the current fee will be £41 from January.

Currently the National Federation of WI's is working on making everyone aware of how damaging microfibres are to our planet, this cause is gathering speed with some celebrities coming on board to express their views so we are not all about 'Jam and Jerusalem' we do have many worthy causes that the government take notice of so come and give us a try. (We do like our jam, though, and other crafts are available!)



You can now find Wootton WI on Facebook – search for **Wootton Beds Women's Institute**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



January 17th **Dabble Evening**

come and try your hand at something new.

February 21st **Mindfulness**

we've all heard of this expression, now come and learn how to apply it to your life.

March 21st

False teeth, new hips and Woolacombe Bay, a **humorous talk** with added verse.



The Forest of Marston Vale

This autumn has been a busy one in the Forest!

We are slowly building our corps of Wood Wardens, and we've had a fantastic response from the people of Wootton. So far, 5 people in the village have signed up to help us look after the Gateway Woods; they have been doing a fantastic job of keeping the woods clean for everyone to enjoy, and reporting any issues back to us. Some of them are also sending in beautiful photos of the woods through the seasons, and letting us know about any interesting wildlife they see – autumn sounds like it has been a good one for birds of prey! Thanks to those of you who are already involved.

One of the biggest issues in the woods is still 'doggy bags'. The woodlands are growing into beautiful places for everybody to use and enjoy, and the vast majority of our visitors are considerate enough to take their dogs waste home with them. We don't provide dog bins – we are a relatively small charity with no resources to have bins installed and emptied regularly, and most sensible visitors don't expect other people to clean up after them. However, there are some people who seem to think that this is exactly what should happen, and the result is large piles of dog waste dumped in bags at points around the woods. Horses and deer have been known to accidentally ingest bags thrown into bushes, sometimes dying painfully as a result. Is it really such an effort to carry a small bag home with you and put it in your bin?

Our new website is now 'live', so please do go online and check it out –

www.marstonvale.org. One of the great things our new site can do is enable you to register any trees you plant. Our aim is to have another 5 million trees planted in the Forest of Marston Vale, and you can help us reach this target by planting trees on your



own land and in your gardens. All you need to do is go to our website and click 'trees that you plant'.

We are now fully in tree planting season, and Ridgeway school in Kempston is working with us to plant over 700 trees in their grounds. Thanks to the Defra '1 million trees' project, we will be transforming the school grounds by planting a hedge all around the perimeter of the grounds, as well as some willow for a willow circle, oaks for shade, and fruit trees for...well...fruit! The project runs for 2 more years, so please do get in touch if you know of any schools within the forest who would like free trees for their grounds.

Christmas is just around the corner, and I don't think you can beat the smell of a real Christmas tree filling up the house! We have our Christmas Tree Festival on December 2nd & 3rd at the Forest Centre, so please do come along and support your Community Forest by getting your real tree from us. If you wanted to save the date for your diary, our big public tree planting event will be on February 4th 2018, more information to come.

To get in touch about anything to do with your Community Forest, contact Jo at: **jo.roberts@marstonvale.org**.



Bedford Borough Libraries

...inspiring ...stimulating ...enlightening ...surprising ...motivating



Come and join us for Christmas crafts this December at Wootton library!

- Monday 18th 2.30pm-4.30pm **Make a Christmas card**
 Tuesday 19th 10.30am-11.30am **Christmas colouring**
 Wednesday 20th 2.30pm-4.30pm **Decorate a Christmas tree/stocking**
 Thursday 21st 10.30am-11.30am **Christmas colouring**
 Friday 22nd 2.30pm-4.30pm **Make a Christmas decoration**
 Saturday 23rd 11.00am-12.30pm **Lucky dip crafts**
 Wednesday 27th 2.30pm-4.30pm **Make a bookmark**
 Thursday 28th 10.30am-11.30am **Christmas colouring**
 Friday 29th 2.30pm-4.30pm **Make a calendar**
 Saturday 30th 11.00am-12.30pm **Lucky dip crafts**
 Tuesday 2nd January 10.30am-11.30am **Colouring**



