

# FIREWORKS

**Wootton Community Centre**  
**Sunday 3rd November 4pm – 8pm**

Fairground rides, food vendors,  
Community Centre Bar and much more

Hot drinks and food options

Firework Display will begin at 7pm

**Free admission**

# WOOTTON PARISH MAG

**Wootton Parish Council**  
**EVENT CALENDAR**  
**2025**

- SPRING FAYRE - 22nd March
- EASTER EVENT - Date TBC
- VE DAY EVENT - 8th May
- WOOTTON BITES - 23rd May
- WOOTTON BITES - 27th June
- WOOTTON BITES - 25th July
- FAMILY FUN DAY - 13th August
- WOOTTON BITES - 22nd August
- HALLOWEEN DISCO - 29th October
- FIREWORK EVENT - 2nd November
- CHRISTMAS FAIR - 29th/30th Nov

For more information please contact the booking office on [bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk) or call 01604 705055



From the  
**Chairman**

## Welcome New Clerk!

Dear Residents, it's been a very busy summer in Wootton with lots going on. In June, we welcomed our new Clerk, **Alison Reynolds** who has now taken over the important position of Clerk and RFO and is settling in very well. She is quickly learning about 'the Wootton Way' and has brought some wonderful new insights to the Council already. Please do pop into the office to welcome Alison when visiting.

Alison is great at all things Social Media too so do check out our Facebook pages 'Wootton Parish Council' and 'Wootton Community Centre' along with our website [www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk) for any relevant Parish updates and events.

This summer, we've held some fantastic events and our Management team Gemma (Bar and Functions) and Jussy (Library) have worked tremendously hard to ensure that we've been able to provide a wide range of free or low cost events to suit everyone. If you have any ideas for events that you'd like us to hold, or clubs you think should be run, please do let us know.

Moving forward to winter, we are very much looking forward to our Annual Fireworks event,

on Sunday 3rd November and our Christmas Fayre which will be held over the weekend of 30th November.

The Parish Council's focus for the coming year will be based around Planning, the Playground and Health & Safety and Environmental Maintenance around the Parish. You can read more about these important projects in this issue of the Mag.

I'll sign off with one last piece of news. Our wonderful Library had almost 3000 visitors during the month of August alone. I want to give my sincere thanks to Jussy and her incredible team of volunteers without whom, we wouldn't be able to run the Library. The Library has become an integral cornerstone of our community, reading is such an important life skill, and as we are witnessing, brings people of all ages together. Please do follow 'Wootton Community Library' on Facebook to check out all of the things on their calendar. I am in total awe of what has been achieved in our Parish and other libraries in the county are already using Wootton as an example of how fantastic a Library can be. Thank you Jussy.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Fireworks and around the Parish, and please do let me know if you have any ideas on how to improve Wootton further.

Many Thanks

**Emma Fisher**  
 Chairman, Wootton Parish Council

**Cover**  
 CCS Cadets contingent and the Northampton Bagpiper.

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.

# Councillors and Roles



Wootton Parish Council is currently made up of 10 councillors with two vacancies.

## Councillor Julie Bilson

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

[Cllr.juliebilson@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.juliebilson@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](mailto:Cllr.sohrabghavami@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](mailto:Cllr.malcolmcallan@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## Councillor David Harrison

David was co-opted onto the parish council in April 2022.

[Cllr.davidharrison@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.davidharrison@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](mailto:Cllr.benedictchurchus@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## Councillor Jane Revill

Jane is another co-opted councillor joining the parish council in May this year.

[Cllr.janerevill@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.janerevill@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](mailto:Cllr.emmafisher@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](mailto:Cllr.jeffservent@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



The Parish Council has two vacancies for Councillors.  
If you'd like to be considered, please get in touch.

# Meet your new Councillors!



Wootton Parish Council is delighted to introduce two shiny new councillors

## Councillor Alex Hamilton

Alex is our newest councillor; he was co-opted in August 2024.

"I have lived in Northampton for almost 40 years and in Wootton for 12 years. I currently live in Wootton village with my wife, stepson and a dog and a cat.

I have spent the last 15 years in the waste industry heading up Corporate Sales for two of the UK's largest waste companies. More recently I specialised in plastic and food waste and have now set up my own company helping businesses reduce their operational costs.

My wife has had her own beauty business in Wootton for the last 10 years making people look beautiful.

My hobbies are basketball and athletics. I am a keen chess and poker player. I taught my son to DJ, and he now plays to nightclub audiences most weeks - my Ibiza DJ days are now long gone, but I can still play a set. We love eating out and holidaying in Greece.

I have re-joined Wootton Parish Council after a 4-year break and look forward to getting involved again".

[Cllr.alexhamilton@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.alexhamilton@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## Councillor Clare Wanjohi

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

"I've been a resident of Wootton Fields since 2007. My children went to Preston Hedges and CCS schools, and our family loves living here. I enjoy walking and spending time in our parks, trails, and public spaces, though I see room for improvement in some areas.

