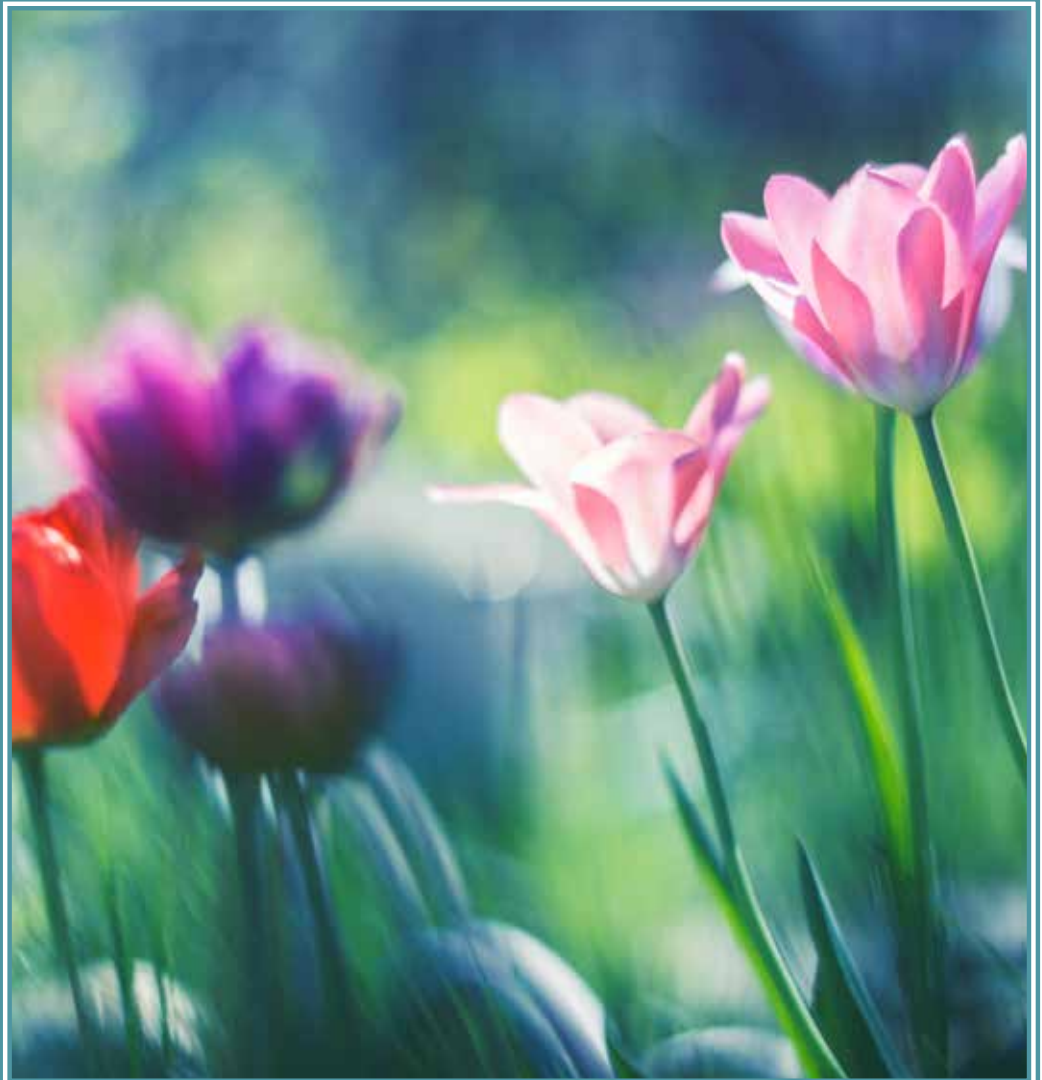


The
Wootton
P A R I S H N E W S

SPRING EDITION

MARCH/APRIL 2021



www.wootton-pc.gov.uk

Contacts Directory

Parish Council Chairman

Gareth Lloyd: 07414 551 820

Parish Council Vice Chairman

Gerald Bygraves: 07792 842 601

Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer

Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

3 Longden Close, Haynes, Bedfordshire MK45 3PJ

Parish Councillors

Bob Hensher: 767 774

Justin Lennox: 07939 300002

Denton Mapesa: 07944 161 362

Hazel Martin: 767 622

Jeff Noakes: 07806 470 411

Stuart O'Dell: 767133

Paul Quirk: 768 832

Keith Randell: 07872 647234

Bob Wallace: 768 011

John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

Bedford Borough Councillor

John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

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

Wootton Community Centre -

email: bookings@wootton.cc

Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings

Church Road only

Sue Edgar 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

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

NHS111: Online www.111.nhs.uk or Freephone 111

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

Brennan School of Dance: 822 831

Brownies Tuesday - Denise: 314 030

Brownies Wednesday - Becky: 07876 766050

Cubs - Christopher: 304 588

Country Players - Tina Kirkup -

Tina.Kirkup@hotmail.co.uk

Explorers - Kit: 07792 372 570

Group Scout Leader - Kit: 07792 372 570

Guides - Gill: 856 566

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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Next Issue: June 2021

Copy Date: May 1st

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



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Editor in Chief - Sue Edgar Playford

Editor - Gareth Lloyd

Design & Print - Bespoke Media
t. 01234 720105

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.

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



Some of you will have seen the carry on at Handforth Parish Council and the furore over whether Jackie Weaver had the right to evict councillors from a meeting. Unfortunately, the media proved they themselves did not understand the relevant laws governing parish councils when reporting. Jackie Weaver did not have the right to take that action and was not in fact, even the Clerk to the Council. It gets better however, as Handforth Parish Council then resolved at their next meeting, to invalidate all resolutions made at the previous meeting as it was illegally held. A council that operates correctly should put themselves forward to be accredited by the **National Association of Local Councils**. Wootton Parish Council has held the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Award status for the past four years, and in future years hopes to obtain the highest-level Quality Gold Award.

One of the key objectives is to be open and transparent with the community. The parish council does its part by informing residents via this newsletter, Annual Report, parish council website and Facebook page, and noticeboards*. Please take the time to read the material produced. I would also recommend residents check the agendas (mostly weekly) to keep up to date with

meetings discussions. These are published on the parish council website (wootton-pc.gov.uk) with a Facebook link also. That way, you will know what is being discussed, and if you have a comment about anything on the agenda, you can raise it either before or at the meeting (and before any resolution is made).

