

WOOTTON PARISH MAG

Serving the community of Wootton Parish

Mar-Jun 25

Wootton Parish Council Elections

Do you want to
make a difference
and have a say
about where you
live?

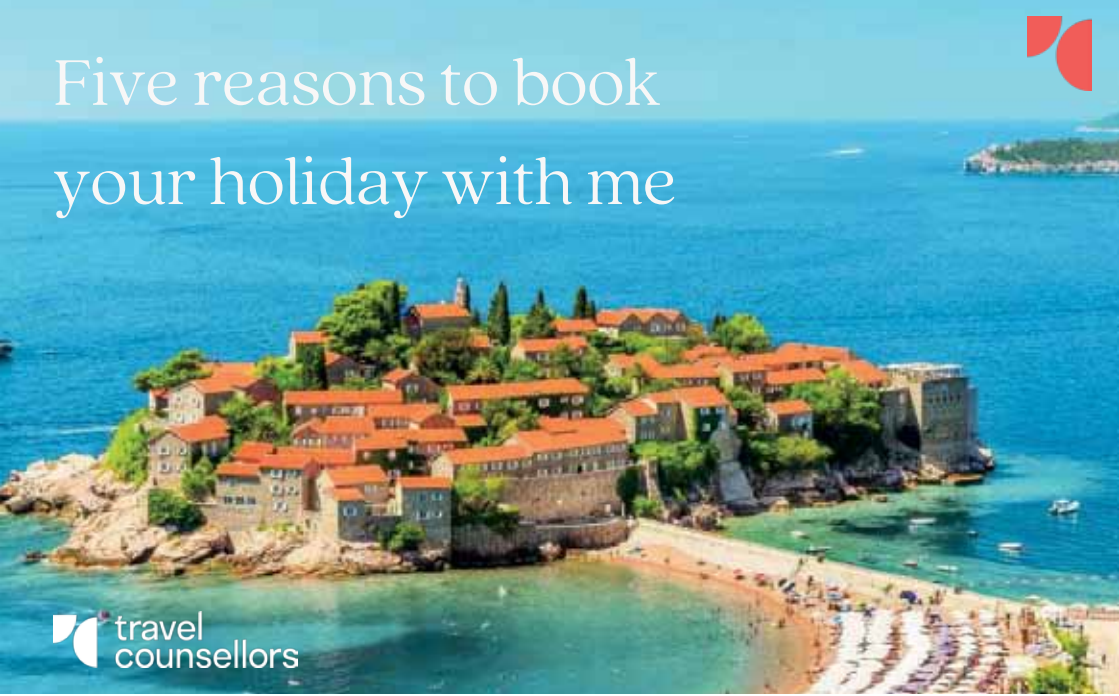


You could be just the person to help make a
change by becoming a Parish Councillor

For more information about what's involved in being a Parish
Councillor please contact your Parish Clerk, Alison Reynolds

GET INVOLVED

WOOTTON PARISH MAG



Five reasons to book your holiday with me

travel counsellors

1. Your local, independent, Travel Consultant

Based in Wootton, I love to help my local clients with their holidays. I meet face to face, video or voice call, email or message - whatever suits your needs. What's more, I am not tied to any specific suppliers, so you can be confident that you will receive a professional, tailored service.

2. My expertise, your extraordinary experience

Being part of a global community of travel experts with a wealth of experience, I craft meticulously planned, unforgettable holidays that are truly unique to you, bringing the joy of travel without any of the stress, curating experiences that fit your needs, style and budget.

3. My Service, Your Way, We Go Beyond

Whether you're looking for a safari or road trip, a beach or cruise or all of the above. Maybe you already know what you'd like and you need me to bring it together or do you need inspiration and expert knowledge? Whatever service you're looking for, we go beyond.

4. You're in Safe Hands when you book with me

Your holiday is ATOL protected and your money is 100% protected. With flexible payment plans and the myTC App giving you the latest travel updates at your fingertips, all you need to worry about is what you're going to pack!

5. Peace of mind with 24/7 Care and Support

You have the benefit of receiving a personal service. I am on hand to help when you need it, with the backing of a world-class support team and 24/7 Duty Office. You have peace of mind that you are taken care of throughout, right up until you return home from your trip - because life happens and you deserve a worry-free holiday.

Laura Crouch

TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

01604 330010



laura.crouch@travelcounsellors.com

www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/lauracrouch



From the Chairman

Happy New Year to all of you!

What a fantastic 2024 we had. Our wonderful Library received more visitors than ever, our Community Centre on Curtlee Hill was just about fully booked. We refurbished our Jubilee Bar so that we can host more events and groups and hosted our first ever Family Fun Day in the summer.

Lots more to come this year, and I've already had a very exciting meeting with our Clerk Alison, our Library Manager, Jussy and our Events Manager, Gemma. More to follow on our plans for 2025.

Down to some serious business... On 1st May 2025 the Parish Council Elections will be held in Wootton. This means that all Parish Councillors will need to be elected for the next term. Please do make the effort to vote for your chosen 12 Candidates for the next 5 year term.

I will be standing for Election as I hope to continue making meaningful differences to residents of Wootton and I know that several of my fellow Councillors also plan to. I do hope that we will have some new candidates standing and I'm excited to see how the next Wootton Parish Council moves forward with delivering service and improving our wonderful Parish.

As always, if you would like to speak to the Council about anything. Please do feel free to attend our monthly meetings, or drop into the Parish Office to speak to one of the team.

Many Thanks

Emma Fisher
Chairman, Wootton Parish Council

Cover
Council elections poster
(see pages 6, 7, 25 and 26 for more details)

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Councillors and Roles

Wootton Parish Council currently has 10 councillors, with 12 seats available. All seats will become vacant at the upcoming Parish Council elections on 1st May 2025, and we will be seeking to fill them all.

Councillor Julie Bilson

Julie was co-opted to the council in February 2024 and is responsible for open spaces.



Cllr.juliebilson@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Malcolm Callan

Malcolm was co-opted in June 2023 and is a member of the Finance and Community Centre Committee and is responsible for the Parish Mag.



Cllr.malcolmcallan@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Benedict Churchus

Benedict was co-opted in April 2024; he is a member of the Events Working Group and is also the council's Police Liaison Representative.



Cllr.benedictchurchus@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Emma Fisher (Chairman)

Emma is Chairman of the parish council; she was elected in May 2021 and is a member of the Finance and Community Centre and HR sub-Committees. Emma's responsibilities include the Coffee Shop, Schools and Seniors.



Cllr.emmafisher@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Sohrab Ghavami

Sohrab is another elected member of the council, elected in May 2021, he is a member of the Events Working Group, and his responsibilities include Highways, Sports Teams and the Wombles.



Cllr.sohrabghavami@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Alex Hamilton

Alex was co-opted onto the parish council in August 2024.



Cllr.Alexhamilton@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Jeff Servent (Vice-Chairman)

Jeff is Vice-Chairman of the parish council, he was elected in May 2021 and is the Chairman of the Finance and Community Centre Committee, he's also a member of the HR sub-Committee and is responsible for planning.



Cllr.jeffservent@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Clare Wanjohi

Clare joined the parish council in June, after she was co-opted in May 2024.



Cllr.clarewanjohi@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Meet your new Councillors!

Wootton Parish Council is delighted to introduce two shiny new councillors

Councillor Bowyer

Bowyer was co-opted together with Freddie at our meeting in November 2024.



"Hello. I'm Councillor Bowyer, and I've called Wootton home for the past ten years. Over that time, I've grown to love this vibrant community and its people. My aim as a councillor is simple: to serve our parish with a commonsensical, practical approach that gets things done.

I'm particularly passionate about fostering a strong community spirit – one that welcomes newcomers and helps them feel that they truly belong here. Whether it's connecting neighbours or supporting local initiatives, I want to find ways to bring all 'Woottonites' closer together.

Wootton is a fantastic place to live, and I'm committed to ensuring it stays that way. I'm laid-back and approachable, always ready to listen to parishioners' concerns and new ideas. If you've got thoughts on how to make our community even better, I'd love to hear them. Together, we can build on what makes Wootton special and create a welcoming, thriving environment for everyone".

Cllr.tbowyer@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillor Freddie Uddah

Freddie was co-opted at the same time as Bowyer during our meeting in November 2024.



"As a newly appointed Parish Councillor for Wootton Parish, I am committed to serving the community with dedication and integrity. With a background in Project Management, I bring experience in planning, collaboration, and delivering results. Beyond my professional expertise, I enjoy walking, cycling, reading, and traveling the world, which provide me with a broad perspective and keep me connected to the beauty of our community and beyond.

As a member of St. George's Church, I value the importance of community spirit and inclusivity. My aim is to support initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all residents, promote sustainable development, and ensure transparency in council decisions.

I look forward to working with fellow councillors and engaging with the community to address local concerns and foster a thriving parish".

Cllr.freddieuddah@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Step Up for Your Community

Become a Parish Councillor

As the upcoming parish council elections approach, Wootton Parish Council invites residents to consider standing for one of the 12 seats on our council. This is a unique opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future of our community. If you meet the standard criteria for eligibility, we encourage you to step forward and make a difference.

Why Become a Parish Councillor?

Being a parish councillor is an incredibly rewarding experience. It provides a chance to influence local decisions, improve services, and ensure that the voices of residents are heard. With the ongoing devolution of responsibilities from the government to unitary authorities, and subsequently to parish councils, our council's role is becoming increasingly significant. This means more opportunities to effect meaningful change at a local level, addressing the issues that matter most to our residents.

Training and Support

We understand that stepping into a role like this can feel daunting. That's why we offer comprehensive training for all councillors. Training is not only available when you join but is ongoing and expected throughout your tenure. This ensures that you're well-equipped to handle the responsibilities of the role and confident in your ability to contribute effectively.

What we're looking for in Councillors

In the past, many potential councillors have expressed a desire to "give something back to the community." While this sentiment is admirable, parish councils have evolved, and so have the expectations of councillors. Today, a councillor is expected to take an active role in the running of the council and the wider parish. Here are some of the key qualities and commitments we're seeking:

- **Engagement and Preparation**
Councillors are expected to attend monthly meetings, come prepared by reviewing the agenda in advance, and be ready to vote on issues. Abstaining from votes is discouraged, as it diminishes the representation of our electorate.
- **Active Participation**
Councillors are encouraged to join committees within the council, take ownership of specific issues, and contribute proactively to the work of the council.

- **Event Involvement**
Wootton Parish Council runs approximately 12 events annually. Councillors are expected to assist with a reasonable number of these, demonstrating their commitment to community engagement.
- **Computer Literacy**
A reasonable level of computer literacy is essential for modern council operations, from accessing meeting agendas to participating in virtual discussions when necessary.

The Benefits of Becoming a Councillor

- Being a parish councillor is not just about responsibilities; it's also about personal growth and community impact. You will:
- **Develop new skills** and enhance existing ones, including leadership, decision-making, and teamwork.
 - **Build strong connections** within the community and with other like-minded individuals.
 - **Gain a deeper understanding** of local governance and the satisfaction of knowing you're making a tangible difference.

A Commitment, Not Just a Title

We want to be transparent about the commitment required. Becoming a councillor is not about simply attending meetings unprepared or offering minimal input. It's about being an active and engaged member of a team, dedicated to improving the parish and representing the community effectively. If you're ready to take on this rewarding challenge, we encourage you to stand for election and help shape the future of Wootton.

For more information on the upcoming elections and how to apply, please contact Wootton Parish Council.

Let's work together to continue building a thriving and resilient community.

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL



NCALC Council of the Year 2020



Scan the QR code for full election details on the Council website.



Parish Council Precept

Understanding the Precept Increase for 2025/2026

The Parish Council would like to inform residents about the precept increase for the financial year 2025/2026. We understand that any increase in Council Tax is a concern, and we want to be open and transparent about why this decision was made and what it means for you.

