

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

WINTER EDITION

DECEMBER 2020



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Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Jenny Lambert: 767 488

Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

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Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings

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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

Juliet Wright: 07590 449815

St Mary's Church

Canon Peter Ackroyd: 768 391

Church Hall: 767 158

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Kath Pawlett: 918 328

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 - Naomi: 07722 876252

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: 07753 811 910

Bowls Monday - Viv: 855 383

Bowls Thursday - Rena: 768 012

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Brownies Wednesday - Becky: 07876 766050

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Marston Vale Forest School: 07811 087 322

Royal British Legion Wootton Poppy Appeal

Organiser - Chris: 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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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 Lloyd at wootton_news@wootton-pc.gov.uk by the copydate. Advertisements are usually half page (£30 for black and white, or colour). If you wish to advertise then please send your details to the editor. The advertisements are taken in good faith and we cannot accept any responsibility for bad service or workmanship received.

Next Issue: March 2021

Copy Date: February 2021

The Wootton News can be read online at:
www.wootton-pc.gov.uk

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

clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk
or call on 07531 930 788

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



New Councillor

I would like to welcome Denton Mapesa as the newest member of the parish council. Denton is our first councillor from the Berry Wood/The Kilns development (originally known as Fields Road South). Parish councillors are volunteers who live in the parish and if anyone is interested in becoming a councillor (we currently have three vacancies), please contact the clerk.

Average Speed Cameras

As many of you will have noticed, Average Speed Cameras have now been installed along Fields Road. We will be monitoring the success of these cameras before installing other cameras around Wootton. I am pleased at the many positive comments we have received about installing these cameras, which were financed using developer contributions not public funding. We hope they will keep Wootton's roads safe.

Amazon HGVs

Wootton has been made a 7.5 Tonne limit village, but until Bedford Borough Council install the signage, it cannot be enforced. Residents have asked why the signage before the bridge on Fields Road was covered up. Those signs were incorrectly installed by the Highways Agency when the bridge was erected – the bridge is actually designed to take vehicles over 40 Tonnes. The 7.5 Tonnes limit is to stop

vehicles travelling through the village and/or using it as a rat run, but it does not apply to deliveries or collections within the village. We are working with Amazon, Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to get signage installed on Ridge Road and the Marston Moreteyne/A421 Junction. Amazon have been working hard to prevent vehicles from travelling through the village, but it is down to BBC and CBC to install the signage.

Neighbourhood Plan

Well there has been a lot of misleading information being bounced around about the Neighbourhood Plan so I will try and give a basic but factually correct explanation.

The Local Plan

The Borough Council's Local Plan started out as the 2030 Local Plan, then became the 2032 Local Plan then 2035 Local Plan. Unfortunately for Bedford Borough Council, central government increased the number of houses that Bedford Borough Council had to build per year. As a result, the Local Plan period was altered to 2030 and submitted to central government as the Local Plan 2030. The government accepted the plan but informed Bedford Borough Council it had to start work immediately on its 2040 Local Plan. Any update to Local Plan 2030 or a new plan had to be submitted for examination within three years of the adoption of Local Plan 2030 (i.e. January 2023).

Useful Numbers

Fly tipping	Police non-emergency number
01234 267422	101
Anti-Social behaviour	Noise complaints
01234 276037 & 101	01234 227266

Why have a Neighbourhood Plan?

This Neighbourhood Plan gives us a chance to control what development happens within the village.

How can this work?

Here is an example of a policy. This policy is not in our neighbourhood plan but helps explain the process. If the 2030 Local Plan included a policy that stated every 3 bedroom and larger dwelling must have a minimum of two parking spaces - our Neighbourhood Plan cannot go against that policy and state a minimum of one parking space. It can however, influence that policy and request sufficient parking be provided to meet the assessed need. Once made, the Neighbourhood Plan and its policies will carry full weight in the consideration of planning applications in the parish.

So, what policies does our Neighbourhood Plan hope to deliver?

Feedback from the Housing Needs Survey (2017) carried out by an independent organisation (Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity) stated a wish for low density sites and smaller two/three-bedroom dwellings – either starter homes or for those looking to downsize.

How does that help us?

Most developers want to develop high density sites with larger four/five bedroom dwellings in order to maximise profits. Any developer can buy a one-hectare site in Wootton or a one-hectare site elsewhere in the borough for the same price. The Wootton site would have half the number of smaller-sized dwellings – meaning smaller profits. In that scenario – which site would be most likely developed?

The Neighbourhood Plan Process

We contacted all landowners in Wootton to see who may be willing to sell their land for development, and we also conducted a Housing Needs Survey. When the results from the Housing Needs Survey were

known, the landowners were contacted again and informed of the survey results. All larger sites pulled out and we were then left with smaller sites who were willing to reduce their original plans.

So, what happens next?

Once the results from the latest consultation have been reviewed and the Neighbourhood Plan amended if necessary, the Neighbourhood Plan and evidence base will be sent to an Independent Examiner. The examiner, who thoroughly understands the neighbourhood planning process, will go through both the evidence and the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it is lawful and robust. This process is carried out objectively and independently of the parish council and associated planning professionals. The final stage is a referendum for the people within the parish, to vote to support or reject the plan.

After the vote

If more than 50 per cent of people voting in the referendum support the plan then Bedford Borough Council must bring it into force. The Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory development plan for the area. Developers who own the allocated sites in the Neighbourhood Plan can then produce plans and make their formal planning application submissions to Bedford Borough Council for their determination – as happened with all development to date. The Crown Estate has also agreed to hand over a large amount of green space to the parish council for us to look after, see the map on the next page.

