

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

SPRING EDITION

March 2023



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Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Leigh Himsworth - 07546 300504

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Wootton Community Centre -

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Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings Church

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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

Non Emergency: 101 Anti-Social Behaviour: 276 037

Good Neighbour Scheme: 07717 770 247

Playgroups

Bizzy Bees: 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

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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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



I would like to start my report by mentioning the **May elections** for the election

of Borough and Parish councillors. This election will require all voters to bring with them photo ID to the voting station. If you don't produce photo ID, you won't be able to vote.

There are so many activities, **clubs and facilities** within Wootton that only happen thanks to a few volunteers, and most of these activities, clubs and facilities need more volunteers. It could be children's clubs like Wootton Rangers, Scouts or Guides or ones that are here to help the community like the Good Neighbour scheme, Speed Watch and Street Watch. The halls in the village like many other groups are also looking for more volunteers to help. So can you help? Can you provide a few hours a week or month? Are you the type of person who likes to give back and not just take? Then get in contact and see if you can make a difference.

The **average speed cameras** on Cranfield Road have been monitored by the police since December 2022. Over 50 drivers have been caught speeding on that road, with several doing around 45mph. We are still

pushing Bedford Borough Council to get the cameras installed on Bedford Road, Keeley Lane, Hall End and Church Road installed. Hopefully we won't have to wait another two years.

The football pitches on Harris way are now available for hire via the Harris Way, Community Centre and we are looking

to promote **basketball** as an activity on the Harris Way **Multi Use Games Area** (MUGA). We are currently working with Basketball England to make sure this facility meets the required standard. Should clubs wish to hire the MUGA, they should contact the Community Centre via email: bookings@wootton.cc or contact **Lorna Rae** on **07897 276 538**



The **Zebra crossing on Fields Road** (which should have been a Toucan style crossing) is eventually being installed, despite being paid for by Persimmon Homes in 2015. Acoustic fencing along the A421 is in the process of being replaced – this is a year long project financed by Highways England.

Finally, I would like to **thank all the councillors** who have worked with me over the last 4 years. I hope that you will all stand again and a few more people will volunteer also, so that we can do more for the community over the next 4 years. I would like to say a special thank you to **Paul Quirk** who has been on the parish council and serving the community for over 40 years and has stepped down to live closer to his grandchildren.




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



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

Christmas and New Year seems like a distant memory now as we look towards spring and warmer weather. Speaking of warmer weather, arrangements are already underway for our annual **Fun Fest** event, which will take place this year on **Saturday 8th July**. As always, the scouts will provide the BBQ and cold drinks and we have secured the same remaining food providers as last year. If you have an organisation to promote, or have a small business with produce you would like to sell, please contact me to secure a stall at the event. We do not charge a stall holder fee.

In quarters two and three of this financial year the parish council raised the sum of £689.28 through the glass recycling scheme. This charity helps those in financial need within the civil parishes of Wootton and Stewartby. If you need financial assistance, or know someone who does, do get in touch with them.

I regularly promote the services of the **Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme** and am doing so again! If you are able to volunteer (just a few hours would suffice) do please get in touch with them. Their

co-ordinator can be contacted via email at: **WoottonGoodNeighbourScheme@gmail.com** or via telephone on **07717 770247**. A DBS check is necessary, but this will be arranged by the scheme.

As many of you will know, the **local elections** are due to be held on **4th May** this year. This includes parish/town councils within Bedford Borough, plus Bedford Borough Council. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, do please get in touch as I can assist with the nomination papers.

Still on the subject of elections, it is now necessary for all voters voting in person at a polling station to ensure they bring photo identification with them. Valid photo identification includes the following:



- Passport;
- Photocard Driving Licence;
- Local Authority Issued Bus Pass;
- Voter Authority Certificate.

This list is not exhaustive and for further choices of photo identification (plus other information), please visit: **<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>**. It is possible to still use your photo identification even if it has expired, as long as the photo remains a good likeness.

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*

APRIL

19th	Annual Parish Meeting	7.00pm
26th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

MAY

17th	Annual Council Meeting	7.00pm
17th	Full Council	7.30pm
17th	Planning & Environment Committee	to follow FC

Meetings beyond 17th May 2023 are yet to be scheduled.
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).