What is the Precept?

The precept is the portion of your Council Tax that funds your Parish Council. It allows us to maintain and improve local services and facilities, ensuring Wootton remains a vibrant and thriving community.

Why Has the Precept Increased?

This year's precept will rise from £315,576.00 to £438,848.00, an increase of 19.61%. While we have worked hard to keep this figure as low as possible, the increase is necessary due to rising costs in utilities, maintenance, and the general cost of living.

We are also delighted to welcome the residents of St George's Fields development, transferring from Hackleton to Wootton. Their inclusion means they will contribute towards paying the precept, helping to spread costs more widely.

What Does This Mean for You?

For a Band D Council Tax household in Wootton, the increase amounts to £20.91 a year, which equates to just £1.74 a month or approximately 40 pence a week.

For residents of the St George's Fields development, there's good news – your precept will decrease by around £40 a year, reflecting the cost-sharing benefits of being part of Wootton Parish.

Please note that not everyone lives in a Band D property, so your specific increase may vary depending on your home's tax band.

Where Does Your Money Go?

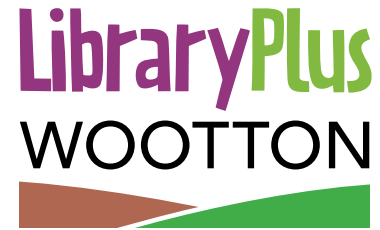
The precept funds a wide range of services and projects that benefit our community, including:

- Running and maintaining the community and sports centre.
- Supporting the library and recreation areas.
- Organising events like the Family Fun Day, Fireworks Night, Christmas Craft Fayre, and Wootton Bites.
- Commemorative events such as last year's 80th anniversary of D-Day.
- Craft sessions at the library, including slime making and holiday activities for children.
- Emptying dog waste bins and maintaining village noticeboards.
- Installing new benches and maintaining public spaces, including grass cutting and tree care.
- Pitch marking for sports teams.
- Producing the Parish Magazine.
- Training for staff and councillors to ensure we deliver the best possible service to you.

A Final Note

We appreciate that these are challenging times for many households, and we are committed to managing your contributions responsibly. As your Parish Council, we remain focused on delivering excellent services, maintaining transparency, and keeping Wootton a wonderful place to live.

Thank you for your continued support.



Something for everyone

Nestled in the corner of the Wootton Community Centre, our library stands cosy and inviting, a warm space for all ages. It is more than just a space lined with bookshelves but a place where imagination flourishes, offering a wealth of resources that cater to people of all ages and interests. From the moment you step through its doors, the inviting atmosphere and the scent of fresh pages welcome you into a world of endless possibilities.

In recent months, our beloved local library has blossomed into a vibrant hub of activity, embracing change while remaining true to its mission of promoting literacy and fostering a love for reading. As we step into a new season, let's explore the noteworthy updates and upcoming events that make the library a must-visit place for all ages.



The fun doesn't stop at books at Wootton Library. The library has also been bustling with engaging events. From our regular **Knit and Natter** sessions and **Book Club** on an alternate Wednesday to **Story Time** on Tuesday mornings, **Rhyme Time** on Friday mornings or **Book Club for Kids** once a month on Saturdays, our calendar has something for everyone. We love creativity here at Wootton Library and embrace this in our **Crafternoons** every other Monday, along with a monthly **Lego Club** on a Saturday morning. We are also thinking of running other book and art sessions for primary aged children and young people up to the age of 14 on a Saturday morning, so if you are someone who would love to be involved in this, please get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you and share in your ideas and creativity.

Our **Autumn Fun Day** was full of spooky-themed crafts and games – such as making pompom spiders and Diwali lamps, pumpkin toss, ghost tic-tac-toe, and a scavenger hunt around the library. It was spectacular to see



little spooky faces after their visit to the face painter running around scavenging in their costumes.

The **Christmas Fair** started our festive celebrations and was one to remember, with our Knit and Natter stall selling beautiful handmade Christmas ornaments and crocheted or knitted items, raising a really good amount for library funds. Our **Christmas Fun Day** was a great event drawing in families and friends, creating a warm atmosphere filled with shared stories, fun and laughter. We had a magic show, games such as Reindeer Hoopla and a homemade festive photo corner.

Looking ahead, we are eager to build on this momentum with a series of upcoming events. Mark your calendars for the annual **Spring Fair** on March 22 where our Knit and Natter Group will have a stall and you will find lots of Mother's Day, Easter and spring gifts at very reasonable prices. Additionally, the library has organised two **Easter Craft Days**, so keep an eye on posters in the library or any of our social media platforms for more information on this. Our library website is also up and running, so give it a visit for any information regarding events or how to manage your library account.

Being a library member gives you so much more than having an account you cannot even remember the password for! (don't worry,

no long passwords to remember here). You can access a whole lot with just a little card, such as our wide selection of books in any Northamptonshire Library and access a whole range of online resources. With your library card and a PIN provided, you can access the Northamptonshire Libraries Library Plus app where you can store your card digitally, and manage your account by renewing your loaned books or reserving a title on our catalogue. The perks of being a member (not a wallflower) do not end there. You can also access e-books and audiobooks through the **Borrowbox** app with your library membership, and all for free.

We love seeing all of you and for our regular customers, it is absolutely wonderful to see young ones go from babies to toddlers to school children and get to know you. We now have a feedback form, for anyone wanting to let us know your experience of the library, whether negative or positive, please fill in these forms and let us know how we can make our library an even better place for everyone. If you can help, we are always in need of wool

for our Knit and Natter Group, any pre-loved books in good condition or any craft supplies that you no longer need, we are always thrilled to accept them to keep our library events running for FREE.

As always, we are so grateful to our lovely team of amazing volunteers, without which our continued success would not be possible. From giving their time to keep our library running day to day to participating in any events we hold, our volunteers are always ready to jump in and contribute, and we are extremely grateful to have them.

As the library continues to adapt and innovate, it remains a safe and welcoming space for learning, connection, and creativity. So whether you're a long-time patron or a newcomer, there's never been a better time to stop by, explore the wide range of books and participate in the exciting events lined up. We would love to see you and welcome you into the warm community we have.



Neya Parmar



WOOTTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Regular events

CRAFTERNOON Alternate Mondays 1pm	RHYMETIME Every Friday 11am
STORYTIME Every Tuesday 11.15am	BOOK CLUB Alternate Wednesdays 10am
KNIT & NATTER Alternate Wednesdays 10am	KIDS' BOOK CLUB Monthly Saturdays 10.30am
LEGO CLUB Monthly Saturdays 11am	ALL WELCOME!

For more information visit us on Facebook or Instagram or at woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

LibraryPlus
WOOTTON

Finance update

Hello everyone, as we near the end of our financial year, the Finance Committee wanted to provide an update on our Finances.

We've spent within budget this year and estimate that we will finish the year with a small amount of leftover funds which we will add into our general reserves.

Our general reserves (rainy day money) are quite low and we will be working to top these up over the next few years.

Ideally, we need to be holding around £200,000 of reserves with a Parish of our size.

Looking to next year, we've got some funds budgeted to try and make improvements around the Parish including more Benches, Signage, a new Website and some wonderful community events.

Our finance committee meet quarterly so if you have any queries about our finances, or suggestions for works and improvement around the Parish, please do let us know.

The Finance Committee

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL



Calling Local Businesses

Fantastic Business Opportunity

Do you live in Wootton?

Do you have a business in Wootton?

Wootton Parish Council is keen to support local businesses and would like to invite you to make use of our new Atrium in the new extension to Wootton Community Centre.

The Parish Council will be holding awareness weeks in the new space and would like local businesses to set up "pop-up" shops when the space isn't being used.

If you are a local businessperson who can advertise or set up a shop in the Community Centre please get in touch with our Community & Functions Manager, Gem Johnson who will be able to help you.

bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk
01604 705055

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL





What do we do?

- ✓ Own and maintain the community centre & sports facilities
- ✓ Own & run the Library
- ✓ Outdoor gym & running track
- ✓ Maintain the play area
- ✓ Benches & Planters
- ✓ Provide and empty dog waste bins
- ✓ Issue grants to local groups
- ✓ Own and mow some green spaces
- ✓ Plant and maintain parish owned trees
- ✓ Produce the Parish Mag
- ✓ Comment on planning applications



Please note this is not an exhausted list



What do West Northants Council do?

- ✓ Approve planning applications
- ✓ Empty bins around Wootton
- ✓ Household/Green waste collections
- ✓ Fix pot holes
- ✓ Issue fines for dog fouling
- ✓ Own or fix street lights (except for those in the community centre carpark)
- ✓ Mow grass verges
- ✓ Flytipping
- ✓ Noise/Smell pollution
- ✓ Traffic Calming
- ✓ Maintain footpaths
- ✓ Maintain hedges/bushes
- ✓ Housing



This is not an exhausted list - for further information visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk

News from Wootton Parish Council

Clerk's Update



Parish Clerk, Alison Reynolds, keeps us up to date with Council matters



Happy New Year from the Clerk!

Firstly Happy 2025! (although it sounds very odd wishing you a Happy New Year in March), I hope you've all had a wonderful start to the year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the warm welcome I've received since starting as Clerk to Wootton Parish Council. I've settled into the role very well, thanks to the kindness of residents, colleagues, councillors, and volunteers. Your support has been truly appreciated.

Past Events

Our brilliant Bar and Functions Manager, Gemma, and Library Manager, Jussy, have been hard at work organising some fantastic events since the last issue in November.

I was thrilled to join the team of marshals during the annual Fireworks event. What an incredible turnout. It was wonderful to see so many residents enjoying the evening.

The Christmas Fayre and Christmas Fun Day were also huge successes. I think the highlight of the fun day was the magician who

kept the children entertained. I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped make these events so memorable.

Future Events

Looking ahead, we've got an exciting year of events planned. Please pencil the dates into your diary for our **Spring Fayre on 22nd March**. Our other upcoming activities include:

- VE Day Celebrations
- Four Wootton Bites food festivals
- Summer Family Fun Day
- Halloween Disco
- Fireworks Event
- Christmas Fayre

Community Meeting

19th March at 6pm

We're excited to announce our Community Meeting will take place on 19th March at 6pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet your Parish and West Northamptonshire Councillors, hear from local groups about

their work in the parish, and learn more about what's been happening in your community.

We've also arranged for the South Northants Community First Responders to attend and carry out a Defib and CPR demonstration. Free refreshments will be served, it will be great to see you there.

If you're interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, this is also the perfect chance to find out more about joining our team!

New Councillors

I'm delighted to welcome two new councillors to the parish council, Cllr Bowyer and Cllr Freddie Wuddah, who were both co-opted in November. They've settled in well and have already attended some new councillor training.

Next Year's Budget

We've been working hard on next year's budget. Due to rising costs, we've unfortunately had to increase the precept (our portion of your council tax). We've kept the increase as small as possible, but it's necessary to maintain the services we provide. A separate article in this issue explains more about the precept.

Parish Council Elections

2025 is also an exciting year because it's parish council election year. All Parish and Town Councils across Northamptonshire will be going to election on 1st May.

Cllr Malcolm Callan has written an article about the elections which is included in this issue. If you're interested in making a difference in Wootton, why not consider becoming a parish councillor? Please reach out to me for more information - I'd be happy to help.

New Website

I'm pleased to announce the launch of our new-look website. While the web address remains the same - www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk the site has been revamped to make it easier to navigate. If you're looking for information about the parish council, upcoming events at the community centre and library, or other local updates, our website covers it all.

Wootton Matters

The Parish Council has decided to rename the parish magazine. From July's edition, you'll see the new look/named magazine, Wootton Matters.

