

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

WINTER EDITION

December 2023



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Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings Church Road only - Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

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Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

Police

HQ: 841 212 Beat Manager: 842 433

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

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St Mary's Church

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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

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Tina.Kirkup@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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

Editorial Notes:

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

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



again reported that Persimmon Homes would have the roads brought up to their full specification for adoption by Bedford Borough Council in early 2023. Here we are another year on and I think it best to stop using Persimmon's predictions. On a positive note however, some improvements have been made but the works are far from complete.

Berryfields Development

In the December 2021 newsletter I reported that Persimmon Homes had confirmed the estate roads would be finished and ready to be handed over to/adopted by Bedford Borough Council by February 2022. In December 2022 I

Cause End Road potholes

We all know how bad the road is between Tesco and the mini roundabout at Bedford Road. I am aware the approximate cost to resurface this section is around £700,000.



This explains why Bedford Borough Council (and any council for that matter) has not yet carried the works out as it was informed utility works had been programmed, which would necessitate digging the road up.

In December 2022 we reported that Cadent Gas Ltd would be undertaking works on the gas pipes in the village. The works would involve inserting a plastic pipe inside the old steel or clay pipes. This work was supposed to take a few months – starting at the Bedford Road/ Keeley Road junction and working down to Cause End Road (near Tesco). It looks as though the works will be completed by February, although a year isn't specified! Making the assumption they will finish the work in February 2024, we will hopefully see Cause End Road resurfaced then. I would like to thank BBCLlr John Wheeler for ensuring in the meantime, the pot holes are in-filled (at least twice in the last 18 months).

I am pleased central government has seen sense and reversed its decision to close rail station ticket offices. I was strongly opposed to this decision as it would affect some of the most vulnerable groups in society. This reversal is much welcomed.

New Councillor

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Victoria Richbell-Davies as our latest parish councillor. We now have twelve parish councillors and vacancies

for three more. If you believe you have something to offer the parish, please contact myself or the Clerk to the Council.

Remembrance Sunday Parade

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who turned out for the Remembrance Sunday parade. Wreaths were laid by Col. Colin Mason OBE (Former Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire) on behalf of the King and Chris Ashpole on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

We then had wreaths from Bedford Borough Council, Wootton Parish Council, Wootton Scouts, Wootton Girl Guides, Wootton Boys and Girls Brigade, Bizzy Bees Pre-School, Wootton Lower School, Marston and Cranfield Middle Schools, Wootton Upper School, Wootton Rangers FC, the WI and the horse riding community of Wootton. If any other organisation in the village would like to be included in next year's parade, do please let me know.

I would like to thank BBCLlr Wheeler for helping me with the event organisation. Thanks also must go to Canon Peter Akroyd and Steve Rowse for running the event and Tony Ireland and Bedfordshire Police for overseeing the necessary road closures. A final thank you must also go to the buglers and Boys and Girls brigade band.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2024.

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



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We have another new member of Wootton Parish Council – a formal welcome to Victoria Richbell-Davies. This now leaves us with three vacancies, so 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.

Thank you to all who helped organise this year's Remembrance Sunday parade – not least Cllrs Lloyd and Wheeler. It's wonderful to see so many tributes in memory of the fallen – We Will Remember Them.

John Wheeler has also been busy behind the scenes helping to organise the annual Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch. I know many of you look forward to this event – for both the delicious food as well as the entertainment, so again thank you to all involved.

Our Christmas tree is now once again in place at the junction of Bedford Road and Cause End Road. Bedford Borough Council supply, erect and dress the tree and I hope

it will once again brighten the dark evenings. We have also overseen the Christmas lighting that adorns the street light columns along Bedford Road, Church Road and Fields Road.

As we approach the festive season, do please make use of 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 and I suspect over the festive period, there will be more glass than usual.

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



Wootton Parish Council Office Location:

Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way,
MK43 9FZ

Office Hours:

Please contact me to make an appointment.

Dates for your Diary 2023/24

DECEMBER

13th	Planning Committee	7.00pm
13th	Full Council	7.30pm

JANUARY

10th	Planning Committee	7.00pm
10th	Full Council	7.30pm
17th	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
31st	Planning Committee	7.00pm
31st	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
31st	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.40pm

FEBRUARY

14th	Planning Committee	7.00pm
14th	Full Council	7.30pm
28th	Planning Committee	7.00pm
28th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.30pm
28th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.40pm

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	Bedford Road
Outside the Manor Road flats	Bedford Road
Outside the Memorial Hall	Bedford Road
Adjacent to the post box	Hall End Road

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



Welcome to our Autumn 2023 Newsletter!

Hello from the Bizzy Bees Team! We are enjoying the Autumn term and getting to know all our new children. We have been learning about the seasons and discovering what changes happen in Autumn. We started this half term with our Halloween party where we played games, had party food & dressed up. Bizzy Bees is attending the Wootton Memorial Parade to lay our beautiful handmade poppy wreath from all the children. Looking towards the festive season, we are now busy practising for our Christmas nativity at the end of term.

We have a full waiting list for the rest of the year, but if you would like to join our waiting list for September 2024 please do get in touch. Children can be put on our waiting list from the day they are born, it's never too early to secure their place, as we take children from 2 years old. Our child application forms and registration forms can be found on our website or simply give us a call and we can email you a copy.

Bizzy Bee's offer free-flow sessional day care including Breakfast and Lunch Clubs for children from 2 years to school age. Bizzy Bees is a child lead setting providing exceptional childcare for your children.

Our days are term time only Monday to Friday 8:15am - 3:45pm. We accept 2-year-old funding and 3-4 year old 15 and 30 hour funding for all of our sessions. We also accept cross funding if your child attends/would like to attend more than one Pre-School.

