

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

SPRING EDITION

MARCH 2018



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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 - Pat: 07917 805 863

Wootton Golf Society - 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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Next Issue: June 2018

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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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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.

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



How can you find out what is going on in the village?

This newsletter is produced four times a year with news about the parish council and local group activities within the parish. We have five noticeboards (as the clerk details elsewhere in this newsletter), a website (<http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire>). Please don't forget also our councillor surgery on the first Saturday morning of the month 11am-12noon at the library.

Infrastructure around Wootton

You may be aware the Borough Council is cutting the money spent outside of Bedford Town. This has led to the parish council funding bus stop improvements around the village, with the exception of those on Fields Road. They will be upgraded either when the current footpath is widened to 3 meters or the road is resurfaced. Those works will be undertaken by the Borough Council.

The Borough Council has launched a new **online tool** for **reporting highways issues**. This is your chance to report problems like pot holes, mud on the road, damaged pavements or faulty street lights to them, so action can be taken. To run the tool, simply go to our website and click on the "Report It" icon. The more reports – the greater the chance of issues being fixed.



The Neighbourhood Plan

Central Government have allowed parish councils to put together Neighbourhood Plans which are designed to give them greater control on development within their own communities. This is unlike any plans that went before. The parish council has been gathering data from questionnaires, drop-in sessions and workshops to see what the community wants and needs. That data is used to produce the Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is subject to examination and referendum and when adopted, forms part of a Local Development Plan (which in this case means when Wootton's Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, Bedford Borough Council must consider its contents when it drafts its Local Plan). Without a Neighbourhood Plan in place, the Borough Council will continue to determine what might be built in Wootton in the future. We are currently processing the data from questionnaires completed in November last year. We had a fairly good response with over 500 questionnaires completed. Thank you to all who completed one. Please keep your eye out for more Neighbourhood Plan events – as this really is your chance to shape the future of Wootton.

Finally we are always looking for **photographs** to use in this newsletter and on our website. If you have any pictures taken around Wootton please send them to the Clerk.

Useful Numbers

Fly tipping
01234 267422

Police non-emergency number
101

Dog fouling/Being walked
on the recreation ground
01234 718060

Anti-Social behaviour
01234 276037 & 101

Noise complaints
01234 227266

Halls for Hire



Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

Hall available for parties and meetings .
The hall has a kitchen with serving hatch,
toilets and use of tables and chairs.

For more information please contact Naomi
on 07722 876252 or
NaomiGroves@hotmail.com.

Wootton Scout Hut

Children's Parties, Birthdays, Weddings, Meetings for
individuals or groups. The hall is suitable for up to 80
people and has a kitchen with serving hatch, toilets,
plenty of parking, garden and use of tables and chairs.

The fee to hire is £10 an hour and there are discounts
available for people linked with the group or regular
bookings. For more information or to book the hall
please contact Vicky on 01234 311386 or 07872316948.



Village Hall, Church Road .

Children's parties up to 11yrs old, plenty of room
and open space out the back, a great hall to hire
for parties. Also there is a small committee room
to use for meeting. Contact Jenny Lambert 01234
767488.

Parish Clerk's Report *Sue Playford*



WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
07531 930 788

The parish council has a large amount of information that it wishes to share with residents and this newsletter is just one of the ways in which it aims to do so. However, it's just not possible to include everything here, which is why it has a website and a Facebook page. Its website is where detailed information can be found. Draft and signed minutes are published there at the earliest opportunity after a meeting and agendas are published a week before each meeting (be it Full Council or a Committee/Steering Group/Working Party Meeting). A link to those agendas is also made available on its Facebook page and paper agendas are placed in the following noticeboards:

Outside the Lower School
Bedford Road
Outside the Manor Road Flats
Bedford Road
Outside the Memorial Hall
Bedford Road
Adjacent to the post box
Hall End Road

(The noticeboard opposite the Cock Inn PH carries a list of upcoming meetings but not agendas as its size is restrictive).

Links are as follows:

Website:

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

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire>

Those of you who use the **glass recycling** bottle banks at the recreation ground will have noticed there are now two skips on site. This is a clear indication that more of you are using that facility to recycle your glass items – so thank you. The Wootton Poor's Land Charities (and therefore residents of Wootton facing financial difficulties) will continue to benefit.

Cllr Lloyd is currently working on a Wootton **A-Z map** which will feature in our Annual Report. The hope is it will be a useful reference to everyone within the village. There will also be a **"Report It"** section which will guide residents to the quickest and most effective method to deal with issues from Potholes to Dog Fouling and more.

