

WOOTTON PARISH MAG

Serving the community of Wootton Parish

Winter/Spring 2024





From the Chairman

Dear Residents

I do hope that you all had an enjoyable festive period and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

Since my last update, we've hosted our annual Fireworks event, a wonderful Magic show in the hall organised by our Library and the Community Centre has been bustling and busy hosting various groups, clubs and parties.

I've been out and about in the community (mainly chasing my 3 year old daughter who loves Scooting around Wootton) and it's been so lovely to hear that so many of you have enjoyed the events and activities that we've hosted at the Community Centre. Please do get in touch with us if there is anything that you'd like to see us host or an event that you would be interested in attending.

We've now approved the budget for 2024/25 and are working towards some big milestones including our Playground and the Community Governance Review.

We are still awaiting some pieces of land and funds from David Wilson Homes in order to carry out the playground project which I've

previously spoken about. Thankfully, this should be finalised in the next few months and we will be able to start planning the much needed replacement of our playground.

We've put forward our recommendations to the Community Governance Review which will shape our Parish Boundary and this work will be ongoing for the next 18 months or so until the Review is concluded.

We are still trying to recruit some new Councillors, so if there is anyone who would be interested in making a difference to Wootton and becoming more involved in your community, please do let us know. We are particularly looking for people who are in the Turners Court area, which is currently under represented.

As always, if there's anything you'd like to say, please do get in touch.

Emma Fisher

Chairman, Wootton Parish Council

Cover

BBC Radio 4 visits our library



Wootton Mag does not accept any responsibility for errors and omissions in this publication, or for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers. Views expressed by contributors are their own and are not necessarily shared by the publishers. This publication has no political bias.

THE MAN CAVE



A MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE LADS OF NORTHAMPTON AND SURROUNDING AREAS

NORTHAMPTON

THE OPEN MEETINGS RUN ON **TUESDAY!**
LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER EVENTS

DATE: EVERY TUESDAY

TIME: FROM 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**LOCATION: WOOTTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS CENTRE
CURTLEE HILL, WOOTTON, NORTHAMPTON, NN4 6ED**

REMEMBER - YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHARE. FEEL FREE TO COME AND LISTEN.

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT WITH YOUR MENTAL HEALTH...
THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!

Follow
-US-

@THEMANCAVE_UK

LibraryPlus WOOTTON

We have had a great winter at Wootton Community Library! Our wonderful volunteers have been beavering away to provide all sorts of services with smiles, our fabulous customers have donated pre-loved books and puzzles for us to sell and even given us craft supplies to help with our events! We are so grateful to everyone who uses our library. We are committed to running a 'generous' place where you can come and just be yourself, borrow books or attend a group or special event all free of charge.

We were delighted to welcome Paddy O'Connell from BBC Radio 4 in January to talk to us about how much we love our library and how important libraries in general are to the community. It was great to hear one of our regular customers and her daughter talk about their love of books, to hear two of our volunteers explain why they enjoy volunteering and to just be able to shout from the rooftops about how proud we are of our lovely little library!



You may have seen our amazing poppy wreath for Remembrance Day. It was a whopping 6 feet in diameter and each flower was individually hand crafted by our **Knit and Natter Group**. It really was a sight to behold, and we will be bringing it out again this November. The group are now busy knitting chicks and bunnies for sale at the Community Centre Spring Fair on March 2nd. If you have any spare or unwanted wool, our knitters will always gratefully receive it.

We had a wonderful Christmas with a tree decorated entirely in tiny knitted and crocheted decorations, fantastic festive events and a Fun Day with an amazing magic show from Steve the magician, there was even a visit from Mrs. Santa! We are already planning what we can do to make next Christmas' events even more spectacular!

Wootton Library Book Club have read a variety of titles recently including Elif Shafak's 'The Island of Missing Trees', Emily Bronte's 'Wuthering Heights' and 'Nomad' by Steve Coogan. We regularly see around 20 people attending this vibrant group and our members have even appeared on BBC Radio Northampton's morning show suggesting a book for their own book group to read. Come and join in if you love books!

Our **Kid's Book Club** will be starting up again at 11am on Saturday March 9th, under new management! All primary aged children are welcome to attend to talk about reading, make new friends and take part in fun bookish activities.

Our **Storytime** and **Rhymetime** events are going strong and we LOVE to welcome you and your little ones to enjoy stories and songs with us! At the moment we offer Rhymetime on the first and third Friday of the month but we would like to be able to run it every week. If you are free for an hour or so on a Friday morning, have experience with little children and would enjoy running some sessions for us, please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you!



We would also like to start running a **Construction Club** on an occasional Saturday morning but to do so we need Lego! If you have any standard Lego which you would be happy to donate to the library, we would love you to get in touch.

Over **half term** (Monday 19th – Friday 23rd Feb) we shall be running some FREE activities for children. There will be board games and jigsaw puzzles available each day, a special craft event on Monday 19th and on Friday 23rd an extra Rhymetime followed by a **teddy bears' picnic!**



We will be running an **Easter Fun Day** on Tuesday April 2nd with lots of Springtime activities for children to enjoy.



CRAFTERNOON
ALTERNATE MONDAYS 1PM

STORYTIME
EVERY TUESDAY 11.15AM

BOOK CLUB
ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS 11AM

KIDS' BOOK CLUB
SATURDAY 11AM - MONTHLY

KNIT AND NATTER
ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS 11AM

RHYMETIME
FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAYS 11AM

LibraryPlus
WOOTTON

Telephone
01604 361422

Email
woottoncml@gmail.com

We are also pleased to be able to advertise the first **Northants Authors Book Fair** at the Community Centre on Saturday April 20th from 10 – 4. There will be authors from all over Northamptonshire signing and selling their books and all sorts of genres will be available, including children's and young adult's books, fantasy, crime and self-help. Children can come and make a bookmark in the library too! It promises to be a really interesting day, so come and join us!



For more information on all of our regular and forthcoming events or to offer your services, please ask a member of staff, email Jussy on woottoncml@gmail.com, visit the library pages of our website (woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or check out our social media – Wootton Community Library on Facebook or [woottonlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/woottonlibrary) on Instagram.

LibraryPlus
WOOTTON

Wootton
Road Runners



Wootton Road Runners is a friendly, community-based running and triathlon club with members of mixed ages and abilities. Running and competition is at the heart of what we do, but we're so much more. Whether you're a seasoned ultra-runner or triathlete, want to run your first marathon, improve your Park Run times, or just want to run with others at your pace to keep fit and healthy, we're the club for you.

We meet every Thursday evening at 7.30pm at Wootton Community Centre – founded over 35 years ago, we are now one of the largest running clubs in the area (270 members this year). We are a friendly club for people who have some experience of running (e.g. you are able to run continuously for 45/55 minutes at 11/12 minutes per mile). On a Thursday evening we split into 7 groups of various speeds and abilities for a training run lasting until around 8.45pm. However, there are 8 week 'Beginners Running' free sessions in the area – contact us for more information. Membership currently costs £45 per year.

Check out the website:

[www.woottonroadrunners.co.uk/
new-members/](http://www.woottonroadrunners.co.uk/new-members/)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WoottonRR



Clerk's Update



Parish Clerk, Tina Charteress, keeps us up to date with Council matters



If you build it, they will come!

I often think of the Kevin Costner film, *Field of Dreams* with the strap line above, when looking around our community centre on a normal weekday with every room buzzing with activity and the car park busy!

The Parish Council worked so hard to extend the community centre to be able to deliver all sorts of services to the residents of Wootton Parish and the building has never been busier. We are hiring our rooms to so many different user groups from the young to the elderly, from fitness classes to art classes.

The Atrium has now become a hive of activity with Knit & Natter, Book Club and now our new Man Cave group which has instantly become an amazing success. Our "What's On" page on our website details all our activities and you can also pick a sheet up from the Parish Office.

As "soft" as it sounds, sometimes, as your Parish Clerk, I find myself grinning at the marvellous delivery we have been able to provide here at the community centre. It is so encouraging to see and to be able to meet new people making the most of all the activities.

Turners Court – we need you!

We currently have two vacancies for the position of parish councillor within Wootton parish and whilst most areas of our parish are covered by councillors, we do not have anyone representing Turners Court.

Do you:

- love tree planting
- have an opinion on highways
- have a "way with spreadsheets & budgets"
- be annoyed with overgrown vegetation
- want a new play area
- simply love where you live?