Sessions are:

Breakfast Club: 8:15-9am (Breakfast provided)

AM session: 9-12pm (Snack provided)

Lunch Club: 12-12:45pm (Please bring a packed lunch)

PM session: 12:45-3:45pm (Snack provided)



AGM MEETING

We are holding our AGM on 16th November 2023 at 7.30pm. If you would like to help our amazing charity and be part of our committee, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you. This is open for anyone to apply and it would be lovely to see some local faces join our committee.

We are recruiting for a Pre-School Practitioner

9am-4.15pm Mon, Weds & Fri £10.42 / hour

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Email your CV to hello@bizzybeespreschool.org

Tel: 01234 767785

E: hello@bizzybeespreschool.org W: www.bizzybeespreschool.org

Bizzy Bees Pre-School CIO, Memorial Hall, Bedford Road,
Wootton, MK43 9JB



07414 011416



adoretoexplore@outlook.com



New to Wootton & surrounding areas!

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

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SOCIAL BRIDGE AT WOOTTON LIBRARY

Whether you are an experienced Bridge player, or an absolute beginner, Tuesday afternoon sessions at the Library are aimed at players of all levels. So if you would like to learn from scratch our regular players will help you get started. The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed.

We play between 2pm and 4.15pm every Tuesday, the only requirement is that you are a Library Plus card holder. If not, please apply for this card at the Library, at no cost. This allows you access during the opening times when the Library is not staffed.

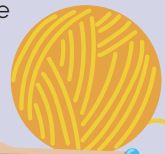
Should you wish to join the Bridge group please leave your name and telephone number with a member of staff, and the organiser, Elaine Jay, will contact you. Once signed up, come along on the Tuesday afternoon.



Wootton New life Methodist Church Knit 'n' Natter group.

The group would like to thank everyone that supported our MacMillan coffee morning in September. Thanks to you all a total of £1,382.31 was raised for MacMillan!

If anyone has an interest in joining the group you would be made very welcome on any Monday from 10 to 12 at the Methodist Church, Cause End Road.

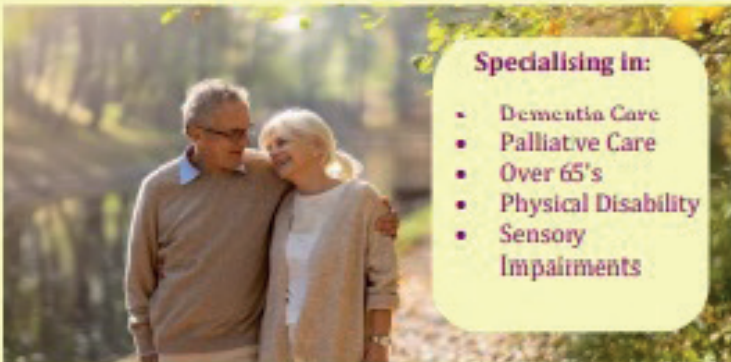




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Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item	Location	Deadline	Any other information
Average Speed Cameras	All major routes within the village	Ongoing	A pair of cameras has now been installed along Cranfield Road. WPC ¹ has met with BBC ² to determine final locations for the remaining phases (please see website for fuller information), after which it is hoped the cameras will be installed imminently. https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/average-speed-cameras/
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	2024	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. Planning permission has been granted by BBC and WPC is working with Coloini & Lane Architecture Ltd to finalise specifications before beginning the tender process
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	Stewartby parish	Ongoing	Visit the following links for fuller information: BACI ³ 's website: https://bedsagainstinincinerator.wordpress.com/ ; BACI's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks; WPC's website: https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks; WPC's website: https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/

¹ Wootton Parish Council ² Bedford Borough Council ³ Bedfordshire Against Covanta Incinerator

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	Public Hearings in relation to the examination of BBC's Local Plan 2040 have recently concluded. Fuller information can be found here: Local Plan 2040 Examination Bedford Borough Council
Lorraine Road Cemetery extension	Lorraine Road cemetery	Ongoing	WPC is ringfencing money annually and will approach the Crown Estate (adjoining landowners) to request it be permitted to purchase an area of land adjacent to the existing cemetery in order to extend it
Neighbourhood Development Plan	The whole civil parish of Wootton	2024	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	2024	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, although this is now being challenged. All bus shelters have now been replaced.

⁴ The eco-friendly bus shelters will be made purely from recycled plastic bottles and the 'living roofs' will contain plants and greenery.

Roads and Pavements	Throughout the village	Ongoing	The Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group has now separated from the Leisure and Amenities Committee and continues to meet every other month. It raises 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)
Synthetic Pitch	Grounds within Wootton Upper School	2024	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. The upper school has completed the tender process and works are ongoing.
Village Entrance Sign	Keeley Lane	2024	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. A second planning application was successful and WPC is currently sourcing potential contractors.

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.

Sundays

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* * * Christmas at St. Mary's * * *

Sunday 3 December

4pm Christingle

Sunday 10 December

3-5pm WILD Christmas
(Churchyard carols & lights)

Sunday 17 December

10am Nativity
6pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4pm Family Carols
9pm Christmas Communion

Christmas Day

10am Family Service

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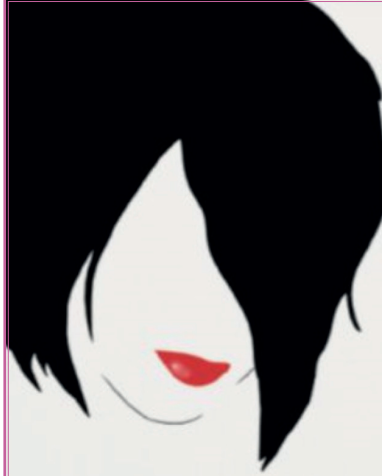
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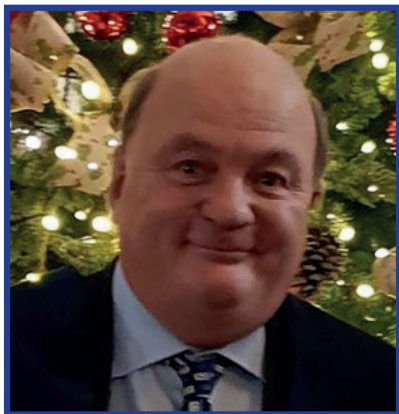


01234 964960



bedford@extra-help.co.uk

WWW.EXTRA-HELP.CO.UK



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr John Wheeler

Gosh, here we are again with Christmas just around the corner. Honestly, where has the year gone?

