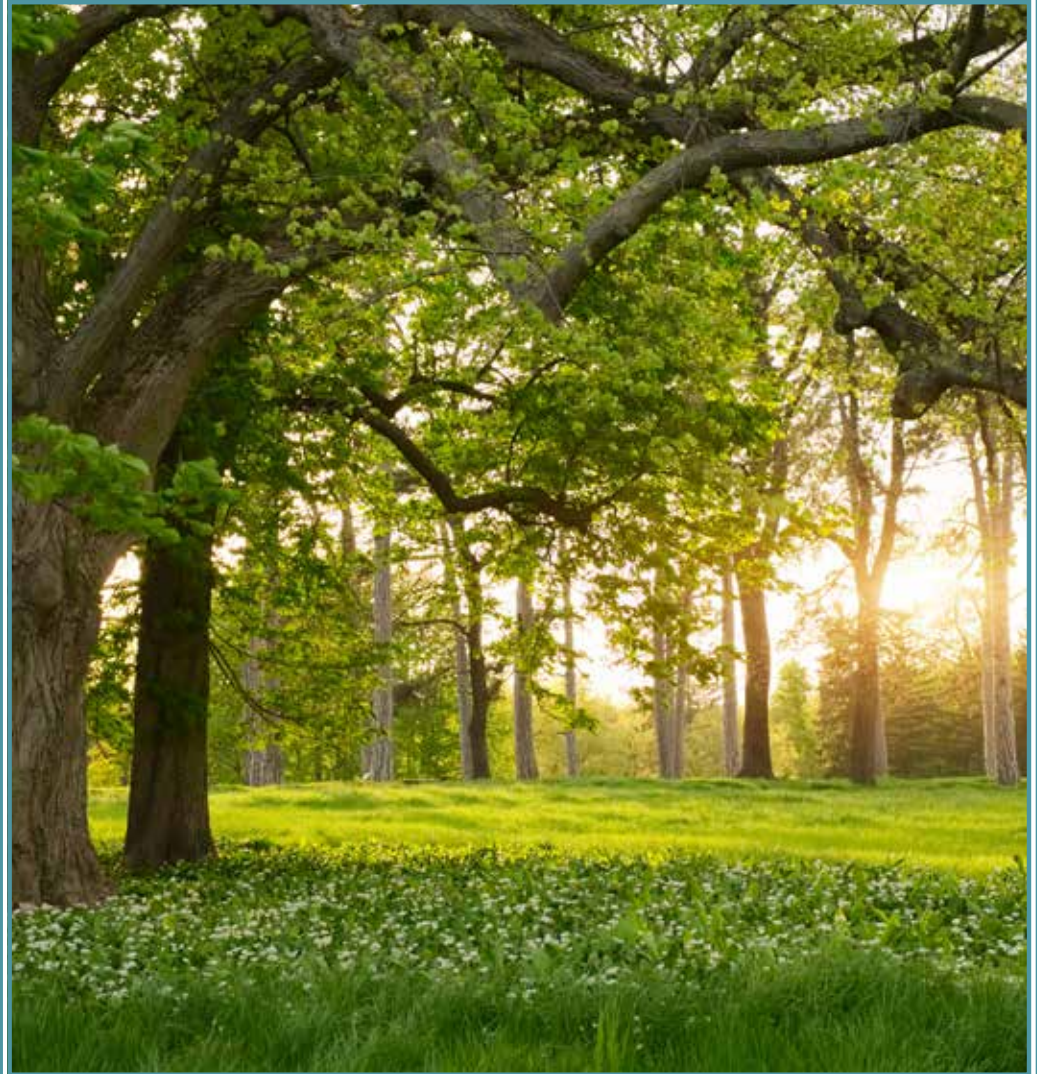


The
Wootton
P A R I S H N E W S

SPRING EDITION

March 2022



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

Claire Watson: 07851 237 394

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

Community Centre: Lorna

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 Non Emergency: 101 Anti-Social

Behaviour: 767 037

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

Rev Michael Giles: 930 882

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 Leaders Required call Mark: 07772 330169

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 Leaders Required call Mark: 07772 330169