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr john wheeler

It seems like it was only yesterday I was writing the report for the Christmas edition, now Easter will soon upon be upon as families get together and children look forward to the Easter egg hunts.

The Christmas period was another busy time with a lot going on in the village. Wootton Parish Council (WPC) filled the village with a bit of Christmas cheer with Christmas lights on lampposts and the Christmas tree. The Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch was a great success – a big thank you must go to Wootton Blue Cross, The Cross Keys, Woodlands Manor and Londis for making the lunch possible, by providing incredible catering and facilities. Another thank you needs to go to the both the Upper and Lower schools for their musical performances before and after the event and, of course, Malcolm Chalmers for his stellar musical entertainment. Finally one last thank you to all that turned up to help and the charity trustees.

In other village news the **crossing on Fields Road** has finally been installed thanks

to the hard work of WPC, local residents and schools, who all helped to ensure our children have a safe route to and from school. After spending many hours chasing and meeting with Bedford Borough Council it is fantastic to finally see this crossing installed. Additionally, the resurfacing of Burgoyne Avenue continues, with traffic calming measures being put in place. WPC and myself have requested the 20MPH limit zone be extended to the full length of that road. At some stage the 53 bus will travel up Burgoyne Avenue and turn right onto Cranfield Road to continue the old route to Bedford. When this has been confirmed I will pass that information on.

I am also looking into **traffic movements on the new industrial park**. Residents adjacent to the Commercial Park have referenced noise due to a join in the road (ramp) – however I have been informed this is temporary measure and will be remedied upon completion of the site.

Other works around the village are still on the cards however, due to a lack of manpower these have unfortunately been pushed back. Some of these **projects** include the outstanding resurfacing works on Cause End Road as well as pavement resurfacing works along Payne Road and Monoux Road. Other roads and pavements will also be put forward for consideration in Bedford Borough Council's 2023/2024 Highways budget programme.

We are still having issues down at **Harris Way** regarding parking at drop off and pick up times for the lower school. Persimmon are responsible for doing the road markings and signs, however they have been dragging their feet and appear to not be interested in

completing this work. Local residents are organising a petition to send to Persimmon and I and WPC will continue to pressure them to get these works completed.

In Education, the two tier conversion consultation is well under way and hopefully by the next edition of the Wootton News I will be able to give you an update.

The Department for Transport has given a £74,166 to the Borough Council which will be used to train 2,308 children in **cycling proficiency** as they learn to ride to Level 3 Bikeability. For those who may not be aware, Bikeability forms part of the Government's national cycle initiative that aims to teach our kids how to stay safe when cycling near or on roads will getting young children excited about cycling.

A reminder to all residents about voting in the **upcoming May elections**. You will need to show photographic ID to vote at polling stations. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter and thank the parish council, scouting groups, Churches, local schools and residents for their continued support. I enjoy this role as your Borough Councillor and pledge to continue supporting the village to the best of my abilities, despite the difficult times we are currently facing.

Take care. **Cllr. John Wheeler**

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

Call Carol on 07525 984634 to book, or book direct on our website.

www.pipshouse.co.uk

 [PipsHolidayLodge](#)

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



Immediate release

Attn: Newsdesk

Tuesday 17 January 2023

2223_167

Residents will need photo ID to vote in person at elections in May

For the first time, electors voting in person at polling stations will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections, including electors in Bedford Borough. Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by not only checking they are registered to vote but also checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card.

Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or by completing a paper form.

Laura Church, Returning Officer at Bedford Borough Council, said: "With elections taking place in Bedford Borough on 4 May 2023, it is important that residents across the Borough can vote - but you must make sure you have an accepted form of ID. It may seem early but checking now means you will be ready to vote in May.

"Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online via Gov.uk or by completing a paper application form and sending this to Bedford Borough Council's electoral services team. If you need any help with applying for the free ID or want to request an application form, contact the electoral services team by phoning 01234 718078 or by emailing elections@bedford.gov.uk."

Anyone who wants to have their say in the elections this May must also be registered to vote. It only takes five minutes to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Voters wishing to apply to their council for free ID should first make sure they are registered to vote.

The requirement to show photo ID at the polling station, is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act which was passed last year and comes into effect for the first time this May.