Hopefully by now the children will have sent their letters to Santa, the village Christmas tree will be up and lights around the village will provide everyone with that festive spirit. A special thank you needs to go to Wootton Parish Council (WPC) for providing the tree and lights around the village as always.

I would like to thank all of those who attended this year's Remembrance Sunday parade and those who helped organise it – including Cllr Gareth Lloyd, Steve Rowse, Canon Ackroyd, the Army Cadets, various clubs and organisations and the village schools. This event would not be possible without you. It was lovely to see so many horses too at this event.

The annual Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch will take place this year on 6th December

(by the time you receive this newsletter it may have happened). As always, a big thank you to the trustees, Wootton Blue Cross, Woodlands Manor, the Cross Keys at Wood End and both Wootton schools, who have made this event possible. Thank you also to the Wootton residents who support this event.

Wootton Poor's Land Charities are again this year providing food hampers for Wootton families via the schools to help out over Christmas. Thank you once again to WPC who donated all the money received from the bottle bank at the Village Hall to the charity. This has helped to pay for the goods needed for the hampers. Thank you also to the trustees for their help in organising everything. If you know of anyone who is in need of help, please contact us in confidence on wootton.poorsland@gmail.com or 01234 768391.

After a very frustrating and lengthy battle with the Borough Council I am happy to announce that the average speed cameras (AVGs) are finally happening. I do not have an installation date at the moment but expect this to be by the end of 2024. Again, thanks to WPC for organising and financing this.

The white and yellow lining programme is still ongoing around the village. The yellow lines have been completed by the lower school on the Berryfields Estate and the rest should be completed soon. The resurfacing of Cause End Road by Tesco's remains programmed for February 2024, as does works to install dropped kerbs at several village sites.

The Borough Council has also programmed in tree works at sites in and around the village (those areas that are not covered by WPC).

I am pleased to announce that after several meetings and heated negotiations with developers, we have now got the go ahead to provide a full sized synthetic pitch at Wootton Upper School. This will be sited on their land but will be available for hire to the community outside school hours. It has been a mammoth task to get the project to this stage – aided by great input from the parish council in the early stages in terms of human resources and a cash injection in the latter stage.

The cost of this project far exceeds the contribution from developers however additional funding has been made available by the school and myself, in addition to the parish council. There are too many people to thank individually but they know who they are – thank you to you all.

As you are all most probably aware the two tier conversion for Wootton Schools is well under way, starting with the lower school in 2025. Architects have been out to both school sites to sort out the extra classrooms required for the conversion and funding for the Wootton part has been secured. Both schools are currently consulting with parents and carers.

I have replied separately in this newsletter to the question previously posed by Cllr Lloyd – ‘Will we ever get a new surgery in Wootton?’

As Christmas approaches please keep a look out for the elderly and vulnerable residents in Wootton, just a quick hello to make sure they are fine is very welcome and could make all the difference. There

are lots of events happening around the village this Christmas so please keep an eye open for these on social media.

Borough Council News

Bedford Council secures and additional £6.3 million in funding

This funding will support Bedford Borough Council to test and refine recommendations within the Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities system that are likely to come into legislation in 2025.

Bedford Borough Council has been appointed as the Lead for the CPP partnering with, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council. Through accepting the grant the Bedford Council will be well prepared to implement these reforms without negatively impacting on the day to day services within SEND.

Council Financial Overspend

The Council is facing a £12.188 million overspend .

The Council is working to respond to this position and there has been some improvement. The latest budget monitoring information available, to 30 September 2023, identified that the gap is now £8.518 million.

An improvement, but still much work to do. The Executive is responding by committing to a 4-year Efficiency Plan that seeks to protect services, transform service quality, improve organisational and process efficiencies, and improve customer service. This will be reported to the Executive in November 2023.

Council Executive agree new Capital Programme

The Executive recently agreed a new Capital Programme to address the lack of GP provisions in some communities, poorly maintained leisure facilities, Town Centre regeneration and deliver on the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Canal to name a few aspects.

A list of these priorities are below:

1. Primary Care Estate – Funding to support the delivery of new and improved health estate/GP surgeries across Bedford Borough.
2. Town Centres Regeneration – Funding to support the delivery of a series of short, medium and long term to stimulate town centre regeneration and economic investment. This includes funding for the Prebend Street Relief Road which represents a critical component of an emerging comprehensive residential-led development of the Prebend Street Quarter, to provide significant highway network benefit, help strengthen the link to the Railway Station Quarter, and improve the overall amenity, future vitality and connection to the town centre.
3. Leisure Sites – Almost £4 million essential health and safety work in our leisure centres that have really suffered from lack of investment over the past few years. This is funding for essential investment to ensure that leisure sites can function safely.
4. Leisure Complex & Asset Refurbishment – Funding for the refurbishment of existing leisure assets, including the development of a new Leisure Village incorporating a new purpose-built leisure facility.

5. Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Canal Link – To profile the earmarked financial contribution to enable commencement of this ambitious project.
6. Sharnbrook (Primary) School – Funding to enable education to be provided on one site in the new development in the village, rather than separated over two sites.
7. A6 Paula Radcliffe Way Highway Corridor – Funding for the replacement of existing crash barrier posts have rusted beyond serviceable expectation due to water damage.

What is the Council doing for Black History Month?

In honour of Black History Month, the Higgins is doing an online exhibition "Paved with Gold": Bedford's Windrush Generation – this Higgins Bedford collaborated with the Higgins Black History Panel, The University of Hertfordshire, Nubian Teachings, The Retired Caribbean Nurses Association (RCNA Bedford), The Miracle Church of God in Christ, MAK Studios, The University of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire Archives, and members of the public to collect the stories and photographs presented in this exhibition.

