

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

SUMMER EDITION

June 2022



Contacts Directory

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3 Longden Close, Haynes, Bedfordshire MK45 3PJ

Parish Councillors

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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



Inside The *Summer Edition*

Photo on the front cover is courtesy of Roy Judge

- 04 **Chairman's Report**
- 07 **Clerk to the Council's Report**
- 08 **Dates for your Diary**
- 09 **Borough Councillor Report**
- 12 **Bizzy Bees Pre-School**
- 14 **St. Mary's Pre-School**
- 16 **Wootton Baptist Church**
- 20 **Outstanding Parish Council**
Issues & Projects
- 23 **Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme**
- 24 **Stewartby Amateur Operatic &**
Dramatic Society
- 25 **Wootton FunFest**
- 26 **Community Speed Watch**
- 27 **First Wootton Brigade**
- 28 **Wootton '55 Club'**
- 30 **St. Mary's Church, Wootton**
- 32 **Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre**
- 34 **Village Hall**
- 34 **Wootton Lower School**
- 36 **Wootton W.I**
- 37 **Village Agent**

Next Issue: September

Copy Date: 1st August

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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Design & Print - Bespoke Media
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Editorial Notes:

Wootton News is overseen by an editorial sub group of the parish council. While every effort has been made to ensure that information in this newsletter is accurate, the parish council accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It should be noted that articles written by individuals do not necessarily represent the views of the council. Please send all articles to the Wootton News editor Gareth Lloyd at wootton_news@wootton-pc.gov.uk by the copydate. Advertisements are usually half page (£30 for black and white, or colour). If you wish to advertise then please send your details to the editor. The advertisements are taken in good faith and we cannot accept any responsibility for bad service or workmanship received.

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



I would like to start my report by thanking Hazel Martin, who recently resigned from the council having served for the past 5 years. The parish council is working to both manage and improve the area we live and perhaps also work in and whilst it is the first tier of government, it is not political. If you would like to help shape the future of Wootton, contact the Clerk (Clerk@Wootton-pc.gov.uk) as we now have three councillor vacancies.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As I write this report in early May, plans are going well for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration on the recreation ground. I hope that the weather was good, and those that turned out for the event had a good time and I would like to thank all those involved for their hard work putting this event together.

Fun Fest

The Fun Fest will be returning on Saturday 9th July. We will be having the usual stalls, food, beer garden and Fun Fair, plus live music from 1pm until 9pm. We hope to see you there, so bring your chairs, blankets, picnics and have a relaxing time.

Harris Way Football Pitches

The football pitches should have the final top soil and seeding added at the beginning of June. Please stay off the pitches to allow the grass to take – the hope is the pitches will be available for hire in September this year.

Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan 2040

You may be aware that Bedford Borough Council has launched its next Local Plan – 2040. Thanks to Wootton's Neighbourhood Development Plan, the village has escaped further development, however areas close to Gibraltar Corner (parish of Kempston Rural) and Kempston Hardwick (parish of Kempston Hardwick with Stewartby) are facing in the region of 4,000 new dwellings. If you wish to make any comments on the Local Plan please add the following dates to your diary, as the borough council's consultation will open on 15th June – running until 29th July.



Keeley End Pond

I have been working on Keeley End Pond over the winter months, clearing away brambles to allow other native plants to thrive. During spring the hornwort (a native North American pond plant) had started to take over the pond. Although this plant is good for oxygenating water and allowing small fish and baby frogs to hide from predators, if unchecked it will eventually take over the pond and choke the fish. I have dredged and removed around 75% of the weed to protect the pond wildlife.

The gate to the pond will remain locked as the parish council hopes to encourage the wildlife there to thrive. Excluding the public will help that and encourage biodiversity too – please respect this decision and enjoy the area from the pavement alongside the pond which offers just as good a viewpoint.

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



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

I would like to begin by thanking **Hazel Martin** for her years of work for the parish council, following her recent resignation. In addition to Full Council, Hazel was a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and also the Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group. Thank you Hazel for your contributions over the years. We currently have three vacancies on the parish council. If you would like to know more, please either get in touch with me or take a look at the information we have published on our website via this link: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/people-behind-the-council/>



By the time you receive this newsletter, **Wootton's Beacon Brazier** event will have taken place on Thursday 2nd June 2022 as part of The Queen's Platinum

Jubilee Weekend Celebrations. Thank you to all involved. Our **Fun Fest** event is back after a two year hiatus on Saturday 9th July. Do please get in touch if you would like a stall and look elsewhere in the newsletter for fuller details.



No apologies for again mentioning the **Wootton Good Neighbours Scheme**, as they are in great need of additional volunteers. 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:

To make an appointment please contact me

Dates for your Diary 2022

JUNE

8th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th	Full Council	7.30pm

29th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
29th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

JULY

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

AUGUST

10th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
10th	Full Council	7.30pm
31st	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
31st	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

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/parish-council/meeting-dates/>

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).