If the majority of votes disagree with the plan, then the parish council will have no control over development and Bedford Borough Council will have total control on determining the number of dwellings that can be built on each site.

Data Collection

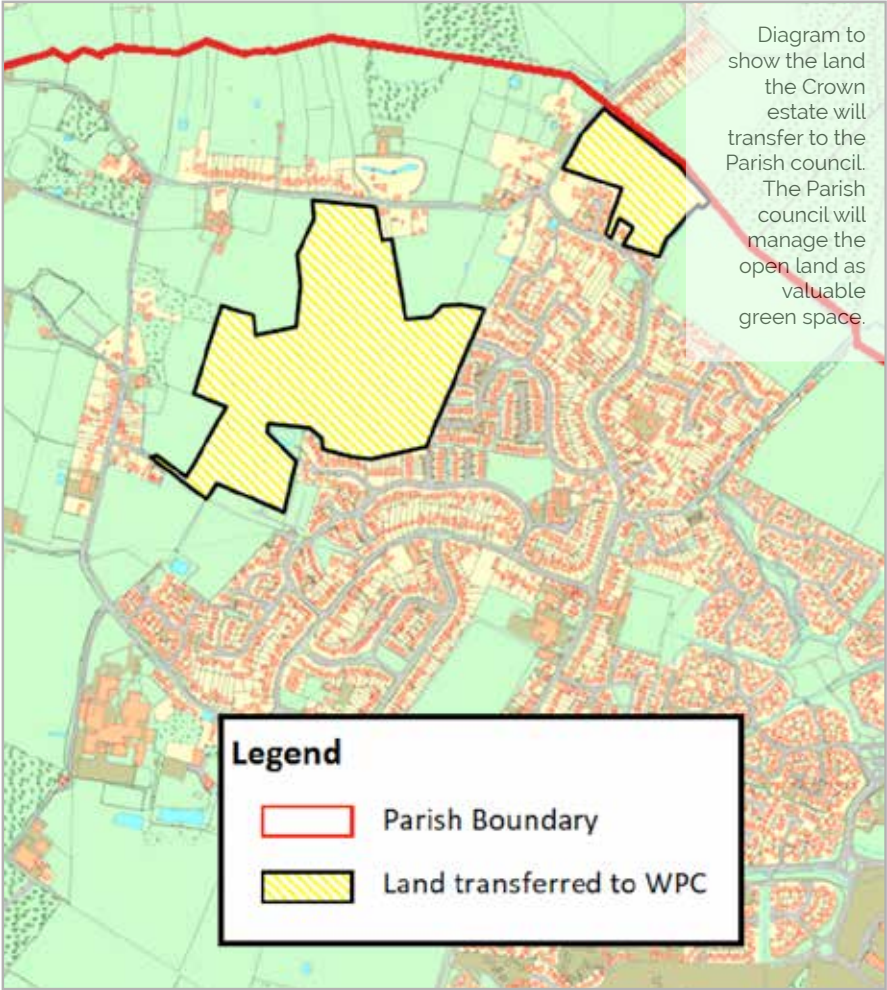
Before anyone in the "Trump administration"

states the data is corrupt or fake, the parish council outsourced this part of the process to Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC). BRCC printed all questionnaires and created the online surveys. They organised delivery of the questionnaires to all households within the parish. Completed surveys were returned to BRCC and they also inputted all paper data received before providing the parish council with the final data.

Summary

We have been open and transparent

throughout the entire Neighbourhood Plan process. We have followed the guidelines set out in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. We have given everyone from the parish, (including landowners) the same opportunity to put their views forward. It may not be popular, but landowners do have the right to sell their land and many have again put forward their land as part of the latest Call for Sites process. Our Neighbourhood Plan is trying to ensure future development meets as identified from the Housing Needs Survey findings. We hope the majority of you will continue to support us.



Clerk to the Council's Report *Sue Edgar Playford*



clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk
07531 930 788

It's fair to say 2020 did not deliver as we had hoped at the beginning of the year. The parish council took the decision not to produce a newsletter in June for this reason, and substituted September's edition with its annual report. Back to business for December however, and to those of you who contacted me to say how much it was missed – thank you.

The parish council has now also opened both **play areas** at Bedford Road (Memorial Hall) and Church Road (Recreation Ground). Signage is in place asking users to adhere to current government guidelines – please note whilst the equipment is regularly checked for damage, it is not sanitised.

We now have a **third defibrillator** in place at the new pharmacy on Folkes Road. Thank you to Chris Maher and Lewis Payne for their efforts in getting the unit in place and up and running and thank you to the pharmacy for allowing it to be installed on their premises.

I would like to formally welcome **Denton Mapesa** as our latest parish council member and look forward to working with him. If you would like to know more about becoming a parish councillor do let me know. We currently have three vacancies.

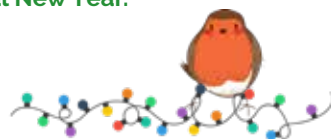
Are you a member of an organisation or do you know an organisation in Wootton who could make use of our grants scheme?

The scheme can make a contribution (maximum £1,000) to organisations that meet policy criteria. If you would like to learn more please visit: **<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/policies-and-procedures/>**. An application form can be downloaded from there also, or if you would prefer paper copies, please contact me.

You may be aware, the parish council has changed its website and email addresses. Please check our contents page and also the information at the bottom of each page.

Covid-19 restrictions meant it was not possible to hold the annual Christmas tree lights switch on, but we hope you enjoy the lights nonetheless.

A Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.



Wootton Parish Council

Office Location:

Wootton Community Centre,
Harris Way, MK43 9FZ

Office Hours:

Currently closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Dates for your Diary 2020

JANUARY

13th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
13th	Full Council	7.30pm
20th	Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
20th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm
27th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
27th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
27th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

10th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
10th	Full Council	7.30pm
17th	Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
17th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm
31st	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
31st	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
31st	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

All meetings are currently held remotely, via zoom.
For further details please either visit the website or contact the clerk.

Please check with the clerk in case of any cancellations or changes to timings.

Our noticeboards can found at;

Bedford Road - opposite the Cock Inn PH
Bedford Road - outside Wootton Lower School
Bedford Road - outside Manor Road Flats
Bedford Road - outside the Memorial Hall
Hall End - adjacent to the post box

www.wootton-pc.gov.uk/agenda/



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search 'Cllr John Wheeler'

Dear all,

When I wrote my last report for the Spring edition of the Wootton News I never imagined what the rest of this year was going to have in store for us and the rest of the world. We have had a second lock down and I would imagine by the time you read this we may be in a Tier of some description. As we head towards the end of the year, we will always remember 2020 as having been distinctly odd. Since March we've found ourselves in the midst of a global health pandemic that has placed all kinds of restrictions and impositions on our daily lives; not going out; wearing face masks and gloves; no shaking hands; standing 2m apart; queuing outside supermarkets for sanitised trollies; working from home; and vastly reduced socialising in pubs and restaurants.

Christmas is likely to be no different. Usually a time spent with family, a very significant date for Christmas, for others a chance to relax after a busy year, we are likely to be out of lockdown, but still with limits on how we interact, unable to meet in large groups. However, Christmas is also a time of hope. As we look to 2021, we hope for a better year, with the possibility held out of a vaccine that can protect us and allow us to try and return to a more normal life. I am having

regular COVID-19 meetings and have been putting weekly updates on my Facebook page and informing Wootton Parish Council and the schools. I would like to thank all the residents of Wootton who have helped in so many ways over this terrible time from NHS staff, front line workers, schools, local charities, churches, volunteers, clubs and individuals who have gone out of their way to help others in need. This year I have given most of my **Ward funds** to the two Wootton schools to help Wootton family's regarding COVID-19 from helping towards the cost of school uniforms, food, laptops, at home schooling and extra learning help. Christmas this year is going to be strange with many of the annual Wootton events having to be cancelled, however the Christmas tree is up along with the lights around the village and I know the churches are trying to do virtual events over this period.

We did manage to have a shortened **Remembrance Day** service this year by the war memorial and a big thank you to Wootton Upper School's media department for filming the event which was put on YouTube. Also a thank you must go to Wootton Parish Council for arranging the event along with Canon Peter Ackroyd.



Highways update:

Cause End Road has had surface drains and water pipes replaced and the footpath has been widened at the Church Road junction. The road is due to be resurfaced in February 2021. The pavements in Tithe Barn Road have been completed and Hall End and Keeley Lane have been put forward for completion by Bedford Borough Council next year. The crossing by the Lower School on Harris Way has finally been completed and the crossing on Fields Road by the surgery is still going

ahead this financial year. Average Speed cameras have been installed on Fields Road and data from these will be used to push for installation on other sites in the village. As of 6th November 2020, Wootton is now a 7.5 tonnes restricted area (except for deliveries) - we are waiting on Bedford Borough Council installing the relevant signage. We have had issues with HGV's coming into the village to deliver to Amazon. I have been working with the parish council, Goodmans (landlords), Amazon and Bedford Borough Council's Highways Department to get this resolved. If you are experiencing issues with this, please send your concerns to Bedford Borough Council on Highways.Helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk.

Here are a few borough council pieces of information that may be of interest to you:

- As you may know, developers appealed against Bedford Borough Council's decision to refuse planning permission for up to 81 dwellings at Hall End (adjacent to Wootton Upper School). That appeal was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate, however the developers have now taken that dismissal to the Planning Court and are continuing to contest the decision. This means a further review further appeal will be held in 2021. I will of course keep you posted once I hear further news.

- In a recent Planning committee, Jon Shortland who is the Chief Officer for Planning admitted that the department was "keeping our heads above water." He also said: "I thought the committee might find it interesting that figures were released by the Government this week looking at the performance of all 353 councils. We are currently ranked at 337th". Though we were left disappointed by this revelation, it is not a surprise and we are in constant contact with the planning department to see what can be done to improve their services.

- Bedford Borough Council's online

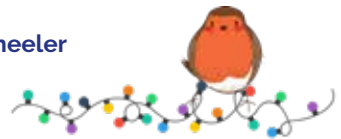
admissions system is now open to all parents and carers whose children are due to transfer to secondary or upper school in September 2021. For parents who have a child due to transfer to middle school in September 2021, the transfer to middle school application form will go live from 26 September 2020 until 15 January 2021. For children starting school in September 2021 (date of birth between 1 September 2016 – 31 August 2017), applications will open 26 September 2020 and will close 15 January 2021. For further information go to www.bedford.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

- Bedford Hospital has now allowed partners at 11-14wk as well as 20wk pregnancy scans. They are also allowed to attend the delivery suite. Whilst this is a good change we are hoping that they can be further persuaded to bring policy in line with national guidelines.

However you spend your Christmas this year, whether it's a special meaningful time for you, or you just want the chance to relax and wind down, my very best wishes and I hope you all have a nice Christmas. Let's hope for a better 2021.