I'm dedicated to the growth and development of our community, and I believe the best way to achieve this is through active participation. If you have any ideas for community improvements, please share them with your councillors. Let's work together to make a difference".

[Cllr.clarewanjohi@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.clarewanjohi@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



# The Evolving Parish Mag

We have made some important changes to The Parish Mag. You will notice that we have now gone full colour. This will make the magazine more attractive to residents and advertisers alike. We have revamped the advertising rates and not increased any of the costs for advertising. We are offering a ten per cent discount to all advertisers who commit to a year's advertising paid in advance.

You may feel The Parish Council could at times feel a little faceless or remote! Well, no more! We have included a feature in the magazine called "Know your Councillor". The feature pictures all of Wootton Parish councillors along with their contact details and areas of responsibility. Now you can put a face to the name. Should you see any councillors on your travels, or in my own case, walking the dog, feel free to say Hello.

On the front cover we are now listing the months the magazine covers, in this case Nov – Feb 25. Previously we listed seasons as we didn't feel confident enough with delivery to list a date. For this reason we have decided to outsource delivery and tracking of the magazine. We will now be able to guarantee that all residents will receive their magazine by 1st November. This gives our contributors much more confidence, particularly when planning an event.

On the 1st May 2025 West Northamptonshire Council enacts the Boundary Changes. The effect on Wootton Parish will mean that we will now incorporate St Georges Fields estate and Longmeadow (along with the adjoining roads). The Parish Council decided to issue the magazine now to these areas, to give an insight of what they can expect from Wootton Parish. As a result of this decision we have increased the print run to 3,500 copies to

cover these areas. I feel sure the whole parish will join me in welcoming these new areas into the fold. It would be great if we could have these areas represented by a local resident on the council sometime in the future.

So, you can see, we have made some significant changes to the magazine. Some of the costs for incurring these changes have already been met by an increase in advertising. I feel confident by the time we do March 25 print run, all costs will have been covered.

Finally, please remember, this is your magazine. Should you wish to contribute or have any suggestions for the magazine, please let the council know. Try to find the time to look through the magazine, any feedback would be most welcome.



**Cllr Malcolm Callan**  
Cllr.malcolmcallan@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Wootton Parish Mag is produced by Wootton Parish Council for the residents of Wootton. If you have anything you would like to include, publicise, or advertise, please contact us at:  
**bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk**

### Copy Deadlines

**31st January** – Delivered by 1st March

**30th May** – Delivered by 1st July

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this magazine. However, Wootton Parish Council cannot be held liable for any inadvertent inaccuracies or misinformation.

# Planning Update

## Proposed developments in the planning pipeline

We've had some queries recently about the number of new housing developments being planned in and around Wootton so wanted to communicate with you about them.

Proposed developments:

- ▶ Land at Hampton Green being promoted by Martin Grant
- ▶ Wymersley Green, nr Great Houghton being promoted by Homes England
- ▶ Wootton Valley, around CCS and St. George's Fields, being promoted by Gallagher and Barratt David Wilson
- ▶ Land south of Grange Park being promoted by Manor Oak Homes
- ▶ Collingtree Park being developed currently by Linden/Bovis/Vistry
- ▶ Landimore Park being developed by currently by Tilia Homes

These are the sites currently being promoted within the planning system in various stages, in addition of course to the current works at Segro Logistics Park Northampton, and Strategic Rail Freight Interchange, at J15, in addition to a proposed industrial & office park opposite. Wootton Parish Council can appreciate that these applications can be very concerning and worrying to many regarding traffic, infrastructure and services and potentially changing the beautiful semi-rural nature of where we live. We are acutely aware that these large applications should only go ahead based on a demonstrable

need for housing, and also with associated infrastructure and essential services in place or as S106 conditions with any decision, including schools, doctors and dentists. Public open space, sports fields, facilities and pitches, efficient transport systems, the mitigation of traffic pollution and the promotion of biodiversity must also be absolutely essential.

As a Council, we have been advised to feed into the Strategic Planning department at West Northants to voice our concerns and have West Northants look at these applications in a 'joined up' manner, rather than as individual applications which is what they currently do. We would also urge residents to also voice their opinion individually on these planning applications and portals where they feel strongly and have ideas to help. One voice may seem irrelevant but add a dozen, or a hundred, and developers and planners do take notice.

Make no mistake, we are not adverse to development but it needs to be the right development, in the right place. We all know that more housing is needed, that indeed many of us live on what were green fields only 25 years ago, and that Towns only ever expand geographically outwards. The right development also gives opportunities for our next generation to purchase locally. Wootton is a very desirable area to live in and we want to keep it that way and as a Parish Council we are actively involved in using whatever influence we can to make the Planning department, and

the Developers, aware of the struggles that we already face so that we can move forwards positively.

Where we feel the right schemes are put forward, we will continue to work closely with Developers to ensure that we get the very best for Wootton, whether that be infrastructure or facilities to ensure that the impact of development is mitigated as much as possible.

Our Parish Office is very happy to answer queries and concerns on these developments and keep our residents as up to date as possible.



