

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

AUTUMN EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2025



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

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Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Wootton Community Centre -

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Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings Church Road

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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

Sweet Peas: 767 185

St Mary's: 767 158

Wootton Community Nursery - Kayleigh: 07534 308 632

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Juliet Wright: 07590 449815

St Mary's Church

Canon Peter Ackroyd's replacement has yet to be announced

Church Hall: 767 158

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Rev Michael Giles: 930 882

Baptist Church

Tom Roberts: 07860 347 534

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 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 Memory Gym: Kath Pearce – 07757 911556

Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group -

Kath Pearce – 07757 911 556

Wootton Rangers FC - Jeremy: 07446 770193

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662

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Next Issue: December 2025

Copy Date: 1st November 2025

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



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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.

Chairman's Report *Gareth Lloyd*



Gareth Lloyd



Fun Fest

Another successful Fun Fest at the recreation ground back in July. This event only happens, thanks to a great team of helpers who assist me with organising and running the day. First, I would like to thank Mark Atkins and his sounds man, Wayne for organising the music for the day. A special thanks goes to D & G Noble Ltd for allowing us use of their lorry as a stage. Next, my thanks go to Sue Edgar Playford, John Wheeler, Donna Lincoln and Stuart O'Dell for their help before and on the day. I would also like to thank Umberto Zanna for organising the car display and helping to raise £700 for Wootton's Memory Gym. And finally – a massive thank you to everyone to attended on the day

Councillor

I would like to thank Victoria Richbell-Davies, who was a parish councillor for two years, but has had to step away to dedicate more time to her family. I would like to wish her the best and hope that she will return sometime in the future. We are actively looking for more people to join our council and help shape the future

of Wootton. If you are interested or want to find out more, don't hesitate to get in touch with the Clerk, Sue Edgar Playford or myself.

Changing rooms

As some of you will have noticed, work on the changing rooms has started. They haven't been used as worthy changing rooms for a very long time. We are therefore, adapting the building to suit current needs. To the front will be two toilets meeting accessibility needs, plus a small tuck shop/café. The rest of the building will be used as storage for the footballers, the parish council and Wootton Country Players. Solar panels will be installed alongside a battery unit, meaning the Parish Council can reduce its grid usage.

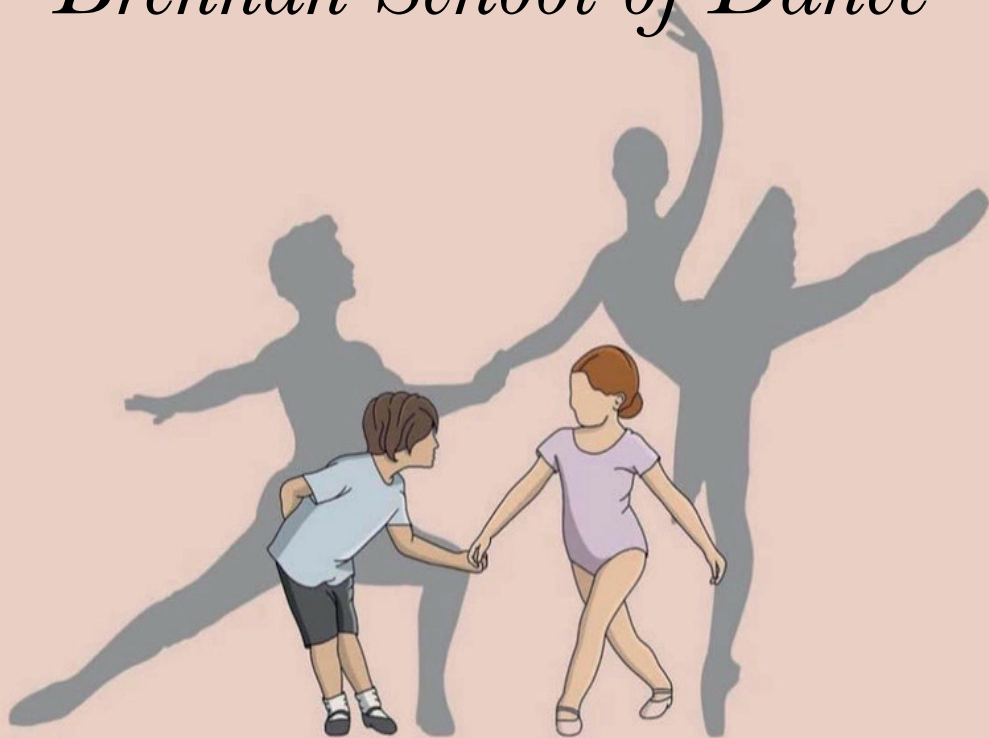
New Memorial Walls

We have built new memorial walls for the interment of ashes at Lorraine Road Cemetery. The new walls look fabulous, and I would like to thank local resident Terry for doing such a great job over the summer.

Remembrance Day Parade

This year the parade will be on Sunday 9th November. If any Club/Group/Organisation within the village who would like to join the parade, please contact me at **Gareth.lloyd@wootton-pc.gov.uk/07414 551820**. Can I suggest that you put your orders in early for wreaths to Chris Ashpole. Her gazebo sits proud on Fields Road!

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on
07974 458677 or Email @ Brennandanceschool@gmail.com

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



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

Fun Fest 2025! Where to start? Thank you so much to everyone who kept the faith, saw off the rain and came to our event! We were so worried Friday evening and early Saturday morning the rain would win, and we would need to cancel. The weather apps (of which there were many and all were different) were being checked every minute it seems (although, that was possibly just me). All stallholders and other attendees were put on notice Friday evening that a decision would be made first thing on Saturday morning. We made the decision to crack on, so I emailed everyone again just after 6am. We were eventually rewarded with sun in the afternoon which thankfully stuck around until sun down and I have received such positive feedback.

There are many people to thank so here goes:

- Firstly Mark Atkins – MCA Entertainment. I say it every time

but it's true – without Mark this event would not happen. Mark was ably assisted on the day by his sounds man, Wayne.

- Members of Wootton Parish Council – especially Gareth Lloyd, Donna Lincoln, Stuart O'Dell and John Wheeler (also Borough Councillor for Wootton and Kempston Rural) who did the lion's share of putting up and taking down our gazebo and marquee, plus fetching and carrying items to and from the Community Centre and Changing Rooms. Thanks also to Gerald Bygraves and Alex Swain who were not defeated by a lack of assembly instructions.
- Blake Stephenson MP, Mayor Tom Wootton and Martin Towler (Bedford Borough Council Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Communities: Health and Wellbeing) for coming along on the day and engaging with the event and attendees.
- Bert Zanna and Kath Pearce who oversaw the classic/vintage car display, raising funds for Wootton's Memory Gym.
- D&G Noble who once again generously gave us free use of their lorry as our live music stage.
- Every single person who either hosted a stall or attended on the day. The cakes on all stalls were heavenly!

Here is our pledge. We don't charge an entry fee for anyone attending this event. We do not charge stallholders to attend our event. We don't ever intend to. This is Wootton's Community Event, and we want everyone to come and enjoy the live music, stalls and Fun Fair. This year we provided free face painting, a free circus workshop, plus a free magician and the queues spoke for themselves. *Thank you to you all and here's to 2026.*

Our next calendar event will be Remembrance Sunday, which this year falls on 9th November 2025. If you would like to be involved or lay a wreath as part of the parade, do please let either myself or Cllrs Lloyd or Wheeler know. As always, Church Road will need to be closed in part for the duration of the parade and service. Thank you to everyone for your understanding.

Update from Wootton Village Agent



Village Agents provide a free, confidential service and are here to help people over 60 with a variety of issues – large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council. We are all DBS checked and operate in the strictest confidence. Andrea is the Village Agent for Wootton.

Support with Blue Badges - if you have a permanent disability or illness that limits your walking ability then you may be entitled to apply for a Blue Badge. This enables you to park in disabled bays closer to your destination. You don't have to be a driver to apply, you can use the badge in any vehicle as long as you are a passenger. Andrea can help you apply.

St John's Hospital Trust - Do you know about the St John's Hospital Trust Grant? It's a small quarterly payment of £75 that is granted to people on a low income who have little or no savings. That amounts to £300 per year. To qualify you must be over 60, not working and have lived in Bedford Borough for at least 15 years.

Disabled toilet access key - Some disabled toilets can only be used by people who have

a special RADAR key. If you have a disability that means you need to use a disabled toilet, call Andrea for a free RADAR key

Attendance Allowance – is a non-means tested benefit for people over state retirement age to help with extra costs incurred because of a severe illness or disability. You could get as much as £110.40 per week. Andrea can help you to claim if you think you might qualify.

Help with form filling – many older people aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Andrea can help identify which benefits you can claim by doing a confidential benefits check. We can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Attendance Allowance forms, Carer's Allowance, Council Tax Support and Blue Badges.

Please contact Andrea, your Village Agent
on Freephone: 0800 039 1234
or Email: andream@bedsrcc.org.uk

This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, and we aim to call you back within 48 hours.