Keep safe

Regards
Cllr John Wheeler



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It has been another busy term at St Mary's Preschool. We have been learning about hedgehogs and hibernation. The children made fir cone hedgehogs and listened to the story of Isaac the Wide-Awake Hedgehog whilst sitting around the campfire in our Forest School. The children collected leaves to make prickly collage hedgehogs.

The children made poppies to mark **Remembrance Day**. This year we discussed the topic with them to help them understand why we wear poppies, and why we mark this important occasion with a two-minute silence.

Even though most of us may not see any fireworks this year, it would not be the Autumn term without creating some of our own. The children had a lot of fun expressing their imagination and creativity making firework pictures. They also made a 'Guy Fawkes' and the children watched him burn on the fire-pit in the preschool garden, while drinking hot chocolate. They used words which described the sounds fireworks make – such as whoosh and bang. The preschool ladies lit some sparklers; and we talked about fire safety and how to keep safe.

We celebrated **Diwali**, the Hindu Festival of Light. The children took part in a variety of Diwali-themed craft activities, such as making clay diya lamps, rangoli patterns, firework pictures and listened to a traditional Diwali story. The emphasis of the story was about being kind and helping each other. Having a Diwali-themed week has introduced the children to different religions and cultures.



We have been exploring and learning about fungi in our **forest school** area in the garden. The children grew some mushrooms. It was so much fun watching the mushrooms grow from a tangled mass of mycelium to a mushroom. When the mushrooms had grown the children picked them and stayed for a full English breakfast of eggs, sausage, bacon, baked beans and mushrooms. It was delicious!



On **Children in Need** day the children and staff came to preschool dressed in their pyjamas. The children coloured in Pudsey colouring sheets, sang bear songs and ate Bear crisps for snack, everyone had a BEARilliant day! We raised a massive £70 for Children in Need.

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/or disabilities 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 has six qualified members of staff. All our staff has many years' experience of working with children and their maturity and training ensure that those who come to the preschool have a positive learning experience. St Mary's Preschool 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 preschool place from September 2021, or require any further information please phone Tracey on **01234 767158**.

Term time opening hours:

Mon 9.00 - 12.00

Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00

Thurs 9.00 - 15.00



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by Louise Hughes



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New Bench Seating Around the Village

As Hippocrates said 'Walking is man's best medicine'. In other words, there are proven health benefits to walking. However, many people are deterred because they need to be sure that there is somewhere to sit and rest!

So, you may have noticed that the Parish Council has provided several new bench seats around the village using Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Some of the benches have been specifically located near bus stops.

It is possible for anyone who would like to 'sponsor' a bench by having a small stainless steel plaque mounted on it for you – perhaps, in memory of a loved-one. This is limited to the first 6 applicants. See the example of one showing the approximate size (13cm x 7cm) which is already on a bench in memory of the late Cllr Bill Brady.

The cost is £75 plus VAT. Contact the Clerk to the Council at clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk or call **07531 930788**.

As mentioned previously, this is limited to the first 6 applications and the parish council's decision is final.



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CHRISTMAS TREE
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Y	F	Y	L	L	O	H	B	O	R

Inconsiderate Vehicle Parking

The problems caused by vehicles parked on pavements, and in other unsafe places, are regularly being reported to the Parish Council, and it is primarily a matter for the police to enforce.

However, in a recent public consultation on the subject of pavement parking, the Government stated that 'irrespective of whether pavement parking is deemed necessary, there are inherent dangers for all pedestrians; being forced onto the carriageway and into the flow of traffic. This is particularly difficult for people with sight or mobility impairments, and those with prams or buggies. While resulting damage to the pavement and verges is, uppermost, a trip hazard, maintenance and personal injury claims are also a cost to local authorities'.

The Consultation suggested several options for dealing with this problem. The Parish Council agreed to support the option which was recommended by its Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group. If adopted by central government, this would introduce a blanket ban on all pavement parking (except for exemptions as determined by Bedford Borough Council, who are the Local Highways Authority). This is similar to the existing law in London and Scotland.

Similarly, **The Highway Code (Rule 243)** lists certain locations where vehicles should not be parked. For example:

opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, near the brow of a hill where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users in front of an entrance to a property on a bend



In view of the large number of complaints being received about this kind of inconsiderate parking, the Borough Council (at the request of the Parish Council) has installed white advisory kerb lines in several roads around the village. Vehicle owners are asked to comply with these and carefully consider whether they are conforming with the Highway Code.



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The First Day at School

If only I had realised where my interest in languages was going to lead my career, I would have changed my chosen University course to Science, or Media Studies, or Philosophy. Anything but Modern European Languages, followed by a Teaching Diploma course.

But I hadn't known at that time, so that is precisely what I opted to study.

I had always been blessed with a natural aptitude for picking up any language I studied, both grammatically and spoken. I was fluent in French, German and Russian by the time I was sixteen.

My A level results of Grade A+ in each of those languages could open the door to any University of my choice. Which was the best?

A simple Google search had given me the answer. Harvard.

I had known that competition was intense for a place at this World renowned seat of learning. However, when my application letter and curriculum vitae included the facts that I won the UK under sixteen 400 metre record of 45.36 seconds in 2012, and had qualified for the junior Wimbledon championships in that same year, my place was guaranteed. All American universities seek to strengthen their sporting capabilities. If their athletes have a brain as well, that's a bonus!

I shall not relate my experiences during my four years of study at Harvard. They are outside the scope of this sad little missive. Suffice it to say that I had a great time and that my English accent gave me a huge advantage over any male American students in winning over the



ladies.