SURGERY

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

Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr john wheeler

Spring is well on the way now and it was nice to see the bulbs planted round the village using ward funding looking so bright and colourful. This is a project I intend to continue, with the planting of bulbs around the village. The schools are very busy with Year 11 starting their exams imminently, and the lower school children have been out and about in the village doing various curriculum projects such as learning about woods, parks and the community. It's nice to once again see people out and about. I continue to do my walkabouts around the village, so feel free to stop and ask me a question if you have an issue – or just to say hi! My **monthly surgery** is up and running again at Wootton Library, Lorraine Road on the first Saturday monthly from 11am until noon. I am also more than happy to come and speak to groups or clubs in the village about village issues or to offer help in some way, so do please contact me.

Highways Update

I am sorry to report that both the Parish Council and I have struggled to get information and work schedule dates from developers and Bedford Borough Council.

We appreciate officers have a heavy work load (many have left Bedford Borough Council's employment) – however it hasn't been helped by a lack of support plus failed promises from the developers. Moan over!

On the brighter side, meetings have been arranged to remedy **highways issues** and obtain start dates for outstanding works. Scheduled works will still be carried out – just behind the original schedule. The pedestrian crossing near the lower school on Folkes Road has now been re-painted and the remaining signage (including yellow zig-zag and white lining) will follow. The crossing was a particular issue for me, having not been re-painted for some three weeks after the road was resurfaced and it took several phone calls and pressure applied on developers by myself and the borough council to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion. Please report potholes and full bins directly to Bedford Borough Council via this link:

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/website-information/Pay-Report-Request/> or by calling **01234 267422** where you will be directed as necessary. If you feel that your report has taken too long to be followed up, let me know and I will try to assist.

Bedfordshire Police update

Bedford Police are still patrolling the village and I have regular meetings with them and a direct contact with their rural team. Sadly, we are still dealing with anti social behaviour in the village, however theses incidences are being reported in greater numbers to the police. This helps them to build a profile of events and arrange targeted patrols, so please continue to report on 101 or online via this link: <https://www.beds.police.uk/>

Bedford Borough Council Update

Most residents should now have received their £150.00 council tax energy payment for tax bands A – D – if not, please contact Bedford Borough Council's Council Tax Department via this link: www.bedford.gov.uk/counciltax or by calling 01234 267422 where you will be directed as necessary.

Central government has introduced an **Elections Bill** which includes the need for voter identification and a move for Mayoral and PCC elections voting systems to be 'first past the post'. For more information please follow this link: Elections Bill - GOV. UK (www.gov.uk)

Finally, Bedford Borough Council has **grants** known as local welfare provision which may help vulnerable people and families who are facing exceptional one-off difficulties. For

more information please visit their website via this link: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/advice-and-benefits-grants/local-welfare-provision/>

Dates for your Diary

Wootton Fun Fest:

Saturday 9th July;

Bedford River Festival:

Saturday/Sunday 23rd/24th July;

Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch:

Tuesday 6th December.

Have a nice summer

Cllr John Wheeler

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IZZY, WIZZY, LET'S GET BIZZY MAKING LEARNING FUN!

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Email: bizzybeespre_school@btconnect.com

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



Hello from the Bizzy Bees Team!



We are enjoying the summer term exploring our sand garden. We have been finding lots of mini beasts and watching our sun flowers grow. There has been lots of fun with water play, including all the children having a water fight with the practitioners —it is safe to say the practitioners came off worse! We have some exciting Jubilee

celebrations, all the children have been royally invited to an afternoon tea at Bizzy Bees. We are also preparing our school leavers for their transition to primary school in September and will be sad to see them leave.

We have been busy allocating new spaces for September 2022. Please do ask for an application form if you would like to be added to our waiting list. 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

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ST MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Established 1967

St. Mary's Church Hall, St. Mary's Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9HB
Tel: 01234 767158 Email: stmarys5@hotmail.co.uk

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

Outdoor Learning

The preschool weekly outdoor learning sessions have been very popular with the children. The children have been busy playing in the hammock and tyre swings, whittling, shelter building, mini beast hunts, woodwork, nature art and listening to stories around the log circle. This type of challenging play has helped develop self-confidence, competence, emotional resilience and a sense of independence.

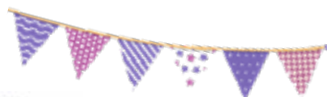


Gardening

The children have enjoyed growing plants and vegetables. The children have planted potatoes, runner beans, tomatoes, strawberries and sunflowers. Gardening has so many benefits for the children, it engages all the senses, enhances fine motor development, introduces scientific



concepts, math skills, social skills, teaches responsibility and patience, encourages healthy eating and most importantly it is fun!



Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The children have been celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee. The children took part in a variety of activities, such as making crowns, flags, dressing up in red, white and blue and baking royal cakes. We learned how to Country Dance and had an afternoon tea party with cream cheese and cucumber sandwiches, scones and tea in bone china cups. Each child was given an engraved Platinum Jubilee Medal to help remember the Jubilee.

