

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

**SPRING EDITION**

**MARCH 2026**



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

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## Bedford Borough Councillors

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Councillor John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

## Hall Booking

Memorial Hall - Naomi Ward: 07722 876252

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Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Leigh Himsworth: 07546 300504

email: woottonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Wootton Community Centre -

email: bookings@wootton.cc

## Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings Church Road

only - Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

## Schools

Wootton Upper: 767 123

Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

## Police

HQ: 841 212 Beat Manager: 842 433

Non Emergency: 101 Anti-Social Behaviour: 276 037

## Good Neighbour Scheme: 07717 770 247

## Playgroups

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 Joseph Adewale

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](http://www.111.nhs.uk) or Freephone 111

## Wootton Facilities

Pharmacy: 765 166 Post Office: 768 368

Library: Please be aware that Wootton Library's phone number has recently changed to 01234 718403.

## 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 - Paul: 07982 353 627

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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Copy Date: 1st May 2026

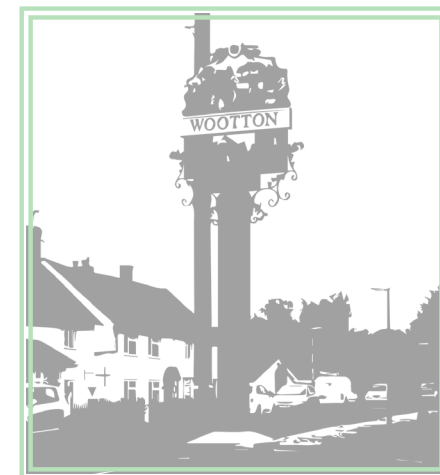
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[www.wootton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.wootton-pc.gov.uk)

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](mailto: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](mailto:wootton_news@wootton-pc.gov.uk) (please also send a copy to [clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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.





Gareth Lloyd

## Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Wootton Newsletter

Spring is finally here, and I hope the improving weather is giving everyone a chance to get out and enjoy the village.

I'd like to start by welcoming **Francesca Stainthorpe** and Graham Ward to the Parish Council. We're really pleased to have them on board. We still have **three vacancies**, so if you've ever thought about getting involved and helping shape the future of Wootton, now could be your moment.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts on the **newsletter size**. The clear favourite was A4, and it's great to hear that the new format has been well received.

## What We've Been Working On

We're now heading into the **final year of our 2023–2027 Business Plan**, which will be reviewed and updated in June. If you'd like to read the full plan, it's available on our website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/publications-3/>

Here are some of the things we've already delivered:

## Keeping Speeds Down

Average speed cameras were identified early on through Neighbourhood

Development Plan consultations. The aim isn't to fine drivers (any money goes to Central Government), but to encourage safer driving and help keep Wootton safe for everyone.

Alongside this, we funded the introduction of **20mph limits on all minor roads** in the village. Main routes such as Bedford Road, Church Road and Cranfield Road are excluded, as are private roads. This brings Wootton in line with speed limits already in place in Berryfields and Berry Wood/The Kilns.

## Better CCTV at the Recreation Ground

The old system has been replaced with **32 new 4K digital cameras**, giving us much better coverage and instant remote access when needed.

## Village Entrances and Bus Shelters

A new **brick-built sign at Keeley End** now mirrors the one on Bedford Road, helping create a consistent look at the village entrances.

We've also replaced **four Parish Council-owned bus shelters**, all fitted with sedum roofs to support wildlife and help reduce carbon impact.

To make bus travel easier, we've installed **real-time passenger information screens** at these shelters and created a webpage where residents can check bus times from home: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/bus-timetable/>

## Greener Spaces

At Lorraine Road Cemetery, a new hedgerow has been planted with help

from the Forest of Marston Vale. Over time, this will support wildlife and provide some additional screening for nearby homes in Canons Close. **New Sports Facilities**

Working with Wootton Upper School, we've helped deliver a **floodlit synthetic pitch** on school land. A Community Use Agreement means it will be available for clubs, organisations and residents outside school hours — a much-needed addition for the village.

## Defibrillator Update

A new defibrillator is currently being installed on **Burgoyne Avenue**, by the bus stop between Buckworth Drive and Honeypot Lane. A big thank you to **Chris Mayer**, one of Wootton's Community First Responders who checks and maintains all Parish Council-owned defibrillators as and when needed.

## Changing Rooms Refurbishment

The changing rooms at the recreation ground are finally getting the upgrade they've needed for a long time. The new layout will include modern toilets, a small kitchen serving teas, coffees and snacks during matches, and secure storage for user groups.

We've also made sure the building is more environmentally friendly, with low-energy lighting and solar panels installed on the roof.

## Looking Ahead

Over the next 12 months, we'll be focusing on some exciting projects.

## Crown Estate Land

We're working with The Crown Estate and the Forest of Marston Vale on the acquisition of nearly **16 hectares of land** at

the heart of Wootton. This land will remain open green space forever.

Plans are already being developed, and there will be opportunities for residents to share their views and volunteer to help shape and manage the space.

## Memorial Hall

Although not yet part of the current Business Plan, the Memorial Hall (now over 100 years old) needs updating. We'll be looking at improving accessibility, modernising the kitchen and strengthening security to keep the hall fit for the future.

## Fun Fest – 27th June

Don't forget Fun Fest on 27th June at the recreation ground off Church Road.

As always, there will be plenty of free activities, including face painting, a magic show, balloon modelling and live music.

This year, we're also adding **free funfair rides**, including a 70-foot inflatable assault course, Total Wipe Out, bungee trampolines and children's bumper cars.

There will be three traditional fair stalls — coconut shy, hook-a-duck and hoopla — with all money raised going to local Wootton charities.

The Parish Council continues to work hard to improve facilities and make Wootton a safer, better place to live. But we can't do it alone. If you'd like to get involved and help make a difference, please contact the Clerk at: [Clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk)



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

It's far too late to say Happy New Year to you all, but I do hope the Christmas tree and street lighting were enjoyed by everyone. We now look to spring and to some warmer weather hopefully. I'm delighted to welcome Francesca Stainthorpe and Graham Ward as newly co-opted members of the Parish Council. I look forward to working with them both. If anyone reading this is interested in learning more about becoming a Parish Council

member, do please let me know. We currently have three vacancies.

Bedford Borough Council's refuse team contacted one of my councillors in the New Year to report someone had placed large nitrous oxide canisters in one of the public litter bins – along Cause End Road. These should not be placed in any bin as they can explode when crushed.

Another reminder that our Fun Fest is slightly earlier this year – Saturday 27th June. If you would like a stall, do please let me know. Gareth has gone into more detail in his report on what we are providing this year so do take a look there to see what's on offer.

Many of you will no doubt be using Bedford Borough Council's kerbside collection scheme, but I would urge as many of you as possible to continue using the glass recycling facilities behind the Village Hall on Church Road. As you may be aware, the Parish Council passes the full revenue proceeds from this scheme to the Wootton Poor's Land Charity who offer financial support to struggling residents of Wootton and Stewartby. We remain hopeful Bedford Borough Council will allow this scheme to continue.

Library

Here are days and times for regular events at Wootton Library.

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

Dates for your Diary 2026

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  |

All meetings are held at Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way, Wootton. Please check noticeboards and the parish council website for any cancellations or changes to timings and/or venue.  
<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/wp-admin/admin.php?page=ee-simple-file-list-pro&eeFolder=Meetings>.

Please contact the Clerk to the Council if you would like to attend any meeting as the Community Centre meeting room can only accommodate limited numbers.





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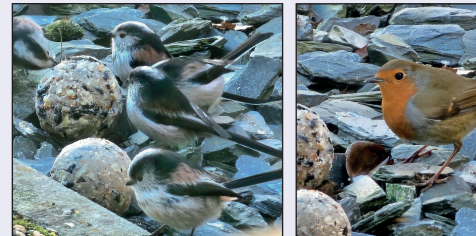
## Wootton News *Update from Borough Councillor Sue Abood*



Email: [sue.abood@outlook.com](mailto:sue.abood@outlook.com)

Phone: 07968 792862

It's currently the end of January as I sit and write this article. What has felt like a long, grey and wet month is finally coming to an end and it'll be half term before we know it. Signs of spring are appearing and it's nice that it's still light when I finish the day job. I've been busy keeping my feathered visitors fed over the cold snaps and now have six blue tits that visit me as well as a robin, a dunnoek, anywhere up to eight magpies, two crows, a common gull and what feels like hundreds of starlings. I was particularly pleased when a volery of ten long tailed tits started visiting too. (I didn't know that was the collective noun either!)



hope by the time this newsletter arrives that all those waiting for responses from universities that they have applied to through UCAS have had the responses they were hoping for. Please remember that many students wait until clearing to apply for a place these days and there are many alternative routes available.