Office Location:

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

Office Hours:

During Term Time
Monday 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 2018

APRIL

4th	Wootton Play Equipment	7.30pm
11th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
11th	Full Council	7.30pm
18th	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
25th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
25th	Finance & General Purposes committee	7.30pm
25th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group committee	8.00pm

MAY

2nd	Wootton Play Equipment	7.30pm
9th	Annual Council Meeting	7.00pm
9th	Full Council	7.30pm
9th	Planning & Environment committee	after FC
16th	Roads and Footpaths committee	7.00pm
16th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group committee	8.00pm
23rd	Fun Fest	7.00pm
30th	Planning & Environment committee	7.00pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes committee	7.30pm
30th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group committee	8.00pm

All meetings are held at the Memorial Hall on Bedford Road, with the exception of the Roads and Footpaths Safety Steering Group, some Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings and Wootton Play Equipment Working Group which are held at The Hub, Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road.

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

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

During the past few weeks, you may have noticed some pavement works at the bus stops in Wootton. But why?

The introduction of low-floor buses fitted with ramps for wheelchair access throughout the UK has led to a requirement for appropriate kerbside access at bus stops. Unless all stops along a bus route are equally accessible, passengers may be unable to board or alight a bus at their desired location and the potential benefits from low-floor buses will be reduced. This prevents the public transport network from being fully inclusive.

The Equalities Act (2010) places a duty on both public transport operators and highway authorities to provide reasonable adjustments so that disabled passengers are not disadvantaged. Providing access between a low-floor bus (and those fitted with ramps) and the footway, is crucial to fulfilling these duties. It is also important to consider the needs of other bus users such as those with children in buggies or pushchairs.



The Parish Council has been able to make these important improvements as a result of Community Infrastructure Levy funds arising from the housing developments in the village.



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Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are settling into 2018.



Works to improve the **infrastructure of Wootton** have started with the completion of **raised bus stops** to make access to buses easier for the elderly, parents with buggies and those with limited mobility/wheelchair users. The works for those improvements have been paid for by Wootton Parish Council and an article features elsewhere in this newsletter with a photograph which details exactly what has been done.

Bedford Borough Council has set aside budgets for **improvements to the Fields Road pavement**, a crossing by the surgery and improving the safe route to school at

Potters Cross. I am hoping Potters Cross will be started soon and am awaiting dates for the other projects including the resurfacing of Fields Road.

Fields Road continues to be an issue in relation to **pot holes and heavy traffic**. Borough Highways enforcement officers have been out and are continuing to monitor the situation with the developers. If you could report any pot holes direct to **Highways Helpdesk** on **01234 718003** or **highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk** that will help them get filled in quicker and will let Highways know the problem is still there.

I have been liaising with Borough Highways, local farmers and developers regarding the **flooding problem on Cranfield Road**. Surveyors have been out and found the problem so hopefully this will be resolved in the coming months as there is quite a bit of work to be done by all parties.

Just to confirm the **new shops** by the school in Berryfields are due to be started around Easter. I believe this will be three units; two x 1000sq foot and one x 4000sq foot. No decisions have been made regarding the proposed hotel or pub (eateries) yet on the Industrial Park but there will be an 80 place nursery on the edge of the site. I along with the Parish Council, residents, Bedford Borough Council and developers are setting up a liaison group to have regular meetings with all the developers for the duration of the building works to try and ensure the best for the village.

I would like to thank you for using the



bottle banks on the recreation car park as funds from this are helping Wootton Charities on a regular basis to help Wootton residents in need.

Bedford Borough Council's budget for 2018/19 was agreed at a meeting of all councillors on the 7th February. As in previous years, demand for services is increasing whilst the overall resources available to the Council will remain relatively unchanged. This has required the Council to continue its programme of service efficiencies through its 'Bedford Borough 2020' project. This includes the introduction of a 'Digital Operating Model', which is estimated to achieve annual savings of £10.4m by the beginning of the next decade through the improved use of

technology. This will include increased opportunities for residents to use 'self-service' functions when interacting with the Council, particularly through the implementation of a new website.

In addition to this, there is a proposed **Council Tax** increase of 1.75% and a rise of 2% in the Adult Social Care Precept. The revenue gained from the latter must be used on adult social care services, the budget for which has been set at £52.1m next year; a 13.7% increase since 2015/16, reflecting increased demand.

A black and white photograph of a garden scene. In the foreground, a shovel and a pitchfork are stuck upright in the soil. The background shows a blurred garden with plants and trees.

All Things Green Gardening

Garden Maintenance

- Decking**
- Patios**
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Wootton Street Watch

Wootton Street Watch started in March 2016. We consist of three volunteers.

Street Watch is administered and funded by Bedfordshire Police.

Simply put, Street Watch aims to provide a level of reassurance to the community by patrolling the locality. It should be noted the volunteers have no powers to intervene in any incidents. All patrols are recorded on the Street Watch internet page. Volunteers must patrol in pairs, and cannot exceed 75 years of age. The volunteers are not on call.