Regular events at Wootton library

Mondays 2.30pm-2.50pm
funtime for under 5's (term time only)

Tuesdays 10.30am - 11.00am
Baby funtime (term time only) 0-18 months

Wednesdays 2.30pm-3.30pm
Are you sitting comfortably? And tea at 3pm

Thursdays 10.30am-11.30am
Colouring and calm for adults

Fridays 2.00pm - 3.00pm
1st and 3rd Friday of each month knit and natter

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3.45pm-4.45pm
Lego club

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3.30pm-4.30pm
Colouring club

Saturday 11.00am-12.30pm
Lego Club, children's jigsaw club and colouring club

Councillor surgery 11.00am-12.00pm the first Saturday in every month



Community Café

Mon & Thursday
10:00 – 12:00



woottonnewlife.org.uk

Find us on Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9DE 01234 768222

Join us this Christmas

Saturday 9th December

*'Deck the Halls' and Rock & Roll Messy
Church with breakfast 10.00am - 12.00pm*

Friday 15th December

Café Carols in The Hub 11.00am

Sunday 17th December

Family Nativity & gift service 10.30am

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Carol Service 7.00pm

Christmas Day

*Joining with our friends at
St Mary's Church 10.30am*

Sundays@WNL

We have worship every Sunday at
10.30am with S Club for children.

Once a month we have breakfast
available from 9.45am.

Please check our website for dates.



Find us on:
facebook.

PAT - A - CAKE

Join us every Thursday
during term time

1.30pm – 3.00pm

Toys, crafts and activities for pre-school

NEW FAMILIES ALWAYS WELCOME

WOOTTON NEW LIFE METHODIST CHURCH

**Wii Drinks
Snacks Films**



Table Tennis

Music Chill

YOUTH HUB

Yr 7+ alternate Friday's during term time

7.45pm – 9.15pm



For all the family. Join us for
crafts, games, activities, Bible
stories, time to chill and food.
Usually the 2nd Saturday each month
3.00pm – 5.00pm

Recent events led me to start thinking as to why I volunteered to join the PPG. I had retired from work and had all the time in the world to do what I wanted, something a lot of people aspire too, but then you realise you need some structure to replace the workplace and I decided I would be able to 'do my bit', 'give something back to society', whatever you like to call it and join the PPG. It's not strenuous, it's between 1-2 hours a month attending a meeting, but it's so interesting to see how the surgery works and to be able to offer support, views and suggestions towards the future of a permanent build and we as patients can shape that future. Who we need to join us are young people with an eye to the future who can help us to develop the way the surgery works for them and future generations. Plus, for the youngsters among you, it will look good on your CV if you can show you have been helping on a public group, something any patient registered with the surgery can do.

Beds Locality Patient group are going to be running workshops to help people manage their illnesses or conditions such as asthma, diabetes and COPD. Watch out for these as

they may be of use, particularly if you are newly diagnosed.

Another service being offered is the Minor Eye Conditions Service. If you have red eye, a foreign body in your eye, conjunctivitis then you can be seen at some opticians for treatment instead of waiting for a doctor's appointment. Those authorised opticians in the Bedford area are: Simon Browning, Boots Kempston and Bedford, Brown and White and Specsavers.

Going back to those recent events that set me thinking, I watched the NHS work in all its glory when a close relative suddenly became very ill, very quickly. The team dealing with my relative were determined they would do everything in their power to stabilise and help them recover, which fortunately they did. My little bit of time given back is nothing compared to what those doctors and nurses did, all in a day's work for them, but how grateful we all were that they were there for us. We all know big changes are afoot but embrace them because at the end of the day we want the NHS to still be there when we need it.