Another exhibition is the Cultural Roots Sound System Museum – this is also at the Higgins and will be open on the 7th October and be on display for an entire year. The exhibition is a showcase of reggae music history, sound system culture, and the evolution of technology. This is particularly poignant for Bedford given its Caribbean community.

I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

 - Cllr. John Wheeler

Q. Will we get a new doctor's surgery in Wootton?

A. Yes there will be one.

Reply to the Chair question will we ever have a new surgery in Wootton: September 2023

I can confirm a lot has been going on behind the scenes regarding the Wootton Surgery. As you may be aware, despite £8,700,749.86 of CIL funding having been paid to Bedford Borough Council as a result of development within the village, none of this was spent directly on Wootton.

A request to Bedford Borough Council for a new surgery to be built and leased to the surgery was turned down in the past. I have had several meetings with the surgery over a number of years now and in July 2023 met with the surgery, Mayor Wootton and the Portfolio Holder for Health, Public Health and Wellbeing (BBCllr Martin Towler). The outcome of that meeting was:

- The ditch along the Fields Road pavement would be cleared of brambles (already done) and the whole site would be cleared, along with the brook which is the responsibility of the Internal Drainage Board (Bedfordshire and River Ivel).
- The existing outline planning permission for a new structure on site would be checked to establish whether it is still active (which it is).
- I would attend meetings with the NHS to secure the necessary funding (this has also been achieved).

Bedford Borough Council will work with the management team at Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre to ensure this project gets up and running as soon as possible. I would like to thank all at Wootton Vale Healthy Living Centre, Mayor Wootton, BBCllr Towler, the NHS and Wootton Parish Council who have all played a part in helping to move this project forward.



Cllr. John Wheeler

And so we find ourselves hurtling towards the end of 2023 – I don't know about you but this year has flown by.

Before getting into my article, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, peaceful and blessed festive season to come, and to say thank you for your support as I've taken up the role of Councillor for Wootton and Kempston Rural. It has been a real pleasure to serve you over the last 6 months.

Since the last newsletter I've been busy dealing with daily enquiries and casework from residents both within Wootton and Kempston Rural. I am continuing to chase the Council on various issues, and in particular at this dark time of year those street lights which don't work. I continue to report pot holes, uneven pavements, overflowing glass recycling bins and contact the council with issues on behalf of residents. If you have anything at all you would like me to raise, I would love to hear from you so please don't hesitate to get in touch using the details below.

Parking problems: I've been approached by many residents concerned with parked cars, either being parked on the pavement, across driveways, on areas where verge parking is prohibited and on yellow lined areas. The Council Parking Enforcement team have a 24/7 phone line and a text service so if any residents observe a vehicle parked in

contravention of regulations, they can call 01234 718359 or text 07553 895403 and the Council will get an officer to attend as soon as one is available. In order to issue a Penalty Charge Notice there must be a Civil Enforcement Officer present who must obtain evidence using an approved device so photographic evidence from residents cannot be used. Please do use this service to report issues. If many reports are received from certain areas, patrols are more likely to be put in place.

Yellow lines and speed limits for Berryfields: Following on from this, along with the Traffic Regulation Order approved in June for the yellow lines around the Lower School on Harris Way, a change of speed limit on the whole of the Berryfields Estate was approved at the same time. This reduces the speed down to 20mph. The eagle-eyed amongst you will have seen the 20mph signs in the same areas as the yellow lines – this will be the first section of the estate to be adopted. The speed limit does apply to the whole estate however and even though the estate is not adopted by the Council yet, the yellow lines and speed limit can be enforced.

Bus changes: Hopefully by the time this newsletter is published, the changes to the Stagecoach 53 bus service will have bedded down. The new route sees Burgoyne Avenue being served by a bus, preventing a lengthy walk for residents

to their nearest bus stop. All areas of Wootton that were served by the old route still receive a service, there are now just additional stops on the route.

Remembrance: It was an honour to attend both the Wootton and Kempston

Remembrance events and to lay a wreath at both war memorials. The Kempston event encompassed all areas of Kempston including Kempston Rural. It was moving to see so many young people attending both events either



as part of an organisation or school, or with their family. My thanks to all who attended both events. On a lighter note, I was delighted to be able to attend the Borough Council's Children's Services Celebration Event at the end of October, celebrating the incredible achievements of looked after children, care leavers and Kids who Share (children of foster families) in the Borough.

Such amazing and inspiring young people, and their carers are second to none. Hearing examples of how these young people had been brave, helpful, caring, doing well at school/college and making a difference was wonderful. There were two events, one for children 12 and under in the afternoon and an evening event for young people aged 13 and over.

Personal highlights, alongside the sense of pride in the young people in the Borough, were the opportunity to do some arts and crafts with the younger children including having my face painted at the afternoon event, and in the evening event listening to a great band from Bedford College and watching council staff regret their decision to ride on the adrenalin-fuelled fairground ride! My thanks to the Children's Services team for organising two brilliant and different events, and thanks must also go to local businesses for their support for the event.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Alistair Strathern on his election as the new MP for Mid Beds. I hope he can be the voice

for the area that has long been missing. I look forward to working with him.

News from the Council

Firstly, some fantastic GP news since I last wrote to you. Our health campaign and Full Council Motion has resulted in the Council committing to £9 million for new GP premises. I am very pleased that we have this funding within the Borough and I'll be pushing the Council to allocate some of it to build a new surgery here in Wootton, especially as in a recent interview and article online the Mayor failed to mention Wootton surgery when listing those surgeries who would be receiving the investment. I was though heartened to hear from the Portfolio Holder for Health at a recent Parish Council meeting that Wootton will "definitely be getting a new surgery" and that work to tidy the site would commence soon. I am also in dialogue with the Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Integrated Care Board (ICB) – the local NHS managers – about improving access to healthcare locally, not just via a GP appointment but also through their digital systems which are not accessible to all, and blood tests that require a journey into Bedford, among other issues.