Lastly, I would like to **congratulate our Clerk**, Sue Edgar Playford who will graduate this year with a first class honours degree in Community Governance. This degree was delivered via De Montfort University and the Society of Local Council Clerks and is specific to this sector, covering a multitude of areas including sector-specific legislation, finance and services.

*The **noticeboards** have been out of use during the Covid-19 pandemic, but will be in used again for agendas and other information, as the restrictions continue to be lifted.



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



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



As Spring arrives and we head towards Easter, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel in terms of Covid-19 and the (hopefully) continued lifting of restrictions. As I mentioned in my last report, our enclosed **children's play areas** remain open but not sanitised. We placed signage there to that effect – but it tends not to stay in place for very long, sadly. Please continue to adhere to current central government guidelines and enjoy the better weather safely. On a similar note, we have taken the reluctant decision not to hold the **Fun Fest** again this year. We may consider something later in the year, when we have a clearer understanding of all things pandemic-related, but we hope to come back next year, bigger and better.

You will find advertisements elsewhere in this newsletter for two **very worthy Wootton causes** – the **Wootton Poors Land Charity** and the **Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme**. Wootton Poors Land Charity covers residents of Wootton and Stewartby, so do please bear this

in mind if you, or someone you know, could benefit from a little financial help. The Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme offers help in several forms for Wootton residents, so again, do please get in touch if you or someone you know could make good use of their services.

The parish council may also be able to assist Wootton organisations. Our **grants 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.

GRANTS

available



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 *2021*

APRIL

14th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
14th	Full Council	7.30pm
28th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
28th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
28th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

MAY

12th	Annual Council Meeting	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	7.30pm
12th	Planning & Environment Committee	after FC
19th	Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
19th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm
26th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
26th	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	8.00pm

At the time of printing this newsletter, meetings continue to be held remotely, via Zoom. The legislation that permits this however, does not currently extend beyond 7th May 2021. Should that remain the case after that date, meetings will once again be held at Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way.



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr John Wheeler

Dear all,

As I mentioned in my last report in the December edition of the Wootton News that Christmas is a time for hope and hopefully 2021 will be a better year for us. Well here we are in March 2021 with the schools open and a plan to try and get us all back to some sort of normality by the summer. We have still a long way to go and Wootton families have suffered during this difficult time. However, it has been so nice to see individuals, groups, schools, churches, clubs, local charities and others going out of their way to help those in need, a big thank you to them.