Hopefully by the time this newsletter arrives through your door you will have received your new food waste bins from the council. This has been funded by the government. The first collections in the borough will start on 30th March with the

first collection in Wootton being on the 3rd April. More information about the food collections can be found on the council's website or I'm happy to provide you with more information if you don't have internet access.

You may have heard back in December 2025 that the Special Development Order (SDO) for Universal (their planning permission) was approved by the government, subject to a judicial review call-in period which ended on 12th January. While there are still periods for legal review and challenge, we are not aware that any have come forward and so the SDO permission is now approved and active, and Universal can move ahead with their plans.

I was really pleased to attend the Police Priority Setting meeting on 30th January where I was able to spend time with our local officers discussing issues raised by residents and to hear about both the large operations covering the North Bedfordshire Rural area and also their operations at a very local level. These sessions have been running over the last couple of years and I have attended each one as they're a valuable opportunity to further foster close working relationships.

At a local level, while thinking about the emergency services, can I please make a plea about parking. When you are parking your car, please consider whether an ambulance or a fire engine could get past your car if needed, especially if you are parked close to someone on the opposite side of the road. I've seen many instances in several areas of late where a car can squeeze through, but nothing larger. I appreciate the argument that if you pay your 'road tax' you can park on the road, but a little thought about where you park could be the difference between an ambulance reaching an emergency or not. And while talking of parking, can I also make a plea to parents dropping their children off at the primary school at the Harris Way site. Repeated parking on the grass verges on Ashpole Avenue has caused large amounts of damage and turned them into deep water filled clay pits. I have seen that there are often the same cars that park on these verges every day with several now taking to parking all four wheels on the verge to prevent

their tyres getting stuck in the mud. Residents who have asked drivers not to park on the verges are often met with verbal abuse and this is not acceptable. This area is not owned by the council as the estate has not been adopted yet, and so getting these areas repaired by the developers is proving very difficult.

I'd like to move on to some information about the council's finances. I believe in being transparent and feel that residents should be made aware of what is going on as it is council tax that forms a large part of the council's income and pays for a large proportion of the council's expenditure. February is the month where Full Council has to receive and approve the budget set by the Mayor and his administration. The first of two Full Council meetings in February takes place on the 4th where the budget is presented along with a Local Government Act 2003 – Section 25 Report, written by the council's Section 151 officer – the chief financial officer. In this report it details that the council currently has a £14 million budget shortfall at the end of the 2025/26 (as at 31 December 2025) and so cannot balance the budget as the current financial year closes.

You may have heard that the council have applied to the government, to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) to help balance the budget over the next couple of years. £20 million has been requested for the 2025/26 financial year, £25 million for the 2026/27 financial year and given the forecasted budget gap for 2027/28 it is anticipated that EFS will be required to help during that financial year too. EFS is in the form of borrowing and adds to the council's debt. As the Section 151 officer's report details, "total borrowing is planned to increase from the current £104 million at 31 December 2025 to a maximum of £227 million by 31 March 2028." This is a dramatic increase from the £60 million of borrowing the council had in May 2023. And we can see in the financial forecast that the costs of paying back this debt will rise from £8 to £16 million a year, which is money that won't be able to be spent on services.

At the time of writing, the application for EFS has not been approved and the council will not hear the outcome of its application until the end of February. Worryingly, the Section 151 officer's report to full council states "If the application for EFS is not approved at the end of February, a

balanced budget will not be able to be set, and the Section 151 Officer would be under a duty to issue a notice under section 114 of the 1988 Local Government and Housing Act." A section 114 notice is essentially a notice declaring that the council expenditure will exceed its income and it cannot balance the books, which is not permitted under the 1988 act. The Section 151 officer goes on to say "Issuing a notice under s114 would not resolve the financial challenge given the scale of the budget gap."

As it currently stands, despite some in-year savings being made (56% of the savings proposed were achieved), the council still has an approximately £14 million shortfall this year, and even if all the savings proposed for the next financial year are achieved, there will still be around a £25 million gap. This is despite an increase in income from the proposed increase to council tax of the maximum of 4.99%.

This is a difficult financial time for the council. An independent improvement panel is working with the Chief Executive, council officers, the Mayor and the administration as work continues to try and steady the ship.

If you would like further information about any of the meetings held at the council, all the papers for the council meetings are available on the council's website and can be found at [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk), and by clicking on Council Meetings, Calendar of Meetings, and then selecting the meeting you are interested in on the calendar. This will bring up the page with the agenda for the meeting and you can view or download the papers for the meeting (called the Agenda Reports Pack) and on the day of the meeting you will be able to view the livestream of the meeting or the recording once uploaded in the days after the meeting. As I say, I think transparency is important.

As part of the in-year savings plan for this financial year, parking charges at council car parks have been increased. You may have heard that the 4-hour free (subsidised by the council) parking has been stopped, but now overnight parking charges have been brought into effect. These can kick in at either 6pm or 8pm depending on the car park and some visitors have found themselves with large parking charges for staying for just a few minutes past those times as they have incurred the overnight fee as well as the fee for the number of hours parked during

the daytime charging period. I just wanted to make you aware of this so that you are not caught out. We have asked for the charges to be looked at as these charges are punishing those who are trying to support the nighttime economy of the town. This information was accurate at the time of writing.

And just to finish off on a positive note, a extra date for your diaries when sunnier times return. The Bedford River Festival this year will be taking place on the 18th and 19th July.

### Councillor Surgeries and getting in touch

I continue to hold two Wootton Councillor Surgeries and two Kempston Rural Surgeries each month, in all weathers, sometimes under canvas in my bivouac! 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 primary 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](https://www.facebook.com/WoottonLibDems).

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

May I wish you a happy start to the Spring!

**Best wishes**  
**Sue**



A happy new year from your dedicated Speedwatch Team - Keith Randell, Les Dick, Graham Ward, Anil Mistry and myself. We were unable to carry out our session in January as the charger for the SID (Speed Indicator Device) did not work. Since then a new charger has been delivered and sessions will resume in February. The police sent out 173 letters to offending motorists in January. We have not caught many speeding motorists in our recent sessions but we are there to

remind motorists to keep their speed down in an area where the speed limit is 30 m.p.h. 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. If you feel that you could help us out please get in touch with Juliet Wright - [juliet.wright@beds.police.uk](mailto: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! Please still take care when driving through Wootton as the weather is still inclement and does make conditions treacherous at times.

**Malcolm Chalmers**  
*Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator*



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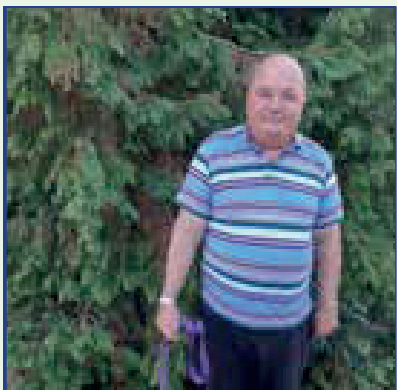
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I hope you all had a nice Christmas and New Year. Just as you want to put your feet up, we are now looking at Easter, which is quite early this year, Easter Sunday being 5th April. We will then soon be in spring – don't forget the clocks go forward on the 29th March.

As mentioned previously, Canon Peter Ackroyd left St. Mary's Church last year for pastures new. I am delighted to announce his appointment is Canon Joseph Adewale who will be joining us soon. I wish him and his family well in his new post and welcome him to Wootton.

The Wootton Church and Poor's Land charities have continued to support families in financial need, within Wootton and Stewartby. Last December the charity was able to distribute food vouchers to help a number of families over the Christmas period. A significant amount of funding for this comes from the recycling credits generated through the use of the recycling facilities at the Recreation Ground car park on Church Road – behind the village hall. The Parish Council continues to donate 100% of the revenue it receives to this charity, so please continue to use this facility if you can. Thank you. On the subject of waste collections, the new weekly food collections start on the 30th March and the new bins will be coming to you soon. For fuller information please visit this link: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/household-bins-and-recycling/food-waste-collections>.

[bedford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/household-bins-and-recycling/food-waste-collections](https://www.bedford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/household-bins-and-recycling/food-waste-collections).

You will no doubt have noticed that some potholes and footpaths have been fixed (some albeit temporary), around the village. This is part of an ongoing Borough Council program, although it is behind schedule. The new Highways program starts in April 2026, after which other earmarked projects should start.

The Parish Council was recently approached by a resident requesting a dropped kerb be added to enable better access to the War Memorial on Church Road. I have taken that request forward with the Borough Council and am pleased to confirm this will be added to the Borough Council's 2026 program of works.