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**.



We are now full for September 2022, we are taking applications for September 2023.

Children not eligible for funding – Fees are £4.50 per hour (£13.50 for a 3-hour session).

Term time opening hours:

Mon 9.00 - 12.00
Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00
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Wootton Baptist Church - Bedford Road

The month of June 2022, will be a momentous month for this country. I expect by now, we will have celebrated the Jubilee of our Queen, Elizabeth 2nd. Her reign over this country is truly a time to celebrate. She is probably the most respected Monarch this country has ever had. 'Jubilee' is a celebration recorded in the book of Leviticus in the Bible. Usually of particular years, in our case 70 years. In the Bible the 7th year was a Jubilee when farmers were told to let the land lay 'fallow' for a year, in other words a rest. In some cases, it was 50 years when debts were cancelled. (I doubt if that will happen today.)

Queen Elizabeth the 2nd has upheld the promises she made on her accession to the throne, seventy years ago, and has upheld her Christian principles, which she often spoken about in her Christmas messages. We pray that her successors will also stand firm on the same Christian principles. This country is still Great Britain.

With all the celebrations which we have enjoyed, there is still that shadow of war over Europe. The population of Ukraine has suffered severely because of their powerful neighbour. What a waste of lives and resources, on a huge scale, and just because of the expansion ideology of a larger nation. Is Mr Putin any different to Adolf Hitler with his wish to dominate the world?

It looks as if there is a religious motive behind this war. The Russian Orthodox Church has separated from the Greek Orthodox Church, (Of which Ukraine is an adherent) and even the main Russian



Orthodox Church leader, supports Mr Putin. Religion has often been the cause of wars.

The religion of wars is not the 'religion' of Jesus Christ. Have you recently read chapters five to seven of Matthews Gospel in the Bible? Jesus's teaching were: Blessed are the poor in spirit, Blessed are those who mourn, Blessed are the meek, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, Blessed are the merciful, Blessed are the pure in heart, Blessed are the peacemakers, Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. There is no 'war' in those.

I have been surprised at the many Ukrainian evangelical Christians who have spoken on the media, those who try to follow the words of Jesus. As all true followers of Jesus Christ, we want peace for all men, but that is not the present situation in our world today. Evil seems to dominate wherever you look. Jesus said that the way to true peace is by repentance from our sin and unbelief and to be born again of the spirit of God. That

Way is still open to all who will believe.

Tuesdays at 10am to Midday.

In our church we still (try to) uphold the principles of the Bible. It is not a very popular message these days. The country has lost its Christian foundation, which our Queen speaks about, and because of it we are suffering in all sorts of ways.

All our meetings are free for all to attend, you will find a welcome at them all. You can see what is happening on our Web site, www.woottonbaptistchurch.org.uk or ring **012347 66293** or **07780 595066**.

Jesus Christ is still the WAY the TRUTH and the LIFE as we read in the Bible. (John's Gospel, chapter 14, verse 6.) No man (or woman) comes to the Father, but through Him.)

We thank God for our expanding village and the thousands who now live here. We hope everyone will be able to settle down and enjoy the various facilities of the village.

Our main meetings are, Sunday mornings at 10.30am, with provision made for the children, and in the **evening at 6pm**, which is a more informal prayer and fellowship meeting. We have two Home groups running, and a **coffee morning** on

Rob Stanton.

For the Fellowship at
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www.thplumbing.co.uk

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

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/>

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

Berryfields Roundabout Re-Design

A public vote determined the roundabout should be re-designed using a 'Beacon with Flowers' design. The parish council is now awaiting permission from BBC (2) (as Highways Authority) to undertake the project

Fields Road/Folkes Road

Ongoing

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 (3)'s website: <https://bedsagainstincinerator.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

Lecterns**Various sites within the village****Ongoing**

To date, lecterns detailing historic information have been sited at:

- Keeley End Pond (Bedford Road/Hollies Walk);
- Lorraine Road Cemetery (in recognition of The Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting Event which took place in January 2022);
- Memorial Hall (Bedford Road);
- The Pound (Bedford Road – opposite The Cock Inn PH)

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**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**

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 saw a majority vote in favour of Bedford Borough Council using the Neighbourhood Plan for Wootton to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

**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

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)

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) have been delayed until June 2022

2022

WPC received developer funding (£106k) as part of the Fields Road South development to install a synthetic pitch. WPC owns the sports pitches adjacent to Harris Way, but not the surrounding land which is maintained by Greenbelt Holdings Ltd and so grounds within Wootton Upper School were identified as a suitable site. The facility when delivered will be available to the wider community outside school hours

2022

WPC intends to install a brick-built sign at the entrance to Wootton along Keeley Lane – to mirror the sign at the entrance to Wootton along Wootton/Bedford Road

(1) Wootton Parish Council

(3) Bedfordshire Against Covid

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.

Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme

If you are a Wootton resident you must surely have seen our leaflets which are displayed widely throughout the village – in the Post Office, Doctor's Surgery, Library, Pharmacy ...

We are a dedicated team of volunteers who try to help the elderly or disabled

to get to appointments, help with their shopping, help with reading, befriending and form filling, gardening and simple DIY tasks. We charge a small amount for visits to different places - £2 within the village - but are a lot cheaper than taxis or buses and we are prepared to wait during visits to shops, dentists, doctors and hospitals.



Last year we carried out 568 jobs and there are only 4 of us!

In a growing village like Wootton, it is quite surprising that we cannot get more people to join us! We are DBS checked, fully insured and our clients are all very pleased with what we do. We gave Christmas cards and gifts to all our clients with the help of some local shops and we go out of our way to keep our clients happy. It would be lovely to welcome more volunteers and even get more clients –



we are sure that a lot of elderly people in Wootton could do with a helping hand.

The more volunteers we have, the easier it is to respond to calls from people who need our assistance. We are supported by the village agent, Andrea MacAdam at the Beds Rural Communities Charity, and financially by Marston Vale Wind Turbine and Wootton Parish Council to cover our insurance and administrative costs.

You can get in touch with us by calling Julie on: **07717 770247** Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Let's have your call!

Malcolm Chalmers,
Chairman.

Wootton Parish Council Presents

WOOTTON FUN FEST

SATURDAY 9th JULY 2022
1PM - 9PM
RECREATION GROUND

LIVE MUSIC

1PM - Evie

2PM - Don Borromeo

3PM -  DOCTOR MOONSHINE
Rock & Roll - Party & Fun

5PM -  Nick Moyster
Solo Percussion & Vocalist

7:15PM -  THE MAIDA VALES

STALLS

FAIRGROUND

DISPLAYS

BBQ

ICE CREAMS

CRAFTS

& LOADS MORE

SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Entertainment provided by

Sound provided by



Stage provided by





This year's Spring Concert which took place on 6th and 7th May at Stewartby Village Hall contained a delightful selection of music from the shows and light opera. Movement and dance enhanced the programme. During the interval, a fish and chip supper was served which was much enjoyed by the audience, sadly not by the performers!

Our forthcoming show will be **The Mikado**, that famous operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan. We are very fortunate to have the services of Gordon Hodges as Director and Alana Thackray as Musical Director, both being highly experienced in the world of musical theatre .

The show will take place on 16th, 17th 18th and 19th November 2022.

Rehearsals for this production begin at 7.45pm on Thursday 26th May at Stewartby United Church Hall and most Thursdays after that.

If you would like to join us
please come along.

For further information please visit
our website saods.org.uk.

Carol Wallman



Wootton Community Speed Watch



Your dedicated team of Speedwatch officers have been carrying out regular patrols on Cranfield Road for the last few months.

Covid and Lockdowns prevented us from meeting up every month, but I am very grateful for the assistance I receive from Keith Randell, Les Dick and Graham Ward for their willingness to turn out on quite cold mornings to monitor and slow down the traffic coming out of the village.

All the people who speak to us seem to appreciate what we do and it is testament to our patrols that very few motorists get letters from the police for speeding offences. During the last patrols we have only noted the registration numbers of 3 or 4 cars on average out of 170 - 180 vehicles. This shows that our patrols are effective. During April 514 letters were sent out to motorists in Bedfordshire from 118 sessions, so we are below the county average!

It still surprises me that a village the size of Wootton has only 4 volunteers for Speedwatch patrols and we could certainly do with more! Juliet Wright at Police Headquarters is only too pleased to help out with training and her number is listed in this parish magazine.

Unfortunately we cannot prevent a small number of motorists who speed through the village at unsocial hours but please note the registration numbers of any offenders (if you get time to spot them!) and inform the police.

Malcolm Chalmers

Speedwatch Co-ordinator



With Lockdown over, we were able to leave Zoom behind and get on with running our weekly Face to Face Program at the church and Numbers at 1st Wootton Boys & Girls' Brigades ZOOMED ! With weekly numbers in excess of 75 members.

However, due to this growth, we only have limited spaces left in some age groups, so do please contact us ASAP if you are interested in your son/daughter joining.

All our adult volunteers undertake a disclosure (criminal records) check as part of their registration with The Brigades, and are trained to provide a safe and caring environment for all children/youth

We were delighted to join the village with the planting of the 70 trees for the Queens Garden Canopy and it even featured in our National Gazette

Our Marching Band, consisting of Drums, Bugles & Marching Bells, meets weekly for training and 2 members recently joined a National Massed Band performing on Blackpools world famous Comedy Carpet. Whilst Covid stopped competitions for the past 2 years, we are hoping to be selected to join an Overseas tour in 2023.