Highways Update:

Cause End Road phase one has now been completed, the Fields Road crossing by the surgery is still scheduled in to be started soon, the paths from the new estate to connect to the crossing have now nearly all been completed. The average speed cameras on Fields Road are now active and 121 tickets were issued in December. The temporary signage has been installed in Marston and Kempston to try and prevent

the amazon lorries from coming through the village and the permanent 7.5 tonnes signage has been ordered and will be installed soon. Berryfields infrastructure is still unadopted and remains under Persimmon control. Before this happens the roads will need to be re-surfaced, temporary lay-bys taken out, paths and kerb stones fixed along with any faulty lights. Proper road markings will then be installed.

Highways projects put forward for 2021/2022:

Cause End Road phase two, Cranfield Road re-surfacing of the section leaving the village, Church Road from the war memorial to Cause End Road, relaying paths along Keely Lane, Payne Road and Monoux Road.

The shops are now all open at Folkes Road and the ground works have started on the Goodman's industrial park which should be completed by the summer. They have been instructed to keep the roads around the site clear of mud.

Here are a few bits around the borough that may interest you:

- **Bedford River Festival** was postponed until 2022. The bi-annual River Festival was originally due to take place in the summer of 2020, but the growing pandemic meant it was postponed until 2021. The planned new date for the next River Festival is 23 and 24 July 2022.
- Bedford Borough Council have approved an **increase in core Council Tax** of 1.99% supplemented by a 1.75% Adult Social Care Precept, totalling 3.74%

• **Garden waste collections** restart in Bedford Borough on Monday 1 March, following the usual pause in this service over the winter. Garden waste can go in the green-lidded bin. Please put this bin out alongside your orange recycling bin by 6am on your next recycling day, and it will be collected every other week.

**Have a lovely Easter
Keep safe**



Needing help? Local charity could help

A Wootton charity is able to offer modest financial help in cases of genuine social need for which benefits are not available. In the past we have assisted with the cost of essential furniture, hospital visits, medical and mobility equipment etc

(Residents of Wootton
and Stewartby only)



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Registered charity number 200216

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Glass recycling at the recreational ground

Please use the glass recycling bins, located behind the Village Hall, off Church Road.

Why?

Unlike other glass recycling facilities in the village, **this facility raises funds for the Wootton Pools Land Charity**. This charity helps local people who are experiencing financial difficulties, but in reality, that is not all. It offers hope and support too, as well as financial aid – something needed more than ever in these different times.

In 2019 Wootton residents raised £1,666 for the charity – simply by using this



facility. That sum increased in 2020 to £2,416. How lovely would it be if 2021 could reach £3,000.

Please support those in need in your community and use this facility.

Thank you.

Community Speedwatch

During this pandemic and recent lockdowns there has been no opportunity for your dedicated Speedwatch Team – Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward and myself – to be able to carry out any patrols. The last one was on Fields Road back in November.

Since then we have seen average **speed cameras installed down Fields Road** and the results have confirmed that the cameras were necessary as several offenders were caught. We are very grateful to the parish council and in particular to Gareth Lloyd and John Wheeler for ensuring that the road surface was improved and the cameras installed.

Our patrols – when they are allowed to take place once more – will concentrate on Cranfield Road (until cameras are installed there) and Bedford Road from Keeley Lane to Irongate Corner. At the moment

we can only operate with 2 members at a time and when the temperatures improve the volunteers who have been vaccinated will begin again.

We are very pleased with the improved situation on Fields Road but are aware that some motorists now feel that they can exceed the speed limit elsewhere in the village! We are still a very small team (although Wootton is now a large village) and could do with some more volunteers! Our friends in Elstow who borrow our SID (Speed Indicator Device) have three times as many volunteers! If you feel that you could help us out please get in touch with **Juliet Wright** - Juliet.Wright@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk We should love to have your help.

Malcolm Chalmers

Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator

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.



At the beginning of term we had a **'Winter' themed week**. The children enjoyed snowball fights and made angels in the snow. They made polar bear masks; painted the snow, made fluffy snow pictures and explored frozen animals in ice. We all had 'SNOW MUCH FUN'.



Yoga with Hayley

– 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.

Kung Hei Fat Choi!



The Year of the Ox - 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 and fire breathing dragons. We have learned 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 and a fortune cookie. For snack the children tried boiled rice and pancake rolls.



