

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

AUTUMN EDITION

September 2023



Contacts Directory



Parish Council Chairman

Gareth Lloyd: 07414 551 820

Parish Council Vice Chairman

Gerald Bygraves: 07792 842 601

Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer

Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

3 Longden Close, Haynes, Bedfordshire MK45 3PJ

Parish Councillors

Bob Hensher: 767 774

John Kay: 400 830

Jeff Noakes: 07806 470 411

Stuart O'Dell: 767133

Keith Randell: 07872 647234

Alex Swain: 07516 649106

Tristan Tyerman: 07935 974449

Bob Wallace: 768 011

John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

Bedford Borough Councillors

Councillor Sue Abood: 07968 792862

Councillor John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

Hall Booking

Memorial Hall - 07749 538964

email: memorialhallmk43@gmail.com

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



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Editor in Chief - Sue Edgar Playford

Editor - Gareth Lloyd

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t. 01234 720105

Editorial Notes:

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

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Copy Date: 1st November

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



Since the last newsletter, I am pleased to announce the parish council has one further new member. Welcome to John Kay. We still have four vacancies for parish councillors, so if you would like to know more about what is involved, please get in touch with the Clerk to the Council, Sue Edgar Playford at: Clerk@Wootton-PC.gov.uk.

I would like to thank everyone who helped and attended our annual **Fun Fest** on the recreation ground, Church Road in July. Although the weather wasn't great at the start, the sun eventually came out and we had another good turnout. Hopefully next year the weather will stay kind all day. The Community Centre's Food Festival on 19th August was a great success with good attendance from the residents of Wootton – well done to all involved.

As some of you have noticed, a number of **bus shelters** have recently been replaced in the village. The four in question (along Bedford Road and Cause End Road) are parish council assets and have been replaced with eco-friendly units made

entirely from recycled materials. They have more comfortable seating and also contain 'living roofs' which contain plants and greenery to aid the environment and pollinators alike. The parish council had been working with Bedford Borough Council for some time to deliver this project and the new administration has helped us to now see progress. The units have been financed using Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (a form of developer funding) and has not been paid for with public tax-payers funds.

The parish council is also looking to replace the **real time passenger information displays**. Other bus stops will then be considered for improvement – I am aware of a request for bus shelters to be added on Fields Road, however this may prove problematical as the pavement is dual purpose (for pedestrians and cyclists).

An order for **Average Speed Cameras** was placed with the Borough Council back in early 2019, over four years ago. The previous administration installed cameras on Fields Road (using developer contributions) and Cranfield Road (the parish council again used Community Infrastructure Levy Funding) to finance the same. The new administration at Borough Hall do seem to want to help rural communities and we have been informed the remaining cameras should be installed in the first half of 2024. I do hope they can deliver.



Lastly, a particular bug bear for me – the **narrow pavement** (pinch point) along Cranfield Road, near the junction with Church Road. For some 10 years now, the parish council has been lobbying the borough council to increase the pavement width along Cranfield Road, close to the double mini roundabouts. There is a danger here, with commercial vehicles (lorries and vans) having large wingmirrors which overhang the pavement, sometimes at head height. The parish council has submitted a number of suggestions on how to remedy this issue, all to no avail. Sadly, we have made the decision to put this issue to rest as there seems to be no solution the borough council is willing to take forward.

National Anthem **updated**

"God save our Gracious King"
now we will sing again
So few are those who'll
remember when we had a
King to reign.

Now King Charles comes to the
throne and as he takes his place
He'll need our strong supporting
prayers that God will give
him grace

To lead us as a good king should,
and like our late Queen, be
Defender of the Christian faith
the one that sets us free.

So; "God save our gracious King"
echoes the old refrain
"Send him victorious, happy
and glorious
Right on throughout his reign."

Rebecca Cook ©

Ageing Well Festival and Exhibition for the over 50's

Wednesday 11th October 2023
Bedford Corn Exchange - 10am to 2.30pm

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

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

Come along and get a Health Check, Hand Massage and Energy Saving Products.



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



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

We have another **new member of Wootton Parish Council** – a formal welcome to John Kay. This leaves us with four vacancies (we have a maximum of 15 seats). If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor and would like to learn more about what would be involved – do please get in touch with either myself or the Chairman, Gareth Lloyd.

A big thank you as always to Mark Atkins for doing the lions share of the work in ensuring another successful **Fun Fest**. The weather wasn't the best and we were worried in the morning about the amount of rain we were facing, but the sun won out in the end (at least for the majority of the afternoon and evening!) Thanks also to Gareth Lloyd, John Wheeler and Tristan Tyerman for being there all day, plus other members of the parish council who were able to help for part of the day. We were fortunate to have students from Wootton Upper School and also a good number of Army Cadets who acted as marshalls and helpers throughout the day. A lot of positive feedback was received and I think Mayor Tom Wootton was impressed with an impromptu Army Cadet parade!

As we head now from summer towards Autumn, the parish council's next event will be the all-important **Remembrance Sunday parade** which this year will take place on Sunday 12th November. Fuller details and information will be published nearer the time, however if you are a member of a village club or organisation and would like to lay a wreath as part of this parade, please either contact myself or Cllrs Gareth Lloyd and/or John Wheeler.

Thanks as always to those of you who continue to use the **glass recycling facility** at Church Road (Recreation Ground car park). I pass on 100% of this revenue to the Wootton Poor's Land Charity. This charity continues to offer financial help to anyone within the civil parishes of Wootton and Stewartby who might be in need. Your actions really do help change lives.

Wootton's **Good Neighbour Scheme** had a promotional stall at the Fun Fest back in July. They were well visited but were sadly unable to recruit any new volunteers. If anyone can spare some time, do please get in contact with them at: **WoottonGoodNeighbourScheme@gmail.com** or **07717 770247**. Another action which really will help to change lives.



