

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

SUMMER EDITION

June 2023



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John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

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Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Leigh Himsworth - 07546 300504

email: woottonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

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

Schools

Wootton Upper: 767 123

Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

Police

HQ: 841 212 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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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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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



A new parish council was formed in May this year, so I am taking time to reflect upon the last four years.

My first thought is of Cllr Paul Quirk, who has moved away from the village. Paul had served on the council for over 40 years and had a wealth of knowledge about the village. I hope he is enjoying his time with his grandchildren.



There are a few projects that the parish council has been working on, that have been held up by Bedford Borough Council. The first is the remaining **Average Speed Cameras**. A survey carried out in 2016 found 97% agreed that speeding within Wootton was an issue. 68% agreed that Average Speed Cameras were the most effective means of reducing speeding. When the parish council received developer contribution funding and the police agreed to monitor the cameras, an order was placed with Bedford Borough Council in 2019 to install

cameras on Bedford Road, Keeley Lane, Hall End Road and Church Road. Bearing in mind the Borough Council outsource the works to a third party and receive a discount based on the size of the order, it is frustrating to note the only cameras installed to date are Cranfield Road (summer 2022). The new Mayor recognises the needs of villages as well as Bedford Town and I am confident we will get the remaining cameras installed in the coming months.

Next, I will turn to the **Fields Road pavement** and **Toucan crossing**. First the pavement. When the warehouses were built within the Bedford Commercial Park, Bedford Borough Council agreed a planning condition be implemented, which detailed the developer would finance the widening of the existing pavement along Fields Road to 3 metres. When the works finished, two sections remained with ditch and no piping, meaning the pavement was not 3 metres wide along its entirety. The parish council along with Borough Councillor John Wheeler pushed for the section behind the bus stop to be piped, infilled and widened as this area is used by school children. The pavement was then subsequently designated dual use (walking/cycling). Before Covid-19 hit, I walked the pavement with a Borough Council Highways Engineer, reviewing diagrams and installation of signage. I now ask, what happened to those signs and (given the developer was funding these works) why wasn't the remaining pinch point also piped and infilled? Similar works have been carried out along Bedford High Street – why not the same level of care in Wootton?

In 2015, Persimmon Homes Ltd paid £50,000 to Bedford Borough Council to fund the installation of a Toucan style crossing on Fields Road. The job was added to the

Borough Councils programme of works, yet at one point it subsequently vanished from that same programme of works. When the parish council questioned this, it was informed there was no budget for the works! Thanks to the tenacity of the parish council's Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group and Borough Councillor Wheeler, it was reinstated as soon as the payment of £50,000 was pointed out. Unfortunately, the Borough Council has since delivered a Zebra style crossing, which costs about half that of a Toucan style crossing. The parish council and Borough Councillor Wheeler are investigating not only the style of crossing (and full costings) but why the Borough Council is now claiming the pavement is not dual purpose (which apparently negates the need for the crossing to be a Toucan style). We will establish what has happened to the funding – funding that should be spent on Fields Road to keep pedestrians safe when crossing.

On a much more positive note, well done to the parish council's Road and Pavements **Safety Steering Group** and Borough Councillor Wheeler in getting the pavements in Monoux Road resurfaced and the area of Cause End Road outside Tesco's temporarily patched. Yes – this has been done several times now, however a full resurface cannot be undertaken until utility works in that area are complete (they have been going on for years).

Now looking forward to the new parish council, I would like to welcome **Tristan Tyerman** and **Alex Swain** as new members of the council. We have already had some positive talks with Mayor Wootton and look forward to working with him and his colleagues to tick off several stalled projects that will improve the village for everyone who lives and works here.



At the time of writing this report, the parish council is waiting to learn the outcome of a **planning application** to revamp the **changing rooms** at Church Road. The plans will see the creation of a small shop/ kitchenette area (NOT a commercial kitchen) and two new toilets. The rest of the building will be for storage.

Finally, I would also like to **thank residents** (mostly from Studley Road) who attended a meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee to speak against a proposed planning application, between the older and newer parts of Studley Road. Democracy at work. Frankly, the application was ridiculous and planning permission has been refused.





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



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

I would like to begin this report by congratulating **John Wheeler** on his re-election as Borough Councillor for Wootton and Kempston Rural. I would also like to congratulate **Sue Abood** on her election as the other Borough Councillor. I look forward to new beginnings with Sue and continuing to work on behalf of the parish council with John, for the good of Wootton.

