

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

AUTUMN EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2024



www.wootton-pc.gov.uk

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

Donna Lincoln: 07887 747834

Jeff Noakes: 07806 470 411

Stuart O'Dell: 767133

Keith Randell: 07872 647234

Victoria Richbell-Davies: 07758 831 492

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 Gary Williams: 07723 327 353

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: 07866 924 934

1st Wootton Girls Brigade - Nicola: 07480 746 101

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 - Gareth Lloyd

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t. 01480 474787

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Editorial Notes:

Wootton News is overseen by an editorial sub group of the parish council. While every effort has been made to ensure that information in this newsletter is accurate, the parish council accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It should be noted that articles written by individuals do not necessarily represent the views of the council. Please send all articles to the Wootton News editor Gareth Lloyd at wootton_news@wootton-pc.gov.uk (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.

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

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

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

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



The Clerk's report contains contact information for anyone wishing to use the facility and an article from the school also features in this edition.

Neighbourhood Development Plan



The Crown Estate and GS8 organised a drop-in session at the Memorial Hall to talk about site W3 as featured within the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Business Plan

I am pleased to publish our second issue of our 2023-2027 Business Plan online and our 2024 Annual report. These two reports explain what the Parish Council has achieved and what its plans are for the following few years: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/publications-3/>

New 4G Pitch



I am thrilled to announce the opening of a state-of-the-art 4G synthetic sports facility in September 2024. This fantastic addition which is situated within the grounds of Wootton Upper School will no doubt be a much used village facility. The facility will be available for community (priority) and commercial use, outside of school hours, providing a premier venue for sports and recreational activities.

It was a great turnout with between 150 and 200 people attending and The Crown Estate has reported feedback was incredibly constructive. They are now reviewing that feedback before developing a brief for their design team to draft proposals for that site. A further community consultation event will be held in the coming months and those initial ideas will be presented then. Further feedback will be invited.



**Wootton
Live Bus
Times**

Do you want to know if the buses are running on time or late before you leave your home?

Then check out the article on page 33 in this edition for more information. <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/bus-timetable/>

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



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

The Parish Council is delighted the synthetic pitch on grounds at Wootton Upper School is now complete and open for use. There is an article elsewhere in this edition if you would like to learn more, including who to contact if you would like to use it.

This edition also includes a survey on the Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme which I know is used by many within the village.

I spoke recently with Debra Aitken who works for the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and helps to support this scheme. They desperately need volunteers so if you can give your time to this great cause, please complete the survey. It can either be completed by hand, cut out and delivered to one of several village drop-off points or electronically, via the accompanying link. You really can make a difference.

As you know, the Parish Council made the tough decision to cancel this year's Fun Fest event, so as we move into the autumn months, the next Parish Council-led event will be Remembrance Sunday. This year it will take place on Sunday 10th November. If you are a member of a village club or organisation and would like to lay a wreath as part of the parade, please contact Cllrs Gareth Lloyd and/or John Wheeler.

Quick Sudoku

	l	e	a
a	e	f	l
	a	l	f

		f	
e	f	l	
l	a	e	f
f		a	

Fill in the grids with the letters L, E, A and F, making sure no letter is repeated in every row, every column and within each mini grid.

Dates for your Diary *2024/25*

SEPTEMBER

11th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th	Full Council	7.15pm
18th	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
25th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
25th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
25th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

OCTOBER

9th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
9th	Full Council	7.15pm
30th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
30th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

NOVEMBER

13th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
13th	Full Council inc precept	7.15pm
20th	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
27th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
27th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
27th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

DECEMBER

11th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th	Full Council inc payments & precept	7.15pm

JANUARY

8th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th	Full Council inc precept sign off	7.15pm
15th	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
29th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
29th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
29th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

FEBRUARY

12th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	7.15pm
26th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
26th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

MARCH

12th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
12th	Full Council	7.15pm
19th	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	7.00pm
26th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
26th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

APRIL

9th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
9th	Full Council	7.15pm
16th	Annual Parish Meeting	7.00pm
30th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
30th	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
30th	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

MAY

14th	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
14th	Annual Council Meeting	7.15pm
14th	Full Council	to follow ACM

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).

DISCLAIMER: Please check with the Clerk to the Council, noticeboards or the parish council website as meetings may be subject to cancellations or changes to timings and/or venue:

<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meeting-dates/>



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A photograph of a small, light-colored house model sitting on a laptop keyboard. A hand is visible typing on the keyboard. The background is blurred, showing a laptop screen and other desk items.

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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	WPC has been informed the electrical works needed to install the remaining cameras will take place in mid-September. Once complete, WPC expects to be notified when the cameras themselves will be installed
Berryfields Roundabout Re-Design	Fields Road/ Folkes Road	Cancelled	A public vote determined the roundabout should be re-designed using a 'Beacon with Flowers' design. Despite WPC's best efforts, BBC (as Highways Authority) has now determined the project cannot go ahead
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 has finalised specifications with Coloini & Lane Architecture Ltd. The tender process will follow
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'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). WPC had hoped to site a lectern in the general vicinity of The Gaol, adjacent to St. Mary's Churchyard on Church Road, but a licence from BBC proved too problematical and the hope is now to site the lectern within the Churchyard. This will require the permission of St. Mary's and the Diocese of St. Albans by way of a faculty

Local Plan 2040	Throughout the village	Ongoing	Public Hearings in relation to the examination of BBC's Local Plan 2040 have recently concluded and the Planning Inspectorate has raised concerns that it cannot be currently found to be sound. 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. In 2023, WPC replaced the four bus shelters under its ownership – at the following locations: • 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). The new eco-friendly shelters contain 'living roofs' to help negate the effects of carbon emissions and BBC and WPC have agreed to split the financing of new roof-mounted RTPI units
Roads and Pavements	Throughout the village	Ongoing	The Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group meets every other month and residents are welcome to attend these meetings. Minutes can be viewed via this link: https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes/ (A hard copy can be requested from the Clerk to the Council)
Synthetic Pitch	Grounds within Wootton Upper School	2024	Works at the Upper School are now complete and the synthetic pitch is now open for use to both the school and community. Anyone wishing to use the facility should contact the school as follows: lettings@wootton.beds.sch.uk . Please look elsewhere in this edition for an article on this facility
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. Planning permission has been granted, Phil Magovern has been appointed the successful contractor and works to secure the relevant works licence from BBC are ongoing

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.



Email: sue.abood@outlook.com

Phone: 07968 792862

I'm writing this article at the end of July in a brief period of sunny, warm weather. I think it's fair to say that the summer we've had up to this point has been somewhat lacking! I hope by the time you read this in September that we've managed some sustained periods of sunshine and warmth and that you had an enjoyable summer.

Firstly, I hope that everyone who collected an exam or course result of any description over the last couple of months has received the results they wanted and, if moving on to another period of study, received the results they needed to progress. If you didn't quite make the grade, please know that there are often alternative options and people available who can help to discuss those options with you.

Given that the newsletter for June was not published due to the snap General Election, I was not able to take the opportunity at the end of my first year as a borough councillor to thank all those residents who have engaged with me since being elected in May 2023. From those just saying hello when walking past me at my surgeries to those who stop for a chat or to discuss an issue they'd like to raise, from those who email and call me to those who invite me along to events, and from those who offer me a hot drink to the very kind person who offered me a warm sausage roll as I looked cold at one of my surgeries –

Thank you! It means a lot. Please do continue to stay in touch and let me know how I can help, support and represent you.