Parking on the verges along Harris Way and surrounding roads is still causing problems for local residents despite regular patrols. The school has asked that parents and carers not do this, without success. This area remains unadopted by the Borough Council as Persimmon have a number of defects still to address and pressure has been put on Persimmon to not only complete those tasks, but to install bollards and no parking on verges signage.

The new doctor's surgery remains on course – please see fuller details elsewhere within this report.

The Bob Lunniss lunch last December was a great success, so a thank you again goes to everyone involved in making it happen. The Head of Wootton Upper School, Mark Lehain invited a number of attendees to visit the school and meet students, observe lessons and have afternoon tea. The first of these will have taken place since this report was written, so I will give fuller details in the next edition of this newsletter.

Wootton's Fun Fest takes place on Saturday 27th June this year – with more free events than ever for attendees, including the Fun Fair. Part of my role at Bedford Borough Council is to represent Children's Services, which includes looked after children and this year there is a big push to recruit new foster carers. The fostering team will be

attending the Fun Fest this year to offer a greater insight into what is involved when becoming a foster carer. If you would like to know more before the event, please check out these links: In the meantime, please go to these links to learn more:

## Fostering | Bedford Borough Council and Foster East - Foster East.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supports and does so much for the village, see you on my walkabouts!

## Green Waste Collections

- As part of the Council's budget consultation, one of the options the Government asked the Council to consider was introducing a charge for garden waste collections.
- Although many councillors were not supportive of charging, the option was included in the consultation so residents could give their views.
- Following the consultation, the clear majority of residents did not support a charge, so the Council will not be introducing charges for green waste collections.

## Open Space Management Charges

- The Open Space Management (OSM) charge is an extra £120 yearly charge that some households in Great Denham and Kempston West have been paying on top of Council Tax to help cover open space maintenance.
- The Council's intention has been to remove this extra charge, so residents in these areas are not paying more than other parts of the Borough for the same type of upkeep – nowhere else in Bedford Borough are residents asked to pay twice.
- This decision was called in a third time by members of the Council and sent back to the Executive to be reconsidered.
- If the charge is brought back, families in these areas could face the return of the £120 double tax.
- If the charge is passed onto Parish Councils, residents would still pay through higher Parish precepts. The Band D increases for the areas affected are as follows:

- Great Denham's Parish precept will increase from £23.53 to £62.98
- Kempston Town's Parish precept will increase from £56.48 to £68.63
- Kempston Rural's Parish precept will increase from £41.98 to £149.09

## GP surgeries

- In 2023, the Council set aside £9 million to "unblock" plans and get four key GP surgery projects moving in:
  - Wixams
  - Great Barford
  - Kempston
  - Wootton
- On the Wixams GP surgery, the Council, working with the local MP and local borough councillors, has been holding regular meetings with Urban and Civic (the site developer), alongside the NHS to push the project from discussion into delivery.
- We're now seeing real progress, including:
  - A proposed building of around 800m<sup>2</sup> on a vacant plot near Wixams Town Centre, close to Willow Grove Primary School.
  - A two-storey design, with all patient services on the ground floor.
  - Indicative costs and an initial delivery/construction timeline due by 26 February 2026.
  - A public consultation to take place shortly (date and venue to be confirmed).
  - A planning application intended by the end of June 2026.
- Further meetings and updates will continue throughout the year to keep momentum and support full delivery of the surgery.

## Roads maintenance and Potholes

- In 2023, the local road network had a large backlog of maintenance built up over the past decade.
- Unclassified roads (the everyday streets outside homes, schools and workplaces) make up around 60% of the Borough's roads. In 2023, 38% of these were recorded as being in the worst condition. By 2025, that had fallen to 18%.

- Pothole repairs also increased substantially from 1,343 in 2020/21 to 6,308 in 2024/25 with the Council putting more focus on planned, preventative maintenance to reduce repeat problems.
- This work is supported by a £9.5 million highways maintenance investment by Bedford Borough Council.

### Glass Recycling success

- Bedford Borough Council introduced glass bottle and jar recycling in orange-lidded bins on 1st December 2025.
- Early figures suggest it has proved successful with residents. In December 2025, the Council collected over 220 tonnes more recycling from orange-lidded bins than the same month the previous year, an increase of around 24%.
- As a reminder, before putting bottles in orange lidded bins:
  - Rinse bottles and jars.
  - Leave metal lids on.
  - Remove corks (put these in the black-lidded bin).
  - Remove plastic spray tops or plastic lids from jars, but these can still go in the orange-lidded bin separately.

### David Lloyd Leisure Limited comes to Bedford Borough

- Bedford Borough Council has agreed to lease the Oasis Beach Pool site on Cardington Road to David Lloyd Leisure Limited, who plans to redevelop it into a modern health and racquets club.
- The Council is also working on a Community Use Agreement so there are clear benefits for local people, especially local schools, including access to facilities like swimming.
- The redevelopment is expected to support around 75 full-time jobs, as well as apprenticeship opportunities.
- Next steps are to finalise the legal agreement and then submit a planning application (with target timings during 2026).
- Separately, the Council has £600,000 set aside for free outdoor leisure facilities on land next to the site, and will ask residents what they would like to see there.

### Food Waste Collections

- From Monday 30 March 2026, Bedford Borough Council will introduce weekly food waste collections for all houses and flats.
- Homes will get a small kitchen caddy and a larger outdoor food waste bin for weekly collection. Flats will receive a kitchen caddy and either use communal food waste bins or have local collection points set up where communal storage isn't available.
- Residents can line their kitchen caddy using ordinary plastic bags, paper or newspaper, or choose to buy liners (optional).

### Government funding

- Councils across the country are under severe financial pressure because demand is rising fast for essential services they're legally required to provide. (Temporary accommodation, children's services and adult social care)
- The cost of providing these services has jumped around 25% and Government funding hasn't risen at the same pace. At the same time, Councils are being asked to do more, like rolling out separate food waste collections.
- For Bedford Borough, when you take all the pressures and new duties into account, we're around £1.1m worse off in Government support. By comparison, Luton is receiving around £139m more support this coming financial year.

### Bellwin Scheme

- Dealing with the immediate aftermath of the Cleat Hill explosion cost the Council around £2 million.
- The Council asked the Government for emergency financial help to cover these exceptional costs under the Bellwin Scheme.
- That request was refused, which means the Council has had to fund the £2 million from its own budget, adding extra financial pressure to the Councils finances.

### The CIPFA Review and Improvement Plan

- In 2025, an independent finance body called CIPFA reviewed Bedford Borough Council's finances and published its findings.

- A key point in the review is that many of the underlying issues built up over the past decade leading up to 2023, leaving the Council under severe financial pressure. Some of the main reasons are:
  - Council Tax income didn't keep pace with rising costs over many years. The review says this left a lasting hole in funding for day-to-day services.
  - Reserves (the Council's "savings") were used up to plug budget gaps, leaving the Council with reserves below the risk assessed minimum in 2023.
  - Staff reductions left some areas overstretched, leading to greater reliance on more expensive agency staff to keep services running.
  - Demand/Costs for essential services like temporary accommodation, children's services and adult social care have risen sharply.

- To tackle the financial pressures, the Council has introduced an Improvement Plan aimed at closing a £59m funding gap over the coming years.
- In simple terms, the Improvement Plan will ensure tighter control of spending and income. Making sure the Council is run more efficiently so it can return to a stable financial position while protecting frontline services.

John

BBCllr. John Wheeler

Ward Councillor for Wootton and Kempston Rural

## North Beds Ramblers

### We are 50!

North Beds Ramblers, the oldest Ramblers Group in Bedfordshire turns 50 in 2026!

A recently discovered walking programme from 1976 will allow us to recreate our first year of walking as a celebration. The programme was very scant, with one monthly walk offered on the first Saturday afternoon of the month. We still walk on Saturday afternoons! The only other detail was a start time (2:15pm), a meeting point and the leader. Sadly, we have no idea how long the walks were, although starting at 2:15pm in the winter might suggest that they weren't very long!

So, 2026 starts a year of celebrations for us. Not just recreating the 1976 programme but we also hope to incorporate parts of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail into many of these walks. Recently, a number of our members have been involved in resigning the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail and so it will be lovely to see some of their work first hand.

As with any big birthday, we plan to have a celebration party and will be producing some memorabilia for our walkers, watch this space.



| NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE GROUP |                      |                                       |         |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| DATE                     | MEETING POINT        | LEADER                                | TIME    |
| January 3rd              | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| February 7th             | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| March 6th                | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| April 3rd                | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| May 1st                  | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| June 5th                 | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| July 3rd                 | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| August 7th               | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| Sept. 4th                | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| Oct. 2nd                 | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| Nov. 6th                 | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |
| Dec. 4th                 | Meet at Turret Cross | Leader - Jane Jackson (Bedford 71427) | 2.15 pm |

All the memorabilia and promotional material will include our new 50th year logo, kindly designed by one of our members - Julianna Jagielska.