**Jeff Servent** BSc(Hons) DipM  
Vice Chairman  
Wootton Parish Council

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Parish Council Meetings are held on 3rd Monday of every month at 6.30pm at Wootton Community & Sports Centre**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend all parish council meetings and are invited to address the council at the beginning of every council meeting during the public session**

**Our Parish Council meetings are on:**  
18th November 2024  
16th December 2024  
20th January 2025  
17th February 2025

# Playground Update

Dear Residents

As you all know, we are hoping to renew our playground on the Rec and install a small playground at Simpson Mannor.

The Parish Council are all conscious that you probably haven't heard any further information on this for some time so we wanted to provide you with a bit of an update.

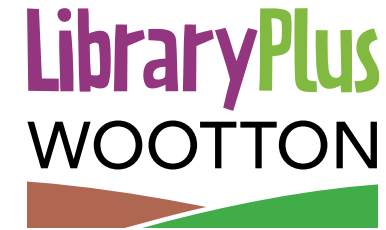
We are still awaiting the Land Transfer (and associated funds) from David Wilson Homes. We are at the final stage of this and are simply awaiting the final sign off and actual transfer. The paperwork has been signed! We are just awaiting completion.

Once these funds are in, we will look to resurrect the Playground discussions and will be consulting with the residents to see what kind of things you'd like so please do start to have a think. If you'd like to be notified of when we'll be consulting, we will advertise on our Facebook page, but if you'd prefer to leave an email address so that we can let you know, please write to [clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and we can set up a mailing list.

Many Thanks



**Mrs Emma Fisher**  
Chairman  
Wootton Parish Council



Our summer was busy with the launch of the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge with a total of 354 starters. This year's theme was Marvellous Makers, and marvellous has it been! Our library has been buzzing throughout, hosting **Marvellous Monday** craft sessions, including a special class given by Sophie Slade on painting. The children enjoyed learning how to use watercolours and made amazing bookmarks. It has been so exciting to see children walk through the doors, ready to sign up for the challenge and this has led to our busiest month ever with around 3000 visitors in August. Wonderful!

Congratulations to all those who finished the summer reading challenge! We are happy to announce that we had a total of 207 finishers. Big congratulations to Preston Hedges School for having 81 starters and for completing the challenge with the most finishers!



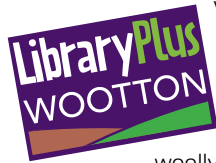
We also joined with the Wild About Wootton team in August to host a Wild Wednesday event where lots of children had a great time foraging outside to find all the wonderful nature on our doorstep and building bug hotels in the library!

Even though children are back at school now, our library will still be bustling with our regularly scheduled events. Please visit our website, [woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk) for dates and more information.



Our **Crafternoon** sessions take place on alternate Monday afternoons from 1pm, and are perfect for anyone who loves crafting. Bring your current project along to our next session on 7th October.



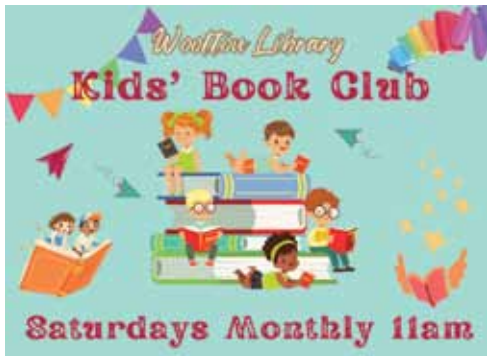


We also have a **Knit and Natter** club on alternate Wednesday mornings at 11am where you can go wild about all things woolly. The Knit and natter group will also have a stall at the Christmas Fayre on 30th November and 1st December from 10am to 3pm, so come along and have a look at all the beautiful items handmade by our lovely group.



For any book lovers looking for people with similar interests, our **Book Club** takes place every other Wednesday morning at 11am. Our current read is *The Whistleblower* by Robert Peston.

We have exciting events for little ones too, such as **Storytime** every Tuesday at 11.15am and **Rhymetime** every Friday at 11am. These are perfect for pre-schoolers who love an animated reading of their favourite stories or a good session of dancing to their favourite nursery rhymes. All events are FREE and there is no need to book, just pop in and enjoy!



We also run a **Kid's Book Club** once a month on a Saturday morning. The next session is on 5th October and the theme is Halloween. Feel free to dress up if you'd like! All primary-aged bookworms are welcome to join and explore reading any book that follows the theme of the month.



Our **Construction Club** also takes place monthly and is perfect for over 5s to explore their creativity and have fun with Lego. The next club is on 19th October. Pop into the library to see our Lego Club Wall of Creations. There is something for everyone, so come along and join us.

There are also some exciting events coming up so make sure to save the dates in your calendar. We have a **Big Jigsaw Sale** on 30th October – come and stock up on your jigsaw puzzles in time for the cold weather or come and enjoy a day of autumnal crafts and fun!



We also have a **Christmas Fun Day** taking place on 21st December with a surprise activity so make sure to keep a look out on our social media for any clues! There will also be a festive magic show – a great way to start the Christmas holidays.