Dates for your Diary 2025/26

SEPTEMBER

10th Sep 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
10th Sep 2025	Full Council	7.15pm
24th Sep 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
24th Sep 2025	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
24th Sep 2025	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

OCTOBER

8th Oct 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th Oct 2025	Full Council	7.15pm
29th Oct 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
29th Oct 2025	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
29th Oct 2025	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

NOVEMBER

12th Nov 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
12th Nov 2025	Full Council inc precept setting	7.15pm
12th Nov 2025	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	to follow FC
26th Nov 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
26th Nov 2025	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
26th Nov 2025	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

DECEMBER

10th Dec 2025	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
10th Dec 2025	Full Council inc payments & precept setting	7.15pm

JANUARY

14th Jan 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
14th Jan 2026	Full Council inc precept sign off	7.15pm
28th Jan 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
28th Jan 2026	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
28th Jan 2026	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

FEBRUARY

11th Feb 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th Feb 2026	Full Council	7.15pm
11th Feb 2026	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	to follow FC
25th Feb 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm

25th Feb 2026	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
25th Feb 2026	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

MARCH

11th Mar 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
11th Mar 2026	Full Council	7.15pm
25th Mar 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
25th Mar 2026	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
25th Mar 2026	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

APRIL

8th Apr 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
8th Apr 2026	Full Council	7.15pm
15th Apr 2026	Annual Parish Meeting	7.00pm
29th Apr 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
29th Apr 2026	Finance & General Purposes Committee	7.15pm
29th Apr 2026	Leisure & Amenities Committee	7.30pm

MAY

13th May 2026	Planning & Environment Committee	7.00pm
13th May 2026	Annual Council Meeting	7.15pm
13th May 2026	Full Council	to follow ACM
13th May 2026	Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group	to follow FC

Please note that the Roads & Pavements Safety Steering Group now meets quarterly, as detailed in the table above. A number of Roads & Pavement issues may be reported directly to Bedford Borough Council.

Please either visit: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/save-time-do-it-online> or call: 01234 267422.

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/>



Email: sue.abood@outlook.com

Phone: 07968 792862

It's the last few days of July 2025 as I'm writing this and I'm wondering where the year so far has gone. I can't believe that it'll be August by the end of this week and by the time you receive this magazine it will be September and my favourite season of Autumn will be beginning. I'm looking forward to the changing colours in the trees and the cool crisp mornings. There's also a certain smell in the air in Autumn which I love. I haven't enjoyed the incredibly rainy days in the year so far which invariably fall on the days I'm doing my councillor sessions, but my trusty waterproof pop-up fishing bivouac has come into its own on those days!

By the time you receive this magazine, results of exams taken will have been released. I hope that anyone who received results over the summer received the results they wanted whether that be at the end of a course, stage of learning or for progression onto further study. I am currently studying (a perk offered by my day job) and have just collected the results from the second year of my part-time degree so I appreciate the stress that the summer wait for results can bring. In fact, it took me straight back to the stress of waiting for my first degree results back in 1999! 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. According to figures released in the Higher Education sector, more students than ever are tending to use Clearing as their preferred method to find a university place instead of applying in the traditional manner to universities. And from September 2026, learners will also see the introduction of the Lifelong Learning Entitlement providing funding (loans) for courses and modules starting from January 2027 at level

4 (HNC/Certificate of Higher Education level) to level 6 (degree level), and these will be available for people from 18 up to the age of 60 to help them gain new skills and new qualifications at a time that's right for them, including part-time study alongside work.

I had a great time at the Wootton Fun Fest on the 19th July and hope you managed to make it along too. I was so glad that the weather cleared up after a very soggy morning, leaving a warm sunny afternoon. I understand that over £700 was raised towards the Memory Gym and Neighbourhood Chat Group which is amazing. It was also great to have a chat to the PCSO and PC that cover our area, highlighting some of the issues faced by residents both in Wootton and Kempston Rural. I was able to follow those discussions up with the local sergeants at the Police Priority Setting meeting held at the Police Headquarters on the 31st July. As always, the police would like to encourage you to report any information or antisocial behaviour to them via their 101 service over the phone or online. Police resources are often distributed based on data and so the more something is reported, the more resource may be allocated to it. If the police aren't made aware, they can't do anything about it.

Much of my time is spent answering queries from residents or working on casework for individuals or groups of people, as well as attending council meetings and reading the papers for both the committees I am on and also those I do not sit on. As we're now at the end of July, council meetings will pause for the summer break in August and restart again in September and by the time you receive this magazine we'll be back in the thick of it.

In the meantime, the Special Development Order application for the Universal Park is, at the time of writing, out for consultation. The council are one of the consultees and are currently pulling together their response to the application which will be voted on by a special extra full council meeting towards the end of August. By the time this magazine arrives with you, the consultation period will have ended and the application will be in the hands of government ministers who will make the final decision. We will be working hard to ensure that this is not a missed opportunity and that the Council puts in a meaningful submission with serious consideration given to the potential

impacts and how we can maximise the benefits for residents whilst ensuring residents' voices can be heard.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) which I sit on heard, at the beginning of July, from the East of England Ambulance Service Trust about their decision to close the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Bedford, though this still needs to be given final approval by their board in the Autumn. It is at this EOC in Bedford that some of the 999 calls for the East of England are answered. A report on the business case for the closure was brought to the meeting in July. The proposal going to the EEOST board is to keep the call handling centre in Norwich and to either refurbish the centre in Chelmsford or build a new one in Essex. The Bedford centre apparently has "significant limitations in infrastructure, space, and long-term viability" and so is earmarked for closure. The executives were keen to point out that residents should see no difference in service when calling 999 and asking for an ambulance. If the call centre in Bedford is busy, calls are already answered in both Norwich and Chelmsford for patients in Bedfordshire, with ambulances dispatched from local stations. This decision will unfortunately have an impact on the 103 staff employed at the Bedford site.

The committee also heard from the Chief Executive, Chief Nurse and Director of Midwifery from the Bedford Hospitals Trust on the improvements in maternity services following a CQC report in 2023 which branded maternity services as inadequate. The maternity services have been re-inspected by the CQC in June 2025 and positive verbal feedback was received while the formal report is awaited which should be released towards the end of the year. We were also told about the closure of the Blossom Homebirth Team within Bedford Hospital. This won't affect the access to homebirths - care will instead be provided by the community midwives going forwards - a model which was used previously. Having had a homebirth with one of my sons, I'm really pleased that home births are still an option for residents and that they will be well supported by the community midwives.

You may have heard that the local Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Integrated Care Board (ICB) which is responsible for NHS services in our area, will shortly be amalgamating with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB and the Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB (with West Essex splitting off and joining with another Essex

ICB). This reconfiguration is following a national directive in May 2025 to reduce running costs of the BLMK ICB by 50% by October 2025 - a significant sum in a short amount of time. The government has set a very short timeframe for this merger to take place and this new, much larger, ICB needs to be functional from 1st April 2026 onwards. The appointment of a new Chief Executive and Chair of the board is underway. It is currently unclear whether funding will remain at a local level or whether it will be controlled at a higher level within the new larger ICB, and it is hoped that as the merger progresses, issues such as these will become clearer.

The Council have also recently brought in external consultants from CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) to review the council's finances. Their report is due to be published shortly and so will be available by the time you receive this magazine should you wish to read it.

To finish, I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer and that all those young people starting school for the first time, moving to a new class, moving on to a new school, or starting university either close to home or far away, have a great start to the academic year.

Please do get in touch if I can be of any assistance to you. My contact details and details of my councillor sessions are below.

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 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, 10 - 11am opposite the Cross Keys pub in Wood End and 11.15am - 12pm at Gibraltar Corner.

Updates in cases of surgery date change, illness or bad weather 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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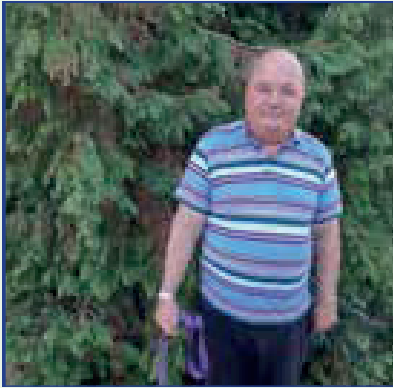
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Well, here we are approaching autumn; it seems only last week I was putting the Christmas tree away! It's been an odd time weatherwise since my last report; we seemed to have had everything except snow. It has also been a sad time with Wootton stalwarts leaving the village for pastures new. I am referring of course to Canon Peter Ackroyd of St. Mary's Church and Chris Tavener. I was honoured to be asked to say a few words at Peter's leaving service which was very well attended.

It gave me the opportunity to say a personal thank you and a thank you also on behalf of the community, who he has served for over 20 years or so. Peter will be missed – he has helped me over the years with various charity, school and parish events and has become a friend. Mr T. (as Chris is known in the village) is also a great friend who will be missed by many. He achieved a lot over the 14 years he was at Wootton Lower School – including a new school site, the two-tier conversion process, additional buildings at Bedford Road and the changes to academy status. His main achievement, however, is the joy he brought to children, parents, carers, staff and even governors! I wish them both well and I am sure they will make just as positive an impression in their new roles.

