

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

AUTUMN EDITION

September 2022



www.wootton-pc.gov.uk

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Parish Council Vice Chairman

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Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer

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3 Longden Close, Haynes, Bedfordshire MK45 3PJ

Parish Councillors

Bob Hensher: 767 774

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Paul Quirk: 768 832

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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.pc

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 - Renna: 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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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**

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



September! Parents and grandparents favourite month of the year! Children are back at school and we can finally put our feet up and relax until the next school break. I hope you all had a great summer and stayed safe in the hot conditions. As I am writing this report (in August), I am hoping September is nice and cool, and the grass can once again turn green.

Average Speed Cameras

This time last year we were pushing the police with the help of newly elected police commissioner Festus Akinbusoye to get average speed cameras on Cranfield Road. At last it has been completed. I know there have been many comments about which road should have been done next. The parish council saw the police data for all major routes in Wootton and determined the worst/highest volume of speeding areas needed to be addressed first. We understand some of you are concerned about speeding on your street and we are working to get the remaining cameras in as soon as possible. We have asked Bedford Borough Council to start the process of installing these cameras on Bedford Road, Keeley Lane, Hall End Road and Church Road. At the time of writing this report, I do not know timescales, but the hope is it won't be too long.



If you look at the map, you will see that each colour is a zone that is monitored. So, if a vehicle was coming from Gibraltar Corner heading towards Cranfield, it would be monitored in the orange, then green and finally the blue zone. If a vehicle was travelling from Fields Road to Gibraltar Corner going via The Chequers PH and Legstraps PH, it would pass through the red, green, yellow and lime zones. Many residents are now concerned that Burgoyne Avenue will be used as a cut-through as a result. We are aware that the developers for that estate will be adding speed reducing measures along the avenue. This will include speed cushions. At the moment, the avenue remains unadopted, so until it is transferred to Bedford Borough Council (as the local highways authority) – there is nothing more that can be done at this stage. The aim of average speed cameras is not to catch and fine – it's to encourage everyone

driving through Wootton to do so within the speed limit and ensure Wootton is a safe place for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike. Unfortunately, there are still drivers with a heavy right foot, who either choose to ignore the speed limit and average speed camera signs, or are incapable of controlling the speed of their vehicle.

Some of you may have noticed that the **war memorial** on Church Road is now illuminated at night. We are trying to improve this valued village asset, and I am looking for some volunteers to help me in the week after Remembrance Sunday to plant tulip bulbs on the grassed area in front of the memorial. Hopefully in spring we will have a nice display of purple tulips. Myself, John Wheeler, Peter Ackroyd and Steve Rowse will be working on organising the Remembrance Day parade and further



information will be published via Wootton's several Facebook pages, once plans are finalised.

Useful Numbers

- Fly tipping - **01234 267422**
- Anti-Social behaviour - **01234 276037 & 101**
- Police non-emergency number - **101**
- Noise complaints - **01234 227266**
- Dog fouling/Being walked on the recreation ground - **01234 718060**



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



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

As we leave summer and head into autumn I would firstly like to thank Mark Atkins and Gareth Lloyd for their hard work in successfully delivering the first Fun Fest in three years, back in July. The sun shone all day and the music created the perfect vibe. It was great to see so many people out in the sun and enjoying the day. It's never too early to plan for 2023, so if you would like a stall or have any ideas on something new for 2023, please let me know.

At the time of writing this report the parish council has finally been able to place the order for **average speed cameras** along Cranfield Road and is now pressing ahead with cameras on the other major routes in the village. Thank you to Hertfordshire Police's Operational Support Team and Bedford Borough Council for helping us finally deliver what residents have been requesting for some time now. This project is entirely financed using Community Infrastructure Levy funding – not taxpayers money. Our plans for this project have been on our website for some time now and can be viewed via this link:



<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/average-speed-cameras/>

This page contains an interactive map which shows all phases, but as I have said above, the parish council now wants to merge phase C and D and deliver the rest of the average speed cameras as one final project.