I would also like to thank members who stood again for re-election to the parish council and again, I look forward to continuing to work with them on behalf of the parish council, for the good of the village. I would also like to **welcome two new members** – Alex Swain and Tristan Tyerman.

A reminder that our **Fun Fest** will take place this year on Saturday 8th July. If you would like a stall do please let me know. Sadly the scouts are unable to provide the BBQ this year, however Dave's Snax will be in attendance 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.

It's pleasing to see so many of you continuing to make use of the **glass recycling facility** at Church Road (Recreation Ground car park). As you may be aware, 100% of the revenue the parish council receives for this facility is paid to the Wootton Poor's Land Charity. 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 – this can be done in the strictest of confidence.

I will also continue to promote **Wootton's Good Neighbour Scheme**. If you need their help, they can be contacted via email at: **WoottonGoodNeighbourScheme@gmail.com** or via telephone on **07717 770247**. Last year, this organisation carried out 549 tasks. A nominal fee is charged for each task, but this is less than a bus or taxi fare. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer (even a few hours can make all the difference) – please contact them using the same details as above. A DBS check is necessary, but this will be arranged by the scheme.

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*

JUNE

14th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
14th	Full Council	7.30pm
28th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
28th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

JULY

12th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	7.30pm
19th	Leisure & Amenities Committee (inc Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group)	7.00pm
26th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

AUGUST

9th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
9th	Full Council	7.30pm
30th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

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, to ensure the meeting room is configured to accommodate the numbers required.

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

The seasons are changing, summer is on the way, some things do not change and I am pleased to be representing the residents of Wootton as one of your Borough Councillors for another four years!

On a serious note, thank you all very much for voting me back in. I will continue to work closely with the parish council, residents, schools, churches and clubs to ensure the best for Wootton and its residents.

I am pleased to inform you that I have been made Deputy Speaker for Bedford Borough Council until May of next year which is a great honour and a role I look forward to doing. I shall continue being a Governor of both village schools and my main duties at Borough Hall will centre on Children's Services, Health and Adult Services.

In late May, I, along with Cllr Lloyd (Chairman of Wootton Parish Council) and Sue Edgar Playford (Clerk to the Council), met with the newly elected Mayor, Tom Wootton, to discuss many of the outstanding issues in

Wootton. Open and transparent dialogue with our elected Mayor is crucial to ensuring Wootton gets its fair share from the Borough, we will continue to have a positive working relationship with the Mayor which should see a number of issues resolved within Wootton.

Additionally, Cllr Jim Weir (newly elected Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport and Highways) attended a recent meeting of the parish council's Leisure & Amenities Committee including Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group and has taken away a number of other outstanding issues.

These include parking restrictions along Ashpole Avenue, Folkes Road and Harris Way (Berryfields Estate), Folkes Road Bus Gate, resurfacing works for both Cause End Road and Payne Road and the installation of all remaining Average Speed Cameras. Hopefully, we can see some positive results there as well – I will keep everyone updated through my Facebook Page.

On Friday 26th May, the Government announced it would be moving forward with route E for its controversial **East West Rail (EWR) project** – the route chosen in 2021. Following this news both the Conservative Mayor and Councillors (including myself) have criticised the project indicating that we will battle that decision which will see 65 homes demolished to make way for an unnecessary six-track route.

I want to be clear that I support investment into our wider Borough, improved rail links and the EWR project in principle, I cannot support any decision that would involve the demolition of homes, lives and

countryside. I also share my colleague's serious concerns surrounding the deeply flawed 2019 consultation and a lack of a proper business case – it is clear a good opportunity to improve Bedford Borough has been entirely botched and we need rebuild this plan from the group up.

As mentioned in the previous edition of this newsletter, **Wootton schools** are still moving towards the two tier educational conversion. Central Bedfordshire Council are a little behind, however our schools are making good progress with plenty of meetings!



I was pleased to be asked by Wootton Blue Cross FC to open His Majesty The King's **Coronation celebrations** at the club on the 6th May. This was a fabulous event, sponsored by the parish council so a big thank you to them and the club for hosting the event. It was also a great honour to represent Bedford Borough Council and Wootton at His Majesty The King's Coronation Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on the 9th May, a day I shall never forget. On the 19th June I shall be representing Wootton once more at the Flag Raising Event at Borough Hall for Armed Forces Day.