Wootton Parish Council held its annual Fun Fest in July, which started wet but ended as another great event. By mid-afternoon, many had turned out to support the event and enjoyed all it had to offer – from live music, food stalls, craft and cake stalls, plus the car show, face painting, magician and circus workshop. Many of those events were free to the public – demonstrating a great community spirit. It was also nice to see Mayor Wootton in attendance along with our MP, Blake Stephenson. They were spotted talking to many attendees and buying marmalade from the WI stall! A big thank you as always has to go to Wootton Parish Council – in particular Gareth Lloyd and Sue Edgar Playford and Mark Atkins (MCA Entertainment) and to everyone to attended on the day to help make this a great event once again.

A quick reminder that this year's Remembrance Day Parade and Service will take place on Sunday 9th November 2025. Fuller details will be available nearer the time, however the format will remain the same as in previous years. The parade members will meet at the village hall car park and parade to the War Memorial, ahead of the service, wreath laying and minute's silence at 11am.

The annual Bob Lunniss Christmas lunch will be held on the 3rd December 2025, again at Wootton Blue Cross. Tickets will be available from Wootton Blue Cross on 26th November 2025. Again, fuller details will be available nearer the time.

I am still working with the Parish Council to improve the roads and footpaths around the village. I recently completed a village tour with a Bedford Borough Council Highways engineer, the Chairman Gareth Lloyd and Clerk, Sue Edgar Playford. We examined all outstanding issues and are waiting to hear back on what areas Bedford Borough Council will look to carry out remedial works to (plus timescales). The flooding on Cranfield Road should be remedied in late September as new pipes have been laid in the adjoining ditch, which leads to the pond.

A general clearance of the area has also been undertaken.

We now have two new bus shelters on Burgoyne Avenue and are waiting to hear from Bedford Borough Council in relation to the Real Time Passenger Information Units, which should be installed at both venues. The Parish Council has also asked me to investigate the possibility of installing a defibrillator near the shelter closest to Cranfield Road, as that area currently lacks any such facility.

What was initially a temporary bus stop on Burgoyne Avenue (near the Berryfields roundabout) is now a permanent bus stop. I have requested suitable road markings and raised kerbs as a result.

I would like to thank the litter pickers who do a fantastic job in and round the village in keeping it clear of litter.

As at time of writing this report the Universal Destinations proposal is currently open for consultation and the Parish Council will be submitting comments in due course, to both Bedford Borough Council and Central Government (the proposal is being determined by the latter, in a change from the standard planning process). Myself and the Parish Council have been working with both Bedford Borough Council and Universal to ensure resident concerns are addressed. I hope to have a further update in the December edition of this newsletter.

Telecare

- Bedford Borough Council has approved the introduction of a £4 per week 4 (equivalent to 57p per day) contribution for its Telecare service to ensure the long-term sustainability of the service.
- Telecare supports vulnerable residents to live independently and safely in their own homes. In recent years, demand for the service has increased significantly, while associated costs have risen to a projected £448,000 for the current year - well above the allocated budget of £72,000.

- The small contribution will only apply to those most able to afford it as users on care packages will still receive the service at no additional cost.
- When compared to neighbouring authorities Bedford's charge is among the lowest in the country. For example:
 - Stockport: up to £10.85 per week
 - Milton Keynes: up to £14.86 per week

Kerbside Glass and Weekly Food Waste Collections

- Bedford Borough Council has announced forthcoming improvements to household waste collection services, including the introduction of kerbside glass collection for all households and a new weekly food waste collection service set to begin in April 2026.
- As part of the planned changes:
 - Glass bottles and jars will be collected via orange-lidded recycling bins at the kerbside, making it easier for residents to recycle from home.
 - Existing bottle bank sites will be gradually phased out, but only where appropriate. In relation to the bottle bank at the Recreation Ground (of which 100% of the revenue is passed to the local Wootton Poor's Land Charity to help residents of Wootton and Stewartby in financial need), I have requested this facility remain, in the hope residents will continue to use it to help this worthy cause.
 - A weekly food waste collection service will be rolled out to all households, with the aim of reducing black bin waste and increasing recycling of organic material.

Once again, thank you to everyone in the village who do so much for Wootton and its residents.



Cllr. John Wheeler

THE LAST RESORT

What on earth was he going to do about this problem?

He had planned everything with his usual, meticulous care.

Yet here he was, worried about every knock on his door, every sound he heard in the vestibule to his luxury apartment overlooking Hyde Park.

His Bentley was parked in the underground garage, and his small, but select, collection of classic cars was in storage in a specialist unit near Heathrow.

At the age of thirty-nine, Jack Peterson was a self-made millionaire who, until the previous month, had been completely content with his life, and his achievements.

And then, out of the blue, he had received the phone call. HER phone call.

She had sounded so lovely. She had such a sweet, sexy but soothing voice.

"Hello there, Mister Petersen. My name is Juliette. Juliette French. You don't know me, but I have been following your career avidly for a long time, and with much admiration.

"I have some information that I'd like to share with you, and would very much like to get together. Would tomorrow evening, at 7 pm, at your flat, be convenient?"

"How do you know about me? Where did you get my number from?" said Jack Petersen, concerned, but intrigued nevertheless.

"Oh, I have ways of knowing about lots of things, as you'll see you when we meet," said the silky voice. Tomorrow at 7 then?" Juliette purred.

Despite his concern, Jack was sufficiently intrigued that he replied "yes, all right," and hung up.

He had no shortage of women in his life - his glamorous lifestyle and handsome good looks ensured that. But he had always been a bit of a sucker for a sexy voice, so he was looking forward to seeing the girl (because

she had sounded very young) who matched the voice.

The following evening, at 7pm on the dot, came the knock.

When he opened his door, he had the shock of his life!

It wasn't so much her height, although she was at least six inches taller than Jack himself, and he was five feet ten inches tall!

No. It was her face!

Her skin was beautiful, but that wasn't what caught the eye.

She was absolutely *covered* in tattoos, and she had metal piercings *everywhere*.

Ear lobes, eyelids, nostrils, cheeks. *Everywhere*.

Trying to maintain his composure, he started to invite her in, but she had already stepped into the entrance hall.

Walking straight through the open door of the lounge, the girl, (for she was young, perhaps nineteen), sat down on a luxurious cream leather sofa, exposing a lot of shapely thigh in the process.

"Hi Jack. I'm Juliette. I've seen a lot of you over the last year or so, but it's great to meet you in person. I'd love a vodka tonic, please".

Rendered speechless by this demonstration of utter self-confidence, Jack went to the bar at the side of the room. He poured her drink, and a large single malt for himself, and took them over to where she was sitting.

"Sit next to me, Jack" said the silky voice. "I have something I want to show you".

From an elegant Louis Vuitton handbag, she withdrew a small tablet, and turned the screen to face him.

Jack watched in growing horror, as he watched the video of himself, (and it was very clearly him), as he entered the room in the museum where the Draco diamond was on display.

He saw his extremely competent picking of the lock on the display cabinet, the slick removal of the priceless jewel.

And his exit from the room. The whole theft had been completed in less than 2 minutes.

It was his raid on the museum two months ago!

He had only sold the jewel last week!

"Needless to say, this isn't the only copy of the video, Jack", purred Juliette.

"I have others in safe keeping.

"Now, I'd hate for this to fall into the wrong hands. Even with all your contacts, you couldn't avoid going to gaol, and I don't think you would prosper well inside, do you?

"Here's all you have to do to ensure that that doesn't happen".

Then Juliette laid out her blackmail terms.

They made even Jack Peterson's hardened eyes water.

"I'll give you until Saturday to make the transfer of payments Jack. Look forward until then".

With a light touch of her lips on his face, and a waft of extremely expensive perfume, she left the apartment.

So here he was now, with two days until Juliette's deadline, considering his options.

That she would carry out her threat to expose him, he had no doubt.

There was no way he could, or would, meet her terms though.

Despite his lifetime of (highly successful) crime, he had shied away from committing any violence, let alone murder.

What on earth was he to do?

If push came to shove, and as a last resort, he supposed he could marry her.

But oh! Those tattoos!

Colin Zardin

Contemplation Corner

- How did the person who made the first clock know what time it was?
- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- What disease did cured ham actually have?
- How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
- Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- If the black box recorder in an airplane is indestructible, why don't they make the whole plane out of the same material?
- If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they get Teflon to stick to the pan?

IT MEANS WHAT?

Have we all enjoyed the hot weather of late? "Swullocking" is an old adjective from 19th-century East Anglia and means overpoweringly hot.

Scared of spiders? They were once known as "attercops" or "poison heads" as they were thought to be venomous. The "cop" element became "cob" in cobweb. It's still used in some Yorkshire dialect.

Can't find your missing sock? "Ferhoodled" is from Pennsylvanian Dutch and means tangled or all mixed up.

Not looking forward to Monday? "Mubble-fubbles" was a 16th century word, used when someone had a fit of despondency or was suffering from low spirits.

Review of Wootton's Neighbourhood Development Plan

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REVIEW PROCESS

The Wootton Neighbourhood Development Plan, approved in February 2022, is due for its scheduled review. This review is a legal requirement and an essential process to ensure that the plan's policies remain effective, relevant, and aligned with the community's evolving needs.

WHY THE REVIEW IS IMPORTANT

The Neighbourhood Development Plan guides the growth and development within Wootton, addressing critical areas such as housing, infrastructure, the local economy, and the preservation of green spaces. By revisiting the plan periodically, the council ensures that:

- The policies remain on course and effective.
- Community needs and feedback are adequately reflected in the plan.
- Emerging challenges and opportunities are addressed proactively.

JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

The review process is a collaborative effort, and community involvement is vital to its success. If you are interested in shaping the future of Wootton and contributing to this important initiative, consider joining the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Members of the Steering Group will work to:

- Review the current plan and identify areas for improvement.
- Engage with the community to gather feedback and insights.
- Draft and propose updates to the plan as needed.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you would like to become a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, please email the Clerk to the Council at Clerk@Wootton-PC.gov.uk. This is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact on your community and contribute to Wootton's continued development and well-being.

NEXT STEPS

Further updates and details about the review process will be shared in due course. For now, we encourage all interested members of the community to step forward and join this vital initiative. Your voice matters, and together, we can ensure that Wootton remains a vibrant and thriving place to live.



Poetry Afternoons at Wootton Library

Calling All Poetry Lovers

During May, June and July, Wootton Library has been hosting our newly formed poetry group. I am delighted to say that this has been a great success. Enthusiasts have come along to share their favourite poems or read their own work.

We have enjoyed a wide range of verse, traditional and modern, including John Masefield, Roger McGough and local poet, Rebecca Cook. Our meetings are very informal and end with social time, tea and biscuits being provided by library staff

**We meet on Monday afternoons
2.15- 3.45 in term time.**

**Dates for Autumn Term:
Sept 29th, Oct 20th Nov 24th. Dec 15th**

**Our topic for 29th Sept is:
THE TURNING OF THE YEAR OR NEW
BEGINNINGS**

Do come and join us!

**Bring along 1 or 2 poems to share or
just relax and listen!**

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BOOK NOW !

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www.naocatteryservices.co.uk

Bramble Lodge, 29 Oakley Road, Clapham, Bedford MK41 6AN

Boarding charges per day are :

1CAT £8 - 2CATS SHARING £12- 3CATS SHARING £15

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**Forest of
Marston Vale**

What is a forest?

Written by Luke Quenby, Community Forester, Forest of Marston Vale Trust

What is a forest? - It's a question we often get asked, being the 'Forest of Marston Vale'. Many people associate the word forest with a thickly wooded and dense area of trees as far as the eye can see, but as with many things in the English language, there is a bit more to it than that.

Anyone who has visited the New Forest in Hampshire, probably one of our more famous forests in the UK, will know that there are huge areas of open space and heathland, as well as fields, farms, town and villages. The word forest derives from the Old French Forest or forès, denoting "forest, vast expanse covered by trees". However, forest was first introduced into English as the word denoting wild land set aside for hunting, without necessarily having trees on the land. Possibly a borrowing, probably via Frankish or Old High German, of the Medieval Latin foresta, denoting "open wood".

So, it seems that forest is an old-fashioned word used to denote an open area for

traditional royal hunting grounds, and it so happens that a lot of these areas contained woodlands within them.

The importance of coppicing

These woodlands would have often been managed in a coppicing system. Coppicing is an ancient form of managing woodlands and is the practice of cyclically cutting the stems of a broadleaf tree close to the ground. All broadleaf species can be coppiced, and if the growing conditions are ok and the browsing pressure isn't too high, they will regrow from the base, sending up multiple stems with great vigour to grow on. These bases are known as stools, and some of the oldest stools in the country are over 1000 years old and still being cut today.

One of the most well-known and favoured species for coppicing is Hazel, which is what we predominantly have in Holcot Woods — an ancient woodland that we have only recently begun to manage. Other well-known species

that undergo this kind of management include Ash, Oak, Lime, Sweet Chestnut, Hornbeam, Alder, Birch, and Willow.

Geographical influences

Many of these types of wood have geographical strongholds, although Hazel is popular nationwide, and they can all appear all over the country. Sweet Chestnut for example, generally believed to have been introduced by the Romans from Central Europe, is very popular in the southeast due to the higher sunshine hours and warmer climate. Oak coppice is more popular in the livestock rich areas in the north and west of the country, where the bark would be stripped to be sold into the leather industry and the actual timber would go on for secondary processing. Hornbeam was the wood of choice pre the industrial revolution for cogs and gears in mills, having the hardest wood of any tree found in Europe. The name Hornbeam derives from old English of 'horn' meaning hard and 'beam' meaning tree. It is also very popular for firewood and charcoal due to its high calorific (energy producing) value.

Industry and woodland: a symbiotic history

A lot of symbiotic relationships with other centres of industry often emerged, Sweet Chestnut being prevalent in the southeast, which is where most of the hops were grown,



giving a ready market for the coppiced poles. Alder, a favoured riverbank tree, also has remarkable durability when submerged in water (but very little out of it) and is the wood of choice for any riverbank work. Oak coppice was often found around areas of brewing and leather processing. Hornbeam could often be found growing in areas where there was a lot of water or windmills.

All of this gives rise to the question, were the ancient woods we see today managed for the benefit of the industries, or did the industries naturally evolve and gravitate towards the woodlands because of the raw material available? A kind of chicken and egg scenario, but what we do know is woodland management in one form or another, and either intentional or fortuitous has been being practiced for thousands of years.

Historically, many place names derive from the woods that were growing around them, and it is quite common to see a tree name or reference in a place name. In our own area there is Wootton, which used to be known as 'Wood Town' as well as Wood End. Copse (small woodland) and Hurst (meaning surrounded by wood / trees) are two of the most popular parts of place names, and there is also often a nod to the associated industries in a place or even surname (Cooper, Fletcher, Underwood, Woodman, or just Wood!) In certain areas of East Sussex Alder is referred to as 'Napoleon's Wood', due



to the high quality of charcoal it produced which in turn went on to be used to make first rate gunpowder for use in the Napoleonic wars.

Diversify and management within the woods

Within a single wood it is not uncommon to find a multitude of species being grown and methods of management being used. Sweet Chestnut on the sandy, lighter soils, Hornbeam on the heavier, clay soils. Hazel scattered throughout, Oak standards, Alder and Willow in the wetter areas near streams, rivers, lakes and valleys. Birch, as a true pioneer species, cropping up in recently cleared areas and Lime growing along the rides where it could reach its full height potential. As well as this there would be areas growing prime Oak in rows and softwoods. Often you will also see 'marker trees', trees in ancient woodlands of a totally different, and often evergreen species such as Holly or Yew, growing at a crossroads or ride entrance within a wood, like a living signpost. There is a great marker Oak tree in Holcot, far bigger than the rest, on the crossroads of an overgrown old ride in the Hazel area.

Learning from the past

What we can see is that our ancestors knew a lot about soil types, growing conditions, species choice and wood uses, many centuries before the invention of interactive maps, tools and technologies that make life easier



for the forester of today. Woods were places of great industry, and vital sources of fuel and materials for local trades, and nothing went to waste. While we are now used to woodlands as generally being places of quiet enjoyment and recreation, a few generations ago they were places of great activity and work.

Whilst there may not be the call for raw materials, skills and crafts associated with woodlands today that there once was, coppice products have been enjoying a resurgence for some time. As we become more aware of single use plastics and carbon footprints and the impact of our everyday activities on the environment, woodland and coppice produce play a part in helping reduce the burden of fossil fuel-based produce.

Our ancestors had the right idea and approach to woodland management, and as we move through the 10-year plan of restoring Holcot Wood, we are already beginning to see the changes and differences within the woodland. The Hazel and Ash are being felled to restart the coppice cycle, with the wood being processed for hedge laying materials, bean poles, charcoal and wood fuel and the light, even at this time of year, is filtering nicely through the canopy. The veteran Oaks have been released from competing underwood to allow them to thrive and many of the Hazels have been left with a single stem uncut for layering. We've seen the positive effects on the ground flora and also as the Hazel reaches thicket stage, there will be a myriad of nesting sites for birds and associated biodiversity gains.

Find out more about the Forest of Marston Vale Trust. Visit: www.marstonvale.org

Fun Fest 2026 - are you a local food provider?

Celebrating Culinary Creativity in Our Community

Fun Fest 2026 is on the horizon, and we are delighted to announce an exciting opportunity for all local food providers, culinary artisans, and gastronomic enthusiasts within the village.

We are looking to tap into the considerable talents of our local community in terms of food provision for 2026. As many of you know, the BBQ is provided by the local Scout Group and Ice Cream Joe is a resident also. Our pasty lady and coffee cart don't

have far to travel either, but are you a local food provider who would like to attend? Sweet or savoury – if there's a gap in our market, we would love to hear from you. Wootton's Fun Fest 2026 is the perfect venue to showcase your talent and products, whilst inspiring others to appreciate and support local food.

If you are interested in having a stall at this event, please contact the Clerk to the Council, Sue Edgar Playford via email at: Clerk@Wootton-PC.gov.uk or on mobile: 07531 930788.

The Hub Wootton New Life Church

Fri 26th & Sat 27th September 2025

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.

Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society

News and Forthcoming Events

At SAODS, we are currently in the throes of rehearsing for this year's major production 'The Merry Widow,' by Franz Lehar. For this production, we are very fortunate to have the services of Liz Bottone as our Musical Director and Gordon Hodges as our Director. Both Liz and Gordon are classically trained performers in their own right and make an inspiring duo. They are ably assisted by our highly valued and talented accompanist, Pam Rogers. We are currently looking for an assistant for Pam, so if you feel you could help us at all, do get in touch.