Country Players - Tina Kirkup -

Tina.Kirkup@hotmail.co.uk

Explorers - Jake: 07808 077 027

Group Scout Leader - Mark: 07772 330169

Guides - Gill: 856 566

Marston Vale Forest School: 07811 087 322

Royal British Legion Wootton Poppy Appeal

Organiser - Chris: 07865 051 453

Scouts - Jake: 07808 077 027

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

55 Club - Bob: 768011



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Next Issue: June 2022

Copy Date: 1 May 2022

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



Neighbourhood Plan

At the time of preparing this report, the referendum for the Neighbourhood Development Plan has just been announced. 634 votes were recorded in favour of a yes to the question 'Do you want Bedford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wootton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' 121 votes were recorded in favour of a no to the same question. Lesley Blue, Deputy Counting Officer for Bedford Borough Council has declared that those voting have voted in favour of making the Wootton Neighbourhood Plan. I would like to thank everyone who has put in many hours preparing the plan and all those in the parish who have completed the questionnaires, attended the workshops and open days. We have been working on the Neighbourhood Development Plan since 2015 which would oversee a maximum of 105 houses built on various small-scale sites around the village.

The Queen's Green Canopy

This initiative, organised and overseen by Wootton Parish Council in partnership with the Crown Estate and Forest of Marston Vale was held on Saturday 22nd January 2022. This was a unique tree planting event, held to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and benefit future generations. 70 trees were planted – one for each year of Her Majesty's reign, on land owned by Wootton Parish Council at Lorraine Road cemetery and the Crown Estate. The Forest of Marston

Vale supported the event by providing the trees through Defra's 'Trees for Climate' campaign – the trees being a mix of oak, wild cherry, rowan, hornbeam, field maple and silver birch. A Commemoration Board was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, who also planted the first tree. It was a great morning and very well supported, with close to 200 people attending.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebrations

The parish council are planning an event on Thursday 2nd June to be held at the Recreation Ground on Church Road. Please see the article elsewhere in this edition for fuller details.

Berryfields/Fields Road Roundabout Competition

I am pleased to announce the winning design for the Fields Road roundabout is the 'Beacon and Flowers' design. Once the Platinum Jubilee Beacon event has taken place on 2nd June, the beacon will be moved to this site from the recreation ground. Thank you to all who voted and to Caroline Purser for the designs.

Football pitches

The fences around the grassed pitches on the Berryfields Estate (adjacent to the A421) are there to protect the grass and allow drainage works to settle. Further drainage works are still needed. Unfortunately, the fencing keeps being pulled apart, and people have been seen walking in there with and without dogs. This area is private and still being worked on – the fencing is there for a reason. Please stay away.

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



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

Christmas and New Year already seems so long ago now – thank you to those who took the time to thank the parish council for its **Christmas Street Lighting**. We were able to extend the scheme to include Church Road and a greater section of Bedford Road – it's good to know they were well received.

You will see an article elsewhere in this edition in relation to **The Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting Event** which took place on Saturday 22nd January. It was lovely to see such a good turnout and the event was a total success. The parish council is proud to have been the first parish in the county to hold such an event. Thank you to Cllr Bob Wallace for leading the project with the Forest of Marston Vale and Crown Estate.

This edition includes a further article – this time relating to **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend Celebrations** (2nd to 5th June 2022). Please hold the date for **Wootton's Beacon Brazier event** which will take place on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at the Church Road Recreation Ground. The finer details will be published via our website and Facebook page when known – the inaugural meeting of our newly-formed

working group will have just taken place by the time you read this and the minutes will be published on our website.

Wootton now has two volunteer **litter pickers** in addition to Charlotte who covers the recreation ground at Church Road and Lorna who looks after the rest of the village, save for the new estates either side of Fields Road and at Hall End (Little Wootton). A big thank you to Miriam and Jan for taking a proactive approach and registering with **Bedford Borough Council's Community Champion Scheme**. This has enabled them to receive safeguarding advice as well as guidance, appropriate equipment and ongoing support should they need it. To sign up for this scheme please visit: www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering and an officer will be in touch.

No apologies for again mentioning the **Wootton Good Neighbours Scheme**. If you can spare a few hours a week or even a month, you really will make a difference. Please email their co-ordinator at WoottonGoodNeighbourScheme@gmail.com or telephone them on **07717 770247**. The scheme will arrange for a DBS check to be undertaken. Should you need their help yourself, the scheme charges £2 for a return trip anywhere within Wootton. Trips outside Wootton are charged per mile.

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 2022

MARCH

9th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
9th	Full Council	7.30pm
16th	Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
30th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
30th	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 Working Group	8.00pm

APRIL

13th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
13th	Full Council	7.30pm
20th	Annual Parish Meeting	7pm
27th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
27th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
27th	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 Working Group	8.00pm

MAY

11th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th	Annual Council Meeting	7.30pm
11th	Full Council	To follow ACM

All meetings are held at Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way, Wootton.
Please check noticeboards and the parish council website for any cancellations
or changes to timings and/or venue:

<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin.php?page=ee-simple-file-list-pro&eeFolder=Meetings>.