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

SEPTEMBER

13th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
13th	Full Council	7.30pm
20th	Leisure & Amenities Committee (inc Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group)	7.00pm
27th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
27th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

OCTOBER

11th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th	Full Council	7.30pm
25th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
25th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm

NOVEMBER

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

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

We are now well into summer and it seems the gardens, Labradors and ducks seem to be the main beneficiaries of this very inclement weather, let's hope for an Indian summer in September.

Thankfully, it stayed dry for the **Flag Raising ceremony** at Borough Hall for Armed Forces Week and the subsequent parade in St. Paul's Square, Bedford the following Sunday. I was honoured to attend both, on behalf of Wootton and Kempston Rural. The Funfest was another great day, a bit wet at times, but that thankfully did not stop a very good turn out during the day. Tom Wootton, Mayor of Bedford popped along saying "it was great to see so many people enjoying themselves". He thanked Wootton Parish Council for its good work and it was lovely to see such a good crowd at the end enjoying the music and meeting up with friends and family.

I would personally like to thank Mark Atkins, Gareth Lloyd, Sue Edgar Playford, Tristan Tyerman, other members of

Wootton Parish Council, plus my grandson Edward and Harvey the Labrador who all helped greatly on the day and made this event possible. I also want to extend my thanks to Wootton Upper School students for helping during the day with a very special thank you to the Army Cadets who turned out in great numbers and were a considerable help during the day. This even included a guard of honour for the mayor!

I am working very closely with the parish council to continue to get the best for the village in relation to **infrastructure** and **highways issues**. Wootton has been neglected in the past by the borough council, despite the new developments contributing a substantial amount of CIL Funding⁽¹⁾ which was paid to the borough council but sadly not invested within Wootton. Now times are changing at Borough Hall, I hope to be able to announce a few big improvements by the next newsletter.

On the highways front, the parish council has recently overseen the replacement of **bus shelters** around the village (not including Berryfields or the Berry Wood developments). Both myself and the parish council are frustrated about the lack of movement in relation to the installation of the remaining **Average Speed Cameras** – the orders were placed months ago during the previous administration and it frustrating to see it take so long to see any progress.

New bus shelters will be delivered by the developer consortium along Burgoyne Avenue and Traffic Regulation Orders have been approved by Bedford Borough

Council for the Berryfields estate, meaning Persimmon can now install signage and lining to denote parking restrictions at several sites (including the vicinity of the lower school). I am working with the borough council and parish council to pressure Persimmon into getting this work completed urgently.

The other area for concern remains **Cause End Road**. As you may be aware, a large section was resurfaced, stopping short of Tesco due to the development opposite, plus proposed gas works. The development is now complete and nothing came of the gas works! It's all well and good filling potholes, but the roads requires resurfacing as was initially intended. Both myself and the parish council are chasing for a date for these works to commence and I raised this issue recently when I met with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport and Highways, Borough Councillor Jim Weir, to discuss other traffic issues including concerns at Mepham Road.

Those of you who walk within **Berry Wood** may have noticed the poor condition of the paths around the wood – some of which have been blocked/partially blocked by fallen trees and bushes. I have reported these to the borough council (who own and maintain the woods), who have said they will clear them soon, along with other required works around the wood. Cllr Gareth Lloyd and I met with the Berry Wood Estate developer consortium and a representative from the Borough Council's Flood Risk Team to discuss the flooding on Cranfield Road and the route of rain water which runs to the old Elstow Brook (now a balancing pond). I am pleased to say they agreed where the

issues are and have pledged to sort them out before winter. We are also looking at other areas in the village with water problems and informing the borough council of the same.

Remembrance Sunday falls on 12th of November this year and the parish council will be arranging the event as usual. Fuller information will be published nearer the time.

The **Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch** is on 6th December this year and again, fuller information will follow nearer the time.

Now for a quick Borough Report.

I was pleased to offer my full support during the most recent Full Council, where my colleague Councillor Jane Walker, moved a motion that solidified the Council's commitment to **prioritising the well-being of care-experienced young people**. The commitments include the Council helping prevent discrimination by treating care experience as if it were a 'Protected Characteristic'.

I have been working with the Council to get this done and was pleased that Councillor Jane Walker's motion received cross party support.

The Council will also be increasing investment into our **Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation service** which does not have the staff to meet service demands.

The number of homeless families or individuals needing temporary accommodation has increased by 181%, going from 220 in April 2020 to 620 in



April 2023. The previous administrations budget did not provide enough resources to meet demand – this means the Councils homeless service is under staffed/resourced.

Employees are taking on caseloads that are more than double national standards which has resulted in a significant backlog of cases. The missing resources mean the Council now face £5.7m in potential overspends in order to keep the service running for the next financial year.

The current administration has outlined they plan to invest in this service to address the backlog/staffing issues so costs can come back under control.

On a lighter note, it has also been confirmed the Council will be continuing to distribute **supermarket vouchers** to thousands of families across the Borough over the summer holidays. The vouchers are funded through the Governments Household Support Grant which is distributed through Department for Work and Pensions. Over 7000 children will benefit from the scheme.

Following the successful roll-out of the **Warm Spaces** initiative during the winter we will be seeing a similar scheme during the hot summer months. The Borough

Council is supporting partners to develop the Cool Spaces network. These spaces will provide local residents with access to welcoming locations where they can shelter from the sun, stay cool and enjoy some company.

The Council has also launched **"Street Tag"** and **"BeActive"** a treasure hunt style game that encourages communities to explore their surroundings and get active. The gaming app is available for download for free – it works in a similar vein to Pokemon Go, although the hype around that game came to end years ago, this is a new and great idea for the Council that can offer learnings for new events.



It is obvious that **Bedford's Town Centre** has seen better days, but the Council and new administration are doing everything it can to combat the 13 years of decline in areas we can directly influence, such as car parking.

While car parking charges are only one of a number of factors at play in influencing footfall and Town Centre vitality, it is still something shoppers consider when deciding to visit our Town Centre.

The Council is launching a trial scheme to support local businesses in Bedford Town Centre by offering up to four hours of free



parking at Allhallows car park. Shoppers visiting Allhallows car park can enjoy up to four hours of free parking starting from 1st August 2023, until 1st February 2024.