More widely, the new council budget shows that there are plans to add £53 million in borrowing to the Council's debt. This can be seen in the financial papers on the Council website. This is likely to cost around £5 million every year in debt

payments which may result in a loss of services for residents or an increase in council tax to pay for the repayments. The Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committee have raised these concerns and are monitoring things closely.

There is some good news in that the government have recently announced they will be u-turning on their decision to close rail station ticket offices. I opposed this decision strongly as it would be the vulnerable in society who would be most affected and deny travellers the opportunity to buy tickets not always available at the machines. Myself and colleagues had responded to the consultation on behalf of concerned local residents to oppose the Governments changes, so I am very pleased with this reversal.

I am delighted to confirm to those who have asked me, that following a motion to Full Council, Bedford River Festival has been protected so that it will continue to be a fantastic event for all with the same size and ambition as previous years. The Mayor had previously U-turned on his decision to scrap the River Festival in favour of a smaller event, but this motion will now protect Bedford River Festival from any future poorly thought-out changes. The strength of opinion around the Mayor's original decision was evident from the number of signatures on petitions within 24 hours of them being started so well done to everyone who made their views known.

The Council has finally published some information on RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) within the Borough. While the recent scandal centred on school buildings, other buildings built from the 1960s to 1990s may also be affected. Although it is not the list of buildings affected that we have been asking for and what we feel residents need, the page does have some useful information and can be found here: www.bedford.gov.uk/schools-education-and-childcare/schools-and-colleges/raac-your-questions-answered

Councillor Surgeries and getting in touch

I hold two Wootton Councillor Surgeries and two Kempston Rural Surgeries each month. All residents are welcome to any session. The sessions in Wootton are on the 1st Saturday of the month, 9.30 – 10.30am by the library, and 10.45 – 11.45am on the seating area between Ashpole Avenue and Folkes Road, opposite the lower school. Kempston Rural surgeries are on the 3rd Saturday of the month being 10 – 11am opposite the Cross Keys pub in Wood End and 11.15am – 12pm at Gibraltar Corner. Updates will be shown on my Facebook page www.facebook.com/WoottonLibDems.

As always, if you can't attend a surgery, please feel free to get in touch by phone (**07968 792862**) or email – sue.abood@outlook.com.

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Will we get average speed cameras?

Thank you BBClr Wheeler for replying on behalf of the Borough Council about our doctors' surgery. I am now going to ask via this article and BBClr Wheeler, whether the borough council can now help to bring about the installation of the much-needed and anticipated Average Speed Cameras.

Some context, so readers are aware of the situation. A village wide survey was conducted back in 2016-17 as part of Wootton's emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan and this contained a section on speeding within the village. 98% of respondents stated speeding was an issue with 65% adding Average Speed Cameras were the best form of speed prevention. Police data for Bedford, Church, Cranfield and Hall End Roads plus Keeley Lane indicated a need to reduce speed. The police also confirmed they would monitor any cameras installed and the parish council earmarked developer funding to cover all costings. Utilising developer funding means there is no hit on residents' council tax bills.

In 2019, Wootton Parish Council submitted an order to the borough council to install these cameras. I was informed at that stage, by a borough council officer that the greater the camera numbers, the cheaper each unit would cost to purchase and install. Yet for some reason, our request was never passed on – and the wishes, needs and safety of Wootton residents were ignored.

In 2022, residents moving into the new developments along Cranfield Road made their feelings known to the parish council – they were concerned about

speeding on that road. The parish council and developers of those dwellings along Cranfield Road applied pressure and the cameras were eventually installed. To summarise:

- 98% stated speeding in Wootton was an issue;
- 65% stated Average Speed Cameras were the best way to address the same;
- The police had data which confirmed the findings above;
- The police confirmed they would monitor the average speed cameras;
- The parish council confirmed it would use developer funding to pay for their installation;
- The cameras were installed on Cranfield Road, after pressure from the parish council and developers.

Will the Borough Council now support the parish council and the people of Wootton and deliver, in full, what was requested back in 2019?



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.

At St Mary's we aim for our children to thrive holistically as well as academically. We run weekly Forest school sessions which focus on communication skills, team working, emotional coaching (resilience, emotional intelligence, self-motivation and empathy) and curriculum-based learning through physical activity. For example, the children take part in bushcraft activities, making bug hotels, outdoor art and gardening.



At St Mary's Preschool we recognise that children's learning doesn't end at preschool so we run a weekly preschool library. Each child is given a fabric book bag when they start preschool and are given the opportunity to choose a book from a wide selection of books to take home.

Autumn is a fun time at St Mary's Playgroup. The children have been gathering leaves, using rakes and brushes; and hunting for conkers, acorns and pinecones under the trees in our large, grassed garden. The children used the leaves to create artwork, leaf printing and leaf collage. We have been learning about hedgehogs and hibernation. The children listened to the story of Isaac the Wide-Awake Hedgehog whilst sitting around the campfire in our Forest School. The children collected leaves to make prickly collage hedgehogs.



For Bonfire Night we had hot dogs and hot chocolate around our campfire, we had sparklers and sang campfire songs. We talked about fire safety and how to keep safe. We made some fun and vibrant firework pictures and talked about the noises fireworks make, the children had a lot of fun expressing their imagination and creativity making their firework pictures. They used words which described the sounds fireworks make – such as whoosh and bang.

The children made poppies to mark Remembrance Day. This year we discussed the topic with them to help them understand why we wear poppies, and why we mark this important occasion with a two-minute silence. On Remembrance Sunday we laid a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of all the children and staff at St Mary's Preschool.



We celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light. The children took part in a variety of Diwali-themed craft activities, such as making salt dough diya lamps, rangoli patterns, firework pictures and listened to a traditional Diwali story. The emphasis of the story was about being kind and helping each other. Having a Diwali-themed week has introduced the children to different religions and cultures.

