

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

WINTER EDITION

December 2022



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Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

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Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Wootton Community Centre -

email: bookings@wootton.cc

Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings Church

Road only - Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

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Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

Police

HQ: 841 212 Beat Manager: 842 433

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Playgroups

Bizzy Bees: 767 185

St Mary's - Tracey Kerins: 767 158

Wootton Community Nursery -

Kayleigh: 07534 308 632

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

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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

Alive and Singing Choir - Barbara: 07710 007 572

1st Wootton Rainbows - Naomi: 07722 876 252

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 Leader required call Mark: 07772 330 169

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 766 050

Cubs Leader required call Mark: 07772 330 169

Country Players - Tina Kirkup -

Tina.Kirkup@hotmail.co.uk

Explorers - Jake: 07808 077 027

Group Scout Leader - Mark: 07772 330 169

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: 768 011



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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.

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Copy Date: 1st February 2023

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

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

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

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



Average Speed Cameras

As many of you will have already noticed, Cranfield Road now has Average Speed Cameras. We have requested Bedford Borough Council continue the installation roll out of cameras along Bedford Road and Keeley Lane/Hall End Road/Church Road. Hopefully this will happen in 2023.

Harris Way Sports Pitches

The pitches have taken a long time to bring up to scratch, due to the poor condition the developer left them in. Thankfully the parish council received funding from the developer to make good. The fences have been removed but it's disappointing to see dog mess already. These pitches are owned by the parish council and will be used for football, so please don't allow your dog to leave a mess. Clean it up!! Bedford Borough Council has been appointed to maintain the pitches moving forward and they should be playable in early 2023.

Gas Works

Cadent Gas Ltd are undertaking works on the gas pipes in the village. The works involve inserting a plastic pipe inside the old steel or clay pipes to ensure supplies remain safe for the next one hundred years. These works are being carried out country-wide and Cadent will work to ensure homes are not without a supply for too long.

This time last year I stated "Persimmon Homes have said that the roads within the **Berryfields development** will be completed by February 2022. I won't hold my breath as this is the fourth finishing date from them so far!" The works are still outstanding and there seems to be no crew currently working. As I write this report it is unclear when or if they will return, but myself and the Borough Councillor John Wheeler are on the case.

The **Berry Wood development** should be completed early next year with the roads brought up to full specification and the playgrounds open for use. I am aware of cars speeding down Burgoyne Avenue but speed limiting measures can only be undertaken by Bedford Borough Council (as local highways authority) once the roads are adopted.



Finally, I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the **Remembrance Sunday parade**. Wreaths were laid by Colin Mason (Former Vice Lord-Lieutenant of

Bedfordshire) on behalf of the King and Chris Ashpole for The Royal British Legion. We then had wreaths from Bedford Borough Council, Wootton Parish Council, Wootton Scouts, Wootton Girl Guides, Wootton Boys and Girls Brigade, Bizzzy Bees Pre-School, Wootton Lower School, Marston and Cranfield middle schools, Wootton Upper School, Wootton Rangers FC and also the WI. If any other organisation in the village would like to be included in next years parade, please let me know.

I would like to thank Borough Councillor Wheeler for helping me with the event

organisation. Thanks also must go to Canon Peter Akroyd and Steve Rowse for running the event and Tony Ireland and the police for closing the roads. A final thanks also go to the buglers and Boys and Girls brigade band.

**I wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year for 2023.**



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**

Wootton Community Speed Watch

Your dedicated Speedwatch team was able to welcome a new member recently- Ellen Barnes who has joined us for the most recent patrols.

Over the county 554 letters were sent out to motorists who had offended. We had 3 offenders last month out of 186 motorists travelling down Bedford Road between 7.45 and 8.45 am. We received praise from the Speedwatch Co-ordinator Juliet Wright for our efforts at keeping motorists aware of the 30mph limit.



We were also asked to have our photos taken for future publicity!

As usual I am very grateful to my fellow "Speedwatchers" - Keith Randell, Les Dick and Graham Ward (and now Ellen of course) who turn out regularly with smiles on their faces, and seem to enjoy their job!

After our patrol in November we shall probably carry out our next one in January as hours of light in December are limited!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone who drives carefully on Wootton's roads.

Malcolm Chalmers



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



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



I'd like to start my December report by thanking Ferg Brazier and Tracey Lee for their very generous donation to the parish council, as a result of their pony rides attraction at this year's Fun Fest in July. The donation (£150) has been paid in full to the **Wootton Poor's Land Charity** and will be used to help Wootton families in financial need. Given Christmas and New Year is a time for celebration, this is perhaps a timely reminder to make use of our **glass recycling** facility at the recreation ground (Church Road). All recycling credits are also passed to the same charity, meaning your actions will have a direct, positive impact on those who need it most.

By the time you read this report our **Christmas tree** will be in place once again on Bedford Road (junction with Cause End Road), and our street lighting scheme will also be helping to brighten the dark evenings. We took the decision again for 2022 not to hold an official switch on event for the Christmas tree, but that shouldn't stop anyone enjoying the lights.

Do you have a few hours spare to help others?

If you do, why not consider volunteering for the **Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme**? Please email their co-ordinator at **WoottonGoodNeighbourScheme@gmail.com** or telephone them on **07717 770247**. A DBS check will be a requirement, however this will be arranged by the scheme.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Peaceful New Year.



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 *2023*

JANUARY

11th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th	Full Council	7.30pm
18th	Leisure & Amenities Committee (inc Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group)	7.00pm
25th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
25th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

FEBRUARY

8th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th	Full Council	7.30pm
15th	Fun Fest	7.00pm
22nd	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
22nd	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

MARCH

8th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th	Full Council	7.30pm
15th	Leisure & Amenities Committee (inc Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group)	7.00pm
29th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
29th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

APRIL

12th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	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
Outside the Manor Road flats
Outside the Memorial Hall
Adjacent to the post box

Bedford Road
Bedford Road
Bedford Road
Hall End Road

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



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr John Wheeler

Fields Road, Cranfield Road and Beyond Fields Road

It has been a long and hard fought battle with Bedford Borough Council to get the white lining and pedestrian crossing installed at Fields Road. I have continued to meet with and pressure Bedford Borough Council to address these issues and keep our children safe.