Finally, just a quick reminder that we currently have **three vacancies on the parish council**. If you would like to learn more please take a look at some relevant information we hold on our website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/policies-and-procedures/>.

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*

SEPTEMBER

14th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
14th	Full Council	7.30pm
21st	Leisure & Amenities Committee (inc Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group)	7.30pm
28th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
28th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

OCTOBER

12th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	7.30pm
26th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

NOVEMBER

9th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
9th	Full Council inc precept	7.30pm
16th	Leisure & Amenities Committee (inc Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group)	7.30pm
30th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

DECEMBER

14th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
14th	Full Council inc payments & precept	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

We leave a very hot and eventful summer and go into, hopefully, a cooler autumn so we can get out and about in comfort and try to save the garden for next year.

The **Wootton funfest** was a great success this year run by Wootton Parish Council, a big thank you goes to Mark Atkins, Gareth Lloyd and Sue Playford who organised the event and kept it running smoothly. It was so nice to see so many people attend during the day and I managed to catch up with a few old faces from the past!

Just a reminder we have the **Bob Lunniss Christmas dinner** this year on Tuesday the **6th December** at 12 noon in the Village Hall, information regarding tickets will be made available nearer the time. This lunch was given to all pensionable residents of Wootton by the late Bob Lunniss to have a Christmas lunch/tea each year and is run by a trust. I am sure there will be lots of other events going on in the village run by clubs and churches so please keep an eye out for these.

Some of you might have noticed building works going on at the **Lower school**, Harris

way, this is going to be a new self-contained S.E.N. unit (Special educational needs) providing much needed bespoke help to local children. Funding for this was provided from the educational 106 funds from the developers in Wootton, thank you to all at the school who organised this, as I know it was hard work!

Highways Update

As mentioned in my last report we have now had the promised meetings with Bedford Borough where many outstanding issues were raised and will hopefully be taken forward soon. These include the **re-painting of white and yellow lines** around the village, new white and yellow lines, **re surfacing** of sections of Cranfield Road, the end of Cause End Road and the pavement on Monoux road. Cranfield road works could potentially be starting in the coming weeks with Cause End Road due in the coming months.

On the councils **Footway Schemes** 2022 – 2023 Monoux Road is a listed project however, a planned start date to the work has yet to be confirmed, we will continue to monitor this to ensure the project is not moved to next year's schemes. We are looking into other pavements in the village as well.

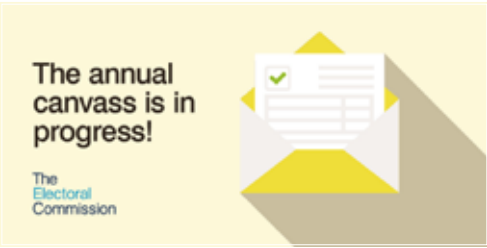
I regret to inform you that we are still having issues with the Borough Council regarding the **missing pedestrian crossing** at Fields Road. This is completely unacceptable given the length of time this has already taken. We are in contact with the Borough CEO and will continue to pressure them to get this pedestrian crossing installed ASAP.

The **A.S.C.** should be installed in Cranfield road by end of August, special thanks goes to Gareth for assisting with this and the other proposed cameras around the village. Work

is also going to be done by WPC to improve the bus shelters and real time units around the village, various meetings have been held with contractors and the Borough to get this moving.

Black Bins

We have had issues with the emptying of the black waste bins around the village, the Borough are aware of this and hopefully it will be sorted, however please report any overflowing bins to Borough using their report it site or call **01234 267422** (bins on the Berryfields site you will need to contact green belt directly).



'Make sure you can vote' urges Bedford Borough Council

The Annual Canvass of households, to update the Electoral Register, is now live. Each year the Borough has to, by law, find out who is eligible to register to vote.