The children celebrated St. Valentine's Day. Our Valentine curriculum explored theme colours and heart shapes. The children made valentine cards, valentine bubble pictures and heart shaped pizzas. Our reading focus book was 'Guess How Much I Love you' and 'Moles in Love'

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 £4.00 per hour (£12.00 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 £4.00 per hour (£12.00 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



Harmonic Motion

People smiled when they saw the little girl at the concert
Sitting so sedately, small and fair, on her chair.
--Till the pianist came and took his place at the piano
Then the audience forgot that the child was even there.

The concert began and everybody settled down
Mesmerized or moved by the music's magic spell.
But the child was intrigued by the hands of the pianist
And decided to go and see if she could play as well.

Slipping from her seat she went up onto the platform
Stood and watched the pianist then copied him with care.
Little hands haphazardly--halting with discordancy
To the consternation and dismay of everybody there.

The audience looked horrified, taken by complete surprise
Surely O surely someone would intervene?
What would the man now do or say; would he simply walk away-
Or, would he remonstrate and make a dreadful scene?

But behold-the Maestro appearing not the least perturbed
Rose and stood behind the child and with hands upon the keys
Along with her-so charmingly created perfect harmony
Made music out of muddles with a master's expertise .

Rebecca Cook ©



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Wootton Baptist Church

At last, after a whole year there are signs that we can get back to something like 'normal.' When we do, I will not miss the masks, the social distancing, the restrictions on movements and the continual washing of hands! Yes I know it has been for the good of the whole community, and it has been the right thing to do.

At our church we have missed the meetings which have had to be cancelled, the Coffee Mornings where we met with one another and the fellowship with one another. If Boris's plan works out, by June we may be back to 'normal.' Some will not be able to return, old age and illness has overtaken them and some unfortunately have died. These things we should not forget.

BUT Easter is coming, in early April. That is the time when we think of new life. Eggs which promise new life and Spring again. I'm sure we will all be pleased to get some warm weather again. The real meaning of Easter is rapidly getting forgotten. New Life actually comes through Jesus Christ who we remember died on Good Friday and rose again from death on Sunday, Easter day.

The Cross is the recognised symbol of the Christian faith, and in some parts of the world, crosses on churches are being torn down by people who oppose Christ and His church. Symbols or Emblems are not really my thing, but I was reminded of the account in the Bible, (Numbers 21.) where Moses had trouble with the Israelites who had turned away from God. They were punished by a plague of serpents. Not a pandemic, just a local plague. The people realised they had done wrong in disobeying God, and they



confessed their sin to God. God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole, and whoever looked at the serpent would live.

I notice that the symbol of many health organisations throughout the world, is a serpent on a pole. Our NHS uses it. The Greeks are known to have used it, but before the Greeks, God used it to show people the way of salvation.

Why is Easter so important? The most important day of the year for Christians. Yes, Christmas is great, with all the jollifications. It's not because the Winter has gone and the Spring has come. It's not so we can get out into the gardens and clear up all the Winter devastation. No, the answer lies in the first verse of those great Easter hymns: 'There is a green Hill far away, outside a city wall, where our dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all' and 'Christ the Lord is risen today, hallelujah.' Jesus defeated death, so that we might have life. That's what the Good News of Jesus Christ is all about.

At Easter we are reminded of the Man who

was nailed to a cross and who died for the sins of the whole world. But we have to come personally and individually and acknowledge our sin and unbelief and look in faith to Jesus Christ and the promise is that we will be given everlasting life.

Join an Easter Service this year, even if it is only on Zoom or You-tube.

Happy Easter everybody.

Rob Stanton

On behalf of the fellowship
at Wootton Baptist Church.



WOOTTON WALKS

in Winter 2021

We are so lucky as Wootton inhabitants to have plenty of village and country walks on our doorstep. During the various lockdowns and restrictions they have been a godsend.

As well as the lovely forest walks and the familiar trip round The Ends, there are plenty of footpaths for families and people of all ages. The newly situated benches are perfect for weary walkers or indeed anyone who wants to just stop and think. In the woods catkins are currently in abundance and birdlife is springing into action. Nesting is beginning and robins especially are singing their hearts out displaying their gorgeous red breasts. Local gardens too reveal early primroses, daffodils and crocuses. You can enjoy their vibrant colours, especially after the long and taxing winter. *Have you noticed an unexpected bank of purple crocuses flowering outside the cemetery in Lorraine Road?*

Worth exploring too is the new Berry Fields Estate. Here there are plenty of



wide verges, grassy areas, play spaces and places for weary mums to sit. The recreation ground is imaginatively planned and is full of challenges for children of all ages. In time there should be a lovely walk which takes you from the recreation ground, across Fields Road right up to the edge of Berry Wood itself, returning



down the Cranfield Road. Abundant tree planting will hopefully, once established dampen the noise from the 421. Various pond areas already display an abundance of reeds and bulrushes, home to egrets and mallards.