Please contact the Clerk to the Council if you would like to attend any meeting as the parish council is still adhering to social distancing practices where possible and the Community Centre meeting room can only accommodate limited numbers.

Noticeboards are located at the following locations:

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

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



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr john wheeler

I hope you all managed to have a nice Christmas and New Year and meet up safely with family and friends over the festive period. Covid-19 is still out there and we need to be careful to protect ourselves and loved ones. Thank you to Wootton Parish Council for the Christmas lights – I have had a lot of nice comments regarding these.

I have been to both **village schools** and they are doing a great job in continuing to educate the children under ongoing difficult circumstances. The lower school children were happy and pleased to be at school. Upper school students are also getting back into a routine, with the Year 11s having just sat their mock exams whilst getting ready for the real thing after Easter. Having spoken to the students it's clear they are keen to get back to normality, however some have had a hard time of late but are receiving support from the school's pastoral team, who are doing a wonderful job.

On Saturday 22nd January 2022, the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis,

unveiled a commemoration board and planted the first of 70 trees as part of **The Queen's Green Canopy project**. See elsewhere in this newsletter for fuller information. The day was a success and I am so thankful to those who helped make it happen: Wootton Parish Council, The Crown Estate and the Forest of Marston Vale. Thank you also to the Lord Lieutenant for attending this marvellous event. It was lovely to see so many residents of all ages joining in and helping to plant a tree.

A big thank you must also go to Chris Ashpole and her helpers who raised a staggering £9,878.21 last year as part of the **Royal British Legion poppy appeal**.

Highways Update

Work is continuing on the schedule of works for Wootton with Keeley Lane pavements being resurfaced in February. Folkes Road will be resurfaced also in February as will Harris Way (Berryfields Development). I hope the rest of the works will be completed by Easter if not soon afterwards. I have arranged for a mixture of bulbs to be planted on Popes Way Green so hopefully they should be coming out soon. I have added to the sites each year.

Charity Update

I hope to publish details of a Bob Lunniss Charity event to coincide with The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations this year – watch this space for now.

Bedfordshire Police Update

Bedfordshire Police continue to hold days of action within Wootton – one was recently held in February. These are helpful in that the police knock door-to-door to speak with residents, before patrolling any areas in need and taking appropriate action.

Please report all appropriate incidents either on 101 or online at: <https://www.beds.police.uk/>

Bedford Borough Council Update

Bedford Borough Council voted to raise Council Tax by 3.99%, 2% of which is earmarked for Adult Social Care. There were calls to freeze the Core Council Tax amount by the Conservative Group to ease financial pressures currently faced by residents but these were rejected by the other parties.

As part of the Traffic Management Act (2022), Central Government will be giving councils the option to apply for powers to enforce against 'moving traffic offences'. Currently, only the police can take enforcement action against these offences. Bedford Borough Council is considering acquiring these powers, and wants to hear the views of local residents, businesses

and interested parties. To see the proposal and fuller information, and to have your say, please visit www.bedford.gov.uk/mtoconsultation

Looking at the latest news surrounding the **East West Rail (EWR) proposal**, all councillors have been invited to meet and discuss latest developments (the date as yet has not been determined). Councillors from all parties have expressed dismay that residents have not been invited and are hoping for better two-way communications in future proceedings.

Finally, Bedford Borough Council has **welfare provisions** you may find of use – please visit:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/advice-and-benefits-grants/local-welfare-provision/>



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Each year, Wootton Parish Council sets a 'precept'⁽¹⁾ on council tax bills that are produced by Bedford Borough Council. This is collected through the council tax system and paid to the parish council by Bedford Borough Council. It is the only source of tax revenue available to the parish council.

For this financial year (2021-22), the parish council made no increase on the precept from the previous year's figure, however for 2022-23, the parish council has determined the need to increase its precept demand by 4%. This is roughly in line with inflation and ongoing increases to utilities including gas, water and electricity.

Property Band	Annual Precept 2022-23	Weekly Precept 2022-23*
A	£62.58	£1.20
B	£73.01	£1.40
C	£83.44	£1.60
D	£93.87	£1.80
E	£114.73	£2.20
F	£135.59	£2.60
G	£156.45	£3.00
H	£187.74	£3.60

* The weekly precept figure is calculated as the annual precept figure divided by 365 days, multiplied by 7 (days per week).