Communications (via email, letter or form) were sent, in stages, to all residential properties in Bedford Borough from 21st July 2022. You can respond by internet or by phone. If these options are not accessible to you, the response can be posted back. If you have received a form, please do not return it if you have responded using one of the digital methods.

Bedfordshire Police

The Police are still patrolling the village and having days in the village to talk to residents, please keep reporting incidents directly to the Police on **101** or <https://www.beds.police.uk/> as this does help build a profile.

The police have recovered the WUS stolen mini bus and we hope they will be fully operational before the pupils return for the September term. Special thanks goes to Dave Worrall, who spent most of Wednesday night/Thursday morning [from midnight] on site with the police.



Assistance with energy bills and cost of living

£150 Council Tax energy payment

Just a reminder that the Borough Council are currently running a £150 Council Tax energy payment that is available to all eligible households in Council Tax Bands A to D, and Band E where there is a disabled Band reduction.

The assistance is paid via direct debit however, any household that are not able to pay via direct debit, have or have not completed the online form have been sent reminder letters, with the access code. If you are eligible then please do remember to complete and forms.

The Governments Energy Bills Support Scheme

The Energy Bills Support Scheme discount, equating to £400, will be administered by energy suppliers and paid to consumers over a 6-month period. Payments will start from October 2022 with there being no need to contact energy suppliers concerning this.

This forms part of the £37 billion cost of living assistance package for consumers over winter 2022 to 2023. A further 8 million of the most vulnerable households will be receiving £1,200 of direct support to help with the cost of living.

Household Support Grant for winter 2022-2023

Bedford Borough Council is giving more than 50% of the Household Support Grant funding

to families with children that qualify for free school meals. This will help vulnerable families on very low income to meet the cost of food and utilities particularly during school holidays when costs are higher. There is also a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme which provides a Council Tax Support discount of 100% to households on a low income.

Further help

Any households on a low income or that have experienced an unexpected crisis or emergency that means you cannot afford food, can receive assistance from the Council. If any difficulties have arisen, the Council may be able to refer residents to a Bedford Foodbank for assistance.

Take care
Cllr. John Wheeler

Ageing Well Festival and Exhibition for the over 50's

Wednesday 19th October 2022
Bedford Corn Exchange - 10am to 2pm

Come along to see a wide range of Information stands on Health and Wellbeing, Care, Benefits, Sport and Leisure.

Take part in Taster sessions such as Yoga, Chair Based Exercise, and Origami.

Come along and get a Health Check, Hand Massage, Energy Saving Products and have the opportunity to talk to the Mayor at his clinic.



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For more information contact Jo Rising on 01234 360510 or email enquiries@ageukbedfordshire.org.uk



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Keeley House Bakery *Partners with New Life Methodist Church*

We are delighted to have partnered the New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road, Wootton MK43 9DE in bringing our village a special space to meet, eat and have some time out.

Everyone has been very encouraging to our new venture and we look forward to seeing more of you soon. Everyone welcome.



Overhanging Hedges & Foliage onto Public Footpaths and Pavements

Spring, summer and into autumn is the time of year when hedges and foliage have grown so much that they can overhang our public pavements and footpaths and become a hazard – especially to those who have a sight-impairment.

Whilst we recognise the natural beauty that such growth brings, the parish council urges all property owners in the village to inspect their hedges and foliage and to cut them back so that they do not restrict the full use of our pavements and pathways.



Reports of hazardous overhanging hedges and foliage should be sent to Bedford Borough Council highways.helpdesk@bedford.gov.uk or phone **01234 267422**.



Homes for Ukraine

The United Nations says that more than 13 million people have fled their homes since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. More than five million have left for neighbouring countries, while eight million people are thought to be displaced inside Ukraine itself.

Several households in Wootton are hosting Ukrainian families under the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, and their children have started to attend schools in our area.

Wootton Parish Council welcomes these refugees into our community and thanks the many people in the village who have already given generous help and support.