A Number of our Senior members are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and it's great to see our young leaders progressing their skills weekly and volunteering within the community.

We are also looking forward to Summer Camp, where we shall be joining with our friends at 1st Newport Pagnell Brigades for 2 weeks traditional style camp



Queen's Green Canopy in Wootton

Members of 1st Wootton joined with their local community to plant 70 trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. Dylan, one of their Juniors, assisted Helen Nellis (Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire) in planting the first tree.

Email Us



bbgb1stwootton@gmail.com

Based at Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road
Girls meet Thursdays, Boys meet Fridays

WOOTTON '55 CLUB'

44 Members attended the April meeting. Kath introduced Paul Gillions from the RNLI who gave an excellent talk about this organisation. The 238 lifeboat stations and 430 rescue craft are manned by 5,500 lifeboat crew who are all volunteers, and the organisation is funded entirely by public donations. Paul's talk was illustrated by photos and videos of a number of lives rescued by the very brave lifeboat men. A sales table of various RNLI items was very busy following the talk.



The total amount raised was £248 consisting of £112 in donations and £136 in sales.

Paul commented 'This was a really generous contribution to RNLI funds for which I know the lifeboat crews will be extremely grateful; perhaps you could pass on their, and my, thanks to everyone'.

Program for 2022 meetings

June 29th

'Quiz' – devised by Diane

July 27th

'A lifetime of Music Education - Clarinet and Saxophone' – Caroline Barlow

August 31st

Biddenham Bell Ringers

September 28th

TBA

October 26th

'The Chase' – David Longman

November 30th

'Natural History' - Alan Goodger

December 14th

'Festive Music - The Hammer Choir

The '55 Club' (formed in 2001) meets at 2.30pm on the **last Wednesday of each month** at the Methodist Church Hall on Cause End Road. There is a mix of speakers and self-entertainment. All villagers over 55 are welcome although anyone younger will not be turned away! There is a charge of £2 a person which includes coffee/tea and biscuits.

New members are most welcome

– just come along on the last Wednesday of the month.

For further information contact Bob at

robertwallace@ntlworld.com or on **768011**.

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**



Summer Holiday Club 2022

Save the dates: 23-26 August

Look out for more details in the
next few weeks on our website
or Facebook page



Contact:

info@stmaryswootton.org.uk
01234 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre

The past few years have been difficult for all of us. During COVID your practice has remained open, and our staff have continued to work throughout to ensure that we have provided the very best healthcare to all our patients. However, given the circumstances, lockdowns, social distancing, the need to protect our staff through the wearing of PPE, etc. the level of service has been reduced. However, now that things seem to be improving and we are starting to return to normality, **we are in the process of redesigning our services** to help us to catch up in the aftermath of COVID and to meet the new challenges for the future of healthcare.

NHS England is assisting us to meet these challenges by introducing new healthcare services and finance and new staff roles. The practice now has the following staff members:

- **Sehrush – Senior Clinical Pharmacist** – to assist staff with their prescription needs and assist our GPs with reviews etc
- **Aden – Pharmacy Technician** – works alongside Sehrush to assist you with your medication needs and carries out annual reviews – e.g. asthma.
- **Sarah – Clinical Pharmacist** starting in June 2022
- **Lawrence – Physician Associate (PA)** – many of you who were registered with the practice in the early days will remember Shannon, Neil, and Rene. They were Physician Assistants from America. Wootton were early adopters of using this profession in General Practice. At that time this profession was in its infancy in the UK and there were no experienced PA's from UK universities. This is no longer the case and we are really pleased to have Lawrence on the team continuing this tradition.



healthy living centre
wootton vale

• Josie – Trainee Nursing Associate

We trust you will welcome all our new staff to the practice.

As you can tell these are exciting times for us. However, we really **need your help and feedback** to help us to deliver these new, and existing, services in the way YOU want, going forward!



We have therefore setup a **short survey on our website** asking you to give some opinions about our appointments and how we communicate with you, and you with us. We would really appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes of your time to give us your thoughts.

If you would like to play an even greater role in the surgery, **we are looking for new members for our Patient Participation Group (PPG)**. The PPG are autonomous to the practice but meet with us to share ideas and get feedback from us as to what we are doing. Historically the group met, during the evening once a month, at the practice. This, of course remains an option. However, one of the very few good things to

have come out of COVID, is a huge advance in communications technology and our adoption of it. This means that the options, for meeting, are greatly increased. The PPG now have a far greater degree of flexibility on how they could meet and interact, e.g.