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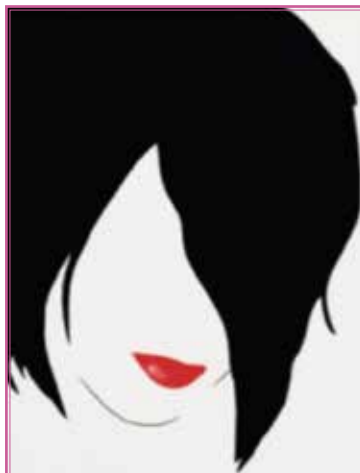
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A busy Christmas saw us take a group of almost 70 people to Panto in Dunstable. We then finished the year with Christmas parties for all age groups. The party continued into the new year as we celebrated our 7th Birthday since restarting our groups at the Methodist Church in 2016.

We've also welcomed a lot of new members, so much so that our youngest groups are almost at capacity !

Our older lads have competed in more National Competitions, including Badminton, Computer Games and Masterteam (Quiz), although we met some tough teams & were knocked out in the early rounds.

We've continued to support numerous charities including Bedford Foodbank & Operation Christmas Child and these will remain ongoing projects during the year.

Our Marching Band, consisting of Drums, Bugles & Marching Bells, meets weekly for training and is building up its repertoire to enter the National Band Championships again. Some of our band members will be joining a Massed Band for a Tour of Scotland in the Autumn.

We're now planning for 2023, including our Annual Awards Night and have a weeks Summer Camp under canvas planned in August at Cromer.



We have recently acquired a Colour from a BB Company in Preston & are seeking help from anyone in the village with the skills to help transform it to our company's Colour. This involves replacing the name in the centre with '1st Wootton' and we are hoping that we can get it dedicated in time for the Kings' Coronation. Pls contact us if you can assist.

A number of our Senior members continue working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award and are currently training for their Expeditions.

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.

Please contact us 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 Golf Society Charity donates to St Mary's Preschool

Wootton Golf Society members donate to charity on nearly all events they play during the year,

At their recent AGM, chaired by Peter Bone, members voted on donating to St. Mary's preschool in Wootton and it was decided to donate money to purchase some well need furniture items.

St. Mary's preschool in Wootton has been established since 1967 and is an integral part of Wootton's culture, thousands of children have been through the preschool over time.

After consulting with Tracey Kerins, they donated just under £2000 to purchase 6 tables, a bookrack, a mobile storage unit and 3 mobile coat holders.

The preschool was founded in 1967 by the local church, Tracey who runs the group has worked there for 31 years and Lina Rosato, 28 years. There are 8 members of staff and currently have 46 children enrolled, however only about 24 children can attend each session.

Tracey said that as Wootton is expanding rapidly she is not able to take everyone that enquires to join. They are hoping to get further donations from local business's so they can extend the building or outside area so they can accommodate more children.



Lina Rosato, Peter Bone and Tracey Kerins

Many of the members of Wootton Golf Society have had children that have been through the doors of the preschool and hope that they can donate further at the end of this year.

Wootton Golf Society are based out of Wootton and have about 50 members, we play once or twice a month at courses in Bedfordshire and surrounding counties, which includes a trip away.

Anyone interest in joining Wootton Golf Society, please visit www.woottongolfsociety.com.



Fields Road Crossing - *A Resident letter*

My name is Paul, I am a Wootton resident since 2018 and am so happy to have moved here, it's a lovely village and I have made a lot of new friends. I do live on the new side of the village but I am not new to village life having lived previously in Wilstead for 10 years. The reason for this letter, is to highlight the daily concerns I have on the crossing on Fields Road adjacent to the 'new' Sainsbury group of shops.

My issue is as much with the drivers in and out of the village, including residents, as it is with the new vein of commercial traffic that has grown with the expansion of the village. The crossing I refer to is known as a Pegasus crossing, as name primarily implies, it is a horse crossing as well as a crossing for pedestrians. One of the features of a Pegasus crossing, means the lights change exactly when the button is pressed, there is no delay.

This is leading to many cars leaving the roundabout (with Folkes Road and Burgoyne Avenue) playing kick down to beat the lights. As a regular car and motorcycle rider, I have to say the standard of driving on this crossing, where children cross with parents to school and nursery (in both directions) as well as dog walkers in the morning, is atrocious.