The Council are also looking to **trial kerbside glass collection** in a number of different areas of the borough.

The Council is currently looking into the rounds and types of vehicles/containers that this trial will need – alongside a plan to have collections taking place with different containers and different [collection] frequencies within the trial period.

A precise date has not been set but we expect that the trial period may start this year.

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

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible around the village as always.

Cllr. John Wheeler

(1) Community Infrastructure Levy Funding. CIL Funding is a charge which can be levied by local authorities (in this case, Bedford Borough Council), on new development in their area. It is a tool used to help deliver infrastructure, facilities and services.

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brennandanceschool@gmail.com or call Rebecca on
07974458677

Adore To Explore



07414 011416



adoretoexplore@outlook.com



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My name is Heather and I am the proud owner of Adore To Explore!

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30 Minute Drop In

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Flexible to offer other services to those listed. Please contact me for prices & more information!



Come for a walk in

Wootton

As part of the Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks there will be two walks around Wootton on Sunday 10th September.

Please come along.
Free of charge.

Morning Walk - starting at the car park by Wootton Village Hall, Church Road at 10.00am

Around Ancient Wootton Wood A walk past the Ancient Wootton Wood to Roxhill and back, with views over the Marston Vale. 6 miles.

Afternoon Walk - starting at the car park by Wootton Village Hall, Church Road at 1.45pm

Wootton Gateway Woods A walk through the new woodlands planted by the Forest of Marston Vale. 4 miles

Please be sure you are fit to walk and wearing the appropriate footwear and clothing. The walk will be on footpaths and fields – could be muddy even in September!

Bring a drink and snack as we will have a break.

Further information from Bob on 07474 303545 or email robertwallace@ntlworld.com

OR

Walk the **WOOTTON GATEWAY WOODS WALK** yourself following the instructions and map given below.

For further information on the **Bedfordshire Festival of Autumn Walks** which runs from Saturday 9th September to Sunday 17th September please see www.lbramblers.org.uk/BFAW

These Wootton walks are hosted by the Ivel Valley Walkers Ramblers Group.

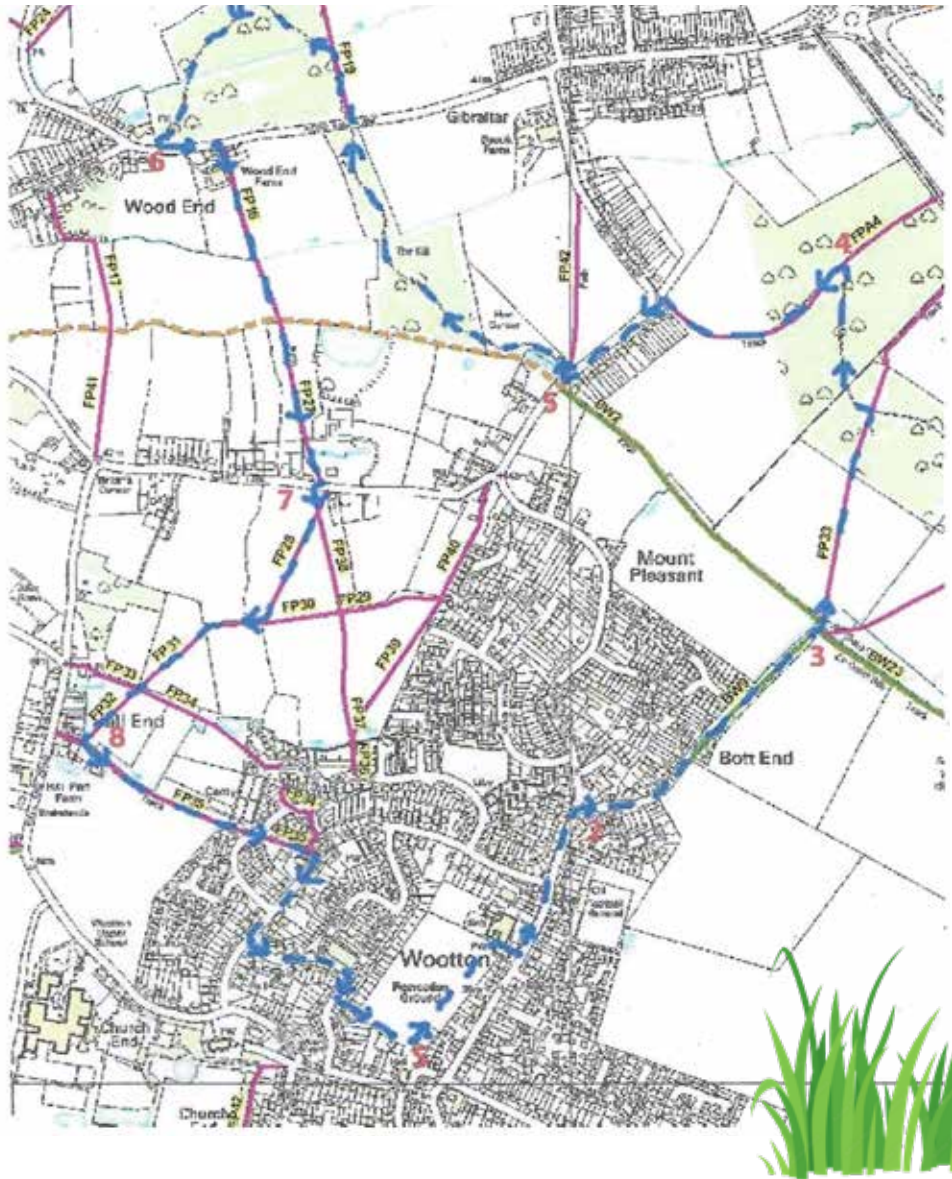
Ivel Valley Walkers are a friendly group of walkers who enjoy the open air, exercise and camaraderie. They offer walks ranging from 4-5 mile rambles on alternate Thursdays and Fridays, 7 mile walks every Wednesday and 12 mile walks on alternate Tuesdays. Every Sunday there is either a 12 mile full day walk, or a 7 mile morning walk followed by a 5 mile afternoon walk.