David Wilson Land

We are finally moving forward with the transfer of the David Wilson-owned land off Wooldale Road, a transfer that has been in the pipeline since 1997. We're hoping to complete the transfer by the end of this financial year. Once the funds come through, we'll be planning to upgrade our play area.

Thank you again for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic 2025 for Wootton!

Useful Information

The Parish Council website is always up to date and contains the Minutes of the Council meetings amongst many other items. You can look up planning applications, financial information, find your local Councillor and check out any news relating to the Parish at:

www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facilities and Maintenance Update

Recent Works

- Replacement of bridge in Thrupp bridge pocket park.
- Repair and maintenance of football fields.
- Repair of dog bin.
- Repair changing rooms.
- Cleaning repair and parish owned bus stops, benches, notice boards.
- Review of contracts to negotiate best possible value and service for Wootton.
- Assisting the Memorial Hall with maintenance.

Over the autumn and winter months, the facilities and maintenance team have worked diligently to repair and enhance the facilities and grounds at Wootton, despite the challenges posed by persistent wet weather. Outdoor maintenance has been particularly demanding, but we successfully repaired large holes in the senior football field that were prone to waterlogging. These repairs have significantly improved the playing surface and its usability.

Our team has also cleaned the parish-owned benches and, as the weather improves, we plan to carry out further maintenance on these and other parish-owned assets to ensure their longevity. Unfortunately, we have observed an increasing amount of litter around the Parish, but we remain committed to regular litter picking to keep our community spaces clean and inviting.

Additionally, we have approved a major upgrade to the bridge in the pocket park near Thrupp Bridge Road. After consultations with suppliers and contractors, we are finalising a replacement bridge that will be durable, cost-effective, and designed to improve accessibility for all.

Community Centre Improvements

Indoors, we have made the most of the colder, wetter months by focusing on the community centre. Our team has been busy with repairs, painting, and general improvements, ensuring the centre continues to look its best and operate efficiently for the benefit of the community. We have been thoroughly reviewing the contracts and suppliers utilised by the Parish, with a focus on renegotiating terms wherever possible to secure the best value and highest quality of service for our community.



Plans for Spring and Summer

With the arrival of better weather, we will shift our focus to outdoor projects:

- **Notice Boards**
We plan to repair and refurbish the notice boards located throughout the Parish, giving them the attention they need.
- **Parish-Owned Assets**
Other key assets, including benches, the Parish-owned bus shelter, and the Water Lane area, will also receive cleaning and maintenance.
- **Planters**
We aim to refresh the planters throughout the Parish by adding new plants that will enhance their visual appeal and provide interest year-round.



As always, we are committed to maintaining and improving the facilities for everyone in the community to enjoy.



Tom Lowe
Facilities and Operations
Manager
Wootton Parish Council

Wild about Wootton

Crocus corm planting in Wootton

In Mid November for the 4th year in a row purple flowering crocus corms were planted in Wootton. The task was under taken by Members of the Wild about Wootton Team, the Rotary Club of Northampton West and the Eco Warriors from Wootton Primary School . The planting location was each side of the drive up to the Community Centre. See photos

The Eco Warriors were very enthusiastic and happy to get their hands dirty. The ground grubs and worms were of particular interest and some of the children held them with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

The purple crocus, which were kindly donated to Wootton Parish Council by Rotary Club of Northampton West, commemorate the 99.9 % success in achieving a polio free world. In 1985, Rotary launched its worldwide PolioPlus program. Since then, Rotary has contributed more than £1.5 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunise more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries against polio. Today, the disease is present in only three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, with 37 polio cases in 2016, and just 10 so far this year. This is a massive reduction since the

1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases per day. The programme is still ongoing and needs to run for three years after the last reported case.

The purple crocus is the worldwide symbol of the mass immunisation programme whereby children have a purple stamp on their hand to show they have received protection against polio. When the crocuses emerge every spring it will be a reminder of the part Northampton has played in this project.

So look out for the purple flowers in early spring. They were planted in two places in the Memorial Garden , by the footpath at the top of the Recreation Ground and by the Wootton Community Centre. They will provide early Spring colour, and nectar for our pollinators. Bumble bees love the. We look forward to seeing the results in a few months.

If you would like to join the Wild About Wootton please contact the Clark to Wootton Parish council. The group does tasks on an ad-hoc basis. If you are free to help that's great. If you can't then there is always a next time.

Jim Newton
Wild About Wootton



Join in the Big Knit 2025

Local charity Age UK Northamptonshire has taken part in the Big Knit campaign every year since the fundraising partnership with innocent smoothies began in 2003. It's a fun way for knitters (expert and newbies) to help older people in their community.

Northamptonshire knitters can send their little hats to Age UK Northamptonshire and each one will raise a vital 30p for the charity. If Age UK Northamptonshire reaches its target of 20,000 it will raise an amazing £6,000 which will help fund crucial local support.

"Whether you knit four or five little hats, or like spending hours working your way through bags of wool, we appreciate every little woolly marvel that arrives at The William and Patricia Venton Centre," says Jo Bird.



If you have a diagnosis of dementia

Every year Age UK Northamptonshire's Information & Advice Team helps hundreds of older people with a diagnosis of dementia claim Attendance Allowance. It is an important benefit to claim from the Department of Work and Pensions because it is not means tested or taxable. It is paid to people over pension age who are disabled, or need supervision or have difficulties with personal care.

If you are living with dementia, or caring for a person with dementia, and they are awarded Attendance Allowance, it may affect how much council tax you pay. Anyone can be disregarded if they are classed as "severely mentally impaired". This does not depend on your income or savings. If you think this might apply to you, contact West Northamptonshire Council and ask for a severe mental impairment exemption form. You can also apply online at <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/council-tax-reductions-discounts-and-exemptions/council-tax-exemptions>

Information & Advice

Age UK Northamptonshire can be contacted on **01604 611200**

www.ageuknorthants.org.uk



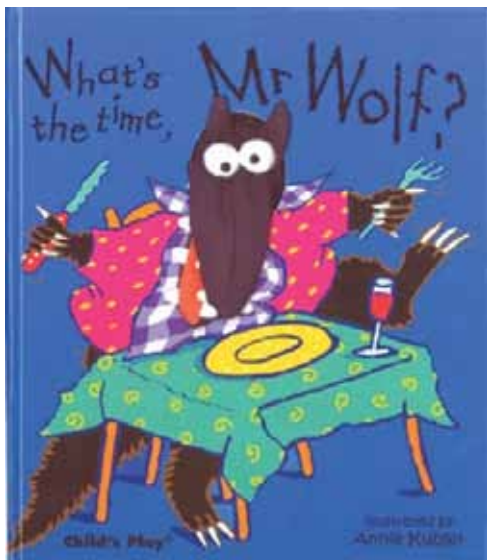
Wootton Pre-School Playgroup

Memorial Hall, High Street, Wootton

Hopefully the weather will soon improve and our children will be able to enjoy visits to the park and library again very soon.

In the meantime, we are spending as much time in the playground as we can, particularly when it is cold but sunny.

The Children are particularly loving playing "What's the time Mr Wolf" and take it in turns to be the wolf. They are counting really well up to 10 and scream very, very loudly and run as fast as they can when "dinner time" is announced!



This term we are also focussing on Communication and Language

At Pre-school we will be:

- Listening to stories and recalling the characters and events
- Helping children respond to simple instructions
- Encouraging children to be able to retell a simple past event in the correct order



And encouraging all of our children to enjoy reading books at home – we send out which books the children have been enjoying each week via our Facebook page.

September admissions

Our admissions list for those children who wish to attend playgroup from September 2025 is now open. If your child is 2 – 4 years old in September and you would like a place please email woottonplaygroup@btconnect.com or message us through our Facebook page [@woottonpre-schoolplaygroup](https://www.facebook.com/woottonpre-schoolplaygroup). You can find out lots more on our website or give us a call.

All the details about our events are in our regular parent's newsletter and can also be found on our website:

www.woottonplaygroup.co.uk

You can contact us:

Telephone: **07840 822476**

Email: woottonplaygroup@btconnect.com

Message us via face book: **Wootton Pre-School Playgroup @preschoolwootton**

Food Waste

Time to prepare for new regulations

As our world grows increasingly more aware of environmental issues, the UK has taken steps to reduce food waste with new regulations aimed at reducing waste and promoting sustainability. The latest measures, which come into effect in 2025, are part of a strategy to combat climate change and encourage responsible consumption and production. So, let's be prepared – food waste laws are changing, so what does that mean for us in Wootton?

Some stats – The UK creates a staggering 12 million tonnes of food waste every year, that's a huge amount. If you lined up small cars, that's enough weight to form a line from the UK to Australia, all the way back and halfway back again. Also, approximately half of all food waste is perfectly edible.

More locally, West Northants Council collected c185,000 tonnes of waste in the last 12 months, only 10,000 tonnes of that is food waste, which is sent to Anaerobic Digestion and the end product is energy back onto the grid to power our homes. The issue being is how much food waste is not being separated for recycling and just popped in the grey bin and treated as general waste? The estimation is another 24 thousand tonnes – which means WNC could be recycling 34,000 tonnes of food waste instead of the current 10,000.

Bearing the above in mind, food waste not only contributes to greenhouse gas emissions but also represents a missed opportunity to feed those in need. Recognising this, the UK government has implemented new regulations that target businesses, consumers, and

local authorities, aiming to create a more sustainable food system.

Scotland are well versed in the changes and have been doing this for some time now – Wales started their improvements last year and we are following suit. What are the timelines? Put simply:

- **By March 31st, 2025**, businesses will have to separate their waste streams for collection
- **By March 31st, 2026**, local councils will collect separated waste streams from our houses including a weekly food waste collection

The regulations are designed to ensure that food waste can be collected and processed more efficiently, allowing for composting or anaerobic digestion, which converts organic waste into energy.

We also play a vital role in the fight against food waste, and the new regulations include a public awareness campaign aimed at educating individuals about the issue. Simple changes in behaviour, such as meal planning, proper food storage, and understanding expiration dates, can significantly reduce household waste.

The new food waste regulations in the UK represent a significant step forward in the global fight against waste and climate change. By targeting businesses, consumers, and local authorities, these measures aim to create a more sustainable food system that benefits the environment and society.

For more detailed information google Simpler Recycling and head to the Government page...



Cllr Alex Hamilton



WOOTTON HERITAGE ORGANISATION

After a pretty successful 2024 when we were able to distribute our surplus to various community organisations we now move into our 2025 programme.

Strictly speaking that started with the November meeting when Dr Fred Myers gave one of his interesting, carefully prepared, visually illustrated, talks on the Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire. It was followed early in the New Year by the customary walk.

On this occasion wassailing wasn't possible and instead a hardy group braved some problematic weather on the new paths at Delapre before taking in some well-deserved refreshment at the cafe.

The first talk of the New Year was in mid-January when local historian and author, Richard Blacklee, introduced us to the notorious Culworth Gang. They were a bunch of 18th century thieves and highwaymen who perpetrated two decades of essentially localised crime in and around south Northants from their home base in the village of Culworth. The gang were eventually identified and several of them subsequently paid the penalty on the public gallows then located on what is now the Racecourse immediately opposite the White Elephant. Their notoriety attracted an audience of 5000 according to contemporary estimates!

May Festival

We are also organising, in conjunction with Wootton Primary School, our annual May Festival. It will take place on Sunday, May 4 at the School. Its always fun even when the weather doesn't conform. There'll be the traditional Maypole, various other entertainments, stalls and refreshments. Its an afternoon event and families of all generations are very welcome.