I would like to blame this on the increased commercial traffic but sadly, in the mornings, it is the residents of the village leaving Folkes Road, Fields Road and Burgoyne Avenue which are the worst culprits. Jumping red lights, not stopping for the red lights, accelerating with maximum effort in order to jump the lights are all observations I see regularly on my daily dog walk to and from



the playfields and across to Wootton Park. It does extend to commercial traffic of course, especially on the 4 separate zebra crossings on Burgoyne Avenue and associated side roads but again, it is a lot of residents who seem to have forgotten their manners in the mornings.

We (a few dog walkers) have approached the Parish Council and the authorities to see if any traffic control such as speed or red light camera could be installed but alas, since it is not considered an accident black spot, no progress will be made in the short to medium term unless there are accidents, which I fear we are not far away from as the volume of residential and commercial traffic increases over the Fields Road bridge.

So why am I writing this letter? It is a simple message and plea to all resident drivers in the village. **Please, please observe the 20MPH and 30MPH limits on all parts of the village roads.** You might think its OK as you are leaving the village to hit 60 MPH at the National speed limit sign but seriously, the 30 limit carries on for at least another 100 yards/meters past the lights.



Please don't hit the
kick down when
you see someone
reaching for the
button, not only will it
increase your speed
- but also the noise

which can frighten some of the dogs (or even horses) at the crossings and on the footpaths. We have been asked to relay any observations to our Borough Council representatives and the police will likely be doing some spot checks but all of this is in vain if we, residents of Wootton, not only observe the average speed limits, but also the entire speed limits up to the end of the village limits. And especially if we pay attention to the speed as we leave and arrive over the controlled crossing in Fields Road.

Thanks for reading.

"WOE THERE!"

The coachman was converted
But still felt the power of sin
And often in his daily life
Came close to giving in.
"Tis like two teams of horses"
He said to me one day
"With one lot pulling to the left
The rest the other way."
"And which one wins" I asked of
him
"Can one such team corrupt you?
"Well that depends" the
coachman grinned
"Which I say "Giddy Up" to

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Community Speed Watch

Since my last report your dedicated Speedwatch Team - Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward and myself have been joined by Ellen Barnes and we have continued to carry out patrols down Bedford Road as Cranfield Road now has average speed cameras installed.

I must thank my team for braving the elements in the last 2 patrols in November and January and during these patrols we didn't record any motorists which is most encouraging! During January 232 letters were sent out in Bedfordshire to offending motorists. Those offending more than once receive a visit from the police to talk to them about speeding. A further offence then means a fine and 3 points on the driving licence.

As I have said frequently, we are still a very small team (although Wootton is an increasingly large village) and could do with some more volunteers so if you feel that you could help us out please get in



touch with Juliet Wright - Juliet.Wright@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk . We should love to have your help.

Please keep the village safe by observing the speed limits, particularly during these cold months when the road conditions could be more hazardous.

Keep safe and drive carefully.

Malcolm Chalmers

Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator

Coffee Morning

at

Wootton Baptist Church Hall
Bedford Road

Every Tuesday 10-12

~

Coffee, tea, cakes and
warm friendship

All are welcome!



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. One of those units has now been taken on by logistics company Expeditors, however it is not yet known who will operate the other units

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. WPC is still seeking permission from BBC (as Highways Authority) to undertake the project as concerns have been raised over utility provisions beneath the roundabout

Changing Rooms renovations

Church Road

2023

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. Coloini & Lane Architecture Ltd have been appointed to assist with project management

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 (now Encyclis) Incinerator

Ongoing

Stewartby parish

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 2023

Church Road recreation ground

8th July 2023

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

The Local Plan 2040 is now with an Independent Examiner for scrutiny. 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 has agreed the spend with Journeo subject to a caveat that Bedford Borough Council will fund the RTPi units

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	2023
Developer funding (£106k) due to WPC as part of the Fields Road South development to install a synthetic pitch will now be diverted directly to Wootton Upper School, as the facility will be delivered within its grounds. This has been approved by both the developer and Bedford Borough Council. It was not possible to deliver the synthetic pitch elsewhere within Wootton as, whilst WPC owns the sports pitches at Harris Way, it does not own the surrounding land. That land is maintained by Greenbelt Holdings Ltd. WPC will still play a role in its delivery and the facility will still be available to the wider community outside school hours		

Village Entrance Sign	Keeley Lane	2023
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 for the proposal was recently refused by BBC and WPC is looking to work with BBC and its architect to ensure a second planning permission submission is successful		

- 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.