The Show will be performed at Stewartby Village Hall 12th-15th November. We are also in need of volunteers to help with front of house, backstage, bar and refreshments, so please let us know if you are able to support us.

Each year, SAODS hold several grand jumble sales in order to raise funds to help cover costs. Our next jumble sale will be held at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Saturday 18th October. If you have any donations, please contact SAODS and we will arrange collection. On the day, we serve delicious home made cakes and scones with tea or coffee so do come along, have a rummage and enjoy delicious refreshments.

Please see our poster(attached) for details of 'The Merry Widow' and photos of Liz Bottone conducting some rehearsals. The box office is now open.

For further details of all the above events, please contact us on **www.saods.org.uk**

Do come along and support your local Amateur Operatic Society



The Merry Widow

by Franz Lehár

Director
Gordon Hodges

Musical Director
Liz Bottone



Stewartby Village Hall
12th - 15th November 2025

www.saods.org.uk

@StewartbyOperaticSociety



Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward Report 2024/2025

This report gives a summary of the work we have done for clients of Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025. This also provides details of the outcomes achieved following our advice.

Statistics 2024/2025

During the last reporting year, the financial outcomes achieved for clients in Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward was £62,162, this was a significant increase of 326% on the previous year. On average Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward residents seeking advice had more than 3 issues each. Sometimes the issues have been interrelated and other times they have been unconnected to the issue that they were first seeking advice about.

The most prevalent issues faced by our Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward clients were:

1. Benefit advice
2. Debt
3. Relationships & Family
4. Utilities & Communications
5. Financial Services and Capability

2023/24 Vs 2024/25

The table below shows that the number of clients in Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward has increased compared to the previous

year. Some of the outcomes that our advice has helped achieve for these clients can be measured financially and this figure saw a 326% increase on the previous years total.

	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of Clients	60	89
Issues	224	321
Top 3 Issues	- Benefits - Relationships & Family - Debt	
Total financial outcomes	£14,561	£62,162 ↑ 326%

Outcomes 2024/2025

During the year we saw a huge increase in the successful outcomes that we helped clients achieve. This highlights the importance of clients having access to quality professional accredited advice to ensure that benefit applications are done in conjunction with advice and debt solutions are appropriate and sustainable.

We helped our Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward Clients to achieve the following financial outcomes:

- £43,991 of income gained.
- £290 of food parcels were provided by the local foodbanks due to referrals that were made through our service.
- £17,521 of debts written off
- £360 of debt repayments rescheduled.

The following graphic shows a summary of activity, issues, outcomes and profiles of Wootton & Rural Kempston Ward residents accessing our service during 2024/2025.

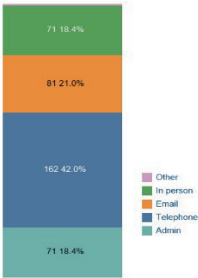
Summary

Clients	89
Quick client contacts	
Issues	321
Activities	386
Cases	119

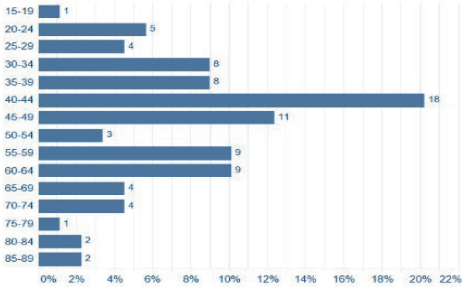
Outcomes

Income gain	£43,991
Re-imbursements, services, loans	£290
Debts written off	£17,521
Repayments rescheduled	£360
Other	£0

Channel



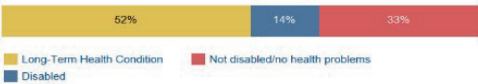
Age



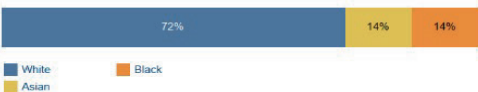
Gender



Disability / Long-term health



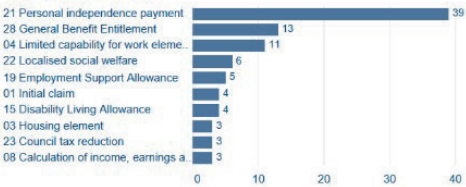
Ethnicity



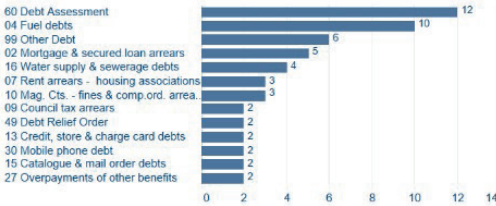
Issues

Issues	Clients
Benefits & tax credits	74
Benefits Universal Credit	25
Charitable Support & Food Ban...	9
Consumer goods & services	18
Debt	65
Education	1
Employment	4
Financial services & capability	19
GVA & Hate Crime	4
Health & community care	8
Housing	19
Legal	9
Other	2
Relationships & family	40
Travel & transport	1
Utilities & communications	23
Grand Total	321

Top benefit issues



Top debt issues



Summary

This year we have been able to achieve some fantastic outcomes for our clients through providing them with quality advice when they most need it.

With further resource we could do so much more. As a charitable organisation we rely on funding to deliver advice and casework that is free to those accessing it. If you can support the work we do through grants or donations then we would be most grateful as it will help us to achieve even more for our clients.

New Parking Regulations on Fields Road: Ensuring Safety for All

Bedford Borough Council has taken decisive action at the request of Wootton Parish Council, to improve safety and accessibility along Fields Road by addressing issues related to illegal parking on the widened pavement. This area, designed as a shared space for both pedestrians and cyclists, must remain clear at all times to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone who uses it.

INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE

To prevent vehicles from using the pavement as an informal car park, the Borough Council has installed "No Verge and Parking" signs along the length of the widened pavement on Fields Road. These signs serve as a visible reminder that parking on the pavement is strictly prohibited. The same enforcement has also been applied to all side roads, off Fields Road.

TICKETING AND ENFORCEMENT

Bedford Borough Council is now issuing parking tickets to vehicles found in violation of the new regulations. Enforcement officers routinely monitor the area, and any car parked on the pavement is now liable to receive a penalty notice. This step is intended to maintain the integrity of the shared space and promote responsible parking habits in the community.

SHARED PAVEMENT: PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

The widened pavement on Fields Road is a shared pathway designed for pedestrians and cyclists alike. Unauthorised vehicle parking compromises the safety of these users, forcing them into potentially hazardous situations or onto the carriageway. Keeping the pavement clear (all pavements to be fair), is essential to ensuring a safe, accessible route for all, including families with prams, children, elderly residents, and those with disabilities.

Wootton - W9

Since the last Wootton News we have been entertained by Lisa Garrity, who showed her musical talents on many different instruments, some quite unusual, Lisa had brought some handbells for us to try and got us playing Happy Birthday on them. Watch the video on our Facebook page to see how good we were!



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue talked to us about how to avoid danger in our homes. Ewa Depka explained how to deal with certain types of fire and the dangers of leaving mobile phones or tablets charging unattended. I was unaware of the damage that can be done to the lithium battery in these devices if they are dropped and this can lead to them being unstable and could cause them to catch fire. Do book a fire safety check for your house and the fire service will help with installing up to date smoke and heat detectors, all part of a free service they provide. We have also learned about scams and how to spot them when Veridiana Grainger came to speak about them, again another useful talk.

We held a cake stall at the FunFest in July, in the rain and then sunshine. Thank you to all those who made cakes and preserves for us to sell and also to the customers who supported us. Another brilliant day organised by the Parish Council along with Mark Atkins which is greatly appreciated. Future meetings will see us doing crafts, listening to a female bomb disposal expert and making our own floral arrangements. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page, Wootton WI Bedfordshire for announcements of each meeting.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Memorial Hall, Bedford Rd at 7-30. We enjoy greeting visitors, who can attend for a fee of £5, tea coffee and biscuits provided. Check out our Facebook page for upcoming events, Wootton WI Bedfordshire.

Support the replacement Woottonvale surgery

The Issue

For nearly two decades, the residents of Wootton have relied on a surgery that was originally intended as a temporary solution. Over time, this facility has become increasingly outdated and deteriorated. Practice management has reported that maintaining the aging building now requires a growing share of NHS funding resources that would be better spent on patient care.

Although the local council has identified both funding and a suitable location for a new, permanent facility, the BLMK Integrated Care Board (ICB) has not yet approved or supported this vital development.

The current surgery is no longer adequate for the needs of Bedford's expanding population. A modern, purpose-built healthcare facility is essential to provide the quality of care our community needs. The limited space and outdated infrastructure hinder both patients and staff, reducing the efficiency and standard of care available.

Local health data shows that the population in our area has grown significantly over the past twenty years. Yet the healthcare services have not kept pace. This shortfall places the health and well-being of thousands at risk.

The local council has fulfilled its responsibilities by securing funding and identifying a viable site. However, without the support of the ICB, progress cannot move forward. It is crucial that the ICB acknowledges the urgency of this issue and works with local authorities to deliver a permanent solution.