Back at the end of April, proof (if any were needed) that I need to get out more came in the guise of excitement that a bus shelter had been erected! After being elected in May 2023, it took 7 months of backwards and forwards communication with the council to get the streetlights either side of the bus stop on Cranfield Road, near the end of Burgoyne Avenue, fixed and working. The bus stop was in complete darkness in winter evenings as the lights on both sides of the bus stop didn't work and hadn't worked for some time. Now they are illuminated in the dark, it makes the bus stop much safer. I used some of my ward funding – money that borough councillors can use within their ward for the good of the community – to pay towards a bus shelter for this bus stop which was match funded by the Borough Council. I will admit to letting out a little whoop of excitement when notified that the bus stop had been erected at the end of April given that it was paid for many months before that!



In the interests of transparency, the rest of my ward funding has been used as follows:

- to install a dropped (pram) kerb at the end of Foster Road after being notified by a resident that someone had fallen off their mobility scooter into the road as they had been trying to cross the road with no

dropped kerb.

- £637 to the Wootton Cubs and Scouts to purchase an archery net, knives and safety equipment
- £350 to the Wootton Rainbows to buy a parade flag and neckers among other things
- £350 to the Wootton Brownies for various bits of equipment.

The speed indicator sign on Ridge Road, Kempston Rural was also purchased with my ward funding and is already providing useful data on the speeds of vehicles passing it which is being fed to both the Council and the police. So far, the fastest vehicle was clocked at 84 mph - abhorrent behaviour in a residential area.

Ward funding for the current municipal year was confirmed in May and I would love to hear from anyone who may have ideas on how this can be spent. I'd especially like to hear from any community groups. While it is not a huge amount of money and there are specific guidelines on what the money can be spent on, it is designed to be used to benefit the communities of Wootton and Kempston Rural, so I would appreciate the community's input. Please do get in touch with any ideas on where this money can be spent.

The wonderful Neighbourhood Chat Group are starting up some Memory Gym sessions for those suffering with memory loss due to age, stroke or dementia, and their carers. These sessions are being supported by the Methodist Church and the Tibbs Dementia Foundation. The sessions will be running on the first Monday of the month between 2.30 and 4pm at The Hub at the Methodist Church on Cause End Road, with the first session taking place on 7th October. If you know of someone who could benefit from attending the session, please do let them know. And if you are available on a Wednesday between 11am and 1pm, the Neighbourhood Chat session also held at the Hub is a welcoming place to meet other residents and build

a community. It's only £1 for a cuppa and homemade cakes.

My work goes on representing residents in meetings at the Borough Council. Back in May, residents alerted me to a questionnaire they had received from the Council which formed part of a consultation on the proposal to start charging for Telecare services. These Telecare services include the buttons and cords that residents can press or pull when they are in need of help, 24 hours a day, which in turn helps support people to live independently. These services are currently free of charge to residents with the proposal being to start charging £4.50 a week for those service users without a social care package. Following this period of consultation, the Council's Executive made the decision to go ahead with the proposal to charge. I'm pleased to say that my colleagues and I 'called in' this decision which meant that the decision was then debated at the Adult Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 29th July. Following the debate and the subsequent decision of the committee, I'm pleased to say that the decision to start charging residents will now be referred back to full council for debate. As we are now in the summer break period at the time of writing, this will be at the next meeting in the Autumn. I'd like to thank residents for bringing this to my attention so that we could have the opportunity to challenge what we and many residents see as an unfair tax on the vulnerable members of our society.

At the most recent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting we were presented with a report from the Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Integrated Care Board (ICB) (local NHS provider) on their public engagement exercise about streamlining access to same day and urgent primary care. I was disappointed to have to point out to the ICB that only 8 people from Bedford Borough had been involved in this engagement, that by holding all but one of the events during the working day that they were excluding a large proportion of residents, and

that the demographics of those involved were heavily skewed towards white participants. Given such a small sample size from Bedford Borough, the information was therefore very unlikely to be indicative of the feelings of most of the residents. The ICB claim that this is their first engagement exercise and will learn from it moving forwards. If in the future you are invited to contribute to any consultation, please do get involved so your voices can be heard.

We also discussed the re-procurement of the Musculo-Skeletal (MSK) Services by BLMK ICB, a service which many residents use and is already creaking. While steps are finally underway to start the re-procurement process proper (which originally started back in 2021 with resident consultations), any new service provider will not start providing MSK services to residents until October 2025.

At the end of July I attended a session with the North Beds Rural Policing team to discuss local priorities for them to concentrate on over the next quarter of the year. The suggestions of priorities across the area the North Beds Rural Team covers were varied, with the area that Wootton and Kempston Rural are in (which also includes the areas around Clapham and Great Denham) narrowing down their suggested focus to fear of anti-social behaviour leading to crime. The team wanted 3 priorities to focus on, and so the suggestions of speeding and drug related anti-social behaviour from the other areas will also be taken forward. The focus on these three priorities does not detract from their existing efforts to tackle other issues, and the team will continue to assess data on the crimes reported to help form their strategies. These priority setting sessions will now be a regular event which I'll continue to attend. In order that residents can contribute to this work of the police, can I please encourage you to continue to report any issues that occur locally, either by dialling 999 if it is an emergency, or by calling 101 or using the police website to record any non-emergency

issues. Your reports do matter and feed into central data helping to shape the priorities for the police and also have some bearing on where they allocate resources and increase patrols. Your report may add to evidence the police already have on a certain issue.

Whilst on the subject of policing, the officers present at the session in July were very keen to promote Beds Connected and asked me to urge all residents to sign up for this service. You can either scan the QR code on the banner below or go to www.bedsconnected.co.uk. This service will allow the police, fire and other agencies to alert you to issues in your area. The police are looking to expand how they use the service so that it can become a useful tool for both police and public alike.



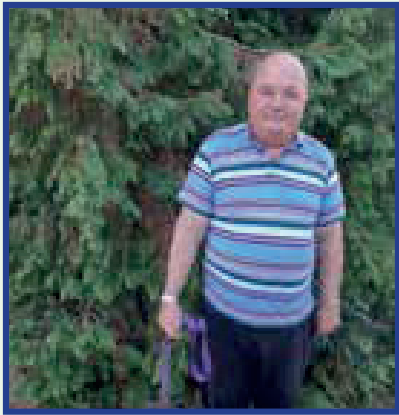
Councillor Surgeries and getting in touch

I continue to hold two Wootton Councillor Surgeries and two Kempston Rural Surgeries each month, in all weathers. All residents are welcome to any of the sessions.

- 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, 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 or wish to contact me for any other reason, please feel free to get in touch by phone (07968 792862) or email – sue.abood@bedford.gov.uk



Email: john.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk

Phone: 07913 409 433

Facebook: search Cllr John Wheeler

Not too sure where this year has gone, it seems not long ago I was doing a report for the spring issue now we are coming up to autumn. It will be Christmas soon!

As always, I have been working closely with Wootton Parish Council and Bedford Borough Council to ensure works promised for Wootton are completed – a lot of which are Highways issues. There are a number of outstanding issues still, but progress is being made – not least the resurfacing of St. Mary's Road. A replacement street light column is now in place along Fields Road, a number of potholes in the village have been fixed and a new loading bay area has been marked on Bedford Road, adjacent to the Post Office.