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. The Preschool is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Preschool receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only; and offers all day care. If you would like to put your child's name down for a preschool place or require any further information please phone Tracey on 01234 767158. Children not eligible for funding – Fees are £4.75 per hour.

Term time opening hours: Mon 9.00 - 12.00 Tues, Wed and Fri 9.00 - 16.00 Thurs 9.00 - 15.00

St Mary's Preschool is now full for September 2024 however, we are accepting applications for September 2025

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For isn't that still the reason-why we all celebrate?
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By then - it will be too late.

- Rebecca Cook





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Today, as I write this, it is 5th November. We hear the fireworks and enjoy the friendship around a bonfire, but who remembers what we are celebrating? - It was the discovery of an attempt by Guy Fawkes, to blow up the Houses of Parliament and destroy the democratic system we had at that time.

On the 11th of November we will remember the thousands of men and women who gave their lives in the world wars of the last centuries. In this country and this village we do it particularly well, and rightly so.

Throughout the year there are many other dates which are remembered to celebrate various occasions, some personal and some National. In a short time it will be Christmas. What will you be celebrating on 25th December?

This world and indeed this country have many problems. They may be political, financial or personal, but there seems to be a downward spiral in both spiritual and moral principles. The Ten Commandments, which God gave man to live by, and on which the majority of our laws are based, has been neglected and mostly forgotten. You can find them in the Bible in the book of Exodus, chapter 20 and verses 2 to 12. They are there for the good of all mankind and, being mere mortals, we can't keep all them. There are some which most of us will keep and there are some none of us can keep.

If we can't keep the Commandments, really there is no hope for us, when we

stand before a righteous Judge. What can then be done? That's where Christmas comes in. It's the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, God the Son, who came to live amongst us and gave His life by dying on a Roman Cross in our place, to make it possible for anyone to get right with our Righteous God. The Bible, God's word, says in the letter written by John in chapter 1, verse 9, that if we confess our sin and unbelief to God He is faithful to forgive us and make us clean. There is not much free in this world, but God's offer of forgiveness is free and it will change your life. It's worth thinking about!

Our usual Church Services are on Sundays at 10.30am and 6.0pm and during the week, there is a coffee morning on Tuesdays from 10am to Noon. It's a 'come and go as you like' Coffee Morning. On Wednesdays and Thursdays there are two Home Bible Groups, and on Thursdays the Children's group, 'Adventurers', for school years 2 – 6, meet in the Hall, straight after school, until 4.45pm. If your child is at Bedford Road, Lower School, we collect them straight from the school, to save parents bringing them, but please tell the school, as they will not let them come to us without your permission. Which is right.

We will hold a Christmas Carol Service on Friday, 15th December in the Church Hall at 7.30pm, to which everyone is invited. We are privileged to have the 'Bedford Brass,' band to provide the music and there will be a Christmas message and refreshments.

Our Christmas Services this year are on Sunday 24th December at 10.30am and Candle light Service at 6.00pm. As Christmas Day is the following day, we will not have a Christmas Day service this year.

Make Christmas a spiritual Christmas this year, and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Rob Stanton,

on behalf of the Deacons and fellowship at Wootton Baptist Church.

Any enquiries: Please ring either John or Susan on 07305 050869, or 07780 595066, or Gary or Teresa on 07723 327353 or 07738 888228.

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Bedford Road

Every Tuesday 10-12

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warm friendship

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WOOTTON COMMUNITY BADMINTON CLUB



FANCY SOME EXERCISE AND FUN

Our community club has been running for about 15 years and we are looking for new members who have played before and are, or once were, a reasonable standard.

WHEN?

Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm in School terms

WHERE?

Wootton Upper School Sports Hall

WHO?

Adults only

HOW MUCH?

First week free then around
£50 per term

FORMAT?

Round robin doubles

We mainly play for exercise, fun and friendly competition. If you are interested please contact **Chris** on

07740 939109

The controversial waste incinerator at Rookery South Pit, Marston Moretaine, within two miles of Wootton, built by Covanta and now owned by Swedish company Encyclis, has been fully operational since January 2022.

The current capacity, as per the Environmental Permit, of 585,000 tonnes of waste would produce 585,000 tonnes of climate-warming greenhouse gas Carbon Dioxide emitted straight into the atmosphere. Actual waste incineration and Carbon Dioxide emission for 2022 was 497,768 tonnes.

At the moment Carbon Dioxide emissions are unregulated, not limited or even monitored by the Environment Agency, despite the UK government signing up to the legally-binding Paris Climate Accord in 2015, that set limits on Carbon Dioxide emissions as part of the programmes to achieve Net Zero on Carbon Dioxide emissions by 2050. Indeed, the government continued planning to exclude Carbon Dioxide emitted by waste incinerators from the calculation of the UK's total Carbon Dioxide emissions until very recently.

Following reports from the government's own advisory bodies, pressure from many environmental groups supported by Local Authorities, and the threat of competition from the USA, the Chancellor announced in March 2023, a £20 billion programme for Carbon Capture and Storage spread over 20 years, to reduce the UK's carbon emissions. This programme includes

the waste industry. In July 2023 the government announced the expansion of the Emissions Trading Scheme to include the waste industry fully in 2028. We want to know if Carbon Dioxide emissions will be reduced at Rookery South.

What is Carbon Capture

The term 'Carbon Capture' covers 3 different processes

1. Carbon Capture and Storage extracts CO₂ from emissions before they enter the atmosphere, CO₂ is then compressed and stored.
2. Direct Air Capture removes CO₂ from the atmosphere, ie post emission.

Both the above processes are expensive and consume a lot of electricity with 66% of the cost upfront as Capital Investment. Direct Air Capture is approximately 10 times as expensive and uses 10 times more electricity than Carbon Capture Storage.

3. The third process is Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage and would use the CO₂, extracted before it enters the atmosphere, for the manufacture of plastics, concrete, biofuel and also for the enhanced extraction and replacement of crude oil and gas with pressurised CO₂ remaining underground.

