

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

SPRING EDITION

MARCH 2019



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Hall Booking

Memorial Hall - Naomi Ward: 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

Bizzy Bees - Paula Bannell: 767 185

St Mary's - Tracey Kerins: 767 158

Wootton Community Nursery

Kayleigh: 07534 308 632

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Malcolm Chalmers: 07864 295520

St Mary's Church

Canon Peter Ackroyd: 768 391 Church Hall: 767 158

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Rev Charlie Connor: 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

Stewartby Operatic Society - 01908 616213

Tang Soo Do - Pat: 07917 805 863

Wootton Golf Society - Pete: 07975 596 164

Women's Institute - Kath: 765 333

Wootton Rangers FC - Jeremy: 07446 770193

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662



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Next Issue: June 2019

Copy Date: 1st May

The Wootton News can be read online at:
<https://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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WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire



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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



groups/clubs are welcome to attend – one event currently being considered for July 2019 is an outdoor film show.

Wootton Improvements

The new playground at the recreation ground on Church Road has been completed and the grass should grow back in the spring.



The pavement along Fields Road will be widened this year. Fields Road will be rebuilt when development in that area finishes and the utilities have finished their works. Real Time Passenger information at some bus stops within Wootton will be installed this year – this is currently being organised and funded by the parish council. The BPHA care facility should be finished and open towards the end of May 2019.

Community Centre.

It's **NOT** open yet, but it is getting there. You may be keen to book the centre, however, there is still a lot of work to do. The centre is managed by a charity consisting of Wootton residents and they need more volunteers to help get it up and running. Keep checking their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Wootton-Community-Centre-373702299872573/>.

Wootton Community Group

This group meets three or four times a year to discuss events we would all like to happen in the village and I would like to thank Michael Gleeson for hosting. All Wootton

The May elections will cover Bedford's Mayor, Wootton's Borough Councillor and Wootton Parish Council. If you would like to know more about becoming a parish councillor please contact the Clerk for further details.

Have Your Say



Report It!
Click on the "report it" image to report highways issues like:

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- Drainage and flooding
- Snow, ice and gritting
- Pavements
- Lanes
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- Traffic signals

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Police non-emergency number
101

Anti-Social behaviour
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Noise complaints
01234 227266

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01234 718060



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Parish Clerk's Report *Sue Playford*



WoottonParishClerk@gmail.com
07531 930 788

Some of you will already have seen (and used) the **new play area** which has just been installed at the jubilee garden area of the recreation ground on Church Road. A big thank you goes to everyone involved, including our two parent/resident helpers, Stacey Gittens and Emma Brett. The equipment is aimed at children 0-8 years of age, with a particular focus on those within the autistic spectrum.



Another reminder for anyone wishing to have an **allotment**. Please contact **Alison**, our allotments officer on **07977 341861**.

A further reminder too, for anyone wishing to join the **Speed Watch team** which operates in the village. This scheme is NOT under the jurisdiction of the parish council so if you would like to learn more or volunteer your services, the point of contact is **Jules Donel** at Police HQ – **Juliet.Donel@bedfordshirepolice.pnn.police.uk**. Training is required before joining the team and they are looking for extra numbers.



Wootton Parish Council

Office Location:

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

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday
morning 10am-12noon

(Hours may be subject to change and appointments can be pre-booked, feel free to telephone in advance to ensure the office will be open or availability).



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Dates for your Diary 2019

MARCH

20th	Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
20th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee	8.00pm
27th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
27th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
27th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

APRIL

10th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
10th	Full Council	7.30pm
17th	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm
24th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
24th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
24th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

MAY

15th	Annual Council Meeting	7.00pm
15th	Full Council	7.30pm
15th	Planning & Environment Committee	after FC

All meetings are held at the Memorial Hall on Bedford Road, with the exception of the Roads and Footpaths Safety Steering Group and some Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings 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>)



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk
Phone: 07913 409 433

I hope you had a nice Christmas and New Year (which seems like ages ago) and are warming up now that spring is here. Hopefully the bulbs planted last year on the Fields Road roundabout will be in bloom when this newsletter reaches you; please let me know if you have any ideas regarding bulb planting around the village.

Going back to Christmas, the lights looked great and hopefully the Parish Council will be able to cover additional areas this year. **The Bob Lunniss Christmas dinner** for pensioners went well, with a big thank you to Neera and her team for decorating the hall and to the schools for providing entertainment. I am pleased to announce we shall be doing a Christmas lunch again this year.

The new care home on Fields Road should now be open. There was a good response to the open evening which many residents attended. For more details about living in the new centre please phone **BPHA** on **03301 100 0272**. Now the centre has been completed work can go ahead on the new pavements and resurfacing works down Fields Road, as well as the crossing by the surgery and



SURGERY

first Saturday of each month
at the Library, 11am to 12 noon

and most Wednesdays at the Hub,
Cause End Road, 10am to 12 noon.

the implementation of the 7.5 tonnes weight limit.

With regard to **bus services**, the 53 route is proposed to go onto the new estate and back up Fields Road in a loop via Berryfields and the Parish Council is looking at installing real time service updates at bus stops. Once the route has been confirmed I am keen to have a proper bus stop installed by the surgery with an additional path.

Wootton Lower School has been granted planning permission for an extra 6 classrooms at Harris Way. It has been a difficult process making sure the school receives the monies owed for this project but we got there in the end. Work will start soon for a September 2019 opening, giving more places to Wootton children initially only in reception year group. The Head Teacher and senior team are looking at making the school an excellent learning centre with the latest teaching aides and equipment.

The new play area is now open at the recreation ground and is a hit with children and parents alike. A big thanks to the Parish Council team involved in this project.