I left America with the equivalent of a 1st class Honours degree for my curricular activities, together with many commendations for my extra-curricular ones! What an experience!

On my return to good old Blighty, It was my intention to take a teaching diploma and pass on my enthusiasm to University students perhaps possessed with fewer linguistic skills than I had been blessed with.

It was during my second term of study for that diploma when I was first contacted. The woman who called me explained that she was writing an article about British students who had completed their education in America. This was eventually to be used to compare the merits of UK and US Universities.

I agreed to meet her, partly because I was finding my teaching course boring, but mainly because she had a low, sexy voice that intrigued me. I wanted to see whether the lady matched her voice.

She did!

I met with her a lot at my student digs over the subsequent weeks, and she was made aware of every aspect of my American activities.

She expressed her opinion that the teacher training college I was attending might not be the optimum way to set up my future career.

She also wondered whether I would agree to meet some people she knew who were the principals of another learning establishment, one which could lead a linguist like myself towards a much more rewarding future than that of a university lecturer.

She had a very persuasive way with her, so once again, I acquiesced.

When I first met her colleagues, in a rather dingy, nondescript office in central London, I wasn't entirely sure of the nature of this alternative training they could offer. I was, however, entirely au fait with the salary scale that was available on

completion of my studies. Wow! I could be on the property ladder before my 25th birthday!

I realised, from my first day at their school, what that post-qualification employment would be, but by then I was hooked.

So here I am now, in my tiny apartment in Mokhovaya Street, just off Krasnaya Ploshchad, Red Square, wearing headphones, using my newly acquired communication skills. I advise MI6 of certain information they may be interested in, and think about my HSBC bank balance back in good old Blighty.

I don't know what I fear most.

Covid19.

Or a knock on the door.

Colin Zardin



Pip's House

Guinea Pig, Bunny and Small Animal Boarding

Are you going away and need somewhere safe for your piggies, bunnies or other small furries to stay, where you know they will be well looked after and cared for, and be treated as part of the family?

We have, at Pip's House, two separate rooms in our home that are dedicated to our guests. They will be spoilt and pampered while they stay here - with healthy snacks, lots of cuddles and playtime. You provide the dry food, (so as not to upset their little tummies) and I'll provide all their hay, greens and little treats.

For piggies, we also offer a Piggy Pamper using Gorgeous Guineas Shampoo and paw cream, where they can have a wash, hair style and pedicure (for an extra small fee).

Call Carol on 07525 984634 to book, or book direct on our website.

www.pipshouse.co.uk

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

We look forward to welcoming your little furries on their holiday

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

A need for Average Speed Cameras was identified during the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire process by residents. BBC (1) has now installed a pair of cameras on Fields Road. These have been financed by s106 Developer Contributions. WPC (2) intends to use the data to push for police support in installing systems on all other main routes in/through the village and will use Community Infrastructure Levy (3) funding to finance future schemes

Community Centre

Berryfields

Ongoing

Please address all booking enquiries to: bookings@wootton.cc or general enquiries to woottoncommunitycentre@gmail.com Alternatively, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wootton-Community-Centre-373702299872573/>

Covanta Incinerator

Stewartby parish

Ongoing

Please visit the following links for fuller information: <https://bedsagainstincinerator.wordpress.com/> or BACI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks>

Local Plan 2030

Throughout the village

Ongoing

BBC's Local Plan 2030 has now been formally adopted and works are already underway for the next Local Plan.

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

Bedford Commercial Park

Towards the A421

Ongoing

The larger unit is now operational, having been taken on by Amazon. The parish council is aware of issues regarding lorries travelling through the village and into private estates. This is an issue BBC and Amazon are working to resolve

Memorial Hall Play Area resurfacing

Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

2021

WPC has completed works to add a surface underneath the existing play equipment in order to make it safer and easier to use in bad weather. This was financed using a mix of s106 Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy funding (4)

Neighbourhood Plan	The whole civil parish of Wootton	2021
Findings from the recent Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Public Consultation are currently being collated		

Real Time Passenger Information (bus stops)	Four bus stop sites within the village	2021
Four electronic real time passenger information units are now installed. WPC has put in a request for additional units but works (to be undertaken by BBC) have been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions		

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: https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes/?eeFolder=Meetings/Minutes/Roads-and-Pavements&eeFront=1 (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 to the brick wall and WPC has used its structural engineer report, advice from Historic England and BBC to get detailed guidance on how best to repair that wall from a suitably qualified brickwork specialist		

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		

Key:

1. Bedford Borough Council

2. Wootton Parish Council

3. For further information on what Community Infrastructure Levy funding and s106 Developer Contributions are please visit: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/community-infrastructure-levy/>

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.



The same number represents the same letter. Crack the code and fill the grid. To help you get started some word entries have picture clues.

1

	1	2	3	1	2		4		1		5		2
1		6		7		8	9	10	11	11	6	7	4
7	12	9	13	2	3		10		14		1		9
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3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Answers on page 34

Wootton Baptist Church

**I'm not going to even mention the word!
I'm sick and tired of it dominating our lives
for so long and how much longer?**

Speaking on behalf of the Baptist Church we see how it has disrupted the general running of the church for so long. Yet we have still been able to maintain a witness to what we believe. The Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his sacrifice for us at Calvary. That great offer of salvation from sin and unbelief is still there, if we will only just accept it.

We very much regret the tremendous amount of illness and death, which has been caused. We complain about the isolation which had been imposed upon us, but it must be for the general good of the population. I hate the face masks!