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Sundays

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

This service is livestreamed & available
on our YouTube channel

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



EASTER AT ST. MARY'S



Good Friday

10am Family Service
2pm An Hour at the Cross



Easter Sunday

6am Sunrise Service (Hall End Rd)
10am Family Communion

Our popular Lunch Club is on the 2nd
Monday of each month - 115pm at the
Church Hall.

Spring dates are: 13 Mar, 15 May, 12 Jun

Also this year Take-a-Break returns!
3 April 10am-3pm. A day for 50's &
over. Crafts, music, food & time to
chat and catch up with friends.
For more details contact Lesley
via the Church Office



**WE'RE
BACK!**



LUNCH CLUB

Contact:

info@stmaryswootton.org.uk
01234 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

Hello,

I'm Andrew Day and I would like to introduce myself and my company My Window Cleaner. Through this extremely challenging time for all over the past 3 years, my life, like most peoples, had been turned upside down. It gave me a new perspective on life and prioritising what's important. I'd always dreamt of running my own business and this finally gave me the time I needed to explore business opportunities and find 'my thing'.



I have always struggled to find a reliable window cleaner with a professional, seamless service and knew of many other people that had this same problem. It was really important to me to start a business that serves my local community. My Window Cleaner brings a modern, fresh outlook to the industry, we pride ourselves on customer service with 100% guarantee on all of our work to make sure our customers are always happy and satisfied. I'm completely passionate about providing customers with a great experience – not just clean windows!

We keep you updated at every stage, letting you know when you can expect us and once we've been, so there is no need to wait around, wondering when we will turn up. At My Window Cleaner we offer a wide range of services that include window cleaning, jet washing, gutter clearing, fascia and soffit cleaning, so whatever your needs may be, we're able to help!



I've have had a huge amount of support from the local community and would also like to thank our existing customers for choosing us. I'm very excited to see what this next chapter has in stall for me. If you have any questions on our services and would like to support your local business please don't hesitate to get in contact, we are always happy to help.

We look forward to hopefully hearing from you soon!

Yours Sincerely

Andrew



Wootton Baptist Church - Bedford Road

No sooner have we left the Christmas period, Easter is upon us! Well its a while yet, but it is on the weekend of 7th-9th April. Spring will soon be here, beautiful flowers and warmer weather. Sounds good after the cold weather we have had. Probably the coldest Winter for some years.

But, (there is always a but) people are saying, what an awful world we live in. Pandemics, wars, earthquakes and appalling news over the media. Debt, horrendous crimes we hear about, illness and worse of all death. Death is man's greatest enemy. Can anything be done about all these problems. It reminds me of the father who wanted to keep his son quiet, so he have him a jigsaw of the whole world and told him to put it together. Just a few minutes late the boy came to his father and said he had completed it. Dad was amazed and asked how he had done it so quickly. The boy replied, 'There is a picture of a man on the back, so I put the man right and the world came right'. But how do we get right with God?

When you think of it, I suppose its right. Nature hasn't upset the world. All the natural things, animals, flowers and fauna, all respond as they have always done.



Man was made superior to all these things, but man has also been responsible for destroying many of them. Is there an answer to all these problems and can anything be done about it?

As Christians, we believe that God has given us the answer. It's not by doing all the things that we try to do, however right and good they may be. God's word, the Bible, tells us that we need to be changed. It says we are dead in sin and unbelief and need to be made alive in Jesus Christ. **We can find that in the Bible** – Romans 6: 5-11, Colossians 1: 13,- Ephesians 2: 1-3.

But the Bible doesn't leave us without an answer, it tells us that Jesus Christ came into the world to live and die in our place, that we may be made right with God, through repentance and faith in Him. (If you don't own a Bible, please ask us, we can always give you one.)





Our **church services** are each Sunday, in the morning at 10.30am for public worship, and in the evening at 6pm for Fellowship and Prayer. Everyone is welcome.



During the week we have a **'warm' Coffee morning** each Tuesday from 10am to Midday in the Church Hall. This is a good place to meet and chat with local people.

There are two **Home Groups** on a Wednesday and Thursday, both at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend one of those, please ring the Telephone numbers at the bottom.