Still to be done this year is the re-surfacing of part of Lorraine Road – from the Cause End Road junction to Lorraine Road cemetery. The pavement along Bedford Road between the Cock Inn PH and Post Office (both sides) is also scheduled for resurfacing works as is Lorraine Road pavement – I don't have timescales as yet. Plans are being drawn up to have the small section of open ditch along Fields Road piped and infilled which will remove the pitch

point along that pavement and make access easier for all users (including those who make good use of the bus stop in that area).

I am frustrated at the length of time it has taken to get the remaining average speed cameras added – I am awaiting a start date following resolution of administration issues at the Borough Council.

As you will most likely be aware, building works have started at the lower school site on Bedford Road as part of the two-tier educational conversion. These should continue until the middle of next year. Works also took place during the summer holidays at Harris Way to replace a faulty drainage system under the lower school. Works for the upper school as part of its two-tier conversion remain on schedule for summer 2025, with a 2026 completion date. I am delighted the synthetic pitch has now been delivered and is open for use. Wootton Parish Council and the school have worked to ensure the community have priority use of this facility outside school opening hours – a big thank you to all involved.

A few weeks ago I was invited to tour the proposed canal route with officers from both Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Council, plus representatives from the Forest of Marston Vale and Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Park. I was surprised to see that the River Ousel in Milton Keynes already has bridges to accommodate the canal in place. I saw plans detailing the section of canal proposed for Wootton which will pass the Amazon distribution warehouse and Harris Way play area before heading towards the woods and Kempston Mill. I am also pleased to confirm the long-awaited cycle path which will run along sections of the canal is scheduled for installation. At the time of writing this report the finalities are still being discussed so timescales are as yet unknown. When delivered however, this will finally join Wootton and Kempston and form part of National Cycle Route 51.

I have been busy with my Civic Duties as Speaker of Bedford Borough Council. It is a lovely opportunity to represent Bedford Borough and meet so many wonderful people, who do so much for the community. At the River Festival, I spent time with the Mayor meeting individuals and charities, plus school children at Bedford Market who had grown their own herbs and vegetables to raise money for the food bank. Their enthusiasm was such that you simply could not walk past without buying something!

I also unveiled a plaque for Sri Santha Sai, a multi faith group who were planting small areas of trees around Bedford with the aid of the Forest of Marston Vale and Bedford Borough Council. All were volunteers.

Remembrance Sunday this year will be on Sunday 10th November. As always, Wootton Parish Council will help organise the parade and service by the War Memorial on Church Road. Fuller details will be circulated nearer the time.

Bedford Borough Council Issues

Wixams Station

The Council has been working with Network Rail, supported by Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Councillors in the Wixams & Wilstead area to push this project over the line. As a result of this pressure and money secured by the Council, Network Rail signed an Order to start the station contract at the Wixams.

New Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Bedford Borough

The Council last month, 10th June 2024, formally adopted a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for Bedford Borough. The new strategy which runs from 2024-2029 and was agreed after a process of internal/external consultation. The new strategy is based on three core strands which are:

- Prevent homelessness as early as possible,

- Increase the supply of housing for those who are homeless, and
- Provide support to those who need it
- River Festival

The River Festival has been incredibly successful for the Council this year with over 300,000 visitors over the weekend. Many changes were made to the festival based on feedback from residents who indicated they wanted the festival to be more family oriented. These changes included:

- An all-new family island at St. Mary's Gardens, complete with a diverse array of free activities that would keep even the most energetic little ones entertained from dance, storytelling, sensory activities, arts, crafts, fun science and interactive shows.
- Green Earth Village on Castle Mound became home to the Green Earth Kids area with workshops and talks on the environment.
- Schools being invited to play/sing on the community stages.

Feedback from residents and festival goers indicate that these changes went down very well with lots of incredibly positive feedback online, given to Officers/Councillors or given directly to the Mayor. The enhanced cleaning regime had also been successful with 93 volunteers and 25.86 tonnes of waste collected.

Town Centre vision

The Council's Executive have adopted the Town Centres development programme for Bedford and Kempston with a range of projects to regenerate these centres. Harpur Square has benefitted from some recent investment by opening up and providing a more usable space. Improvements in St. Paul's Square are due shortly, and a developer is being sought for a major development of the Mayes Yard area, including the former Debenhams building. Regeneration of Greyfriars is also planned.

Telecare

The Government's shift to the digital telephone network by 2025 and need to replace telecare units that are reaching end of life will place the Council under considerable financial strain, approximately £446k.

There was no money set aside for the shift to digital and no money set aside for the replacement of units reaching end of life service. As a result, in order to continue providing the service and meet the increasing financial pressure the Council had decided to implement a financially sustainable model which included a week £4.50 fee for some residents.

This charge is well below the average rate implemented by 32 comparative local Councils, and lower than our direct neighbours in Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire Councils. Additionally, the service would remain free for Bedford Borough's most vulnerable residents, those who have Care Act eligible needs.

On Monday, 29th July, the decision was called in and has now been referred to Full Council. This means it has not yet been implemented with no solutions put forward on how to meet the financial cost of the switch/replacement of units.

Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway

On the 11th July the Council officially launched the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway project's delivery phase.

This phase will focus on constructing sections of the canal as funding opportunities become available. It is expected that, upon delivery, the canal will deliver economic growth through increased leisure opportunities and employment alongside environmental benefits by making it easier to manage the water here.

Leisure/Oasis

In December 2023, the Council agreed to invest £4.9m across Bedford Borough's

leisure facilities in order to address issues. The investment was primarily used to address urgent health and safety at our facilities with a wide range of essential replacement and repair works. Now that our facilities are back to a safe standard more work will be taking place to further redecorate existing sites to bring a brighter and more welcoming atmosphere.

Additionally, there has been a lot of positive feedback regarding the new operator of the Council's leisure facility (GLL). At the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 18th July, the Council heard from GLL's partnership manager about the positive feedback on the facilities with further improvements coming down the line on further enhancing cleansing regimes etc.

Lurke Street Car Park

Lurke Street's multi story car park will trialling a switch to cashless payments only from this month onwards to address ongoing reports of aggressive begging and ensure the safety of car park users. Users will be able to pay via card or phone and the Council will continue to monitor the car park, with regular patrols by staff to ensure its safety.

Bedford Academy

The Council has awarded a contract to build 16 new state of the art classrooms at Bedford Academy to Ashe Construction. The project will take approximately 60 weeks to complete and will come with 16 classrooms constructed, along with changing rooms, a dining area and a community cafe.

Green Flag Awards

Four of the parks in Bedford (Bedford Park, Addison Howard Park, Priory Country Park, and Harrold-Odell Country Park) have again been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for 2024. This internationally recognised quality mark celebrates well-managed and welcoming parks and open spaces.

Cllr. John Wheeler

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Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme *Can you volunteer?*

A Good Neighbour Scheme has been running in the village for over 12 years - a voluntary group run by local residents who recognise the value in having 'good neighbours' and know how important it is to have someone who can help with occasional 'jobs' as listed below.

We are looking to add to our team of volunteers – could you help?