We are also delighted to announce the start of our **Autumn Leaves initiative**, a bespoke book delivery service. We have started with Collingtree Care Home and Richmond Village, and our first visits were very successful. We delivered books and audiobooks and chatted to the lovely residents about what they enjoy reading.

We are also able to help with applications for **Older Persons' Bus Passes** now, so if you need to apply for one or renew your current one, drop by the library with some ID to prove your date of birth and address or to enquire about more information.

**Printing, copying and scanning services** are also available in the library, so just ask one of our volunteers and we'd be happy to help.

**Thank you** to everyone who keeps our library thriving – we are so grateful to our fabulous team of volunteers and to all those who attend regular events and donate their resources to our library. We are always looking for wool for our Knit and Natter group or any pre-loved books in good condition for the library.



# News from Wootton Parish Council

## Clerk's Update



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

**WOOTTON PARISH OFFICE  
& LIBRARY  
CHRISTMAS  
OPENING HOURS**

Christmas Eve	PARISH OFFICE 9AM - 12PM LIBRARY 10AM - 1PM
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED
Friday 27th Dec	CLOSED
Saturday 28th Dec	CLOSED
Sunday 29th Dec	CLOSED
Monday 30th Dec	PARISH OFFICE & LIBRARY 10AM - 1PM
New Year's Eve	PARISH OFFICE & LIBRARY 10AM - 1PM
New Year's Day	CLOSED
Thursday 2nd Jan	BUSINESS AS USUAL

## I am your new Parish Clerk

Hello Wootton Residents

I'm Alison, your new Parish Clerk. I joined Wootton Parish Council in June and have settled into the role well. I'd like to say thank you to the wonderful staff, councillors, volunteers, and residents for the warm welcome.

A little bit about me – I was born in Northampton and grew up in Milton Keynes, moving to Roade, Northamptonshire eight years ago. I served as Clerk to Roade Parish Council for four and a half years before joining Wootton. I live in Roade with my husband, sixteen-year-old son, and our two cats. While I don't live in Wootton, my stepchildren grew up here, despite moving for work and university, they still call it home and often visit their mum who still lives in the parish.

My claim to fame is that I went on stage with Bon Jovi at Wembley Stadium in 2000. My friend won tickets on a radio station, and while

I didn't sing (luckily for the audience!), it was amazing to be within touching distance of Jon Bon Jovi as the band performed four songs – it really was a truly unforgettable experience.

Something you wouldn't know about me is that I'm a qualified beauty therapist. Though I don't practice, I always make sure my nails are painted, and mascara would definitely be my luxury item if I were stranded on a desert island.

I'm passionate about community engagement and am excited to help make Wootton an even better place to live and work. I used to dream of being a children's TV presenter, but since becoming a parish clerk, I can confidently say this is my dream job! The variety is what I love with every day being different – in the morning I might be working on budgets, and then come the afternoon I'm helping set up the hall for a wedding reception.

## Anti-social Behaviour

Unfortunately, we have recently experienced some incidents of anti-social behaviour at the community centre. The first involved criminal damage when a sink was pulled off the wall in the disabled toilet, causing flooding. Another incident, the fire alarm was triggered due to someone smoking illegal substances in the same area. We take residents' safety and antisocial behaviour seriously and are working closely with the local neighbourhood police team to address these issues, sharing CCTV footage to help identify those responsible.

## New Benches

You've probably seen that we've installed two new benches on the recreation ground, and I hope you agree they're a welcome addition – probably some of the best seats in Wootton!

## Councillors and Elections

Since June, I've had the pleasure of welcoming two new councillors, Clare Wanjohi and Alex Hamilton (who previously served as a parish councillor). We still have two vacancies, so if you're interested in making a difference in Wootton, please reach out. With local elections next May, now is a great time to get involved and try out the role for six months before considering standing for election.

## New Member of Staff

We've had a change in staffing at the community centre. Due to personal circumstances, we said goodbye to our Facilities and Operations Manager, Colin, at the end of August. I'm happy to announce that Thomas Lowe has joined as our new Facilities and Operations Manager, and he's already proving to be a fantastic asset to the team.

## Events

Wootton Parish Council has organised some fantastic events, including our free summer family fun day and Halloween discos, led by our Bar and Events Manager, Gemma, with help from the Events Working Party, councillors and Chairman Cllr Emma Fisher. I'm especially excited about the upcoming fireworks event on Sunday 3rd November.

I also had the honour of presenting a special award to a young resident who completed the library's summer reading challenge, helping him advance to a higher reading level at school.

Wootton really is a wonderful place to work, and I'm sure many of you would agree it's a fantastic place to live. I'm excited about the future and look forward to meeting more of you. When you're passing by/visiting the community centre, please pop in and say hello – I'd love to meet you!