Whatever your interest, you will be very welcome to join our team of community enthusiasts making a difference to the parish of Wootton.

If you would like to get involved in all sorts of interesting matters concerning where you live or work please contact me for more information.

New Parish Councillor

We welcome our new parish councillor, Cllr Simon Burnell. Cllr Burnell was co-opted onto the parish council at our October meeting. He is very passionate about Wootton and is very keen to make a difference and get involved.

Anti-social behaviour

We were very disappointed to have been the brunt of some anti-social behaviour during November and on the day of our Christmas Fayre. The individuals behaved so badly that we had to bring in a security company to place door staff on the entrance to our Atrium.

Luckily, thanks to great footage on our CCTV, we were able to identify the culprits and took necessary action to ensure this doesn't happen again.

We know the action we took was quite harsh but would like to thank the parents of those children involved for the way in which they responded, and we are very pleased to report that the problem seems to have gone away.

The Parish Council have a zero-tolerance policy for any anti-social behaviour and will take action should it become necessary.

Community Governance Review

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a way for councils to make sure that, at the parish level, governance arrangements are working as efficiently and effectively as they should be. This is achieved by asking the public, parish councils and any interested parties whether they feel their communities are suitably represented

and whether parish councils would like to see any changes made to their current governance arrangements.

Following the change in the local government structure and the creation of West Northants Council (WNC) a CGR has been commissioned.

A Community Governance Review can make a number of changes to parish councils when there is clear evidence to do so, including:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- Change electoral arrangements for parishes including the ordinary year of an election, number of parish councillors and changes to parish wards
- Convert a parish council to a parish meeting
- Change the name or the style of a new parish/ town council or parish meeting
- Group parishes together under a common parish

The consultation process is underway for this CGR and Wootton Parish Council have responded to WNC informing them that wish for a change in the parish boundary to ensure all houses using Wootton's services fall within the new boundary area.

This is only the beginning of the process, and more information will come out from WNC in the very near future.

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

Space 2 Talk – What's on February

Day/Date	Location	Activity	Time
Sat 3rd February	Delapré Abbey	Walk & Talk Cycling Ride Out (morning and afternoon)	10.00 - 12.00 09.30 & 12.00
Sun 4th February	Delapré Abbey	Cycling ride-out	09.30 - 12.00
Wed 7th February	Delapré Abbey	Cycling ride-out	10.00 - 12.00
Fri 9th February	Crosby Garrett	Dan Eggington – Darién Gap Talk	Also available online via live-stream
Sat 10th February	Kendal		
Sat 10th February	Delapré Abbey	Walk & Talk Cycle Ride out (morning & afternoon)	10.00 - 12.00 09.30 & 12.00
	Hunsbury Hill	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
	Daventry Country Pk	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
Wed 14th February	Delapré Abbey	Cycling ride-out	10.00 - 12.00
Sat 17th February	Delapré Abbey	Cycle Ride out (morning & afternoon)	09.30 & 12.00
Sat 17 th February	Day trip to Peak District	Walk Win Hill near Ladybower Reservoir, Peak District 	To book scan QR 
Wed 21st February	Delapré Abbey	Cycling ride-out Action 4 Happiness	10.00 - 12.00 10.00 - 12.00
Sat 24th February	Delapré Abbey	Walk & Talk Cycle Ride out (morning & afternoon)	10.00 - 12.00 09.30 & 12.00
	Hunsbury Hill	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
	Daventry Country Pk	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
Wed 28th February	Delapré Abbey	Cycling ride-out	10.00 - 12.00





space
to talk

To book or find out more please go to:

www.space2talk.co.uk



Space 2 Talk – What's on March

Day/Date	Location	Activity	Time
Sat 2nd March	Delapré Abbey	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 12.00
Sat 9th March	Delapré Abbey	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 12.00
	Hunsbury Hill	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
	Daventry Country Pk	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
Fri 15th – Sun 17th March	Crosby Garrett Cumbria	Cumbrian Chill 	To book scan QR 
Fri 15th – Sun 17th March	Crosby Garrett Cumbria	Intro to Hill Walking 	To book scan QR 
Fri 15th – Sun 17th March	Crosby Garrett Cumbria	Intro to Wild Camping 	To book scan QR 
Sat 23rd March	Hunsbury Hill	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200
	Daventry Country Pk	Walk & Talk	10.00 - 1200

space
to talk

To book or find out more please go to:

www.space2talk.co.uk



Wootton, we have a problem

The future of the Hall may depend on you!

A community-owned charity

Firstly, just a little background – The Memorial Hall is nearly 100 years old and was originally constructed on land purchased with donations from the villagers of Wootton, after the end of World War 1.

It is therefore owned by OUR community, and it is in every residents interest to ensure that it continues to serve us all, long into the future.

As a registered charity, ownership of the Hall is vested in a small number of Trustees, but its administration, financial management and daily operation is co-ordinated by an equally small number of volunteers who form a Management Committee, referred to as the Council.

Like so many similar organisations, the Council will only operate effectively if it is continually changing through the addition of fresh blood able to bring energy and new ideas to the table, ensuring the Hall continues to thrive as one of our village’s most prized venues for a whole variety of community activities.

Upcoming retirements, in May 2024, including that of the current Council Chair, David Blackburn, after his 12 years of dedicated service to the Hall and the village, dictate that it is now time to strengthen the composition of the Council in order to meet changing needs and new challenges over the next few years.

Help is urgently required

Can you help us to secure the volunteers we are seeking for the Council by spreading the word, perhaps using social media, to colleagues, friends, family, neighbours etc. or perhaps, by putting yourself forward.

Being a Council Member is not an onerous task. Participating in a 2-hour evening meeting once every 2 to 3 months to review and discuss ongoing projects, Hall finances and future plans is all we ask. If you or anyone you talk to is interested in learning more about the role, please get in touch with us:

David Blackburn (Current Chair)
Tel: 01604 767438 / 07901 916071

or Neil Goram (Secretary/Treasurer)
Tel: 07801 145481

Email: Wootton.memorialhall@gmail.com

This is desperate situation

Without a functioning management committee, the Hall cannot, as a registered charity, legally continue to operate. Please help secure the village Memorial Hall’s future.

Joint Enforcement Days of Action

Dear residents,

I wanted to take a moment to update you on some enforcement action that has taken place over two days on 24th and 25th January in the Wootton parish regarding bad parking around schools.

This is an issue that I know is of concern to the residents of Wootton and as your policing team we have seen an increase in reports of inconsiderate and poor parking by motorists around schools over the last few months.

In conjunction with West Northants Council enforcement officer’s we have carried out enforcement and educational activity over the last two days focussing around Caroline Chisolm School and Wootton Primary School following concerns raised at these locations.

A number of motorists were spoken to and educated about their parking. This joint working between the police and WNC is ongoing activity and further days of action will be taking place throughout the school year.

Road safety is a locally identified priority within the community and the safety of children attending schools within the community will always be a priority for Northants police.

I would urge all motorists at school pick up and drop off times to think carefully around their parking ensuring they comply with the law and put the safety of pedestrians and children first.

If any residents have any concerns they wish to raise with their local neighbourhood team then please get in touch with us.



Kindest regards
Sgt Danny Morris



Further Information

Staff Sergeant Whitmore

Tel: 07724 041 449

Email: 1761whitmo@armymail.mod.uk

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

NEW ARMY CADET DETACHMENT

YARDLEY CHASE
CADET TRAINING CENTRE

DISCOVER YOUR
POTENTIAL SKILLS

GO FURTHER!

OPENING 7TH FEBRUARY 2024

YARDLEY CHASE CADET TRAINING CENTRE, DENTON
POST CODE NN7 2BQ

Fun and friendship are at the heart of the ACF

Army cadets are children aged 12-18 who are looking for something more from life and want to challenge their limits. Our new Detachment at Yardley Chase Cadet Training Centre will parade on a Wednesday 7pm to 9:30pm.

Find out more at www.armycadets.com

FREE TO
JOIN!

COMMSAVE

Friendly • Ethical • Professional



Looking for a safe,
rewarding way to save?

Or maybe a loan for life's
little emergencies?

Whatever your goals, we're
here to support you!

Go to commsave.co.uk or
scan the QR code to find out
more and join.