How does this affect Wootton?

Wootton Parish Council and Bedford Borough Council under Mayor, Dave

Hodgson supported local campaigning to prevent the award of Planning Permission and an Environmental Permit to Rookery South Ltd, which were sadly unsuccessful. Wootton is one of the 8 Parishes most immediately adversely impacted by the waste incinerator at Rookery South. Wootton Parish Council is entitled to, and maintains, a seat on the Rookery South Community Liaison Panel (CLP), and Wootton residents had the chance to sign up for the discounted electricity scheme. The Government measures will have a direct impact on waste incineration at Rookery South.

There are a lot of problems to be resolved, including:

- At the moment all the other recognised pollutants eg NOX(1) will continue to be emitted into the atmosphere. NOX emissions are extremely toxic and subject to monitoring by the Environment Agency. Rookery South's NOX emissions are very close to the legal limit. Rookery South Limited's recent attempt to reduce NOX in conjunction with the Environment Agency, by injecting ammonia into the furnace was suspended after two weeks because the process is difficult to manage and led to excessive levels of incompletely incinerated toxic ammonia emitted into the atmosphere. This took place before the CLP was informed.
- Will Rookery South Ltd install a Carbon Capture and Storage system?
- Will the Environment Agency take responsibility for monitoring Carbon Capture? Currently the Environment

Agency accept readings from Rookery South Ltd, taken from their own emission monitoring equipment across a range of pollutants. They are not independent readings.

- Will Encyclis choose to buy Carbon Credits – in simple terms pay a fine for doing nothing, rather than installing Carbon Capture and Storage?
- Encyclis has just informed CLP Members that it plans to imminently apply for a new Environmental Permit to allow Rookery South Ltd to add a further 72,000 tonnes to its capacity thereby producing 657,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, an increase of 72,000 tonnes.

At the October CLP meeting the Environment Agency (not present) advised that the application for a new permit will be considered as a 'Normal Variation' and will not need planning permission or public consultation. Members of the CLP insisted on an additional meeting to take place in January 2024 at which the Environment Agency would be expected to attend.

We will continue to hold all bodies accountable and challenge on the issues impacting on our local community.

The term 'NOX' covers a number of poisonous, highly reactive gases including Nitrous Oxide and Nitrous Dioxide, formed at Rookery South where waste is burned at high temperature, 850 degrees Centigrade.

Clive Baker

CLP Representative for Wootton Parish Council

Wootton WI have had three very good speakers over the last three months. In August we had David Duker, who spoke about Victor Ekins, a WW2 fighter pilot whose family lived in St Neots. Victor's story was one of bravery, coupled with love when he met his future wife, who was an aircraft plotter, during the height of the Battle of Britain. Victor went on to become a well-respected Squadron Leader and was awarded a DFC for his services to his country.

In September, David Longman introduced us to Poor Nell and the Marshall of Hadleyville. David has visited many churches throughout Bedfordshire, taking an interest not only in the architecture but also members of the congregation. We met poor Nell and her husband Simon when they nearly came to blows over how to cook leftover Christmas pudding mix. Nell won the argument and baked the mix to produce the traditional cake we eat at Easter, the Simon and Nell cake or Simnel cake as we now know it. The Marshall of Hadleyville was none other than Gary Cooper who was educated at Dunstable Grammar school before becoming a film star and taking the role of the Marshall in the film High Noon.

Our October speaker was John McCombe from the charity Bloodrunners. He explained how volunteers transport much needed blood and blood products, and breast milk to various hospitals and

hospices round the three counties and beyond. They take tissue samples that need more in depth testing to Bristol and all this takes place 365 days a year 24/7. An amazing charity that runs on donations alone and the goodwill of their hard working volunteers.

Forthcoming Meetings:

- December 20th Christmas Party with entertainment by Freddie's Barnet
- January 17th Indoor Curling
- February 21st Sausage and Mash Bash
- We meet at 7-30pm in the Memorial Hall on Bedford Road.
- Visitors welcome entrance fee £4-50.

Please visit our Facebook page Wootton WI Bedfordshire to see what we get up to.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Dear friend, **Jesus said 'I am the Light of the World - John 8v12**

The Christian Gospel has a defiant message of hope in our turbulent world. No matter what we feel about world or personal events God's light keeps breaking through.

Martin Luther King reflected ' In this life we must expect finite disappointment but we must never loose infinite hope.' Hope because we have faith in Jesus Light of the World. It is the HOPE in Jesus that Christians hold onto that empowers our sense of mission. Together we can do so much good in the world.

LIGHT IN THE EAST

It was a star that the Wisemen followed from the East to Bethlehem. The light attracted their curiosity and it demonstrates that God can work through nature in exceptional ways to achieve his purposes. Also we must pray for 'God's Light and Peace' in the troubled areas of the world.

LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY

It was the star that shone over the manger guiding them to the king of Kings and Lord of Lords. For those who put their faith in Jesus he will give a light to their journey and the path will be easier to see. The Church must be a place where faith becomes easier to discover and embrace. A well know proverb 'Eyes that look are common. **Eyes that see are rare'** J Oswald Chambers.

LIGHT COMES INTO THE WORLD

The bright dazzling light of stars can be seen from great distances. The Christ child shines his awe and wonder into the world from the moment of his birth. The wisemen were overjoyed at seeing

Jesus and bowed down and worshipped him. Let us respond with our worship to Jesus.

TELL THE STORY

The words of a famous and popular hymn by Graham Kendrick.

Shine Jesus Shine

'As we gaze on Your Kingly brightness , so our faces display Your likeness. Ever changing from glory to glory, Mirrored here may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, Shine on me.'

There is a 'Good News' story that needs to be told through the witness of our lives, use words if you have to. Let us have faith in a great God.