In terms of the wider Borough, you may

find the following items of interest: - **The Borough Council's 2019/20 budget** was agreed by councillors in February. It includes plans to increase Council Tax by 1.49%, with an additional 1% for the Adult Social Care precept. Demand for adult social care continues to be the main pressure on the Council's revenue budget, with spending rising in this area to £52m. The Council also has a £213.2m Capital Programme for 2018/19 – 2021/22 covering 'one-off' schemes such as the 'Transporting Bedford 2020' road decongestion project (£18.4m, with £15.5m being provided by the Government) and Wixams Railway (£27.4m, although this may be superseded by the East West Rail project).

- **A consultation** has been launched on proposed routes for the central section of the East West Rail (**EWR**) scheme from Bedford to Cambridge. EWR will enable a new train line between Oxford, Milton

Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge. There are 5 options, 3 of which mention the use of an unspecified 'Bedford South' station (potentially Wixams or an alternative site), while 2 options see the line going through the town centre. See <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>

- **The Alzheimer's Society** is providing 'My Future Plans', a one-to-one support service for those who have been diagnosed with the disease and their carers to discuss care arrangements. For further details call **01234327380** or email **sam.marshall@alzheimers.org.uk**

Please note my surgery still runs the first Saturday of the month at 11am to 12pm at the Library and most Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm at the Hub, Cause End Road. Please do contact me also via email or phone:

john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk
07913 409 433



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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

Hello from everyone at Bizzy Bees!

We have continued to welcome lots of new children to Bizzy Bee's since the Autumn term and still have some places for immediate starts. Don't forget, you can put your child on our waiting list as soon as they are born. Please get in touch for more details - we would love to see you.



We will enjoy celebrating Valentines Day and Chinese New Year (the year of the pig) before we finish for half term and on our return we have

Pancake Day to look forward to!



This half term we are enjoying the theme of 'winter', which involves lots of play with ice and talking about where different animals live all over the world. We have made bird feeders to help the birds through the cold winter and have also made lovely shortbread for Burns Night. Even though the weather has been so cold, we have still enjoyed our free-flow play outside, learning to wrap up warm with our hats, scarves and gloves - the children are getting very good at doing this themselves.



There are lots of exciting topics and fundraising events planned for the rest of the academic year ahead...so do watch this space for our next instalment.

With snow forecast, we are all looking forward to seeing your snowmen being made and on display throughout the village. Wrap up warm and enjoy making great memories!



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Bizzy Bee's offer free-flow sessional day care including Breakfast and Lunch Clubs for young children from 2 years to school age.

You and your little people can arrange a stay and play visit, meet the team for a chat and have a look around.

Our days are term time only Monday to Friday 8.15am - 3.45pm. We accept 2-year-old funding and 3/4 year old 15 and 30 hour funding for all of our sessions. We also accept cross funding if your child attends/would like to attend more than one Pre-School.



Sessions are:

- * Breakfast Club: 8:15-9am Breakfast provided
- * AM session: 9-12pm
- * Lunch Club: 12-12:45pm Please bring a packed lunch
- * PM session: 12:45-3:45pm

Email: bizzybeespre_school@btconnect.com

Tel: 01234 767785



Bizzy Bees Pre-School CIO
Memorial Hall, Bedford Road
Wootton, MK43 9JB



OUR GROUP

The 1st Wootton (61st Beds.) Scout Group was formed in 1910 under the leadership of Miss Stella Dillon, the daughter of Col. Dillon, then resident at Wootton House. The meetings were held in the Church Rooms which were at the side of the former Wootton vicarage. The first camp was held at Easter 1912, when the troop trekked to North Crawley.

The troop was disbanded at the outbreak of the First World War, and restarted in either 1918 or 1919, only to close again in the 1920's on Miss Dillon marrying Mr. Skinner and moving to Bromham Hall.

Bert Beard who then lived at Wood End is believed to have been the first Patrol Leader and other early members were Hugh Denton, Moses Redman, Sid Crowsley, Ted Cooper, Fred Church, Jim Lunnis, Bob Green, Joe Green, 'Stibby' Bennett, Bill Stafferton, Bill Pateman, Bill Benson, 'Tank' Tysoe and Sam Gilbert.

Nothing further is known of the troop until 'Skip' Coy moved to the village from Kempston in 1936. He had been Scout Master of the '101st' at Kempston and was assisted by Les Egan. Together they re-formed the Wootton troop.

Shortly afterwards they became the proud possessors of their own Headquarters, when the Rev. Squires, the local vicar, loaned the money to purchase a wooden sectional building from a Scout troop at Goldington which had disbanded. This building was erected on Church owned land opposite Mr. Juffs riding stables in Church Road. Within a short time an extension was added, this being paid for by the Rev. Squires.

In 1937 the 1st Wootton Cub Pack was formed under the leadership of 'Pim' Brew, who was assisted by Bill Burraway now of the Black Horse. The pack closed during the war and was restarted by Mrs. Beaumont and Mrs. Peggy Boston.

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ST MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Established 1967

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

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

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

Yoga with Hayley

This term the children have enjoyed taking part in yoga sessions. Yoga has so many benefits for the children, physical development, body awareness, concentration skills, spiritual beliefs and fun.



To make the sessions enjoyable the children have been learning

yoga poses that are based around various animals such as the cat, dog, bee, lion, snake and butterfly. Each session, along with repeating familiar poses the children are introduced to a new pose. The children are becoming animal pose experts and the benefits to yoga are already clear to see.

Robert Burns Day



Lorna told us a story about Robert Burns to help understand the story of his life. We talked about Scottish clothes and we looked at kilts and tartan material. We talked about bagpipes and listened to some bagpipes being played. For snack we had a traditional Burns Supper of haggis, neeps (swedes) and tatties (potatoes!)

Kung Hei Fat Choi!