All financial information is published in our annual report which is delivered to each household and is also available online via our website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/publications-3/>. We also publish financial information elsewhere on our website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/finances/>

⁽¹⁾ The precept demand is submitted annually to Bedford Borough Council in January and paid in two instalments in April and September. It should reflect the annual budget/running costs of the parish or town council submitting the demand.



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

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

Email: bizzybeespre_school@btconnect.com

Tel: 01234 767785 **Website:** www.bizzybeespreschool.org

Welcome to our Spring 2022 Newsletter!

Hello from the Bizzy Bees Team! We are enjoying the spring term and celebrating our **50th Year as Bizzy Bees Pre-School**.

We held a jumble sale and small exhibition of old photos to celebrate. Thank you to everyone who supported us! The children have been exploring our tuff tray activities this term which include a dinosaur world, coloured rice and playdough along with a Chinese New Year theme. There has been lots of dancing and singing with Frozen 'Let it go' a firm favourite. We have our sponsored Wellie March in March coming up so keep an eye out around the village for the Bizzy Bees children marching in their wellies and give us a wave.



We have **two new staff members** who have recently joined our wonderful team. They are both doing a fantastic job, all the children love having them in the setting. Mel Harding (left) is an Early Years Practitioner (Student Level 2) and Amy

McAllister (right) is our Early Years Apprentice.



We already have a healthy waiting list for September 2022, so please do ask for an application form if you would like to be added. Children can be put on our waiting list from the day they are born, it's never too early to secure their place, as we take children from 2 years old. Our child application forms and registration forms can be found on our website or simply give us a call and we can email you a copy.

Bizzy Bee's offer free-flow sessional day care including Breakfast and Lunch Clubs for young children from 2 years to school age. Bizzy Bees is a child lead all inclusive setting providing exceptional childcare for your children.

Our days are term time only Monday to Friday 8:15am – 3:45pm. We accept 2-year-old funding and 3-4 year old 15 and 30 hour funding for all of our sessions. We also accept cross funding if your child attends/would like to attend more than one Pre-School.

Sessions are:
Breakfast Club: 8:15-9am
Breakfast provided

AM session: 9-12pm

Lunch Club: 12-12:45pm
Please bring a packed lunch

PM session: 12:45-3:45pm



Become a Committee Member

If you would like to support Bizzy Bees or learn more about us please feel free to email our Committee Chair, Nicola O'Halloran

**committeechair@
bizzybeespreschool.org**

Job Vacancy

SEN support EY
Practitioner 1:1 support



We have an exciting opportunity for someone who would like to support a child with special educational needs as a SEN one to one support assistant. Term Time only, please contact us for more details.

Tel: 01234 767785

Email: hello@bizzybeespreschool.org,

Website:
www.bizzybeespreschool.org

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



1st Wootton Boys' & Girls' Brigades

The Brigade Companies at Wootton are very active & offer activities to children and young people aged four/five through to eighteen. Our regular weekly meetings have plenty to interest everyone with games and sport, crafts and stories, music, to learning life skills or meeting up with their friends. In addition we take part in competitions against other BB/GB Companies, go on Outing/Trips and Camps. In short, we have a great time !

Recently we've joined in with the **Village Remembrance Parade** and **The Queens Canopy tree planting event**. We've also just raised **£150 for The Malala Fund** as part of our Helping Others ethos. And we are currently planning a 10 day canvas camp to Wales this summer.

Since this September's restart (and despite covid restrictions) we've seen an uptake in new members joining.

If you'd like your child to be part of the Adventure, please contact us via our email:

BBGB1stWootton@gmail.com to book a trial session.

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 the children enjoyed learning about Arctic animals. Our focus was polar bears and penguins, but we discussed other Arctic animals as well. The children investigated ice; and tried to free the animals from icebergs! They observed how the frozen ice cubes melted and we discussed why they were melting.



The Year of the Tiger - 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, painting lanterns and tigers. Lina brought in her pasta making machine and the children took it turns to make Chinese noodles. We have learned some Chinese words and songs; and looked 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. We learned about the custom of giving out

red envelopes, 'Hongbao'; these envelopes usually contain money and are given to all children and unmarried adults. The red envelope symbolises energy, happiness and luck. Each child decorated their own red envelope and placed a lucky gold chocolate coin in it. To finish off the week the children stayed for a Chinese meal of sweet and sour chicken, vegetable spring rolls and boiled rice.