I am pleased that white lining has been introduced to parts of the road that will help guide drivers and reduce near misses and potential accidents.

Due to issues in sourcing materials and material shortages, the pedestrian crossing is due to begin construction in January 2023. I know myself and residents would have preferred to have the crossing installed this winter however, I will continue to pressure the council to get the crossing installed this year if possible.

Cranfield Road

Additionally, I have met with the Borough Council's highways team at Cranfield Road

to discuss a range of issues surrounding road conditions and pedestrian/school children road safety. After a long period of campaigning I can confirm that white lining and slow signs will be introduced to the road make it safer for school children in the surrounding area.

I am also pleased to announce the road should have been resurfaced by the time you read this and council engineers will be further looking into pedestrian safety.

Beyond roads with school bus safety concerns

Parents have expressed concerns regarding where children are picked up and dropped off on school buses given some of these stops leave children to cross busy/dangerous sections of the road. Lately, I have been speaking with the Borough Council's school transport team about the best and safest routes to pick up and drop off children, avoiding dangerous sections of the road.

Lighting up routes

The cut through between Latimer Close/ Studley Road had been neglected by the developers who did not install acceptable levels of lighting. During early morning/night time hours the area was pitch black and not safe for school children and residents.

However, thanks to some very helpful Borough Council officers, we have installed a lamppost to ensure the area is suitably lit and feels safe.

Free School Meals Vouchers for Bedford Borough Children For School Holidays

Families across Bedford Borough, who are

entitled to income related free school meals, will be given vouchers for the October half term and Christmas holidays.

Funded through the Conservative Governments Household Support Fund, Bedford Borough Council will continue to provide each eligible child £15 per week.

The current cost of living has affected many families and it is grants like these, that enable us to support our most vulnerable residents and children in Bedford.



To find out if you are eligible and to register for free school meals visit

<http://www.bedford.gov.uk/.../education.../free-school-meals/>

Ward Funds and school uniform help School Uniforms

Many families are in need this year with rising costs which is why I have campaigned for measures that support these families. Recently, Wootton Poor's Land Charity gave local schools funding to buy and give school uniforms to Wootton and Stewartby families who cannot afford the cost. I am proud to help those children most in need and will be campaigning for the Borough Council to help with the cost of school shoes.

In recent weeks I have also heard many more stories of families struggling to heat their homes. I am continuing to campaign and look at initiatives that will help families make it through this difficult period.

I would like to thank Wootton Parish Council for giving all the proceeds from the bottle bank recycling unit at the village hall car park on Church Road to the Wootton Poor's Land Charity. This means the charity can help local families in need. **Please use this facility and help Wootton families.**

If you need any advice or help please phone me and I will try and see what I and the charity can do to help in these difficult times.

Ward Funds

All Borough Councillors receive an annual ward fund that is intended to support a range of fantastic community projects that benefit the residents in Wootton. Recently, I have been able to help Wootton Scouts, Wootton Blue Cross and both the upper and lower schools with ward funding to help community projects.

Bedford Boroughs Best Start website set to help families across Bedford Borough

Last year I, alongside my colleagues, raised important questions at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee surrounding what guidance and support the Borough Council provides to parents/carers when choosing schools.

Previously, choosing the right childcare and primary schools was extremely difficult due to the sheer amount of data available from the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted ratings. We wanted to increase "parent power" by making this information easier to interpret so all parents can make informed decisions for their children.

This has led to Bedford Borough Council finalising its new 'one-stop' website which will offer advice to parents/carers for children under five. The soon to be named 'Best Start

Bedford Borough' website will potentially go live this month. The site is tailored to offer as much information as possible about health, education and childcare so all carers can make the choices that are right for them.

I will continue to work with my colleagues and council officers to ensure that the offering here can be continually improved and hope we can work towards creating a site that can be used throughout a child's educational journey.



Astro Pitch

After working closely with developers, Wootton Parish Council and Wootton Upper School to ensure children have access to appropriate sporting facilities, I am pleased to announce a new Astro turf facility (3g pitch) should be delivered on site at Wootton Upper School in 2023/2024.

The facility will not only benefit the school but the wider community as it offers a much needed resource for children and residents.

Sustainable Warmth

Bedford Borough Council successfully bid to become a "Participating Authority" in the Sustainable Warmth scheme, and is set to receive £1M of Conservative Government grants. The funds will be used to upgrade the energy efficiency of households most impacted by the cost of rising energy prices. These improvements should be made free of charge and will help residents to keep

their homes warm, use less energy and help them to manage their heating bills.

For homes connected to the gas grid, the grant is up to £10,000, whereas the grant ranges between £10,000 and £25,000 for homes not connected to the gas grid. Bedford Borough residents who have an annual household income under £30,000, under £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs, or whose household is on means-tested benefits, are more likely to qualify for the scheme.

Electoral register checks underway in 2022 Annual Canvass

The annual canvass – which allows the council to keep Bedford's Electoral Register up to date, ensuring residents are able to vote in future elections – is now well underway.

On receiving the information from the council, residents are being asked to follow the instructions on any correspondence to ensure that the electoral details for every address in Bedford are kept up to date.

As part of the next steps, Electoral Registration canvassers will be knocking on doors of non-responding households to ensure everyone's details are correct.

Residents can call our helpline on **01234 718078** if they have any queries about the Electoral Registration Canvassers.