The Year of the Pig

- We have also been celebrating Chinese New Year. We have been learning about the origins of the traditional story. The

children have been very creative, making lanterns, pig collage, pig finger puppets and iced pig biscuits. We have been listening to Chinese music, learning some Chinese words and songs; and looking at Chinese characters and numbers. We discussed traditional Chinese food and the children used chopsticks to pick up noodles. The children learned that tangerines are a symbol of prosperity; and they all took a tangerine wrapped in red tissue home for good luck and fortune. On Thursday 7th February, the children stayed for a special Chinese dinner of 'sweet and sour chicken, vegetable stir fry and boiled rice'.

Forest School

The preschool weekly Forest School sessions have been very popular with the children. The children have been busy building a bug hotel. They have practised using a bow saw, flint and steel, hacksaw and a hammer. They have enjoyed listening to stories and rhymes around the fire pit while eating freshly cooked popcorn and drinking hot chocolate! They have balanced and walked along a



slack line and relaxed in the hammock. This type of challenging play has helped develop self-confidence, competence, emotional resilience and a sense of independence.

General Information

St Mary's Preschool 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 Preschool supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The Preschool is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Preschool receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care.

If you would like to put your child's name down for a preschool place, or require any further information please phone **Tracey** on **01234 767158**.

Children not eligible for funding – Fees are £3.75 per hour (£11.25 for a 3-hour session).

Children eligible for funding but attending another setting - Children may take sessions at a combination of pre-schools or nurseries, however, for any session where we do not receive funding fees are £3.75 per hour (£11.25 for a 3-hour session).

Term time opening hours:

Mon 9.00 - 12.00
Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00
Thurs 9.00 - 15.00

Wootton Community Centre

Wootton Community Centre has been quietly busy. We now have a committee, which is up and running. Whilst this is very exciting for the whole community, we still have lots of hurdles to jump and need your help! We are looking for further committee members who would like to come and join us with the day-to-day running of the hall.

**Our next meeting is
Tuesday 12th March, 19.00
at the Community Centre.**

We have a small number of provisional regular bookings, which will run whilst we try to iron out any creases. When we are happy that the hall is ready to hire to more groups, you will be the first to know. Please **'like'** our FB page **'Wootton Community Centre'** for ongoing updates.



our email address is:

woottoncommunitycentre@gmail.com

or you can contact us via



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Tang Soo Do



Wootton Village Hall, every Thursday 1830 to 1945

What is Tang Soo Do? Sounds a bit odd, doesn't it? However, if I said karate, you would have a better idea of what I was talking about.

Basically Tang Soo Do (TSD) is Korean Karate, with a history going back some 2000 years. Wootton Tang So Do is part of the Dal Poon Academy, which has had clubs running in Bedfordshire for many years, with the Wootton club being at least 10 years old! TSD promotes self-defence, respect, discipline and self-control and is ideal for all ages and all abilities, with learning at your own pace.

The Wootton club meets every Thursday and is led by Mr Pat Bradley, a 3rd Dan Black Belt with ten years of training under his belt, ably supported by a team of black belts. The class are physically challenging, but remain fun and we are blessed to have a cross section of ages training with us on a weekly basis. Ages range from 6 years old to somewhere over 40, would be impolite to ask the age of some of our ladies, and

as previously stated, there is a range of capabilities across all our students. Maximum effort is required, but we understand that your maximum effort may be different from the rest of the participants and will take that in to consideration.

First class is free, any further class costs between £3.50 to £4 dependent upon age and group discounts apply. Comfortable clothing and a willingness to get your bare feet out is all that is required for the first few weeks, then once you are convinced TSD is for you, we can discuss ordering a uniform, it always makes people stand up a little straighter when they look like all the other participants in the class. If you think it might be for you, or if I have piqued your interest, come along, we will squeeze you in!!

Current class strength is about 25, with a high percentage of Wootton inhabitants. Hope to see you there. Tang Soo!

Wootton Baptist Church



BREXIT, BREXIT, BREXIT!! What are we to make of it? Some say this and some say that. Everyone seems to have a different opinion as to what should happen to our lovely country.

But what does GOD say? Whatever the word BREXIT means, it is not found in the Bible! But there is a lot found about Justice, Righteousness and Goodness in the Bible. It doesn't talk about politics as we know them today. It just talks about how people ought to live in a corrupt world. I expect everyone will recognise that this world and even this country, is corrupt. At one time our Christian heritage ensured that we had just laws, and the equality of all people before the law of the land. If those days are still here, they are passing very quickly.

Can anything be done about it? The Bible talks about things getting worse and worse and that there will be a time when God will make a new earth. That seems impossible to us living in Great Britain. Look what it says in the Bible;

Proverbs: 14: 34. Righteousness exalts a Nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people. **Luke 21: 33.** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.

2 Peter 3: 10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief. The Heavens will disappear with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by fire and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Probably you are a person who belittles the Bible, you may not believe it is the Word of God. There were those in the Old Testament of the Bible who did the same and they were destroyed.

Are we to think that God's Word is totally rubbish? If so, how is it that many of the prophecies have come true and there are many still to be fulfilled. Right from the book of Genesis we see that God made a way of escape from judgement for anyone who would accept the gift of salvation by faith.

In a few weeks we will enjoy a few days holiday at Easter. Probably the most important celebration of anything we do in the Christian Church. It involved the injustice of a kangaroo court and the brutal death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion. The death of a perfect sacrifice was required by a gracious and merciful God. We remember it on Good Friday, but three days later there was Easter Day. Jesus Christ, the sacrificed Saviour had defeated death and was alive again. The Bible tells us that hundreds of people saw Him alive and though many people have tried to dispute the resurrection, none have ever been successful.