If you are in the locality please come and join us on one of our birthday walks or any other. as we now walk every Saturday, not just the first of the month.

<https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/ramblers-groups/north-bedfordshire-group>

Sandra Kelsey – North Beds Ramblers





John Samuels sat in his worn-out armchair, and thought about his past.

He had been born into a family whose tradition it was to have many children. For two years, he had been the oldest of six children, but eventually, he had seven siblings. They were equally spread – three brothers and four sisters.

His parents had met when they had first attended secondary school together in the East End of London. They had become boyfriend / girlfriend very quickly, and had spent the whole of their time at Hackney High together.

Everyone who had known John's Mum and Dad at that time thought that they would end up marrying, and that turned out to be exactly what did happen.

His Mum's parents had been somewhat concerned. They knew their daughter loved her husband to be, but he came from a rough family, with a somewhat dubious reputation.

His Dad's parents, on the other hand, had been delighted at the prospect of welcoming his girlfriend, whose name was Evelyn, as their daughter in law. They hoped that she would help to smooth out some of the less attractive characteristics that their son displayed.

For the first two years of their marriage, the couple had lived with John's paternal grandparents. It was not ideal, because they lived in a run-down tower block in Dalston, which was definitely not a very salubrious place. However, there was just not enough room at the flat of his Mum's parents.

Seeing her new husband's domestic situation, and what his parents were like at home, Evelyn couldn't wait for the time when they could have a home of their own. That time seemed a long way into the future, though.

John's father, David, had a poorly paid job, as a porter at Billingsgate market. What Evelyn was not aware of, was the fact that he used to supplement his income, together with a couple of his old mates, with some low-level criminal activity.

They called themselves "the three Beanos", and they carried out a few house burglaries, selling their ill-gotten goods in local pubs. Many residents in that part of London were only too keen to ignore the provenance, if they were able to acquire things cheaply enough.

The Beanos never got caught by the police, and as a result of these nefarious activities, David announced to a delighted Evelyn that they could now afford to move into a small council house near Hackney Park. She didn't know that it was not just the money that enabled this to happen. He had actually blackmailed a councillor who, David had discovered, had been having an extra-marital affair.

This action was a throw-back to his dubious past, but it did provide John's parents with a base from which to start their own family, which they promptly did, and prolifically.

Hence, some eleven years later, John had his seven siblings.

He tried his best to make something of himself, but times were difficult. He worked very hard, and saved every penny he earned from his two jobs.

When, at the age of twenty, he himself got married to Michelle, he was able to put a deposit on a small flat in Hackney. He and his new wife agreed not to have lots of children. Their own family was therefore restricted to just three offspring, a girl, and two boys.

Sadly, Michelle was diagnosed with cancer, and died when their oldest child was just ten. John was devastated, but was determined to give the three children the best possible start in life.

He never spent a penny on himself, and the kids received the best schooling that could be managed. To his great delight, all three went on to higher education, and they subsequently all got good jobs, away from the relative poverty of the east end of London.

His daughter had gone into Banking, and now worked for a major Bank, based in Dubai.

His elder son had studied law, and three years after he qualified, he had been seconded to work for one year in Australia for his employer, an international form of solicitors. He had so loved the lifestyle there, that he had decided to stay on at the end of his period of placement.

His company had accommodated this requirement, and had transferred him permanently. He now worked out of their Adelaide office.

His younger son had decided to enter medicine as his chosen career. After five long years of study, he too had qualified.

He worked at a doctor's practice in Coventry for a year, before becoming smitten with the desire to work with impoverished children. He had applied for a job with Medicin sans Frontieres, and now lived in Africa, working to different areas, but with a permanent home in Johannesburg.

John had every right to feel satisfied at the future he had enabled his children to achieve.

However, he never had any contact with his own parents, or any other members of his family in England.

So as he sat in that worn-out armchair, now aged 82, alone, lonely, and riddled with arthritis, he meditated about all the sacrifices he had made.

Was it worth it?

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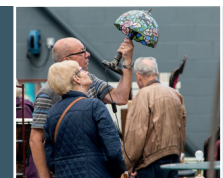
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## NEW WOODLANDS CREATE A SENSE OF HOPE



As we reach the end of the tree planting season, it's reassuring to hear that our local communities overwhelmingly agree that tree planting is a good thing. Scientists at Forest Research carried out a community survey and individual interviews with people living within a 30-minute walk of new planting sites in the Forest of Marston Vale (the same research was also conducted for National Forest sites.)

As a Community Forest, the core purpose of the Forest of Marston Vale Trust is to plant trees and manage woodlands in ways that benefit the local area environmentally, economically and socially. This research highlights just how powerful those social benefits can be — particularly when people are able to see new woodlands grow over time.

Key findings from the study include:

- People who visit their local new woodlands more frequently have better mental wellbeing
- New woodlands are important for wildlife
- The more often people visit new woodlands, the more they value them
- Local people develop a strong sense of personal responsibility towards new woodlands
- People who never visit their local woodland have the highest levels of anxiety

While some of these benefits may apply to all woodlands, many participants spoke specifically about the joy of watching a new woodland being planted and grow over time. Being able to notice changes over weeks, months and years — new species appearing, wildlife arriving — stimulated curiosity and encouraged people to return again and again.

*"We found that, overwhelmingly, the communities studied believed that local tree planting and the creation of new woodlands was a good thing."*

*We also discovered that new woodland provides unique experiences and opportunities for visitors, for example through sensory experiences and opportunities to build connections to trees. Even non-visitors benefited from these woodlands, by developing a sense of pride in their local place."*

**Dr Beth Brockett,**  
Social Scientist, Forest Research

Talking about the trees in Rectory Wood in Cranfield, Richard, one of the interviewees, said: "They grow with you, don't they? I mean, you can point to a tree and say, 'I planted that 10 years ago with my grandchildren.'"

Those of us who work and volunteer for the Forest of Marston Vale Trust have always thought that trees make life better — it's good to hear that other people think the same.

If you'd like to learn more about what we do at the Forest of Marston Vale Trust, visit our website [www.marstonvale.org](http://www.marstonvale.org)



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# Outstanding Parish Council Issues & Projects

| Item                               | Location                          | Deadline | Any other information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Changing Rooms renovations         | Church Road                       | 2025     | Works are almost complete, save for minor snagging issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Covanta (now Encyclis) Incinerator | Stewartby parish                  | Ongoing  | Visit the following links for fuller information:<br>BACI's website: <a href="https://bedsagainstinclinerator.wordpress.com/">https://bedsagainstinclinerator.wordpress.com/</a> ;<br>BACI's Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks">https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsagainstcovanta/?ref=bookmarks</a> ;<br>Rookery South Energy Recovery Facility's website: <a href="http://www.rookerysoutherf.co.uk">www.rookerysoutherf.co.uk</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Lecterns                           | Various sites within the village  | Ongoing  | To date, lecterns detailing historic information have been sited at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keeley End Pond (Bedford Road/Hollies Walk);</li><li>• Lorraine Road Cemetery (in recognition of The Queen's Green Canopy Tree Planting Event which took place in January 2022);</li><li>• Memorial Hall (Bedford Road);</li><li>• The Pound (Bedford Road – opposite The Cock Inn PH).</li><li>• Harris Way (in the vicinity of the A421 close to the Multi Use Games Area).</li></ul> 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. WPC hopes to move forward on this now St. Mary's Church has appointed a new incumbent |
| Local Plan 2040                    | Throughout the village            | Ongoing  | BBC's Local Plan 2040 was withdrawn from examination by BBC at its Full Council meeting on 8th October 2025. Fuller information can be found here: <a href="#">Local Plan 2040 Examination   Bedford Borough Council</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 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 | 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 once more is known about the BBC's next Local Plan (following its withdrawal of the 2040 version) and the outcome of a currently live central government consultation in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Item                | Location               | Deadline | Any other information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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: <a href="https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes/">https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/minutes/</a> (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.

## Wootton Good Neighbours

Can you join our small but dedicated team and be a good neighbour. We offer to take clients to appointments, shopping and we can offer small DIY tasks or gardening help as well as befriending. In the last quarter of last year we carried out 492 tasks and we gave our clients various gifts at Christmas as well. Quite a few of our appointments involve taking clients to hospital and we do have a parking permit for Bedford South Wing which is very useful! We are just one of a large number of Good Neighbour schemes within Bedfordshire and we are supported by the BRCC – the Beds Rural Communities Charity - who also have village agents who help out with form filling and offer extra aid within the home. We would appreciate any help that can be offered as Wootton is a growing community and any drivers of large cars are particularly welcome as several clients have wheel chairs or rollators/ walkers.