For more information visit www.bedford.gov.uk/household-canvass





Avian influenza A(H5N1)

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have now confirmed there is avian influenza A(H5N1) in wild bird population within Bedford Borough following positive results in wild dead birds removed from the river Great Ouse on the embankment in Bedford.

Please DO NOT TOUCH any sick or dead birds. If any residents find dead or visibly sick birds in the local area, please do not feed or touch them. Instead, cases should be reported to **Defra's** GB helpline by calling **03459 335577**.

If you keep poultry or other birds, please wash your hands and clean and disinfect your footwear before tending to them.

Over 50s now able to book their Covid autumn booster

From 14th October 2022, over 50s will be invited to book in their Covid autumn booster vaccine thanks to the huge uptake of autumn boosters.

To find out more about the autumn booster (sometimes called the 'seasonal booster') or book your vaccination visit the NHS website.

Assistance with energy bills and cost of living

£150 Council Tax energy payment

Just a reminder that the Borough Council is 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 households not able to pay via direct debit and who have not completed the online form, have been sent reminder letters with an access code. If you are eligible then please do remember to complete the forms and send back to Bedford Borough Council.



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 and there is no requirement to contact energy suppliers beforehand.

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

Further help

Any households on a low income or that have experienced an unexpected crisis or

emergency meaning they cannot afford food, can receive assistance from the borough council who will refer residents to a Bedford Foodbank for assistance.

Christmas in Wootton!

Look out for events at clubs and Churches over Christmas. Wootton Parish Council will again have a street light Christmas display, with the usual tree on Bedford Road at the junction with Cause End Road. A big thank you to them for making Wootton look great at Christmas. The **Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch** was held on **Tuesday 6th December** and I would like to thank all who attended, including the schools and Malcolm Chalmers who provided musical support. I would also like to thank the caterers, The Cross Keys at Wood End, Wootton Blue Cross for the free

use of their facilities as host and the Bob Lunniss Trust members too.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Also, I would like to thank Wootton Parish Council, schools, churches and clubs for all they do for Wootton – and especially Gareth Lloyd and Sue Edgar Playford for all their support.

Take care.

Cllr. John Wheeler

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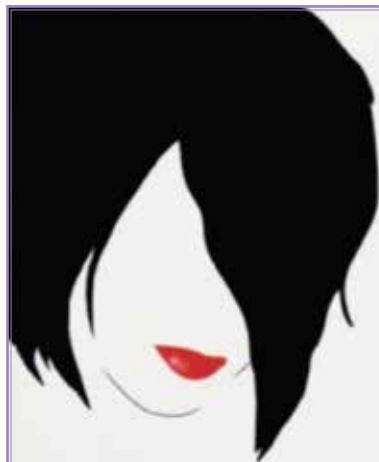
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Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

Our speakers have proved very popular through the last few months and have attracted a number of visitors. Colin Hill, a retired police officer, had some very funny tales to tell about his career, including how nicknames were assigned to new recruits, although he did explain nicknames were not allowed these days.

The ever-popular David Longman took us on a tour of Bedfordshire churches but told us about the history of the vicars and congregations rather than the architecture. One who stood out in particular, was Edward Drax Free, vicar of Sutton, who fought against all things religious. He liked to line his own pockets to fund his gambling and drinking habits, by selling lead from the roof of the church plus anything else that wasn't fixed down, he refused to hold church services because he found it tedious, then fined the lord of the manor for non-attendance. In October we held a session of Indoor Kurling. This was very popular and you don't need an ice rink to play it. Eight members attended a jigsaw evening, not as bad as it sounds, but is a race to complete a complicated jigsaw against other teams from local WI's.

Our November speaker was unfortunately unable to come, so we held a games and social evening, which are always popular.

We now have our **Christmas party** to look forward to in December, then in the new year, on January 18th, our president is going to give us some **tips on Natural**



Beauty from Our Kitchen Cupboards.

Our 15th February speaker will tell us how to make sure our **houseplants thrive** and how they make our home environment more healthy for us.

We had a table at the recent craft fair in the community centre when we sold lots of handmade Christmas decorations, beautiful long eared rabbit toys and other gift items.

Our biggest project came to fruition in time for the craft fair when a **cookbook** we had been working on through the summer, was hot off the press to be sold on the day. The recipes came from our members and were tried and tested by the committee before going into print. At £5 each, A4 size and wipe clean, they proved a popular Christmas gift for families and a few are still available to anyone who would like to buy one.

All visitors welcome at a cost of £4pp including tea or coffee and a biscuit. Meetings start at 7-30pm in the Memorial Hall on the third Wednesday of each month.

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

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www.pipshouse.co.uk

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

We look forward to welcoming your little furries or birds on their holiday

Pamela Stevenson

It is with sadness that we pass on the news of the death of Pamela Stevenson of Hall End, Wootton. Pamela passed away on the 1st November 2022 in Bedford South Wing Hospital following a short illness.

Pamela Ann Jackson was born in 1934 and lived her formative years near Box End, Kempston. In 1964 she married Phillip Stevenson and moved to Wootton.

Pamela was a kind and gentle lady always read to converse. For some twenty years she was an elected member of Wootton Parish Council. For many years Pamela was also a contributor to this magazine.

Pamela held a fascination for trees and was a significant contributor to the Tree Register of Great Britain measuring the height, girth and formation of many of the trees in England.

In addition to councillor duties she fulfilled her love of trees by planting, locally, many individual trees & tree plantations, sometimes called "Roundels". The Wootton street name Roundel is a reminder of the plantation of trees, just off the Cranfield Road planted by Pamela. Another example of the tree works of Pamela is the creation of the "Trafalgar Square" in the grounds of the Chequers Public House planted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar. Those of you who live in Little Wootton, or who attend Wootton Academy might note the oak tree by the



entrance road to Little Wootton. It was a tree planted by Pamela in 1976 in what was then a field hedge.