I can't see that BREXIT will offer any more to us than what we have now, but God offers us the free gift of salvation from the punishment of sin, by trusting in the sacrifice that He made at Calvary on that first Easter. There is nothing to do, just accept the gift, by faith, in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter. **We have our Easter services on Good Friday at 6.30pm and on Easter Sunday at 10.30am and 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome.**

On behalf of the fellowship
at Wootton Baptist Church,
Rob Stanton



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Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

To be determined

Ongoing

A need for Average Speed Cameras was identified during the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire process by residents. This is currently being investigated with BBC's Highways Department as a project to take forward and will be funded using Community Infrastructure Levy funding and s106 Developer Contributions

Community Centre

Berryfields

Ongoing

The charitable trust is in the process of being formed, following the community centre's transfer into the ownership of the parish council. Any further details regarding bookings and general enquiries should be addressed to the charitable trust at woottoncommunitycentre@gmail.com

Covanta Incinerator

Stewartby parish

Ongoing

It is currently not yet known whether a right of appeal against the Environment Agency's decision to issue a permit will be granted, following the autumn judicial review which rejected claims made against the Environment Agency and Covanta. For fuller information please visit their website: <https://bedsagainstincinerator.wordpress.com/>

Local Plan 2035 (now 2030)

Throughout the village

Ongoing

The Mayor's Executive approved BBC's final Local Plan for submission in December 2018. It must now be examined by the Planning Inspectorate, which could take several months to complete. For fuller details please visit their website: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/local-plan-2030/>

Lorraine Road

Lorraine Road cemetery

Ongoing

Cemetery extension

WPC is ringfencing money annually and will approach the Crown Estate (adjoining landowners) to request it be permitted to purchase an area of land adjacent to the existing cemetery in order to extend it

Marston Vale Innovation Park

Towards the A421

Ongoing

BBC approved the proposal despite WPC's and numerous objections. A Development Liaison Group (consisting of parish councillors and residents) met in September 2018 with representatives from BBC and Goodmans (who will be developing the Innovation Park). The idea is to pass as much information on to residents to keep everyone informed on latest developments. Please check our website and Facebook page for further information

Memorial Hall Play Area resurfacing

Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

2019

WPC wishes to resurface underneath the existing play equipment in order to make it safer and easier to use in bad weather and intends to use Community Infrastructure Levy funding

Neighbourhood Plan

The whole civil parish of Wootton

2019

Findings from the second consultation (entitled Issues & Options) have just been published on WPC's website and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continues to make good progress towards delivering a Neighbourhood Plan that meets resident's wants and needs

Parking restrictions	Several sites within the village	2018
The Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group continues to meet every other month to raise issues (including parking restrictions) for BBC to consider. Residents are welcome to attend those meetings. Minutes to view are available at: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=10434511 (or request a hard copy from the clerk)		

Planters	Bedford Road (opposite the Memorial Hall and Fields Road (near the Berryfields development)	2019
WPC has received the licence paperwork and two further planters will be sited ahead of summer 2019		

Recreation ground emodelling works	Recreation ground	2018
All works are now complete		

Real Time Passenger Information (bus stops)	Locations to be determined	2019
WPC wishes to install electronic real time passenger information at a number of bus stops in the village and intends to use Community Infrastructure Levy funding		

Roads and Pavements	Throughout the village	Ongoing
The Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group continues to meet every other month to raise issues (including parking restrictions) for BBC to consider. Residents are welcome to attend those meetings. Minutes to view are available at: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/files/index?folder_id=10434511 (or request a hard copy from the clerk)		

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 has taken forward a structural engineer report which highlighted the wall's instability in parts. Advice has been sought from Historic England and guidance is now awaited from BBC, as local planning authority		

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. The project has been delayed as BBC have had numerous similar requests from other parish and town councils, so need to agree how best to proceed		

Wootton Village sign(s)	Various locations	2019
The sign on Bedford/Wootton Road has been cleaned up and re-lettered. A flower bed will be added at the front of the sign and planted. Plans for other signs at other locations will then be determined		

Please note this is a brief overview of ongoing/proposed projects and the list is not exhaustive as changes can occur before the next newsletter edition goes to print. For fuller information on these or other projects, please contact the Clerk to the Council.

*** BBC - Bedford Borough Council *WPC - Wootton Parish Council**

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.

Changes to Pension Credit eligibility from 15 May 2019 -

From 15 May 2019, if you're in a couple you'll only be eligible to start getting pension credit if either:

- you and your partner have both reached Pension Credit qualifying age
- one of you has reached Pension Credit qualifying age and is claiming Housing Benefit (for you as a couple)

If you're not already getting Pension Credit on 14 May 2019, you can backdate your claim. You could still be eligible to get Pension Credit.

You can ask for your claim to be backdated to 14 May or before. You'll need to apply by 13 August 2019 to do this.

You can apply for Universal Credit instead if you're still not eligible.

St John's Hospital Trust – a small quarterly payment of £75 can be given to people on a low income who have little or no savings. That's £300 per year. To qualify, you must have lived in Bedford Borough for at least 15 years. Contact Andrea for more details.

Useful items for the over 65s – do you need a personal alarm, kitchen timer or lamp timer? Andrea has a few handy items to give away, but be quick before they all go!



NHS Carer's Grant – if you are an unpaid family carer then you could be entitled to apply for a grant of up to £300 per year to pay for a service, item or activity which helps your health and wellbeing. Carers in Bedfordshire administer the grants and Andrea can assist you in applying.

Foodbank vouchers – if you are struggling to keep yourself fed properly due to a temporary change in income such as a benefits issue, then Andrea can issue a Foodbank voucher to tide you over. Contact her in confidence.

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



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Mob 07712554591**

18 Manor Road, Wootton, Beds.

Shelton Lower School

WE ARE OPEN TO ALL!