### WOOTTON NEEDS YOUR HELP

**More volunteers needed!**  
Are you a caring person with a little time to volunteer for Wootton Good Neighbours Scheme?

**What does it involve?**

- You only need to accept the jobs you want
- Your time commitment is entirely flexible
- Typical jobs include hospital/doctor visits, support with shopping, small maintenance jobs
- Expenses are covered
- Experience the satisfaction of helping others

If you are interested in becoming a good neighbour, contact Julie on 07717 770247.

## Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 2 |   |   |
|   |   | 1 |   | 2 |   | 9 |   |   |
| 6 |   |   | 7 | 1 | 3 |   |   | 4 |
| 3 |   |   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
| 1 | 9 |   | 7 |   |   | 8 | 3 |   |
|   | 5 | 8 |   | 3 |   | 1 | 2 |   |
| 2 | 5 |   | 9 |   | 4 |   | 7 |   |
| 9 | 4 |   | 3 | 2 |   | 1 | 8 |   |
| 8 | 1 |   | 4 |   |   | 9 | 2 |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 8 |   | 6 |   | 4 |   |   |
| 2 |   | 5 | 4 | 7 |   | 8 |   |   |
|   | 9 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   |
| 9 | 6 | 5 |   |   |   | 7 | 4 | 2 |
|   | 8 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 |   |
|   | 4 |   | 2 |   | 8 |   |   |   |
| 7 | 4 |   |   | 5 |   |   | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 3 |   | 6 | 7 | 9 |   | 1 | 4 |
|   | 9 | 6 | 1 |   | 4 | 2 | 7 |   |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 |   | 8 | 2 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 |   | 8 | 1 |
|   |   |   |   | 9 | 3 | 7 |   |   |
|   |   | 8 |   | 4 |   |   |   | 3 |
| 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 4 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   | 6 |   |   |   | 9 |
|   |   |   |   | 5 | 4 | 6 |   |   |
|   |   | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |   | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 1 |   | 6 | 8 |   |   |   | 5 |



# Stewartby Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society 75th Anniversary 2026

Come and help us celebrate 75 years of fabulous local community theatre!

12th April - Anniversary Gala Dinner • 8th & 9th May - Dido and Aeneas and Other Legends  
18 - 21st November - Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore • Theatre workshops, social events and more.

In November 2025 some of you may have seen our captivating and ambitious production of The Merry Widow. We are privileged and very excited to be nominated by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association for the award of best musical in the region.

I hope you will agree that these photographs of the production demonstrate the cast's enthusiasm and expertise in an imaginative setting with gorgeous costume.

Come and join us in 2026, either as performer, backstage or audience or maybe become a Friend.

## Don't Miss Out !!!

For further details of the above events and box office contact:

[www.saods.org](http://www.saods.org)

Facebook@StewartbyOperatic

Carol Wallman







The continued success of the **Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group** and **Wootton Memory Gym** is something we are incredibly proud of, and it would not be possible without the kindness and encouragement of the Wootton community.

Our **weekly Neighbourhood Chat Group** has grown steadily and now sees **up to 50 people through the doors each week**. It is a place where friendships form, conversations flow, and people feel comfortable simply being themselves.

From the very beginning, the group was created to address the loneliness that so many people experience, particularly older residents and people with disabilities. These are often the people least visible in society, but in Wootton, they matter.

Our **Wootton Memory Gym** complements this work by offering a monthly social event for anyone living with memory loss, whether through dementia, ageing, stroke, or brain injury. Taking place on the first **Monday of every month from 2.30-4.00pm**, it is full of music, laughter, and shared memories. It may be noisy and a little chaotic at times, but it is always joyful and deeply rewarding.

Over the past year, we have enjoyed many memorable events. In November, **Floralartby Ronnie Simms-Blake** kindly gave her time to teach both groups how to make beautiful Christmas floral table decorations. We are delighted that Ronnie will be returning on **8th March**.

In December, we organised a much-loved **Mystery Bus Trip**, thanks to the generosity of **Grant Palmer Buses** and our wonderful driver **Matt Billington**. Matt carefully navigated the small surrounding lanes, taking us through Woburn and the deer park before we arrived at **Marston Vale Forest Centre**, where we received a warm welcome and enjoyed their Christmas Fayre.

Entertainment has also played a big part in our year. **Karl E A Presley** delighted everyone with a fantastic tribute act, a sell-out afternoon, and we are thrilled to announce he will be returning on **21st September**. We also enjoyed a wonderful winter concert from **The Alive and Singing Choir**, they too will be returning in December. As well as two lively Christmas parties with a Secret Santa, and featuring one of our favourite singers, **Emma Robbins**, who will be back later this year as part of **The ABBA Queens** tribute act.

Our New Year celebrations began in style, with **Colin Campbell** playing the bagpipes, followed by a talented **12-year-old student**, Stevie, who played her guitar and led everyone in singing and dancing — a truly joyful afternoon.

We are also pleased to welcome **I Can Do IT!**, from **Beds Rural Community Charity**, who now join us on Wednesdays at the Hub. They support people in developing skills to use smartphones and tablets. Please contact us for more information about this valuable service.

There is much more planned throughout the year, so please keep an eye on our **Facebook page: Wootton Neighbourhood Chat Group** for updates.



None of this would be possible without the incredible support of the Wootton community. Our heartfelt thanks go to **Steve Knibbs (entertainer)**, **Ronnie Simms (florist)**, **Neil from Wootton Post Office**, **Grant Palmer Bus Company**, **Barbara Fleet**, **The Alive and Singing Choir**, **Emma Robbins**, and our photographer and social media lead **Jessica Ann**, **Tibbs Dementia Foundation**, and **Wootton New Life Methodist Church**.

*Thank you, Wootton — your kindness is everything.*

**Kath Pearce**



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**Things have continued to be extremely busy here at Wootton, especially as we prepare to welcome Year 7 and 8 students in the autumn and become a fully-fledged 11-16 secondary school!**

Students continue to delight us and the wider community with their enthusiasm and charm. Barely a day goes by now where we aren't hosting visitors to see the school in action. This term alone we have run tours for prospective students and their families, teachers interested in working here, colleagues at both Bedford and Central Beds councils, and even the Mayor of Bedford, Tom Wootton!

Mayor Tom was joined by Cllr Jane Walker, who has the Children's Service portfolio at Bedford Borough, and Wootton Councillor John Wheeler.

We were really keen to have them in for a few reasons. First of all, we wanted them to meet students and hear first-hand about all the progress Wootton has made in recent times. As ever, our teenagers were eloquent, charming and persuasive – superb ambassadors for our community!

In addition, we wanted to be able to tell the Mayor and councillors how supportive everyone at Bedford Borough Council has been as we work towards the big transition.



Big projects like this don't always go to plan but councillors and officers alike are working closely with us to ensure not only

that our brilliant new building is ready on time, but that we have all the other support we need to make the changes go smoothly for students, their families and the school.

As mentioned already, we have a steady stream of visits by prospective students and their families. All comment on how calm and focused lessons are as they wander the place, and how complimentary staff and students are about the improvements in recent times.

It's a real testament to the hard work everyone has put in to making Wootton a school for the whole community to be proud of.

Just before Christmas we were delighted to have some of our students provide entertainment at the annual Bob Lunniss lunch. We were also represented at the event by Head of School Mrs McMorn, and she came back having issued an open invitation to guests there to visit us for a tour and afternoon tea!

As a result, by the time you read this we'll have had our first batch of guests in, and we'd love to have more of you visit us for future such events too! If you fancy a look around the place followed by some top-quality student-made tea and cake, just drop us a line on [hellowootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:hellowootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk) and we'll add you to the guest list for the next one!

As part of our preparation for September we have already run our first set of adverts and interviews for teaching jobs. We're intending to do a few rounds of recruitment but have been blown away by both the volume and quality of applications already received!

When interviewing people at Wootton we use what we call "The Sophie Test", named after my eldest daughter. It's a simple

question: would I be happy for this person to teach my own child? And if they're not good enough for my children, they're not good enough for our students either.

It's why we've gone out for jobs so early – to allow us time to do more adverts and interviews to ensure we keep the quality of appointments high and ensure everyone that joins us shares our values and ambition for our students.

It all means that this term is going to be really busy with interviews, but it is absolutely worthwhile getting this right. The good news is that we're going into things with a healthy level of interest – and lots of people telling us they want to work at Wootton because they've heard great things about the place, especially how lovely our students and community are!

And as usual, if you would like to see the school for yourself, please get in touch and we'd love to show you around. Drop us a line via [HelloWootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk](mailto:HelloWootton@wootton.beds.sch.uk) and we'll arrange a tour for you. In addition, if you have anything you want to share with us, or feedback we need to hear, you know where we are – we're keen to hear from you!