Do not forget the annual **Wootton Fun Fest** run by Wootton Parish Council on Saturday 8th July. As in previous years there will be live music from 1pm – 9pm with stalls, funfair, food, bar and many other attractions. The Mayor, Tom Wootton will be attending and will be happy to address any queries or concerns. Once again, a big thank you to Wootton Parish Council and especially Mark Atkins for organising this free event.



The Borough Council is offering local community groups the chance to **#ColourTheBorough** as part of the annual tulip bulb giveaway. Community groups that would like to

collect some tulip bulbs should contact bugsandbees@bedford.gov.uk by Monday 29 May to make a request. When requesting bulbs, please ensure you specify the group you represent and the intended location where you will plant the bulbs.

Lastly, The Borough Council is currently conducting **customer satisfaction surveys** for two of its award winning parks, Bedford Park and Addison Howard Park. The survey should take between five and ten minutes to complete and will close on Sunday 18 June 2023 – if you would like to leave your thoughts please access the survey please visit the following links:

- www.bedford.gov.uk/BedfordPark
- [www.bedford.gov.uk/Addison Howard Park](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/AddisonHowardPark)

My **monthly surgery** is as always on the 1st Saturday of the month at 11 am at Wootton library on Lorraine Road. Do please contact me before then however, if you have any pressing issues.

I hope you all have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you around the village.

Cllr. John Wheeler



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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



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on our website

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is on the 2nd Monday
of each month - 115pm
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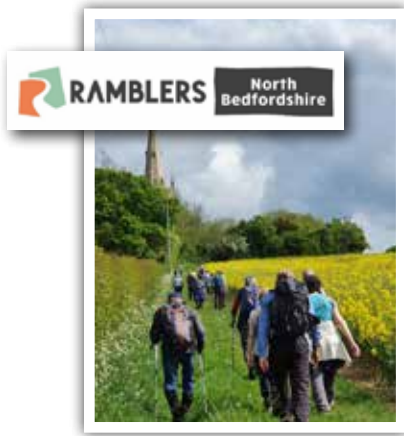
Contact:

info@stmaryswootton.org.uk
01234 765375



www.stmaryswootton.org.uk

North Beds Ramblers - Your local walking group



As the weather starts to improve how about getting outside and going for a walk? North Beds Ramblers are a local rambling group that have been walking in this area for 40 plus years.

We are a friendly group who walk every Saturday afternoon, usually covering about 6 – 7 miles. We have recently expanded our program and now also walk twice a month on a Saturday morning for those who want a longer walk of about 10 – 12 miles.

We walk mainly in the Bedfordshire Wolds but occasionally drift across county borders with walks in Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire plus further south within Bedfordshire. Most walks are rural and we have the joys of finding lovely lanes, villages, historic churches and encountering wildlife. We also venture to London with organised walks in various locations of our capital city, discovering some hidden gems and well-kept secrets!

In 2023 we are starting to walk the Bunyan Trail and will be covering a section of



about 12 miles every quarter. The route was originally devised by a member of Bedfordshire Ramblers and the 86-mile trail takes in many historic sites and places of interest.

We are happy to welcome new members to our fold especially single walkers. The walks are fully guided by our volunteer walk leaders.

Unfortunately, we do not accept dogs on our walks unless they are assistance dog. If you plan to join us, please also bring a drink and a snack/lunch as we always have a break.

If you want to find out more about us why not check us out <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/north-bedfordshire>, Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northbedsramblers>,

twitter @NB_Ramblers

or alternatively call our walk secretary **Margaret Sawyer** on **07780 933729**

Come and discover beautiful Bedfordshire with us, we look forward to meeting you.

Wootton Baptist Church - Bedford Road

Its just a few weeks since the Coronation of our King Charles 3rd in London. What a spectacular sight that was to see all the pageantry, at which this country is so good. It was amazing but so soon forgotten. Other things have now crowded in and taken the headlines of the media. What a fickle world we live in!



We may complain about the rising cost of living, the immigration problems, the housing shortage, the condition of the roads and the Weather, of course. But we are greatly blessed in this country. Think of the nations who are at war at the moment, the starving people in some countries, the persecution of minorities. What a mess the world is in! Very rarely do we hear of good news on our TV's and Radios. I suppose bad news sells newspapers, whereas good news doesn't

In our church we always have the Good News of Jesus Christ to tell to anyone who will listen. The Godless people of today, who refuse to listen to what Almighty God says in the Bible, would rather live in the uncertainty of what this world has to offer. There are many problems in our Country today.