We are calling on the ICB to act now and support the funding and construction of a new surgery for Wootton. Our community has waited long enough. Please sign this petition to help us ensure that local healthcare services are fit for the future.



Lewis Ephraim Lambert

Many of you may have seen in the newspapers or on social media, the recent news that remains of eight British soldiers were laid to rest in France on 16th July 2025, more than 108 years after their tragic death in the First World War.

Four of those British soldiers were identified as Corporal Alfred James Marrant and Private Henry Joseph Rycraft of the 11th Battalion The Essex Regiment, who were killed on 22 April 1917, and Private Arthur Albert Grayston and Private Lewis Ephraim Lambert of the 8th Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment, who were killed on 19 April 1917. All four men had previously been commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the missing.

Private Lewis Ephraim Lambert was born in 1897 in Wootton. He was one of four sons born to George William Lambert and his wife Caroline. Before enlisting into the Army, he worked as a farm labourer and he was only 19 years old at the time of his passing.

Does anyone know more about Private Lambert? We would love to share your story in this newsletter. Or do you have your own story to tell in relation to the other brave souls who are honoured on our War Memorial? Please contact the Clerk to the Council if you do.

We will remember them.



Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

Item	Location	Deadline	Any other information
Beacon	Land near Harris Way sports pitches	2025	WPC has secured permission from Greenbelt Holdings Ltd to site the beacon on land adjacent to the Harris Way sports pitches. Works should commence once Greenbelt Holdings Ltd confirm receipt of the necessary paperwork. When in place, the beacon will be used at significant ceremonial events and occasions
Changing Rooms renovations	Church Road	2025	WPC has appointed Lindum Peterborough Ltd 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. We anticipate works will be ongoing at the time this newsletter goes to print
Covanta (now Encyclis) Incinerator	Stewartby parish	Ongoing	Visit the following links for fuller information: BACI's website: https://bedsagainstinclinerator.wordpress.com/ ; BACI's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks ; Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility's website: www.rookerysoutherf.co.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 (possibly two) lecterns within St. Mary's Churchyard. One will denote where The Gaol once stood and the other will provide information on St. Mary's itself
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

Item	Location	Deadline	Any other information
Lorraine Road Cemetery Memorial Wall	Lorraine Road cemetery	2025	Rather than one continuous wall, WPC determined with Terry Ellingham to build three smaller ones, to allow for the sloping grounds within the cemetery. These have been completed and will become available for use once the older memorial walls have been fully utilised. Talks are currently ongoing in relation to building a further wall with left over, unused materials
Neighbourhood Development Plan	The whole civil parish of Wootton	Ongoing	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
Roads and Pavements	Throughout the village	Ongoing	The Roads and Pavements Safety Steering Group meets every quarter after the conclusion of Full Council, in February, May, August and November. 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)

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.

Library

Here are days and times for regular events at Wootton Library from September:

ACTIVITY	DAY	TIME
Rhyme Time	Tuesdays (term-time only)	10.30am-11am
Bounce and Rhyme	Fridays (term-time only)	2pm-2.30pm
Building Block Play	Fridays (term-time only)	2.35pm-4.30pm
Lego Club	Saturdays	11am-12.30pm

POETRY AFTERNOON

Bring along a couple of your favourite poems to read and discuss with the group, or just come and listen. Refreshments will be available. Everyone welcome.

2.15pm-3.45pm

September 29th / October 20th / November 24th / December 15th

Monthly Memory Gym : Wootton is Open ● ● ● ●

Supporting people with memory loss in our community

Do you, or someone you care for, live with memory loss caused by:

- **Age related changes**
- **Stroke**
- **Brain injury**
- **Dementia?**

Come and join our Memory Gym - a friendly, welcoming group offering stimulating activities and support.

What to expect:

Gentle fun activities to stimulate memory - quizzes, singing, light dancing, and conversation.

An opportunity for carers to meet others, share experiences, and enjoy tea and cake in good company.

Everyone is welcome - whether you're living with memory challenges or supporting someone who is.



Neighbourhood Chat Group

**Wootton New Life
Methodist Church
Cause end Road
MK43 9DE**

07757911556



**1st Monday of the Month
from 2.30 - 4pm**

**Also weekly
coffee mornings
Wednesdays
11am - 1pm**

**Meet
neighbours and
friends for coffee
and homemade
cakes**

**(suggested
donation £1)**



A Summer Full of Connection and Community Spirit!

It's been a joyful and busy few months for the Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group (WNCG) and our Memory Gym, filled with laughter, music, cream teas, and, as always, a strong sense of community.

Raising a Cup and Funds for Dementia UK

Back in May, we and the lovely residents of Hanover Court, both hosted Coffee Mornings, all in support of Dementia UK's "Time for a Cuppa" campaign. Ours had classic cars, cakes, plants and a nearly new clothes sale. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised over **£1,000**.

A Train Trip to Remember and Afternoon Tea to enjoy

Also in May, some of our Memory Gym members and their carers enjoyed a very special outing: a charming train journey with live music and a cream tea at Ridgmont Heritage Railway Station and Museum. It was a magical day full of shared memories. We're also grateful to Ridgmont Heritage Tearooms for bringing their afternoon tea experience to The Hub.

Funfest and Fundraising

Despite a very soggy start to July 19th, the sun eventually came out for the Wootton Funfest! Thanks to the incredible efforts of **Umberto Zanna and Rita Stockwell**, we raised around **£700**, which will help us to continue to organise inclusive and cheerful events for the Memory Gym and our Chat Group.

Future Trips

We are planning another train trip, in October, from Bedford to Bletchley, then returning to Ridgmont Heritage Railway Station and Museum for a buffet lunch before returning to Bedford.

We have the opportunity of using a community bus on a Friday to take people shopping to the Interchange Retail Park. We will keep people updated on our Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group Facebook page.

Looking Ahead... and a Special Celebration!

We are excited to announce that in **December**, we will be marking two milestones: the **second anniversary of the Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group** and the **first anniversary of the Memory Gym**, and we will be celebrating with a party! More details to follow, but we'd love to see as many friendly faces as possible.

Looking to the future, we would also love to collaborate with other local groups and organisations for more joint events in 2026. If you are part of a group and would like to join forces, please do get in touch.

Come and Join Us!

The Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group meets **every Wednesday**, and the **Memory Gym runs on the first Monday of each month**. Everyone is welcome, whether you're popping in for a cuppa, looking for company, or just want to join in the fun. We are here to make life that little bit brighter.

Finally We have a number of Wootton residents that would like to come to The Memory Gym but need help with transport. If you have a few hours a week to spare, please consider volunteering with **The Good Neighbour Scheme**, contact **07717770247**





WOOTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAT GROUP'S MONTHLY MEMORY GYM IS OPEN

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.

Our 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 including quizzes, singing and dancing and chatting. There is time for carers to come and share their experiences and enjoy tea and cake.

Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group

The first Monday in
the month our
Memory Gym is open

For people living
with memory loss

At The Hub, Wootton
Methodist Church,
Cause End Road

1st Monday of month
from 2.30-4.00

WOOTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAT GROUP

Wootton New Life
Methodist Church
Cause End Road
Wootton
MK43 9DE
Tel 07757911556

A weekly coffee morning for Wootton residents.

We are so proud that our group and our monthly Memory Gym are flourishing and are so well supported by the Wootton Community.

Our weekly Neighbourhood Chat Group is now regularly attended by up to 50 people each week.

When we started this group our intention was to fight social isolation that so many people face, especially the elderly and people with disabilities.

We believe that nobody should feel lonely or invisible. Walk through the door and you will be greeted with kindness and friendship.

.....

Wootton



Neighbourhood Chat Group

The Hub

Wootton New Life
Methodist Church
Cause end Road
MK43 9DE

07757911556



A warm welcome awaits you at The Hub

**Come on your own
or with friends**



**Enjoy a cuppa
and a
homemade
cake**

(suggested
donation £1)

**Every Wednesday
11am - 1pm**

Wootton Vale and Shortstown Surgeries



New GP Partner At The Practice

We are pleased to announce that the practice has a new GP Partner, Dr Hetul Shah, who will work alongside the existing partners Dr Lindsay Mackenzie, Ghulam Shabir and Richie Short, to enhance the practice's growth and development.

Lost Property

We have a large amount of property that has been left by patients in the practice. Please speak to a member of our Administration team if you believe that you have left personal belongings in the practice.

Total Triage

As you are aware, we have introduced a Total Triage system for booking of appointments. Many of our patients have found this system very user friendly and have reported a positive outcome when requesting appointments. However, if you are finding this difficult to use, our Administration Team will always be able to talk you through the system or, they will submit the request on your behalf. There is information on the system on our website or by following the link below:

<https://practice365.co.uk/uploads/sites/1760/2025/07/How-to-Use-SystemConnect-to-Contact-the-Surgery-FAQ.docx>

NHS App – Requesting Medication

Please be aware that, when using your NHS App to request repeat medication, if they need to be reauthorised by our Pharmacy Team they will NOT appear on the NHS App. We have not stopped your medications, this simply means that you are due a review and therefore please use our online system to submit this request.