Thanksgiving Anthem

"Long live our gracious Queen "we sing.
Indeed, God hears our song
For by this time her life is over ninety-six years
long
God has answered our requests and saved our
Gracious Queen
The longest reigning Monarch the world has
ever seen
Through sadness and through hardships our
Queen's been on the throne
And since Prince Phillip passed away she has
been on her own
For as she often quoted "He is my mainstay
and support"
(Though he had to walk behind Her,
as an escort always ought)
"Send her Victorious. Long to reign over us"
So now we celebrate
Seventy years as reigning Queen-as our great
Head of state
She's kept her vows- the ones she made when
she came to the throne
A true and faithful Monarch who knew that
she was not alone.
Her subjects are behind her but- most of all
she knows
That God will give her His support in
everywhere she goes.
And how much more she has to do or what
more years she lives
We trust she knows the Saving Grace which
God our Father gives
So "God Save our Gracious Queen"
the words to Him again we sing
For He is our true Ruler, our Saviour and our
King.

Rebecca Cook.©

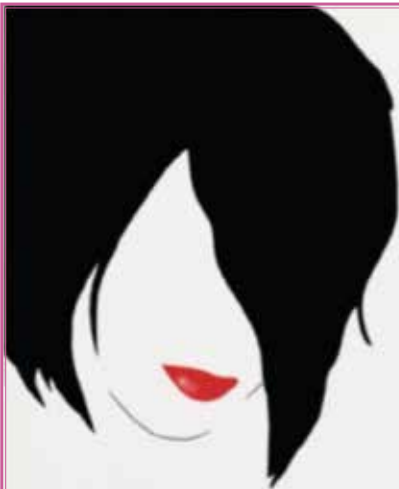
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Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

WPC (1) has placed the order for a pair of cameras along Cranfield Road and is now combining phase C and D (please see website for fuller information) into one, final project.

<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/average-speed-cameras/>

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

Berryfields Roundabout Re-Design

Fields Road/Folkes Road

Ongoing

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

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 was a great success. If you have any ideas for 2023 or would like a stall, 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)

Next on the list will be one in the general vicinity of The Gaol, adjacent to St. Mary's Churchyard on Church Road

Local Plan 2040**Throughout the village****Ongoing**

The latest consultation on BBC's Local Plan 2040: Plan for Submission closed on 29th July 2022. BBC are now considering all responses. 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

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 were installed in 2021, but have since been vandalised. WPC is now working with BBC and Journeo to replace four bus shelters in the village that it has responsibility for, and new vandal-proof RTPi units are being considered. The four bus shelters are located at:

- Bedford Road (opposite and adjacent to the Manor Road flats – Bedford and Milton Keynes bound);
- Bedford Road (adjacent to the Keeley Lane junction – Bedford bound);
- Cause End Road (opposite the junction with St. Mary's Road).

It is hoped that some (if not all) of the new eco-friendly shelters will host 'living roofs' to help negate the effects of carbon emissions.

Roads and Pavements **Throughout the village** **Ongoing**
The Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group is now part of the Leisure & Amenities Committee. This newly-formed committee will meet every other month and the Roads & Pavements element will continue to raise issues for BBC to consider. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings. Historic minutes can be viewed via this link: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes/?eeFolder=Meetings/Minutes/Roads-and-Pavements&eeFront=1> and minutes for the newly-formed committee will be available to view via this link: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin.php?page=ee-simple-file-list-pro&eeFolder=Meetings%2FMinutes%2FLeisure-and-Amenities-Committee-including-Roads-Pavements-Safety-Steering-Group>
(A hard copy can be requested 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) programmed for June 2022 have been delayed

Synthetic Pitch **Grounds within Wootton Upper School** **2022**
WPC received developer funding (£106) 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

Village Entrance Sign **Keeley Lane** **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 and has employed an architect to aid with the design

- Key:
- (1) Wootton Parish Council
 - (2) Bedford Borough Council
 - (3) 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.