Many thanks to all helpers and members of the public who supported the pop-up gazebo in Fields Road in aid of the Poppy Appeal - this was trialled as the result of No Door-To-Door Collections -

What an overwhelming response from people's extreme generosity who 'poppied' by and purchased a selection of merchandise. Also, grateful thanks to those who manned/womaned the stall in all weathers -

The outstanding total in excess of £4,200 was raised.

This total along with poppy boxes supplied to local Businesses and donations received from the late Alex Head's chosen charity exceeds £8,300.

What a great community spirit shone through this year to help this very worthy cause. Thanks very much to all again.

Chris Ashpole Poppy organiser - 07865051453



Remembrance Day

Wootton's annual Remembrance Day parade, service and wreath laying ceremony took place on Sunday 12th November 2017.

The parade, organised by Borough/Parish Councillor John Wheeler and parish council Chairman Gareth Lloyd, assembled in bright sunshine on the recreation ground car park, adjacent to Church Road. The parade was extremely well supported, with the attendance of many members of the public. The Parade Commander was Flt. Lt. Steven R. Rowse of the Royal Air Force and leading the parade with the Royal British Legion flag held high was Legionnaire Bob Keech. In uniformed attendance on parade were:

1st Wootton Scouts
1st Wootton Guides
1st Wootton Cubs
1st Wootton Beavers
2nd Wootton Brownies
1st Wootton Brownies
Boys Brigade
Girls Brigade

Buglers Dave Simms & Andy Gray

Borough Councillor John Wheeler and members of Wootton Parish Council, Wootton Upper, Wootton Lower, Holywell & Marston Vale Middle Schools, Squire Explorers, 1st and 2nd Wootton Rainbows and Tang Soo Do also marched in the parade. The Bedfordshire Constabulary provide road safety supervision.

The Parade Commander advised those present of the procedure that was to be followed and then at 10.05 hrs. called the parade to attention. The parade then proceeded in good order from the recreation ground into Church Road and thence past the War Memorial (eyes left) to the entrance to St. Mary's church. The British Legion Flag bearer left the parade to take position in

front of the church porch and was joined by other flag bearers.

The remembrance service in St Mary's Church was so very well attended that some of the congregation were without seats. The service was conducted by Canon Peter Ackroyd assisted by the Revd Lucas Durant. During his address Canon Peter Ackroyd remembered in particular those who had died 100 years ago this year and related to his own family's remembrance of the horrors of war. During the Act of Remembrance the list of all those whose names appear on the Wootton war memorial was read by Flt. Lt. Rowse who also asked for remembrance of those who have died in other conflicts, including the Falklands, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran & Northern Ireland. The Last Post was sounded by Buglers of the Boys Brigade and a two minute silence was observed.

After the service, the parade re-formed and proceeded to the War Memorial for a wreath laying ceremony. Wreaths were laid on behalf of:

The Royal British Legion, Bedford Borough Council, Wootton Parish Council, the Upper & Lower schools of Wootton, Marston Vale and Holywell Middle school. Cubs, Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Beavers, Wootton Rainbows, Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade and the Tang Soo Do group.

Other tokens of remembrance were also placed by the memorial, including a handful of stones painted with the poppy symbol.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Knowing Jesus; 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

Monthly on Thursdays
3.45pm Church Hall
30 Nov.

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 the Church Hall

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

Men Behaving Dadly

Group for Dads and their 0-12 year olds. Last Sat of the month 9am. Visit the website for details.

Lunch Club Monthly on Mondays, 1pm, Church Hall
11 Dec, 8 Jan.