The children celebrated **St. Valentine's Day**. Our Valentine curriculum explored theme colours and heart shapes. The children made valentine cards, created heart shaped cakes from pink playdough and made love potions in the tuff tray. Our reading focus book was 'Guess How Much I Love you'.



Show the Love is an annual celebration of all that we love but could lose to climate change. The children learned about **climate change**, and how it affects the everyday things that we love. They learned about how trees are vital for life, how they help

us breathe; that they house minibeasts, birds and animals and help make the world beautiful. The children hunted for branches that were laying on the garden floor and then took it in turns to use a bowsaw to cut wooden discs. The children decorated the discs to draw green hearts and hung them from a tree in the preschool garden.

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 £4.50 per hour (£13.50 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 £4.50 per hour.

Term time opening hours:

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



St Mary's Preschool is now full for September 2022 however, we are accepting applications for September 2023

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WOW, I've just received my Energy Bill for January! It's doubled since the last one. What's going on, how can people pay this sudden rise, who are living on a shoestring now? Nothing seems stable any more, the Omricon virus seems to be affecting many people, the threat of war looms over Europe, via the dispute in the Ukraine, and in other parts of the world to a lesser degree, weather disturbances all over the world, droughts, floods, earthquakes, disease. What can be done?

What does the Bible say about these things, can an old book like the Bible still have a message for this modern world? Yes, it can.

The Bible talks about Perilous times coming. People being lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. People will be covetous. People will be boasters and proud. Children will be disobedient to parents. People will be unthankful. People will be unholy. People will be without natural affection. Despisers of those things that are good. People will be lovers of themselves. People will have a form of Godliness, but deny the power.

Sadly I think that all those things can be seen in our culture today. **2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5.**

In our Fellowship at the Baptist Church we accept the Bible as God's word for all situations, especially for today as we see many disturbing things happening.

I expect that Covid Virus has affected every organisation to a greater or lesser degree. We are recovering from the months when we couldn't have regular services.

Easter will soon be here, when we will be celebrating the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection to life after his death on the cross. It was there that he took our punishment for our sin and unbelief and gave us His righteousness and eternal life.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings and you will find that we are a Bible based church, who try to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and the good news of salvation through repentance and faith in Him.

May God bless the people of this village with His care and protection.

Rob Stanton.

On behalf of the Fellowship at the Baptist Church.

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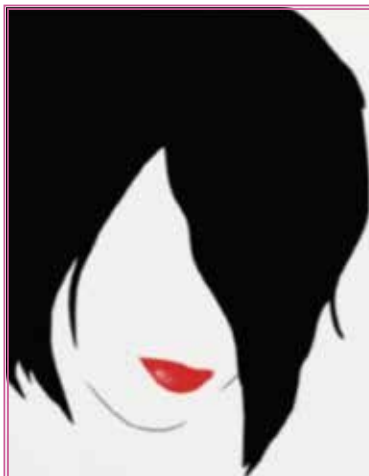
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For piggies, we also offer a Piggy Pamper using Gorgeous Guineas Shampoo and paw cream, where they can have a wash, hair style and pedicure (for an extra small fee).

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 or birds on their holiday

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

WPC (1) is still pushing to secure police support to install average speed cameras along Cranfield Road. Fuller information can be found here: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/average-speed-cameras/>

Changing Rooms renovations

Church Road

2022

WPC intends to demolish the old toilet block and renovate the changing rooms, providing toilets and a small kitchen. A dedicated storage area will provide space for the football teams, WPC and Wootton Country Players

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

Visit the following links for fuller information: BACI's (2) website: <https://bedsagainstinccinerator.wordpress.com/>; BACI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks>; WPC's website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/>

Fun Fest 2022

Church Road recreation ground

9th July 2022

The Fun Fest will be back after a two year hiatus! Please contact the Clerk to the Council for fuller information

Her Majesty's

Throughout the village

June 2022

Platinum Jubilee Weekend

See elsewhere in this edition for the 'Hold the Date' article. Further publicity will follow via WPC's working group, subsequent minutes and Facebook comments

Local Plan 2040

Throughout the village

Ongoing

BBC's Local Plan 2030 has now been formally adopted and works have begun on BBC's Local Plan 2040. Fuller information can be found here: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/local-plan-review/>

Lorraine Road Cemetery extension

Lorraine Road cemetery

Ongoing

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

Works on the remaining units remain ongoing. It is not yet known who will operate the units when available

Neighbourhood Plan

The whole civil parish of Wootton

2021 into 2022

The referendum was held on 17th February. 634 votes were recorded in favour of a yes to the question 'Do you want Bedford Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wootton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?' 121 votes were recorded in favour of a no to the same question. Lesley Blue, Deputy Counting Officer for Bedford Borough Council has declared that those voting have voted in favour of making the Wootton Neighbourhood Plan.