The volunteers are expected to provide 2 hours patrol time each month.

Volunteers attend a short training input at Flitwick with a Bedfordshire Police co-ordinator and are then issued with their equipment of a high visibility jacket, a notebook, a torch, a pen and a personal attack alarm. Volunteers become members of the Bedfordshire Police volunteers and are issued with an identification card.

Following on from this each volunteer is taken out on patrol by an experienced volunteer. From then on they are free to

patrol at any time.

Within Wootton, amongst other things, we have assisted at the Bedford Lower School in assisting with children crossing the road, have patrolled the recreation ground to prevent dog fouling and anti social behaviour and advise dog owners concerning use of the ground, have advised persons riding cycles on the pavement and have handed out Parish Council cards to those vehicles parked on the footpath.

Volunteers are always welcome. The more volunteers we have, the more patrols we can achieve.

Anyone interested should contact Bedfordshire Police on **01582 473122**

or through the Bedfordshire Street Watch Co-ordinator:

watcheschemes@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Jeff Noakes

Wootton Street Watch Co-ordinator



Planters

Suggestions for additional planters to date are as follows:

Bedford Road – outside the Manor Road flats;
Bedford Road – opposite the Memorial Hall (site of the bench soon to be removed);
Cause End Road – Tithe Barn Road junction (maybe other end also – Church Road);
Church Road – War Memorial;
Fields Road/Monoux Road junction;
Fields Road/Folkes Road junction/roundabout or highways land near the show home.

Do you agree, or do you have an alternative location in mind?

Please contact the Clerk if you do.





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

The children have enjoyed our Christmas festivities. We've introduced a daily singing time, the children practiced their Christmas songs to sing at the Christmas concert. We had a special visit from Santa and the children took part in all the Christmas festivities, some of which including ginger bread house making, decorating the Christmas tree, making our own decorations.

From the start of the New Year we have welcomed some new children to the setting. The children have started learning about winter weather. The children have made a lovely Jack Frost display and explored our home-made ice. We've revamped the literacy table and have purchased some

ipad pro's which the children are using to demonstrate their fine motor skills and they aid in the children's mathematical development and literacy development through the programmes available to them.



We ran a parents / carers morning at the end of January, which was a huge success with some lovely feedback given from the parent's questionnaires.

Some dates for the diary:

Mother's Day morning

Friday 9th March

Easter egg eggstravaganza

Friday 23rd March

Please continue to keep a look out for our website which we are excited to share with you all. The website also gives information about diary dates throughout the year and more information about each event nearer the time.

www.bizzybeespreschool.org

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

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

The animals went in two by two Hurrah! Hurrah!



We have been learning about the story of Noah's Ark. We read the story as a whole class and discussed what happened. The children chose the animal they would like to decorate for a wall display. They painted a large-scale Ark, made cloud and raindrop mobiles and a large collage rainbow. The children learned new vocabulary and animal songs; and practised counting in two's.

3, 2, 1 Blast Off!

We have been learning about outer space. We have talked about the planets, the sun and the moon and how they are different to our planet. The children took part in a variety of space-themed crafts, such as making space rockets, astronauts, space helmets, aliens, planets and stars. The children listened to the story 'Whatever Next' and then acted out the story using a cardboard box, colander, wellies, drink and food. They created a large rocket for our role play area and a space scene. In our musical movement sessions the



children moved to space music and dodged meteorites. The children learned that you cannot drink from an open cup in space because the liquid will float away so they made some space drinks using sealed plastic bags and drinking straws. The children learned new songs and practised counting backwards from 'ten' to 'one'.

Next half term we will be celebrating the up and coming festivals such as Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, St. David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day and Easter.

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 & Friday

9.00 - 16.00

Thursday

9.00 - 15.00



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It's nearly Spring again, wonderful, there are signs of it everywhere, as I write this, the snowdrops and aconites are out, and the promise of warmer weather is everywhere. God is still keeping His promise that, 'As long as the earth remains, Seedtime and Harvest, Cold and Heat, Summer and Winter, Day and Night, will not cease.' (Genesis 3:28.) I don't like the cold winds with the threat of snow today, but Summer is coming. I see the children waiting for their school bus in the mornings and remember when we had to walk or bike to school years ago. I don't suppose it did us any harm!

In the last few weeks of last year, we held a 'Christianity Explored' course at the Church. For those few weeks we moved away from our usual format for the Sunday morning Service and had breakfast first, followed by a short video, and an informal study around tables in the Hall. Studying the Bible in an informal atmosphere, was very refreshing and a number of visitors joined us. It was a new way of looking at the old Gospel message from a different angle.