Revd Peter Ackroyd:
768391

Revd Lucas Durant: 313122
Church Office: 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk



Christ
the Saviour is born

Christmas at St. Mary's

Sunday 10 December
4pm Christingle

Sunday 17 December
10.30am Nativity Service
6pm Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 24 December
4pm Family Carols
11pm Midnight Communion

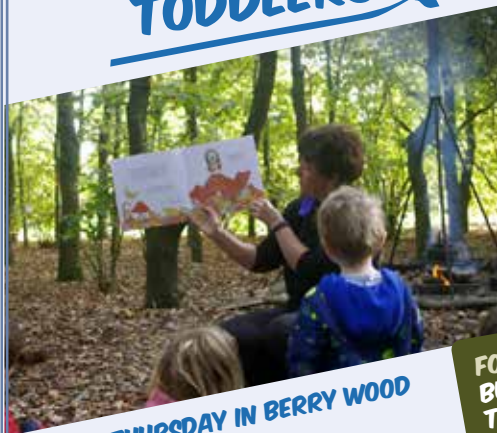
Sunday 25 December
10.30am All-Age Service



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Wootton Preschool offers a home from home, warm and friendly atmosphere for preschool children. We are based at the Harris Way site of Wootton Lower School. Children can start with us from the term after their third birthday and we offer up to 15 hours a week over either morning or afternoon.

We are committed to providing exceptional quality preschool education through our experienced and highly qualified staff. We work closely with parents as we believe this is key for encouraging children to fulfil their potential.

This term we have been spending time learning about ourselves with our 'All about Me' topic where we talked about our bodies, our families and our friends. We also enjoyed our parent stay and play sessions which we will look to continue next term.

The second half term has been focused on celebrations learning about bonfire night – creating beautiful 2D and 3D fireworks and also learning about St Andrews Day where we enjoyed some welly throwing!

This Christmas time, we are learning some Christmas songs for our Christmas performance and talking about the nativity story.

We start the early teaching of phonics with a key focus of the children being able to listen to sounds, both environmental and instrumental. This will help us when it comes

to blending sounds together when we start to read! We introduce a different letter sound each week with a mix of songs and games to help us to learn our sounds. This really helps us for when we are ready to start in Reception.

We are very lucky that we get to join in with the lower school events and take advantage of the schools facilities. Each week we go to the library to explore the books and listen to a lovely story. We also get to use the school hall and in the summer term we join in with whole school assemblies.

Throughout the year, we have special themed days where we join in with Reception. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know the Reception classrooms and staff.



The Autumn term is always a busy one at Wootton Lower School. Our new children starting in our reception and preschool have settled in very well and are now familiar with the day to day routines of being in school. It has been lovely to welcome so many new families to our school community.

Many children and staff took part in the **Children in Need Country File Ramble** at the Forest Centre in October. The children also made dotty T-shirts and caps to sell, had a mufti day and managed to raise well over £1000.

In November, we were pleased to represent our school at the War Memorial on **Remembrance Sunday**. All the children had assemblies on why we wear poppies and the importance of this day. The children enjoyed buying poppies and wore them with pride.

The children have been enjoying many **different topics** this term, including learning about The Great Fire of London. The children in Year 2 recreated their very own "Great Fire of Wootton" on the back field burning houses they had made. Year 3 have enjoyed a Paddington themed topic culminating in a visit to the cinema to see the latest Paddington film. Year 4 have avidly enjoyed learning about the Titanic and are now very knowledgeable on the topic. Year 1 have been learning about pirates and even made Pirate Pizzas! Reception have been busy with their "People Who Help Us" topic. They have had many visitors including police cars and ambulances!

Our PTFA have as ever been very busy raising money for our children. The children

will enjoy **Christmas discos** at the end of term and we all have enjoyed the Christmas Fayre.

At the start of November we had a whole school day where the children worked in their house teams for the day. The day was themed **"What I want to be when I grow up"**. The children came dressed up in what they want to be when they grow up. We had some amazing costumes from inventors, to racing drivers to explorers! We even had a few teachers, including a Mr Tavener! This day was all about teaching children about different professions which are available to them and hopefully giving them ideas as to what jobs they can be working towards. We had different speakers from different professions come in and talk to the children about the jobs they do, and what they involve.