There is always something new to discover. *Have you noticed the many goldfish which now inhabit Keeley End Pond?* Happily they have survived the winter and are busily swimming about near the surface. *How did they get there?* At Hoo Corner and The Kill, we sometimes see birds of prey and of course the dramatic red kites are now much more plentiful.

St Mary's Churchyard is also worth a visit, full of historical clues to past village

life. The area behind the church is remarkably peaceful and pleasant, like stepping into a Hardy novel. A bench is carefully placed in front of the church for personal reflection or just to soak up the atmosphere.

Spring is definitely on its way, so do get out there and enjoy our environs. It's amazing how many other people are doing the same. A wonderful opportunity to see some friendly faces and exchange a few words whilst remaining, of course, socially distanced.

Happy Walking!!
Carol Wallman





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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.

Marston Vale Innovation Park (now 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 have worked to resolve. Ground works are now underway to prepare the site for the remaining units.

Neighbourhood Plan

The whole civil parish of Wootton

2021

Findings from the recent Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Public Consultation have been collated, but not yet discussed in full, due to unavoidable delays

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 and issues with power supplies

Roads and Pavements

Throughout the village

Ongoing

The Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group continues to meet every other month to raise issues 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.

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BERRYFIELDS/FIELDS ROAD ROUNDABOUT DESIGN COMPETITION

Wootton Parish Council invites everyone who lives, works or is educated within Wootton, to put forward their suggestions for a new, welcoming display for the roundabout that defines Wootton.

NOW THAT THE PREVIOUS DISPLAY HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ROUNDABOUT – WHAT SHOULD GO IN ITS PLACE?

This is an opportunity to be creative. Perhaps it could be a structure or a more traditional look – for example a horticultural display. We are looking for any ideas on what would constitute an inviting display to people arriving in our village.

A budget will be determined when ideas have been submitted, and the deadline is **Monday 31st May 2021**. All designs and ideas will initially be forwarded to Bedford Borough Council's Highways Department for approval. This is necessary because Bedford Borough Council owns the roundabout as the Local Highways Authority. Those designs and ideas that are approved by Bedford Borough Council will then feature in a future edition of this newsletter – and Wootton residents will be able to vote for their favourite.

Collection Calendar

1

Please ensure that your bins are out for collection by 6am on your collection day. Missed collections must be reported within 48 hours of your scheduled collection. Visit www.bedford.gov.uk/recycling to report a missed collection.



Remember! Garden waste collections are suspended from 1st December to 1st March.

December 2020 and January 2021 Date Changes

Rubbish only

21 Dec	no change
22 Dec	no change
23 Dec	no change
24 Dec	no change
25 Dec	moves to 29 Dec

Recycling only

28 Dec	moves to 30 Dec
29 Dec	moves to 31 Dec
30 Dec	moves to Sat 2 Jan
31 Dec	moves to 4 Jan
1 Jan	moves to 5 Jan

Rubbish only

4 Jan	moves to 6 Jan
5 Jan	moves to 7 Jan
6 Jan	moves to 8 Jan
7 Jan	moves to Sat 9 Jan
8 Jan	moves to 11 Jan

Recycling only

11 Jan	moves to 12 Jan
12 Jan	moves to 13 Jan
13 Jan	moves to 14 Jan
14 Jan	moves to 15 Jan
15 Jan	moves to Sat 16 Jan

Key

Red Outline =
Date Change

Orange =
Recycling Only

Purple =
Recycling and Garden

Grey =
General Rubbish

December 2020

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	See above

January 2021

M	T	W	T	F
See above				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

February 2021

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

March 2021

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

April 2021

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

May 2021

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

June 2021

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

July 2021

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August 2021

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September 2021

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October 2021

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November 2021

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Let's sort it...

...and recycle even more at home!



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Use your **Orange Lidded Bin** for plastic, paper and card, cans, foil, cartons and aerosols

Empty and **rinse** all containers before putting them in the recycling bin.