In the Spring we have planned a follow-up to these meetings called 'Life Explored'. It runs from February 25th for about eight weeks and starts at 10.30am each Sunday morning, with breakfast from 10.00am. Our aim is to show from the Bible, God's way of

living as a follower of Jesus Christ. It will be challenging, but can be very rewarding. It is open to everyone. Just come along and make yourself at home. There will be plenty of room and we will be pleased to welcome you.

We are a family church and our aim is to tell people from this area of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, how He came and lived on this earth and died in our place to save us from the penalty of sin, so that all who accept this gift of salvation, by admitting our sin and unbelief and that we are not good enough for God, can by faith in Jesus Christ, be eternally saved. It's a great message, which has been told to anyone who would listen, for over two thousand years and has never changed.

Our usual services each Sunday are at 10.30am and 6.00pm and the church is open to all and everyone is welcome. The Coffee Morning is from 10am to 12 mid-day, each Tuesday morning and there is a welcome there too. Other meetings are held as advertised.

With the best wishes of the fellowship,

Rob Stanton.

For the fellowship
at Wootton Baptist Church.

Wootton Golf Society

Wootton Golf Society raise money every year for a local charity, this money is raised through fining its members for various indiscretions on and around the golf course and in the clubhouse. This year they have raised £750 for Bella Luckett from St. Neots. Belle has Cerebral Palsy and until May this year could not stand, walk or sit unaided. Treatment for Bella was not available on the NHS, so her parents Gary and Natalie raised over £50,000 for the operation to be carried out.

The operation was carried out at Great Ormond Street in May and was a great success, Bella can now sit unaided and is now learning to walk at the age of 7. Bella can walk with crutches and has to wear splints on her lower legs for strength. She is due to have a further operation on one of her ankles.

Although Bella is improving, she needs constant physiotherapy at home and twice a month she travels to Wales for specialist physiotherapy all at the cost to the family. Bella has a special treadmill at home as well as other equipment which she constantly uses to gain her strength.

The money raised will go towards her specialist equipment and to assist costs for her ongoing physiotherapy.

Wootton Golf Society are a very friendly group of golfers of all standards, we play a mixed selection of golfing formats including stableford, matchplay and stroke play. We always have a weekend trip away which is thoroughly enjoyed by all, this year it was at Wychwood Park in Crewe, a very testing and enjoyable Championship Course.

Our golfing programme is booked a year in advance so you can plan when you would like to attend.



24th March - Aylesbury Vale Golf Club
Wootton Trophy

21st April - Collingtree Park Golf Club

19th May - Bicester Golf Club

8th June - The Northampton Golf Club

23rd June - Wyboston Lakes Golf Club
Wootton Championship

14th July - Aldwickbury Park Golf Club
Captains Day

4th August - The Bedfordshire Golf Club

7th September - Wellingborough Golf Club

22nd September - Elton Furze Golf Club
Seniors

5th - 7th October The Dorset Golf Resort
Wootton Cup

27th October - Orton Meadows Golf Club

17th November - Mowsbury Golf Club
Wootton Winners

8th December - Wavendon Golf Club
Turkey trot

If you are a seasoned golfer or have just taken the game up and wish to play amongst other like minded, friendly golfers on a regular basis please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

When you become a member you will get a Wootton Golf Society shirt as well as have access to our member's website where you can sign up for events.

If you require any further information about us or wish to join – please visit our website www.woottongolfsociety.com

Photo: Bella receiving the cheque from Robert Capener of Wootton Golf Society





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Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

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

Berryfields ditch

Berryfields

Ongoing

A risk assessment and report was sent by WPC to BBC 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 confirmed this area has now been passed to Greenbelt and they are chasing for a response and action

Bus stop facilities

Throughout the village

Jan 18

WPC agreed (9th August 2017) to spend CIL monies 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. This project has been completed – see elsewhere in this newsletter for a report and photograph

CCTV

Recreation Ground

Feb 18

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). This project has been completed

Christmas street lighting

Bedford Road initially

Ongoing

The Christmas lights were well received in 2017. The parish council is now looking to extend the scheme and include Fields Road/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 is bitterly disappointed to learn the Environment Agency has granted an Environmental Permit to Covanta Energy Ltd – despite overwhelming objections not just from WPC, but Wootton residents and residents/organisations from adjoining parishes. WPC is waiting to learn if anything more can be done to overturn this decision. 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. A recent consultation on the soundness of Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan 2035 was noted at Full Council in February 2018 – the plan did not affect Wootton

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

BBC approved the proposal despite WPC's and numerous objections. WPC has now formed a Development Liaison Group (consisting of parish councillors and residents) which aims to meet with all developers and key officers from BBC to ensure information is shared at the earliest opportunity regarding ongoing/future building works both at the Innovation Park site and elsewhere in the Fields Road South/Cranfield Road site. If you feel you could contribute to these discussions and have relevant skill sets (development, engineering for example) – please contact the Clerk

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 results of those workshops and the first Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire are being collated

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 see page 11 for relevant article.