We are pleased to confirm that following on from the School Adjudicators decision, Shelton Lower School is OPEN for business for the foreseeable future!

Our school family is as strong as ever. We are very proud of the nurturing values our children develop as being part of this values based school. No one gets left behind at Shelton! New parents and children are welcomed by all at Shelton Lower School, including them in everyday school life from day one.

Each of our year groups can accommodate 15 pupils. Our children receive extra support, or extra challenges, to achieve their full potential. Our teachers work to enhance experiences for all of our children and are adept at identifying and supporting each child (and their parent/carer) in their development, nurturing children and supporting families.

We are inviting families to come and join our wonderful school community. We are the Small School with the Big Heart, and pride ourselves in making school not just about academic achievement but also in helping our young people achieve socially as they grow and develop.

We are located just over a mile from Wootton - just a 5 minute drive, and part of the Wootton Pyramid, with our lower school ultimately feeding into Wootton Upper School, so your children would have a smooth transition to their next stage of education.

The end of 2018 saw the children enjoy the Pantomime at MK theatre. The songs are still being sung!

They also enjoyed other enrichment activities such as African Drumming, History off the Page and a visit from OSCAR and the Birds of Prey.

For 2019, children have been enjoying swimming lessons as part of their weekly curriculum, at Flitwick Leisure Centre - their team aiding the childrens skills, confidence and safety in the water. Children have also been enjoying lunchtime club Multisports with TSS, and have just enjoyed their end of term party, with an afternoon of games, multisports and street dance - each child awarded a certificate and medal for their efforts.

Our school has a CPRE award 2018 Forest School on-site, accessible weekly to all children. Forest School provides an enhanced educational experience in a 'hands on' manner, encouraging children to develop their self-esteem, confidence, and a questioning approach, along with an appreciation of nature, in a fun, positive and safe way. Forest School is a wonderful addition to our offering, promoting wellbeing and mindfulness.

Coming up is the first Movie Night of 2019 - a Valentine special with popcorn and hotdogs to sustain the avid viewers! In the upcoming warmer months we will once again be hosting our Easter Egg hunt and Fete, open to the wider community, then our Summer Fete for all to enjoy.

To arrange a visit to Shelton Lower School please contact the School office.

Call us on **01234 768269**
or email: **sheltonoffice@sheltonandsouthillschool.co.uk**

To view our prospectus please visit the school website -

www.sheltonandsouthillschool.co.uk

Our full Ofsted report is available from:
<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/2619157>



Shelton Lower School

The small school



with the BIG heart

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Wootton's 2018 Poppy Appeal collection:

The 2018 Poppy Appeal here in Wootton was again a resounding success. The Gazebo in Fields Road which was trialled due to 'No calling' @ door to door has proven to be a great community spot, raising much needed revenue for this very worthy cause.

The WI worked very hard in bringing the community together, by holding workshops whereby young and old could make their 'own' poppies. The finished articles were reflected by the superb display of poppies in and around the village.

Wootton Upper School held two functions and kindly donated the money to the 'The Poppy Appeal'. All in all the residents of Wootton should be very proud of their efforts.

Therefore, grateful thanks and appreciation should also be extended to the following, who, between them helped to raise the excellent **total of £9,534:50**.

Mesdames: C.J.Ashpole, L.Burraway, T-ABurraway, S.Chapillon, N.Draper, S.Gould, A.Hudson, L.Hutchings, J.Lambert, C.Mason, V.Minney, Mrs Minns, M.Murray, G.Robinson, A.Stapleton, D.Sullivan, E.Sullivan, R.Syson, J.Thorpe,

Messrs: M.R.Ashpole, H.Bajra. P.Birkett, R.Keech

Business' - Argos Distribution, Blue Cross F.C, Chemist, Chequers Inn, Club 2000 Bingo, Cock Inn, Corner 5 Restaurant, Co-Part Stewartby, Cranfield Thursday Break Room 29, Dr's Healthy Living, Fox & Duck, Garage, Kempston Post Office, Legstraps, Library,



St.Johns School, St.Marys Playgroup, Kimberley College, Methodist Church Knit and Natter, One Stop Shop, Only You Hair & Beauty Salon, St Mary's Church, Wootton Post Office, Stewartby Church/Club/Common Room, The Open University, Women's Institute, Wootton Lower (Bedford Road, Harris Way) and Wootton Upper School.

Many thanks again to all concerned.

Chris Ashpole

The RBL Poppy Organiser
(07865 051 453)



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ATTEND OR CANCEL!

Are you annoyed when you can't get an appointment at the surgery?

Isn't it annoying when you have waited in all day for a tradesperson who doesn't show up? This is how a doctor must feel when his patient doesn't show up!

We at the PPG are determined to help but we need you, the patient, to help us. Every appointment missed is a slot going to waste, this in turn costs thousands of pounds a year that our surgery has to pay out in doctor's salaries for them to sit waiting when they could be seeing you. On average 170 appointments a month are 'did not attends' (DNA's) this equates to a lot of man hours or to put it bluntly 170 patients that could have been seen more quickly.

Every now and then there is a flurry of activity on Facebook regarding appointments at the surgery. Usually this is because an appointment hasn't been available to suit the person commenting, but maybe it's because appointments have been made then the patient does not turn up, therefore the slots look full but actually the doctor is waiting in case the person is a few minutes late.

It has been known on several occasions that people make urgent access appointments then fail to show up. A doctor is booked out for the day to run the urgent access

appointments then is left sitting there.

If you make a routine appointment, usually a three week wait, then you don't turn up, despite text reminders from the surgery. That appointment is wasted, and the doctor is left sitting waiting.

Please remember to cancel your appointment, if you can't attend, then that time slot can be released to accommodate another patient.