Wootton Golf Society

Wootton Golf Society has been established for over 11 years and have about 50 members from the local area. We play on average once a month at courses within Bedfordshire and neighbouring counties.

We are a very friendly group of golfers of all standards, we play a mixed selection of golfing formats including stableford, matchplay and stroke play. We always have a weekend trip away which is thoroughly enjoyed by all, this year it is booked at Stoke by Nayland in the Colchester area.

Our golfing programme is booked a year in advance so you can plan when you would like to attend. Our venues for this year include, Luton Hoo, Brampton Park, The Northampton and The Buckingham. We welcome anyone who would like to join or even attend as a guest to see how each event is run. There are prizes at each event and at the end of the year we have a presentation evening for all the main prizes. Wootton Golf Society also collect money for charity throughout the year which is presented to a worthy charity voted on by our members. At present we have about £2500 in the charity fund and are looking for local charities that we can donate to.

If you are a seasoned golfer or have just taken the game up and wish to play amongst other like minded, friendly golfers on a regular basis please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.



When you become a member you will be get a Wootton Golf Society shirt as well as have access to our member's website where you can sign up for events.

If you require any further information about us or wish to join – please visit our website www.woottongolfociety.com



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needing help?

local charity could help.

Wootton Poots Land Charity,
Registered charity number 200216

A Wootton Charity, here to offer financial help if you are in real need and when other benefit payments can't be claimed for this item. For example in the past we have helped with furniture (beds, washing machines), costs of travelling to hospital, medical equipment and mobility equipment.

(Residents of Wootton and Stewartby only).
For more information, please contact in confidence wootton.pootsland@gmail.com or Peter Ackroyd on 01234 768391



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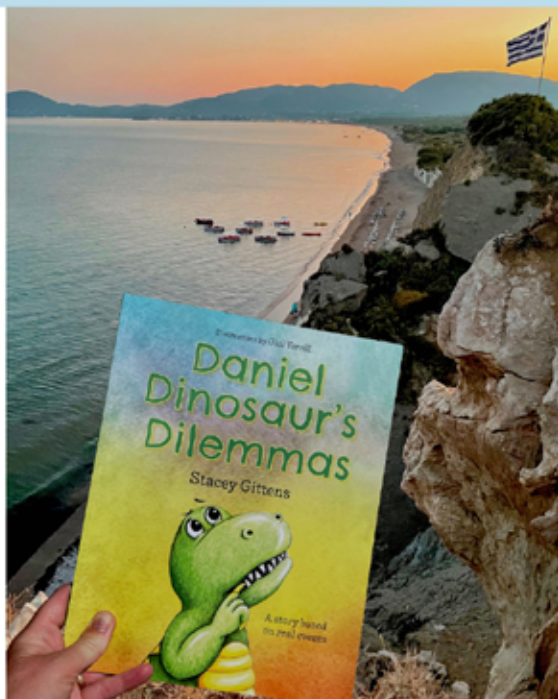
MEET WOOTTON'S FRIENDLIEST DINOSAUR

Residents, Stacey Gittens and Gail Yerrill, have created a humorous keepsake picture book, set in Wootton, as a reward for everyone who showed courage during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through community sponsorship, 675 books were given to local families. The publisher, Faithful Stories, will continue to donate some of the proceeds from book sales to charities.

The story features Daniel Dinosaur, who tries to hide his dinosaur traits to make friends when starting at Wootton Lower during the pandemic. However, his efforts to reassure others lead to comical misunderstandings. Daniel finds himself in never-ending self-isolation, and his online learning is sure to entertain readers.

Everybody can post photos of the book in engaging locations all around the world on the noted Facebook group. To date, photos have been shared from America, Australia, Hawaii, UK, and Europe. It's wonderful to stand strong together in celebrating life's pleasures, without the travel chaos! Group members are also learning fun facts about these destinations.

To further give back to our community, local businesses have generously donated over £100 worth of prizes for a related competition. Visit the Faithful Stories website for more details. The website also holds entertaining activities and resources for children to promote well-being.