In addition, IVW also organise social events, coach trips and walking holidays.

For further information about IVW contact Bob on 07474 303545 or robertwallace@ntlworld.com



WOOTTON GATEWAY WOODS WALK



Wootton Baptist Church - Bedford Road



Well, Summer is nearly ended, I hope everyone has enjoyed the holidays, which are now almost finished. The colder days will soon come round again and the added expense of keeping warm! Children will need supporting as many will start school and others will change schools with all the excitement and upset that causes. I was privileged to visit Harris Way Lower School recently; what a lovely place that is, with all the modern means of learning and staff who obviously love the children. I couldn't help comparing it with the school I started at in September 1937. What a difference!

But we all need a rest, both body, soul and mind. At the Baptist church, our mid-week meetings restart, the **Coffee morning** is on Tuesdays from 10am to Midday. Its a 'come and go' gathering for everyone, young and old. So if you are on your morning walk around the village, you can drop in for a few minutes to have a coffee and cake and meet some new people. If you prefer an evening **Bible Study and discussion**, we have two of our members

who open their homes each week. One is on **Wednesdays**, at **7.30pm**. Speak to **John** or **Susan** telephone either **07305 050869** or **07780 595066**. The other group meets on **Thursdays** at **7.30pm** and to contact them ring **07723 327353** for **Gary** and **07738 888228** for **Teresa**. They will give you the details of the location and what the subject for discussion is. Everyone is welcome to take part.

Our **Adventurers Children's Group** is on **Thursdays**, at **3.45pm**



after school for children 6 to 9 years. Most of them come direct from the Bedford Road Lower School, next door to the

church. With the consent of the school and the parents we collect the children from the school and walk round to the church Hall. The first time a child comes, we require registration from a parent, but after that the parents arrive to collect them at 4.45pm. We are privileged to have a gifted young man who leads these meetings and they are all based on the principals of the Christian faith.

Our regular **Sunday meetings** are at 10.30am for public worship and at 6pm for fellowship and prayer. All the meetings are open to everyone. They are all based on the Bible, and we teach salvation by faith alone in Christ alone as the Bible

teaches. We believe that it is the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, and faith in Him that is the only way anyone can overcome the sin and unbelief which causes such devastating effect on each one of us and provides a way of salvation for us all. God is a God of love, but also a God of Justice. He has provided a way to be right with Him, but we do have to accept it by faith.

As the Autumn and Winter come along with its affects on everyone, particularly older people, **we hope the village can become a friendly and caring community**, looking after one another and being aware of the needs of those who have particular needs. I would like to add a word of thanks to our Parish Councillors who spend much of their free time in looking after the welfare of the village in general. Wootton is not (quite) a perfect village but it's surprising how many people leave the village in their early lives but return later. That must speak something for the community here.

I expect there will be some hard times coming in the months and years ahead, until the country gets on a better financial footing. In the New Testament of the Bible, in Mark, chapter 12, Jesus was asked by an educated man, 'Which is the first commandment of them all?' Jesus replied in verse 30, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, this is the first commandment.' He then said:

'The second is this: **'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is no other commandment greater than these.'** What a challenge for us in this troubled and difficult world in which we live.

We hope that in the months to come we, who live in this village, may know the peace and love towards one another which the Bible speaks of and which can be ours if we trust in the only Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Coffee Morning

at

Wootton Baptist Church Hall
Bedford Road

Every Tuesday 10-12

~

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bedford@extra-help.co.uk

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Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item

Location

Deadline

Average Speed Cameras

All major routes within the village

Ongoing

A pair of cameras have 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 planning permission has just been granted 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/>

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).

New eco-friendly bus shelters, all with 'living roofs' (4) have been added at the four sites listed above. The parish council is still in discussions with BBC on how to resolve the real time passenger information units issue.

Roads and Pavements**Throughout the village****Ongoing**

The Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group is now part of the Leisure & Amenities Committee. This committee meets every other month and the Roads & Pavements element will continue to raise issues for BBC to consider. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings. 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)

Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects continued.....

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. All save two street lights have now been transferred to BBC. WPC will continue to own and maintain one column at Hall End (pole 15) and one column at Potters Cross (pole 3), as both sit on privately owned land.		

Synthetic Pitch	Grounds within Wootton Upper School	2023
Developer funding (£106) 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 have been made purely from recycled plastic bottles and the 'living roofs' 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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Announcement



Carol will be retiring at the end of this year.

Pip's House

Guinea Pig, Bunny, Small Animal & House Birds, Boarding

I will be retiring at the end of this year and sadly, Pip's House will be closing.

I want to thank everyone for their support of my small business over the years.

I have loved meeting all of your guinea pigs, bunnies, hamsters, gerbils and house birds and I will miss every one of you!

I would like to wish you all the best going forward and to ask that you give your little small friends a hug goodbye, from their Auntie Carol.

Thank you, Carol xxx

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ST MARY'S PRESCHOOL

Established 1967

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

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

Gardening this term the children have enjoyed growing herbs, potatoes, runner beans and tomatoes. On Wednesday 19 July, the children harvested and washed the potatoes and then stayed at preschool for a delicious lunch of sausages, baked beans, peas and their freshly dug new potatoes. Followed by jelly and strawberries.



Outdoor Learning at St Mary's Preschool we have created natural wonderlands where children can submerge themselves in creativity, imagination and exploration. Some of our forest school highlights are the mid kitchen; bug hunting area; log circle where children can eat snacks and listen to stories and rhymes; tool area where children can use hammers and nails, bow saws and drills; outdoor puppet



show where the children can perform shows to their friends; and hammock and tyre swing.

Sports Day – during the last week of term the children took part in their annual summer



sports day. They enjoyed taking part in a wide range of physical activities including running, jumping, egg and spoon, welly throwing and a team relay race. Parents were also in attendance to cheer on the children as they were taking part. Each child received their very own sports day certificate and medal for taking part. The event finished with a very competitive parents' race!