Real Time Passenger Information (bus stops)

Four bus stop sites within the village

2021 into 2022

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 issues with power supplies. WPC continues to push for these additional units to be installed and for repairs to be effected to the original units, which have since been vandalised

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 to the Council)

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. Upgrade works (needed ahead of adoption) will be undertaken in May 2022

Key:

1. Wootton Parish Council

2, Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator

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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LENT 2022 Theme: Let wisdom speak

2nd March to 14th April

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/landing/lent/>



Dear friend,

LENT is that time of the year when the Church has an M.O.T on its faith. We have six weeks in which to dig a bit deeper, reflect, slow down, maybe for some to speed up in terms of our faith. But its not a navel gazing exercise whereby we are self-absorbed about ourselves the whole time. The M.O.T on our faith hopefully will lead us to fine tune our lives, replace those bits which are tired and worn out. Like a car we need to ensure that our faith is safe to navigate the difficult journey of life.

So, for our spiritual M.O.T and faith workout WNL is using the Lent material from ALL WE CAN- the Methodist Relief and Development charity of the Methodist Church. AWC work across the world in partnership with local communities enabling others to develop their lives by providing resources and training.

The LENT booklet 'Let wisdom speak' can be downloaded or ordered on-line.

For the daily study there are stories, Bible readings, prayers, journal pages and practical ideas. The week will follow this pattern:

Wisdom reflections – Leaders from a range of backgrounds will share their piece of wisdom for this moment in time.

Wisdom from Zimbabwe – Stories from the community members working with

All We Can's local partners in Zimbabwe. These are taken from interviews collected in November 2020.

Wisdom of partnership – Some of All We Can's local partners in Malawi, Uganda and Zimbabwe share their wisdom and experiences.

Wisdom of MWiB – An opportunity to hear wisdom gleaned from a range of voices from Methodist Women in Britain.

Wisdom into action – Ideas for turning the knowledge of wisdom into meaningful actions.

Wisdom through prayer – A short prayer based on one of the focus Bible passages from the week.

Rest – A Bible verse to meditate on and/or colour in as you embrace the Sabbath.

We will have some free copies available at Church. They can be collected at the Sunday service 10.30am or Mondays 10am to 12noon- Knit and Natter Coffee Morning.

Check the Church website for more details about the LENT study Group.

It's never too late to start your LENT M.O.T.

Blessings,

Rev Michael Giles



Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society - *We're back!*



SAODS are delighted to be back rehearsing and performing to local audiences. In line with current restrictions, at rehearsals and on stage, the company still makes every effort to remain socially distanced.

On November 19th and 20th November 2021, at Stewartby Village Hall, the company performed, 'It's Good To Be Back!' a miscellany of musical pieces including well known extracts from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

In December, the company performed programmes of Christmas music at Stewartby Christmas Fare which was a very festive occasion and at Clophill Methodist Church in order to raise funds for the church. Currently SAODS are rehearsing for their, 'Spring' which is planned for Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May 2022 to be held at Stewartby Village Hall.

The current programme promises to be varied and exciting a miscellany of song and dance including ever popular tap numbers. The next major production will be, 'The planned for November 2022, current restrictions permitting.



If you want to know more about SAODS or are interested in joining the company on stage or behind the scenes please visit our website;

www.saods.org.uk

or www.facebook.com/StewartbyOperaticSociety

or call our secretary,
Hazel Daniels 01908 616213.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Carol Wallman



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son / daughter to join ?

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Hold the Date
**Thursday
2nd June
2022**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



There is a tradition in the UK of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons - on top of mountains, church and cathedral towers, on town and village greens, parks, along beaches and on cliff tops.

In 1897, beacons were lit to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1977, 2002 and 2012, beacons commemorated the Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilees of The Queen, and in 2016 Her Majesty's 90th birthday.

On 2nd June 2022, the nation will celebrate another unique milestone in its history, Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year as our Monarch and Head of the Commonwealth - her Platinum Jubilee.

It is a feat no previous monarch has achieved. More than 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories, and one in each of the capital

cities of Commonwealth countries in recognition of The Queen's long and selfless service. The beacons will enable local communities such as ours to pay tribute to her as part of the official Platinum Jubilee Weekend of celebrations from 2nd to 5th June 2022.