Oddly enough five minutes before Pam's daughter phoned me with the above information a flight of blue tits, warblers, field martins & others swarmed our new garden. Due, perhaps to Avian Flu, we had not seen live birds in the new garden for months!! I like to think, given Pamela's love of birds, it was a sign.

As an aside, some years ago Pamela had a problem with a bedside light and asked me to look at it. I was checking the electrics when Pam's phone went. It was Anne, her daughter. Pamela said (innocently) to Anne: "I'm in the bedroom with Paul". Anne replied "I don't know who to feel more sorry for!" Pam, who was sitting on the bed, roared with laughter, leaned back and fell on the floor! I had to help her get back on the bed and then explain to Anne "all is well".

She will be much missed.

CLlr Paul Quirk.

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

A pair of cameras has now been installed along Cranfield Road. WPC(1) is now working with BBC(2) to combine 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 and WPC is currently awaiting a licence from BBC to proceed.

Local Plan 2040

Throughout the village

Ongoing

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

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' (4) to help negate the effects of carbon emissions. WPC continues to chase Journeo for costings to move this project forward

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) have now been completed and WPC is awaiting timescales from BBC in relation to the final adoption/transfer		

Synthetic Pitch	Grounds within Wootton Upper School	2022
WPC received developer funding (s106) 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. Planning permission will be required ahead of installation		

- Key:
- (1) Wootton Parish Council
 - (2) Bedford Borough Council
 - (3) Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator
 - (4) The eco-friendly bus shelters will be made purely from recycled plastic bottles and the 'living roofs' will contain plants and greenery.

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.

CHRISTMAS

word search puzzle

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

Words may be horizontal, vertical
and diagonal.

ELF
STOCKING
WREATH
FIREPLACE

SNOW
GARLAND
EVE
TREE

HOLLY
BELL
LIGHTS
SLEIGH

CARD
CHRISTMAS
STAR
SANTA



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

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

Email: bizzybeespre_school@btconnect.com

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



Hello from the Bizzy Bees Team!

We are enjoying the autumn term and getting to know all our new children. We have had lots of fun collecting autumn treasures such as leaves and conkers. We had a fantastic Halloween party with games, party food & crafts. Bizzy Bees attended the Wootton Memorial Parade and laid our beautiful handmade poppy wreath from all the children. We are now busy practising for our Christmas concert at the end of term.

We are fully subscribed for January 2023 and looking forward to welcoming the new children into the setting. 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



AGM MEETING

We held our AGM on 7th November 2022 and are pleased to welcome some new committee members. If you would like to help our amazing charity and be part of our committee, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.



WE ARE RECRUITING!

No experience needed, all we ask is a passion to work with children. All positions are term time only.

Unqualified Pre-School Assistant

9am—4.15pm

Mon, Weds & Fri £9.50 / hour

Unqualified 1:1 Learning Support

12.45pm—3.45pm

Mon-Fri £9.50 / hour



Apprentice Early Years Practitioner

4 days a week + 1 day at Bedford College—£4.81 / hour

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Tel: 01234 340335

Mobile: 07939 395423



Eight Billion people now living on this earth! This is what the statistics say.

That's a lot of people and we have a few living in our lovely village. All of them have to be fed and clothed and provided with all that's needed to keep us alive. I fear that many in this needy world are not being well looked after and many are short of the basic needs of life. That's the imbalance in our needy world today. Too many rich people and too many poor.

Will it ever be any different?

As I thought about this, I also thought of what the Bible says; 'Everybody has a living soul.' 'None of us are good enough for God.' 'We shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ.' These are things which all of us should consider.

It is nearly Christmas again, and our thought go to how we can remember this time of the year. It's a special time, when we remember friends and loved ones, meet together as families, exchange presents, eat too much! This year we will try to save a little as the Government

takes a bit more of our income. **But why do we bother with Christmas?** Yes there are some who refuse to join in with any celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Some refuse because of their political or atheistic beliefs, some cults refuse because of their interpretation of the Bible. Some, of course because of their personal situation.

Whatever reason we don't or won't, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the fact remains that He was born, God the Son, who lived for over thirty years on this earth, did many miracles, healed the sick, gave back the sight to blind people, raised some people back to life, and was crucified on a Roman cross where He died for the sins of the whole world.

Surely that must be worth celebrating?

All He asks is that we would acknowledge our sin and unbelief and take Him as our Lord and Saviour.

All this we find written in God's word, the Bible, still the world's best seller. Still the only way that a person can get right with a Holy God. And it's a gift, just to be taken. That is the real reason we celebrate Christmas, the coming of the Saviour into the world, that all may have the opportunity to get right with Him.

We have been blessed recently with a young man, Paul Angell, joining us to do work amongst children and young people.



**We wish you all have a
very Happy, healthy
and peaceful Christmas
and the new year.**



Rob Stanton,

On behalf of the Deacons
and Fellowship at
Wootton Baptist Church.

Please see our Web site:

www.woottonbaptistchurch.org.uk

The **Adventurer Group** has already re-started. This is for children from school years 2 – 6 and mainly come from the Bedford Road, Lower School. It is held straight after school on each Thursday. With the parents permission, we go to the school and collect them and escort them next door to the church hall. We have a growing group and still room for more.

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing this Christmas, remember that we live in a world which is being ruined by wars and famine and economic uncertainty. It is said that Benjamin Franklin quoted the famous saying, 'There is only one thing certain in this world, death and taxes.' That may be right, but I would say there is one thing more certain, 'God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3:16 (The Bible.)

Could we all try to make another person, who may be lonely, or ill, or poor, feel the happiness of Christmas and show them that there is a life worth living in this world and an eternal life, if they will accept it.