SHINE LIKE STARS

Paul in his letter to the Church at Philippi urges them to ' shine like stars in the Universe'. Stars attract our attention because of their brightness and the way they stand out from the darkness. God wants us to have attractive Churches and lives that stand out from the poverty of society' values.

With all my heart I believe that Jesus in his life and ministry represents infinite hope. His light shines into the dark corners of our world and lives. May Christ's light transform your lives and homes this Christmas as we celebrate Advent.

**With Greetings and Peace from
Rev Michael Giles**

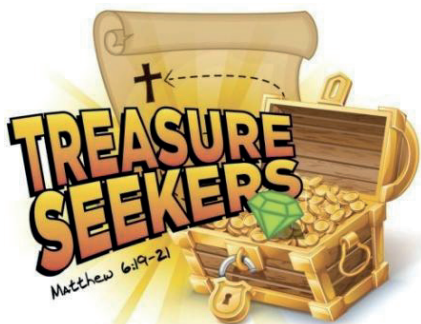
Christmas Services: December

- 3rd Sunday 10.30am Girls and Boys Brigade Enrolment service
- 24th Sunday 7pm Traditional Carol service followed by hot drinks and mince pies
- 25th Monday 10am Christmas Day Celebration- all age service, bring along a gift to share
- 31st Sunday 10.30am Sunday service: The Wisemen arrive in Wootton?

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Shine like stars in the Universe. Philippians 2: 15

With lots going on at our church, We'd love to see you



Sunday Mornings 10:30am - 11:45am

FREE ~ For Kids aged 4-11

Come along and 'Seek the Treasure'



Breakfast from 10:00am

Service starts at 10:30am

A large graphic for 'Come On Inn! Join Us This Christmas'. It features a large orange star in the center. To the left of the star is a silhouette of three camels, and to the right is a silhouette of a church building. The text 'COME ON INN!' is in large, bold, teal letters, and 'JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS' is in smaller, bold, teal letters below it. In the bottom left corner, there is a small icon of a crown and a cross, and the text 'THERE IS NO ROOM'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small icon of a cross and the text 'The Methodist Church'.

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

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

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

My Birthday - *By Colin Zardin*

Goodness me, it was hot in here! And it was really humid and oppressive, too.

I couldn't remember how I came to be in this dark, dank place. I tried to think back, but the information just didn't seem to be inside my brain.

So I had no idea how long I had been there, either, but it seemed to have been a long time. Indeed, it felt as if I had been there for the whole of my life!

I could hear faint sounds coming from somewhere. They were probably from outside the immediate area where I was located, but they were so muffled, I couldn't really tell. The loudest noise was a steady, rhythmic beating, and that was definitely coming from inside the chamber that I was in. I listened carefully, trying to identify what the sound was, and then it dawned on me. It was the sound of my own heart beating! It was so loud, and insistent, that I hadn't recognised it!

I wasn't aware of the presence of anyone else there, so I was alone.

And it was very dark.

In a way, it was a very soporific and comforting place to be, and I somehow knew that I must have spent a lot of my time in there sleeping.

But gradually, my environment was starting to feel very claustrophobic, and I was beginning to

feel the sensation of needing to get out. I started to wriggle, and tried to turn myself around, so I could begin to move in the direction that I instinctively knew led to the exit, but it was difficult. I felt as though I was wearing clothes that were too bulky for the area I was occupying, and it was hard to move.

However, I persevered, and after what must have been several hours, I was rewarded by the sight in the darkness, of a lighter area up ahead of me. The light at the end of the tunnel?

The noises I could hear were growing louder now. They were still unintelligible, but I knew I was getting closer to escaping from wherever it was I had been trapped.

The light became brighter and brighter, and suddenly, I burst free of my prison, and into a blinding whiteness.

Then, with no warning, I could feel something gripping my ankles, and lifting me up into the air.

I heard a snipping noise, and felt a momentary stab of pain as something was cut away from me.

Then, horror of horrors, something slapped me across my bottom!

What a shock. It made me cry.

And then I heard a voice say "it's a boy! You've had a baby boy!"

And that's the story of my birthday, 26th April 1945.

Community Speedwatch!

Now that the colder weather approaches and the sun is lower in the sky – making driving more difficult – it is imperative that we drive carefully and watch our speed on the roads where no speed cameras are in force. I have to thank Ellen Barnes, who has had to leave the team, for helping us out whenever she could. I notice that county-wide more people have been recruited to Speedwatch patrols and we could always do with extra help at the roadside.

Your dedicated Speedwatch Team – Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward, Anil Mistry 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. 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 August, September, October and November and we shall start again in January as the days in December are too short. 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!

Keep safe and try to enjoy the winter weather!

Malcolm Chalmers

- Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator

1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



Summer Camp at Cromer was blessed with great weather and we had another action packed week. Our members can't wait for next year's camp, which is already booked (for Cornwall).

The BB Nationally is 140 years old this year and we entered a team into the 140 London Monopoly Challenge. We came 19th from 50 teams and had a great time exploring London.

We have a number of our members partaking in the DofE Award Scheme, and it's great to see young people giving their time and skills for others.

Our band is in a time of rebuilding and four new members are currently being trained up - a process that could take 3-6 months. Another drummer is about to start also.

Over the Oct Half Term, 3 members of our Marching Band joined a 90 strong Massed Band (consisting of Bugles, Drums, Bell-Lyres & Bagpipes), for a tour of Scotland.

The tour included performances at Glasgow, Inverness, Thurso and The Royal Mile & Parliament Square at Edinburgh.



It's been great to welcome a number of new members to both our Boys & Girls groups this term. We are not quite full, so if you wish to beat the Waiting List, do please contact us for a place ASAP if you'd like your son/daughter to be part of 'The Adventure' too.

Email Us



bbgb1stwootton@gmail.com

We are based at Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road
Girls meet Thursdays, Boys meet Fridays, Band on Mondays

27
YEARS +

MY WINDOW
CLEANER



MY WINDOW
CLEANER

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Defibrillators around Wootton