The amount of time you volunteer is entirely up to you – even a couple of hours a month helps! All volunteer expenses are reimbursed and all volunteers are fully insured and DBS checked.

Possible Services	I may be able to help with this
Occasional lifts to doctors, lunch clubs, shops, etc.	☐
Befriending – popping round for a chat & cup of tea	☐
Form filling / letter writing / help with using a computer	☐
Collecting prescriptions, pensions, shopping	☐
Small household repairs / practical tasks (such as changing a light bulb)	☐
Pet-care / dog-walking etc.	☐
Being part of the phone rota / organising group	☐

Please print your name and address here:

Name:

Telephone/ email:

Please return this survey to: Premier shop, Tithe Barn Road, The Pharmacy, Folkes Road or the Library Lorraine Road

You can also complete here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/woottonGNS> or email to Debra.aitken@bedsrcc.org.uk



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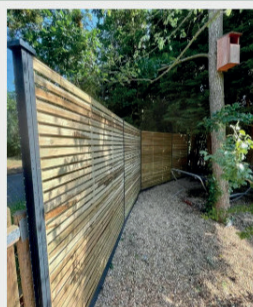
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Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 p.m. Wootton Village Hall, Church Road

Wednesdays 11.30 – 12.30 p.m. at Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way

Fridays 10 – 11 a.m. at Allsaints Hall, Church End, Kempston

Taught by BWY teacher with over 20 years experience.

More information or Book with Gen: 07849 158 850

1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



The Brigades at Wootton had a fantastic Summer Programme which included Water Sports, Wide Games such as Capture the Flag and culminated in our Annual Summer Camp, this time to St. Ives, Cornwall, where we had a brilliant week away and the sun shone throughout.

We are delighted to be welcoming 2 new leaders to our Girls' group in Sept. We restart on Thurs Sept 12th (for Girls) & Fri Sept 13th (for Boys)

We have a number of our older members, working towards the Kings Badge, the first time Brigade members have been able to do this since 1952, whilst others are taking on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



Girls: Thursdays
Boys: Fridays

Time:
6:00 - 7:30pm

1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW FOR SCHOOL YRS R-6

Wootton New Life Methodist Church
Cause End Road - Wootton

For more info please contact us on
bbgb1stwootton@gmail.com

We have age groups up to 18 years of age and some of our age groups are almost 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



Since December, with the support of the Methodist Church at Cause End Road, Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group meet at The Hub on Wednesday mornings, from 11-1pm. It is open to all ages, our youngest so far is 9 months and the oldest, 94 years. Our aim is to develop a sense of community that supports each other and fights social isolation. We enjoy homemade cakes, usually supplied by our fantastic bakers, Jean, Janet and Wowe, with various teas and coffees.

Since opening we are now averaging about 40 people each week and it has been great to welcome people new to Wootton. The toy corner is still noisy. Neighbourhood Chat Group is a wonderful place to come with friends and well-behaved dogs, or on your own.

On July 13th we held a Saturday coffee morning, combined with a homemade/homegrown produce sale, plus classic cars, including Ferraris, minis, and motorbike in the carpark. Great to see children being allowed to sit in the driver's seats. We raised £418 for the Wootton New Life Methodist Church for their support to the Group.

We have been joined by various people who can make our lives just a little better, including Mandy Setterfield, a social

prescriber, working with Wootton Vale surgery.

On October 7th we will be opening a monthly Memory Gym, from 2.30-4.00pm, for people who are living with memory loss, strokes, and dementia. Please get in touch if you would like more information about this project.

The Good Neighbour Scheme can help with transport issues for those with limited mobility Co-ordinator who have offered to help with transport issues to the group.

Wootton Neighbour Chat Group is open to everyone, we have our own Facebook page and Newsletter to keep people updated about the group and items of interest to the community.

Kath Pearce

19th July 2024



Bedford & District
Neighbourhood Watch
Charity No 1062009

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3. Home security and safety advice
4. Automatic registration to receive Neighbourhood Alerts by email
5. Information about local crime
6. Monthly e-newsletter from Neighbourhood Watch Network
7. Exclusive offers from Neighbourhood Watch Network; access to benefits and discounts
8. Invitation to Neighbourhood Watch, police and community safety events
9. Home insurance discount (some companies give a discount for Neighbourhood Watch members)
10. And more!

You can make a difference to the community and help make your area a better place to live.

To join, or for more information,

Website: www.ourwatch.org.uk/join

Email: contact@bedfordnw.org.uk





7TH OCTOBER 2024

MEMORY GYM

Helping people to live better with memory loss

Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group has weekly coffee mornings so people can meet their neighbours and friends whilst enjoying coffee and homemade cakes.

Now we are starting a memory gym, on the first Monday in the month, 2.30-4.00pm to support people in our community that have memory loss through age, stroke or dementia.

Sessions will be fun activities and there will be time for carers to come and share their experiences and enjoy tea and cake.

We are being supported in this venture by The Methodist Church and the Tibbs Dementia Foundation.

Can you give up some of your time to help?

Do you know anyone who might benefit from coming?

Please get in touch with Kath on 07757 911556

Wootton
Neighbourhood Chat
Group

We are opening a
Memory Gym

For people living
with memory loss

Monthly at The Hub,
Wootton Methodist
Church, Cause End
Road

7th October from 2.30-
4.00

WOOTTON
NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAT
GROUP

Wootton New Life
Methodist Church
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Wootton
MK43 9DE

01234 768222



Amphill & District Camera Club - 2024 Exhibition:

We're pleased to announce the upcoming Camera Club Exhibition, showcasing the talent and creativity of our members! Get ready to immerse yourself in a world of captivating visuals and artistic expression as we unveil the results of months of dedication and passion behind the lens.

<https://amphillcamera.club/2024-annual-exhibition/>

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday & Sunday, October 5th and 6th
- **Time:** 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- **Location:** Marston Vale Forest Centre

What to Expect:

- **Diverse Themes:** Explore a variety of themes ranging from landscapes to portraits, street photography to abstract art. Each exhibit tells a unique story, inviting you to see the world through the eyes of our talented photographers.
- **Print Images:** View the diverse gallery of our members' high quality printed images taken with the latest digital cameras and smartphones.

- **Digital Images:** Enjoy the projection of digital images as a slideshow.
- **Meet the Photographers:** Connect with fellow enthusiasts and the photographers themselves. Share insights, exchange tips, and celebrate the art of photography in a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere.

Join Us:

- Admission is free, so bring your friends, family, and fellow photography enthusiasts for a visit filled with inspiration and creativity.
- Don't forget to spread the word! Share our event on social media and invite others to experience the magic of photography with us.

If you don't want to wait until October we are very happy to welcome guests at our Thursday meetings, please use the Contact Link and get in touch.

Save the date and mark your calendars for a day of visual delight and creative inspiration. Let's celebrate the power of photography together!

See you at the exhibition!

Wootton Academy Trust

Exciting New 4G Sports Facility at Wootton Upper School



Exciting New 4G Sports Facility at Wootton Upper School

BREAKING NEWS



Wootton
Upper School

We are thrilled to announce that Wootton Upper School will be opening a state-of-the-art 4G sports facility starting in September 2024. This fantastic addition is designed not only to enhance the sports experience for our pupils but also to serve as a valuable resource for the entire Wootton village community.