Tear up large cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin.

Do not use black sacks. Please put recycling into the recycling bin loose.



Remember!

If in doubt, please leave it out of the recycling bin

YES PLEASE ✓



Plastic bottles



Plastic tubs, trays and containers



Plastic bags and wrap



Tins, cans, clean foil and aerosols



Clean, dry paper and card



Tetra Pak and cartons

NO THANKS ✗



Food waste



Textiles and clothes
please take to your local charity shop or mini recycling site



Nappies



Black sacks



Glass bottles and jars

Use your **Green Lidded Bin** for garden waste

YES PLEASE ✓



Leaves, plants, cut flowers, cut grass

NO THANKS ✗



General waste and soil

Alternatively take any garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Barkers Lane, Bedford.

Remember! Garden waste collections are suspended from 1st December to 1st March.

To find your collection day and even more about recycling visit www.bedford.gov.uk/recycling

 **recycle**
for Bedford Borough

Wootton Tang Soo



Dear all,
I hope this finds you well. My name is Pat Bradley, I am a 3rd Dan Black Belt in the Korean Martial Art of Tang Soo Do (TSD).

Tang Soo Do is essentially a Korean version of Karate and shares similarities in stances and techniques. I have been a Black Belt since 2010 and have been studying TSD for about 15 years. When not in lockdown my class, Wootton Tang Soo Do, runs on a **Thursday evening in the Village Hall from 1830 to 2000** or in old money 6:30 pm until 8pm. The class welcomes students from age 6 upwards, all abilities are welcome and training can be tailored to the individual. **First class is free** and subsequent classes run from **£3.50 for children to £4 for adults**, with reduced costs for family groups based on numbers.

Wootton Tang Soo Do is part of the Dal Poon Association which has classes throughout Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Durham and even has a class in Finland. This Association is then part of a much larger Federation with classes throughout London, Northern Ireland, Ireland and Malta. Finally, that Federation is part of an overarching governing body called the International Martial Arts Association,

based in the USA, with clubs throughout the US and even in Brazil!. Why did I tell you this, for one thing it is quite interesting (I hope) but also gives you an idea of how big my TSD family is and gives you some idea of the opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds when we finally get a chance to get back together again for seminars, gradings and tournaments.

The ideology of TSD is expressed by a set of codes and tenets that we follow, these include loyalty, friendship, integrity, concentration and perseverance. These concepts along with the others are demonstrated in all of the things that we do. Respect for ourselves and others is one of the most important concepts and can be seen in the way in which we greet each other, students will bow to the instructor as a sign of respect, but in turn, the instructor will return the bow as a sign of respect to the student.

The basic concept of TSD is self-defence. We don't attack first. What we hope to develop in our students is a level of self confidence and awareness so that they can assess dangerous situations and find methods of extracting themselves from those situations without resorting to fighting. The best defence against being attacked is to not be there in the first place. So we will teach our students to be conscious of their surroundings, don't get boxed in and to make sure there is plenty of visibility around them. What we also like to do is build stamina in our students, lots of press up and jumping jacks so that they can run away! Develop big voices so that they can shout for help or use their voice as a weapon to startle their attacker(s) and use that hesitation to get away.

Stewartby Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society

Waiting in the Wings

2021 marks the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of SAODS.

Of course planned celebrations and performances are currently on hold. Nevertheless the company is champing at the bit, waiting for the all clear. As it stands, theatres can open from 17th May, so hopefully the company will be able to get together and start rehearsing around that time. During lockdown, we have remained in touch through regular Newsletters and a quiz, in order to keep in contact and to raise our spirits.

Here are some photos from past shows to whet your appetite. **Watch this space! We will be back!**

Carol Wallman



Average Speed Cameras in Wootton

Those that live on or walk along Fields Road will have noticed the impact these cameras have had. Vehicles are moving more slowly and the noise levels have reduced also.

Moving forward, the next road to have cameras installed will be Cranfield Road. The parish council has to work with Bedfordshire Police and Bedford Borough Council to get them installed. The parish council is aware that other roads have been suggested (and agrees with most), however nothing can move forward without police backing. The hope is the successful installation of cameras along Fields Road (and subsequently Cranfield Road) will enable the parish council to keep pushing for those other areas also.



	December	January	February
Fields Road	121	14	61



Wootton
GOOD NEIGHBOUR
Scheme

CAN WE OFFER YOU A HELPING HAND?