### Alison Reynolds

## 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](http://www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# Facilities and Operations Manager

Tom Lowe has joined the team to help maintain our lovely parish facilities



I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Facilities and Operations Manager at Wootton Parish Council. I'm looking forward to bringing my skills and enthusiasm to this new role. My goal is to ensure that our spaces are well-maintained, safe, and conducive to the needs of everyone who uses them. I'm eager to contribute to the continued success of the Parish and am excited to work alongside this incredible team!

## Recent improvements around the parish

Recently, we've been working hard to enhance the beautiful spaces and facilities within our parish. Here's an update on some of the key projects:

### ● Collaboration with West Northants Council

We've reached out to the council regarding overgrown areas and trees they manage, requesting that they be trimmed back to improve safety and accessibility on our paths and walkways.

### ● Basketball Hoops Replacement

In the Multiple Use Games Area (MUGA), both broken basketball hoops have been replaced, ensuring the space is fully functional and enjoyable for the community.

### ● Routine Cleaning

We've scheduled regular cleaning of bins and benches that are owned by Wootton Parish Council to maintain a clean and welcoming environment.

### ● Investment in Equipment

To better maintain the parish facilities and buildings, we are investing in new, safer, and more efficient equipment.

### ● Café Access Upgrade

We've upgraded the area around the café with new paving, making access smoother and easier for all.

These improvements reflect our commitment to keeping the parish safe, clean, and accessible for everyone.

I would like to make a special mention of the fantastic work and dedication that our Environmental Maintenance Officers Mick, Tony, Rich, and Steve, continue to provide to the parish. Their tireless efforts play a crucial role in maintaining and improving our shared spaces, making the parish a cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable place to live. We are truly grateful for their hard work and commitment to our community.

Tom Lowe



**WOOTTON  
PARISH COUNCIL**



## PARISH COUNCILLOR Vacancies

### Wootton Needs You!

- Represent the views of local people
- Help keep Wootton a great place to live
- Be part of building a better future
- Bring fresh ideas about local services
- Help improve connections with local residents.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 6.30pm at Wootton Community & Sports Centre

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Contact the Parish Clerk

Tel: 01604 705055

email: [clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



**WOOTTON  
PARISH COUNCIL**



# Make a Difference in Your Community

**Every seat at every Parish and Town Council  
in Northamptonshire will be up for election in May 2025!**

Are you passionate about your community and want to have a real impact on where you live?

If so, becoming a Parish Councillor could be for you!

Now is the perfect time to get involved. At Wootton Parish Council, we currently have two vacancies – why not join now and give it a try before standing for election in May?

There's no need to wait!

### Interested?

Contact the Parish Clerk today to learn more:

Tel: **01604 705055**

Email: [clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Take the first step to making a difference.  
Join us and help shape the future of your parish!**

## Staying warm this winter

Local charity Age UK Northamptonshire is supporting the campaign by the national charity Age UK, calling on the Government to halt their proposed change to the Winter Fuel Payment and think again.

"We are particularly concerned about older people in poor health or whose income is just above the cut-off for Pension Credit," says Lorraine Booty, Information & Advice Service Team Leader.

"It's important to check whether you qualify for Pension Credit. Previously, the Winter Fuel Payment for Winter 2024/25 would have been awarded to people who had reached State Pension age in the qualifying week 16th – 22nd September 2024. Now it will be restricted to pension-age people who were entitled to certain means-tested benefits in that qualifying week.

We are encouraging clients who have access to a computer, laptop or smart device to check their eligibility and/or apply for Pension Credit online."

Visit the Government's website:

[www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim)

Or call the Department for Work Pension Credit line on **0800 99 1234**.

This year Age UK Northamptonshire has funding to provide a limited number of free home energy checks for older people living in Northamptonshire.

The **Warm Homes Programme**, which is funded by E.on, can help in two ways:

- ▶ Help increase your income to pay for energy bills
- ▶ Help make your home more energy efficient so you can stay warm in the winter

You qualify if you are aged 65 or over and

- ▶ have any long-term medical condition and/or
- ▶ your annual income is below £19,980 (self-declared no proof necessary)



Call Richard A'Court on **01604 210587** to find out more.

### Information & Advice

Age UK Northamptonshire's Information & Advice Team takes live calls 9am – 12 noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays on **01604 611207**.



## Wootton Pre-School Playgroup

Memorial Hall, High Street, Wootton



## Welcome back to a new pre-school year!

Many of our children left us in the summer and we have loved them popping in to see us looking so smart in their new school uniforms. We are **incredibly proud** of how they have all settled so happily and confidently into their chosen primary schools – well done!

Our remaining children have returned to us and are now enjoying showing our lovely new starters 'the ropes' and making sure they are feeling safe and happy in their new pre-school. We are welcoming lots of new children this term and they are quickly learning the routines and structure of the day and happily playing together already.

### There's lots going on this term

We welcome parents and carers to our **music session** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Our 1st **Dad's session** of the year will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October so come along for a bacon roll and cuppa at the start of the day!

Parents . . . we welcome you to join us for our **'drop in'** sessions (21<sup>st</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> December). These are ideal opportunities to discuss your child's development with the team and how they are settling into the daily routine of pre-school.