The facility will be available for community use outside of school hours, providing a premier venue for sports and recreational activities. You can register your interest via email - lettings@wootton.beds.sch.uk.

This initiative emphasises our commitment to fostering a vibrant, active, and healthy lifestyle for everyone in our village. We extend our gratitude to the Wootton Parish Council for their generous financial contribution, without which this project would not have been possible. Their support is a testament to the strength and unity of our community, reflecting a shared vision for the well-being and development of all village residents.

The 4G sports facility promises numerous benefits - for Wootton Academy Trust students, it means access to top-tier sports training grounds, promoting physical education and team sports. For the wider community, it offers a versatile space for various sports and events, encouraging engagement and social interaction.

We look forward to seeing you at the new facility and witnessing the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on Wootton Upper School and our village as a whole. Together, let's make the most of this fantastic opportunity to stay active, connected, and vibrant.

Thank you, Wootton Parish Council, and thank you to our community for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. Here's to our first WAT Staff vs Wootton Community football game!

The Piano - *By Colin Zardin*

Detective Chief Inspector Jason Thomas sat down, and a worried expression crossed his handsome face.

He was frustrated, and he was mystified, to say the least. He had been certain that his forensics team would find the evidence he needed in this house. But they had found nothing. Not even the slightest trace of any drugs.

DCI Thomas had been serving in the Metropolitan Police for fifteen years, the last six of them in Scotland Yard's dedicated Drug Squad. His team was based at the main police station in Harrow.

About six months ago, there had been a sudden, and very drastic, increase in drug-related crimes being committed in the Wembley area. After a great deal of work, he and his team had narrowed down a housing estate in nearby Alperton as being a main point of distribution of drugs to the runners.

This estate was ideally suited to that purpose. Designed and built in the 1960's, the Alpen Estate, as it was called, was now very decrepit and run-down. It comprised four six-storey tower blocks, with eight flats on each floor, and twenty semi-detached and terraced houses. It was criss-crossed by footpaths and walkways that were very poorly illuminated at night, and the few CCTV cameras that were installed were usually not working, being seen as targets for vandalism by the local youths.

Following surveillance, DCI Thomas had made several arrests of the people who were distributing drugs on the streets, but this really served no purpose at all. Many of those arrested were just kids, and they were replaced within a day or so. They were too low in the food chain to help him in his quest to reduce the trafficking.

None of those apprehended could, or would, give him information about anyone higher up the organisation. He needed to know who was actually bringing the drugs into the area.

After four frustrating months, the DCI had a break. A uniformed PC had received a tip-off from one of his informants, regarding some suspicious night-time activity around 55 Park Lane, a house in a particularly upmarket part of Wembley. The PC had been called to a domestic incident next door to that house, at number 57 Park Lane, and had received the information from his "nark" as part of his follow-up to that.

Apparently, a spate of night-time deliveries to number 55 had begun some four months previously. These were made by small vans, and were frequent enough to annoy some of the neighbours. They were even claimed to have been the cause of the PC's "domestic incident" in the first place.

When DCI Thomas decided to check on who lived at 55 Park Lane, he was horrified at the information that came back. It was a Doctor Peter Willis, a well-known and respected retired GP.

Nevertheless, he arranged night-time surveillance of the property, and logged a specific pattern of deliveries by small vans.

He reported his findings to his boss, Superintendent John Williams. He was loath to authorise a search warrant at that time, because of Dr. Willis's high profile.

However, following a great deal more work, DCI Thomas was convinced that, unlikely though it appeared, Peter Willis was the man at, or near, the top of the organized crime gang bringing in the drugs.

He had to virtually guarantee this to Superintendent Williams when he again made the search warrant application, but on

the strength of his assurance, it was finally granted.

And so, at 3:30am that morning, Thursday 6th November, they had raided the house. Dr. Willis, in his silk pyjamas, had stood to one side, and they had searched. Everywhere. And found nothing!

So here, four hours later, DCI Jason Thomas sat, totally perplexed, dejected, wondering how he would explain this to his boss, and what this would do to his career.

Dr. Willis, meanwhile, stood smirking, making noises about discussing police harassment with his lawyer.

In his misery, the DCI swivelled on the stool, and lifted the lid. He was so swallowed up by his emotions, that he didn't notice the sudden spark of fear in the Doctor's eyes.

Idly, he put two forefingers on the keyboard, and played his entire musical repertoire – "Chopsticks".

Hang on! That was a strange noise when he played middle C!

He played it again, and again that note sounded muffled.

He lifted the main lid, and saw it. Tucked under some of the strings. The corner of a small white packet. Sitting just proud enough to lightly touch one of them.

He turned and looked at Dr. Willis's face, now green, and no longer smirking.

"Peter Willis, I am arresting you on suspicion of....."

And the proof was in THE PIANO.

E-Scooters



The Parish Council's Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group is very concerned that a large number of E-Scooters are illegally being ridden on roads and pavements in the village. They present potential risk of serious injury to pedestrians – particularly to older and disabled people.

The Government has defined E-Scooters as 'powered transporters'. Any person who uses a powered transporter on a public road, pavement, footpath or other prohibited space is **in breach of the law and is committing a criminal offence which can be prosecuted**. This can result in a substantial financial penalty, court costs and a victim surcharge.

The Safety Steering Group is referring this dangerous practice to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner requesting that there should be a strict enforcement of the law.

For more information on the current legislation on the use of E-Scooters see the Department for Transport website under 'Powered Transporters'. Here is the link: Powered transporters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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Wootton Upper School

Having taught at Wootton Upper between 2003 and 2010, returning as Executive Headteacher in June has been a dream come true in so many ways.

We have long talked of "a school proud of its community, a community proud of its school," and I have fond memories of my first stint here. Smashing students, lovely colleagues, and a supportive community. Incredible facilities and an amazing performing arts scene. And a real sense that anything is possible if you work hard enough for it.

I left Wootton in 2010 to set up what became Bedford Free School, now one of the top-performing secondaries in the country. After that I was lucky enough to work with many of the best schools and teachers in England, plus spend a couple of years advising government ministers in the Department for Education. It means that I return to Wootton not just older but hopefully a bit wiser, and hungrier than ever for our students to succeed.

From interactions with people so far, I know how ambitious everyone is for the school. We all know that it has many, many strengths. And we also all know that it can be an even better place to learn and work. I have been impressed by so much of what I have seen so far. Lots of great stuff is already going on. We have lovely students; wonderful, committed staff; fantastic facilities; healthy finances; and a community keen for us to succeed. The sky really is the limit.

Given all this, we are going to keep things simple and focus on the fundamentals: brilliant behaviour and the best curriculum possible. We can only do this with the support of families and the wider community – so if you are reading this, we need your help! If there is something you think we need to do or know about, good or bad, please get in touch. As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2025,

your feedback is as important as ever.

The team, led by Mrs McMorn, has been working hard to ensure that the next academic year is a successful one. We have some super colleagues joining us, including a few who are former students! Lots of work has gone into clarifying and simplifying uniform and behaviour rules, so everyone knows what is expected of them and can succeed in this regard.

There has also been some significant work done to the fabric of our school, to improve day-to-day life. Amongst other things, our dining room has been completely refurbished, as has another set of student toilets. And of course, we now have our phenomenal new 4G pitch, which is an incredible asset for both the school and the whole village.