# Wootton Vale and Shortstown Surgeries



As we begin a new year, we would like to wish all our patients a happy and hopeful 2026. We know that winter can be challenging time, and we want to reassure you that our team is here to support you. The past year has been a busy one for our Surgery and for our colleagues. By working closely with other local providers, we have continued to adopt services to meet the needs of our community during a period of ongoing NHS pressures.

We would like to thank our patients for your patience, understanding and kindness towards our staff over the past year. Your support makes a real difference. As we look ahead, we remain committed to providing, safe, compassionate care for our community.

## Change of Practice Name

The practice has been working on a re-branding project to foster a unified identity across both of our sites with an aim to make patients feel part of "one big family" regardless of location. A new practice name and logo have been designed for the practice. The practice has applied to the ICB to realign its geographical boundary to reflect historical patient distribution. With several partners now in place, the practice also seeks to mitigate the current mismatch where patients with historical ties live outside the technical boundary and family members are prevented from joining. **Watch this space for news to follow when we have the outcome from the ICB to approve the changes.**

## New Partners:

We are pleased to announce that we have two new partners that have joined the practice during the last year:

- **Dr. Ghulam Shabir** has been a valued member of our team for four years, initially joining us as a locum GP. His dedication to our patients has led him to take on an increased commitment, and he will now be more involved in the management and clinical leadership of the practice.

- **Dr. Hetul Shah** brings a fresh perspective and new ideas from his five years as a GP Partner in North London. We are excited about the experience he brings to our team.

## Breast Screening:

Breast screening is a way of detecting breast cancer, often at a very early stage. It involves X-rays called mammograms.

If you are aged 71 or over, you will not automatically be invited for breast screening. However, you do have the right to free screening every 3 years if you ask. All you need to do is phone or write to your local breast screening unit to make an appointment. Visit NHS.UK to look up details of your local unit.

## DNA Numbers:

November: 392 - 3.3% of our available appointments.

December: 461 - 3.7% of our available appointments.

Please help us to maximise appointment availability by contacting us as soon as you know you will be unable to attend your scheduled appointment.

## Minor Illness Appointments:

Did you know that you don't have to visit the GP for Minor Illness or for Contraception. The Minor Illness Pharmacy Scheme (launched in January 2024), also known as the Pharmacy First Service, allows patients to receive treatment for minor ailments from the pharmacies **without the need of a GP appointment**. They are also able to prescribe antibiotics and other treatments where required.

A number of conditions can be treated by this service including:

Coughs and colds

Sore Throats

Ear Infections

Ache and Pains

Some Skin Conditions

Visit the NHS website to learn more.

## Pharmacy Service for Oral Contraception:

The service now includes ongoing monitoring and supply of oral contraception prescriptions, initiation of oral contraception and supply of oral emergency contraception.

## NHS App Services:

Using this App will allow you to view your medical records and other information. You can also:

- Request repeat prescriptions
- Check your test results
- Read messages from the NHS

You need to be over the age of 13 year and registered with your GP. Setting up an account is straightforward on your telephone, tablet or computer – please follow the link: NHS App and your NHS account - NHS.

Some of our Administration Team are Digital Champions who would be able to help and support you with setting up this service.

## Patient Participation Group (PPG):

Wootton Vale & Shortstown Surgery would like to extend a sincere thank you to all patients who have expressed an interest in joining our Patient Participation Group (PPG). We hold bi-monthly meetings and actively listen to patient feedback to help shape and improve our services wherever possible.

If you would like to get involved, please complete our online Patient Participation Group registration form Patient Reference/Participation Group Registration - Wootton Vale & Shortstown Surgery or alternatively pop into the surgery.

We particularly welcome patients who live outside the immediate Wootton and Shortstown areas (for example, Wixams), as communities further from our sites are currently under-represented. We are keen to ensure that all patient voices are heard.

# IT MEANS WHAT?

## Spring is in the air

*In the build up to spring, so many of us look forward to plants that will soon "egerminate" – thus springing into life or bud out.*

*The same can be said for "repullulate".*

*Long before "spring" became fashionable in the 1500s, the Old English word was "lencten".*

*A popular spring flower, "daffodil" was once known as "daffadownilly", commonly used as a playful poetic term in the 16th century.*

*Another very popular flower which we often see popping through snow, "snowdrops" was once referred to as the "Fair Maids of February".*

*We see the trees regain their green colours in spring – once referred to as "frondescence" or "reverdie".*

# Contemplation Corner

- Why is abbreviated such a long word?
- If a word is misspelt in the dictionary, how would we know?
- At what point does a hill become a mountain?
- Why do we park on driveways but drive on parkways?
- If a sponge is full of holes, how does it hold so much water?



### GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to make an appointment to come and view the building, contact our Booking Team.  
Wootton Community Centre  
Harris Way  
Wootton  
MK 9RJ

**CONTACT US:**  
0783027920  
www.wootton.cc  
Bookings@wootton.cc  
Woottoncommunitycentre@g mail.com



### ABOUT OUR CENTRE

We're proud of our purpose built Community Centre. Just over 5 years old, the Centre is a big part of the village and used by many different clubs and classes, community events as well as private hire and special occasion's.

The two rooms for hire are both great spaces in their own right. The Main Hall is a large airy open space, has good access directly into the building from the car park. Fully fitted privacy blinds, and a serving hatch from the kitchen into the hall.



### LOCATION

Wootton is a large village southwest of Bedford, in the north of Bedfordshire.

### ROAD LINKS

Use postcode MK43 9FZ  
10 Mins from M1 Junction 13  
4 Mins from A41 Bedford to Cambridge

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**Mondays 6.15 – 7.15 p.m. Wootton Village Hall, Church Road.**  
**Wednesdays 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way**  
Contact Gen on 07849 158 850 for more info/book a place



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### 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.

#### **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.

#### **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

#### **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 email: andream@bedsrcc.org.uk**

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



Established 1967

St. Mary's Church Hall, St. Mary's Road, Wootton, Beds MK43 9HB  
Tel: 01234 767158 Email: [stmaryspreschoolwootton@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryspreschoolwootton@outlook.com)

With Christmas now a fading memory, we have made a good start to 2026!  
All of the children have returned happy and settled and are enjoying our new topics and activities.  
We started the Term taking our inspiration from the cold, frosty mornings and learnt about animals that live in cold places. We pretended to feed fish to penguins, made penguins from dough and collaged shiny igloos. We have also been learning about the different birds that visit our garden.

We have enjoyed getting muddy as we explore our extensive outdoor area!  
Later in the term, we are going to be thinking about keeping healthy and looking after ourselves.  
Chinese New Year gives us a wonderful opportunity to learn about another culture and try new foods.

We will be celebrating World Book Day in March with a journey through several Traditional Tales and dressing up as our favourite storybook characters.



We will also be raising money for Comic Relief and dressing up in funny clothes.



In March, we will welcome our mums, grandmas and others who are mother figures to us to our annual Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea.



The term will end with our Easter festivities, including an egg hunt and an Easter service at St. Mary's Church.

#### **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 where they regularly take part in Forest School activities. The Preschool is a member of the Preschool 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. We currently have limited availability for September 2026 and are taking applications for September 2027. If you would like to apply for a place at Preschool or require any further information, please phone us on 01234 767158 or email [stmaryspreschoolwootton@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryspreschoolwootton@outlook.com).

**Children not eligible for funding** – fees currently £6.50 per hour



Yew Tree Cottage, Cause End Road.

## Memory Stir

### Wootton Baptist Chapel – A Brief History

Wootton Baptist Chapel has been part of village life for two centuries, standing in a prominent position in Bedford Road.

With roots reaching back to the early 1800's, local people seeking to worship outside of the Church of England began meeting together for religious worship in homes. Records show Baptists or non – conformist "dissenters" meeting at various homes in the village since 1808 but an application was made in February 1826 to worship in the home of William Early.

A printer by trade, Mr Early opened a day school in his home in Cause End Road, Wootton (now called Yew Tree Cottage) and a group of Baptist believers also met at this address. He formally became the congregation's Pastor in 1824

As the church began to increase in membership Rev. Early sought to acquire a more suitable building for the meetings of the new Baptist cause. In 1836, in conjunction with John Lovell, mealman, Richard Early, grocer, Samuel Lovell, shopkeeper, Henry Hekks, husbandman, Jonathan Lambert, husbandman, James Redman, wheelwright, William Redman the elder, farmer, William Redman the younger, builder, Thomas Redman, farmer, William Whitehouse, baker, Joseph Whitehouse, farmer, William Harris the younger, farmer, William Moore, carpenter, William Vincent the elder, general dealer, James Furr, husbandman and Charles Summerfield, husbandman, a parcel of land containing 15 poles (just under a tenth of an acre) "being a certain close called Beards Close" in High Street (now Bedford Road) from John Berry for the sum of 18 pounds and 15 shillings.