Graduation – on Friday 21 July, we sadly had to say a fond farewell to a number of our preschool children as they took their next steps onto 'big school'. To celebrate the occasion we held a preschool graduation ceremony where all the preschool parents were invited. Each child proudly took to the stage wearing a mortar board hat and gown. Children were



presented with a certificate and framed photograph. After the tears were wiped away and the certificates were presented it was time for everyone to enjoy the day with refreshments and cakes. Good luck to all our preschool children during their next big step. We hope you enjoy your new adventures!

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



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Wootton WI - INSPIRING WOMEN

We have been very lucky to welcome several new members to our WI this summer, and hope they will enjoy many years of friendship and activities with us. They joined in time to celebrate a Coronation tea at our May meeting following the coronation of King Charles. We provided delicious sandwiches, cakes and scones with cream and jam with lashings of tea to wash it all down, members agreed it had been a friendly, sociable evening.

We were invited back to provide refreshments at the Spring Craft Fair at the Community Centre. An awful wet day, but a steady trickle of people visited and we were able sustain them with tea and cake before they faced a wet walk back to their homes. We also put in an appearance with our bottle tombola, at the Funfest, and sold out by the end of the afternoon. Another wet, storm lashed day, but it brightened up in the afternoon and a lot of villagers came out to support the event. Bit of a theme going on here, rain, food and tea! Thank you to the wonderful Mark, and the Parish Council, for organising another event the village can be proud of, which brings the community together.

Several of our crafting members have been knitting lots of items to go to Ukraine. Bedfordshire County Federation have been a central drop off point for items desperately needed in Ukraine while the war rages.

Four of our members helped us to try out



new crafts at the Dabble evening in June. We learned how to make some delightful bags, iris folding, decorated keyrings and made some embroidered cards.

We have some great speakers organised for the next few months. David Longman is returning with his popular talks on Churches around Bedfordshire. David is always a popular speaker and his pictures of churches are stunning. We have a visit from the Bloodrunners in October, an organisation of volunteers who deliver transplant organs or blood products to parts of the country any time of the day and night often. November is all about Natural History and we end the year with a Christmas party with entertainment by Freddie Barnett, a local group from Lidlinton.



Do please visit our **Facebook page**, Wootton WI Bedfordshire, for dates and more information on forthcoming meetings.

We meet on the **3rd Wednesday of every month at 7-30pm** in the Memorial Hall. Visitors pay £4-50 which includes, you guessed it, a cup of tea plus a biscuit and occasionally cake!

Our **Facebook page is now up and running** and you will be able to see what we get up to and what our future meetings will be about. Please email us on WoottonWI@outlook.com if you require any further information.

Community Speed Watch

Since my last report your dedicated Speedwatch Team - Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward, Anil Mistry, Ellen Barnes and myself – have continued to carry out patrols down Bedford Road. It is noticeable that cars do tend to speed up when they leave the village, even though there is a 30 mph speed limit in force.

Between 270 and 320 vehicles pass us and we usually only record 3 or 4 speeding cars – which is a good sign! Many drivers put on their brakes as soon as they catch sight of us and we are pleased about that. Our aim is not primarily to catch speeding motorists but to slow traffic down. We are still looking forward to average speed cameras being installed along this stretch of road and pedestrians who pass us often tell us that speed IS an issue there. Patrols were carried out in May, June and July, and we shall start again in September. 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. **If you feel that you could help**



us out please get in touch with **Juliet Wright** - juliet.wright@beds.police.uk. We should love to have your help. We are aware that there are a small number of cars who continue to speed through the village – normally at anti-social hours. We cannot patrol at these hours, so if you see people speeding try to get their registration number and let the police know!

Please keep the village safe by observing the speed limits, particularly during the school holidays when there are likely to be more children on the road.

Keep safe and try to enjoy the weather – it's supposed to get better!



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HELLO Autumn

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LEAVES
NOVEMBER
FARM
HALLOWEEN

FALL
CIDER
PUMPKIN
PIE

APPLE
BLANKET
COZY
RAIN

SWEATER
CAMPING
BOOTS
SLIPPERS



We've had a great 2023, with Competitions, Events, Summer programme and now as I write this (Aug-23) we are just about to head off for our Seaside Summer Camp at Cromer.

In the Autumn, three members of our Marching Band will be partaking in a tour of Scotland as part of a 100+ strong Massed Band, consisting of Bugles, Drums, Bell-Lyres and Bagpipes. The tour culminates with performances at the Royal Esplanade and Edinburgh Castle.

One of our members this summer, gained our organisations highest award, the Queens Badge, and we have a number of members working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. We were also delighted to be able to present a King's Coronation badge to all our members.

We are now recruiting for the new session (Starts September), & places are limited, so please contact us ASAP if you'd like your son/daughter to be part of the Adventure.





Sept
2023

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I hope by the time that you receive your copy of the magazine that you have had an enjoyable summer and that between the copy date of 1st August and the time that you're reading this, the weather has taken a turn for the better!

Firstly may I thank all those people who voted for me back in May at the local elections – a long time ago now. The day of the vote and of the count were incredibly long with the Wootton and Kempston Rural count not being announced until the early hours of the day of the Coronation on 6th May!

Since then it has been a whirlwind of Council training and meetings with the training finally coming to an end in mid-July. I've attended all the training sessions on a variety of topics including planning, licensing, finance, emergency response and corporate parenting. All of the training has been fascinating and stands

me in good stead for the next 4 years representing residents in the Council. As I have completed all the training I am also able to stand in for my colleagues should they be unable to attend a committee meeting.

I am really pleased to say that I have been appointed to the **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** within the Council where we can hold the Integrated Care Board (ICB - NHS) of Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) to account for their provision of health services in our area. I also sit on the Licensing Committee and have taken up a role with SACRE – the Special Advisory Council for Religious Education.