**Wootton Baptist Church
Programme for Christmas**

**Friday 16th December
at 7.30pm.**
Village carols with
Bedford Brass,
Carols, readings
and epilogue.

Sunday 18th December.
Morning service at 10.30am.
Carols by candlelight at 6pm.

Christmas morning.
10.30am. Christmas service.
Come and worship the new born
King.

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**



Christmas at St. Mary's



Sunday 4 Dec - 4pm Christingle
Sunday 11 Dec - 4pm Churchyard Carols & Lights
Sunday 18 Dec - 6pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve - 4pm Family Carols
& 9pm Christmas Communion
Christmas Day - 10am Family Service



**JESUS
BORN TO
SAVE**



Contact:

info@stmaryswootton.org.uk
01234 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk



Concert for Ukraine 15th October at St. Mary's

The concert demonstrated a real community effort in supporting the people of Ukraine. People gave generously and we managed to raise £750 for DEC Ukraine Appeal. The concert was a joyous event, incorporating wonderful classical and modern music and a variety of poetry and prose. Performers ranged from 7 to over 80 years. The audience responded enthusiastically to everyone's presentations.

Katya, a Ukrainian lady who is currently living in Wootton, gave a moving talk about her experiences, since her home town was tragically invaded.



Behind the scenes many helpers contributed unselfishly to make the event a success; poster design and advertisements, ticket selling, technical support and church decoration.

The evening ended with delicious home made refreshments ,Ukrainian honey and ginger cake and sparkling cordial, enabling audience and performers to mill about and chat.

A huge 'Thank you!' to all concerned in contributing to this very important and worthy cause.

Carol Wallman



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk



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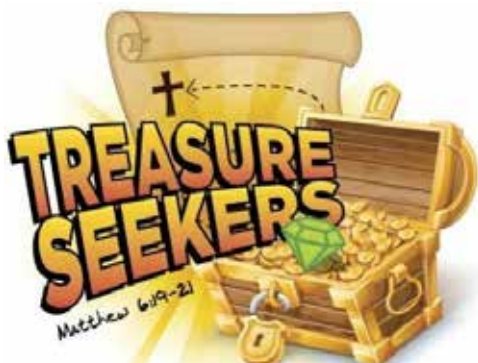
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Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Shine like stars in the Universe. Philippians 2: 15

With lots going on at our church, here's a quick snapshot. We'd love to see you



Sunday Mornings 10:30am - 11:45am
FREE ~ For Kids aged 4-11

Come along and 'Seek the Treasure'

Join us this Christmas

Wootton New Life Methodist Church
Cause End Road, Wootton



Café Carols, Mon 19th Dec, 10:30am
Carol Service: Sat 24th Dec, 7pm



Breakfast from 10:00am
Service starts at 10:30am



Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road, Wootton, MK43 9DE

Email: woottonnewlife@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/woottonnewlife>

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

We have started our new school year with lots of returning children as well as welcoming lots of new faces, everyone has settled in really well and has enjoyed our many topics and forest school activities.

We have been very busy learning about autumn and hedgehogs and how they hibernate during the winter months. We made hedgehogs from fir cones and collected leaves from our garden to make prickly hedgehog collages. We listened to the story of Isaac the Wide-awake Hedgehog and drew pictures of him and his family.



The children made poppies to mark Remembrance Day. This year we discussed the topic with them to help them understand why we wear poppies and why we mark this important occasion with a two-minute silence. We held our own two-minute silence on Armistice Day, the children did so well not making any noise and listening to instructions. On Remembrance Sunday one of our preschool families laid a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of all the children and staff at St Mary's Preschool.

For Bonfire Night we had hot dogs and hot chocolate around our campfire, we had sparklers and sang campfire songs. We talked about fire safety and how to keep safe. We made some fun and

vibrant firework pictures and talked about the noises fireworks make, the children had a lot of fun expressing their imagination and creativity making their firework pictures. They used words which described the sounds fireworks make – such as whoosh and bang.



Our Forest school led by Caroline continues to be extremely popular, the children under Caroline's supervision make models and pebble art using saws, drills, hammers, nails and potato peelers. They enjoy whittling with potato peelers and cutting wood with the bow saw. They have made some complex models weaving ribbons and wool. They love walking along the slack line and whiling away the hours in the hammock. Den building is always popular and sitting under the tarpaulin listening to stories on rainy days is a must.

General Information

St Mary's Preschool opened in 1967 and operates from the main room within the Church Hall. Children have access to a fully enclosed, grassed outdoor play area. St Mary's Preschool supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The Preschool is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Preschool has seven qualified members of staff. All our staff has many

years' experience of working with children and their maturity and training ensure that those who come to the preschool have a positive learning experience. St Mary's Preschool receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care. The setting serves the local and neighbouring community.

If you would like to put your child's name down for a preschool place from September 2024, or require any further information please phone Tracey on 01234 767158.

We are currently full for September 2023, however we are accepting applications for September 2024.

Term time opening hours:

Mon 9.00 - 12.00

Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00

Thurs 9.00 - 15.00



Good Questions.

Nobody knows exactly the day when Jesus came down to the earth.
But the church of the Nativity is built on the site of his birth.
No one is able to comprehend how a virgin girl could have conceived
A child-by the Holy Spirit. How can such a thing be believed?

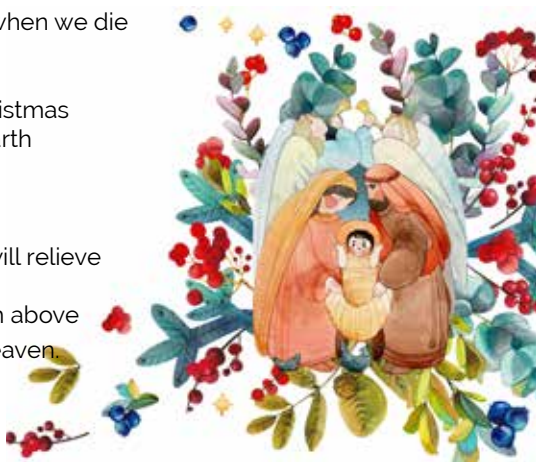
But then, on thinking it over-
We may not know how when or where
It's just WHY was He born. That's the question
Why on earth was the Son of God Here?