The easy way to save, the better way to borrow



hello@commsave.co.uk



0303 0402 660



commsave.co.uk



FairLife

15728560

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the
Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (213407)





A new calendar year

January provides an opportunity to reflect on goals and set targets to achieve them

We hope that you have had a great start to 2024. Although our children are already very aspirational, January proved to be a great time to reflect on their goals for the remainder of the year and set targets to work towards to ensure they achieve them. In turn, it also gave us the chance to reflect on the previous term, which at Preston Hedges seemed to fly by.

As always, during the Autumn Term, the children worked hard within the classroom and helping to bring the curriculum to life were visitors, such as: Leigh from Silhouette Theatre company who led Shakespeare Drama Workshops, Pamela from the Life Education Hub who worked with children across the whole school delivering part of the RPSHE curriculum, as well as Raptor Dave, Mr Sorrentino from Sorrentinos Restaurant and the Police who shared parts of the role with the younger children.

In addition to visitors, children also completed trips and learning outside of the classroom, including; Early Years, who went to watch Stickman, Year 4, who went to the Panto and Year 1, who walked to St. George the Martyr Church, where they sang carols and narrated the nativity story.

There were also opportunities to support initiatives in the local community too. Our Eco-Warrior team, along with Miss Hipwell, worked with Councillor Helen Hodgkinson to plant trees which was a great experience in itself, but also another way to support the environment. There were also whole school projects, one being children from Early Years to Year 6 putting on a performance for elderly



The Eco-Warrior team help plant trees

in the community and donating gifts to Age UK; thank you to Mrs Kendall for organising this. This was all in addition to supporting the Northampton Hope Centre, which we do annually. As ever, thank you to all of our generous families for any donations they made and to Mrs Allan and Mrs Kendall for delivering them.

In the Autumn term, Preston Hedges Trust sporting tournaments also kicked off with football tournaments held across the schools in the trust for children in Years 3-6. This term, there will be the netball tournament for upper Key Stage 2, a football match against a cluster school, as well as Multi-Skills Tournaments for Key Stage 1 within the Preston Hedges Trust.

Aside from sporting events, there will be lots of other events taking place and we invite you to keep an eye on what we get up to by following us on **Facebook** or why not visit our website, www.prestonhedges.northants.sch.uk so that you can read the latest Preston Paper article written by our children or listen to the school Podcast, recorded by our own Radio Club team on our own school station.

Wootton Seniors Club

A Happy New Year to you all!

With Christmas festivities over we can look back on our annual Christmas lunch where 60 members enjoyed celebrating together. Two weeks later we put on a Christmas Party at Wootton Community Centre. We enjoyed a tasty buffet, some of which was provided by our club secretary, the bar was opened and there was seasonal music to entertain us. As always the Centre staff did us proud with organising the room and operating the bar.

We have a new programme for the first six months of 2024 to look forward to. In January we had a raffle with some wonderful prizes and Chair Yoga with Jean which is for

everyone. This week we have our very own Antique Road Show when some members will bring an item with a history and we place them in date order – for example WWI memorabilia.

Please join us

If you are new to Wootton Parish, want to get out, meet new people in a safe friendly environment we welcome you. Phone Jean on **01604 762323** or Cathy on **07895 197493** or just come along at **2 pm on alternate Wednesdays.**





WOOTTON HERITAGE ORGANISATION

In January, the WHO held its first meeting of 2024 with an imaginative, idiosyncratic, presentation about the history of Delapre Abbey that interested and challenged a healthy turnout of members. We learned something about dress and behaviour in the late Middle Ages, had a slightly controversial view of the Battle of Northampton and heard some tenuous links between Delapre and both Joan of Arc and Dracula. It was quite an interactive session that seemed to hold audience interest.

Lots more to come this spring

The programme continues on February 21st when WHO chair, Christine Ansell, will talk on 'The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire' showing how changes in the rural economy generated dramatic changes in rural life.

On March 20th 'What did the Georgians eat?' by Alison Eskriett will give us some insights into food consumption in the 18th and early 19th centuries. There may not be any samples on offer but the descriptions and analysis may (or may not) whet the audience appetites. It certainly should be interesting.

A significant Northampton landmark is the Eleanor Cross and at the meeting on April 17th Andrew Tennet will talk about the woman it commemorates, **Eleanor of Castile**, the wife of Edward I. The cross is well known and its origin probably known but the woman who it remembers much less so; it should be an informative talk.

The traditional **May Festival** in conjunction with Wootton Primary School is scheduled for May 5th. Planning is now underway with details to be available closer to the day. It involves school pupils and will have various events, entertainments and the usual delicious refreshments. Keep an eye open for information about what exactly is happening.

The Spring meetings conclude on May 15th with a talk about a largely unsung event in the history of British cinema. 'Hollywood in Irthlingborough' will tell the story of a 1913 film version of the Battle of Waterloo that was shot improbably in the small Northants town of Irthlingborough. Likely to be an eye-opener for most of the audience.

Join Us

All meetings are at the Memorial Hall and start at 19.30. Entrance is £3.00 for members, £4.00 for visitors. Light refreshments are included.

If you're not a member or unaware of the WHO come along and give it a try. The programme is varied, sometimes quirky and always informative and interesting with the sociability of the audience extending beyond the talks.

Well done Wootton Primary School

Wootton Primary School is one of the first schools to be rewarded with the West Northamptonshire Council's new Healthy Schools Award.

Healthy Schools Award



The Healthy Schools Award is designed to improve the health and wellbeing of whole school communities which must attain certain standards across areas including mental health and wellbeing, healthy eating, physical activity and wellbeing, healthy eating, physical activity and PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education). Standards have been specifically designed and tailored to Northamptonshire, which makes it unique compared to other healthy schools awards.

Jonny Smith has been the lead member of staff for this initiative and the school has already signed up to start working towards the Healthy Schools Silver Award, which involves them focusing a universal and targeted health priority in their setting and putting an intervention in place.

Cllr Fiona Baker, Cabinet Member for Childrens, Families and Education at WNC said: "I am delighted to see so many schools make a continued commitment towards giving our children a healthier future.

Gaining a bronze level award is an incredible achievement and I am very excited to see so many schools sign up to work towards getting their silver award."

Cllr Matt Golby, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration at WNC said: "I am pleased that so many of our schools are committed to keeping children across West Northamptonshire healthy. The number of schools who have participated in this scheme is so encouraging, and I am proud of West Northamptonshire Council's continued effort to keeping our residents safe and well."



West Northamptonshire Council

Visit West Northamptonshire Councils website for more information on West Northamptonshire Councils Healthy Schools Award Programme.



Wootton Pre-School Playgroup

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



Signs of spring

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

Christmas Raffle

Finally, a huge **thank you** to our parents and carers who contributed to some lovely hampers for our Christmas Raffle. We raised an amazing £170. Any money we receive through fundraising means so much to our children and we aim to give our inside home corner some new play equipment.

September 2024 Admissions

Our admissions list for those children who wish to attend playgroup from September 2024 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 **Wootton Pre-School Playgroup @preschoolwootton**. 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**

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

Wootton WI

We have had some very interesting talks at Wootton WI over the past few months. The latest was from the police on cyber crime and how to avoid being scammed. Most, if not all of us, have had the various e-mails, texts and phone calls from doubtful people so perhaps it wasn't a surprise when the speaker asked the audience how many of us might have experienced such contact. Everyone put their hand up. It certainly pays to be alert in such circumstances.

Previous talks have covered topics such as tracing your family history; a talk from Dave Askew on his amazing Northamptonshire walks and a really good wine tasting session from the local vineyard at Blisworth.

Over the next few months we will have talks from the Frank Bruno Foundation and a revisit from the Shireen Belly Dancers, always spectacular to watch.

JOIN US

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. You don't need to be a member to attend – just come along and pay the £4 visitor's fee. No need to let us know in advance. New members are always welcome. In addition to the monthly talks, members can join us for a monthly lunch and coffee morning, enjoy walks and join our skittles group. You can also join one of the coach trips arranged by Northamptonshire WI. We fund-raise for a local charity every year and also support Cynthia Spencer Hospice. So do come along and join us – you will be very welcome!

Contact:

Liz Goram
President
07772 896491

Christine Ansell
Secretary
07984 427673



August 2023 – a wonderful afternoon at Kathy Brown's Garden in Stevington. The weather was stunning, the gardens beautiful, the tour inspirational and the cakes simply amazing! The company was enjoyable too.