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 has been submitted to Veolia – outcome awaited

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

St. Mary's stone and railing cemetery wall	St. Mary's Church	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 is taking forward a structural engineer report which has highlighted the wall's instability in parts		

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

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The Oddfellows

Making Friends and Helping People

The Oddfellows is one of the largest and oldest friendly societies in the UK with a 200 year tradition of making friends and helping people. The Bedford Branch of the Society is based in Wootton on the Industrial Estate off Bedford Road.

Social events are open to everyone and these are some of the events that are taking place over the next few months:



Wednesday 27th June

Trip to Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre and afternoon tea

A trip on the Marston Vale rail line to visit the Heritage centre, followed by afternoon tea. Meet at 1.30pm at Bedford Station or 2.20pm at Ridgmont. £4.80 for travel from Bedford (£2.40 concession) plus afternoon tea. (Booking required)

If you would like further information on any of these please contact the office

on 01234 768 914

or email

Ailieredman@oddfellows.co.uk

Saturday 24th March

Carvery Lunch at the Tavistock Inn, Bedford

£7 for carvery, other options possible.
12.30 pm (Booking required).

Saturday 28th April

Walk on Biggleswade Common

Meet at Dan Albone Car Park,
Biggleswade at 10.00 am.
The walk will last around 2 hours.

Wednesday 9th May

Friendship Coffee Morning at the Hub,

New Life Methodist Church,
Cause End Road,
Wootton, MK43 9DE

Drop in for coffee between 10 am and 12 noon for a chat and find out what trips we have planned for the summer.





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CHARITY COFFEE & CAKE EVENT

Saturday
31st March 2018
10am - 2pm

Wootton Scout Hut



Guess the bunny's name!
How many eggs are in
the jar!



R R R
A A A
F F F
F F F
L L L
E E E



TEDDY
TOMBOLA



Don't forget you can get in touch with us, **if you have any queries**, using our email address or through the surgery and if you want to join us and support the surgery we meet on the **first Tuesday of the month at 6pm at the surgery**. Get in touch to let us know if you want to attend.

wootton.ppg@outlook.com

Have you registered for online services?

If you have a computer, you can register at the surgery with a photo ID and proof of address. Once you have registered you can access all sorts of services from renewing your prescription, booking, changing or cancelling appointments. You will be able to view any test results too. We understand not everybody has or even wants access to a computer, so you can still do all of these in the normal way. Government guidelines suggest at least 20% of patients should be using online services in the near future. This does put more pressure on staff to get patients to sign up but at the end of the day it will make life easier in today's busy world.

If you are registered for online services, it makes it easier to remember to cancel your appointment. The surgery is still experiencing a number of appointments where people fail to attend. Over 280 patients failed to attend last month wasting 84 hours of staff time. Please do cancel your appointment if you can't go. With the number of patients who have joined the practice now, it means you have to wait longer to get an appointment to see a preferred doctor anyway, without taking appointments and not using them. It is a double-edged sword, we need the patient numbers to increase to be able to build a case for a permanent building but an increase in patients means longer waiting times. A permanent build means more stability and possibly more staff stability.

Thought for the day

When I was young, in my despair
I looked to God and prayed the prayer
"The world O Lord is such a mess
It's in a state of hopelessness.
Give me the power the strength to
change
The people here, to rearrange
Their lives so they will turn and say
"We bow the knee to God today".

As I grew older and I saw
The world no better than before
And, as the answer was not there
That I should pray a different prayer,
I said "Dear God, just give me grace
To change the people in *this* place
All those I meet from day to day
To point them to a better way"

When later on I looked around
And saw no change at all was found
I realised my prayer should be
That God would make a change in me.
If I had asked that from the start
I might have played a greater part.

Rebecca Cook ©

Wootton Tang Soo Do

Dear all,

I would like to start by thanking Wootton Parish Council for the opportunity to contribute to the "Wootton News", it is very much appreciated.

Now for the introductions: **my name is Pat Bradley, a 3rd Dan Instructor in Tang Soo Do.** I have been training for 11 years in Tang Soo Do, achieved my 1st Dan Black Belt in 2010 and have been a 3rd Dan since summer 2015.

Tang Soo Do is a Korean Martial Art with origins dating back thousands of years. The association with Wootton is not quite so long, but dates back at least ten years, run by Andrew and Stephanie Johnson, both Wootton residents and now Master Belts in Tang Soo Do. More recently the club has been run by Mr David Lee a 3rd Dan Instructor and since October 2017 run by me, ably assisted by 5 Black Belts, 2 of which are Wootton residents. The club can be found in the Village Hall on a Thursday evening between 1830 and 1945.