A Chapel or Meeting House was built at a cost of £400 and opened for the worship of Almighty God in March 1836.

Rev. William Early resigned the pastorate in 1852 after serving the Church for 27 years. He preached his farewell sermon on Sunday 14th March .He died 5th April 1853 aged 79 years and was buried in the chapel burial ground (now the church car park) with his wife Mary, who had died on 19th November 1848, from typhus fever. A tablet to his memory is in the chapel.

In 1853 funds were raised to build a house in the chapel grounds for the minister to live in at a cost of £120.

The chapel was extended in the 1950's through the gift of a piece of land from Mrs Doyne-Ditmas, allowing a schoolroom to be added. In 1976 this was extended a second time and the building now enjoys a large schoolroom, kitchen, toilets and meeting rooms.

Paul Betny, writing in 1860 about village life, records in his book "Rambles in Bedfordshire" :

*"Dissenting places are now licensed to convert two persons into one, folks have their choice of place, according to conscience, in which to plight their troth and take each other for better or worse. And so on Friday 11th November last, the villagers of Wootton were incited to much gossip at the witnessing the wedding of the second couple who had the temerity to depart from the time-honoured rule and have this ceremony performed in the Baptist Meeting House"*

The happy couple referred to were in fact relatives of mine - William Lambert aged 21, tilemaker and Betsy Benson aged 20 both of Wootton.

The chapel continued to play an important role in the village through the very large Sunday School, Sunday services and mid week meetings. Special events such as Church anniversaries and Harvest Festivals were always well attended and sit-down teas were a "must for every occasion."

The Bedford Mercury newspaper of 20th September 1881 reported,

*"On Sunday last the anniversary services of Wootton Baptist Sunday School were held and three sermons were preached by Mr. T. Cook of Luton. The congregations were good throughout the day but in the evening the congregation was so large that many people*



The Baptist Chapel 1930, featuring Kate, Jessie and Olive Lambert.

*were unable to get inside the chapel".*

Anniversaries were always followed with a fun day for the children and again the Bedford Mercury for September 1882 reported :

*"Following the Sunday School Anniversary a delighted party went in wagons to Mr.Burrs farm at Kempston West End. Over 100 children sat down to tea first, then 90 friends. For the pleasure of the youngsters, swings, see-saw and a greasy pole had been put up"*

Today, the chapel members remain faithful to the original trust deed of 1836, being a witness to God in the village. As well as our Sunday services we also reach out to support the community with a weekly coffee morning, mums and toddlers group ( Explorers), Adventurer group for children of school years 2 to 6 and home bible study groups

In January 2025 the Church were delighted to call a new pastor, Tom Roberts. We look forward to his leadership in the Church and his partnership in the wider village community.

This year, 2026, we are excited to be celebrating 200 years of the Baptist cause in Wootton and God's faithfulness to His people. Look out for our celebratory events!

Drop in and see us sometime, you'll be assured of a warm welcome!

**Sue Lambert**



## Join us on Sundays

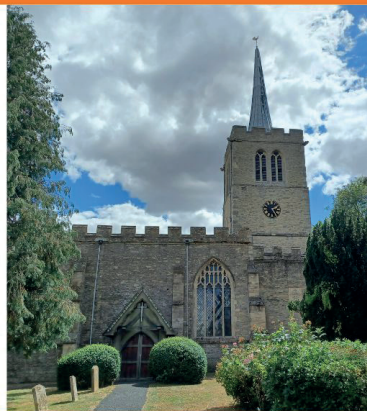
### 10am Morning Service

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 on our YouTube channel.

[youtube.com/StMarysWootton](https://youtube.com/StMarysWootton)



## Easter

### Good Friday (3 April)

10am Family Service

2pm An Hour at the Cross

### Easter Day (5 April)

10am Easter Communion  
(with Easter Egg hunt)



## 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 Mar, 13 Apr, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July. To book your place contact Peter Stephens on 01234 765403.



[stmaryswootton.org.uk](https://stmaryswootton.org.uk)

Instagram: StMarysWootton Facebook: St-Marys-Wootton

stmary's  
wootton

## Wootton - W9

Christmas came and went in the blink of an eye, but our festivities were enjoyed by all the members attending our December meeting. We were entertained by The Great Gardini, a magician and illusionist, who amazed us with many different tricks and even chopped through a member's arm without her feeling a thing. Very clever but also baffling. I'm sure if you know, you know, but we were suitably impressed.

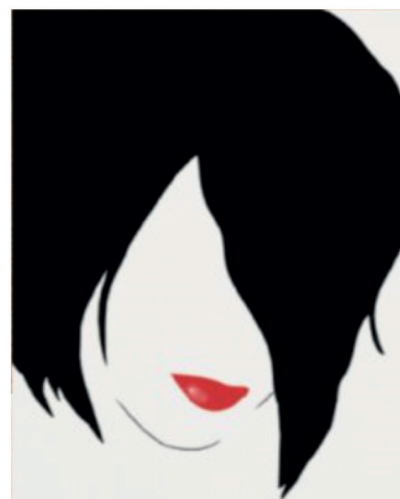
At our January meeting, Ruth Rowse gave us a very insightful talk on Cancer Treatments through the ages, starting in the 17th century through to the present day. Incredibly, some of the 17th-century treatments had some success, providing the patient with a few extra months of life, but it is treatments since the 1970s that have broken new ground with much more targeted treatments that don't destroy healthy surrounding tissue and organs and give a much better quality

of life and survival rate. A cancer diagnosis is not necessarily the death sentence it once was.

February saw members enjoying a games and quiz evening. An old game of Railway Stations was resurrected from years ago, and we soon got warmed up trying to follow routes from directions placed around the hall, having been given the first station as a start point. We did wonder if any of the routes on our cards were actually viable to travel these days, but nobody volunteered to try them out!

Future meetings include our Sausage and Mash supper, our annual meeting and a Murder Mystery evening. Watch out for announcements on our Facebook page.

As always, we welcome visitors for a fee of £5, including a cuppa and a biscuit on the third Wednesday of the month at 7-30pm in the Memorial Hall, Bedford Road.



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# Falcon Gymnastics Club



## COME AND JOIN FALCON RECREATIONAL CLASSES:

Scott Primary - Week day evenings & Saturdays

Maple Tree, Sandy - Tuesdays

Sharnbrook - Wednesdays & Saturdays

Shortstown - Mondays & Fridays

Wixams - Sundays

## GYMNASTICS PARTIES:

Saturday & Sunday afternoons

## HOLIDAY CAMPS:

Throughout the school holidays

Also on offer at Falcon  
SEND Sessions  
Pre-School Sessions  
Competition Squads  
by invitation

For more details visit: [www.falcongym.com](http://www.falcongym.com)  
Or give Mel Hale a call: 07514 366894

## Wootton - Village Agent

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# Crystal Care Pet Grooming



by Louise Hughes

Tel: 01234 768303 [lou@crystalcarepetgrooming.co.uk](mailto:lou@crystalcarepetgrooming.co.uk)  
23 Fields Road, Wootton, Bedford MK43 9JJ  
[www.crystalcarepetgrooming.co.uk](http://www.crystalcarepetgrooming.co.uk)

All breeds of dog, cats and small pets catered and well cared for.

## Falcon Gym Celebrating 50 Years of Gymnastics



This year marks a truly special milestone as Falcon proudly celebrates 50 wonderful years of gymnastics.

Our story began in 1976 as a small school gymnastics club in Falcon Avenue, with just one Saturday afternoon class. From those humble beginnings and a handful of eager gymnasts, Falcon has grown into a club that has inspired over 30,000 gymnasts across Bedfordshire to date.

Today, Falcon delivers gymnastics across five venues, welcoming gymnasts at every stage of their journey. From our preschool sessions, where little ones take their earliest steps into the sport, through to our vibrant recreational classes and on to our elite squads.

Over the past five decades, Falcon has achieved remarkable success, producing over

1,000 county, regional, and national champions, and representing Great Britain on both the European and World stage.

At the heart of Falcon is our exceptional coaching and admin team of passionate and dedicated individuals whose belief in every gymnast has been the driving force behind Falcon's success.

Above all, Falcon has always been about more than medals. We are proud to provide gymnastics for children of all abilities, inspiring confident, expressive, and happy gymnasts who grow, develop, and excel at every stage of their journey.

As we celebrate 50 years, we honour our past, celebrate our present, and look forward with excitement to inspiring future generations.

**Sue Birchall**

*Co-founder and Head Coach*



## Wootton Scout Group Need Your Help



Wootton Scout Group operate and manage Wootton Scout Hut, St Marys Road which has been providing a great space for, Beavers, Cubs, Scout, Explorers and Brownies for many years.