Wild About Wootton

More Crocuses and Hedges

Britain's hedgerows stretch over 700,000km – 1.5 times the distance to the moon! – but in the last 75 years the UK has lost 50% of its hedgerows. The Hedgerows we have left are being removed and mismanaged at an alarming rate. Wootton Parish residents have started to reverse this trend. In the last three years they have planted over 1400 tree whips in a new hedgerow alongside Wooldale Road and beside the path at the top of the Recreation Ground. By the spring of 2024 Wootton will have planted over 1800 new trees. Most of them in the new hedgerow beside Wooldale Road. This does not include 70 plus 3 to 4 metre trees planted in the Wootton Pocket Park and the Memorial Garden.

The tree whips (very young trees) planted in Wootton were sourced from The Woodland Trust and Tree Appeal. These organisations provide free trees to community organisations such as Wootton Parish Council and Rotary Club Northampton West who made a joint application for the trees.

The planting of the hedge involved a lot of people. This included residents of Wootton, Caroline Chisholm School pupils, Wootton Scouts and Members of Rotary Club Northampton West. The Wooldale Road hedge has been a great success. The tree survival success rate has been 85%. This compares very well with the 2023 report of Highways Agency plantings on the A14. That had a 75% failure rate. Before the spring of



The Wild About Wootton group (Wootton residents) and Members of Rotary Club Northampton West recently planted more than 2000 crocus corms in the Memorial Garden.

2024 it is hoped to complete the Wooldale Road hedgerow with approximately 450 trees whips. It is planned that Wootton Primary School Pupils will join other volunteers in the planting of the trees.

Since the winter of 2021/22 over 3000 purple flowering crocus corms have been planted in Wootton. These have all been donated by Rotary Club Northampton West. The planting of the purple crocus commemorates the 99.9 % success in achieving a polio free world. For over 35 years Rotary and its Members have been committed to raising funds to pay for polio vaccine throughout the world. When the vaccine dose has been given, a recipient has purple dye painted in their little finger. The Purple Crocus commemorates the purple mark.

Crocus flowers look wonderful as Winter turns into Spring. Crocus pollen is also one of the best early sources of food for bumble bees.

In the winter of 2021/22, about 600 purple crocuses were planted beside the path at the top the Recreation Ground. The planting was undertaken by the residents of Wootton, Wootton Scouts, and Members of Rotary Club Northampton West. There was a further small planting in the Memorial Gardens in the winter of 2022/23. This Winter a further 2000 plus crocus corms were planted in the Memorial Garden.

If you would like to become involved in enhancing the living environment in Wootton the Wild About Wootton group is keen to increase its numbers. Membership does not require a regular commitment. The group does various tasks on an ad-hoc basis. If members are available, then that's great! If not, there is a next time. To join the group please contact the Parish Clerk email: clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jim Newton
Wootton Resident

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**

NALC Council of the Year 2020

Getting fit made easier

Did you know the outdoor gym has an accompanying free fitness App to help structure your workouts and track your progress?



Caloo Pulse is a free App to help increase your fitness

Caloo Pulse

Caloo Pulse is an exciting innovative App that helps outdoor gym users increase their fitness. The App includes a range of easy to follow workouts, a progress tracker, advice on nutrition and lots more. Workouts can be logged at any Caloo gym across the UK. And the best part – the App is free!

The Caloo Pulse App is available to download on both IOS and Android play stores.

It couldn't be easier

Simply login, either setting up an account or via your Facebook or Gmail, don't worry though, Caloo don't collect any personal data, just a simple email and password for you to login and track your progress.

The Home screen offers a range of options:

Find a gym – Choose a gym local to your area or search on the map to see the hundreds of great locations around the UK.

Favourites – Store your favourite gym and units in this section. You can easily find your favourite gym/unit and workout each time you visit.

Workouts – Choose from Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced workouts. Simply select your gym and off you go! A workout will be built from the units available at your local gym.

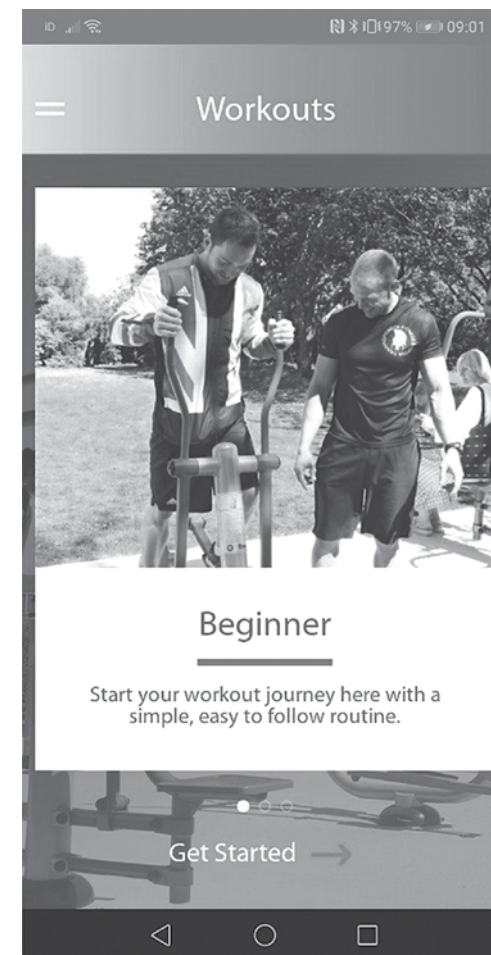
Progress Tracker – Once you have completed a workout either at a gym or on a unit, this will log in the progress tracker so you can keep track of your workouts and achievements daily.

Nutrition – Here is some simple nutrition advice for working out and daily goals.

Report a Problem – Notice something wrong with your local gym? Simply select your gym, note the problem, attach and photo and send it over to Caloo. They will sort the issue ASAP.

The App is a fantastic way to get involved with your local outdoor gym, increase your fitness and health for free! The Parish Council would love to know what you think – send your feedback to:

clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk



RPC Corps 84th Birthday

The Northampton Branch of the RPC Association decided to celebrate the Corps' 84th birthday (17th October) by holding a small ceremony at the new Wootton Parish memorial garden— on the site of what was the RPC Training Centre. This was organised by Mr Tom Appleyard with the help of members of Wootton Parish Council. The ceremony started by Tom welcoming everyone present and explained that it was intended to explain where the Pioneers originated from and paint a picture of the Corps. Mr Norman Brown described the origins of the Corps which was the Labour Corps. This Corps was formed in 1917 to obtain more fluidity in utilising the services of men in Infantry Labour and Works Units. Although the Corps was disbanded in 1919 during its short history

it lost over 8,000 killed. A Special Order of the Day from Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief British Armies in France was read out. This order commended the Corps and brought distinction and credit on it. Mr Appleyard then explained what the Royal Pioneer Corps, which was formed on 17th October 1939, achieved in the Second World War where it was the largest Corps in the British Army. The Corps had an infantry role, helped in mine clearance, guarded basis and prisoners of war, laid prefabricated track on beaches, unloaded ships, helped with both Mulberry Harbours and PLUTO (pipe-line under the ocean) which they continued for 250 miles in Europe. They also with the REs helped to construct airfields and bridging. In November 1946, George VI in recognition of

their performance during the war decreed that the Corps should have the distinction "Royal". The Corps had the honour of being granted the Freedom of both Northampton and Bicester and a large number of streets within Simpson Manor were named after Pioneers as well as the main square in Bicester Town. The Corps lost over 14,000 soldiers killed in WW2 and these are remembered each year at the Cenotaph where Pioneers make one of the largest contingents marching. Mr Brown then described the many countries that the Corps had served in post World War 2 until amalgamation into the RLC in 1993. These included Germany where the Corps at one time administered 39,000 locally engaged civilians, Palestine and Jordan, Korea, Cyprus (in both the troubles of 1963 and 1974), Kuwait, Aden, Libya, Malaya, Singapore and Brunei. In Northern Ireland the Corps was committed from the early days of the troubles and at various time proved the Prisoner

Guard Force at HMP Magilligan, the Maze and Crumblin Road. In 1982 Pioneers landed with 5 Brigade in the Falklands and were to witness the bombing of the ships Sir Galahad and Sir Tristian, they were also involved in the task to identify, exhume and inter at San Carlos and repatriate 64 dead back to the UK as the Army Graves Registration Team. Finally in 1990 the Corps was heavily involved in Op Granby leading to the Gulf War. Two Pioneers Companies deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of 1 Armoured Division. The Branch Standard bearer, Mr Kev Broome, then lowered the Branch Standard and 2 minutes silence was held. Mr Steve Harrod then read out "Ode of Remembrance" after which Brig Charles Telfer laid a wreath at the memorial stone. Finally Mr Gerry Vick asked everyone to read with him the RPC Corps Collect. 17 then went to the nearby Toby Inn for a meal.