Improvements will not stop there though. The intention is to work our way through the whole school over the next few years and refurbish or refresh the entire site. As you know, from September 2026 we will start taking students into Year 7, and over a few years we will grow from 900 students to 1350. This means more staff and classrooms too. We are well into the planning for this, to ensure that everything goes smoothly, and everyone benefits from the changes.

Before that happens, as I mentioned above, we will be celebrating an important milestone. September 2025 will mark 50 years of Wootton Upper School. Given how many thousands of students have been through the school, many of you reading this will have sent children to us or attended yourself. We would love for everyone to join in the anniversary with us, so watch this space as we firm up our plans. If you have any suggestions for this, or memories you would like to share, please let us know.

**Mark Lehain, Executive Headteacher,
Wootton Academy Trust**



Real Time Bus Timetable For Wootton

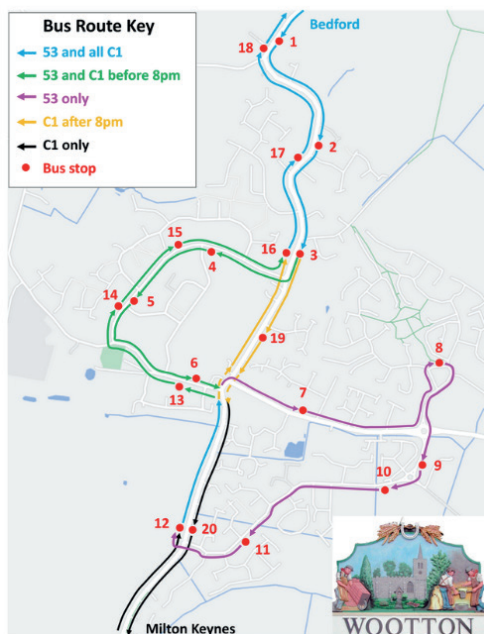


**Wootton
Live Bus
Times**

Need to know when the busses will arrive? Don't want to stand for ages at the bus stop waiting for a bus. Then check out our web page

<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/bus-timetable>

For those with a computer you can click on the bus stops on the map. For those looking on a tablet or phone, click at the list of stops below the map.



Above shows the map
with the bus stops

This section is for tablet/iPad or mobile users. Click on the bus stop below you wish to see the realtime passenger information

- 1 Bedford Road – Keeley Corner (SW bound)
- 2 Bedford Road – adj Elmsdale Road
- 3 Bedford Road – adj Potters Cross
- 4 Cause End Road – adj Tithe Barn Road
- 5 Cause End Road – adj St Marys Road
- 6 Church Road – adj Village Hall
- 7 Fields Road
- 8 Folkes Road – Bus Loop
- 9 Burgoyne Avenue – opp Lomax Gardens
- 10 Burgoyne Avenue – opp Steele Walk
- 11 Burgoyne Avenue – opp Buckworth Drive
- 12 Cranfield Road – Fields side
- 13 Church Road – opp Village Hall
- 14 Cause End Road – opp St Marys Road
- 15 Cause End Road – opp Tithe Barn Road
- 16 Bedford Road – opp Potters Cross
- 17 Bedford Road – opp Elmsdale Road
- 18 Bedford Road – Keeley Corner (NE bound)
- 19 Bedford Road – opp Fox & Duck
- 20 Cranfield Road – Development side

Above is the list of Bus stops
(click on bus stop)



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“Delivering high quality home care to local people, by local people, with a smile. After all, a smile is happiness you’ll find right under your nose!”

As we celebrate our 1st year of business, Liloom Home Care Limited would like to thank everyone who has supported us in this incredible journey so far and reflect on just a few of the highlights that make everyday a good day, filled with love, laughs and compassion.

Kicking off the year, we got our registration with our regulators CQC. It was a long and stressful process but so worth it in the long run and we now regularly support lots of people across Bedfordshire and many in Wootton.

We were awarded the Business Awards UK, Exceptional Customer Satisfaction category of the Care Awards 2024 in April of this year (2024) and have received all 5-star reviews of the personalised service we offer. Take a look at homecare.co.uk to see what people love about us!

Supporting people from all walks of life and those living with a variety of conditions, a key part of our daily work is supporting people to access their local communities. We are delighted to support both the Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group and the new Memory Gym being launched in October, supporting those living with memory loss and dementia.

Wootton really is a great place, with great community support networks and local organisations supporting us to live our best lives. Thank you to all of our customers, friends and family who have made this first year such a blast. We look forward to all the happy years to come.



Liloom Home Care Limited, Howbrook Farm, Wick End, Stagsden, Bedford, MK43 8TS

☎ 07538 053002

✉ info@liloomhomecare.com 🌐 www.liloomhomecare.com





Liloom

HOME CARE LTD.

DEMENTIA CARE

PALLIATIVE CARE

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

OVER 65'S

SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS

Delivering high quality home care to local people, by local people, with a smile. After all, a smile is happiness you'll find right under your nose!

Supporting service users across Bedford and surrounding villages.

Regulated by



VISITS FROM
30 MINUTES
TAILORED TO
YOUR NEEDS

Follow us on Facebook:



07538 053002

www.liloomhomecare.com

Activity	Day	Time
Rhyme Time Songs and stories suitable for cruisers (toddlers who are up and walking) to pre-schoolers. There will be lots of singing, waving scarves, and giggling!	Tuesdays (term-time only)	10.30am-11am
Bounce and Rhyme A relaxed, fun session for new-borns up to crawlers (little ones who are just starting to crawl). Each session follows a structure so you and your baby get used to coming along, hearing songs, and shaking musical instruments. And there are bubbles!	Fridays (term-time only)	2pm-2.30pm



Recently county-wide many people have been sent letters for speeding as recorded by Speedwatch volunteers. In June more than 700 letters were sent out as well as 15 motorists being visited by police as they had offended more than once. In addition 6 motorists were spoken to about excessive speed, something we recorded in our last patrol when one motorist was travelling at 50 mph in a 30 zone and had no intention of slowing down! Your dedicated Speedwatch Team - Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward, Anil Mistry and myself – have continued to carry out patrols down Bedford Road where 8 motorists offended in June and just the one in July. 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. 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 motorists who continue to speed through the village – mostly 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!

Drive carefully and enjoy whatever good weather we have!

Malcolm Chalmers
Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator



Forest of Marston Vale

Celebrating 18 Years of Excellence



We are thrilled to share that the Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park has once again been honoured with the prestigious Green Flag Award, marking our 18th consecutive year of recognition. This award is an international symbol of excellence, celebrating parks and green spaces that meet the highest standards in facilities, safety, and environmental management.

About our award-winning park

The Millennium Country Park, spanning 225 hectares, is nestled in the Forest of Marston Vale, located between Bedford and Milton Keynes. The Park is home to diverse habitats, including woodlands, meadows, and wetlands, along with a network of trails perfect for walking, cycling, and horse riding. At the heart of the Park is the Forest Centre, featuring a café, gift shop, children's play area, and toilets, including a Changing Places facility. Open year-round, the Park offers a variety of events for all ages, from tribute nights and children's activities to guided walks.

The Park is managed by our dedicated team of rangers, supported by a group of amazing volunteers who help with everything from



administration to habitat management, tree planting and events. The team also look after our 12 Community Woodlands across the Forest of Marston Vale, which provide valuable green spaces for local communities.