Tang Soo Do is suitable for all ages and the current student population ranges from a 5 year old to people in their 50s. It is a fun environment, but still has a focus on fitness, self-defence and discipline. Classes are fully integrated with children and adults learning together, with a standard syllabus for all. All abilities and capabilities can be accounted for and you will be able to learn at your own pace. Grading sessions to advance through the belts are organised on a three monthly basis, but you will not be forced to grade if you don't feel ready and Instructors will not put you forward if they don't feel you are ready either.

Benefits of training will be: fitness, self-confidence, discipline, self-respect and respect for others. There is a strong focus on discipline, with a formal hierarchy and a requirement to show respect to others. In addition, you will become part of a family of martial artists and will have the opportunity to travel throughout the UK and Ireland to attend Martial Arts tournaments, where the focus is not on winning medals, although that is a nice bonus, but to meet up with like-minded individuals, expand your knowledge and test yourself in a controlled environment. You will also make loads of new friends (when they stop trying to kick you).

Upcoming events include a World Championship in June of this year, taking place in Bedford. The Championship will be run on behalf of our Grand Master who will be present for the tournament and will host competitors from England, Ireland, Malta, Finland and the USA. The championship will be preceded by a training seminar with the Grand Master, an opportunity that is extremely rare but is open to all practitioners. Other events are a championship in Dublin with our Irish Association hosted by the Head of our European Association, Master Suresh Nar a 7th Dan Black Belt with over 30 years of training behind him.

I hope this might have whet your appetite or at least piqued your interest. Come along to the Village Hall on a Thursday evening between 1830 and 1945, wear loose clothing and bring some water.

Call Pat 07917 805863

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WoottonTSD/>

Back by popular demand;
Wootton Country Players will be holding another

Alternative Race Night

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE VILLAGE AMATEUR DRAMATICS GROUP

Following on from last years successful evening,
we will be organising the popular event again.

SATURDAY 12TH MAY

is the date for this eagerly anticipated, hilarious event.

The event will be at Wootton Village Hall and jockeys
will be under starters orders from 7.30pm.

Tickets need to be purchased in advance and are sure to be
snapped up, so book early to avoid disappointment.

You can book online at www.countryplayers.org.uk

or *book directly* with Tina Kirkup, **07788 857040**.

We will have a licensed bar until 11.30pm.

There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved on the night, from being a jockey
to sponsoring a race. You will also be able to bet on the winning jockey.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS
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Wrigglers Parent & toddler
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Group for Dads and their 0-12
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Take a Break

Mon 9 & 10 April

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for details and to book.

Summer Holiday Club



Tues 21 – Fri 24 August

Book the dates in your diary for our summer
holiday club for young people. More details soon
on our website and Facebook page.

Mothering Sunday Service

10.30am

Sunday 11 March

Easter Services

Palm Sunday	10.30am	Sunday 25 March
Good Friday	10.30am	Family Service
30 March	2pm	An Hour at the Cross
Easter Day	6.30am	Sunrise Service (Hall End Rd)
1 April	10.30am	Family Communion



We are a referring agent for the Bedford
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crisis contact us in confidence.



Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

Our recent Dabble evening in January was a great success with members and visitors enjoying the art of flower arranging, making pom-pom animals, decorating tea light holders and mirrors. We hope to hold another similar evening later in the year so watch this space.

We love to welcome new members and visitors so why not join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7-30pm 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, very reasonable for a night out. We operate a savings scheme to save towards membership if you wish to join us, the current fee will be £41 from January.

Our members are currently voting on resolutions to be discussed at this year's annual general meeting to be held in Cardiff in June. We are already making headway with the microfibres and plastics from last year's annual general meeting. At national level the WI as a large organisation is helping make big changes to help our climate.



March 21st

False teeth, new hips and Woolacombe Bay!
A humorous talk with verse by Duncan Willox

April 18th

Annual Meeting. This is when we review our past year.

May 16th

Sausage and Mash Bash.
If you wish to come as a visitor please message us so we can cater accordingly.

June 20th

Flower Arranging with Marje Williams. Marje has done several courses on Ikebana, come and see if that is what she will demonstrate or will she do something else? It's a mystery!



Look for us on Facebook under **Wootton Beds Women's Institute**.

Message us for any further information and somebody will endeavour to reply as quickly as possible.

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While it has been very cold outside the children have been keeping very busy. Our Preschool children have loved being in their garden den building and learning about shapes. They make the most of being outside whenever they can and the children have enjoyed seeing all the ice in the garden and watching it turn to water. The Reception children had an unusual visitor in their class rooms – **a dinosaur!!** Reception have loved their dinosaur topic and learning about what dinosaurs ate and where they lived.