Don't forget, **every other Tuesday morning** we hold a **baby and toddler group** for parents and carers. This is an opportunity for the children to play and the adults to have a chat and a well deserved cup of tea! The first **"Wootton Tots"** after Christmas is on **Tuesday 30 January**, starting at 8:35am at our Harris Way site.

We are now starting **Christmas play rehearsals** and soon Christmas songs will be heard through the corridors, a truly magical time of year to be with the children in school.





Wootton Upper School, Hall End Road, Wootton, MK43 9HT

Great GCSE results

Our 2017 GCSE results were really outstanding. We understand that both our GCSE English and GCSE Science results were the highest of any of the seventeen state schools across Bedfordshire. In the core subjects, GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Mathematics and all GCSE science subjects our pass rates at A* - C (and in English and Mathematics 9 - 4) were all well-above national average.

GCSEs grades are changing from A* - G to a numerical grading system from 9 - 1. In the new system a grade 7 is equivalent to a grade A and a grade 8 equivalent of an A*. Therefore, grade 9 is a new grade to students whose performance is in excess of the standard required previously for an A* grade. In 2017 the new numerical grades were only used in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics. We are really proud that we achieved 54 grade 9s across English and Mathematics; three of our students achieved grade 9 in all three subjects: English Language, English Literature and Mathematics.

- 89% of our students passed English GCSE at grades 9 - 4
- 76% of students passed Maths GCSE at grades 9 - 4
- 80% of students passed Additional Science at A* - C

We know that some readers are really interested in statistics; if you are, and would like to read more, there is a table of provisional data for all Bedfordshire state schools, published by the Department for Education, on our website [www.wootton.beds.sch.uk]

beds.sch.uk go to: parents letters home 2017 GCSE results].

We are not complacent and we are working really hard to build on these great results next summer!

These great results meant that the number of students starting A levels and BTECs at Kimberley this September were really high. We are already working on the curriculum for next September. We plan to introduce A Level Law next September which is very popular in other Sixth Form Colleges.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Over the last year Mr Richardson has been re-launching the D of E scheme in our school. Some former students completed their gold awards and went to Buckingham Palace to receive their awards there.

Twenty-eight Year 10 students who started the scheme last academic year and have now completed their Bronze Awards and a new cohort of Year 9 students is starting the award scheme this year. The school is indebted to Mr Richardson and to the other staff involved in the scheme for their support of our students. We hope all of the students who have just been awarded their bronze awards will now embark on their silver awards. The D of E Award Scheme is a great way of enabling students to stand out with both employers and universities.

In the Heights

Thank you to everybody who came along to support the production of In the Heights in late October. It really was a cracking show which transferred to a professional theatre in Bremen in November where there were four performances.

The following events are scheduled over the next few weeks:

Friday 24th November
School closed for Staff Training Day

Thursday 12th December
Christmas Concert

Monday 18th & Tuesday 12th December
Christmas Services - St. Mary's Church

Tuesday 19th December
School closes for Christmas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Wootton Upper School's students, staff, governors and the directors of Wootton Academy Trust would like to wish everyone in the village a very happy Christmas and every best wish for 2018. May next year bring happiness, good health and prosperity to every family in our village. The Spring Term at Wootton Upper School starts at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal



The
hub

KNIT AND NATTER

Monday 10:00 – 12:00



Do you enjoy knitting? Or just like to have a good chat? You'll be sure of a warm welcome, good company and a great cup of coffee.

This small group meet every Monday and often knit with a purpose e.g. we recently knitted poppies that for Remembrance Sunday, baby clothes for Bliss for premature and sick babies and hats, scarves and gloves to go in the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Open to all ages, just come along and bring your knitting.

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A house being built with a T.P.O'd tree
The developer looks for ways 'round' it
'that be easier fer me digger to go over the top
'n tell 'em that's 'ow I found it'innit!

I loved all the hours I did tree work,
And when you can't see the wood for the trees
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Tree Warden - Retired! **Pamela Stevenson**



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