- Face to face meetings
- Meetings using Teams or Zoom
- "Virtual PPG" whereby the PPG has an extended list of members, (e.g. WhatsApp group), who do not necessarily attend meetings but are asked, through SMS text messages, WhatsApp, surveys for input, ideas or to vote on proposals.
- Other methods such as forums etc. To complete the survey or to express an interest in joining the PPG please head to



Staff News

As it has been a while since our last article, we would like to update you on the team, her at the practice, which is as follow:

GPs

- Dr Lindsay Mackenzie (Clinic Director)
- Dr Nikunj Patel
- Dr Vaida Momkuvieni
- Dr Elias Perez Martin
- Dr Ramesh Soma
- Dr Afshan Shah
- Dr Adnan Khan
- Dr Ghulam Shabir
- Dr Adenike Babalola
- Dr Gabriel Olaiya
- Dr Sahar Kareem

Advanced Level and Specialist Clinicians

- Lauren Barker -
(Advanced Nurse Practitioner)
- Lawrence Fafowora -
(Senior Physician Associate)
- Banumathy Murali -
(Advanced Nurse Practitioner)
- Sarah Bailey -
(Advanced Nurse Practitioner with Sexual Health Specialism)

Healthcare Team and Nurses

- Christine Jarratt (Practice Nurse)
- Megan Collins (Practice Nurse)
- Joanne Stephens (Practice Nurse)
- Josie Goode (Trainee Nurse Associate)
- Lisa Brett (Nurse Specialist Diabetes and Respiratory)
- Sehrush Hussain (Senior Clinical Pharmacist)
- Aden Strong (Pharmacy Technician)
- Anne Meyern (Healthcare Coordinator)
- Charlotte Choules (Clinical Liaison)
- Maira Mackenzie (Clinical Support)

Practice Engagement Team

- Richie Short (Practice Business Director)
- Hayley Allen (Practice Manager)
- Christine Jarratt (Clinical Manager)
- Debbie Cleary (Finance, Patient Reports, Complaints, Personal Assistant to Dr Mackenzie)

Maddie (Supervisor)

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| Dayana | Luisa |
| Elouisia | Ravinder |
| Karen | Rina |
| Leanne | Sabrina |
| Lindsay | Stephanie |
| | Victoria |



Wootton Village Hall

Wootton Village Hall, on Church Road, was opened on 9th July 1983. Funded by village subscriptions (all villagers were asked to buy a 50p brick!!) and a grant from the Local Authority, it has served the Village for 39 years. It was built by a local builder (John Newitt) who still lives in the village. A plaque in the foyer lists the villagers who were the first Trustees –

Mr T Abbott, Mr M Cooper, Mr A R Martin, Mr I A Maunders, Mr M O'Donnell, Mr D F Perry, Mr B Woodin, Mrs C Abbott, Mrs G M Jones, Mr L Mountain, Mrs L J Maunders, Mrs B J Perry, Mr B Simpson and Mr F G Wright.

The Hall is currently run by a committee of villagers including representatives the Parish Council, the Bowls Club and Country Players. **There is an urgent need for committee members. Could you help?** Please contact **Bob** on **768011**.

On weekdays there are regular classes.

These include –

Monday

morning – Pilates (see below),
evening – Yoga (see below)
and Carpet Bowls - contact Viv on 855383

Tuesday

evening – Tai Chi – contact Jenny at
JennyMcCarthy@alouchoriental.com

Wednesday –

morning – Pilates (see below)
afternoon - Children's Dance Classes.
contact <http://www.brennanschoolofdance.co.uk/>
evening – Dog Training (see below)

Thursday

morning – Yoga for Active Adults. Bedford Borough Council – see www.bedford.gov.uk/activeadults
afternoon – Carpet Bowls
contact Rena on 768012
evening – Tang Soo Do (see below)

Friday

afternoon -Children's Dance Classes.
contact <http://www.brennanschoolofdance.co.uk/>

**all is available
ire for parties,
events etc**

on Saturdays and
Sundays and when
regular users are
not using the Hall on
weekdays.



There is also a small committee room available for hire which is ideal for meetings. Kitchen facilities are available. The Hall has a curtained Stage.

**Please contact Jenny on
01234 767488 to book the Hall
or for further information.**

About Some Of The Hall's Hirers

Jo's Pilates

Jo runs Pilates classes on **Monday** and **Wednesday mornings** at Wootton Village Hall.

By working your deep set muscles and creating a strong centre (abdominals and lower back muscles working together) the Pilates way you can:

- Strengthen and tone muscles,
- Improve posture, muscle balance, joint mobility, breathing and body awareness,
- Increase flexibility,
- Lower stress levels and boost your immune system.

To find out more about **Pilates classes** email Jo at - enquiries@jospilates.co.uk or call **01234 767484**

YOGA

Genevieve teaches Yoga on **Mondays evenings** from 6.30pm to 7.15pm at Wootton Village Hall.

Vinyasa flowing yoga enhances flexibility, strength and well being.