We have an **'Adventurers' group** for children, aged 6 – 9 years each Thursday afternoon (Except school holidays) at 3.45pm in the Hall. We collect most of the children straight from the school next door, and the parents pick them up at 4.45pm. If you would like your child to

attend, please let the school know, we liaise with the school to make sure the children are safe.

As I write this, it appals me to hear of the huge loss of life in Turkey and Syria, through the earthquake and thank God for the safe country in which we live.



Easter will be here soon, from 7th to 9th April. We plan to hold our **Good Friday Service** at 6.30pm and the Easter day service at 10.30am. This is the most important time of the year for the Christian Church please feel free to attend any of our meetings. There will always be a welcome.

Rob Stanton

On behalf of the Deacons and Fellowship at WBC.

Contact numbers:

John & Susan:

Tel: 01234 300419

M: 07780 595066

M: 07305 050869

Gary and Teresa:

Tel: 01234 315350

M: 07723 327353

Ron and Lin:

Tel: 01234 765120

M: 07748 045651

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

to know God better, to love others more
and to share with others the good news of Jesus.



We have lots going on at our church during the week & we'd love to see you
Here are a couple of our Sunday events



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



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

Come along and 'Seek the Treasure'

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

Email: woottonnewlife@gmail.com

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

NEW Website: <https://www.woottonnewlife.com/>

The Royal British Legion - *Wootton's 2022 Poppy Appeal*

The 2022 Poppy Appeal here in 'Wootton' was again an outstanding success.

The 'Pop Up' Gazebo outside number 14 Fields Road, which was initially trialled due to a 'No cold calling' policy in door to door areas has proven to be a great Annual community spot, raising much needed revenue for this very worthy cause!. Consequently, many thanks should go to all who continue to 'Poppy' along to support the 'Pop Up', Poppy gazebo - including very well mannered children and grown ups not forgetting the well behaved dogs. Grateful thanks to those who kindly donated knitted/ crocheted poppies and garden plants which all helped to raise the fantastic total of £9,475:87.

Along with Business collections listed below, and Wreaths purchased for local organisations the final outstanding total amount of £11,135:42 was raised for The RBL.

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

Mesdames: - C.J.Ashpole, S.Barraclough, J.Billington, S.Chapillon, S.Cochrane, D.Loft, S.Gould, F.Harris, A.Hudson, L.Hutchings, J.Lambert, I.Lowings, C.Mason, J.Mead, V.Minney, J.Newbury, G.Robinson, S.Seagrove, A.Stapleton, D.Sullivan, E.Sullivan, K.Tallentire.

Messrs: - M.R.Ashpole, H.Bajwa, T. Billington, P.Birkett, O.Harris, R.Loft, D.Whitbread.

Business': - Amazon, Aspley Guise 'Lady Golfers' c/o Dora Loft, Bedford Hospital c/o



R.Bajwa, Blue Cross F.C, Chemist, Corner 5 Restaurant, DIMAN, Fox & Duck, Legstraps, Londis, Kempston Police Headquarters, Sainsbury's Local, Stagsden Golf Club c/o Dings Disco, St Mary's Church Wootton, Stewartby Church, Stewartby Club, The Kiln, Stewartby, Stewartby Co-op, Tesco Express, UHP dentist, Kempston, Wootton Healthy Living, Wootton & Bedford Vale Retirement Community Housing Care, Wootton Lower Schools (Bedford Road & Harris Way) and Wootton Upper School, Kimberley School, Stewartby and Wootton Parish Council.

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

Chris(tine) J. Ashpole
RBL Wootton, Poppy Appeal Organiser
07865051453

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 call **07749 538 964** or email **MemorialHallMK43@gmail.com**

Wootton Scout Hut

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

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



Village Hall, Church Road

Children's parties up to 11yrs old, plenty of room and open space out the back. A great hall to hire for parties. Also there is a small committee room to use for meetings. The hall is also used for Bowles, Fit Step, Yoga, Essential Dance, Friday Children Dance Class, Drama and Marshal Arts. For more information please email **WoottonVillageHallBookings@gmail.com** or call **Leigh Himsworth** on **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 **Leigh Himsworth** Tel **07546 300504**





In November 2022 SAODS performed our exciting and innovative version of **The Mikado** to capacity audiences. The quality of the show was recognised by NODA, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

Consequently, SAODS have been nominated for best musical and best stage design. We await the results with bated breath. Mikado was produced by our experienced and talented duo, Director Gordon Hodges and Musical Director, Dr Alana Thackray respectively. Stage design was created and constructed by husband and wife team, Hazel and John Daniels.