We were able to open our morning service for a few weeks, but had to stop again owing to the latest lockdown. We have managed to keep the Adventurers Group going with the help of our Christian friends at Wilstead as we run it on Zoom together with their Discovery Group. We are also aware that many of our older friends are not able to use the Web so we try to help to alleviate their loneliness by delivering the church news letter to them each week. Isolation and loneliness is a great problem and we hear a lot about the mental suffering of many people today. Can I encourage anyone reading this to remember those you know who are living on their own and to ring them up and encourage them.

You may have seen there is often, (when weather permits) a free bookstall stands at the entrance to the Baptist Church Car Park. It has been well used and many Bibles and other Christian literature have been taken.



We have had some vandalism, and the sanitiser seems to attract people as three have been stolen! Anyone is welcome to take the books and literature, it is all the word of God.

I expect everyone is hoping that the lockdown will be over by Christmas. What a strange Christmas it will be if we can't visit our families on this special day of remembering Christ's birth.

Whatever the future holds for all of us, please remember that God has many, many promises to everyone, and particularly to those who honour His name. If you have a Bible, read it and see what it says and if you haven't got a Bible, please take one from the bookstall. If there are none left, please give me a ring. **(766293)** On behalf of the Baptist Church fellowship, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and, not very far away, a Happy and Blessed 2021.

Rob Stanton,

On behalf of Wootton Baptist Church.

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.

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 be over 60, not working and have lived in Bedford Borough for at least 15 years. Contact Andrea for more details.

Free items for the over 65s – do you need a carbon monoxide alarm (an essential for properties with gas, LPG, wood, coal or oil heating) or a disabled toilet key or a personal alarm (handy for those who jog or dog walk on these dark nights) Andrea has a few useful items to give away free, but be quick before they all go!

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

Do you, or someone you know, need support following bereavement?

Bedford Daycare Hospice is providing a free counselling / bereavement support service, not just for Hospice patients, but available to all communities in Bedford and surrounding areas. Call **01234 352015** or email **linda.byer@bdc-hospice.org.uk** to arrange confidential weekly sessions of up to an hour via phone or video link. Face to face support will be available once lockdown is lifted.

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, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms.

Please call Andrea, your Village Agent on Freephone

0800 039 1234

This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, & we aim to call you back within 48 hours



Bedford Borough
Council





FIND 23 DIFFERENCES



Christmas at St. Mary's



Open Air Event*

Sat 19 & Sun 20 Dec
**Journey to
Bethlehem:
Walkabout Nativity
in the Churchyard**

Services in Church*

Sun 20 Dec
10am Nativity

Christmas Eve 24 Dec
**3pm & 4.30pm Family Carols
9pm Christmas Communion**

Christmas Day 25 Dec
10am All-Age Service

Services Online

Sun 13 Dec
4pm Christingle

Sun 20 Dec
**10am Nativity
6pm Carols by Candlelight**

Christmas Day 25 Dec
10am All-Age Service

And - all over the village from 6 Dec: Wootton Christmas Windows.

*Walkabout Nativity & Services in Church:
booking required through our website, from Mon 7 Dec.

We wish all Wootton News readers a very Happy Christmas.

Sundays at St. Mary's



In Person

10am every Sunday morning.
Booking is essential; to reserve a
place, visit our website or email
services@stmaryswootton.org.uk



Online

You can view all our Sunday services
on our YouTube channel, with new
releases each Sunday from 6am.

st mary's
wootton



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

Contact 01234 768391

info@stmaryswootton.org.uk

Icons from Vecteezy.com by zhengdacool and jonnyc4. Christmas logo from thegoodbookcompany.co.uk.

Brilliant Community Spirit!!

Donations still coming in!!

I would just like to express my most grateful thanks and appreciation to all who 'POPPY'ed along to the 'Gazebo' either by donating money, knitting or crocheting poppies to help support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, a very worthy cause, I am sure you will agree?

Grand Total: £8,329.07

Businesses: £1,000.06

Gazebo: £4,728.01
(Cash and Cheques)
+ £957.00
(Contactless machine)
Grand Total: £5,685.01

Wootton Upper School/Kimberley College: As the result of a 'Mufty Day' the fantastic amount of **£1,533.00** was raised

Wreaths: £111.00

Grateful thanks and appreciation, should also go to the following volunteers, who gave up their valuable time and effort by helping achieve this incredible amount!

Chris Ashpole, Martyn Ashpole, Harrinder Bajra, Raj Bajra, Sue Barraclough, Sue Chapillon, Shirley Gould, Ffion Harris, Nicola Hickson, Audrey Hudson, Lesley Hutchings, Jenny Lambert, Roger Loft, Carole Mason, Brian Mead, Jane Mead, Vivienne Minney, Glynis Robinson, Lee Smith, Diane Sullivan, Elaine Sullivan.

Due to covid restrictions, the Gazebo had to close 3 days earlier than the normal allocated time spell, so the following people, who also volunteered were unfortunately unable to do their turn – Margaret Groves, Angela Stapleton, Maggs Gough and Linda Valence.

Businesses -

Blue Cross F.C., Chemist, Chequers Inn, Corner 5 Restaurant, Co-Part-Stewartby, Fox & Duck, Garage, Legstraps, Londis, Schools – Wootton Upper, Kimberley College, Wootton Lower School Bedford Road, Harris Way – Stewartby Church, Stewartby Club, Tesco Express,



News from Wootton Village Hall



Wootton Village Hall, on Church Road, was opened on 9th July 1983. Funded by village subscriptions (all villagers were asked to buy a 50p brick!!) and a grant from the Local Authority, it has served the Village for over 37 years. It was built by a local builder (John Newitt) who still lives in the village. A plaque in the foyer lists the villagers who were the first Trustees – **Mr T Abbott, Mr M Cooper, Mr A R Martin, Mr I A Maunders, Mr M O'Donnell, Mr D F Perry, Mr B Woodin, Mrs C Abbott, Mrs G M Jones, Mr L Mountain, Mrs L J Maunders, Mrs B J Perry, Mr B Simpson and Mr F G Wright.**

How many of these people, or their relatives, still live in the village today?