Our theme for this term is

### FRIENDSHIP

and for this we will:

- Help our children to separate from the parents when coming into pre-school
- Learn all of the new routines and rules to keep us safe
- Encourage our children to seek out others to play with

We have our **Christmas party** to look forward to... where we will play games and enjoy a magician to show us lots of amazing tricks!

If you would like to know any more about our playgroup then please visit our website:

[www.woottonplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.woottonplaygroup.co.uk)

You can contact us:

Telephone: **07840 822476**

Email: [woottonplaygroup@btconnect.com](mailto:woottonplaygroup@btconnect.com)

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

Children are very welcome to come to us from the surrounding areas and villages.

# Wootton Memorial Hall

## A fond farewell and a secure future

In a previous article, Wootton Memorial Hall's survival being at risk was mentioned in an appeal for volunteers to join the management committee that operates the hall on a daily basis.

It is heartening to announce that the appeal was met with, not a flood, but at least a steady trickle of volunteers from the village and that the revitalised management committee is now thriving. populated as it is with members, all of whom, are very enthusiastic, full of new ideas and keen to roll up their sleeves and get to work.

The existing committee and its officers are extremely grateful to those new members for their volunteering spirit, and to the Parish Council who were always there to provide support if needed.

We were, therefore, able to bid a very fond farewell to outgoing chair, David Blackbourn, safe in the knowledge that the hall's future is in safe hands.

David's 12 years of devotion to the hall's successful operation were celebrated at the AGM in May with his family in attendance – a very fitting farewell for someone whose was ever present and will be missed every day. Good luck David in your 'retirement' from your duties!



*Farewell David, you will be missed.*



*Wootton Memorial Hall.*

Wootton Memorial Hall now has a presence on the internet so please check out [www.woottonmemorialhall.net](http://www.woottonmemorialhall.net) for information and hall bookings.

**Nicky's Fancy Faces PARTIES**

- Disco and Games parties
- Silent discos
- Bear building parties
- Pamper & craft parties
- Football themed parties
- Face Painting
- Glitter tattoos
- School discos and Events

**nicksfancyfaces@yahoo.co.uk**  
**www.nicksfancyfaces.co.uk**

**Tel 07902 304185**

# Wootton Town Houses Charity

## Update

Northamptonshire, and the Wootton area particularly, has a very limited amount of what we now call affordable housing. If you or people you know have been looking for somewhere to rent, you will know what I mean.

The Wootton Town Houses Charity, formerly known as the Wootton Poor Houses Charity; has for many years played a part in trying to provide housing for those who want to maintain their contacts with Wootton and have a strong connection with it, have a serious housing need and financially struggle in the competitive market for rental accommodation. This charity, which dates all the way back to 1779, played an active role in alleviating poverty for a very long time, housing people for short, medium and long stay periods.

The charity currently has six properties in the village and in the recent months has seen one resident move and another unfortunately die unexpectedly. The properties are all older properties so the last year has seen a great deal spent on major refurbishments and repairs, the replacement of windows, a replacement roof and problems with damp that comes with older properties, and this work is currently carrying on. Out present residents know how hard it has been to keep up with the work that needs to be done

Of course, the cost of this maintenance has risen hugely, a particular difficulty when we do not wish to pass the cost of this on to residents via additional charges. When our secretary John Lloyd and I spoke at the Annual Parish Meeting in May, there was recognition of the vital though limited role the charity

can play. There was also interest and some surprise when I mentioned that in the last ten years there seem to have been three houses in Wootton where the owners had died with no surviving families existed, and these became the property of the state.

Subsequently we have tried to create greater awareness of this issue and have urged people who are connected to such properties or know of such properties to let our charity know so that there may be a possibility of them being left to the Wootton Town Houses Charity. Our funds will not allow us to continue maintaining the existing accommodation for a long time, never mind expand the ability to offer accommodation to those in need. I am always willing to speak to anyone with questions about this, and hope that we might find even a very small number of people who would help us keep this charity going for many more years.

### Ed McDonough

Chair  
Wootton Town Houses  
edmcd@btopenworld.com

# JELLY BEANS PONY PARTIES

*Come and enjoy time with our gentle animals at our smallholding in Chapel Brampton. We have a variety of options available which can be tailored to your requirements.*

*Pony Party*

**£150**

**up to 10 children**

**dress up the ponies  
pony walk & goat walk  
includes rosette**

**1.5 hrs**



*Pony or Goat Walk*

**£80**

**up to 4 children**

**groom and walk  
the ponies or goats  
includes rosette**

**approx 1 hr**



*also available for...*

**animal therapy sessions, school events,  
fairs, confetti ponies for weddings & events**

Fully licensed and insured for public liability: L/N: 000002263



**07763763483**

*call, text or Whatsapp*



**Instagram @my\_jellybeans\_**

Integrated Care  
Northamptonshire



### Feeling anxious, lonely or sad?

Text **IMATTER to 85258** to start a free, confidential text conversation with a trained volunteer who can help with issues such as:

- Anxiety
- Stress
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts
- Self-harm
- Abuse
- Relationship problems
- Bullying
- Panic attacks
- Loneliness

Texting is anonymous and will not appear on your phone bill. You will not be charged for using this service.