Our next production, the Spring Show, will be, **Opera 'n' Chips**, to be performed on 12th and 13th November 2023 at Stewartby Village Hall. The show will be a new departure for the company and will consist of popular songs and choruses, both classic and classical.

As usual supper will be served during the evening, namely, fish and chips, all in with the price of the ticket!!! What a treat!!!



In the autumn, our major production will be Gilbert and Sullivan's ever popular, **Gondoliers**.

Throughout the year, the society engages in a variety of social and fundraising events, including a quiz night, jumble sale and annual dinner.

If you are interested in joining our company, either as performer or backstage, please visit our website or just come along to one of our rehearsals which take place on Thursday evenings at Stewartby United Church at 7.45.

Scenes from **The Mikado** are enclosed to whet your appetite!

For more information and details visit our website www.saods.org.uk

or facebook.com
[facebook.com/
stewartbyoperaticsociety](https://facebook.com/stewartbyoperaticsociety)

Carol Wallman

ST MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Established 1967

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

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



Frozen Nature Art

- At the beginning of term we made the most of the freezing cold weather. The children collected leaves, berries, flowers, grass and sticks. They placed

their treasures inside different sized containers and filled them with water, placing some string in the water. We left the containers in the garden to freeze overnight. The children were very excited to find their 'frozen art' the following morning. The children hung their frozen art in the trees in the preschool garden and watched as they melted in the winter sun. This fun activity allowed the children to investigate freezing and melting.

Birdwatch - The children took part in the 'Big Schools' Birdwatch'. They have enjoyed learning about the different birds that they saw in the preschool garden with the binoculars. We made a bird hide to



conceal the children. The children took part in bird themed crafts; paper plate robins, toilet roll binoculars and painting bird pictures using fine brushes.



Kung Hei Fat Choi!

The Year of the Rabbit - We have also been celebrating Chinese New Year. We have been

learning about the origins of the traditional story. They dressed up in traditional Chinese clothes and were very creative, making lanterns, fans and lucky white rabbits. We have learned some Chinese words and songs; and looked at Chinese characters and numbers. We discussed traditional Chinese food and the children used chopsticks to pick up noodles. The children learned that tangerines are a symbol of prosperity; and they all took a fortune cookie and a tangerine wrapped in red tissue home for good luck. For snack the children tried pancake rolls.

The children celebrated Valentine's Day. Our Valentine curriculum explored theme colours and heart shapes. The children made valentine



cards, created heart shaped cakes with the play dough and decorated heart shaped cardboard with natural materials. Our reading focus book was 'Guess How Much I Love you'.

Thankyou to Wootton Golf Society

A huge thank you goes to Wootton Golf Society who have donated the funds to purchase six tables, three coat racks, a book stand and a six-drawer storage unit. We will put these to good use!

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, large grassed outdoor play area. St Mary's Preschool supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The Preschool is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Preschool receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care. If you would like to put your child's name down for a preschool place, or require any further information please phone Tracey on 01234 767158.

Children not eligible for funding –

Fees are £4.75 per hour
(£14.25 for a 3-hour session).

Term time opening hours:

Mon 9.00 - 12.00

Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00

Thurs 9.00 - 15.00



Are you retired and at a loose end once a month?

Kempston Probus is a gentlemen's lunch club meeting at the Mercure Hotel in Bedford on the second Tuesday of each month. We have a two course meal plus coffee or tea for £18 and we have a guest speaker after each meal. We are a very friendly group of people and we invite ladies to 3 lunches per year as well!

Probus clubs are nationwide and we are anxious to recruit new members as our numbers have decreased since the pandemic.

If you would be interested in coming along to a lunch as a guest to see what we are all about then please get in touch with us. Our secretary is Fred Pearce on **01234 273776**.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Malcolm Chalmers

Committee member and minutes secretary.

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Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme

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

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

Last year up until December 549 tasks were carried out by members of the group. We must thank Tesco's for donating food items which were delivered at Christmas to all our clients. We do get financial support from Wootton Parish Council in order to cover the costs of insurance, mobile phone contract, Excel and Word package for correspondence and the printing of leaflets.