To find out more about Yoga classes phone **Genevieve 07849 158 850**

TANG SOO DO

Tang Soo Do (TSD) is a Martial Art created in Korea similar to Karate with a history going back two thousand years. Pat runs classes every **Thursday** in the Village Hall from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. The class is suitable from six years and up. There is no upper age range and the class requires no specific level of fitness or flexibility, with students learning at their own pace and put in as much effort as they can. TSD will help with fitness, confidence, concentration and situational awareness. It will also instil discipline and self respect as well as respect for others. TSD is a great individual pastime but is also ideal to be undertaken as a family activity. We teach practical skills that will stay with you for life. Come along and give it a go, Pat did 15 years ago and he has not looked back. To find out more about Tang Soo Do classes email **Pat** at patbradley2402@gmail.com

DOG TRAINING -RINGCRAFT

Andrea has been a Ringcraft trainer for many years. She has been involved with Lhasa Apso all her life and Chow for over 20 years. She has had great success in the Show Ring, breeding and owning champions. Andrea runs group sessions at Wootton Village Hall on Wednesday evenings.

To find out more about Andrea's classes email shasadeechows@gmail.com



Wootton Lower School

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

Tel 01234 768 239

We are now well into our summer term and it has been wonderful to have the better weather with us. The children love to take their learning outside and be on the field playing sports.

The summer term is always a busy term for us. It started with our year 4 children going on a **residential trip** at the start of May. We were thrilled to once again be able to offer this experience to our year 4 children. They stayed at an activity centre close to Aston Clinton where they took part in activities such as climbing, fencing and archery. After two nights and three days away some very happy but tired children (and staff!) returned, full of cheer.



Other year groups have been busy too. Our **year 3 children** have been learning about the Egyptians and had an amazing Egyptian day with some fantastic costumes where they learnt about pyramid building and also created Ancient Egyptian themed paper sculpture artwork.

The year 1 children are off to the Dinosaur Park in Milton Keynes as part of their Dinosaur topic. We know they are going to have a roaring good time! It is the Forest Centre where the **year two children** are going to as part of their Wriggle and Crawl topic. Here, they will have a chance to go pond dipping, learn about the lifecycles of insects and the habitats of different minibeasts local to Wootton.

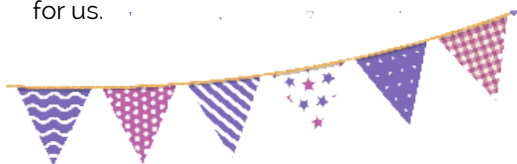


The reception children love taking part in their daily Muddy Puddles activities where they benefit from being outdoors to extend their play and learning opportunities. They are then going to Salcey Forest to have a wonderful day exploring the ancient woodland and taking part in forest school activities, den building and the 'Superworm' trail.

The middle of May saw the return of our



annual **May Fayre**. After two years of not being able to hold this event, we were thrilled to be able to put this on for the village. Each year group danced and we loved seeing the year 3 children dance around the traditional maypole. We want to say a huge thank you to our PTFA who worked so hard to put this May Fayre on for us.



At the end of May, we were delighted to be able to come together as a whole school to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**. The children spent the

morning learning about the Queen and the older children learnt how life has changed in Britain over the last seventy years. The year 4 children learnt a loaf of bread cost just 4 pence in 1952! In the afternoon the children from Bedford Road walked down to Harris Way and we had a wonderful Jubilee picnic on the school field. The children and staff were dressed "fit for the

Queen" and her majesty even made an "appearance" for the children to see.

Following on from the success of last year's **Activity Week**, we are pleased to do this again. This will take place in June and part of this is our annual Sports Day. Other activities which the children are taking part in include first aid, dance and music.



We are always looking for **volunteers to listen to our children read**. If you are interested in doing this, please just drop in to either site, or give us a call on **01234 768239**.



Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

We recently held our Annual Meeting, in April, which ended with the present committee being re-instated and the re-election of our president, Diana Scott. Our meetings are attended by an average of 24 members and we have been lucky to have some new ladies join us to swell our numbers.

For our **March meeting** we enjoyed some Easter Crafts, decorating biscuits and hand painting egg cups. This was a very sociable evening with lots of chatter and a chance to get to know the new members. We have a fully booked programme for the rest of the year with some diverse topics to explore.

In June we are treating our members to a **High Tea** for the Jubilee. In July, Delphi Ellis will be speaking about Domestic Violence Against Women, an important subject that often gets swept under the carpet but surely needs highlighting. August will see the return of Colin the Policeman. Last year he spoke to us on the subject of his job as a royal protection officer, this time we will hear about the other side of his job as a policeman on the beat. Colin is an enthralling speaker.

September, we have David Longman with the intriguing title Defrocked Vicars and the Devil's Fingerprints. Through the year we have social events, crafts and quizzes as well as the speakers. We



also have an exciting project which the committee have been working on, which will be unveiled later in the year. Watch this space!

If you wish to attend any or all of these talks, just turn up on the **3rd Wednesday of the month** at the **Memorial Hall in Bedford Road** at **7-30pm**. We will offer you a cuppa and biscuits (sometimes cake if you are lucky) an evening of entertainment with like minded women and all for the princely sum of £4-00p. If you enjoy it you can join for the year by paying an annual subscription, do ask us for details on the night.