Our future plans

Senior Range Nicola said: "We are thrilled to have been awarded the Green Flag for the 18th year in a row. This achievement acknowledges the dedication our staff, volunteers, and supporters invest in maintaining and enhancing the Park. We are looking forward to further changes and improvements in the year ahead including the renovation of our Sensory Wildlife Garden"



We are currently raising funds to help with the renovation of the Sensory Wildlife Garden renovation. Find out more about the project and donate now.

Continued overleaf

Since our last Green Flag win, we are proud to have added a registered Changing Places Toilet at the Millennium Country Park giving more people the opportunity to enjoy the Park, connect with nature and benefit from time spent outdoors.

Head Ranger Anna said: "We are so proud to offer a beautiful and accessible place for people to enjoy nature and the outdoors, as well as contributing to the creation of the Forest of Marston Vale. Winning the Green Flag is something we never take for granted, it takes a real team effort and is a fitting tribute to the hard work of everyone who helps to make the Park such a success."

The national scheme recognising excellence in green spaces

The Green Flag Award Scheme is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. It recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

The Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park are among more than 2,000 sites across the country to collect the award this year.

K W Decorating

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Wallpapering

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Fully insured

References available

For a free estimate contact Kevin White

Tel: 01234 340335

Mobile: 07939 395423

Brennan School of



- o Ballet
- o Modern
- o Tap
- o Jazz
- o Contemporary
- o Hip Hop
- o Pointe
- o Flexibility
- o Musical Theatre

Classes available in
Bromham, Wootton and Great Denham

Places available for September.
Please contact : Brennandanceschool@gmail.com



Amp up your 'frenergy' this September

Local friendship group, Bedford Branch is inviting people to amp up their 'frenergy' this September by taking part in one of their special energy-boosting events for Friendship Month.

The non-profit group, made up of around 300 local members, says the events are being held to celebrate how good it feels to spend time in friendly company.

Secretary for Bedford Branch [Sarah Wetherell], said: "We know it all sounds a bit playful, but 'frenergy' – the unique energy you get from friendship – is real.

"When you spend time with people you like, or you share a common purpose, it lifts your mood. They don't need to be best friends, just people you get on with. We benefit from receiving frenergy, but we can also radiate it.

"Even the smallest interaction can provide a frenergy buzz such as seeing someone do something nice for someone else, or sharing a smile."

Friendship Month is the Oddfellows' annual festival of friendship. The campaign is held in September and encourages those looking to meet new people locally to give a community or social group a try, such as Bedford Branch

Sarah added: "These events are a perfect opportunity to top up your frenergy levels, and to give some back, too. Newcomers are always welcome."

This year, Bedford Branch is holding a number taster events across Bedfordshire which includes a

- Coffee and Chat at Frost Garden centre Willington on Wednesday 11th September from 11am
- Croquet Fun at Stoney Stratford Croquet Club on Saturday 14th September from 10am
- Branch Quiz Night at Kingston House, 106a Bedford Road Wootton on 17th September from 19:30.

Bedford is one of 99 branches of the Oddfellows, which is one of the oldest and largest friendly societies in the UK and aims to improve its members' lives through friendship and support.

To find out more about Bedford branch and its activities, email the branch secretary on sarah.wetherell@oddfellows.co.uk or call 01234 768914

More information about the Oddfellows and Friendship Month can be found at www.friendshipmonth.com.

Fill your September with friendship

ALL
WELCOME

WEDNESDAY
11
11AM

Coffee and Chat at Frost Willington

Frosts Garden Centre,
Sandy Road, Willington,
Bedford MK43 9JB

Join us for elevenses, whether it's just
a brew or a light lunch we'd love to
see you. Cost as per menu choice.



SATURDAY
14
10AM

Croquet Fun

Stoney Stratford
Croquet Club,
Ancell Trust Sports
Ground, Ostlers Lane,
Stoney Stratford MK11 1BN

Come along and play croquet, it's
great fun. No experience needed,
wear flat shoes and bring your
packed lunch. Cost £7.50.
Book by 6 September.

TUESDAY
17
7.30PM

Quiz Night

Kingston House,
106a Bedford Road,
Wootton, Beds MK43 9JB

Find out more about your local
Oddfellows. Join us for our monthly
quiz night, refreshments served.

Come and say hello!

For more information and to book contact
Sarah or Sue on **01234 768914**
or email sarah.wetherell@oddfellows.co.uk
or sue.doultonsmith@oddfellows.co.uk
f 5Shires

ODDFELLOWS
FRIENDSHIP MONTH
1 - 30 SEPTEMBER



www.friendshipmonth.com

The Oddfellows is the trading name of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited, incorporated
and registered in England and Wales No. 223F. Registered Office: Oddfellows House, 184-186 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WB



Welcome to our Autumn 2024 Newsletter!

Hello from the Bizzy Bees Team! We hope you have all had a lovely summer. We had a **wonderful** end to our summer term in July, enjoying the sunshine in our paddling pools and taking part in our activity week. We shared a special graduation celebration with our school leavers along with a **fantastic** trip to Thrift Farm. Wishing all the new school starters the very best of luck this September, we know you will be **amazing**!

The first week of term is **dedicated** to our current children, allowing them to settle back into the Pre-School routine. We are looking forward to hearing about everyone's summer adventures! We are also very excited to be welcoming our new starters this September, we feel **privileged** to be part of their early years education.

Bizzy Bees will continue to offer **hot lunches** on a daily basis which have been a huge success. They are a healthy, **nutritious** balanced meal which is extremely beneficial to a child's development.

We operate term time only Monday to Friday 8:15am - 3:45pm. We accept both types of 2-year-old funding and 3-4 year old 15 and 30 hour funding for all of our sessions except breakfast club. 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 (Packed lunch or order a hot meal)

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

September 2025 waiting list

If you would like to join our waiting list for September 2025 please get in touch. We welcome families to come and visit the setting, our wonderful Early Years Educators are happy to answer any questions.

Tel: 01234 767785

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

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

A Warm Welcome
Awaits you at
WOOTTON NEW LIFE
Methodist Church



Sunday Mornings



Service starts at 10:30am
Rev Michael Giles



Join us for Breakfast
from 10:00am



Treasure Seekers
10:30am - 11:45am
FREE ~ For Kids aged 4-11
Come &
'Seek the Treasure'

We have a number of groups that
meet during the week
& you'd be most welcome to come along

Mondays: Knit n Natter
Tuesdays: Bible Study & Prayer Group
Wednesday: Neighbourhood Chat
Thursday / Fridays: Girls' & Boys' Brigades



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

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

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

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

'For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals', please contact the Minister

Beds Prostate Cancer Support Group



PSA BLOOD TESTING EVENT

for detecting the EARLY SIGNS of
Prostate Disease

FOR ALL MEN AGED 40 AND OVER

Saturday 19th October 2024 | 10am - 2pm

KINGS HOUSE, 245 Amptill Road, Bedford MK42 9AZ

(plenty of free car parking)

Please register and book your time slot online at
www.bpcsg.org.uk

(and follow the link to select event)

You MUST have a time slot booked.