Spring and Summer Programme

February 19

The lost house of Preston Deanery

Margaret Williams

March 19

Wootton Roman Villa

Andy Chapman

April 16

Silverstone Village and Circuit

Gerald Lovell

May 21

The Battle of Naseby and Wootton

Richard Brinkman

June 18

Sulgrave Manor and the Washington Family

Martin Sirot-Smith

July 16

History of English Folk Music with illustrative music

Cut a Caper Band

Talks are always in the Memorial Hall commencing at 1930. Entry is £3.00 for members, £4.00 for non-members.

Refreshments are available.

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS

WOOTTON BITES 2025

RECREATION GROUND, WOOTTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

23RD MAY
27TH JUNE
25TH JULY
22ND AUGUST

5PM-9PM
COMMUNITY CENTRE BAR
ON-SITE PARKING

VISIT WWW.WOOTTONPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fun & Friendship

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



Join us now...

Find out more at...

www.thewi.org.uk



theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Wootton WI

Wootton WI was formed in April 1918. Our first president was Mrs Dodson of Wootton Rectory. Hats and gloves were worn and teas were served on the rectory lawns. This was towards the end of the first world war - just at a time when a better life for all seemed on the horizon. Meetings were moved from the Rectory to the Memorial Hall in the early 1930's and in 1934 we paid 12 shillings and six pence (62.5p) for an evening's rental. We are part of the National Federation of Women's Institutes which was formed in 1915 with the aim of revitalising communities as well as encouraging women to become more involved in producing food during the first world war. Our records have been stored at Northants Records Office since 1947 - now based at Wootton Hall Park. Times have certainly changed and these days our meetings are much less formal and our activities much wider!

We have some really interesting talks coming up - why not come along and join us? You can attend 3 meetings paying a visitor fee of £4 before you need to join, so you can find out if this for you. Discover what went on at the secretive Bletchley Park, as well as hearing about Northampton's Role in the English Civil War. No need to let us know - just turn up. We meet at 7.30 pm on the second



Wednesday of the month (except August) in the Memorial Hall in the High Street. Members also have the opportunity to join walks, lunches, coffee mornings and outings. We also find time to fund-raise for our local community as well as supporting Cynthia Spencer Hospice. Wootton WI is a registered charity and this year we have been raising funds for our local First Responders.

Recently, members celebrated the past year at their annual new year dinner, just one of the many social events you can enjoy if you join us.

Liz Goram
President
07772 896491

Christine Ansell
Secretary
07984 427673

WOOTTON WI

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month except August
7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, High St, Wootton

CONTACT LIZ GORAM or CHRISTINE ANSELL
07772 896491 or 07984 427673

or
WI NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
01604 646055

WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS CALENDAR

- Spring Fayre - 22nd March
- VE Day Event - 8th May
- Wootton Bites - 23rd May
- Wootton Bites - 27th June
- Wootton Bites - 25th July
- Family Fun Day - 30th July
11am-3pm
- Wootton Bites - 22nd August
- Halloween Disco - 29th October
- Firework Event - 2nd November
- Christmas Fair - 29th & 30th
November

for more information please contact the booking office on
bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk
 or call 01604 705055

Wootton Parish Council Meetings

Schedule for 2025

All meetings start at 6:30pm and are held in the Jubilee Room at Wootton Community and Sports Centre unless stated otherwise.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month, except for April and September this year:

- **January:** Monday 20th January 2025
- **February:** Monday 17th February 2025
- **March:** Monday 17th March 2025
- **April:** Monday 28th April 2025
- **May:** Monday 19th May 2025
- **June:** Monday 16th June 2025
- **July:** Monday 21st July 2025
- **August:** Monday 18th August 2025
- **September:** Monday 29th September 2025
- **October:** Monday 20th October 2025
- **November:** Monday 17th November 2025
- **December:** Monday 15th December 2025

Finance and Community Centre Committee Meetings

Finance and Community Centre Committee meetings are usually held quarterly on the first Monday of the month. In November, an additional meeting is scheduled on the 2nd Monday to discuss the budget and precept demand for 2026/2027:

- **January:** Monday 13th January 2025
- **March:** Monday 3rd March 2025
- **June:** Monday 2nd June 2025
- **September:** Monday 1st September 2025
- **November:** Monday 10th November 2025
- **December:** Monday 1st December 2025
- **March:** Monday 2nd March 2026

Wootton Community Meeting

Wootton Community Meeting takes place annually and is an opportunity for residents to hear about the Parish Council's work over the past year, meet local groups and organisations and engage in discussions about community matters:

Wednesday 19th March 2025

6pm in the Main Hall at Wootton Community & Sports Centre.



Wootton & Hardingstone Girl Guiding



4-7 years



7-10 years



10-14 years



14-18 years

We've been empowering girls and young women to learn, have fun and enjoy adventures for over 100 years.

Today in the UK, more than 300,000 girls meet as Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers, supported by 70,000 incredible volunteers. We know that girls are a powerful force for change in their own lives. But we also know, across all walks of life and communities, girls face challenges to their confidence. At Girlguiding, we go the extra mile to make sure girls can do these things and more. We empower girls to embrace adventure and new experiences.

In the Wootton & Hardingstone District we have 3 Rainbow Units, 4 Brownie Units and 2 Guide Units. Our young members meet regularly and take part in numerous activities, experiences and opportunities that are planned and delivered by our team of 33 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Some of the activities our members can experience include residential weekends, sleepovers, camping, trips to the zoo, bell boating, climbing, theatre trips, archery, even international opportunities.

To continue providing these and many more exciting activities, we are looking for extra volunteers to join our fantastic District team. By volunteering with us you'll be helping girls build their confidence, have adventures and learn new skills. It doesn't matter what your experience or background is, or how much time you have.

Volunteering for Girlguiding is a great way of meeting new people and taking a break from your daily routine. You can also build your own skills by taking our leader development programme, becoming a first aider or qualified outdoor activity instructor. Whatever it is you're looking for, there'll be something in it for you.

To find out more about Girl Guiding visit the website or contact your local District Commissioners to find out about volunteering opportunities.

Sarah Goode
Tel: 07775 728076

Ann Johnson
Tel: 07890 938488



www.girlguiding.org.uk

Men at Work

On a bright and sunny day in December, our new Facility Manager, Mr. Tom Lowe, and I decided to tackle an important task we'd discussed earlier: repairing the worn patches on our football pitch at the recreation ground.

We gathered our tools and materials, starting with the largest bare patch, located right in the centre of the main football pitch. This particular area had steadily grown worse over the past few seasons, and previous repair attempts hadn't held up. Determined to make a lasting improvement, we carefully applied fresh soil, seeds, and sand to restore the damaged spot.

As we worked, it quickly became clear that the job required more materials than we had originally anticipated. Despite this, we pressed on, moving from the central patch to other problem areas such as the goalmouths and penalty spots. By the end of the day, we were proud to have successfully repaired six areas across the pitch.

Both Tom and I thoroughly enjoyed the work. As football players ourselves, we know just how vital a good playing surface is for the

enjoyment and safety of the game. Over the years, we've been fortunate to avoid too many match cancellations due to pitch conditions, but maintaining this standard is a responsibility we take seriously.

Looking ahead, Tom has outlined a comprehensive program to improve the maintenance of all our football pitches. This includes aeration and reseeding of the main football pitch as a priority, along with addressing the poor drainage on the top pitch by remapping the area.

We're excited about these plans and remain committed to providing the best possible facilities for our players and community.



Cllr Sohrab Ghavami





Wootton Primary School

Eco Warriors

In October, our passionate Eco Warriors enthusiastically planted 2,000 purple crocus bulbs along both sides of the driveway leading to the community centre. With their commitment and joy in getting their hands dirty, they contributed to a special cause. The vibrant purple crocuses, generously donated to the Wootton Parish Council by the Rotary Club of Northampton West, symbolise the remarkable achievement of a 99.9% success rate in the fight towards a polio-free world.



Wootton Walks Group

Our school Wootton Walks Group had the delightful opportunity to accompany Dave Askew from Northamptonshire Walks for a morning!



The children had an absolute blast as they strolled 3.3 miles to Hardingstone Pocket Park. Along the way, Dave generously shared his extensive knowledge of nature, pointing out fascinating sights such as badger sets, birds' nests, various species of birds, as well as trees and berries.

A huge thank you to you, Dave, for his invaluable guidance and infectious enthusiasm for the great outdoors! We can't wait for our next adventure together!

Girls Rugby Festival

A group of Y5 and Y6 girls had a fantastic opportunity to attend a rugby festival at the Cinch Stadium, aimed at encouraging more girls to participate in the sport ahead of the Women's Rugby World Cup in 2025. The morning was filled with excitement as our team played several games against other schools, performing exceptionally well in each match. A highlight of the day was meeting Jodie Ounsley, former rugby player and Gladiator, who was interviewing participants for The One Show. Here's what two of our pupils had to say about the day.

Our Incredible Day

During our trip to the Rugby festival, we played four matches and won two of them. We were against many different schools and enjoyed the time we had there. As well as having fun, we learnt a lot of new information about playing tag rugby. We used many values such as co-operation and courage because some of the competition was really tough! We met 2 famous people: Jodie Ounsley and a Loughborough Lightning player. We got a tour round the rugby stadium and had a chance to look in the changing rooms for away and home teams. Also, we went into the hospitality room - which was full of delicious food. We loved to have the chance to play rugby against other talented girls and hope that something like this can be arranged again soon because it was brilliant!

AC and CB
Year 6

Reception Intake 2025!

At Wootton, we help children to develop their sense of self, their sense of others, and their sense of the world. Wootton pupils are curious, creative and courageous.

We prioritise values, putting Respect at the core, alongside our ethos of Be the Best You Can Be. We teach children to respect themselves by being honest, showing courage and being ambitious; we teach children to respect their peers, caring for each other, learning cooperatively and developing friendships; and finally, we teach children to respect their environment, by being responsible active global citizens.

We insist that they give the best version of themselves in all that they do. The school has excellent relationships with the local



September 2025 Reception places still available!

We still have a few spaces available for Reception at our high achieving, caring school, set in the heart of the community. To book a school tour, contact our friendly school office today!

Call 01604 761679 or email office@woottonprimaryschool.org

community and our children get involved in many great activities within the village. We have an excellent reputation in the county.

Academically, our children consistently attain well above the national averages and have impeccable manners, values and behaviour. We treat every child as an individual and ensure that they are given every opportunity to succeed and develop into fantastic members of the community. For children, this means that everyone in school strives to support them to attain the very best in terms of education, and personal and social development.

If you are looking to send your child to primary school in September 2025, then come and take a look at the amazing facilities we have to offer here at our school. Please contact our school office to book a tour on 01604 761679 or office@woottonprimaryschool.org.

We can't wait to welcome you to our happy, friendly and caring school that has been the heart of the community since 1872!

Upcoming Events

Wootton May Festival - Sunday 5th May

WSA Summer Fayre - Friday 20th June

Simply put, we all want to be the best we can be!

Wootton St George Boxing Day Football Match



A Celebration of Community Spirit

On a damp and foggy December morning, the much-anticipated annual Wootton St George Boxing Day football match kicked off. In this friendly showdown, a team of current and former players faced off against a squad of slightly more seasoned players, which included a few last-minute additions of younger athletes, ultimately lowering our team's average age to 55.

Tom, our new Facility Manager, and I had the privilege of playing in the second half for the veterans. This gave us a valuable opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the repairs we made on the bare patches of the pitch.

A delightful highlight for me was the chance to play against my son, which injected a fun rivalry into the match.

This event has become a cherished staple of the Wootton calendar, consistently drawing a lively audience. More than just a game, it embodies the spirit of enjoyment and camaraderie, especially after the hustle and bustle of Christmas Day.

In my eyes, there is only one winner at the end of this match: Football, and the sense of community it fosters.