Patient Participation Group:

A Patient Participation Group (PPG) is made up of patient volunteers, the Practice Manager, and one or more General Practitioners (GPs). PPGs are open to all patients registered with their GP Practice, aged 16 years and over, and their carers, (even if not registered with the practice themselves). The Wootton & Shortstown PPG serves as a valuable platform for patients to offer insights to the Practice regarding patient priorities and to collaborate in identifying solutions to challenges.

If you would like to join the PPG, please speak to our Administration Staff or alternatively you can sign up through our website by navigating to **Patient Reference/ Participation Group Registration - Wootton Vale & Shortstown Surgery**

Call Volumes:

The volume of calls we have received into reception highlights just how busy the practice is, and we are working tirelessly to meet that demand.

Here's a look at recent demand:

- May: 5,934 calls
- June: 6,030 calls

As a result of the on-line consultations introduced on the 7th July, we have noticed that our call volumes have reduced due to the alternative methods of access to the practice.

DNA Numbers:

May: 310, which was 4.5% of our available appointments

June: 313, which was 5% of our available appointments.

Please help us to maximise appointment availability in the future by contacting us

as soon as you know you will be unable to attend your scheduled appointment.

We understand how important it is to have quick and reliable access to the surgery, and we are constantly looking for ways to improve. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to refine our services.

Patient Survey



50% find it easy to get through to this GP practice by phone

ICS result: 40% | National result: 53%



75% find it easy to contact this GP practice using their website

ICS result: 48% | National result: 51%



48% find it easy to contact this GP practice using the NHS App

ICS result: 40% | National result: 49%



91% find the reception and administrative team at this GP practice helpful

ICS result: 77% | National result: 83%



88% knew what the next step would be after contacting their GP practice

ICS result: 76% | National result: 83%



89% knew what the next step would be within two days of contacting their GP practice

ICS result: 92% | National result: 93%



78% describe their experience of contacting their GP practice as good

ICS result: 60% | National result: 70%



82% describe their overall experience of this GP practice as good

ICS result: 67% | National result: 75%

The full survey can be found in the "News" section on our website.

BRIDGE

at Wootton Library

Numbers have now doubled but we would like even more people to join us!

**Every Tuesday afternoon
from 2.15 till 4.30.**

No charge. Beginners and more experienced players are very welcome. You will need a Library Plus card, which is easy to obtain from a local library. We currently have players from Bedford, Carlton and Cople.



YOGA

Creative flows – alignment work - breath - relaxation
flexibility - strength - connection - wellbeing



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

Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.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

NEW for Tuesdays 12 noon to 1 p.m. – Allsaints Hall, Church End, Kempston (a new fun adult beginners dance class incorporating ballet, jazz and contemporary)

Wootton Baptist Church

At Wootton Baptist Church, we believe children are a gift from God, and that families should be supported and cared for at every stage. Whether you're a seasoned parent, a sleep-deprived new mum or dad, or simply raising kids in the whirlwind of modern life, we want to be a place where you and your family feel welcome, valued and encouraged.

As our village continues to grow, so does the number of young families. We love that – and we're passionate about creating opportunities for connection, care, and fun. That's why we provide several free groups for families at different ages and stages.

Adventurers is our popular after-school club for children in Years 1–4. It runs every Thursday during term time, from 3.30–4.45pm. We pack the hour with games, crafts, songs, Bible stories and a snack. It's a space for kids to have fun in a positive, safe environment. If your child attends Wootton Primary at the Bedford Road site, we can even collect them – just make sure to complete our consent form in advance and let the school know.

For parents and carers with babies and toddlers (0–3s), our **Explorers** group meets on Mondays from 9.30–11.00am. There are toys, singing, Bible stories, snacks for the little ones – and coffee (often essential!) for the adults. It's a relaxed space where friendships grow and little ones thrive.

This summer we hosted our annual **Family Fun Afternoon** on the rec – complete with giant bouncy castle, games, and hot dogs. Around 80 people took part, with families forming teams to compete in a variety of fun challenges for prizes. It was a hot day, but full of laughter, friendly competition, and a real sense of community. We hope to run it again next year!

Sundays are for the whole family too. Our morning service includes a children's talk and age-appropriate activities, with space

for younger children to play and be part of things in a relaxed way. We also run special family services through the year – our next one is on **Sunday 14 September** as we celebrate **Harvest Festival**. You'd be so welcome to join us.

Whatever your background or beliefs – whether you're just curious or already a Christian – we'd love to meet you.

You can find out more about our activities at www.woottonbaptistchurch.org.uk, or email pastor@woottonbaptistchurch.org.uk. We meet at our church building on Bedford Road (next to the Primary School) every Sunday at 10.30am. The service lasts around an hour, with refreshments afterwards.





INVITES YOU TO

coffee morning

tea, coffee, cake & chat



TUESDAYS

10.00am – 12.00pm

in the church hall

www.woottonbaptistchurch.org.uk



One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

This will have a negative impact on their secondary education and future life chances.

Children's literacy charity Schoolreaders is recruiting volunteers across Bedfordshire to listen to children read in primary schools.

If you have some time to spare, a good grasp of written English, and if you enjoy spending time with children, you could become a Schoolreader.

Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a full academic year, though of course holidays and weeks off on occasion are no issue.

You can find out more on our website, or by giving us a call on 01234 924111.

If you can spare just an hour a week to listen to children read, you can help to change their life-story.

**To find out more about Schoolreaders please visit
www.schoolreaders.org**

Schoolreaders CIO Registered Charity Number: 1159157. Registered in England and Wales

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 18th October 2025 | 10am - 2pm

KINGS HOUSE, 242 Amphill 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.

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Sundays



COME & SAY HELLO!

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



JOIN US!

1:15pm 2nd Monday each month

Come along to the Church Hall and meet new friends over an excellent home-cooked meal.

For everyone aged 50 and over.

Upcoming dates 8 Sept, 13 Oct, 10 Nov



Harvest Thanksgiving



Sunday 28 September

Join us at 10am to celebrate



stmaryswootton.org.uk



StMarysWootton



St-Marys-Wootton

st mary's
wootton

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

On Friday July 11th your dedicated Speedwatch Team - Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward, Anil Mistry and myself - carried out a session down Wootton Road from Gibraltar Corner towards Irongate, as part of a nationwide Speedwatch Day. We caught just one motorist travelling at 43 mph in this 30 zone, but on that day 100 volunteers took part in 31 sessions county-wide. 195 motorists were caught speeding and the results were subsequently processed by the police.

Last month 610 letters were sent out to offending motorists. The police really appreciate what we are doing in Wootton (Kempston Rural) and the speedwatch van does regular sessions along Ridge Road, just before the roundabout with Branston Way. We are taking a break

during August but will be out on the road again in September. 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 still aware that there are a small number of motorists and motor cyclists 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 throughout the village and make the most of the good summer weather.

Malcolm Chalmers

Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator

DP Swimming Pool Services

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Our expertise covers all aspects of wet leisure facilities including:

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- ✓ Spas & Hot Tubs
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- ✓ Chemicals and Accessories

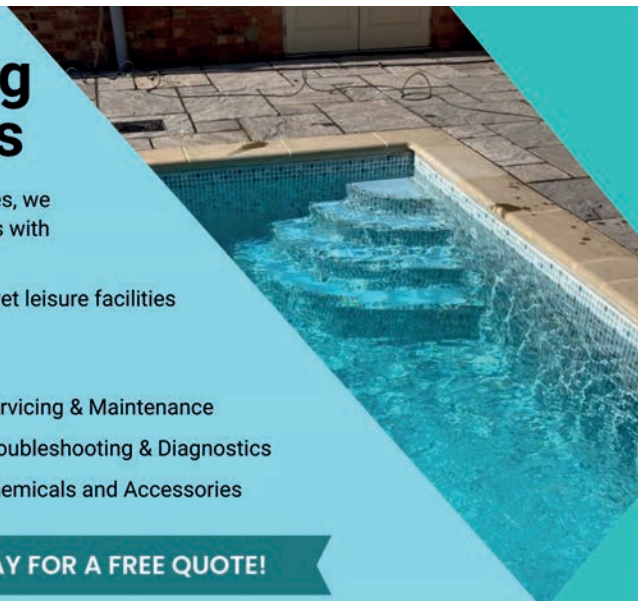
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Wootton Remembrance Day Parade

Sunday 9th November, 2025

10:25 - Meet at the Recreation Ground car park, Church Road

10:40 - Parade leaves car park

10:50 - Arrive at War Memorial

Service & Reading of Wootton's Fallen

The Last Post

Two Minutes Silence

Reveille

Wreath Laying

Service Continued and Thanks

11:20 - Parade Dismissed

If any Club/Group/Organisation within the village who would like to join the parade, please contact me at Gareth.Lloyd@Wootton-pc.gov.uk

Can I suggest that you put your orders in early for wreaths to Chris Ashpole. Her gazebo sits proud on Fields Road!

1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



This summer has been an exciting time for our groups! We had a fantastic Summer Camp in North Wales and we're about to head off again for a Narrowboat camp which will be at a more leisurely pace.

In May we celebrated our members achievements with our Annual Awards night and then launched into the Summer Session which included numerous different Sports, Wide Games, and our popular end of session Water Games event, which kept us cool and energized.