Hayley Valentine

Each edition of the Mag will feature someone who lives or works in Wootton. In this edition the Parish Clerk, Tina Charteress, interviews Hayley Valentine.

Hayley has been working in the café at the Community Centre for over a year and is known to many of us as a friendly face who makes great coffee or takes our money at the till. But what most of the visitors will not know is that Hayley is a champion fighter. Here she tells Tina about her passion and ambitions.

What is the type of fighting called?

I do Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) which is like a combination of boxing, wrestling and kickboxing. I also do Brazilian Ju Jitsu which is a mixture of judo and wrestling.

How long have you been doing that and how did you start?

About 8 years ago I thought about joining the police service and wanted to get fit so I joined the BST Academy at Sixfields behind M&S but soon fell in love with MMA and Ju Jitsu.

And I hear you are pretty good. Do you fight in competitions?

I'm ranked number 2 in the UK for women's MMA in the 48-kilogram category and can have bouts anywhere in the UK. My last bout was in Birmingham against a fighter from Manchester.

And the Ju Jitsu?

My last fights were in Sheffield in early December where I took the gold medal in the competition. I've been invited to fight in Croatia in February 2024 and if I do well, I could be invited to compete in Las Vegas.

You are clearly passionate about your sport – so what are your ambitions?

I am totally committed to being the best I can be, and I train every day after I finish at the café and at weekends. I want to be ranked



number 1 in the UK for MMA and I also want to get international recognition in Ju Jitsu by winning in Croatia and Las Vegas.

I am also passionate about my teaching and want to continue teaching. I teach self-defence for women – a free class at the BST Academy and I also teach children.

Do you get paid for winning fights?

Sometimes I may receive a small amount which is shared between me and my coaches but basically I have to find the money for my travel, accommodation and expenses. For example, when I fought in Ireland, I had to fund it myself and was in and out of Ireland in a day! I'm currently saving hard to try to get to Croatia in February.

I also have to have a special diet that costs more than standard meals because, in association with my training, it helps me to be the fittest I can be.

Hayley, many thanks for talking with me. You are obviously so committed and passionate about your sport. Good luck for the future and keep making great coffee!

If anyone reading this article would like to sponsor you or find out more about the classes you teach, how can they get in touch?

If anyone can help with sponsorship or is interested in the classes, please email me:

valentinehayley@outlook.com

Do you know someone who lives or works in Wootton who has a great story to tell that we can feature in the Parish Mag? It might be about a memory, an exciting time or an unusual job – please contact Tina:

clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Community Responder Volunteer

We need you to make a difference to older people.

This service aims to provide company, reassurance, and low-level support to an older vulnerable person in their own home when a delay is anticipated for Primary or Secondary care support. It can be a worrying time when older people are waiting for further support at home, our aim is to assign a volunteer to be that much needed “friendly face” for up to two hours.

This service currently covers Northampton and Wellingborough and the surrounding areas, including East Northamptonshire.

To join this rewarding service, we ask that you are:-

- age 18 or over
- a confident caring person with empathy for older people
- able to stay calm and offer reassurance
- living locally in the current service area

Your visit could include:-

- making a drink
- packing an overnight bag
- making someone comfortable following a fall
- contacting a family member or friend
- providing reassurance and a listening ear
- liaising with your Service Manager as required

Please note this role will not involve any manual handling (lifting or moving) of people. We are sure that you will enjoy volunteering with us, and that you will always feel supported and safe.

If you are interested in this role and would like an informal chat to find out more, please call Kathy Smith on 01604 210618 or email communityresponders@ageuknorthants.org.uk

Scan me to apply.



Age UK Northamptonshire is a registered charity (1059995) and company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No: 3294424. Age UK Northamptonshire Trading Ltd is a limited company. Registered No: 2966624, a trading company and subsidiary of Age UK Northamptonshire and donates its net profits to that Charity. Both companies share the same Registered Office: The William and Patricia Venton Centre, York Road, Northampton NN1 5QJ. Tel: (01604) 611200.



Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of “powered transporters”; this covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax.

It’s not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it’s illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you’re using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

Legal use of an e-scooter

It’s legal to use an e-scooter on private land with the permission of the land owner.

Where a trial rental scheme is running, it’s legal to use a rental e-scooter on a public road or cycle lane, provided you have the correct licence and follow road traffic regulations.

Rental e-scooter trials

Trials of rental e-scooters are taking place in the UK. Anyone using a rental e-scooter on a public road or other public space, has to comply with the relevant road traffic legislation or they face potential prosecution.

To rent an e-scooter you must:

- meet the minimum age limit; these can vary depending on the provider, so please check with them
 - hold the correct driving licence (category Q or P/M)
 - create an account with the rental company
- E-scooters can only be used in approved areas.

Penalties and offences

If you don’t have a licence, or the correct licence, or are riding without insurance you could face a Fixed Penalty notice:

- with a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for having no insurance
- up to £100 fine and three to six penalty points for riding without the correct licence

You could also be committing an offence if you’re caught:

- riding on a pavement; Fixed Penalty Notice and possible £50 fine
- using a mobile phone or other handheld mobile device while riding; £200 and six penalty points
- riding through red lights; Fixed Penalty Notice, £100 fine and possible penalty points
- drink driving: the same as if you were driving a car, you could face court imposed fines, a driving ban and possible imprisonment

If you’re using an e-scooter in public in an antisocial manner, you can also risk the e-scooter being seized under section 59 of the Police Reform Act.

When riding an e-scooter, we would always recommend wearing safety protection such as a helmet and to keep to the speed limit.

Wild About Wootton

More Trees Please!

Ambitious planting project sees 42 trees planted in Wootton.

For the second year in a row, Wootton Parish Council has been successful in our application for grant funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund to support another wonderful tree planting project to increase the tree canopy coverage in our community.

At the end of November, along with children from Caroline Chisholm School and Preston Hedges Primary School, volunteers from our residents, and many local groups including Northampton Rotary Club, Climate Action – West Northamptonshire (CA-WN) and the trusty Wild About Wootton volunteer group, we planted an incredible 42 mature trees across our community!

The day started with interviews with BBC Radio Northants followed by a planting demonstration from Russell Horsey and his team from Woodland Dwelling, who oversaw the whole project.

19 red maples have been planted along the walkway down from the Co-op to CCS. We planted an additional nine disease resistant elms on the adjacent pathways to the elm

tree avenue that we planted in November '22. Four Red Maples were placed along the fence line by the roundabout near CCS and ten additional trees were planted at the Simpson Manor Memorial Garden, which included seven Liquid Amber and three Tulip Trees.

Protecting and planting trees is critical in our fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Trees bring so many benefits to our planet and, therefore, us. We are dependent on a healthy and thriving natural environment for our existence and wellbeing. Trees bring so many benefits including the removal of carbon dioxide from our atmosphere, urban cooling, reducing air pollution, and flood prevention. And they help to create attractive and soul nourishing environments to spend time in, as well as provide important habitat for our wildlife.

The community spirit and support on the day was simply wonderful and we hope that the trees will flourish and thrive for many years and generations to come.

Cllr Helen Hodgkinson



Number 50

A real community hub

What a wonderful 2023 we've had here in the coffee lounge. We have celebrated our 2nd birthday which was a huge success and really brought the community together. It was so lovely to see so many people came out to celebrate with us, it was a great day for all.

The planning for our 3rd birthday will begin very soon so please keep a look out for this.

We have celebrated lots of birthdays and special occasions with our wonderful customers, and we are so grateful to be involved in our customers celebrations.

We have donated over 20 cakes in 2023 for local fundraisers and given out lots of vouchers for raffles. Please do get in touch if you have an event coming up that we can help with.

The wonderful Knit & Knatter group had a get together in the atrium and it was a pleasure to be able to donate scones and clotted cream to them to help celebrate the wonderful poppy wreath they created which hung in the atrium.