NO WALK IN APPOINTMENTS

You pay 50% of the cost of the test by entering the code BEDS50

BPCSG was established in 2014 by a small group of prostate cancer patients to provide support and encouragement to all men and their partners affected by prostate cancer. Our aims are to increase awareness of prostate cancer; to provide support and advice; to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Unit at Bedford Hospital.

**WE ARE
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CANCER UK**

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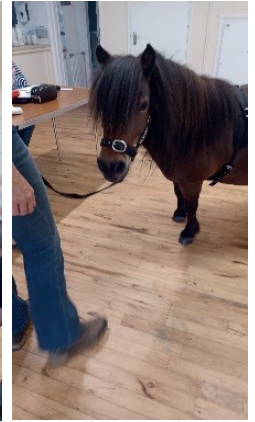


www.bpcsg.org.uk

This year suddenly seems to be racing by with school holidays behind us and nights drawing in.



drinks before playing a couple of games of giant Jenga. The weather even stayed dry for us.



Another dabble evening produced some lovely items, proving we have very talented members. These are popular meetings because it gives us a chance to catch up with each other as well as trying our hands at something new.

Future meetings are:

October 16th Quilts - The Patterned Path to Freedom. The story of how codes and quilts helped slaves to flee to Canada using The Underground Railroad.

November 20th - Games Evening

December 20th - Christmas Party with Jon Scott's Music Unlimited

All meetings are held in the Memorial Hall at 7-30pm. Visitors £5 all welcome. See our Facebook page Wootton WI Bedfordshire for information.

We had a successful games evening, not quite up to Olympic standard but lots of fun and laughter and possibly bending a few rules. We played beer pong, foosball, horseracing and mini-golf to name a few.

At our July meeting we had therapy ponies visit us, from Hitchin. They are the only true therapy registered ponies who are able to visit care homes and schools as well as groups like ourselves. In July we also held one of our 'Picnics on the Rec' where 14 of us met for cake, 'pimms' substitute and soft

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



At St Mary's Preschool we run Forest School sessions. We aim for our children to thrive holistically as well as academically. These sessions 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. St Mary's Forest School has a canopy and a log circle, where the children shelter from the rain and listen to stories and enjoy circle times and hot chocolate!



This term the children will go on a journey with the Little Red Hen. They will listen to the story of 'The Little Red Hen' accompanied by a set of puppets. Each child will take it in turns to have a puppet and take on the speaking role for their character. They will play with the puppets in our outdoor puppet theatre. They will be learning about growing corn and making bread. The Little Red Hen project will help the children explore a variety of numeracy related concepts, which include sorting matching, counting, recognising shapes and problem-solving.



Autumn is a fun time at St Mary's Preschool. Over the next few weeks the children will be gathering leaves, using rakes and brushes; and will be hunting for conkers, acorns and pinecones under the trees in our large, grassed garden. The children will be using the leaves to create artwork, leaf printing and leaf collage.

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

Children not eligible for funding – from September 2024 fees will be £5.25 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

1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



The Brigades at Wootton had a fantastic Summer Programme which included Water Sports, Wide Games such as Capture the Flag and culminated in our Annual Summer Camp, this time to St. Ives, Cornwall, where we had a brilliant week away and the sun shone throughout.

We are delighted to be welcoming 2 new leaders to our Girls' group in Sept. We restart on Thurs Sept 12th (for Girls) & Fri Sept 13th (for Boys)

We have a number of our older members, working towards the Kings Badge, the first time Brigade members have been able to do this since 1952, whilst others are taking on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

JOIN THE ADVENTURE

PLACES AVAILABLE NOW FOR SCHOOL YRS R-6

Wootton New Life Methodist Church
Cause End Road - Wootton
For more info please contact us on
bbgb1stwootton@gmail.com

We have age groups up to 18 years of age and some of our age groups are almost 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

Sundays



10am Morning Service

Join us on Sunday mornings!

You'll be sure of a warm welcome.

In person Children's groups available for ages 0-14. Tea and coffee served afterwards.

Online Services are live-streamed and available on our YouTube channel.



Lunch Club



1:15pm Second Monday of the month

Come to the Church Hall and meet new friends over a home-cooked meal. For everyone aged 50 and over.

Upcoming dates 9 Sept, 14 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 Dec



Harvest

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 22 Sept 10am at St. Mary's Church

Followed by Harvest Lunch

Visit our website to book for the lunch



stmaryswootton.org.uk



StMarysWootton



St-Marys-Wootton

stmary's
wootton



The Hub Wootton New Life Church

**Fri 27th & Sat 28th
September 2024**

10:00 - 12:00

Coffee, cake stalls and craft stalls

Come and support this great cause.

Cause End Road, Wootton. MK43 9DE
woottonnewlife.org.uk



Organised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

FIRES CAUSED BY E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER BATTERIES ARE CLAIMING LIVES.

The UK's leading charity on electrical safety is calling for tighter lithium-ion battery regulations for e-bikes and e-scooters following a surge in fires across the UK.



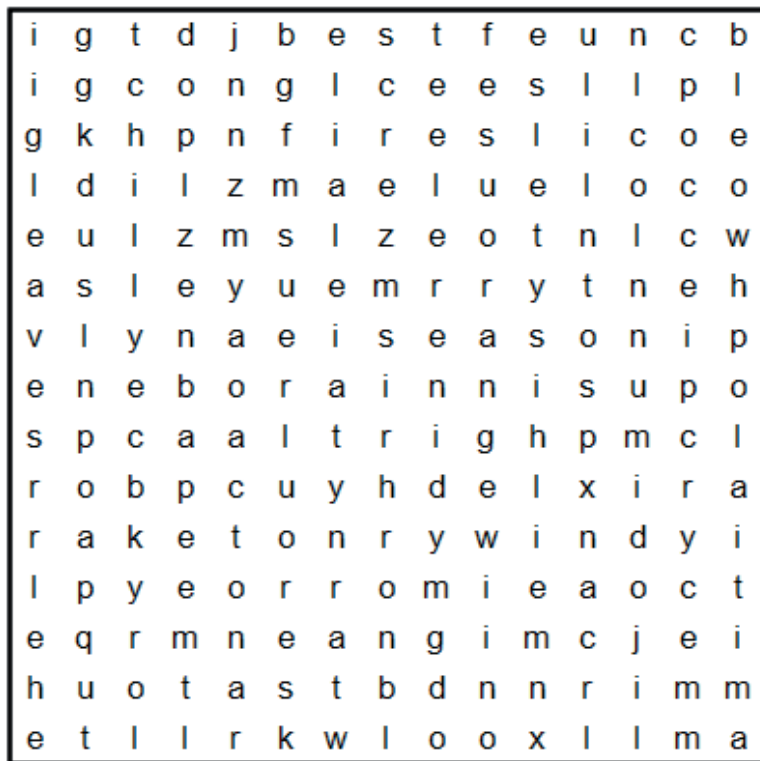
SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN TO SAVE LIVES.



To support, visit: bit.ly/batterycampaign

Autumn Word Search

Autumn, or Fall lies between the seasons of Summer and Winter. It is the season when the leaves change colour and are shed from the deciduous trees. Did you know that pumpkins were once believed to cure snake bite and remove freckles?



Word List

See if you can find the Autumn, Fall related words in our word search.

Acorn

Fires

Rain

Windy

Chilly

Leaves

Rake

Earthy

Orange

Season

Defibrillators around Wootton