Cllr Sohrab Ghavami



Your waste and recycling 2025 collection calendar

Northampton 2



West Northamptonshire Council

West Northants recycles

Your collection day has not changed - please look up your usual collection day on the calendar below.

- Recycling** Collected every two weeks
- Garden waste** Collected every two weeks
- Food waste** Collected every week
- General waste** Collected every two weeks

Garden waste collections
You will only receive garden waste collections if you subscribe to the chargeable service.
There will be a short break for garden waste collections from 23 December 2024 to 3 January 2025.

Batteries and small electrical items:
Please place your old small electrical items and batteries in a bag on top of your recycling bin for collection on your usual recycling collection day.

December 2024	January 2025	February 2025																																																																																																									
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Please ensure your bins are out kerbside by 6:30am on your collection day.

To find out more visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/waste



Wootton St George Youth Football Club

Hello everyone!

Wow, what an incredible year 2024 was for our Club, both on and off the pitch! Let's dive into the highlights that made this year unforgettable.

On the Pitch: Triumphs and Trophies

Our teams dazzled on the field, clinching trophies at various summer tournaments. A special shoutout to our current U8s, who brought home the Plate at our very own Wootton Tournament last summer. This event has grown into a spectacular tradition, attracting teams from near and far to the Wootton Rec for a weekend of thrilling

football action. And guess what? Plans are already underway for this year's tournament, so stay tuned for more excitement!

Off the Pitch: Fun and Fundraising

We didn't just shine on the field; our off-pitch activities were equally stellar. Thanks to the fantastic support from TenPin at Sixfields, we hosted several bowling nights throughout the year. These events were not only a blast but also helped us raise significant funds for winter training facilities and additional equipment for our teams. A huge thank you to our U12 Girls Manager, James Mawer, and the TenPin team. We're already gearing up for another bowling night early in the New Year!



Upcoming Events: Quiz Night Extravaganza

Mark your calendars for March, as we gear up for our annual Quiz Night at the Community Centre. This event has always been a crowd-pleaser, filled with laughter, friendly competition, and a chance to top our previous fundraising records. We can't wait to see you there for another night of fun and community spirit!

Community Commitment: Giving Back

Our dedication to the local community shone brightly in December when our teams organized a food bank collection. The response was overwhelming, with managers, coaches, players, and parents contributing over 30 shopping bags full and more than 10 boxes filled with food to Food Aid Far Cotton. Additionally, our U13 boys and U9s teams donated their previous season's football kits and old boots to charities supporting street kids in Kenya and Nairobi. What a fantastic way to make a difference!



As we look forward to 2025, we're excited to continue our journey of success and community involvement. We're committed to nurturing the development of kids and young adults in our community, both on and off the pitch.

Stay connected and up-to-date with all our team news and fundraising events by following our Facebook Page: Wootton St George Youth FC. Here's to another phenomenal year ahead!

Cheers to a fantastic 2025!

Steve Wade
Club Secretary
Wootton St George Youth



Something really Special!

Rheagan Reynolds in a starring role with Mr Tumble

Five-year-old Wootton resident, Rheagan Reynolds has been one of the lucky children chosen to take part in starring roles in the most recent series of Something Special!

Something Special has been a long running BBC Children's programme which first broadcasted in 2003 and features well-received slap-stick loving Justin Fletcher playing children's favourite Mr Tumble, alongside many of his other 'tumble characters'. The programme is a favourite of many toddlers due to Justin's likeable and funny characters, but Justin and Mr Tumble and Co. are particularly revered by parents and their children throughout the SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) community – as the show aims to be thoroughly inclusive of all children with different medical needs and disabilities and also uses Makaton sign language and symbols throughout – which is

a language used particularly by children and adults with learning disabilities.

Rheagan was offered the opportunity to audition for the chance to be in Something Special via an amazing charity known as F.E.A.R. – Face Everything And Rise (faceeverything.co.uk). They are a fantastic charity which give sporting/social/adventure opportunities and support/education/information to individuals (and their families) who are artificially fed with either tube feeds or TPN feeds. Rheagan has been tube fed since shortly after birth due to struggling to swallow food and drink safely.



The logo for 'Something Special' features the word 'Something' in blue with a star above the 'o', and 'Special' in multi-colored letters (red, orange, yellow, green, blue) with three stars above the 'i'.



Rheagan chats with Justin Fletcher aka 'Mr Tumble' during the filming of Something Special



Rheagan on set with Mr Tumble as they film Something Special



FEAR sent an email out to offer the opportunity to children who had participated in their Disability Snowsport sessions, in Tamworth, where Rheagan had started learning to ski with their amazing instructors and the supportive hands-on FEAR team. Rheagan's mum registered interest but was told it was very early days and that these things didn't always happen. Some months later though, Rheagan was offered an "online casting" and had her opportunity to 'show off' and demonstrate her cheeky side and her clever use of the Makaton language. She has Down's Syndrome and had only just turned five so was barely making any recognisable words or sound, but she could make herself well understood in other ways and Makaton was, and still is, her main way of communicating. The audition was a success, and she was invited to film in July 24.

On the days of filming, Rheagan loved every minute – she was so excited to meet Mr Tumble, and even when he was not dressed as Mr Tumble, she recognised Justin as her TV star – which everyone thought was so cute! Justin was really impressed by her understanding of the filming process, as at barely over 5, she was quite a young participant for the programme, and she was very comfortable with starring alongside both Justin and George Webster (another TV host, who also has Downs Syndrome)! She was not at all phased by repeating the scenes and enjoyed every minute, both on and off the ski-slope.

The long-awaited episode was released on the BBC iPlayer at the end of January 2025, and Rheagan and her family were delighted to invite her friends and family to the community centre to watch the episode together in celebration of her achievement – it will absolutely be a lovely memory to look back on and such an achievement at such a young age!

Scouts  Squirrels **BEAVERS**
1st Wootton **cubs** Scouts 

Adventure, fun and building life skills



At 1st Wootton Scout Group, we're all about adventure, fun, and building life skills. Our group welcomes young people aged 4 to 14, with sections for Squirrels (4-6), Beavers (6-8), Cubs (8-10.5), and Scouts (10.5-14). We give our members the chance to try exciting activities like camping, hiking, swimming, abseiling, cycling, canoeing, mountain climbing, sub-aqua diving, and cooking – all while learning valuable skills for the future.

Every week, Scouts come together to work as a team, challenge themselves, and create lasting memories. We focus on building confidence, resilience, and skills that will help them in school, work, and life, all while having fun along the way.

We're proud to be an inclusive group – welcoming all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. Whether your child is into archery, coding, arts, or outdoor challenges, they'll find something to get excited about here.

Volunteers are essential to making it all happen. Whether you help occasionally or get more involved, there's a spot for you to make a difference. It's a rewarding way to give back, meet new people, and be part of a community shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

At Wootton Scouts, we're more than just an adventure – we're a place for growth, friendship, and memories that last a lifetime.

If you fancy volunteering or wish to enquire about a space in the group for your child please email jonwoottonscouts@gmail.com and we will get back to you.



We love scouting

Some quotes from scouts as part of their Media and Marketing badge.

The reason we love scouting is because we get to do things like hiking up the Welsh mountains. Some of us got to rev dirt bikes of some riders that stopped to say hi and others were throwing themselves down the mountain in the heather as it was easier than walking. We also got to explore a copper mine and see the amazing beauty that Wales has to offer. Some special scouts got invested halfway up a mountain in an ancient stone circle that they had to navigate their way to using maps and compasses.

In scouts we want to do indoor skydiving because we think that its less dangerous than stuff outdoors you can also control where you go in your own space instead of people being there. We also have a strong desire to fly and we can defy gravity.

One time at scouts we went on a hammock camp and slept in the woods in hammocks we got to play hide and seek in the dark and had a BBQ for dinner next time we want to use our survival skills such as building a fire and cooking on it.

I think camping with your friends is the best part about scouts as it's basically a big sleep out with your scout mates and it feels good to get away into nature and it's like a great bonding with lots of people

I would love scouts to go to an escape room as I see life like you're trapped inside a box and you can't get out unless you work together exactly like escape rooms. They are fun and you do get to know each other a bit more and I personally love escape rooms, but some people don't. I feel like it's a good opportunity for all of us to get to know each other, I love escape rooms it feels like . . . Life.



Holy leaks!

Help St George's Church stay dry



St George the Martyr Church

During a farewell gathering at Wootton Community Centre for Reverend Lakshmi, where we wished her all the best for the future, I learned about an issue close to many of our hearts: the roof of St. George's Church has started leaking in several places. After giving it some thought, I felt called to help. I set myself the goal of raising £1,500 towards the repair costs by running 20 laps—equal to 10 miles—around the recreational ground at Wootton Community Centre.

To prepare for this challenge, I trained and ran diligently over several weeks. On Saturday



30th November, I completed the full 20 laps in 1 hour and 45 minutes. It was an incredible experience, and I am so grateful to my family, friends, and the many generous donors who contributed to this cause. Every donation, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated by both me and the church.



After the run, I had the chance to meet our local Labour MP, Mr. Mike Reader, who happened to visit the Christmas Fair that day. I also learned about a wonderful initiative by Mrs. Jodie Turner, the owner of our local coffee shop. She sold raffle tickets for a chance to win a fantastic hamper and generously donated the entire £210 she raised to my fundraising efforts.

Thanks to these contributions, my GoFundMe campaign has reached a total of £1,259 so far. While I'm still short of my target, I'm hopeful that with continued support, I can reach the £1,500 goal.

I'm thrilled to share that some essential repairs have already been carried out, ensuring the long-term preservation of this cherished historical building. St. George's Church holds a special place in our community, and it's heartwarming to see how everyone has come together to support it.

If you'd like to contribute to this important cause, your support will mean the world. Let's ensure St. George's continues to stand strong for generations to come.



Cllr Sohrab Ghavami

WOOTTON MEMORIAL HALL

The Memorial Hall was founded explicitly as a community project to be paid for by the community and used by the community. That concept is a century old and the physical building almost as venerable. Times have changed since the Hall was an idea and subsequently a reality. Two changes in particular are worth mentioning. It's not easy to define 'community' in the first place, even more so when the conventional idea of a community is subject to as much spatial and demographic change as that in Wootton over the last couple of decades.

Secondly the process and cost of managing, maintaining and modernising a century old facility has become more complex and expensive. In order to meet the challenges the Hall Council has had to adapt the Hall's function while at the same time maintaining its core community commitment.

At the heart of this has been the need to raise the maintenance funds that are necessary for do its survival as a community asset. The only way to do this has been to use the facility as a hireable asset. For this to succeed it's been necessary to maintain and improve the facilities and to widen the range of potential users. In order to do it we've set up a successful Wootton Memorial Hall website with a user friendly calendar and booking system. The site has links to our regular long term users. All are important to us but especially so is our biggest user the Weetton Playgroup whose regular weekly hire forms the bedrock of our annual income. Two long term associates are the Wootton WI and the Wootton Heritage Organisation both of whose monthly meetings have been located in the Hall for many years. More recent regulars

have been Wes and Alex Dance Lessons and Zumba with Jo Jo who together represent an increasing trend for the Hall to be a venue for various forms of dance and different kinds of exercise. That is possible because the space and facilities are suitable and flexible.

We've also recently strengthened our community links via an agreement with Wootton Parish Council to employ their facilities department for emergency call outs if they're available and also for the department to provide quotes for any suitable maintenance projects. There may be mutual financial benefits but also important are the interactive implications of having local links and a heightened sense of a community.

We move into a new year with optimism based on healthy bookings, a well maintained building, a newly constituted, active, management council and a more visible online presence. This isn't a sudden change. It couldn't have been done without the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of the recently retired chair, David Blackburn, whose leadership presided over a number of facility improvements and our robust re-emergence from the covid hiatus.