What do we have planned for 2024? We are having a new menu currently designed with some new additions which I'm sure will be very popular.

We are now opening on a Tuesday evening from 7pm - 9pm to provide drinks and cakes for The Man Cave in which we hope to be able to support this wonderful charity with fundraising. Please look at their website for some details.

I have been in talks with my staff about a 'coffee morning' for customers to stop by, have a coffee or tea and biscuits and a chat

with others and in turn become friends. This has been something I have been thinking about for a while now after coming in on a Wednesday and seeing the wonderful Knit & Knatter group in action. Please keep a look out for further information on this.

Of course we will be putting on something special for our 3rd birthday in July which we are so excited about. Something bigger and better!

It's a chance for us to be able to give something back to the community to say thank you for your continued support. Without you all we wouldn't be where we are today and I am forever grateful. The coffee shop has brought a community together, customers have made friends with each other and it's amazing to watch the business and my wonderful staff continue to grow. So thank you to all our customers, if you have visited once or you visit us daily, I am so truly thankful.

From January we will have an employee of the month board up in the coffee shop where I will choose a staff member who has gone that little extra. If you have visited and a staff member has stood out for you please do let me know as this will help with my choice each month. You can send me an email - Jodiet243@gmail.com

All the staff have this week been issued name badges so that will make things easier.

So a big thank you for making us all feel so very welcome here in Wootton and for your continued support and encouragement, and to my staff thank you for being such a wonderful team.

Jodie



School Roles

There are many roles and responsibilities at Wootton Primary School:

- A Sports Leader
- A Reading Champion
- A Digital leader
- A House Captain
- An Eco warrior
- An Anti-bullying representative

Every term, all the teachers vote for new House Captains from each House team in Year 6 (which are Goldfinches, Woodpeckers, Kingfishers and Robins). From experience, being a House Captain is a very important job. They help with celebration assemblies that are every Friday morning – with our great headteacher. Furthermore, in assemblies we have bronze awards that are 100 house points to achieve. Wootton even has the opportunity to achieve more: silver, gold and platinum awards. We also help to organise the children that have been selected to be ‘Star of the Week’ by their class teacher! To encourage our students to read five times or more per week, there is a competition between the classes to win their break time on the Trim Trail; we also do this with pebbles that we earn from showing Schools Values. These Values are: co-operation, caring, honesty, friendship, courage, respect, responsibility. We also all believe that everyone should strive to ‘be the best you can be!’

As you can tell, we have many opportunities to offer at Wootton Primary School. We want

everyone at Wootton Primary to try their best in everything that they do. We will always encourage them to be brave, courageous and to be good at what they do.

Moving on, being a **Sports Leader** is a very responsible job. In this role, you look after children and set up games so they can have fun! In particular, you have to be confident talking to children in year 4 and year 3. When you participate in this job, you have to show a lot of courage.

Anti-bullying is a real-life problem but two people in every class are there to help. These amazing people made brilliant speeches to prove they would be great to stand up to bullying (which was made by their class). Every one or two weeks, there is a meeting to talk about ‘Making a noise about bullying’ and even planned assemblies. Interestingly, we recently had a poster competition to see what all the children could create. In this school, we don’t accept bullying or any unkind behaviour!

This term, **Eco Warriors** have been really busy with looking after our precious world. They have been sorting out a coat sale and have introduced compost food bins for any leftover foods. Also, our Eco Warriors have been litter picking around the local community. Thinking all about our world, they have asked pupils to bring in used batteries so we can recycle them!

One of the last roles is **Digital Leaders**. Every Thursday lunch, they have meetings about Scratch and Internet Safety. At the end of the year, they did an amazing demonstration about not being safe on the internet. Cyberbullying is just as important as bullying; this is why we have people to help within our school.

Anti Bullying

What is anti-bullying?

Anti-bullying is an in-school organisation, which comes with many responsibilities and the joy of being involved in putting a stop and building an awareness to bullying! In our school, we have two people from each class to be anti-bullying representatives and we believe bullying should never be tolerated!

Becoming an anti-bullying representative

To become an anti-bullying representative, you have to prove your dedication by giving a persuasive speech to your peers about how you would help to stop bullying and then the class decides which two people they consider the best for the role. People will also only vote for you if they have deemed you a kind and responsible person (who is also a sensible role model to all).

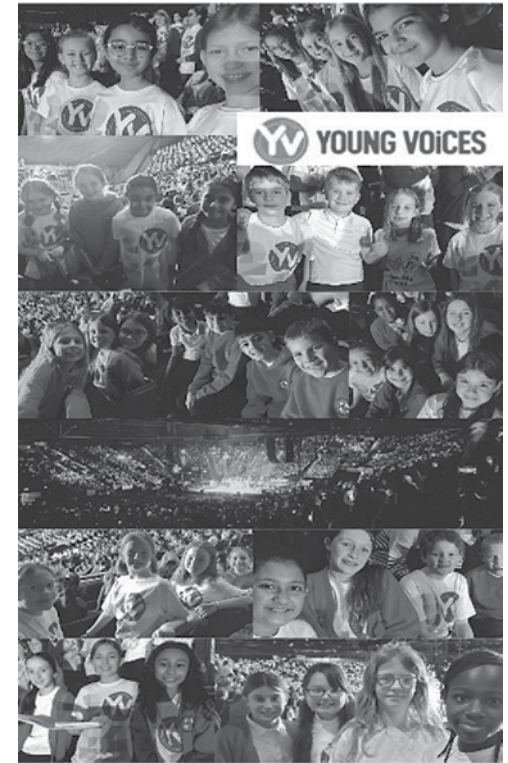
Anti-bullying organisations

As an anti-bullying representative, I have to attend meetings either every week or two; we discuss solutions for bullying. At the time of writing this, we are currently in the process of buying new playground equipment so people have more activities to do – which could help to prevent bullying. Last term, we had a competition to see who could draw the best anti-bullying poster based on the theme of making a noise about bullying! (By A DH and SH)

Young Voices 2024!

On Thursday 11th January 2024, around 40 pupils altogether from Years 5 and 6 took part in the incredible Young Voices choir of over 6000 children at Resort World Arena. We all had a brilliant time and are so grateful for this opportunity.

Once we were all sat down in the huge arena, we put our Wootton Primary School banner up



and once every school was inside, we started to rehearse for the big show, which was amazing!

Later, parents of all of the children started to enter the arena. After a few minutes, they all sat down and were greeted by our conductor, David Lawrence, followed by some guests: MC Grammar, Andy Instone, Craig McLeish, Gigi Marley, Nandi Bushell (the 13 year old drumming sensation) and Natalie Williams.

After the amazing show, it was time to head back home. Everyone was a bit worn-out as we got back on the coach. An hour later, we were back at school, where our parents were waiting for us at around 10:30pm. Although the day was exhausting, we had the most wonderful time and loved performing with other schools from around the country. (By LT and H C-H)

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



It has been a wonderful start to Term 3 and return to school for our students following the festive season. With lots of trips, two parents' evenings, PPEs for our Year 11 and Year 13 learners, and sporting fixtures in abundance, it has certainly been a busy beginning to the new year!

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, late applications can be made via our school website:

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

Children's Mental Health Week

In support of Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week held from 5-11 February, we celebrated this year's 'My Voice Matters' theme by focusing on young people's views and highlighting these in assemblies, competitions and two new mental health videos, featuring students from Years 4, 7 and 13.

We have also shared a wealth of useful resources on our school website and social media pages, all of which we hope will help to keep the conversation going and encourage our young people to talk about their feelings.

County Cup success for our U16 boys



Our U16 boys' rugby squad are now through to the County Cup semi-final, following a wet and windy game against Sponne. The boys battled together to take on the tricky weather conditions, with some incredible passing and teamwork demonstrated, leading to a final score of 5-43 and the win for CCS.

Huge congratulations to the whole team!

Ticket to Ride

This term, our Foundation Stage children have very excitingly had the chance to meet some real-life heroes from within our community, as part of their new learning theme – Ticket to Ride.




Local community police officers, paramedics, firefighters and even a veterinarian have all shared their stories on these important job roles and the incredible work they do. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the various response vehicles, practicing bandaging on toy animals, and even testing out a fire hose! A huge thank you to all the amazing volunteers that have dedicated their time to join us as part this very special learning theme.

School places – September 2024

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.