The message of the Bible is that none of us are good enough for God and that He will judge us all at some future day. The Bible says in Romans Chapter 23, verse

3, that 'All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.' So not one of us is better than another. But it does not leave us in a state of hopelessness, it tells us in the Bible, in 1 John 1 verse 9, 'That if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' God has told us the way of salvation, Jesus Christ has taken our punishment and died in our place. Salvation is a gift, but as with all gifts, we have to take it.



Our meetings continue as they have done since 1836:

Sunday morning at 10.30am -

Worship service with a part for the children.

Sunday evening at 6pm -

Prayer and fellowship.



Tuesday from 10am to Midday -

Coffee morning.
Children welcome.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7.30pm -

Home Bible Groups.

Thursday afternoons at 3.45pm -

The Adventurers meet
in the Hall. Open to all
children from 6 to 9
years.



Then we are back to Sundays again!

The church meetings are open to everyone and anyone. If you come, expect a welcome, friendship, singing, and preaching from the word of God. There is a car park and all the usual facilities, including coffee and biscuits!

By the time this Magazine is published the Wootton Fun Day will be here, 8th July. Come and see us at our marquee we would love to meet you.

If you prefer to talk to one of the Leaders of the church, they can be contacted on **01234 300419 (John)** or **01234 315350. (Gary)**.

Rob Stanton

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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 Anil Mistry 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 patrols in November, January, February and March. During these patrols we didn't record many motorists speeding which is most encouraging! During March 353 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

Volunteers needed



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 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 and a planning application for the renovations is currently being determined by BBC.

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

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

2023

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. The plan will next be reviewed after the adoption of BBC's Local Plan 2040 – to ensure policies are up to date

Real Time Passenger Information (bus stops)

Four bus stop sites within the village

2023

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 had agreed the spend with Journeo subject to a caveat that BBC would fund new RTPi units, however BBC has since confirmed it only has a budget to repair and re-use the vandalised 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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Local Walks

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www.lbramblers.org.uk/BFAW

Leighton Buzzard Ramblers, North Beds Ramblers
Lea & Icknield (Luton) Ramblers, Ivel Valley Walkers



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 are very grateful for their support.

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 770 247.**

Malcolm Chalmers
Chairperson

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 activities.



King Charles III Coronation

- the children have been celebrating the Kings Coronation. The children took part in a variety of activities, such as making crowns, dressing up in red, white and blue and baking royal cakes. We learned how to Country Dance and had an afternoon tea party with cucumber sandwiches. Each child was given a coronation drinks bottle and engraved medal to commemorate the event.

Dancing Wootton Lower School

- The children were invited to dance at the Wootton Lower School May Fayre, they all had such fun dancing the Yorkshire Long 8 to music. Everybody clapped along with the dancing and said how fantastic the children were.

Trip to Woburn Safari Park

- We enjoyed our trip to Woburn Safari

Park, we loved sitting on the coaches with our friends looking through the windows at all the animals.



Gardening

- the children have enjoyed growing plants and vegetables. The children have planted potatoes, runner beans and tomatoes. Gardening has so many benefits for the children, it engages all the senses, enhances fine motor development, introduces scientific concepts, math skills, social skills, teaches responsibility and patience, encourages healthy eating and most importantly it is fun!



School Leavers



- We want to wish all our children who are leaving us to start big school in September all the best as they prepare for their next step of their learning journey.

General Information

St Mary's Preschool opened in 1967 and operates from the main room within the Church Hall. Children have access to a fully enclosed, grassed outdoor play area. St Mary's Preschool supports children with special educational needs and children who speak English as an additional language. The Preschool is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Preschool receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care. If you would like to put your child's name down for a preschool place, or require any further information please phone Tracey on **01234 767158**.

We are now full for September 2023, we are taking applications for September 2024.

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.

Update from 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 Energy Costs

The Government has a range of payments to help with the rising cost of energy. These should be paid automatically, so be wary of any phone calls asking you to apply. You can check on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>, if you're eligible for any of the payments.