Well...
It's because God so loved the world that he'd made
But saw how we'd rejected his love
And so forfeited the right to join Him when we die
In the new Heaven with Him above

And that is why we now celebrate Christmas
When God sent his on son down to Earth
To die in our place. That is why
We remember the time of his birth

So accept and believe and you then will relieve
The best Christmas gift ever given
To love and be loved by our God from above
Who came so we could join Him in Heaven.

Rebecca Cook ©





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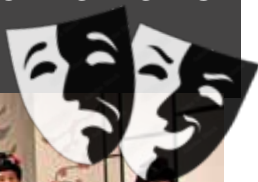


info@dppoolservices.co.uk



(01234) 764876 or (07748) 142023





SAOD'S Autumn production in 2022 is The Mikado. This has been expertly directed by the talented Gordon Hodges. Our artistic Musical Director is Alana Thackray. Together they make an inspired team who have previously worked together on a production of Patience.

The minimalist stage set has been designed and painted by Hazel and John Daniels.

The costumes are traditional, sporting an array of colourful kimonos and tunics, set off by Japanese wigs and headgear.

During rehearsals our faithful piano accompanists have been Pam Rogers and Brian Caves.

During the show, the company is accompanied by a talented nine piece orchestra.

The production is a great achievement by the company who have worked cooperatively since June to create and present the show.

As always, the company is superbly supported by an army of backstage helpers.

This year we have chosen to do a Saturday matinee which is proving to be most popular.

Attached are an exciting selection of photos from our dress rehearsal.

Our next show in the spring will be A Night At The Opera. If you would like to join us as performer or backstage, please contact us via our email address.

[www:saods.org.uk](http://www.saods.org.uk) or speak to a member of the company.

Carol Wallman





With the Summer heatwave upon the nation, we headed off in July for a 10 day canvas camp in Prestatyn... which certainly cooled us down. We joined up with our friends from 1st Newport Pagnell BB & GB and had a fantastic camp. It's always sad when camp finishes, so the good news is that Camp 2023 is already booked !

We've supported numerous charities this term, including Bedford Foodbank, Operation Christmas Child and gifts of £125 were sent to Dementia UK & £225 to the RNLI.

Our Boys were delighted in October to come away with 2 trophies from the Brigades National 10 Pin Bowling Championships. Runners Up in the U15 category and Third Place in the U18's.



Our Marching Band, consisting of Drums, Bugles & Marching Bells, meets weekly for training and in the summer we joined fellow BB/GB Bands to create a Massed Band for the Saffron Walden Carnival. We were also honored to be able to take part in this years recent Remembrance Parade.



We also have a number of our Senior members 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.

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.

With so much going on, we've seen a flurry of new members joining, 7 last week and 3 more to start this week! 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.

	bbgb1stwootton@gmail.com
Based at Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road Girls meet Thursdays, Boys meet Fridays, Band on Mondays	

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.

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 Parking Badge and Attendance Allowance forms. Home visits available.

Keeping warm this winter

We are all aware of the rising cost of heating our homes but it is important to keep warm to avoid serious health problems. Ideally, the temperature should be at least 18 degrees in rooms that are regularly used. Turn off

radiator controls in rooms that you don't use. If you are using a portable electric heater, be careful to keep clear of fabrics and furnishings that could catch fire. If you need a smoke alarm, contact Andrea who can arrange to get one fitted.

Be prepared

Make sure you're stocked up with enough food supplies for a few days in case you can't go out due to illness or bad weather. Keep your medicine cabinet stocked with paracetamol, ibuprofen and cold and flu remedies in case of winter illness. Don't forget to order your prescription medicines before your GP closes for holidays

For advice and information:

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 you or your partner are aged 50 or over and live in Bedfordshire we can help you with:-

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Contact us on 01234 360510 or
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www.ageukbedfordshire.org.uk

The local name you can trust

My Name is Kateryna *and I am from Ukraine.*

I live in Odesa by the Black sea.

I am just an ordinary Ukrainian and we were living a very normal life, until one morning. On February 24 of this year when I woke up with these words from my son: **"Mum, the war has begun"**

At that moment we heard the sound of a second Russian rocket flying by.

You don't understand what to do. **YOU RUSH AROUND THE APARTMENT IN A PANIC – WHAT TO DO? WHERE TO RUN?** collect some things but what to collect? Who to grab – son or animals and most importantly – **where to run?**

My best friend and I, our 4 children, and 4 animals packed into a car and decided to leave the city for our dacha (a small summer house with a garden). It was February, very cold!

The house is not designed for winter living so the next day, helicopters began to fly past and tanks drove towards Snake Island. It was very scary, really cold and so we returned to Odesa.

In order not to go crazy, all those days that we were in the city, I went to the orphanage where I worked as a volunteer, from morning until curfew.

The situation in the country was getting worse and I learned that the Russians had occupied Bucha and Irpen and also Kherson. Kherson is 200 (two hundred) km from Odesa and between them is Mykolaev.



My husband asked me to think about leaving because if Mykolaev is occupied it would be too late to get away.

My soul was torn between my child and those children in the orphanage, but my husband said that he would like our son to have at least one parent still alive and that the orphanage children would probably be evacuated from Ukraine.