The Year 1 children have enjoyed their magical "Enchanted" topic. The children have been mysteriously receiving letters from Fairies! They have been very excited to come in each morning to see who the fairy has delivered a letter to. They have also enjoyed reading and writing about Peter Rabbit. They loved hearing about the adventures Peter got up to and how he would run away from Mr McGregor. **In Year 2** the children have been learning about Australia. They have enjoyed reading some Australian stories about possums, singing traditional Australian

songs and even producing some beautiful artwork based on Aboriginal art. **In Year 3** the children have been learning about the history of flight, including the first hot air balloons and the Wright brothers. The children are looking forward to a visit to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford to see many planes and learn even more. The Year 4 children have been reading the classic story of The Iron Man by Ted Hughes. They even had a go at creating their own Iron Man models. The children are about to start reading another favourite, Harry Potter. They are lucky enough to be visiting the Harry Potter studios where they will be learning how the books were brought to life by the magic of film!

The highlight of the term for many of our Key Stage 2 children was the choir **performing at the O2 in London**. Our choir joined nearly 7000 children from other school choirs from all over the region. The children arrived in the morning and had rehearsals all day. Then in the evening many parents came to watch the performance. It was a very special experience and brilliant for our children to be able to say they have performed at the O2!

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Wootton Upper School

Phone 01234 767123

Email wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk



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

OFSTED Inspection

We were delighted that Ofsted judged Wootton Upper School to be a good school in all areas when the school was inspected last November. We would like to thank all parents and carers and others in the village who gave their views to the inspection team and also for the emails we received from people in the village at the time, wishing us good luck and afterwards saying how pleased they were for the school. The full Ofsted report is on the school website and also on Ofsted's own website.



DfE Performance Tables

In January, the DfE published its GSCE School Performance Tables. Wootton Upper School did very well being ranked in the top three Bedfordshire schools for progress and attainment. Our progress score is 0.13. Congratulations to all the pupils and teachers who worked really hard to secure this achievement.

Kimberley is now 11th in the Sunday Times list of top Sixth Form Colleges in England. In 2016, Kimberley was 20th in the list of top Sixth Form Colleges in England, based on the proportion of students gaining at least 2As and a B at A level. In the 2017 Sunday

Times list Kimberley's has risen to 11th. Mr Detheridge, Principal of the College is delighted by this ranking, but is keen to secure an even higher rating in the future. Given the ranking it will come as no surprise that the number of applications for places at Kimberley continues to rise. Over 400 students have submitted applications already for next September. We are very lucky to have such a great Sixth Form College on our door step where students achieve great results.

Careers Fair

More than a thousand visitors attended the Trust's annual Careers Fair, held at Kimberley at the end of January. Universities, colleges and many different employment sectors sent delegates to the event. The reputation of the Fair has spread far and wide; universities, colleges and employers now contact us to ask if they can attend rather than us inviting them. The Trust's new Careers Co-ordinator, Yvonne Ashby, is confident that next year's event will be even bigger and better!

New high-tech Science Laboratories unveiled at Wootton Upper School

Staff, parents and governors are celebrating the opening of new state-of-the-art science laboratories. A special event was held on Saturday 27th January to mark the relaunch of six of the school's original science laboratories and a prep room following a major refurbishment project. The laboratories opened in the mid-1970s and were in urgent need of renovation.

Jon Billington, one of the Academy's trustees secured funding from Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council to enable the vital update to take place, the

planning for which began in the Spring of 2015. The project involved the expertise of local architects BE1 and building contractor, Gray and Sons Builders Limited, which managed the project.



Jon Billington, Trustee, officially re-opening the Science Laboratories

As part of the revamp, modern pear-drop stations were installed instead of traditional science benches to improve practical work. Our brand new science facilities will vastly improve the learning experience for our pupils. Work was completed with minimal disruption to teaching thanks to the hard work, cooperation and patience of our science staff.

At Saturday's science laboratory opening, visitors were invited on a tour of the new facilities where they could watch pupils embark on a range of experiments in their new surroundings.



STEM CLUB success

For many months a group of Year 9 pupils, supported by two engineers from Lockheed Martin, Mr Edward Smith and Mr Alec Clark, have been working hard preparing for the regional final of the VEX robotics competition. Our VEX team designed, built and programmed a robot to compete in a collection and mining game. Our team put on a fantastic display and demonstrated an exemplary attitude throughout the competition achieving the 2nd highest points total, 2nd highest win rate and reached the final of the doubles competition. A large number of teams attended the competition from across the region (including sixth form college teams from Cambridge and London).

The team won the **INNOVATION FIRST** award, for making an adaption that turned our first two games' losses into an 8 game winning streak! We have a magnificent trophy which we will be proud to display in the school. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Dan Hammond and Mr Rohit Rathod, for leading the club throughout the year and working closely with Mr Smith and Mr Clark from Lockheed, and Mrs Steph Hills, for her help and support in the project and attending the competition on the day. Thanks also to Mr Harry Foster-Smith, Associate Principal and STEM Leader, for all of his leadership and inspiration.