Pension Credit 2023/24

- If your income is less than £201.05 (single person) or £306.85 (couple) per week and your savings are below £10,000, you should be eligible for Pension Credit, which will top your income up to this amount. If you are disabled, this figure rises by an additional £76.40.

- Pension Credit will make you eligible for certain additional benefits, so it is worth applying, even if the amount you would get is very small. Contact me if you need help.

Pensioner Cost of Living Payment

- Households on means-tested benefits, including Pension Credit, Universal Credit and Tax Credits, will receive an additional payment of £900 this year, paid automatically in three instalments.



£301 – First Cost of Living Payment
– during Spring 2023

£300 – Second Cost of Living Payment
– during Autumn 2023

£299 – Third Cost of Living Payment
– during Spring 2024

Do You Need Help? I can visit you at home if you need help applying for a Blue Badge, Bus Pass, Attendance Allowance etc. I am happy to answer other queries or worries you might have - just call me.

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



Bedford Borough
Council



Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society - News and Forthcoming Events



Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society continue to present exciting and innovative programmes of song, drama and dance to enthusiastic local audiences.

As a departure from the norm, our most recent show in May '23 was Opera 'n' Chips performed on 2 evenings to appreciative audiences. The programme was comprised of popular songs and choruses, both classic and classical, with a fish and chip supper served in the interval. The programme opened with the romantic, Stranger in Paradise and concluded with a medley from The Merry Widow. The master of ceremonies was Colin Jones who skilfully devised the evening interspersing items with informative and humorous anecdotes. The accompanist was the ever patient and versatile Pam Rogers. Lighting design was by Richard Hull. Of course the success of the evening relies on a faithful army of behind the scenes supporters and the

dedication of the performers.

Our Major production this year will be the ever popular Gondoliers planned for November 2023 to be performed at Stewartby Village Hall. We are always keen to welcome newcomers, so do come along whether you are interested in performing or any aspect of backstage; light, sound, costume, stage design and management. We particularly welcome young people who might like to become involved. Performing Arts students may be interested in contacting us if they would like to gain practical experience in theatre in the community.

For further information visit our
website
www.soads.org.uk

or Facebook
[@StewartbyOperaticSociety](https://www.facebook.com/StewartbyOperaticSociety)

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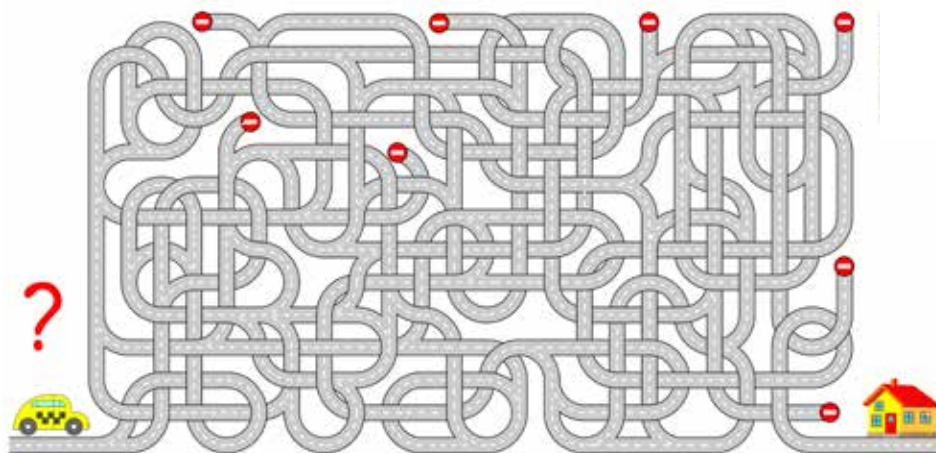


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Email: admin@bizzybeespreschool.org

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



Hello from the Bizzy Bees Team!

We are enjoying the Summer Term and have lots of exciting news!



We have secured an amazing £2000 grant from the Harpur Trust to create a sensory garden. Sensory play is a valuable way of supporting a child's brain development. Not forgetting it is lots of fun! We would like to say a huge thank you to the Harpur Trust as this would not have been possible without you.



We are honoured and extremely proud to have been shortlisted in the Bedford Independent Everyday Heroes awards which were held on 27th April 2023. Upon attending the awards ceremony we are delighted to have been awarded



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Who Sent That?

Pegasus Publications Limited had been going through a difficult “patch” for at least two years now. That was how long it felt to Patrick Jones, Managing Director of the company.