Let's take Wootton to the world. Join in the fun and please share this venture with your friends and family across the globe. The book is available as an E-book, Paperback, and Hardback on Amazon, and it can also be ordered via email if you would like a signed copy.



**Daniel Dinosaur's
Dilemmas-Goes Global**



@faithfulstories1



**[www.faithfulstories.com
/competitions](http://www.faithfulstories.com/competitions)**



FSpublications@outlook.com



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**



An Evening Concert for Ukraine

Saturday 15 October
St. Mary's Church

More details soon
on our website or Facebook page



Contact:
info@stmaryswootton.org.uk
01234 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

BEDFORD LODGE ODDFELLOWS

Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 7.30pm
at Kingston House, Bedford Lodge Oddfellows,
106a Bedford Road, Wootton, MK43 9JB



The Bananabox Trust

A talk by Valerie Symon on her visits to Malawi with The Bananabox Trust -

Educating children and helping to provide much needed school equipment, uniforms, sports equipment and health care.

Hi there, my name is Valerie Symon and since I retired 11 years ago as a teacher, I have been working hard to get equipment to children in North Malawi to help with their education and health.

On my initial trip I went with my cousin, who works with the 'Focus on Malawi' charity who for many years has worked with the hospitals providing much needed spectacles, so I was lucky to have my own guide.

The first class I helped to teach was 125 children aged 5 years old. They all sat on the floor with no pens, paper or books. Thank goodness I had taken 50 tennis balls with me, which meant we had a successful maths lesson.

Since then I have been able to help support 27 primary schools and 3 secondary schools, (primary schools are free but you have to pay to go to a secondary school).



Boxes from the Bananabox Trust arriving in Ekwendeni to then be distributed to Schools and Hospitals in North Malawi.

All lessons are now taught in English, which will be a big help for the children in their futures.



Three children helping to distribute items that have been delivered.



Glasses

With my other hat on and supporting my cousin, the glasses that we use to help the Malawi people are all second hand, they go through a dishwasher and then an optometrist checks the prescription and labels them. When they arrive in Malawi, they go straight to the hospital eye departments who provide them to those who desperately need help with their vision.

We are teaching local people to do the testing which is a great benefit to all the local communities.

Old sunglasses are also needed. Please contact Amanda and she will advise you where to send them.

Thank you in advance for any items you may be able to help with.

If you are interested in attending the talk please contact Amanda at Oddfellows on 01234 768914 or email her as places are limited, but if we need to change the venue to a bigger hall we would want to let you know. Thank you.



These lovely bright red jumpers and shirts, have been donated by Aspley Guise Primary school.

Items that I send to Malawi through the Bananabox Trust are: – pencils, pens, note books (old unused diaries), uniforms (school and sports), educational books, rulers, paper etc etc the list is endless.

If you think you have some things that I could use please contact the Bedford Secretary at Amanda.buckmaster@oddfellows.co.uk she has a good idea of what I can send out and if she isn't sure can get in touch with me.

"You do not have to say anything..."

John Dickinson had felt that he was probably one of the most unloved children ever.

He hardly had any memories of his parents, because he had only been five when they had been killed in a car crash. He had been with them in the car as well, but apparently they had not fastened the straps of his child seat correctly, and he had been thrown out of the car at the moment of impact. He had gone straight through the windscreen, and his face had been badly disfigured by the glass shards cutting him.

For two years following the accident, he had been subjected to a whole series of operations, during which the surgeons had gradually rebuilt the bones of his face into some semblance of normality. His recollection of that period was now a vague blur of pain, nurses, hospital wards, and the smell of antiseptic.

There followed a series of plastic surgery procedures, during which skin taken from his arms, legs and torso were grafted to his face, disguising to some extent the traces of the previous operations.

By the time he reached the age of eight, the consultants concluded that there was no further treatment they could administer to lessen the disfigurement that remained. The painful, hospital part of his development ended then.