At the last full Council meeting held on 12th July my colleague, Cllr Dean Crofts, proposed the motion that the Council should consider **innovative Capital Funding Programmes** to help with the building of local GP surgeries to urgently increase GP capacity rather than relying on the ICB to build new premises. I was particularly pleased to be able to speak in the full Council meeting highlighting the issue of the 17 year old temporary GP building that we have in Wootton and to encourage the Council to back the motion raised. The Council unanimously backed our motion which is the first step in improving healthcare provision in Wootton.

As part of my induction, I spent some time speaking to the various departments within the Council and I wanted to draw your attention to the **Community Safety department**. The Council are part of the Community Safety Partnership which brings together agencies concerned with tackling and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Other members include the Police, Fire and Rescue Service and the Integrated Care Board (NHS). I know that there have been episodes of antisocial behaviour in various areas of the village, and I would encourage residents to either use the online reporting tool available on the Council website, easily found using the search function, or by emailing communitysafety@bedford.gov.uk. They have many tools at their disposal including using portable CCTV in any 'hotspots', but they rely on members of the public to report any issues to them so they can identify where these hotspots are. Each report helps build a picture of the issues. This can also include any suspicions of areas where drug dealing is occurring.

Some residents may have seen a report from Central Bedfordshire Council who following the elections in May are now led by independent councillors. The new executive, on taking office, have discovered that the cost of the move to two tier education in the area, also known as **Schools for the Future** (SFF), had not been included in the Council's four-year medium term financial plan

or budget with no plans for how the total cost of the project is to be funded. They intend to provide an update in the Autumn time though state that they are still committed to the move to two tier. As a school governor at Holywell Middle School (Central Beds) and councillor for the residents of Wootton and Kempston Rural, I will be keeping a close eye on how the situation in Central Bedfordshire progresses and will be fighting for residents to be kept informed as early as possible.

Residents are welcome to get in touch with me at any time using the methods above or come and see me at one of my regular councillor surgeries. I've really enjoyed talking to residents who have attended so far.



SURGERY

The **surgeries** are currently held on the 1st Saturday of the month – 9.30 – 10.30am near the Library on Lorraine Road and 10.45 – 11.45am in the seating area between Ashpole Avenue and Folkes Road, opposite the lower school. Wootton residents are also welcome at my Kempston Rural surgery which takes place on 3rd Saturday of the month by the Cross Keys, Wood End.

The End of an Era

Wootton Village Hall was opened 40 years ago – on 9th July 1983. Jenny Lambert was a founder member of the committee formed to run the Hall. Jenny represented the Scouting organisation. After 10 years Jenny offered to help the Caretaker by taking over as Booking Clerk. For 30 years she has done a fantastic job.

All good things must come to an end and Jenny retired from that post earlier this year. The Hall has been used by many village residents and organisations over the years, all booked by Jenny. They and many others owe Jenny a debt of gratitude for the contribution she has made to the Wootton Community. The good news is that Jenny is continuing on the Village Hall Committee.

At a recent Committee meeting, the current Chairman Michael Cole presented Jenny with a thankyou gift and a card signed by the current committee in appreciation of her work over the years.

Refurbishment of the Hall

After almost 40 years the Village Hall was in need of an upgrade. Over the last two years the Committee has sought grants from numerous sources and have successfully transformed the building.

- The interior of the Hall was redecorated – funded by the Parish Council, Taylor Wimpey and Village Hall funds
- The Guttering and Facia boards were replaced – funded by the Parish Council



- Outside lighting to enable users to safely access the Car Park was installed – funded by the Parish Council
- A disabled toilet and new ladies and gents toilets were installed – funded by the Parish Council and Village Hall funds
- To save energy, new Loft installation was installed – funded by Bedford Borough's Climate Fund, the Forest of Marston Vale Community Fund and Village Hall funds.

Over £35000 of work. Many thanks to all the Village Hall funders.

AN AFFORDABLE HALL AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

The Village Hall in Church Road is available for hire for parties and events at weekends and during the week when regular users are not using the Hall. There is also a smaller committee room available for hire which is ideal for meetings.

Kitchen facilities are available.
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For more information
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Will we ever get a doctor's surgery?

Between 2016 and 2018, the developer consortium that is Bellway Plc, Bovis Homes Ltd and Taylor Wimpey Plc and who are developing behind the current doctor's surgery and along Cranfield Road, paid developer contributions to Bedford Borough Council totalling £8,700,749.86.



This sum was to improve community infrastructure. At that time, I asked the then-Mayor of Bedford if some of that funding would be used to help provide a new doctor's surgery for the village. The response was the surgery was a business and it would need to source its own funding for a new building. The question was then asked whether the borough council could still use some of that funding to build a new health centre which could be leased to the doctor's surgery. I was then informed the original funding had already been allocated to other projects (not within Wootton) but those projects could not

be detailed at that time. Since then, I am now told the funding has been spent, very little of it within our village – but at least Bedford Town looks good!

So the last administration had over 12 years, and £8.7million and couldn't deliver a doctors surgery. Lets see if the new administration can rise to the challenge and deliver us a doctors surgery in the next 4 years where the other administration had failed us.

Gareth Lloyd

Wootton New Life Church

Knit & Natter Monday Group

Following the death of the husband of one of our members, in Bedford Hospital, where he was greatly comforted by two knitted octopi, one in each hand, to relieve stress, the members of this group have been knitting cotton octopi for this purpose as the hospital continually needs more of these to calm dementia patients. These will gifted shortly.

**The Group meets every Monday Morning
from 10am - 12 noon.**

All are welcome.



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 **Lorna Rae** on **07830 279 204**



Be Reassured

in the home with a Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

Home Fire Safety Visit

Over 65? Or...living with **dementia**, have a **disability**, have **adult social care needs**, **smoke** or have a **substance** or **alcohol dependency** and/or live in a **cluttered environment**.

We will:

assess your home for safety e.g., your gas & electrical appliances, access in/out of your home, smoke alarms

advise on safety issues e.g., cooking, smoking and falls

could install free smoke alarms or impaired hearing alarms if required

can help you plan escape routes in case of fire or smoke

can signpost or refer to other support if needed

Book a free Home Fire Safety Visit today!

visit bedsfire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-visit, or email homefiresafetyvisit@bedsfire.gov.uk, or call **0800 043 5042**.