We desperately need ideas on how to help the surgery in reducing the numbers of 'did not attend'. Through a poll taken at a FunDay a few years ago we were able to show that a text reminder system was needed. This was implemented and reduced numbers for a while, but they have crept up again. The surgery can't charge for missed appointments as it is against the ethos of the NHS being free at point of access but if you work out how many man hours a month is lost by DNA's it often equates to a week's worth of doctor time. We are fortunate that our surgery offers more appointment slots available than is required within the NHS guidelines. If you have an amazing suggestion, email it to us or come to our meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm at the surgery, to discuss it. We would welcome you with open arms.

The PPG and the surgery do appreciate how frustrating it is to not be able to get appointments easily. The extended hours service has been brought in across the county in a bid to help working persons access a doctor outside normal surgery hours. It does mean you may have to travel to another surgery in Bedford, but that doctor will be able to access your records to know how to treat you and at least you get to see a doctor more quickly.

So, our message is **please attend your appointment or cancel if you can't keep it!**

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Latest news

We have started a regular **craft session every Saturday** (11.00am – 12.30pm) come and join in the fun!

Looking Ahead –

We have **Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns** being served in the library on **Friday 12th April** between 2.00pm – 4.30pm, bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon chatting in the library.

Early May sees our 100th meeting of **Are You Sitting Comfortably?** And Tea at 3.00pm why not come along and join in! Listen to a great story, make new friends and enjoy a cup of tea.

We have some fun crafts planned for the Easter and May Half Term holidays:

APRIL 2019

6th April	11.00am – 12.30pm Butterfly Colour in Pull Back Racers
8th April	2.00pm – 4.30pm Butterfly Colour in Pull Back Racers
9th April	10.00am – 11.30am Easter Bookmark
10th April	2.00pm – 4.30pm Easter Bookmark
11th April	10.00am – 11.30am Easter Cards
12th April	2.00pm – 4.30pm Easter Cards
13th April	11.00am – 12.30pm Easter Masks
15th April	2.00pm – 4.30pm Easter Masks
16th April	10.00am – 11.30am Flower Sheep Craft
17th April	2.00pm – 4.30pm Flower Sheep Craft
18th April	10.00am – 11.30am Bear Hunt Story Craft
	10.30am – 10.50am Teddy Bear Picnic Storytime
20th April	11.00am – 12.30pm Bear Hunt Story Craft
23rd April	10.00am – 11.30am Honeycomb Colour in Flower Decoration
24rd April	2.00pm – 4.30pm Honeycomb Colour in Flower Decoration and Colouring



MAY 2019

25th May	11.00am – 12.30pm Bug Colour in Crowns
28th May	10.00am – 11.30am Bug Colour in Crowns
29th May	2.00pm – 4.30pm Caterpillar Bookmark
30th May	10.00am – 11.30am Caterpillar Bookmark
31st May	2.00pm – 4.30pm Honeycomb Colour in Bugs
1st June	11.00am – 12.30pm Honeycomb Colour in Bugs



Don't Forget our Regular Events:

Wednesdays	(2:30pm-3:30pm) – Are You Sitting Comfortably? And tea at 3:00pm
Thursdays	(10.30am-11.30am) Crafty Thursday for Adults
Fridays	(2:00pm – 3:00pm) – Knit and Natter
1st Saturday of each month	(11.00am-12 noon) Councillor Surgery

Bedford Borough Libraries

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And for the children:
Funtime for the Under 5s
Mondays (2:30pm - 2:50pm)



Colouring Club
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Saturdays (11.00am-12:30pm)

Storytime with Ted
Thursdays (10.30am -10.50am)



Lego Club
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (3:45pm - 4:45pm)
Saturdays (11.00am - 12:30pm)

Baby Fun-Time (for 0-18mths), Tuesdays (10:15am -10.45am)

Super Saturday Crafts/Jigsaw/Lego Club – Saturdays (11:00am – 12:30pm)

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'Are you sitting comfortably?..... then I'll begin!'

Our friendly reading group has been meeting once a week since April 2017.
We shall have our 100th gathering in a few months' time.

We look
forward to
welcoming you
at the library

We meet every Wednesday at Wootton library, from 2:30 to 3:30pm.

Why not come and join us? It's absolutely free, and you'll have:-



- A short story read to you by Colin, our group leader.
- Refreshments served by the library staff half-way through.
- The companionship of a lovely group of other members.
- There is no commitment to attending at all - each story is complete, so it doesn't matter if you miss a weekly meeting here or there.

Come along and join in - we think you'll really enjoy being part of our group.

PAT-A-CAKE

Parents Carers Toddler Group

Thursdays
1:30pm-3:00pm

Games Crafts Activities
Tea and Cake Outside Play



Wootton New Life Church
Cause End Road Wootton
www.woottonnewlife.org.uk

WOOTTON NEW LIFE CHURCH
Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9DE
woottonnewlife.org.uk

EASTER 2019

Come and join us this Easter

EASTER PARADE

Fun & games for all the family, Easter bonnet competition & tea.
To book search 'Wootton Easter Parade' on eventbrite.co.uk
Monday 15th April 3.00pm – 5.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

A quiet reflective service for Good Friday
Friday 19th April 11.00am

EASTER SUNDAY

Family service with Holy Communion followed by an Easter
Egg Hunt
Sunday 21st April 10.30am

Knowing Jesus; Making Jesus Known to all

is the heartbeat of St Mary's.

Sunday Services

9am Common Worship Service
10.30am Morning Service - including young people's groups.

Encompass

Monthly on Thursdays
3.45pm Church Hall
28 Feb, Mar 28.

Christianity Explored

Regular groups;
see our website.

Pathfinders (ages 9-13)

Weds 7pm term time
Church Hall.