Forthcoming events at Wootton Upper School

from 1st March to 31st March

Options Evening for Year 9 students and parents

Thursday 15th March at 7.30 p.m.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd March. Appointments start at 4.00 p.m.

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Monday 26th March, starting at 2.30 p.m. at Wootton Upper School

Spring Concert 2018

Tuesday 27th March at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets are available from the school box office on 01234 767123

Adults: £5.00 Concessions: £3.00

The school closes for the **Easter Holiday** on

Wednesday 28th March at 3.00 p.m.

The school re-opens for pupils for the **summer term** on

Monday 16th April



**General Property
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Home Improvements**

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Fencing/Decking and more***

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SPRING CONCERT 2018



Tuesday 27th March

Wootton Upper School, Theatre Hall, 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 Adults, £3 Concessions

Tickets may be purchased from Mrs K. Frelick

School Box Office: 01234 767 123

Wootton Academy Trust

Bedford Borough Libraries

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

The Latest News:

Bedford Borough Council has published a new draft local plan for six weeks of public consultation until Monday 5th March 2018. Your comments on the plan are invited. The plan allocates specific sites to meet the borough's development needs up to 2035. The plan, together with supporting papers and information about the grounds on which you can make representations, is available to view here now.

Looking Ahead

Free one to ones for Writers! Are you an aspiring writer? Would you like a professional writer to take a look at your manuscript, poetry, screenplay, or other work in progress? **Book a free 20 minute session with Mike Elliston** here at Wootton Library on Wednesday 7th March. Mike is an experienced playwright and creative mentor and is a member of the Writer's Guild of Great Britain. Please see library staff for further details.

Easter Egg Competition from **26th March - 9th April**. There will be Easter Crafts as normal during the Easter holidays from 31st March – 16th April.

AND DON'T FORGET!!! WE WILL BE RUNNING THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE AS NORMAL THIS YEAR STARTING ON 14th JULY AND FINISHING ON 8th SEPTEMBER. THIS YEAR IT WILL BE MISCHIEF MAKERS.

Don't Forget our Regular Events:

1st Saturday of each month – **Councillor Surgery (11.00am -12 noon)**

Thursdays (10:30am – 11:30pm) – **Colouring and Calm** – for adults that like to colour

1st and 3rd Friday of each month (2:00pm – 3:00pm) – **Knit and Natter**

Wednesdays (2:30pm-3:30pm) – **Are You Sitting Comfortably?** And tea at 3:00pm

And for the children:

Funtime for the Under 5s – Mondays (2:30pm – 2:50pm)

Colouring Club – Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Storytime with Ted -Thursdays 10.30am -10.50am (term time only) (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Saturdays (11:00 – 12:30pm)

Lego Club – Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (3:45pm – 4:45pm)

Saturdays (11.00am – 12:30pm)

Baby Fun -Time (for 0-18mths), Tuesdays (10:30am-11:00am, term time only)

Jigsaw Club – Saturdays (11:00am – 12:30pm)



MARIA'S SEWING SERVICES WOOTTON

Alterations and repairs to everything from clothing to curtains.

Cushions and blinds made.

Free measuring and estimating service.

Please call to discuss:

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Do you have a child in Year 9?

Are you looking at their options for Year 10?

Wootton Upper School is your answer...

Find out about the wide range of GCSE options from September 2018 at our Information Evening.

Thursday March 15th at 7.30pm.

Everyone is welcome – just ring Linda Gray on **01234 767123** to reserve your seats or book at: <https://goo.gl/x1Rkzd> or scan the QR code:



The school has received high praise from its recent Ofsted inspection



Effective teaching, learning and assessment support pupils to make good progress

An extensive extra-curricular programme which underpins pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Teachers care about their pupils and have good relationships with them

Teachers have a high expectation of their pupils

A well-designed curriculum which allows pupils to choose from a wide range of option subjects

Teachers have a high expectation of how pupils should behave



WOOTTON
UPPER SCHOOL

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

☎ 01234 767123

✉ wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk

🌐 www.woottonupper.co.uk

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Wootton Upper School

WOOTTON ACADEMY

Kimberley College

TRUST

Kimberley College Creative Arts Festival



Friday 23rd March 2018, 7.00 pm.



Join us for an
evening of
poetry, music and
drama performed
by students, staff
and the local
community!

**Venue: Kimberley College, Green Lane, Stewartby,
Beds MK43 9LY**

Tickets £1

**Buy tickets in advance from Mrs Hills, Science
Technician. Telephone: 01234 767123, Extension: 215.**

Tickets available on the door.