Busy times at Preston Hedges

In and out of school

The autumn term flew by and as always, it was lovely to see the children get settled into their new year group and become immersed in their new topics, building on their prior learning. Across the term, children enjoyed visits outside the classroom including: to the Gurdwara, church, Benham Sports Centre for trampolining, swimming, Trust sports tournaments and trips to the Theatre to watch *The Jolly Postman* and also to watch peers perform in *Peter Pan*.

As well as visits during the term, the children also enjoyed visitors to school who helped bring their learning to life and further opportunity to explore the topic in more depth, including handling artefacts and primary sources. We look forward to welcoming more as we continue through the year, and already have people booked in to talk about: their religion, railway safety, the Vikings and the Greeks.

Beyond the school day, there have also been a range of exciting events taking place, including funding raising events organised by The Friends of Preston Hedges (FOPH), such as: a disco, wreath making, breakfast with Santa and a Fun Run. The FOPH team are determined to raise enough money to build a MUGA which can be used by children across the whole school and so far, have raised over half the amount needed, which is amazing! What is also lovely is that one of our children, Sophie, used her own time and efforts to raise money, which she then donated to the cause. This demonstrates how our school values are



Sophie fundraising for the school

taken out into the world and how children from Preston Hedges are being trailblazers, which is rather exciting! We are proud of all of our children here and love finding out what they have been up to outside of school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families (and the FOPH) for their continued support for all these events and of which I am sure there are more to come.

Thinking about things coming up, we have a packed term including: celebrating Children's Mental Health Week, Science and Art Days, sport tournaments and Year 5 children performing *A Midsummers Night's Dream* at The Dergate (tickets are on sale) to name but a few. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page to see all the lovely things we will be getting up to.

Winter Review

Wild About Wootton

The wonderful volunteers that make up this small but enthusiastic group have once again been quietly going around the parish looking after and enhancing our local environment.

We have carried out several maintenance tasks. These have ranged from clearing and cutting back a small section of hedge, alongside the Quinton Road as you leave the village, to keeping on top of the weeds and pruning ready for next spring at the Memorial Garden off Hermitage Way. We have also cleared around the base of trees planted over the last couple of years so they do not have to compete for water and nutrients.

The wildflower area on the walkway from the community centre towards the Quinton Road has also received some attention. Wildflower meadows are not something that are easy to set up. They require patience and can take between three and five years before becoming species rich and established. Having initially put in wildflower plug plants just over two years ago this one is still in its infancy and as such still has a few teething problems.

We have had some success with White Campion, Yellow Loosestrife, Wild Carrot, Field Scabious, Knapweed and Michaelmas Daisies all flowering across the summer months. Grass around them needs to be regularly cut back and pulled away. The aim is to both weaken the grass and expose some of the soil so that seeds from the existing plants, along with other wildflower seeds to be sown shortly, will have a chance to grow.

Our hope is that over the next few years this area will continue to develop and improve, providing a valuable resource for our struggling pollinators as well as increasing the local areas biodiversity.



Honey Bee on Knapweed flower, J Bilson.

With the help of the Eco Warriors from Wootton Primary School and members of the local Rotary club we planted crocus bulbs in front of the community centre and look forward to seeing them flower in the spring.

They will shortly be helping us again, replacing and filling gaps where hedgerow plants have failed or been damaged.

All these small acts often go unnoticed and might not appear very important. However, Crocus flowers and the wildflower meadow will provide vital food for pollinators and hedgerows valuable habitat for a wide number of insects, birds, and mammals. With our natural world continuing to be under constant pressure and decline we believe that every small action can make a difference, not only to the local environment but will also leave future Wootton generations with a parish rich in biodiversity.

Cllr Julie Bilson

Wootton Parish Council Elections

Do you want to make a difference and have a say about where you live?




You could be just the person to help make a change by becoming a Parish Councillor

For more information about what's involved in being a Parish Councillor please contact your Parish Clerk, Alison Reynolds

GET INVOLVED



Further election information and nomination packs are available on our website

Scan the QR code for everything you need



WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL
 Wootton Community & Sports Centre
 Curtlee Hill
 Wootton
 Northampton
 NN4 6ED
 Tel: 01604 705055
 email: clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thirteen Excuses

For not joining the Parish Council



- 1. I'm too young.**
If you are eighteen you are old enough (and see point 5 below.)
- 2. What's the point of just joining a talking shop, they don't do anything.**
Have you ever been to a meeting? Basing your judgement on watching 'The Vicar of Dibley' is definitely not valid.
- 3. I haven't got any planning applications in at the moment.**
Putting in for planning permission has got nothing to do with sitting on the council, whatever may have happened years ago. In fact, if your own application is discussed by the council, you would have to follow the council's Code of Conduct and national ethical standards, and the restrictions on participating in such circumstances.
- 4. I'm too busy and couldn't commit to attending every single meeting.**
Meetings are rarely more frequent than one evening a month, and missing the occasional one is acceptable. Most meetings only take a couple of hours.
- 5. I'm concentrating on finding a job or furthering my career.**
Being a local councillor is a definite plus point to add to a CV – it shows you can make decisions, work in a team, are community minded and proactive. Prospective employers will be impressed.
- 6. I haven't lived here very long and don't know the area well.**
If you are a Commonwealth/EU citizen and have lived or worked in the parish for a year or already have your name on the electoral roll, you are eligible. Your views as an 'incomer' should be welcomed, as you will probably see things more objectively.
- 7. I'm worried that I won't get many votes and look silly.**
Even if you are not voted on this time, you may well be approached if a vacancy occurs in the future and have to opportunity to be co-opted to the council.
- 8. Our parish council is full of old fogeys.**
Join up and change it then.
- 9. I'd look a fool because I won't know what's going on.**
You will be eased in gently; there is help, advice and training available. The clerk is the officer of the council, and he or she will be able to explain the rules.
- 10. I'll have to sign that code of conduct thing that the press keeps on about.**
The code of conduct is nowhere near as onerous as made out in the press – and is there to protect you – i.e. the code stops situations like the planning one above.
- 11. I'll have to let everyone know all about my business and personal affairs.**
The declaration of interest form completed at the outset asks you to list business interests within the parish area, to guard against bias when parish issues are debated. As for personal affairs, get real, everyone knows about those already!
- 12. I'm too lazy and not interested in my community.**
An excellent reason for not joining.
- 13. I prefer to let others do the work and then criticize from the sidelines afterwards.**
Also, a valid reason for not joining, but do bear in mind, that expounding your views in the pub, rather than the council chamber, will not change a thing in your parish – and if you can't be bothered, does that mean it's fair game to criticize those who do make the effort?

Wootton Wombles

Keeping Our Parish Clean!

A huge thank you to three of our amazing Wootton Wombles, who braved the winter chill on Sunday, 26th January, to tackle litter in the Dobbies and Waitrose car park. Their dedication resulted in the collection of an impressive seven bags of rubbish, making a real difference to the area.

The group met with the Dobbies Manager, who was more than happy for them to clean the car park. With their ongoing efforts, the Wootton Wombles continue to ensure our parish remains a clean, safe, and welcoming place for all.

These fantastic volunteers regularly take to the streets, parks, and communal areas of Wootton, armed with litter pickers and a shared commitment to keeping our environment tidy. Without their hard work, our parish simply wouldn't be as well-maintained as it is today.

If you'd like to get involved and become a Womble, why not join them? Check out the Northants Litter Wombles Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/northantslitterwombles> or scan the QR code below to find out more.

Your support can help make a difference—every piece of litter picked is a step towards a cleaner community!



WOOTTON
PARISH COUNCIL

Wootton Community Meeting

Wednesday 19th March
@ 6pm

Wootton Community & Sports Centre
Curtlee Hill, Wootton, NN4 6ED

- ★ Meet your Parish & West Northants Councillors
- ★ Meet your local Neighbourhood Police Team
- ★ Hear from members of local groups about the work they do in the parish

Defib & CPR
Demonstrations

Free
Refreshments



St George the Martyr Church

It was wonderful to see so many of you through our doors over the busy Christmas period. We hope to see many of you again this Easter, with a range of exciting services and events coming up. Please see our list of Easter services below. The Church is working on a new website, but in the meantime please consult our Facebook page and our noticeboard (<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeWootton>) for further details and the latest information.

Many of you will be aware that since our vicar Lakshmi left last October, we have been blessed to have a curate (vicar in training) with us. Marta has been with us for almost a year now, and was ordained a priest last July. The PCC appreciates her hard work in continuing to make St George's a welcoming and inclusive Church. Marta is a pioneer curate, so trying out new things is very much her thing! You can find out more about her and her ministry here: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/ordinations2024>

As a church we would also like to recognise the efforts of Gail Smith (a voluntary lay reader) and the rest of the PCC in ensuring St George's is able to continue serving our community. Should you have any queries relating to services, baptism, marriage, a funeral, or children's work, please contact officewoottonchurch@gmail.com

Children and Families

We have been blessed to have received funding from the Diocese's Gen2 team for children's and families work. We hope to secure some additional funding once the existing pot runs out in August to allow this



work to continue. The grant funds a part-time children and families' worker (Rachel Bates), who is available Mondays and Thursdays in term time. Rachel runs the Church's baby & toddler group, Little Stars, on a Monday morning, a Sunday Stars group for 5-11 year olds (3rd Sunday of the month) and assists with Family Services (1st Sunday of the month).

This term at Sunday Stars and Little Stars, we have been exploring 'Who Jesus Is'. We will be hosting a special Easter trail on Good Friday from 10am, which will involve making your own Easter garden! For information about any aspect of children's work, drop Rachel an email at children.families.worker@gmail.com

Liaising with schools and local groups beyond the Church building is another important strand of Rachel's role, so please do be in touch if you would like input for your school or group. As part of the 'back to nature' project, below, we hope to install a log circle in our churchyard and possibly some small raised beds for outdoor learning. If a local group or school would be interested in making use of



A service and playgroup
for pre-schoolers and their carers

Mondays, 9.30am-11am
St George's Church, Wootton
Term time only

Join us for songs, dancing, stories,
creative prayer and play

For further information, please contact Rachel at
children.families.worker@gmail.com, or on 07512642940

the churchyard in this way, or maintaining a small bed, please get in touch. We'd love to work with you.

Bugs, Birds, Bees and Butterflies...

An update from John Murray-Hawkins, PCC member and volunteer.

St George's Church recognises the benefits of nature within our village and we have taken the opportunity to create a small area within our churchyard that is to be designated as "Back to Nature."

Many churches around our Diocese have started setting aside an area of their churchyards to allow nature to take hold and create what we hope will be a diverse area of managed and hands off natural growth.

The Parish Council will still be cutting the grass in the main areas of our churchyard during the growing season, but you'll now

see a clearly designated area where the grass will be allowed to grow longer, habitats will be created for a wide range of insects, bugs, birds, bees and butterflies and any other animals that choose to walk past our church building.

We have created a short mown pathway through the area, created a variety of habitats to encourage and attract nature to thrive and we are now actively managing the appearance of our "Back to Nature" area.

You should notice some soil and grass mounds, some logs piles, rock and stone piles as well as our brilliant Bug Hotel, built by 1st Wootton Brownies back in October.

We also hope to clear and tidy some of our existing and very old grave stones which were previously covered by weeds, grass and moss to create some further interest in our back to nature area.

We appreciate that the grass may look a little more untidy, but we are hoping this in itself will create a more diverse habitat for other bugs and invertebrates to hide in.

We are hoping that everywhere you look there will be something interesting to see and in time we also hope to engage with some of our local children's groups to create more habitats and encourage further investigations into what wildlife finds its way into the churchyard.



If you're intrigued and would like to see what we are doing in the churchyard just pop down and have a stroll around the church to see for yourself.