Wootton Parish Council is inviting everyone to an event on the Recreation Ground for the lighting of our very own Beacon on the evening of Thursday 2nd June

A Working Group is currently planning the details of the event which will be publicised on village notice boards and the Parish Council's website. So, for now, **please keep the date in your diaries!**



Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

Once again, covid won the battle when we decided to cancel our December meeting. The Omicron variant had reared its head and with little known about it at this stage, we felt it wasn't to fair risk our members health.

January arrived and with it a bit of hope the pandemic was easing, so we decided to go ahead with our meeting, learning about life as a **canal barge hotelier** from Barry Watson. Barry was really funny with his presentation, veering between school master mode and best friend, by firing questions at his audience and expecting correct answers or making us laugh with his tales of 78 year old "Audrey" who had been holidaying on his barge for several years, complained about everything and anything, then one year turning up for her honeymoon with her bridegroom in tow! It certainly made us feel we had missed out on a unique kind of holiday experience.



On January 22nd a tree planting for the **Queen's Canopy** was organised by the Parish Council. Some of our members attended, with friends or grandchildren in tow, to plant trees and create memories



for them to look back on when the trees mature. There was a real sense of community as villagers helped each other digging, planting and hammering in stakes, all while the sun shone down on us. HM Lord - Lieutenant Helen Nellis officially opened the proceedings and planted the first tree.

Future meetings are being planned month by month while infection rates are uncertain. These meetings will be either games, crafts or speakers. We are taking all the expected precautions, hand gel is available and although wearing face masks is optional, many of us still prefer to wear them indoors.

Visitors are still welcome to join us at 7-30pm on the **3rd Wednesday of the month** at the Memorial Hall. A visitor's fee of £4 will be charged and includes tea/ coffee and biscuits.



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.

**COACHES
WANTED**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
FOOTBALL COACHING?**

**WOOTTON RANGERS YOUTH ARE CURRENTLY
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER COACHES IN
PREPARATION FOR THE NEW FOOTBALL SEASON.
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Sundays

10am Morning Service
Every Sunday in church -
for all the family

This service is livestreamed &
available on our YouTube channel

To find out more about
our mid week events &
children's groups -
visit our website



Find life that lasts.
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Join us in March to consider real, lasting and true Life

More details on our website

Sat 5 March (8pm) **Curry & Comedy Night**

Thurs 10 March (7.30pm) **Bubbles & Cake:**
'Forgiving my father's killer'

Sat 12 March (10am-3pm) **Lunch Club**
Extravaganza: A day of crafts, activities & food
for the over 55's

Sat 19 March (2-4pm) **Family Fun**
afternoon

Sun 27 March (10am) **Guest Service:**
(Mothering Sunday)

Contact:

info@stmaryswootton.org.uk
01234 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

Lorraine Road Cemetery Seasonal Memorials

- An Apology and Update

It was recently brought to the attention of the parish council that a number of Christmas memorials/wreaths were removed from graves in mid-January, a much shorter timescale after Christmas than in previous years. This has caused unnecessary stress to some families and for that, we sincerely apologise.

We are currently in the process of updating our cemetery regulations for Lorraine Road, and this will now include a formal seasonal memorial/wreath removals programme, covering Christmas, Valentines and New Year:

Christmas

Removal will be the first week of February

Valentines

Removal will be the first week of March

Easter

Removal will be six weeks after Easter Sunday



All other non-seasonal memorials/wreaths will continue to be removed when they start to decay or local wildlife interfere with them. We are also aware that dogs have been allowed to defaecate in the cemetery. We allow dogs into Lorraine Road Cemetery (on leads at all times) as a gesture of goodwill and because we know that dogs can be a source of comfort in times of need. Please do not allow your dog to spoil this for others, in an area that is place of reflection. Pick up and dispose of any dog mess in the appropriate way.

Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline -

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Calls are free and confidential – **Call us on 0808 801 0688**

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

AnneRobson
Trust

Wootton Queen's Green Canopy Planting Day



The sun was shining as about 200 villagers met at Lorraine Road cemetery to take part and/or simply witness Wootton's Queen's Green Canopy Planting Event, on Saturday 22nd January.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and it invites people from across the United Kingdom to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee'. For more information please visit: <https://queensgreencanopy.org>



With a focus on planting sustainably, the aim of the QGC is to plant trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation which will benefit future generations – our children's children and our grandchildren's children....