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HOSPITAL, DOCTORS & VET APPOINTMENTS, SHORT TERM
DOG WALKING & GARDENING, SMALL HOUSEHOLD JOBS,
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WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU AND WE'RE HERE TO HELP!



CALL US ON 07717 770 247
MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.30AM - 5.00PM

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Wootton

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Wootton Good Neighbours are a dedicated group of volunteers whose aim is to help elderly or disabled residents of Wootton.

Details of the things we do are listed on the advert in this magazine. We are supported by the BRCC – Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and also by Andrea Macadam, the village agent. We have a committee comprising a chairperson, secretary and treasurer and other volunteers – all of us are DBS checked in order to provide our services and we are fully insured.

Last year up until December 398 tasks were carried out by members of the group. We must thank Tesco's for donating food items for clients which were delivered at Christmas. In spite of Covid restrictions 41 jobs in January and 40 in February were carried out. Most commendable!

We do get financial support from the Marston Vale Wind Turbine Fund in order to cover the costs of insurance, mobile phone contract, Excel and Word package for correspondence and the printing of leaflets. The parish council has also helped us out financially in the past.

We feel as a group that perhaps not enough people in the village know about what we do and we are anxious to help out people in need in any way we can. We charge a



nominal fee for each task carried out, but this is far less than would be spent on taxi or bus fares.

Please get in touch with Wootton Good Neighbours if you have transport or mobility difficulties or if you are lonely and need someone to keep you company. Obviously Covid restrictions and lockdowns have prevented us from operating to full capacity in recent months, but with the current vaccine programme having such a success, we hope that we shall be fully operational again in the near future.

The dedicated phone number is:
07717 770247.

Malcolm Chalmers
chairperson

Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

Wootton WI may not have been having face to face meetings but the committee have been working away behind the scenes to try to keep members involved.

We have held several zoom coffee mornings and quizzes which a number of our members have enjoyed. (To think this time last year, we hadn't even heard of zoom, or the word furlough) At Christmas, goody bags were delivered to each member which were well received. We've created a monthly newsletter that members have contributed to with tales of their experiences, past holidays and crafts they have tried. There is an ongoing serial with different members writing the next instalment and that has been very funny. Another thing we have done is ask members to write about their memories of life during lockdown as it feels important we should document this for future generations.

With the recent announcements from the prime minister, we are hoping it won't be long before we can have real meetings again. We have all the cleaning gear ready, risk assessments done and just need a date when we can go ahead. We can't wait to see everybody again.



Just a quick footnote, some of you may have noticed our sign is missing from the Memorial Hall wall. Apparently, it fell down and is currently being stored by the pre-school. We have arrangements in place to put it back up once we are able to pick it up.



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

On Monday 8th March we were so pleased to see all of our children return to school having not seen most of them since we broke up before Christmas.

Throughout the lockdown, our teachers and support staff were busy teaching the children of key workers and our vulnerable children as well as providing online lessons for all our home learners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for the great support they have shown us with this blended learning approach.



Even though we were not all together for **World Book Day** on the 4th March, we still managed to celebrate it in a variety of ways. Teachers read their favourite stories for the children both at home and at school to listen to. The children were invited to take part in a competition where the children had to "Freeze Frame" a scene from their favourite story book. The children dressed up as characters and used props to create some great photos.



On Friday 19th March the School Council organised fundraising events for **Red Nose Day**. Staff and children came to school wearing red and the children were invited to perform "something funny for money" to the rest of their class. We had some great jokes and comedy acts!

We are slowly returning to our **"new normal"** in school. Our assemblies are still online and our children are still learning in their bubbles, but we hope to return to being together as a whole school sometime very soon.

Believe - Achieve - Thrive

wordsearch

V P N X G U S T T U L I P P J
L A E E Q R Y P D Z H C F A E
T T S W Y F A R R F A P J R L
E T T A B L E S S I N G S A L
H E B U N N Y B S W N L G D Y
W R C M C S W E E T S G D E B
V N M D Y E B A S K E T E P E
E Z I C H O C O L A T E C B A
E P R S P X B R E H P X O O N
A C A U T X Z Q G X E O R N S
S A C N Y H N N G X E Y A N S
T N L D S K O M H Y P Q T E U
E J E A A Y U P U A S I E T N
R S Y Y Z Q X G N K Q Y J C B
D A F F O D I L T F L A M B W

EASTER
PATTERN
GRASS
PEEPS
SPRING
JELLYBEANS
HOP
BASKET
BUNNY
TULIP
EGG HUNT
SWEETS
MIRACLE

NEST
LAMB
PARADE
DYE
SUNDAY
DECORATE
BLESSINGS
DAFFODIL
PANSY
BONNET
SUN
CHOCOLATE

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.