The Hall is currently run by a committee which consists of representatives from Village organisations (Parish Council, WI, Bowls Club, Country Players, Brennan School of Dance) and other parishioners. More committee members are needed. **Could you help?** – the committee usually meets three times a year.

For 37 years, barely a day has gone by (up to Lockdown in March this year) when the Hall

was not hired out for some reason or another. It was shut for a week about 10 years ago when the floor was replaced, otherwise it has been in continuous use. For many years the committee have been aware that the Hall has needed refurbishing. So, with the Hall shut because of COVID, the committee considered this to be an ideal time to redecorate. Taylor Wimpey and Wootton Parish Council agreed to part fund the work, so in July the Hall was redecorated from top (the ceiling) to toe (the skirting boards). Thank you very much to Taylor Wimpey and the Parish Council for supporting the Village Hall. A plaque to note their generosity has been put on the wall in the Hall.

All that was needed then was for users to come and hire the Hall again but COVID prevented that.

In August, with relaxation of some of the restrictions, revised conditions of hire were written to allow for COVID and the Hall was made COVID secure. In September, following Government Guidance, the Hall was reopened for Exercise Classes. These included, Pilates, Yoga, Keep Fit, Martial

Arts of various forms, School of Dance and Dog training. The Hall has been closed during lockdown 2 but these classes are expected to have restarted at the beginning of December.

Over the years, the Hall has also been used for parties and other gatherings particularly at weekends. Sadly, this is not currently allowed. At Christmas the Bob Lunniss lunch and the WI Craft Fair were held each year – and then there were the famous 'Jumble Sales'. Regrettably, the committee do not expect to hire the Hall out for these type of events until at least Easter 2021.

The Hall was designed with a stage and Country Players have put on many, many productions over the years. Hopefully, when we all get back to normal and the pandemic is behind us, Wootton's budding actors and actresses will put on more shows for villagers to go to. The Bowls club is another

Community Group which has used the Hall (twice a week) over the years. Neither Country Players nor the Bowls Club have been able to use the Hall since March because of the pandemic.

As stated above, the Hall was opened in 1983. In 1992 the Hall needed a new caretaker and new bookings clerk. Marie Kramer and Jenny Lambert took the jobs on for three months. They are still in post today 28 years later!! Well done Marie and Jenny. Wootton Village Hall would not have been the success it is without you.

If you would like further information about the Village Hall, about the organisations that use it or to volunteer to help out on the committee, please contact **Bob Wallace** (Secretary) on robertwallace@ntlworld.com. For information about **hiring the Hall** please contact **Jenny Lambert** on **01234 767488**.



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Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of 2020 and what a year it has been. 2019 had been a great year for Wootton WI, celebrating our centenary, and we were looking forward to more enjoyable get togethers, with lots of good speakers and activities booked. We were a week away from learning about 'The Life of Victoria Wood' when lockdown was announced and that was the end of our meetings for several months. Fast forward to September, we had carried out risk assessments, site visits, measured the hall to make sure we could fit in a group of twenty socially distanced members, purchased hand sanitiser, cleaning wipes, black and yellow stripy tape to mark the spaces out, speaker all booked (Dancing with Princess Diana this time) when a week before our meeting the rules changed and numbers of gatherings were reduced from twenty to six!

So what have we done for our members to keep them informed? We've created a monthly newsletter filled with anecdotes, stories, gardening tips, also included crosswords and quizzes. We delivered goody bags to every member just as a little treat. Recently we held a zoom coffee morning and a zoom music quiz to see if it is something members would enjoy. Nothing beats seeing each other face to face but at least with zoom we can interact with our friends.



Is there anything positive to take from 2020? We are living in unprecedented times. We are making history. In years to come children will be learning about the pandemic as part of history. Our children and grandchildren will be recounting their stories to their children and grandchildren. It doesn't seem much of a positive while we are living through it, the death toll has been horrendous, people's lives have changed dramatically, either from the illness or from things like job losses. We've learned a new word 'furlough' and introduced the term 'home working'. We have to document what has happened for posterity, hope we won't ever see the likes of this again and come to terms with living with the new normal whatever that may be. Rest assured Wootton WI will be back in full force as soon as we are allowed.



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.

Wootton Lower School

Bedford Road, Wootton, MK43 9JT | Harris Way, Wootton, MK43 9FZ

Tel 01234 768 239

The last few months have been a very strange time in our school. New procedures and routines have had to be thought through and implemented. Assemblies are now held virtually, school lunches are mostly eaten in classrooms and classes have had to separate at playtimes. Despite this, since returning to school in September, we have been amazed by our wonderful children's resilience. They have taken each and every change to our procedures and routines in their stride.

The latter half of the autumn term is usually busy with us rehearsing for our Christmas plays. It is with much sadness that this year we are unable to do this. However, we still aim to have a lot of festive fun!

We will be taking part in the **Christmas Jumper Day on the 11th December** to raise money for **Save the Children**, classes will have Christmas parties and there will be decorations galore! We will

also be treating the children to a "Covid friendly" Pantomime production of The Wizard of OZ at the end of November.