He had started the business when he had been offered the first manuscript of a novel by Peter Wilmslow. Patrick had dreamed about earning his living within the literary world since his schooldays, and a first class Honours Degree in English Literature at Nottingham University had cemented that desire.

His main wish had to be that he himself would write prize-winning novels. His early efforts at school had often been published in his School's magazine, and had received considerable praise. His efforts at Uni had borne fruit too, with a few short stories published in their magazine, produced at the end of each term.

His parents were completely aware of his ambitions, and were very supportive when he had first entered the big wide world. While he was living with them, they had charged him virtually nothing for his board and lodging, and had bought him a top-end word processor when he achieved his degree.

He had set himself up in an upstairs room in his parents' house as his office. He had everything he needed, computer, paper, filing cabinet, coffee machine, and peace and quiet. The one thing he found was missing was the one thing that could not be bought. Inspiration.

In the years that he had been writing up until then, he had found that when he sat in front of a blank screen, hands poised over the keyboard, themes to base stories on had just seemed to flow. Sometimes he himself had no idea how a plot would pan out – it often just seemed to develop under its own steam.

However, under the pressure of having to write, and gain commercial acceptance in order to earn a living, it all seemed to change. The flow that had been there just seemed to dry up.

He did produce some work, of course. He was in that office for many hours a day. But he knew that what he produced was nowhere near the quality that would be needed to be accepted for publication. He sent his work off to various publishers of the type of novel he was trying to write, but all he received back was rejection notifications, or no reply at all.

As his frustration increased, desperation set in. He couldn't live off his parents' generosity for ever.

It was then that he decided to start his own publishing company. “Just until I hit the jackpot with one of my own efforts”, he told himself.

“I'll see if I can earn some money in the meantime by promoting other new authors”.

That was when Pegasus Publications Limited came into existence. And almost as soon as he started to receive manuscripts from other hopefuls, he had received the draft of “As The Crow Flies” from Peter Wilmslow.



By the time he had read to the end of the second chapter, Patrick knew he had a winner on his hands. The plot was twisted, and clever, with a brilliant “sting in the tail” ending. The characters that Wilmslow had created were credible and interesting, and the book obviously lent itself to being the first in a whole series.

He was very excited, but also, very naïve.

He told Peter straight away that he had a potential best seller on his hands.

Then, a week later, before he had had the chance to set the wheels in motion to arrange printing the novel, he received the letter from Hodder and Stoughton.

“We are writing to advise that our client, Mr Peter Wilmslow, has signed a contract with Hodder and Stoughton to publish his first novel entitled ‘As The Crow Flies’. Any further activity by Pegasus Publications regarding this, or any future work by Mr Wilmslow, will result in legal action being taken against you”.

Patrick was devastated. He had seen this his publication of this book as the way to achieve his dream. How could Peter Wilmslow have done this to him? Presumably he had reneged on his agreement because he felt Hodder and Stoughton would create a bigger success for him.



He had tried to contact Peter, but all his efforts were ignored.

And “As The Crow Flies” became a best seller, and led to a whole series of books, which made a lot of money for both Peter Wilmslow and Hodder and Stoughton.

Pegasus Publications struggled on for two years. Patrick did publish a few short stories, some collections of poetry, and one novel, but without any great success, covering costs, but making very little profit.

He had decided to cease trading at the end of that year, and try to get a job as an employee of another publishing house.

And then, the parcel was delivered to him by DHL.

It was the manuscript of a three hundred page novel, but no author's details were provided. All that was with the document was the note that read “For you to use in any way you see fit”. The note was unsigned.

When Patrick started reading the manuscript, he was immediately enraptured. He could not put it down, and finished it at four o'clock in the morning.

“Who sent that?” he asked himself, but really, he knew who it must have been.

“Did he really mean the words that were in the attached message? He must have done – it must have been to salvage his conscience”.

So Patrick took the words literally, and six months later, he publishes “The Flight Of The Condor” by Patrick Jones.

The book was not as big a success as “As The Crow Flies”, but sold well enough to establish the future of Pegasus Publications, and the realisation of his dream, at last.



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CHAMELEON	LION
COCONUT	MONKEY
CROCODILE	PARROT
ELEPHANT	PALMTREE
FLAMINGO	PINEAPPLE
GIRAFFE	SLOTH
HIPPO	TIGER
HOOPOE	TOUCAN





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