 **01604 344744**

 **www.ccs.northants.sch.uk**

 **@CarolineChisholmSchool**

 **WE NEED YOU!**

Parish Councillors!

Would you like to help your community?

Come and join us

We currently have two Parish Council vacancies

Contact the Parish Clerk for details: **WOOTTON PARISH COUNCIL**
01604 705055
clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk NCALC Council of the Year 2020

Making Wootton Parish a Better Place to Live, Work and Play

Knit & Natter Group
We Always Need WOOL!

Any amount gratefully received at the Community Centre





St George the Martyr Church

I will ...



If you plan to 'tie the knot' in the coming months, a church wedding is definitely worth considering.

Many of our churches have been places of celebration in the community for decades, if not centuries. The older buildings look fabulous in photographs and the years of prayer encourage a sense of awe and wonder, not always present in hotels or other venues. You can still enjoy the benefits of a commercial venue for the reception and / or evening party.

As I said some years ago, the unique advantage of a church wedding is that the declarations and vows are made overtly in the presence of God. The preface to the marriage service states, "Marriage is a gift of God in creation, through which husband and wife may know the grace of God." Rather than simply the couple entwined in law, a wedding in church invites God to be the third strand of the rope. As the Good News translation of the Bible says, "Two people can resist an

attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break." (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

In a marriage service, the groom and bride are each asked if they will take the other to love, comfort, honour and protect etc. The response is not, "I do" but "I will". Marriage is a choice in English law, not a state that can be forced on anyone else. This makes it a wonderful celebration. "I choose to spend the rest of my life with you in love and faithfulness." What a fabulous gift!

Love is a choice, not a feeling. That is the basis of a sound marriage and the message of Easter. Jesus chose to die on a cross, putting to death everything that is not loving (the Bible's word for this is 'sin') and being raised from death to show God's love is more powerful than anything else, even death. The gift of God's love is now freely available to



St George the Martyr Church is a beautiful wedding venue

anyone who wants to live as Jesus did. Church weddings are blessed by the God of love. In church, we are interested not simply in your wedding day. We want to support you in a lifelong, life-enhancing marriage, filled with love in the good times and bad.

Whatever your thoughts about marriage, you are free to choose love over hate, envy, frustration, selfishness, belittling and any other destructive behaviour towards yourself and/or anyone else. Doing so in the power of the God of love makes this choice more possible, since when we forget, we can be forgiven, restored and gradually transformed into more loving people.

Rev Lakshmi Jeffreys

Wootton.vicar@outlook.com
07960 264196

Easter Services

Discover more about our church and the God of love and faithfulness at our Easter services:

Sunday 24th March 10.30am

The Palm Sunday story and how to pray

Mon 25th – Wed 27th March 7pm

Evening reflections in church

Thursday 28th March 7pm

The last supper and washing feet, followed by silent reflection in the dark

Friday 29th March 10am

Good Friday Experience for all ages

Friday 29th March 2pm

Good Friday hour at the cross

Sunday 31st March 6am

Sunrise Easter service, followed by breakfast

Sunday 31st March 10.30am

Easter Sunday celebration, with lots of chocolate!

Please contact Lakshmi for more details.

A walk on the wild side of Wootton

Day after day of steel grey skies, biting winds and curtains of rain have dragged many of us down into a blue mood. Nature also seems to have gone to ground. Brown battered leaves pile up under hedges, summer flowers have long since faded leaving brittle skeletons behind. But is everything really as dead as it seems? Wrapping up against the elements and venturing outside may seem pointless but there are still things out there to stir the soul.

A short walk away Wootton Brook wends its way through apparently withered meadows and dormant trees. In our house this is known as the triangle but is Higgins meadow and Nanny Calfs meadow (see map below). However, a closer look reveals that a wide variety of seed heads remain, rising

above weather beaten vegetation. On frosty mornings teasel heads are encrusted with ice crystals. They sparkle in the beams of the weak winter sun, bringing a touch of magic to the meadows. On warmer days they attract one of our most colourful native birds. A small flock of chattering Goldfinches swoop over the meadow in search of the tiny seeds encased within the prickly heads. They are aptly named. Rising into the pewter sky, they reveal a bright flash of gold across their wings. This and the combination of a ruby red, white, and black head bring a bright splash of colour on even the dullest day.

Mist slowly rises from the brook, rolling along the bank and over the fluffy bullrush heads. Across the brook a Jay sounds the alarm and

flies from one stand of trees to another. Their pinkish body, white rump, and electric blue flash on the wings shine through the mist.

Further on a Kestrel is perched in the top of a gnarled hawthorn tree. Its ginger brown body and slate grey head motionless as it scans the scrub below for prey. Taking flight, it hovers and seems to hang in the air. Suddenly it drops low to the ground before soaring back into the sky. Unlucky this time it settles back on the top branches and begins the search again.

Another aerial master glides majestically into view. A Red Kite floats effortlessly on the breeze, its triangular notched tail twisting to adjust and compensate for the wind direction. The white patches on the outerwing stark against the dark wing tips as it drifts overhead and soon disappears from view.

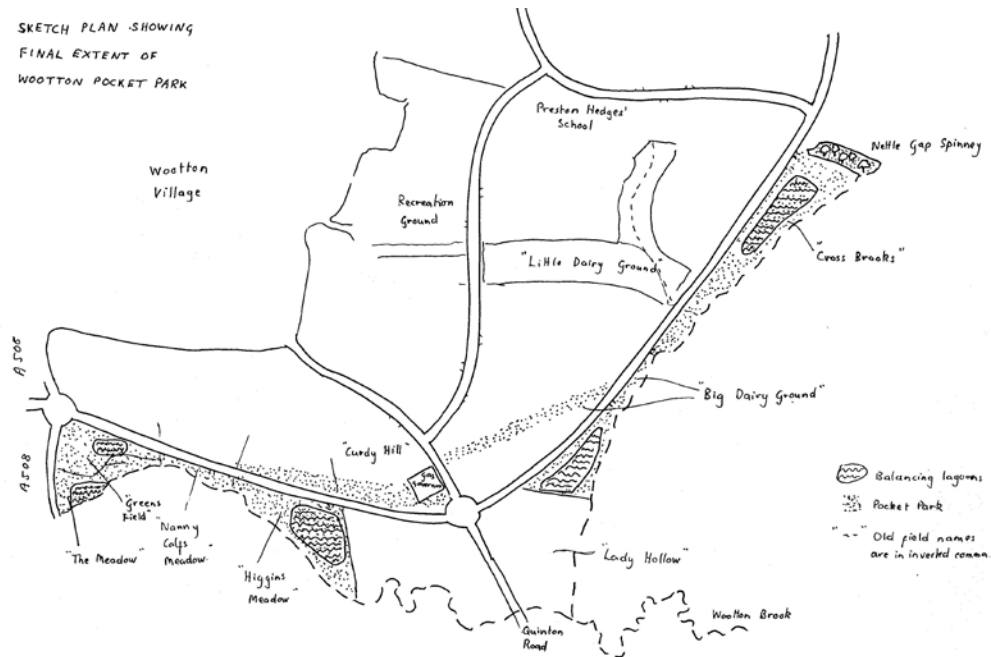
Green woodpecker, Heron and Little Egret are just some of the other birds that can often be found in the meadows and water course.

It is not just the skies that are bursting with life. A meadow survey carried out by the Wildlife Trust in June 2023 found a wide variety of plants. Cow Parley, Greater Burdock, Meadowsweet and Lady's Bedstraw along with many other species were found. These provide a rich source of nectar for Meadow Brown and Marbled White butterflies, bees, and other invertebrates.

These meadows are a small but very valuable refuge for wildlife and humans alike. Even just a short walk in nature has been shown to have many health benefits. However, the irony of this area being close to the busy dual carriageway is not lost. Despite this my footsteps and mood feel lighter as I head back towards Wooldale Road having soaked up some of nature's treasures.

Julie Bilson
Wild About Wootton

SKETCH PLAN SHOWING FINAL EXTENT OF WOOTTON POCKET PARK



Have Fun. Make friends. Play hockey

woottonwanderershc.co.uk

- 4 Ladies teams
- 3 Mens teams
- Mixed teams
- Junior coaching
- Competitive leagues
- All abilities welcome
- New & returning players



Contact us



 WoottonWanderersHockeyClub

 Woottonwanderershc

Wootton Wanderers Hockey Club need you!