J.A.M (ages 14-18)

Sundays 7.15pm term time
at the Church Hall

Wrigglers Parent/toddler group. Every Monday in term time 9.30am 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 Feb, 11 Mar.

Rev'd Peter Ackroyd:
768391
Church Office: 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk



Lunch Club For the 50's and over.

Most 2nd Mondays in the month 1pm at St. Mary's Church Hall (MK43 9HB). Hot meal, new friends and an after lunch speaker or activity. Contact Norma for more details (768462)

Summer Holiday Club



Tues 20 – Fri 23 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 31 March

Easter Services



Palm Sunday	10.30am	Sunday 14 April
Good Friday	10.30am	Family Service
19 April	2pm	An Hour at the Cross
Easter Day	6am	Sunrise Service
21 April		(Hall End Rd)
	10.30am	Family Communion

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



2019 heralds the start of an important year in the life of Wootton WI, because in August 1919 our WI was formed. It seems incredible that Wootton ladies have been coming together for the purpose of friendship, education and building new skills for 100 years. Indeed, the minutes of one of the earlier meetings describe how to turn the heel of a sock. Not a skill many may want to learn today!

However, following the success of programmes such as Great British Bake Off and the Great British Sewing Bee a lot of new members want to learn these homemaking skills. We try to offer something along these lines with our talks and dabble evenings plus a membership can open up the opportunity to attend workshops at WI House in Bedford or go on learning breaks at Denman College in Oxfordshire for more in-depth learning. Twice a year we go to meetings organised by the Bedfordshire Federation where all the Bedfordshire WI's are invited to attend. At these we can listen to well-known personalities talk about their life experiences. We have been lucky to hear the likes of Michael Portillo, Edwina Currie, Adam Henson from Countryfile and Jeremy Spake from Airport, who volunteered to draw raffle tickets then announced the winning numbers in Russian great fun but nobody had a clue what was happening including Jeremy!

We are not just a bunch of ladies from the village that belong to a 'club' but are part of a wider family that can give you as much or as little as you want to experience.



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.



March 20th - Dabble Evening

This is a social evening with several different crafts on offer to try.

April 17th – Annual Meeting

Tonight we have a round up of all the things we have done over the previous twelve months.

Members vote on nominations for committee and or a new president.

May 15th

- Come and try your hand at a different form of Bingo... Handbag Bingo! Fill your handbags with lots of different items, yes more than normal, as you never know what might be called out to fill your bingo card.

All visitors welcome at a cost of £4pp including a cuppa and a biscuit or cake if you are lucky!

Meetings start at 7-30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Memories of WW2

On the eve of the outbreak of WW2, the young people of the village were enjoying themselves at the annual fair held in the paddock behind the Cock Inn. During the 'phoney war' no shortages were evident, although the blackout was in use and preparations were in hand. At this time the London Brick Company was working on experimental bomb shelters in Field 99, between Stewartby and Marston Moretaine. These shelters would be built up and blown down. Villagers did secret work in the Coronation Works by Chimney Corner, filling bombs and shells with explosives and manufacturing smoke blocks to be burnt for camouflage. Special Constables and ARP Wardens came into being, assisted by Fire Watchers.

The Home Guard After Dunkirk the Local Defence Volunteer Unit, Wootton Branch was formed. Eventually the LDVU became the Home Guard. Initially, and contrary to 'Dad's Army' image, the Home Guard consisted of men aged 19 to 25. When call-up age was reduced and men aged about 20-25 years of age entered the forces, older people joined the Home Guard. Occasionally scuffles would break out between the Canadians, billeted in one of the fields in Hall End Road and the Home Guard. Three incidents which do conjure up images from the TV series of 'Dad's Army' are: The Home Guard used the Memorial Hall as a makeshift rifle range. One evening, believing they had placed enough protection around the interior of the building to prevent .22 bullets penetrating the wall, they began shooting. Ray Beard, walking along the road, noticed a shower of bullets leaving the Hall and entering the road! The patch was still visible until the Hall's makeover. Nobby Lowe related how, on one training exercise, he was instructed to defend a plate layer's hut alongside the railway line near Stewartby. Climbing a nearby tree, he hurled bricks on the 'attacking' Canadian Infantry, later



claiming the bricks simulated grenades. During an exercise between Wootton and Kempston a cowman, working on a local farm, was excused manoeuvres as he had cows to milk. The cows just happened to be in a field in Kempston enabling the cowman to report on the 'enemy's' position.

Evacuees One Saturday night following the outbreak of war evacuees arrived in Wootton, only they were not supposed to be here – they should have gone to Clapham. These were mums and babies instead of the expected children. Children from the Willesden area of London stayed in a house in Keeley Lane and in one of the bungalows converted from the lace factory in Bedford Road. The majority of the evacuees thought they had come to the 'back of beyond'. For some it was too much and they returned to London the next day, getting a lift to the railway station with Mr Boyles in the coal lorry. School half-term was initiated for potato picking. Children often spent half-days in school if there was insufficient room for all – half-days for local children and half-days for the evacuees. Airmen from Cranfield were the next group to be billeted in Wootton and Wootton Road, around the Iron Gate Corner area, (first bend from the Wootton sign towards Kempston).

Viv Minney



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Wootton Country Players

Coming next...



March 28th, 29th and 30th - ticket only event, £10 including a glass of "fizz" or a soft drink on arrival.

An evening of song, dance, tears and laughter.

'Girls Night' is a comedy set in Bab's 80's karaoke night club, a wild, joyous tearful evening unfolds with the girls.

Sharon's daughter Candi-Rose is getting married, Sharon has joined her friends on a celebration night out and the fact that Sharon has been dead for 20 years isn't going to spoil her enjoyment one bit!!