I contacted some friends and we decided to leave the city together. Where we were going we didn't know, but some of our friends had reached Slovakia so we could try to go there. When we left, we were 8 women, 11 children and three dogs. We had no idea what the drive would be like, but we say in Ukraine "Eyes are afraid – hands do"

The second night in Romania a hostel let us in but not the dogs. It was so cold in the car so every two hours, I went from the hostel to the car and started the engine to try to keep the dogs warm. The outside temperature was -7!

Ahead of us were mountains, hairpin

bends, and three more days on the road. I don't remember much about the next days, my only one thought was: JUST TO GET THERE. And we got to Slovakia safe and unharmed. The children and the dogs were silent.

We lived in a house with 20 people from Ukraine but a month later there were only five of us left. My son liked privacy so he slept in the boiler room which he cleared and laid a blanket on the floor and he stayed there for three months.

Now it is funny to remember, but we did not suffer. We were warm, safe and with friends in a small village somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Slovakia.

When the 'home for Ukrainians' programme started I wrote to a friend in Britain asking if they would be asking for her help. She helped us to find our sponsors Pat and David. We first met online and after two months of waiting for visas in real life.

My mother is a very religious person and always prays for me. I know for sure that it was her prayers that God heard when he rewarded me and my son with our personal guardian angels. Pat and David.

They have done more for us than anyone has ever done in our lives.

They not only opened their home for us, they opened their hearts and warmed us with the warmth of their souls.

They helped us with everything: Got Mark into school, got all the necessary documents, found us a doctor and a dentist and so many other things. They saved not only me and my son but also



my dog which they had to go to France to collect. Pat and David feed us, teach us, they take care of us and treat us like one of the family – **so who are they if not guardian angels?**

They introduced us to their family, to their neighbours – Jenny and Bill who have become our friends here and who invite us to dinner and to walk.

Your country is beautiful and I have never met so many open, kind, honest and hospitable people as I have met here in 4 months. We say that Britain is a blessed country and now I know why - because such blessed people live in it.

Ukraine is a country where not a single generation would have grown up without war - our grandfathers were children of war and now my own son is a child of war. And so I want to thank everyone in the UK for what you are doing for Ukraine, for the fact that so many people have found shelter in your land. I want to say thank you and to everyone who cares about my country. Thank you for the opportunity to continue living, thank you for your smiles and your warmth.

God Bless you all.

Halls for Hire



Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

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

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

Wootton Scout Hut

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

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



Village Hall, Church Road

Children's parties up to 11yrs old, plenty of room and open space out the back. A great hall to hire for parties. Also there is a small committee room to use for meetings. The hall is also used for Bowls, Fit Step, Yoga, Essential Dance, Friday Children Dance Class, Drama and Marshal Arts. For more information please email **WoottonVillageHallBookings@gmail.com** or call **07546 300 504**

Community Centre, Harris Way

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

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

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



The End of an Era

Wootton Village Hall was opened on 9th July 1983 – 39 years ago. The Committee that ran the Hall was made up of representatives of organisations and clubs in the Village. Marie Kramer, who represented the Bizzy Bees play group, was one of the founder members of that Committee.

In 1991 the incumbent caretaker resigned, and Marie agreed to help out by taking on the caretaking duties for a three month period while a replacement was sourced. The three months turned to years and the rest is history. Marie finally retired in June 2022 after over 30 years service. Marie's husband, Michael, took on the role as Chairman of the Committee in the late 90's and remained in post for over 25 years until stepping down late last year.

The Hall would not be in its current excellent condition without the dedication of the Kramers. Marie ran regular Jumble Sales to raise money for improvements in the Hall and Michael used his carpentry and DIY skills to keep the Hall in good working order. The Hall has been used by many village residents and organisations over the years. They, and many others, owe Marie and Michael a debt of gratitude for the contribution they have made to the Wootton Community.

At a recent Committee meeting, to which Marie and Michael were invited, the current Chairman Michael Cole, presented 'The Kramers' with Thankyou gifts and a card signed by the current committee, in appreciation of all their work.

This is truly an 'End of an Era'.



The Hall is available for hire

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

07546 300504 to book the Hall or for further information.

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BEDFORD LODGE ODDFELLOWS

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

THANK YOU!

Just wanted to send a BIG thank you to everyone who sent us glasses for the people of Malawi.

We had a lovely talk by Val Symons here at Bedford Oddfellows last night and we were pleased to give her 671 pairs of glasses.

Some old spectacles may be sold to drama TV shows and some expensive frames may be sold separately to raise money to help ship the glasses to Scotland then on to Malawi.

They will all be used and they are training people in Malawi to do eye tests and provide and give out the glasses.

This has been such a great idea and I thank you all for your time and support in helping these people who truly have so little.

Kind regards

Amanda Buckmaster

Branch Secretary
Bedford Lodge Oddfellows
Wootton



The local Bedford Oddfellows (a friendly society)

would like to welcome you
to a very interesting and entertaining
talk on Bedfordshire Churches called
**- The Admiral, The Devil And Long
John Silver by David Longman.**

Please come along on
Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.45
to The Oddfellows, 106a Kingston House,
Bedford Road, Wootton, MK43 0JB.

Please call **Amanda** on
01234 768914 so we know how many
we can expect and to ask about
other meetings and outings we have
arranged for the next few months.

We look forward to meeting you.

winter maze

help Pingui find his mittens!





Wootton Lower School

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

Tel 01234 768 239

Excitement is building in school at this festive time of year. As Christmas fast approaches the children are busy learning lines and songs for Christmas concerts.

It will soon be time for Christmas parties and perhaps even a visit from Father Christmas himself! On **Wednesday 14th December** we are very much looking forward to having our **PTFA Christmas Fayre** back again after not being able to hold it for a couple of years. Our PTFA work extremely hard to put on events each year raising much needed funds for our children. Please come along and grab yourselves some lovely Christmas presents!