For support while you wait for Shout to reply, visit: [giveusashout.org/get-help/resources](http://giveusashout.org/get-help/resources).

**If your life is at risk, please call 999 for immediate help.**

Integrated Care  
Northamptonshire



### How does it work?

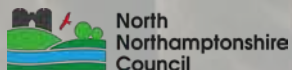
Trained Shout Volunteers are available to listen and support you 24/7. To start a conversation, anyone in Northamptonshire can text the word 'IMATTER' to 85258.

You'll receive four automated messages before being connected to a volunteer. They will introduce themselves and ask you to share what's bothering you. They will listen and talk with you silently, via text message. You only need to share what you feel comfortable sharing.

The aim of the conversation is to help you reach a calmer and safer place, with a plan of how to support yourself going forwards. As well as listening without judgement, the volunteer may provide you with further resources or tools to help you get more expert support.



Text **IMATTER to 85258**  
for free, confidential support, 24/7



Text **IMATTER to 85258**  
for free, confidential support, 24/7



# Step Forward With Lewis



If you haven't already so, check out the fantastic work of The Lewis Foundation.



[www.thelewisfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thelewisfoundation.co.uk)

It's been quite the week for Step Forward With Lewis... some might say amazing!

It all started with a fantastic evening when I was invited to his Parlour at the Guildhall by Northampton Town Council's Mayor, Paul Joyce.

It was all part of his celebration of The Lewis Foundation, which is his chosen charity this year.

At Step Forward With Lewis, we've been lucky enough to be able to support Lorraine and Lee Lewis, and all the amazing work The Lewis Foundation does to help cancer patients.

I was delighted, and pleasantly surprised, to be recognised by the Mayor for that work. It's the first time I've been honoured for any kind of charity role, and it was so lovely of Lee, Lorraine and Cllr Joyce to make me a part of their celebrations.

And I got to have a nosey round the Parlour!!

**Michelle Lewis**



Michelle Lewis receives her Mayor's certificate from Mayor, Paul Joyce. Lorraine and Lee Lewis from the Lewis Foundation are pictured on the right.

# Wootton Seniors Club

The nights are drawing in and a chill in the air but you will find a mug of tea or coffee and cake in Wootton Community Centre with the Seniors Club.

In July we said 'au revoir' to Tina, our Parish Clerk, who has supported the club through thick and thin for ten years. We gave her a large ceramic heart dish filled with fizz and chocolates to remind her of us.

In September we enjoyed a quiz devised by our club secretary, Cathy, with one section on 'Cornwall' which was fascinating.

Our last meeting was well attended as Radio Northampton Sports journalist, Graham McKechnie, treated us to an enlightening talk, with slides, on Edgar Mobbs and the Saints Rugby team in World War I years.

Our committee continues to plan fortnightly activities that we hope will interest the members.

## Remaining 2024 Programme

6th November  
**Yoga with Jean**

The four meetings before Christmas have a seasonal spirit.

20th November  
**Entertainment by magician**

4th December  
**Christmas Singalong**

11th December  
**Christmas lunch at the Walnut Tree Inn, Blisworth**

18th December  
**Christmas fun – mince pies and other surprises**

Come and join us if you live in the Parish of Wootton.



We bid a very fond farewell to Tina Charteress

## 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 just come along at **2pm on alternate Wednesdays**.



### Police Surgery

The local neighbourhood policing team runs a police surgery every four weeks on a Tuesday between 1.30pm and 2.30pm at Wootton Community Centre. Upcoming dates are 8th October, 5th November and 3rd December. This is open to all to attend to discuss issues in the local area and to seek advice.

### Vehicle Security

You may have recently heard about keyless car thefts in the local community. This is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition. Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home.

There are several steps that you can take to reduce your risk to this:

- Use an anti-RFID wallet, also known as a Faraday pouch.
- Keep your keys, including any spares well away from your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas, near CCTV.
- Use a steering wheel lock.



Have you heard about Northamptonshire Talking? Northamptonshire Talking is a free messaging service from Northamptonshire Police and local partner organisations, providing news and updates on policing and community matters that are relevant to you.



You can sign up to receive email updates about crime and suspicious activity where you live or work, crime prevention advice and updates from your local neighbourhood policing team.

You can choose the type of information you want to receive and whether you would also like to get news and information from our trusted partners such as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Neighbourhood Watch.


You'll also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood officers and have your say on local policing priorities.

# LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE DROP-IN SURGERY


**BETWEEN  
1:30 - 2:30PM  
TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER**

in the Atrium  
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.



CHARITY

# Al's Pals, supporting cancer patients in hospital and at home

**A**l's Pals provides an emotional support service to all Cancer patients in Milton Keynes University Hospital (MKUH) and at home in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and we are now launching in Northamptonshire.

Al's Pals was named after one of Milton Keynes Cancer Patients Alan Dumbell who received ongoing cancer treatment at MKUH.