Alternatively, if you think your school or children's group would be interested in coming to the churchyard to see what's going on or what's growing, please contact us.

Even better, if you'd like to contribute to the area by building bird boxes, a raised bed, bird feeders or bug hotels or even helping to clean some of our old grave stones, contact us via our email address below and we'd be delighted to talk with you.

Roof

Urgent repair work was successfully carried out in December by a firm of local, reputable roofers, who have dealt with the worst of the leaks. We will be having a quinquennial inspection of the building and roof done this year, which will inform the long term plan for the roof and its maintenance. Thank you to everyone who has already donated to help maintain our beautiful, Grade 1 listed building. We are hugely grateful to everyone who sponsored Councillor Ghavami to do 20 laps around the Rec, and to Councillor Ghavami for giving-up his time and setting-up a GoFundMe page, which he is kindly keeping 'live' for a bit longer to allow for extra donations. Please consider a contribution here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/holy-leaks-help-st-george-stay-dry>

You can also donate via BACS to Wootton PCC, marking your donation 'Church Roof'. Any funds donated will go into a reserve account for the roof. The Church's BACS details are as follows:

Account name: PCC of Wootton
Sort code: 56-00-60
Account number: 05861926

Easter Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 5th March

7.30am, Ash Wednesday Service, marking the start of Lent

Saturday 12th March-Sunday 13th March

10am to 10am, Church open for 24 hour prayer

Sunday 13th April (Palm Sunday)

10.30am, Holy Communion

Monday 14th-Thursday 17th April

7.30pm, Evening reflections at the Church

Good Friday

10am, Easter Story Garden – Make your own Easter garden, followed by hot cross buns.

2pm, Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday

6am, Sunrise Service – with firepit, followed by light breakfast

10.30am, Easter Celebration – Holy Communion Service

During Sunday Services in Lent (starting on Sunday 9th March), the Church will be focusing on prayer and The Lord's Prayer.

For more information, please check our Facebook page.



LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE DROP-IN SURGERIES

Between 2:00PM - 3:30pm

Monday 24th February
Monday 24th March
Tuesday 22nd April
Monday 19th May
Monday 16th June
Monday 11th August

Number 50 Coffee Lounge
Wootton Community & Sports Centre
Curtlee Hill, Wootton, NN4 6ED

Anyone is welcome to attend to discuss local issues and seek advice





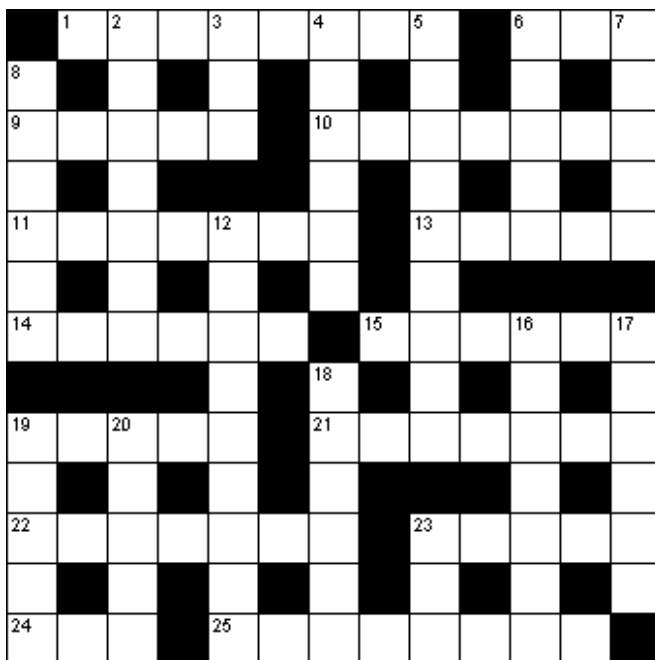
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE
Fighting Crime. Protecting People.

Take a Break

Put the kettle on, make yourself a brew, settle down in your favourite chair and take a break with these puzzles.

Solutions in the next issue of the Mag – so no cheating, you’ve just got to persevere until you’ve finished them!

Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Brothers (8)
- 6 Top card (3)
- 9 Put to use (5)
- 10 Warlike (7)
- 11 Group of soldiers (7)
- 13 Vote into office (5)
- 14 Required (6)
- 15 Magician (6)
- 19 Quarrelled (5)
- 21 Card game (7)
- 22 Stir up (7)
- 23 Fatuous (5)
- 24 Concealed (3)
- 25 French emperor (8)

Down

- 2 Put back (7)
- 3 Plaything (3)
- 4 Gypsy (6)
- 5 Scandinavian language (9)
- 6 Lithe (5)
- 7 Brilliant success (5)
- 8 Occur (6)
- 12 In the red (9)
- 16 Savoury pear-shaped fruit (7)
- 17 Hazard (6)
- 18 Maintenance (6)
- 19 Arrive at (5)
- 20 Eerie (5)
- 23 Sick (3)

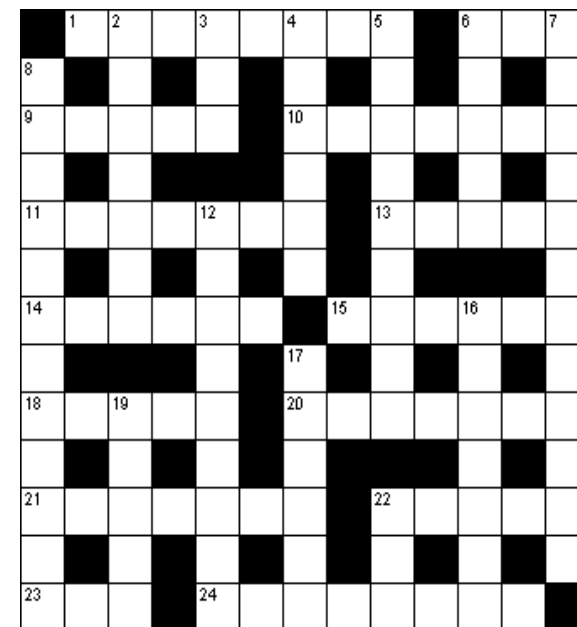
The Less Quick Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 1 To some in trouble, feelings are needed (8)
- 6 Tree seen if turning to the right (3)
- 9 Violet almost changed colour (5)
- 10 Unruly girl was first to be questioned (7)
- 11 Moving house? (7)
- 13 Superficial burn produced by fusing electrical component (5)
- 14 Animals ordered to rest (6)
- 15 Musical instrument filled with ice cream? (6)
- 18 Took a picture that includes an animal (5)
- 20 Brought to a conclusion everywhere (3,4)
- 21 Stuck with tot holding present (7)
- 22 Alice’s new name (5)
- 23 Finish back in Widnes (3)
- 24 Disturbed rest with clap that’s ghostly (8)

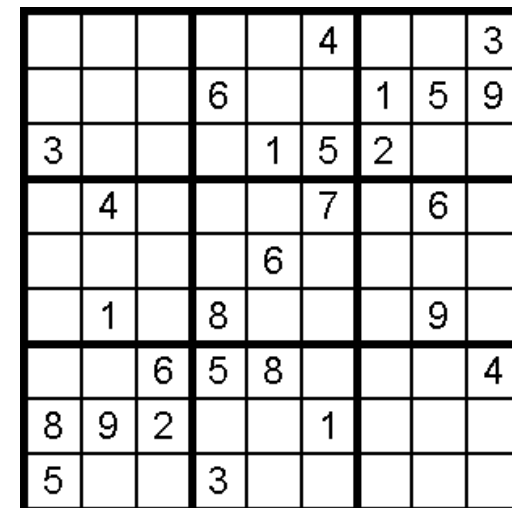
Down

- 2 Detective finding mother with wild tiger (7)
- 3 Neckwear that’s Siamese, by the sound of it (3)
- 4 Musical instruments vital to life (6)
- 5 Cylinder jammed? (5,4)
- 6 No elf could be a criminal (5)
- 7 Quite an occasion when the extreme left write? (3-6,3)
- 8 Drink as alternative to the cool cha? (3,9)
- 12 Green coating spoiling diver’s rig (9)
- 16 A short work of fiction: November Girl (7)
- 17 Light taken from attic and left (6)
- 19 Hurt when head is broken outside city (5)
- 22 A share of the profits, called for by movie director? (3)



Sudoku

The object of the puzzle is to insert the numbers in the boxes to satisfy only one condition: each row, column and 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 through 9 exactly once.



All puzzles courtesy of Simply Daily Puzzles

More online puzzles can be found at simplydailypuzzles.com

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Wootton People

Wootton resident Keith Fossey interviews Phil Jones who is the



Chair of the Wootton Medical Centre Patient Group.

How long have you lived in Wootton and are you still working?

I've been here for 16 years now, and I retired from my job as a Service Manager for a company that provided mechanical services 10 years ago. That job took me into properties where royalty and senior politicians live. I met quite a few interesting people!

So, what do you like about Wootton?

We have great neighbours who watch out for each other and it's a community where there is a lot going on. There seems to be groups that cater for all ages and interests.

What are you involved with?

I play indoor bowls and am the Health and Safety Officer at the Northampton & District Indoor Bowls Association in Kingsthorpe. In Wootton I am chair of the Wootton Medical Centre (WMC) Patient Group and have been a member of that group for about 12 years. I joined that group because I wanted to try and make a positive difference to the patients that use the WMC.

So what does the Patient Group do?

Whereas the group works closely with the Medical Centre, it is an autonomous group that meets face to face 4 times a year with 3 main objectives: -

To help raise awareness of services available through the WMC

To help promote campaigns being run by the

NHS such as wellbeing or flu vaccinations. This might include helping to staff an information point in the Community Centre or helping out with admin or car parking at vaccination sessions

To provide constructive feedback to the WMC about patient views on the services provided so that improvements can be considered.

What is the next challenge for the PPG?

We have recently reformed the group and whereas we have 5 members, we are looking to recruit so that we represent all age groups. We have a particular need to recruit a member who could organise our social media presence to help us engage with those who use those platforms

If someone is interested in joining the group or helping in some way, what should they do?

Please contact me for a chat by emailing me at the following address:

woottonpatientgroup@gmail.com

Phil – many thanks for taking the time to talk with me. I guess that not many of the Medical Centre patients are aware of the work of the Patient Group. Good luck with your plans for the future.

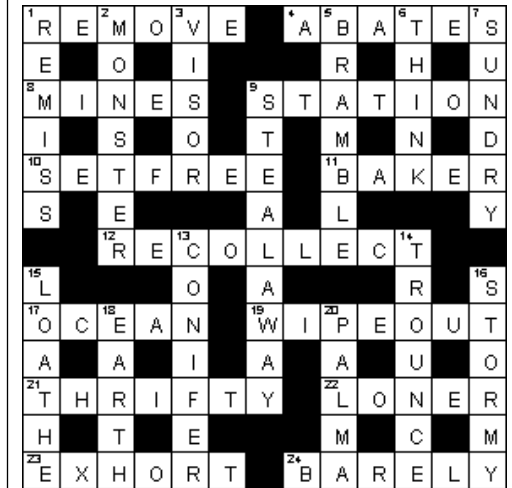
Keith Fossey

Wootton People

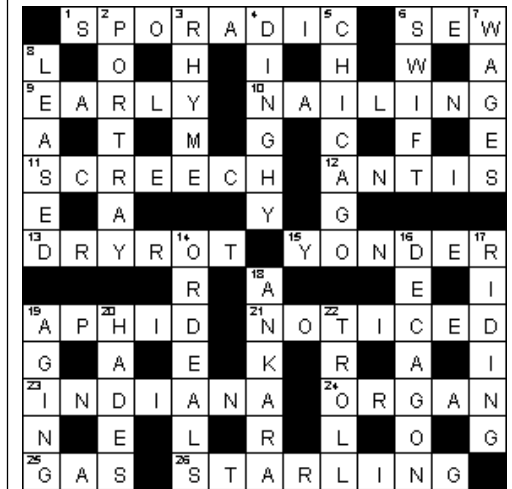
Do you know someone who lives or works in Wootton and who has a great story to tell that we can feature in the newsletter? It might be about a memory, an exciting time, an unusual job or a pillar of the community – please contact Gemma in the Parish Council office.