We have been working hard with our children this term on their reading. A love of reading is something we are trying to foster in all of our children. We encourage our children to read at home three times a week and we are very grateful to parents and carers who listen to their children read. We are very lucky to have a number of fantastic volunteers from our local community who come into school and listen to our children read. **If you feel that you could spare a couple of hours a week and you would like to come and listen to some of our children read**, we would be most grateful. Please just give us a call on **01234 768239** or drop into either office.

During this Autumn term, our children have had some lovely experiences. In November, our preschool had a wonderful Nursery Rhyme Week. On the Friday the children got to dress up as their favourite nursery rhyme character and they all looked fabulous! Our reception, year 1 and year 2 children had the opportunity to go to the theatre. This is an experience we want all the children of Wootton Lower to experience. Our year 3 children have been excellent historians this term learning all about World War 2 and the year 4 children are now experts on the Stone Age period.

We have also enjoyed a number of whole school events. The School Council were active in selling poppies for Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. In November, we were all treated to a theatre company coming into school and putting on the Pantomime of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Several children from across the school have also taken part in various sporting events with other local schools, including multiskills and dance festivals.

From all the children and staff at Wootton Lower School, we wish you all a very merry Christmas.



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A CHRISTMAS STORY

The whole of his life seemed to have become a complete conundrum to young Peter.

He had always questioned things that happened. He never just took things for granted. He wasn't like all his mates, who just seemed to accept whatever occurred in their lives, and sailed through them. No, he was a thinker. He wanted to know why things happened as they did, what the reason was for events that came up in his life.

Over time, he had become used to the fact that he was different from the others in his class at school, and they in turn had become used to his constant questioning about life. It hadn't been a barrier, between neither him and his classmates, or his teachers.

But now, Peter had turned twelve, and last September, he had started attending secondary school.

He was still with many of his same mates from primary school, but life had suddenly become more serious, more "grown up".

He had to wear school uniform now, doing his homework had become more important, and the pressure to do well in his studies was starting to increase. He had to start thinking of his future, and how great the competition was to carve out a good career for himself.

He was expected to give up his seat on the bus to older people, and generally to act in a more "grown up" manner himself. It was all a bit less carefree.

Peter still questioned everything, he supposed he always would, but he was learning how to do this without annoying the people that he asked.

He could accept, and cope with most of these changes, but one thing really was a problem for him.

Christmas.

Or more specifically, the fact that he still believed in Father Christmas!

He felt that he couldn't share this with anyone at school any more. It somehow seemed too "babyish" now, and he would be ridiculed by all the other kids if he talked about it. After all, he was twelve now. Nearly a teenager.

The more he thought, and worried about it, the more uncomfortable he became about his belief. In his heart of hearts, he kind of knew that any Christmas presents he received were from his Mum and Dad, his sister, or some other member of his family.

The trouble was, he also knew that his parents didn't have much money at the moment. His Dad had lost his job at the beginning of the year, and it had taken him several months to find another one. When he did eventually start working again, Peter knew that his Dad was earning less money than before. He had heard him talking to his Mum about how they would have to cut back on what they used to spend.

Now, Peter was a nice lad. He wasn't greedy, and he didn't expect to automatically get what he wanted for himself. He had told his parents he was happy to help, by doing more jobs around the house, for no increase in his pocket money. But..... He did so want an electric scooter! They were so cool!

Most of his mates at school either had one already, or knew they were getting one for Christmas this year.

He never usually coveted what possessions some of the other kids had. He was aware that the parents of many of his mates had much more money than his Mum and Dad did. Tough, but that's how it was.

His folks just couldn't afford to buy him that much longed for scooter.

So that was another reason why he was so reluctant to abandon his lifelong belief in Father Christmas.



But without that belief, there was definitely no chance of his being self-propelled on Christmas day. He figured that the best he could hope for was a new, ordinary scooter, and even that was far from being a done deal!

Perhaps he would be better to completely change his ideas about what present he wanted. At least, there would be less chance of feeling disappointed. And he wouldn't end up frantically pushing his scooter along, trying to keep up with the other, luckier kids on their electric ones.

So he scaled down his aspirations, and when he wrote his secret letter to Father Christmas (just in case!), he only asked for a new pair of trainers.

He couldn't stop himself adding a postscript when he had finished, just mentioning that what he really would like was an electric scooter, but he realised that would be pushing his luck.

On Christmas Eve, he posted his letter in the gap at the side of the electric fire, (another reason that Father Christmas couldn't be real – their chimney was blocked up!), and went sadly up to bed.

Christmas Day dawned bright and clear, and the smell of bacon came wafting from the kitchen. They usually only had cereal for breakfast, so at least this was a good start to the day.

He got out of bed, and went downstairs to see if he could help Mum and Dad, who would be very busy preparing the traditional Christmas meal soon.

He saw his present, leaning up against the Christmas tree, as soon as he went into the living room.

It had to be a new scooter, no amount of wrapping could disguise that shape! So he had been right, and he was really pleased. Never mind that he would have to push it along. He was a lucky boy!

As he was about to start unwrapping it, he saw another present with his name on the tag. A rectangular box. He wasn't expecting anything else, so he decided to unwrap that one first. Wow!

It contained a really cool pair of trainers! Nike ones! From Mum and Dad!

How could his parents afford those, as well as the scooter.

Puzzled now, he ripped the paper away from the scooter.

It was absolutely brilliant! He was really made up!

And then he noticed.

The little lever on the handlebars.

The cable going down to the front wheel.

The little red light on the back mudguard.

No!

It was an electric scooter.

He couldn't believe it!

He rushed into the kitchen to thank Mum and Dad, but they just stared at the scooter with blank faces.

"Who is that from?" they asked him. But there was no label on the packing!

So Peter had his best Christmas ever.

He must remember to write to thank Santa Claus!



Colin Zardin



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