Carers in Bedfordshire – if you are an unpaid carer looking after a family member, neighbour or friend then Carers in Bedfordshire can provide support and information. To register visit www.carersinbeds.org.uk or if you don't have the internet, Andrea can register you over the phone. Once registered, you can also apply for an NHS Carers Grant of up to £300 to provide you with an item or service that gives you a break from your caring role.

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) credit/debit card defender/blocking sleeve, a disabled toilet key, personal safety alarm, a handy grabber for picking up items or a 'good grip' potato

peeler suitable for arthritic hands? Andrea has a few useful items to give away free, but be quick before they all go! Contactless Covid safe delivery.

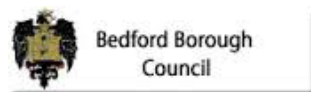
Foodbank vouchers – if you are struggling to keep yourself fed properly due to a temporary change in income such as a benefits issue or unemployment then Andrea can issue a Foodbank voucher to tide you over.

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. We can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Blue Badge and Attendance Allowance forms. Whilst we are unable to hold face to face home visits at present, we can provide telephone support and advice.

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



The Day the Rains Came

It was the same every year, always had been, and always would be. That was the cycle of Nature in the region.

In that part of Africa, the proportion of time that the climate was equably balanced was small.

All through the summer, the soil was turned into a dust bowl.

Temperatures over 45 degrees Celsius baked the land, day after day, week after week. Almost all vegetation died, trees were stunted and wilted in the dry, searing heat. Only plants that had evolved with long, deep-reaching roots that could reach moisture way beneath the surface of the earth could survive.

For the entire populations of living animals, insects, reptiles and birds, every day was a life or death search for water. The leaders of herds of bison, elephants, giraffes and deer used in-built instincts to find water to keep their herds alive. Huge numbers of creatures perished for lack of water. The weak, old or infirm would be the first to die. Animals of all species usually had to travel huge distances, in killing, arid conditions, in their search for water.

Then summer ended.

Then, there were months when torrential storms poured huge volumes of rainwater on to the parched soil below. Thunderstorms of frightening magnitude became daily occurrences.

Dried up river beds became raging, fast flowing rivers. Rocky tracks that passed for roads in the region were transformed into flooded streams of water that were totally impassable.

Paths that the animals used in their travels were turned into streams of slippery, treacherous mud slides.

Then, all life, animal and vegetable, had a surfeit of water.

Great lakes formed, which were used as watering holes by creatures of all types. Animals that were predators, hunting and killing other species in the natural food chain, could be seen drinking side by side with those other species, in a kind of temporary “cease-fire”, that enabled life to continue.

This particular year though, the storms at the end of the summer had been very much more severe than usual.

The thunder and lightning had never been seen on such a scale before. Men cowered, and tried to shelter from such a display of power by Mother Nature.

The individual lakes that formed every year started to join up, flowing into each other to form vast, freshwater seas.

Tracks and paths progressed way beyond the state of being rivers of mud, and became submerged under the newly-formed oceans.

All living creatures that were mobile fought to seek higher ground, in order to give themselves a chance to survive the rising flood waters.

And still the rains came.

And they continued to fall.

Without ceasing, they continued.

There was no let-up.

And the never-before-seen precipitation still continued.

Until eventually, there was no land showing above the surface of the water.

And all life perished.

And then, a small wooden boat, an ark, carrying a few human beings, and with a pair of almost every species of animal on board, came into sight.

And Noah saved all life on Earth from extinction.

Colin Zardin

E, A, S, T, E, R,

at St. Mary's

Open Air Event

Easter Sunday (4 April)
6am Sunrise Service
off Hall End Road

Easter Outdoor Walk
Through Event for
Families (more details
soon on our website)

Services in Church*

Good Friday (2 April)
10am Family Service

Easter Sunday (4 April)
10am Family Communion

Services Online

Good Friday (2 April)
Service from 6am on
YouTube

Easter Sunday (4 April)
Service from 6am on
YouTube



*Booking required through our website, from Tuesday 16th March.

**We wish all Wootton News
readers a very Happy Easter.**



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

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