Bedfordshire
Fire & Rescue Service



Wootton New Life Methodist Church

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



WOOTTON NEW LIFE Methodist Church
www.facebook.com/woottonnewlife
www.woottonnewlife.org.uk

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

Dear friend,

The Methodist Church Year begins on September 1st, hence the theme 'Happy New Year'. But like most new beginnings it has become much more difficult to predict what a new year will bring. It will be not just be a straight predictable journey but more like a safari, so hang on tight to our loving God.

Several years I felt that the phrase 'Journey of Faith or life' had become overused; it had lost its power to challenge. Journey also suggested a straight path or road from A to B. Then I came across the Swahili word for journey which is 'Safari'. Now that sounds much more interesting and it brings alive a new way of thinking about life and faith. You choose which safari to go on, there is usually an expert driver and guide. There will be fellow travellers, surprises, new sights and experiences, some exhilarating others scary. The important thing if you want to

get to the end safely is to listen to the guide and trust the driver to negotiate the rough terrain.

Now apply those thoughts to your life and faith and it becomes alive. God is the driver of our life, the Holy Spirit the guide and Jesus is our fellow traveller. The Bible is full of individuals, families, peoples on the move. Abraham left his home on a new journey of discovery, Moses wandered for 40 years in the desert, Mary and Joseph made the dangerous safari to Bethlehem, Jesus took 12 fellow travellers on his safari's, Paul and his amazing missionary journeys.



Prayerful Reflection:

God of Safari, in the market place of religious tourist brochures, may we choose a safari with Jesus friend and companion, Help us to listen to the whispers of the expert guiding spirit, to follow you more closely though the bush and rough roads of life.

Thank you for new friendships, cultures, music and insights.

Feed us with enough spiritual food to satisfy and spice up our soul, and may we find in the desert of life Jesus the oasis of pure living water.

Keep us safe as we white water raft through the canyons of life's turbulent waters, trusting that you will take us to safety of dry land.

May we be open to new experiences, learning from and sharing them with others.

Holy Spirit enable us to see beyond the end of a photo lens, to hear different sounds and to keep alert our spiritual senses.

We ask for a good night's sleep as we camp through life, that we find rest and renewal to face the next day.

The end of this safari may be in sight, but with you there are always new adventures,

Excite us about safari of life and faith. In the name of God our driver, Jesus fellow traveller and Holy Spirit guide.
Copyright © Michael G Giles March 2011

Practical: Write your own thoughts and prayers as you begin a new year of Safari in September.

blessings

Rev Michael Giles



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.

Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre

Flu Season – Wootton Vale and Shortstown Surgery

We anticipate beginning our flu vaccinations from Mid-September however this does depend on when we receive the stock.

Once we have received the stock, we will begin contacting our eligible patients. You don't need to contact us.



When we begin:

- We will work in order of priority.
- You will receive a link to book yourself into a slot at one of our clinics.
- We will have drive through clinics as done in previous years, and in surgery clinics for those who don't drive.
- Should you receive an invite link but cannot access this for whatever reason, please contact us and our reception team will be happy to help.
- Please read the invite messages carefully as they will contain information you will need to know.
- For those patients who don't have mobiles, we will begin calling you when we have received the stock, to book you in.

- For children, these clinics will be in the surgery. We will be trying to arrange these after school where possible.
- For recorded housebound patients, we will contact you to let you know when the nurses are visiting.
- In previous years, healthy 50-63 year olds have been eligible for an NHS flu vaccine. However, NHS England have changed the criteria this year and only patients with eligible pre-existing conditions can have an NHS flu vaccination.
- If you are eligible and you wish to decline your flu vaccine, please let us know.
- If you are NOT eligible yet still wish to have a flu vaccination, these will be available from local pharmacies privately at a cost.
- If you ARE eligible and have any issues getting to the surgery clinics, you can also go to a local

pharmacy, and you will not be charged.

- If you are unsure if you are eligible for an NHS vaccine, please visit the NHS website. This explains the criteria and why we vaccinate.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/book-flu-vaccination/>

We hope this information helps and answers any questions you may have prior to the Flu season starting.

If you have any further queries or wish to decline your vaccine, please email us: Woottonvale.info@nhs.net

Kind regards

Wootton Vale & Shortstown Surgery

Wootton Upper School

Phone 01234 767123

Email wootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk



Wootton Upper School, Hall End Road, Wootton, MK43 9HT

New beginnings

The school/college year is now underway and we have welcomed three hundred Year 9 pupils to Wootton Upper School and 350 Year 12 students to Kimberley College. Whether it is the start of an academic year or a new year itself, on January 1, most people set resolutions for the year ahead. In schools/colleges we call them improvement priorities. This year our priorities include focusing on securing greater consistency in how we adapt learning to meet the needs of all of our pupils. To this end a major initiative is developing our "excellent futures curriculum" for pupils who struggle to cope with the traditional school curriculum. This is an exciting development for us and



we will be working with lots of external partners to make it work.

Another of our priorities is to improve **attendance and punctuality to school/college** and in this area we really need our parents to help us, please. Absence and lateness to school/college has a very significant impact on the grades pupils and students achieve. Most of the pupils who are late to school live in Wootton and most walk to school! School starts at 8.30

and every pupil needs to be on the school site by 8.25 am if they are to be where they need to be at 8:30 am. Thank you in anticipation of your help.

We have welcomed some **new staff** to our team at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College. We hope they will be very happy and enjoy meeting lots of Wootton residents.

This year we have increased the opportunities parents have to come into Wootton Upper School. In the autumn term, as well as traditional **parents' evenings** [Year 10 on Thursday 19 October and Year 11 on Thursday 23 November] we have introduced **"Meet the Tutor"** events [Year 9 on Monday 18 September]. The Year 9 Parents Evening is in the Spring Term, Thursday 21 March and the Year 10 and Year 11 Meet the Tutor events are Monday 11 March [Year 11] and Monday 24 June [Year 10].