In Wootton, the Parish Council, working in partnership with the Crown Estate and the Forest of Marston Vale, planted 70 trees (a tree for each year of Her Majesty's reign) on land owned by the Parish Council and an adjacent field owned by the Crown Estate. The trees, a mix including oak, wild cherry, rowan, hornbeam, field maple and silver birch, were supplied by the Forest of Marston Vale through Defra's ⁽¹⁾ 'Trees for Climate' campaign.

HMLord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, who is the Queen's representative in the County, unveiled a commemorative display board and planted the first tree. A second tree was planted by Gareth Lloyd, Chairman of Wootton Parish Council and the remaining trees were planted by members of Wootton's community, including representatives from the churches, schools, girls and boys brigade, plus scout and guiding groups.

It was fantastic to see the young people of Wootton planting these trees. It is they who will most benefit from this Green Canopy and it is they who will see the trees grow over the years and decades to come.



HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Helen Nellis said:

"I am delighted to be visiting the Parish of Wootton to take part in their planting day which honours the 70 year reign of Her Majesty The Queen. During this legacy project, which will benefit future generations for years to come, we will see thousands of trees planted in every parish of Bedfordshire. I am grateful to Wootton for the way in which it has embraced the whole community in this exciting initiative. My thanks go to all those involved, including the Forest of Marston Vale for their generous support".

Wootton Parish Council is especially proud to be the first parish within Bedfordshire to undertake such a project.

A special thank you to Simon Randell for taking the accompanying photos. We can only show a few here unfortunately, however if you would like to view all we have, please visit this link: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/> (and scroll down to 'Queens Canopy'.)



⁽¹⁾ Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs.



Halls for Hire



Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

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

For more information please contact **Naomi** on **07722 876 252** or **NaomiGroves@hotmail.com**

Wootton Scout Hut

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

The fee to hire is £10 an hour and there are discounts available for people linked with the group or regular bookings. For more information or to book contact **Mark** on **07772 330 169**



Village Hall, Church Road

Children's parties up to 11yrs old, plenty of room and open space out the back. A great hall to hire for parties. Also there is a small committee room to use for meetings. The hall is also used for Bowles, Fit Step, Yoga, Essential Dance, Friday Children Dance Class, Drama and Marshal Arts. For more information please contact **Jenny Lambert** on **01234 767 488**

Community Centre, Harris Way

This has a main hall, a kitchen, a large meeting room plus toilets and changing rooms.

For more information please email **bookings@wootton.cc** or

contact **Lorna Rae** on **07897 276 538**



The Royal British Legion

- Wootton's 2021 Poppy Appeal Collection

The 2021 Poppy Appeal here in 'Wootton' was again an excellent success. The 'Pop Up' Gazebo in Fields Road, which was initially trialled due to a 'No cold calling' policy in door to door areas has proven to be a great Annual community spot, raising much needed revenue for this very worthy cause!

Therefore, many thanks should go to all who continue to 'Poppy' along to support the 'Pop Up', including well mannered children and well behaved dogs, also to those who kindly donated knitted/crocheted poppies and garden plants which all helped to raise the fantastic total of £7,742.69.

Along with Business collections listed below and Wreaths purchased for local organisations the final outstanding total amount of £9,878:21 was raised for The RBL.

Most grateful thanks and appreciation should be extended to the following, who sat out in all weathers to help raise this excellent amount.

Mesdames: -

C.J.Ashpole, D.Ashpole, S.Barraclough,
J.Billington, S.Chapillon, S.Cochrane,
G.Crowther, D.Loft, E.Loft, S.Gould, F.Harris,
A.Hudson, L.Hutchings, J.Lambert, I.Lowings,
C.Mason, J.Mead, G.Robinson, A.Stapleton,
D.Sullivan, E.Sullivan, K.Tallentire.

Messrs: -

A.Billington, O.Harris, R.Loft, D.Whitbread.

Business': -

Bedford Hospital c/o R.Bajwa, Blue Cross F.C, Chemist, Corner 5 Restaurant, Co-Part, DIMAN, Fox & Duck, Legstraps, Londis, Kempston Police Headquarters, Stewartby Church, Stewartby Club, Wootton & Bedford Vale Retirement Community Housing Care,



Wootton Lower Schools (Bedford Road & Harris Way), Wootton Upper School and Wootton Parish Council.

Many thanks again to all concerned, for their voluntary time, effort and generosity.

Chris(tine) Ashpole

The RBL Poppy Appeal
Organiser (07865 051453)



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