***Advance Booking Only**

Visit: <http://www.countryplayers.org.uk> or Online with Ticket Source: <http://goo.gl/Xbhkqc>



My Future Plans

This is a service for people with dementia and their carers living in Bedford Borough to support with advance care planning. It includes thinking about your wishes and care preferences for a time in the future when you are unable to make those decisions. This one-to-one service provides support and discussions that will help you to feel you have increased confidence in planning for your own future.

Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered charity number 296645

Get in touch today to find out more

Call us on:

01234 327 380

Email us on:

Sam.marshall@alzheimers.org.uk



Interested In Railway Modelling !



Then Why Not Join A Club Our Club !

We Meet Every Wednesday, 7:30PM TO 10:00 PM, at OUR NEW PREMISES [Kempston East Methodist Church 227 Bedford Road, Kempston Bedfordshire MK42 8DA](#) (Entrance Via Foster Road), We are a friendly group of model railway modellers & enthusiasts who always welcome old & new members both male & female .

Our Facilities include:

- A large test track for N gauge , 00 gauge and O gauge
- A small exhibition layout South dale which featured in Railway Modeller
- Our large 00 gauge exhibition layout is based on Bedford Shed
- Our N gauge layout is based on Ridgmont station on the Bedford to Bletchley line
- A kitchen area for refreshments
- Disabled Access & Toilet facilities

For more Information Contact :

Martin Truscott (Secretary) : 07989965172, martintruscott@gmail.com



Wootton Upper School

Phone 01234 767123

Email wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk

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



Applications for places at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College

Both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College have been very busy going through applications for places at the school and college for September 2019. The college had over 400 applications by the deadline and Wootton had 270 applications for Year 9, as of 1st March, very similar to 2018. If any family has recently moved into the village, please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to make an application for a place, as the last few remaining places are likely to be filled by families outside of the catchment area requesting places.

Parents of children in Year 8 who have been offered places should have received letters from the school in early March, outlining the transfer process.

Forthcoming Arts Events

We have our Spring Term concert at Wootton Upper School on Wednesday 27th March starting at 7:30pm. This will be the last concert of the academic year at the school and therefore, we will be bidding farewell to all of the Year 13 students who have provided such fantastic support and commitment to the Music Department over the last five years. Please do contact the school if you would like to attend the concert.

Kimberley College will host its own Spring Term Arts Festival on Friday 29th March, where students from a range of arts disciplines will be showcasing their talent. On Wednesday 26th June we are hosting our Fiddle Fiesta in the Theatre Hall when children from all the local lower schools, Marston Vale Middle School, Holywell School, Wootton Upper School and

Kimberley College will come together for this annual event where string players from Year 1 to Year 13 perform together. This concert starts at 6:30pm.

Retirement of Mr Nigel Spratt

At the end of April, Mr Nigel Spratt retires from our Student Centre. Over the last 11 years Mr Spratt has provided support to lots of different young people, and for many of them, he was the most important member of staff in their lives. We will be wishing Mr Spratt a very happy retirement nearer the time. If any former pupils wish to get in touch with him or send him a card, they would be most welcome to do so.

GCSE and A Level Exams

GCSE and A level exams start in earnest when the school and college return after the Easter holiday on St George's Day, Tuesday 23rd April. We wish all of our pupils every success in their summer examinations and are confident there will be lots of happy young people when the results are published in August.

Pupil Success

Wootton Upper School pupil, Sophie Beckett, has passed a selection trial for entry into the Loughborough Lightning Netball Academy Under-17 England Pathway. Sophie was also offered a place at the WASP Academy but chose to join Loughborough.



Sophie Beckett,
Year 10

Loughborough Academy's aim is to find and grow competitive players and coaches with the aspirations and ability to compete at an elite level. Those selected for the Under-17 England Pathway are coached and may then be selected to play for their Under-17 netball squad.

The Loughborough Lightning adult team is the number one Netball Super League

side in the East Midlands, competing in the Vitality Super League.

In the past two years the adult team have made it to two consecutive Grand Finals, topping the table in 2017 and being crowned British Fast5 All Star Champions.

Michael Gleeson,
Executive Principal

Poem The Bridge



It was March the sixth, on a Friday night The night that the boat went down.
And some were saved from that ocean grave but over a hundred drowned.
And men and women found strength to give what none of them knew they had
And all of us cried for those who died and the nation's heart was sad.
Though many were brave as they sought to save There was one gave special heed;
He alone, all sixteen stone fulfilled a desperate need.
Between two girders he stretched himself so formed a human road
And Andrew Parker became the bridge which was able to bear the load.
The night was black but broad was the back and stout was the heart as he
Again and again took on the strain to set those people free.
And but for the span made by this still more lives would have been lost -
The need was seen for a go-between and so over his back they crossed.

And then I saw how once before another escape was made
A bridge for all mankind to use for none of us make the grade.
A man on a tree at Calvary a bridge which was made of wood
Spanning the space with Heavenly Grace by the only means which could.
As Andrew Parker became a bridge to save men from the sea
So Jesus Christ stretched out his arms to rescue you and me.
And one's name may go down in history after he's dead and gone.
But the other one lives for ever more as the bridge which goes on and on.
For try as men may to find the way with platitudes and deeds
The bridge which was built when blood was spilt is the one to fulfil our needs;
And unless I can see it is there for me then the chasm remains uncrossed
And a soul unforgiven this side of Heaven Will remain forever lost.

Ferry disaster, Zeebrugge, March 1987

© Rebecca Cook

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

**SPRING
CONCERT**

Tickets:

Adults £5.00

Concessions £3.00

**School Theatre Hall,
7.30 p.m.**

Venue:

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

School Box Office: 01234 767123

Wednesday 27th March, 2019