We are also re-launching our **coffee mornings** for parents who have children with Special Educational Needs. We hope that all of these events will be popular with parents.

Finally, we are ALL looking forward to our next **School Musical**, Sister Act, which will take place in December. We expect that many Wootton residents will be keen to come along to a performance of Sister Act!

Our term dates are available on the school and college websites.



Vacancies

Currently we are looking to recruit;

Exam Invigilators at Wootton and Kimberley.

Exams are scheduled for two weeks in November 2023, January 2024 and March 2024. The main exam season runs from the end of April 2024 to the end of June 2024.

Teaching Assistants at Wootton Upper School

If you might be interested in working for the Trust please contact our HR Department either by telephone **01234 767123** or by email **recruitment@wootton.beds.sch.uk**

Governors

If you might be interested in finding out about being a governor at the school or college or becoming a director of Wootton Academy Trust, please get in touch with the Executive Assistant to the Executive Principal and Chief Finance Officer, **bsnape@wootton.beds.sch.uk** or telephone the school

Wootton Academy Trust Open Evenings

Please make a note of our forthcoming Open Evenings.

Wootton Upper School Open Evening for places in Year 9 September 2024

Wootton Upper School would like to invite children currently in Year 8 and their parents to its Open Evening on Thursday September 28 2023: the event starts at 5:00pm and ends at 8:00pm. More information is available from the school www.woottonupper.co.uk

The deadline for applications is midnight on Tuesday 31 October.

Kimberley College Open Evening for places in Year 12 September 2024

Kimberley College would like to invite students in Year 11 and their parents to an Open Evening on Thursday September 28 2023: the event starts at 5:00pm and ends at 8:00pm. More information is available from the College www.kimberleycollege.co.uk We look forward to meeting many of you soon!

New Sports Facilities

We are expecting that there will be a major improvement in the external sports facilities at Wootton Upper School in the coming months thanks to an investment of £2m.

Around a £1m funding for the project comes from s106 and CIL funding from Wootton Parish Council and Bedford Borough Council for the construction of a full size 3G pitch which we anticipate will be especially popular with local football teams looking to hire the facility. We



expect that the pitch will be opened in January 2024. Other improvements will be to our tennis, cricket and athletics facilities.

The 3G pitch will be available for community groups to hire. We anticipate that it will be in demand with lots of local football teams!

Our sincere thanks go to all councilors who have worked so hard with the Trust over many years to help bring these sports facilities to fruition.

With every best wish

Michael Gleeson

Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Summer Holidays

Not that time again, surely! How Sarah had always hated having to go on holiday.

When she had been at school, she had no choice in the matter. At the end of the third week of July, they had broken up for the summer. Six nightmare weeks during which her parents dragged her off to some boring seaside hotel, or a cottage, or in one particularly dreadful year, a damp tent in a soggy camp site.

All her classmates had loved the holiday at the end of the summer term. Not Sarah!

She had always been a quiet, studious girl, who found it very difficult to make friends. She didn't want to be in some strange place, eating different food, and being expected to occupy herself with activities that she didn't enjoy, and didn't want to be doing. Especially with people she didn't know.

She had left school when she had completed her A-level exams. She could have gone to University – her grades were easily good enough, but the prospect of three or four more years studying was a nightmare to her. Hundreds of students with whom she would have to share courses, and study with, and worst of all, socialise with.

So she had taken a job at her local library. Her parents were disappointed. They felt that Sarah was capable of so much more, but they knew how stubborn she could be, so they accepted her choice of career.

Sarah herself was happy that the duration of summer holiday she had to endure now she was working was so much less, and she had control over when it would take place. She would have preferred not to take any holiday at all, but it was mandatory – the library would not pay staff in lieu.

Her work there satisfied several important criteria for Sarah.

She didn't have to mix too much with the customers. There was only a small number staff, and usually no more than three on duty at any one time, and she could fulfil her love of burying her head in a book and reading a lot. She was a prolific reader, with an interest in many subjects.

She found her favourite topic of all was geography. She loved reading about different countries, and the way that overseas populations lived their lives, adapting to their local environment.

For the first time in her life, she found herself wanting to travel to some of these places to see them for herself.

However, she also discovered that the cost of visiting those countries about which she read, especially the more far-flung ones, was beyond the means of a humble librarian.

One of the things that Sarah had noticed while reading so many books, was the number of errors printed. The overall standard was surprisingly poor, with spelling and grammatical mistakes, as well as typo errors.

After reading one particularly bad example, from a major publisher, she wrote to them, and pointed out what a huge dis-service the poor quality did to the publisher's reputation. She told them that she worked in a library, and mentioned how many books she read in a month. She then innocently offered to do some proof-reading for them.

Much to her surprise, the publisher concerned wrote back to her, asking her to attend a meeting at their head office in London.

They were so impressed with Sarah's obvious reading skills, and desire that the books should be presented to their readers in a perfect form, that they offered her a contract as a part-time proof reader.

The remuneration was not great, but it was based upon the number of pages Sarah corrected. She read so quickly, she found she earned quite a lot more money than any other people doing the same job had ever done.

Encouraged by this, Sarah wrote to some other companies, and was offered a number of additional contracts to proof read for several other publishers.

Because of her honed, and prolific reading skills, she found she could earn considerably more than her library wages, so she gave up her job at the library. By concentrating on her proof reading, she could not only earn a substantial income, but could work from an office at home, without having to be involved with fellow workers. This suited Sarah perfectly.

She found after a year or so, she was in a position to be able to afford to visit other countries that had piqued her interest, and that was when her life really changed.

By building up a good cash reserve, she could now frequently go travelling, and it didn't have to be summer holidays she went on, her trips away could be at any time of year.

After one particularly fulfilling visit to India, Sarah decided to write about her experiences in a book of her own.

To her amazement, the book became a best seller, and the first of a whole series of travel books that became the leaders in their field.

So now, Sarah enjoys working "summer holidays" the whole year round, and is truly happy with her lifestyle.

Colin Zardin

Defibrillators around Wootton