We feel as a group that perhaps not enough people in the village know about what we do and we are anxious to help out people in need in any way we can. We charge a nominal fee for each task carried out, but this is far less than would be spent on taxi or bus fares.

Please get in touch with Wootton Good Neighbours if you feel that you would like to join our friendly team in order to be able to help out.

If you have transport or mobility difficulties or if you are lonely and need someone to keep you company, please get in touch with us.

The dedicated phone number is:
07717 770247.

Malcolm Chalmers
Chairperson

The Forest of Marston Vale

- Helping the Community be more Green

Although the shortest month of the year, this February Jo Roberts, Community Engagement Officer for The Forest of Marston Vale, has been incredibly busy. The winter months are the optimum time for tree planting, and Jo has been rounding up the local community to pitch in with her tree planting efforts.

Last Sunday, (5th February) Forest of Marston Vale, held a **Tree Planting Event** at Berry Wood in Wootton led by Jo with partnership from Bedford Borough Council, and funding from Defra as part of The England's Community Forest 'Trees for Climate' project.

Jo Roberts, Community Engagement Officer said "We have been working closely with the property team at Bedford Borough Council, who own the land, to get this scheme off the ground. The site sits close to the expanding village of Wootton, and will provide opportunities for local residents to enjoy this woodland right on their doorstep, as well as providing a valuable home for all sorts of flora and fauna."

The trees planted were a mix of mainly native broadleaves, which were planted to provide a buffer around the existing Berry Wood. Once complete, there will be over 26,000 trees and shrubs in the ground (covering over 6 hectares), and in time, this will provide an excellent green space for people in the village to enjoy.



The weather was perfect for it, and around 150 local residents volunteered their time and helped plant approximately 2,500 trees across the day, with some people staying all the way from 11am to 3pm. Biodegradable tree tubes were used as part of the charities drive to make tree planting more sustainable.

This was a great opportunity to be involved in the creation of your local woodlands - something that future generations will benefit from, and a great way to make a difference in your local community.

If you have some land you'd like to see planted with trees or have contacts who might be interested, do get in touch with the Trees for Climate team at treesforclimate@marstonvale.org



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Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

In December, Wootton WI members enjoyed our Christmas party with Alan Goodger and his ukelele band providing the music, a good mix of songs and Christmas carols we could sing along to. Our committee had made a selection of delicious puddings accompanied by fruit punches. Those who wished to take part, had brought Secret Santa gifts which were exchanged, followed by a free raffle before we went home, feeling that Christmas had begun.

January saw our president giving us lots of tips of things we can use from our kitchen cupboards to aid our skincare such as olive oil and sugar as a face scrub and how crushed cucumber and celery make a good paste for under eye bags.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the talk about houseplants, in February, had to be postponed by a week.

We were very pleased to be invited to the Christmas craft fair in the new community hall. We had a stall selling lots of handmade decorations for Christmas trees, knitted gonks, and beautiful soft toy bunnies, each one individual, plus our cookbooks. We also kept the public refuelled with drinks and cake. It is an honour to be asked back to run the refreshments at the forthcoming **Spring craft fair on March 26th.**



All visitors very welcome at a cost of £4pp including tea or coffee and biscuits.

Meetings start at 7-30pm in the Memorial Hall on the third Wednesday of each month.

We will have the last few bunnies on sale, at £12, (they make great Easter presents) plus our cookbook will be available at £5. Some of the cake recipes from the book will be available to try.



Forthcoming Meetings:

March 15th

Amazing things can happen

How a special school in Kenya began with Ian Stimson

April 19th Annual Meeting

May 17th A cream tea to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

At present, our Facebook page is being revamped and updated, so messages sent to that won't be answered for the foreseeable future. Please email us on WoottonWI@outlook.com if you require any further information.

Manage your Council Tax online



From the comfort of your home, or even on the move, you can manage your Council Tax online and

- switch to paperless bills
- check what you owe
- set up or amend your direct debit
- tell us if you change address
- apply for a reduction in your Council Tax
- check your Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit entitlements



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 - EXTERNAL WALL, COMMUNITY CENTRE, HARRIS WAY
 - EXTERNAL WALL, MEMORIAL HALL, BEDFORD ROAD
- EXTERNAL WALL, WOOTTON PHARMACY, FOLKES ROAD