Solutions to the puzzles in issue 14.

Quick



Cryptic



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

Regular Activities

at the Centre

Brought to you by Wootton Parish Council
at Wootton Community & Sports Centre



Classes	Contact Details	
MONDAY		
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	6.30am – 7.30am	Patrick Jelly Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates Improve your posture & flatten your tummy	9.30am – 10.30am	Nikki Freeman Tel: 07903 500734 nikkifreeman181@gmail.com
Chair Yoga	11.00am – 12.00pm	Julie Jones Tel: 07719 844090 hello@juliejonesyoga.com
Pilates	6.00pm – 7.00pm 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Lucy Pringle Tel: 07957 541478 alignedpilates@yahoo.co.uk
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Patrick Jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
TUESDAY		
Boogie Beans Children's group party and entertainment	10.00am – 11.00am	Amanda Balneaves Tel: 07766 731542 info@boogiebeans.com www.boogiebeans.com
Sing & Sign Helping babies communicate before speech	12.15pm – 2.15pm	Tan Briant tanbriant@singandsign.co.uk www.singandsign.co.uk
Pilates	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Jan Blaber Janmodernpilates-@hotmail.co.uk
Mancave UK Men's Mental Health Support Group	7.00pm – 9.00pm	follow @THEMANCAVE_UK
WEDNESDAY		
Get Up & Go Strength and balance exercises	11.00am – 12.00pm	Michelle Lewis Tel: 07423 074891 stepforwardwithlewis@gmail.com
Wootton Seniors Club Wootton Senior Residents – Weekly meet-up	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Jean Penny Tel: 01604 762323 jeanpenny42@icloud.com
Evolve Weight Loss Relaxed approach, no announcing results	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Sylvia Paget slimwithsly@virginmedia.com evolweweightloss.co.uk
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Patrick Jelly Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk

Wootton Community and Sports Centre

Rooms are available for hire: To discuss your booking requirements and further information:
Telephone: 01604 705055
Email: bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Main Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm

Classes	Contact Details	
THURSDAY		
Yoga Beginners and Returners	9.15am – 10.15am	Julie Jones 07719 844090 hello@juliejonesyoga.com
BeFit Pilates Great for stretching and exercise (Booking Essential)	2.00pm – 3.00pm	SHEvolution Fitness shevolutionfit@gmail.com
Art Class (u3a) Jubilee Room – All Welcome	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Colin Brown Tel: 07746 593670
Step by Step Dance Class Get fit, get healthy, get dancing	5.00pm – 8.00pm	Andrzej Mialkowski 07849 331430 info@danceschool-stepbystep.com
Wootton Road Runners Friendly running club – all levels	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Carrie Carruthers info@woottonroadrunners.co.uk www.woottonroadrunners.co.uk
FRIDAY		
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp	6.30am – 7.30am	Patrick jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
Cha Char Chimps Award winning, interactive musical fun show for pre-school children	10.00am – 11.00am	Helen Ryan helen@cccchimps.com
Low Impact Dance-fit class Come and have fun while getting fit	11.30pm – 12.30pm	Denise Hutchinson Tel: 07779 606077 fondemi1@yahoo.co.uk
Get Up & Go Strength and balance exercises (45 min)	1.10pm – 2.00pm	Michelle Lewis Tel: 07423 074891 stepforwardwithlewis@gmail.com
Private Hire Bookings	400pm – 00.00	
SATURDAY		
Socatots Play based activity programme, specifically designed for children aged between 1-5 years old.	09.15am – 11.30am	Paul Darton/George Quinn mklb@socatots.co.uk https://socatots.co.uk/
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	9.30am – 10.30am	Patrick Jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
Wootton St George Adult Teams Adult football		Nick Bradshaw
Private Hire Bookings	11.30am – 00.00	
SUNDAY		
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	8.30am – 9.30am	Patrick Jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
GKR Karate For all ages, self-defence, fitness & confidence	10.00am – 11.00am	Daniel Freer Tel: 07931 504712 admin@gkrkarate.com info.uk@gkrkarate.com
Strength Lab Gym Stretch Class – Jubilee Room	10.00am – 11.00am	Strength Lab Ltd
Wootton St George Youth Teams Football for all ages		wsgfcfootballclub@gmail.com
Northants All Stars Adult Football		Reece Prigg reeceprigg2@gmail.com
Wootton Wanderers Adult Football		Danny Armsby Tel: 07737 1999661 d_armsby11@yahoo.co.uk



It has been a fantastic start to the new term, with students settling back into school life seamlessly after the festive break. With some exciting trips, two parents' evenings, PPEs for our Year 11 and Year 13 learners, and a host of sporting fixtures, the new year is already off to a busy and productive start, with plenty of learning and exciting things ahead.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Welcoming well over 250 prospective students on the night, our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a fantastic success and proudly showcased our subject offering at A Level. A reminder that if you, or your Year 11 child is still considering their options for Post 16, applications can be made via our school website:

<https://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk/admissions/year-12-sixth-form>



Children's Mental Health Week: 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'

In support of Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week (3rd–9th February), our school embraced this year's theme, *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*, by highlighting the importance of self-awareness and emotional expression. Assemblies across all year groups explored these themes, encouraging students to reflect on their feelings and personal growth.

We were also pleased to welcome the Northampton Mental Health Support Team (MHST), who delivered insightful sessions to Year 9, 10, and 12 students on managing exam stress and developing healthy coping strategies. Throughout the week, form time activities provided further opportunities for discussion and reflection.

To ensure ongoing support, we have shared a wealth of useful resources on our school website and social media pages. We hope these will continue to spark conversations and empower our students to speak openly about their mental health.

Year 5 & 6 "Let's Get Cooking" club

The *Let's Get Cooking* club is back this term, offering Year 5 and 6 pupils the opportunity to develop their culinary skills in a fun and practical setting. Each session introduces children to essential cooking techniques, food safety, and a variety of delicious recipes, helping them build confidence in the kitchen.




From mastering basic skills to creating classic dishes, the club encourages teamwork, creativity, and a love of cooking. With plenty of exciting meals to prepare, our young chefs are sure to impress with their culinary talents!

School places – September 2025

With National Offer Day for secondary school places right around the corner, and Foundation Stage shortly after in mid-April, we are very much looking forward to welcoming two brand-new cohorts of children and parents to our school community!

As always, to stay regularly updated on all the goings-on of the school, please check out our school website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram via the links below.

 01604 344744

 www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

  @CarolineChisholmSchool

Wootton Senior's Club

We wish all readers a Happy New Year and, as the days lengthen, we're looking forward to a pleasant Spring. The Senior's Club hopes to contribute with a varied and interesting programme.

Our voluntary committee has planned an activity programme for our fortnightly meetings that we hope will interest our members who also get pleasure from meeting friends and making new acquaintances. Conversation is a key feature of the club as also is our access to the Community Centre pool table and the availability of tea and cakes!

Our meeting in late November proved very special as we were entertained by a 'magician' who proved to be more Tommy Cooper than Magic Circle. We laughed for an hour as he went through his tricks.

In December we enjoyed an excellent and convivial Christmas lunch at Blisworth's Walnut Tree Inn, a 'Singalong' with Theresa and a week before Christmas had a party with crackers and mince pies.

As I write we are still in January which saw our annual raffle with many prizes donated by generous members and the proceeds donated to charity. In February Christine Ansell is talking about 'The Lost Villages of Northamptonshire'. We then have a Quiz session constructed and presided over by Cathy Cornish and two meetings with Line Dancing (cowboy hats, check shirts and blue jeans definitely not compulsory) and the very popular chair yoga.

If you're a resident in Wootton parish and would like more information then give Jean a ring on 01604 762323. Alternatively come along to the Community Centre at 2pm where meetings are on alternate Wednesdays from February 5th onwards.



Wootton Community Centre

The perfect space for every occasion

Looking for a fantastic space to hold regular clubs or classes?
Or a quiet venue for meetings and training courses?

**Wootton Community Centre
can cater for every occasion.**

- A variety of rooms suitable for 16 to 200 people
- Free onsite parking
- Catering options provided by our on site Coffee Shop
- Advertising on our Website and Social Media Pages

Email bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk for further details



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Advertise your business where it matters!

This space could be working for your business

WOOTTON PARISH **MAG**

is delivered direct to every household in the parish

See the Application Form in this Mag or

Email bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk



The Little Odd Job Co.

Call John Today
07970 801248

References available

Tired of wanting to get jobs done around the home?

Book us now to work through your jobs, big or small.

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- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Electrical
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MCPod

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Corns and callus
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Ingrown toenails

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Callanjacqui1@gmail.com

HCP C Register ref: CH36954

Jacqui Callan
07468 019 923

Stay Local

Local opportunities for local businesses!



is delivered direct to every household in the parish

See the Application Form in this Mag or Email
bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

WOOTTON PARISH MAG

Application Form

Contact details

Company / Group:

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

Preferred method(s) of contact:

- Telephone
- Email
- Post

Please return completed application form to:

Wootton Community & Sports Centre
Curtlee Hill, Wootton,
Northampton NN4 6ED

Invoice / payment queries:
bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Advertising / editorial queries:
bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please complete this form when submitting community articles or commercial adverts.

Technical data overleaf.

Applicaton Type

- Commercial Advertising**
 - 1/4 page – £40 + VAT / issue
 - 1/2 page – £70 + VAT / issue
 - Full page – £110 + VAT / issue
 - Back page (colour gloss) £210 + VAT / issue

10% off all prices when you commit to a year's worth of advertising (3 issues).

Confirmation for Commercial Advertising

- I have read and accepted the terms & conditions* for advertising in Wootton Mag*
- Payment will be paid by BACs with this application for advertising
- Artwork has been forwarded to the following email address:
bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk in accordance with the technical data and terms & conditions*.

Payment Terms

All payments to be made by BACs payment upon receipt of invoice.

- Community Group Article** (non-commercial)

- I have read and accepted the terms & conditions* for featuring in Wootton Mag
- Artwork has been forwarded to the following email address:
bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk in accordance with the technical data and terms & conditions*.

* **Full Terms & Conditions available upon request. Please read carefully prior to making an application.**



Technical Data

Commercial Advertisements

Artwork to be provided full-size



Preferred format:

High resolution PDF or EPS
Embedded images at least 300dpi
All fonts embedded or converted to outlines

Alternative format:

High resolution bitmap (TIF, JPG or PNG)
At least 300dpi

Mechanical data

	Trim (mm)	Type (mm)	Bleed (mm)
¼-page	64 x 93	-	-
½-page 	132 x 93	-	-
½-page 	64 x 190	-	-
Full-page	132 x 190	-	-
Back cover	148 x 210	132 x 194	154 x 216

Please follow these guidelines when providing your material for publishing in Wootton Parish Mag.

Community Group Articles

Text

To be supplied as MS Word document or text only file or email text.

The word count for reports from community groups is a maximum of 500 words or 250 words if an image is supplied.

Photographic images

High resolution bitmap (PSD, TIF, JPG)
At least 300dpi (at reproduction size)

Other illustrations / graphics / logos

Preferred format:

EPS (vector-based)
All fonts embedded or converted to outlines

Alternative format:

High resolution bitmap (PSD, TIF, JPG or PNG). At least 300dpi (at reproduction size)

Company/Community Group Logos

Preferred format:

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We are here to help

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