Regular Activities at the Centre

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

Rooms are available for hire: Telephone: 01604 705055 Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm

Email: bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Classes	Contact Details	
MONDAY		
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	6.30am – 7.30am	Patrick Jelly Tel: 07905 564221 jelley1@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: 07719844090 hello@juliejonesyoga.com
Prana Yoga Breathe and reconnect	2.00pm – 3.00pm	pranayoga1@outlook.com www.pranayoga1.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 jelley1@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	1.15pm – 3.15pm	Tan Brient tanbrient@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		
Stay and Play – Under 5's 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month	9.00am – 10.30am	Nina Evans Tel: 07783 928745 eventscreche@gmail.com
Get Up & Go Strength and balance exercises	11.15am – 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
Pregnancy Yoga	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Lizzie Edwards lizzieedwardsyoga@gmail.com
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Patrick Jelly Tel: 07905 564221 jelley1@hotmail.co.uk
Pilates Great for stretching and exercise (Booking Essential)	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Emma Latimer Tel: 07817 778993 emma.newell@yahoo.com

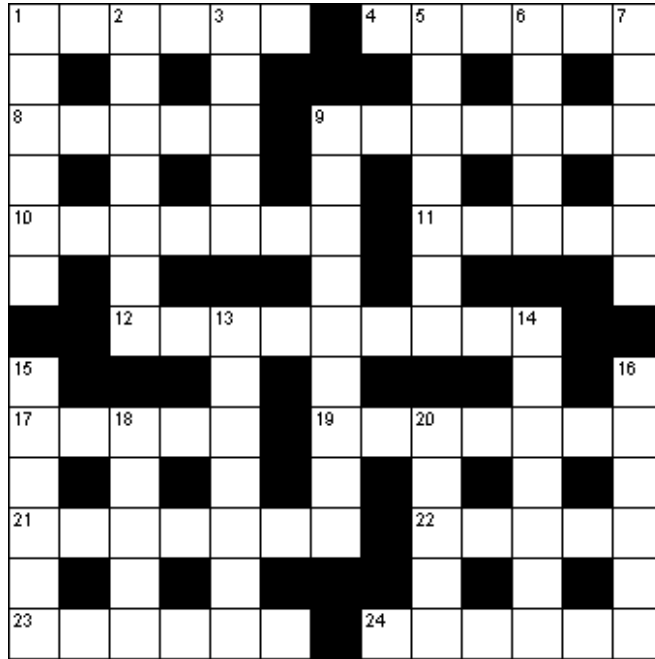
Classes	Contact Details	
THURSDAY		
Yoga Beginners and Returners	9.15am – 10.15am	Julie Jones 07719 844090 hello@juliejonesyoga.com
Pilates Great for stretching and exercise (Booking Essential)	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Emma Latimer Tel: 07817 778993 emma.newell@yahoo.com
Art Class (u3a) Jubilee Room – All Welcome	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	Louise Lobley info@woottonroadrunners.co.uk www.woottonroadrunners.co.uk
FRIDAY		
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp	6.30am – 7.30am	Patrick jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jelley1@hotmail.co.uk
Cha Char Chimps Award winning, interactive musical fun show for pre-school children	10.00am – 11.00am	Helen Ryan helen@ccchimps.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		
Socotots	09.15am – 11.30am	Paul Darton/George Quinn mklb@socotots.co.uk
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	9.30am – 10.30am	Patrick Jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jelley1@hotmail.co.uk
Private Hire Bookings	10.00am – 00.00	
SUNDAY		
Wootton Warriors Bootcamp Train outside – feel great inside	8.30am – 9.30am	Patrick Jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jelley1@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
Wootton St George Youth Teams Football for all ages	Weekend Football	wsgfcfootballclub@gmail.com
Northants All Stars Adult Football Team	Weekend Football	Reece Prigg reeceprigg2@gmail.com
Wootton Wanderers Adult Football	Weekend Football	Danny Armsby Tel: 07737 1999661 d_armsby11@yahoo.co.uk

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 next month's Mag – so no cheating, you've just got to persevere until you've finished them!

Quick Crossword



Across

- 1 Astounded (6)
- 4 Source (6)
- 8 Donkeys (5)
- 9 Diplomatic (7)
- 10 Monarchical state (7)
- 11 Midsection (5)
- 12 NCOs (9)
- 17 Looked at amorously (5)
- 19 Exonerate (7)
- 21 Science of living things (7)
- 22 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 23 A score (6)
- 24 Former Spanish currency (6)

Down

- 1 Northernmost American state (6)
- 2 Toxic element (7)
- 3 Alleviated (5)
- 5 Soft Italian cheese (7)
- 6 Achieve great things (2,3)
- 7 British naval hero (6)
- 9 Not permanent (9)
- 13 British soldier, formerly (7)
- 14 Capable of being solved (7)
- 15 Water ice (6)
- 16 Rupture (6)
- 18 Slack (5)
- 20 Twilled fabric (5)

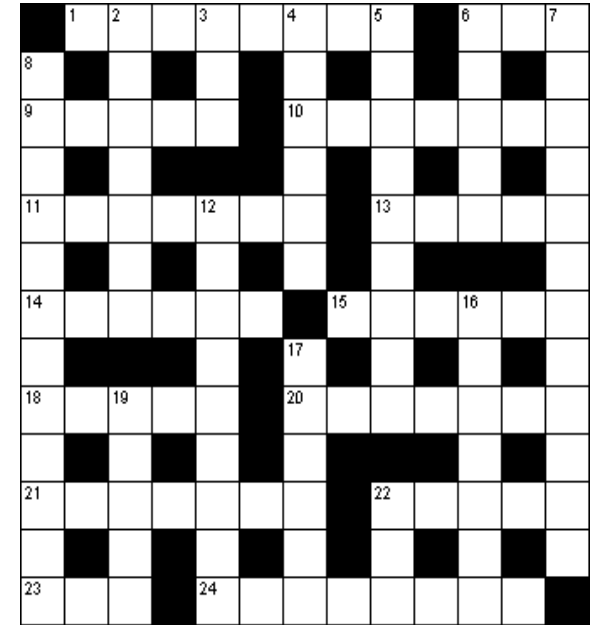
The Less Quick Cryptic Crossword

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)

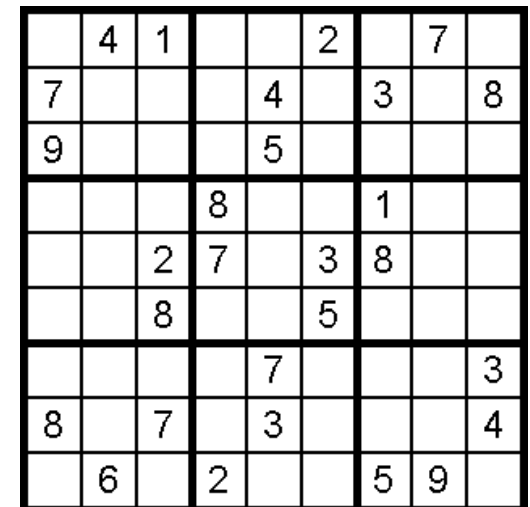
Down

- 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

© 2024 Simply Daily Puzzles



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.

- ✓ Painting and decorating
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ External decoration
- ✓ Bathrooms
- ✓ Kitchens
- ✓ Shower rooms

We will not be beaten on price - call us today for advice and a free quotation!

Insured:
Public Liability



Stay Local Local opportunities for local businesses!

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

WOOTTON PARISH MAG

Application Form

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

Technical data overleaf.

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



Applicaton Type

- Commercial Advertising**
 - 1/4 page – £40 + VAT / issue
 - 1/2 page – £70 + VAT / issue
 - Full page – £120 + VAT / issue
 - Back page (colour gloss) £500 + VAT / issue

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.

Technical Data

Please follow these guidelines when providing your material for inclusion in Wootton Mag

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

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:

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)

We are here to help

Following these guidelines will help ensure successful reproduction of all supplied material.

For further information regarding the supply of digital material, please contact:

Wootton Parish Council

Tel: 01604 705055

Email: bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk



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



WOOTTON COMMUNITY CENTRE



**SPRING
FAYRE**



SATURDAY 2ND
MARCH

GIFT IDEAS | FASHION | JEWELLERY

JOIN US BETWEEN
10AM-3PM

FREE ENTRY & AMPLE PARKING