Due to increasing costs, we need the community to help with the upkeep of the hall to ensure we can keep providing a safe space for youth groups to enjoy for years to come.

We are looking for local based Carpenters, Electricians, Plumbers, Kitchen Fitters who would be willing to give some of their time and knowledge to support with upkeep and projects over the next year or so.

Also, if you are a local company that would like to donate money towards projects including Toilet Refurbishment, Kitchen Refurbishment, Fire Safety Upgrades & Heating, please contact Mark on 07772 330169 or woottonscouthut@gmail.com.

### THANKYOU TO:

**Proactive Services Group** for Testing & Electrical Work

**Harrold United Reform Church** for Donating their Oven

**Chelsea White** for donating their old Kitchen

**Leslie Sell Charitable Trust** for donating Soundproofing

**Bedford Beefeaters** for donating adhesive for sound proofing

**MSH Exterior Services** for repairing and cleaning the gutters, and window cleaning

**Stuart Wilding & Ben Lock** for donating heaters and fitting them



## General Property Maintenance & Home Improvements

**Painting & Decorating - UPVC windows/doors/fascias & soffits**  
**Kitchen/Bathrooms – Tiling- Carpentry/flat pack**  
**Fencing/Decking ..... and more**

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**01234 757 454 / 07887 852 489**  
**Email [thelook@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thelook@tiscali.co.uk)**

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# 1ST WOOTTON BRIGADES

THE ADVENTURE STARTS HERE



January 2026 saw the Brigades at Wootton celebrate our 10 Year Anniversaries with numerous parties and it's been great to welcome new members along to start their Adventures with us. A lot has happened in those years, but we're not slowing down, instead we have our most ambitious year ahead with 3 camps in the planning and a few special '10' Challenges along the way.

First camp up is a 5 day Narrowboat cruise in May with an opportunity to see a different side of life and they'll be lots of locks to negotiate along the way. We follow that up with our ever popular Summer Camp (in tents), this time to Devon and hope to have around 70 attending that.

Our final camp of 2026 will be in October when around 10 of our band are to join a Massed Marching Band (90 strong) Tour of Belgium and France, performing at numerous Towns and locations en-route such as at the Menin Gate. They'll also be visiting some of the Battlefields where Brigade members fell in WW1 & WW2 and include visits to places such as Passchendaele, The Somme, Vimy Ridge to pay our respects.



## MARCHING BAND TOUR FUNDRAISER



# £2000

## TARGET TO REACH!

To take part in this incredible opportunity, all our band members require a special band jacket costing £50 each x10 = £500 (Plus a further 10 Band Jackets for the other band members & a few spare sizes) + £500. These will then be usable at other future events such as our Village Remembrance Parades.

It's also costing a lot for a week long tour, especially on top of 2 other camps and we'd like to help our members by offsetting £100 each if we can (£100 x10 = £1000)

We shall be holding a fundraiser on 28th February and we'd love your support.

### 1st Wootton Brigades

#### Annual Fundraiser

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

**Morning**  
9:30am - 12:00 Midday

- Bacon Baps / Tea / Coffee, Cake Sale
- Sale of Goods, Tombola and more...

**Evening 6-9pm**

- Board Games

At Wootton New Life Methodist Church, Cause End Road

If anyone would like to make a donation direct to our appeal fund, please contact us via our email [BBGB1stWootton@gmail.com](mailto:BBGB1stWootton@gmail.com)

Wootton Parish Council Presents

# WOOTTON

# FUN FEST & MOTOR SHOW

## SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2026

### 1PM - 9PM

## RECREATION GROUND

FREE ENTRY

CLASSICS  
TRACTORS  
SPORT CARS  
MOTORBIKES

LIVE MUSIC  
ALL DAY



COMMUNITY  
HOUR  
1:00pm



EVIE  
2:00pm



MAT ROBERTS  
BAND  
3:00PM



ALEX  
EARLY  
4:30PM



TOM KORNI  
5:45PM



JOYRIDER  
7:15PM

FREE  
FAIRGROUND

FOOD STALLS

FREE  
MAGIC SHOW



BAR

FREE  
FACE PAINTING

## SOMETHING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY

Sound provided by



Entertainment provided by



Stage provided by





A Warm Welcome  
Awaits you at  
**WOOTTON NEW LIFE**  
Methodist Church



**Sunday Mornings**



Service starts at 10:30am  
Rev Sydney Sichilima



Join us for Breakfast  
from 10:00am

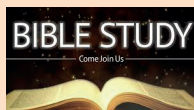


Treasure Seekers  
10:30am - 11:45am  
FREE ~ For Kids aged 4-12

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



Memory Gym  
First Monday of the Month



Worship Group  
Practice once a week  
Seeking musicians to join

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

# Brennan School of Dance

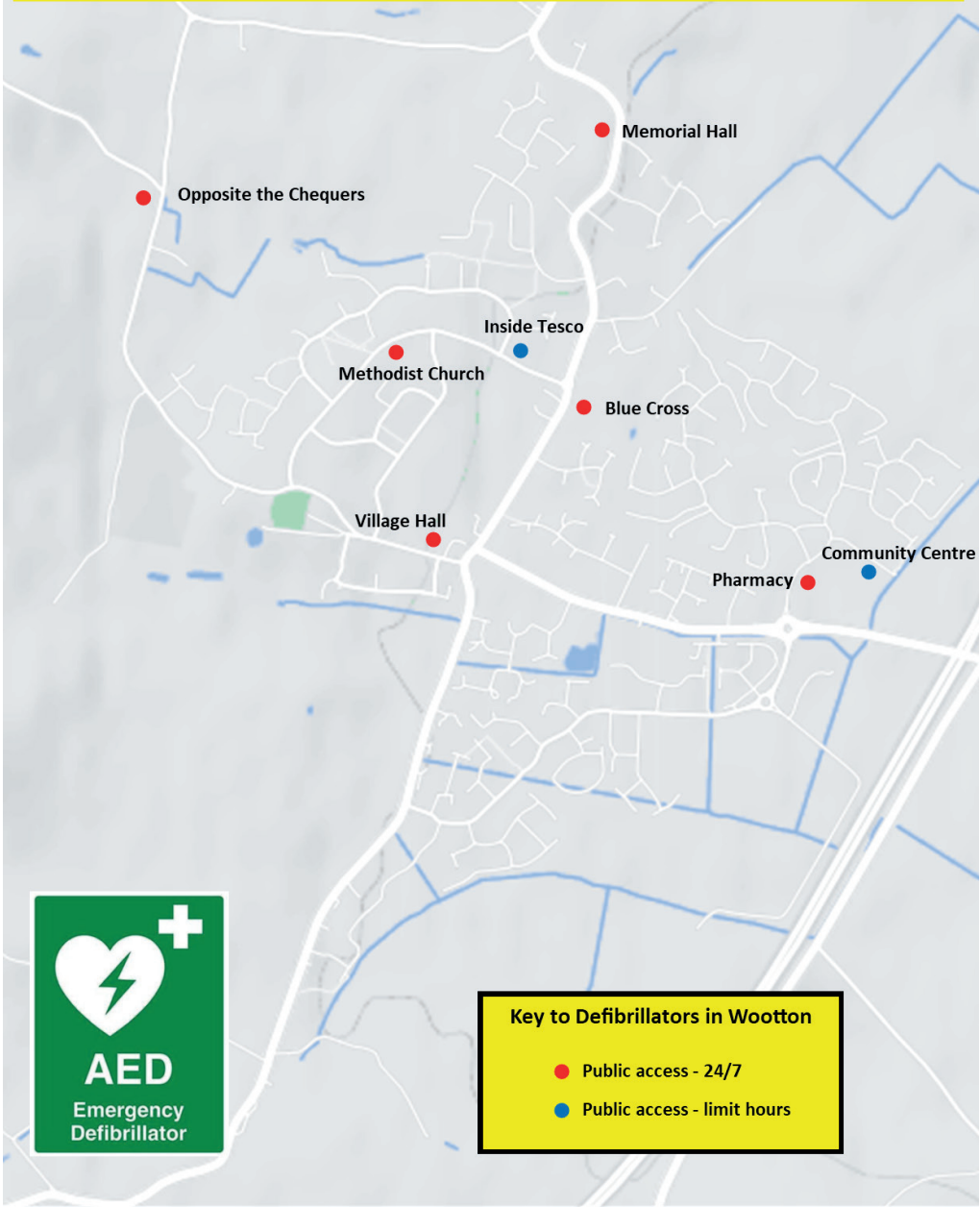


Tickets on sale for our final production...

## THE LAST DANCE

Contact: [boxoffice@stantonbury.tove.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@stantonbury.tove.org.uk) or call 01908 324466

# Defibrillators around Wootton



**Key to Defibrillators in Wootton**

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