We're also thrilled to announce the return of our Marching Band - rehearsals are in full swing and we have a couple of targets to work towards; 1) Novembers' Remembrance Parade and 2) Oct 2026 Band Tour to France and Belgium! Whilst earlier this year, 2 of our bandsmen travelled to Guernsey to join a Massed Band for the Islands 80's Liberation Parade which was incredible.

Next session is our 10th since forming the companies at Wootton & it's a great time to be involved, and we're so proud of how our youth are growing, leading, and having fun together.



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

*Girls from 4th Birthday, Boys from 5th Birthday

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



General Property Maintenance & Home Improvements

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01234 757 454 / 07887 852 489
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by Louise Hughes



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Falcon Gymnastics Club



RECREATIONAL GYMNASTICS

Come & learn a variety of apparatus and floor-based gymnastics skills whilst achieving your gymnastics awards!

PRE SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

Running, jumping, climbing & exploring; developing fundamental movement skills for ages 15 months - 4 years.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

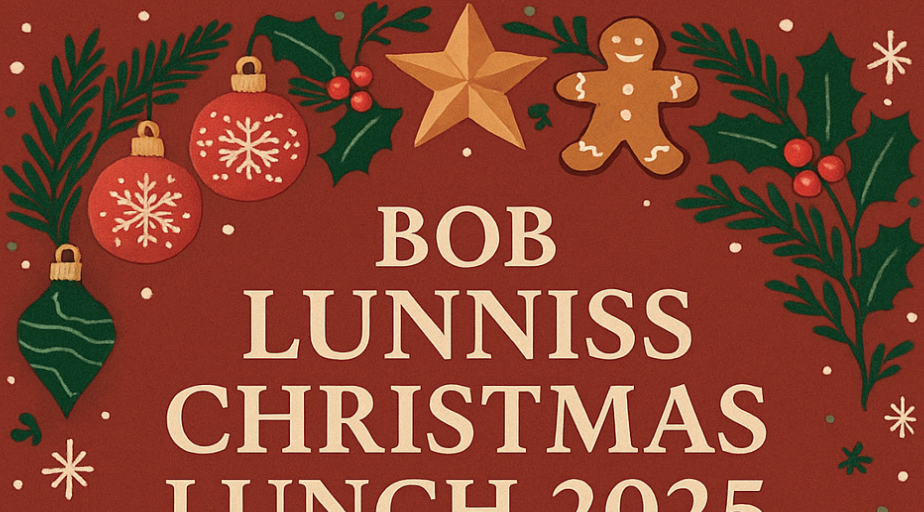
Taking place across all school holidays, our camps provide a great opportunity to be active and have fun whilst learning skills and making new friends.

PARTIES

A party at Falcon Gymnastics Club is the perfect way to celebrate your birthday with friends. We have a fully equipped gym and qualified coaches to ensure your party is everything you want it to be.



For more details visit: www.falcongym.com
or give Mel a call on 07514 366894



BOB LUNNISS CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025

• Wednesday 3rd December 2025 •
• at Wootton Blue Cross •

• Doors and bar open from 11.30am •

• Catered by The Cross Keys Wood End •

• Entertainment from Wootton Lower School
• and Wootton Upper School •

Wootton residents receiving a state pension welcome.
Owing to limited numbers admission is by ticket only.

• Free tickets available at Wootton Blue Cross on •
• Wednesday 26th November 10 - 11am •

* For enquiries contact John on 07913 409433 *



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CHARITY

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ONE COMMUNITY.**

Football for All

Youth Boys & Girls - Senior Men & Ladies

for more info:

woottonbluecross@gmail.com

Weston Park, Bedford Road Wootton MK43 9JT

Hall Hire at Wootton Blue Cross
Ideal for parties, meetings, and events

wbchallhire@gmail.com

Follow, sign up, and stay updated on all our events!



Wootton Blue Cross Sports & Social Club



woottonbluecross_socialclub



Your Space in the Heart of Wootton

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

✦ 🎭 Coming Soon to Wootton village hall – Snow White! 🎭 ✦

Mirror, mirror on the wall... who's the fairest of them all? YOU, of course — when you come to see our magical local production of Snow White!

Join us for an enchanting retelling of the classic fairytale, brought to life by the talented cast and crew of Wootton County Players. With laughter, suspense, a touch of magic, and plenty of audience participation, this show is perfect for the whole family.

📅 Dates: 7th and 8th February 2026

📍 Location: Wootton Village Hall

🕒 Time: matinee and evening performances

🎫 Tickets:

Adults £10 (early bird discount £8)

Concessionary £8 (early bird discount £6)

Children (over 5) £5 (early bird discount £4)

Family tickets £25 (early bird discount £20)

Early bird discount ends Sept 30th

✦ We are offering a very special price on club night
(such as scout groups, brownies, cubs etc) ✦
tickets £4 per ticket on **5th February 2026**

📞 Contact: Wootton County Players website ✦

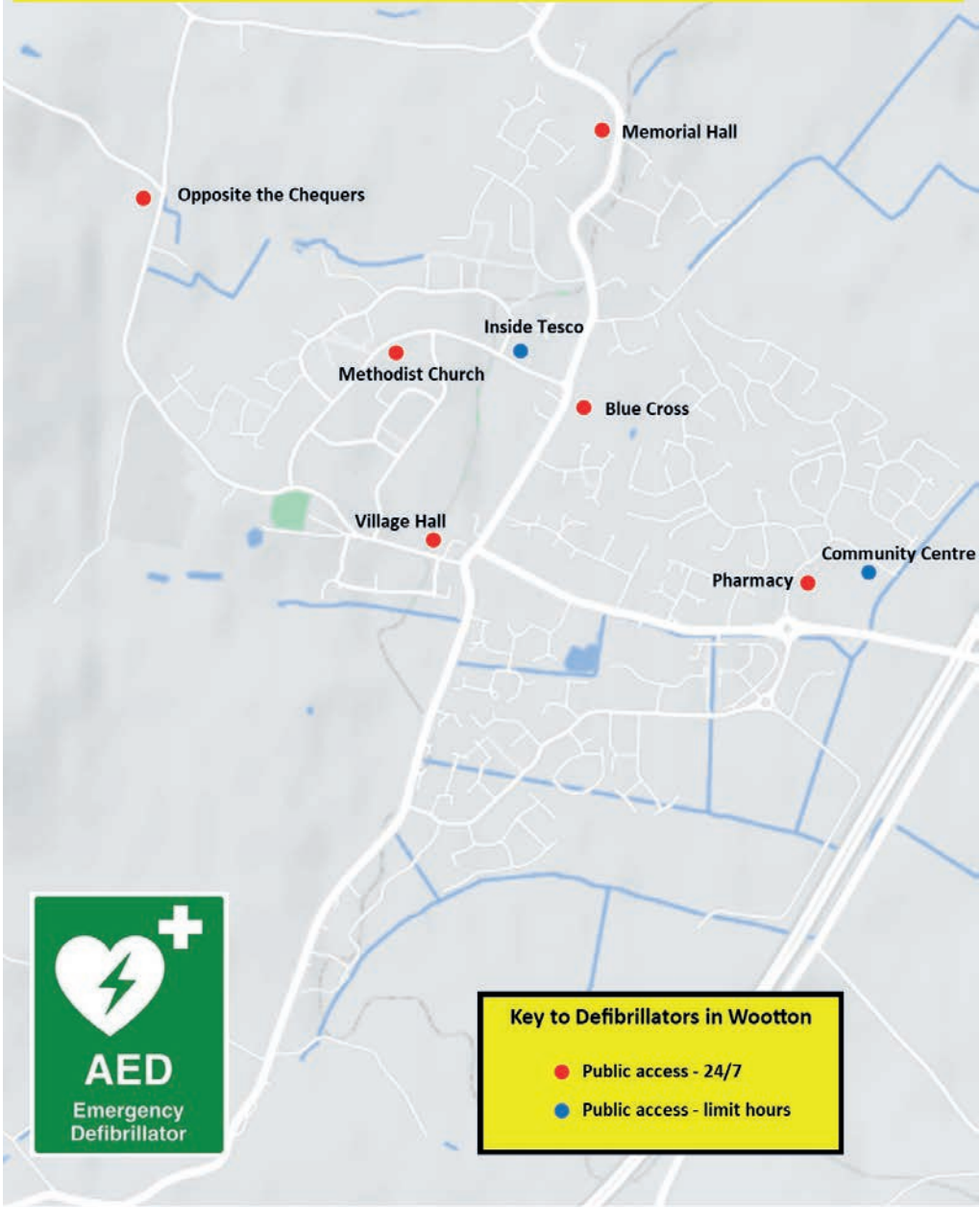
<https://countryplayers.org.uk>

✦ or phone booking **07714750822** or **07557376729**

✦ Expect evil queens, lovable dwarfs, catchy songs, and a whole lot of fun! Come and support local theatre and enjoy an unforgettable evening (or afternoon) of panto-style entertainment.

With magic spells, poisoned apples, and a heroic rescue (plus a few cheeky puns!), Snow White offers classic fairytale fun, ideal for a village night out or a weekend family treat.

Defibrillators around Wootton



Key to Defibrillators in Wootton

- Public access - 24/7
- Public access - limit hours