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 Village Agent



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.

Door to Door Transport in Bedford Borough -

- **Do you struggle to get on a bus?** Did you know that the Door2Door minibus service will collect you from home, and has facilities to take wheelchairs and mobility scooters using a tail lift?

- A subscription costs £30 for the first year and £20 annually thereafter

- The **minibuses** operate between 9:15am to 4:15pm, weekdays only. You need to book your journey two days ahead – or earlier for health-related appointments.

- Call the **Door2Door** admin number **(01234) 834933** for more details.

Are you struggling with debt? Help is at hand.

St Andrews Church Bedford run a highly recommended **Money Advice Service**,

available to anyone living in the Bedford area. To contact them, just call **07599 618602**.

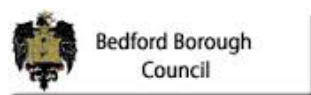
£200 Energy Rebate to All Households – (to be recouped over the next 5 years) All households with a domestic electricity connection will be automatically eligible for the £200 reduction. All suppliers will be applying the reduction to bills from October 2022. Costs will then be recouped from 2023 over 5 years. The scheme will be based on electricity meter points, so it won't matter if you switch supplier.

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.

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





"If only I had some money, I could buy some of the things I know Helen would love to have. But we don't even have enough to put down the initial payment to rent a one bedroom flat, so we could be together. Even if we stay in the horrible run-down part of London where we live with our respective parents, we just couldn't afford it".

This was Tony's heartfelt admission to his best mate, Peter. The boys had met on their first day at primary school, and had been best friends ever since. Even now, twenty years later, and nine years after Tony had left school, they still confided their innermost thoughts to each other. They spoke on the telephone several times a week, and there was no-one else in the world with whom Tony would share his thoughts about Helen, who was the love of his life. His mum and dad really liked Helen as well, but were just not in a financial position to help. "Just keep your head down and work hard, son" Tony's dad would tell him. "Something will turn up to make things better for you".

Peter's parents had been in exactly the same position as Tony's until both boys were fourteen, and in the third year at secondary school. Both sets of parents had lived in the East End of London. ',,,

But then, something had happened for Peter's mum and dad, and they had been able to break away from their impoverished surroundings, and move to a much nicer location in Surrey. His dad had explained that he had been able to get a much better job, and that his new employer had paid for their relocation.

Both boys had speculated about what had really happened. They both thought that Peter's dad had won some money on the football pools. Not millions, but enough to improve their lot dramatically.

Peter had started going to a much nicer school, near their new home. Although he had never previously showed any academic merit, he had started to blossom under his new scholastic regime. He really liked the teaching staff, and responded to their caring attitude. Unlike Tony, who had left school at sixteen to start work in the same factory as his dad,

Peter had stayed on to do well in both O-levels and A-levels. He had done well enough to achieve a place at University, where he had started reading Business Studies and Economics. He studied diligently, and was rewarded with a first class degree at the end of his three year course.

He was now working in the City for a firm of stockbrokers, and he had become responsible for a

number of investment portfolios for some of their clients.

And through all the years of Peter's advancement, he never lost contact with his old mate Tony. They still spoke frequently, and he was delighted that Tony and Helen had stayed together.



They had managed to set up a home together, but only because Tony's dad had been diagnosed with cancer, and died after a short illness. His mum had been heartbroken, and had almost given up the will to live, so Tony and Helen had moved in with her, and supported her financially. Things were clearly very tight for them, but at least they were all together as a family, and Tony's mum had appreciated how caring her son and his partner were.

As well as the constant phone calls, Tony and Peter got together at least once a year. They were so happy that they were still best mates after all these years, but Tony sensed that Peter was almost embarrassed by the gulf in their respective financial positions. The gap was constantly increasing, too, because Tony seemed to have almost a Midas touch when it came to forward buying of commodities, or shares, or currencies. It seemed that everything he touched turned to gold, and ultimately, to huge bonuses.

Although Tony was totally aware of Peter's success, he never had any feelings of envy, or jealousy. Whilst he felt a bit embarrassed by the difference in their life styles, he was truly delighted about his mate's success, and was pleased for him. And he would never have accepted any help from him. He was far too proud to accept what he would see as charity. And Peter respected Tony's feelings too much to overtly offer any assistance.

And so it was that he never knew the truth about the circumstances surrounding his own change of luck.

He never knew that the solicitor who wrote to him was one of Peter's closest business contacts.

He never knew that the long-lost uncle in South America never actually existed.

So he never knew the true source of his inheritance from his "uncle".

All Tony knew was that he was able to move Helen and his mum to a lovely new house quite close to his old mate in Surrey.

He and Helen were able to marry at last. Peter was his best man, and his mum so enjoyed having a garden for the first time in her life.

And such is his love for lifelong friend, Peter will never tell him the truth.





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