John's parents had both been only children, who had married late. John had been born when they were almost in their forties. For this reason, he had no family, or any relatives at all.

The authorities decided that he should be placed with foster parents at that time, so that he could, belatedly, start school for the first time. It was hoped that eventually, a couple of adoptive parents could be found, to give him a more stable home environment.

He was only with his first foster parents for six months or so. His increasingly aggressive and disruptive behaviour led them to return John to the child welfare agency, saying that they could not continue to let him share their home with them.

The root of the problem was obvious - his appearance. Despite the best efforts of the surgeons, his face was still disfigured. He could neither smile, nor show any expression that involved muscular activity, and the overall effect was, frankly, not a pretty sight.

Because he had not been able to start his education before then, he was in a class at school with the first year kids, who were three years younger than him. He was a tall boy for his age, and towered over them. Because he was so different from them, and because of his face, he was bullied unmercifully.

His teachers did not fully appreciate the extent of the bullying. They just saw a big, strong eight year old boy who punched and kicked much smaller, five year old children. This was intolerable, and John was expelled.

There followed several years of attending a series of different schools, all of which ended in disaster, and John's subsequent expulsion.

He had lost count of the different foster parents with whom he had been placed. No-one was able to cope with his increasingly aggressive behaviour, and no period of fostering had lasted for more than a few months.

The outcome John's bitterness and frustration at this total rejection by society at large, and schools and carers in particular, was perhaps, predictable. His behaviour became worse and worse. He became more violent. He felt that he had been completely written off, and became a complete loner.

By the time he reached the age of fifteen, he already had a criminal record. He had started with petty shoplifting, but had gone on to mugging, car theft and burglary. His sentences each time he was caught increased, as did the severity of his crimes.

Very few social workers and psychotherapists tried to effect an improvement in John. This was partly due to his demeanour, and partly to his appearance. Those face building operations he had endured did not make him a pretty sight at the time, when he was six or seven. Ten, fifteen, twenty years on, he looked much worse. Grafted skin, and bone, had not developed to keep pace as he grew older, and his face was now very much more disfigured than it had been previously.

The only way he felt he could stop people taunting him was to make them too scared of him to do so. His incarceration in various prisons had forced him to toughen up. It was the only way to survive inside. He became a truly hard man, feared by prisoners and wardens alike.

It was during yet another spell at Her Majesty's pleasure that he made a found out that he had a remarkable capability. Despite his woeful lack of education, he discovered that he could do certain types of mental arithmetic with incredible speed. He had been idly wondering about what percentage of his life he had spent in each of prison, schools, child care institutions, and foster homes.

Without having a clue as to why, he found it could work out sequences of numbers in his head, and complicated calculations, without really trying.

If he tried to write them down as equations, or sums as he called them, he was completely lost. But if he made a mental calculation, it was there almost immediately!

He wondered whether he could put this unexpected ability to any use for financial gain.

Over the next two years of his prison term, he started to look at the results of the national lottery every week. He also included the outcome of all the minor lotteries, like the Irish one, in his reading. After a while, he thought he had seen a pattern to the winning numbers. He didn't know the terminology, but in effect, he had worked out a formula for calculating likely combinations of numbers in advance.

Shortly after his release, he decided to put his discovery to the test.

He bought a lottery ticket, and selected six numbers that, despite the fact that four of them were consecutive, in his mind he calculated would come up.

And they did!

And because of the consecutive run, he was the only one who had those six numbers! Nearly seventeen million pounds!

It could not buy him a better looking face. It wouldn't stop people making comment about his appearance behind his back. Nor could it make him a more acceptable figure in society - it was too late for that. He had no concept of inter-personal behaviour.

But there was still a spark of something good deep down inside him.

When his donation to Bart's Hospital created the most up to date plastic surgery facility in the whole of the UK, this was what he said to the Hospital Bursar.

"You do not have to say anything about who gave you the money, do you?"

Colin Zardin



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