We have been busy with several other events this term. The children raised an amazing **£618 for Children in Need** by wearing non-uniform. Instead of our usual Harvest Tea party, **we collected donations for the local food bank**. We had a special assembly for Armistice Day and Mr Tavener laid a wreath on behalf of the school at the village war memorial.

May we take this opportunity on behalf of the staff and pupils of Wootton Lower to wish all the residents of Wootton a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.



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Bethlehem

Had I been there in Mary's place, would I have been afraid
And when I saw those jostling crowds, stayed calm and undismayed;
Would my faith have faltered when I found for me, instead
Of welcome faces, firelit rooms, a humble cattle shed?
Might I have wondered why, O Lord, of anywhere on earth
You should have chosen this poor place to celebrate your birth
Give me new faith O Lord and fill me with humility
As you were born in Bethlehem, be born afresh, in me.

Were I the keeper of the Inn, could I have been forgiven
Had I not found a room in which to house the King of Heaven.
Should I have known my humble home was being used by God
And that this girl before me was the mother of our Lord?
A shed becomes a palace when His presence is bestowed
Might I have said "There is no room" and sent them up the road?
Let me not be guilty Lord, of turning you away
And let someone find Bethlehem, within my home today.

Suppose I were a shepherd boy out on the hills that night,
How strange it must have been to see the sky ablaze with light
The sheep I'm sure, as well as I might well have been afraid.
On hearing the amazing news, would I then have obeyed?
And left the flock, and gone alone to see if what they said
Were true, and found the Saviour, lying in a manger bed?
O lamb of God - and shepherd too, reign in our hearts today,
Be thou our guide to Bethlehem - Thou art the only Way.

Were I an astrologer, with knowledge of the skies
And had I seen that natal star - would I have been surprised?
I might have read the prophecies, seen what they had to say -
And then said "Lo, a King is born" - and gone the other way.
How very, very simple is the truth that sets us free
And yet how very difficult for wise men yet to see.
Give us that wisdom Lord, to see thy vision from afar
Be Thou our guide to Bethlehem, O bright and Morning Star

There'll be no need to ask for room when Jesus comes again.
The angels' song will fill the skies when Jesus come to reign.
He will not need a manger then, in which to make His bed,
The star has come to rest, it's light forever on us shed.
How wonderful that day will be when all the saved shall sing
"Glory Hallelujah" for the coming of the King.
He is the gift, He came to us, from sin to set us free
So we can come to Bethlehem, by way of Calvary

Rebecca Cook ©

How many Santas do you see?



Page 22 ANSWER: 1=S, 2=A, 3=L, 4=G, 5=V, 6=I, 7=N, 8=T, 9=R, 10=E, 11=K, 12=O, 13=M, 14=Y, 15=P, 16=C, 17=H, 18=W, 19=F, 20=U, 21=B, 22=Q, 23=Z, 24=D, 25=J, 26=X.

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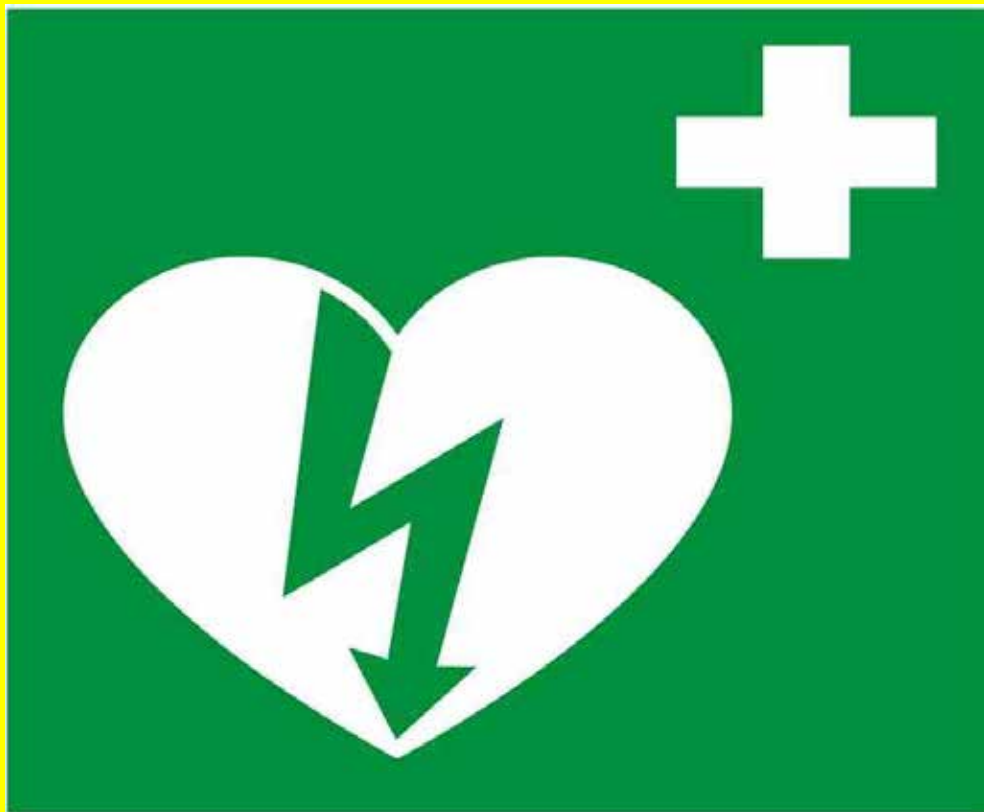
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