Alan noticed that throughout his treatment as much as he was surrounded by his loving family he still felt very lonely and lost at times and he often discussed having a buddy to support him and help him where he felt things were missing. It was his legacy to have a cancer buddy scheme like this and with the passion driven by his daughter Suzanne Brown Al's Pals was born. For 4 years we have been supporting patients in hospital and at home.

Al's Pals is currently looking for some wonderful volunteers for their home support service. As a Volunteer you will offer support, companionship and a listening ear to any cancer patient/and/or their family.



We offer a full induction, training and ongoing support. Our volunteers are the heart of our charity and are making a difference to hundreds of cancer patients and their families. Be part of something truly amazing and inspirational.

If you feel you could benefit from this service, then please feel free to give us a call so we can discuss further how we can help.

Please get in touch if you would like to make a donation to the service or for any more information on any of the above:

[www.alspals.org.uk](http://www.alspals.org.uk)  
[info@alspals.org.uk](mailto:info@alspals.org.uk)  
**07958 800081**

Charity no: 1184001



Supporting cancer patients and their families in hospital, at home, online and in the community

## Who Are Al's Pals?

Al's Pals is a service offered to all cancer patients in the Beds, Bucks, Herts and Northants area. We provide a support service to cancer patients and their families at home and in hospital ensuring that no one has to walk alone through cancer.

Al's Pals is named after Alan Dumbell, who received cancer treatment at Milton Keynes University Hospital.

Alan noticed that throughout his treatment, although he was surrounded by his loving family, he still felt very lonely and lost at times, and he often discussed having a 'buddy' to support and help him where he felt things were missing. It is his legacy to have a cancer buddy scheme like this and with the passion of his daughter, Al's Pals was born.

## Volunteers

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to become a volunteer then please feel free to enquire online or contact us direct

[info@alspals.org.uk](mailto:info@alspals.org.uk) or on **07958 800081**

## If you would like to use our service

We would love to hear from you, If you would like to find out more about our service and how we can help you then please get in touch



# New School Year

## With lots of happy and excited faces

The autumn term always brings a new vigour and energy within a school and this year was no exception. We loved seeing our children come back happy and excited ready for the new year. They were keen to set themselves new aims and ambitions and reflect on the successes from the previous year.

It is also lovely that our children continue to relish the increased opportunities and responsibilities that being a new class brings them; whether that is a change in uniform, such as wearing a tie for the first time, or being able to apply to be a part of one of our fantastic clubs. Therefore, it was no surprise that there were many applications for Preston Parliament, Radio Club, Preston Paper to name but a few. We also had many children eager to join the re-branded reading club, Reading Ambassadors.

Reading continues to be a priority at Preston, especially as reading filters into so many subjects and aspects of everyday life. Therefore, we strive to ensure that all children leave us as confident, fluent readers so having the Reading Ambassadors team will be a huge support to continue to promote reading across the school throughout the year, as well supporting initiatives: such as organising the library bus and reading zones within the classrooms. What is lovely is that their efforts will be rewarded with a trip at the end of the year too... more on that another time!

Last year, we introduced 'Worldly Wise Weeks' last (which are where we dedicate additional time to promote equality and diversity) and they were a huge success.

Thank you to Mrs Kendall who spent a lot of time making sure that during these weeks the children had a range of opportunities and activities, including gaining first hand experiences from visitors. By the time this article is published, we will have completed our first Worldly Wise week, focused on Race and linked to the Black History Month, The Windrush Generation and figures in the local community and will be well on the way to preparing the next.

We look forward to sharing more on this in the next article, but as always, do keep an eye out on our Facebook page and our website in the meantime.





# theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

## Wootton WI

Wootton WI meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Come along to any meeting to find out more. Non-members are always welcome. Our visitor's fee is £4.

We have had some very interesting talks this year, including hearing about life as a film extra and learning how to trace your family tree. We have had trips to Lincoln and Michael Heseltine's garden at Thenford. We have enjoyed walks in the countryside and relaxing

coffee and cake mornings. There's a holiday in Devon next year that members can join. Something for everyone.

We are now busy preparing for our Christmas Fayre which will take place on Saturday 16th November in the Memorial Hall. We hope to see you there!

**Liz Goram**  
President  
07772 896491

**Christine Ansell**  
Secretary  
07984 427673



# Wootton WI Christmas Fayre



Saturday 16 November

10.30am to 2.00pm Memorial Hall

Christmas Goodies, raffle, tombola

Stalls including jam, art, crafts and Zouche boutique

Children's face painting

Send your letter to Santa and make a reindeer!

Refreshments - home made soup & cakes

# Wootton Library Knit & Natter Group

We have once again been busy clickety-clicking their needles to support **The Lewy Body Society** (LBS).

Following the huge quantity of scarves we donated to wrap around the Albert Hall in 2022, we are once again supporting their next event at Central Hall in Manchester on 17 October 2024.

All to raise awareness of Lewy Body Dementia, the second most common type of dementia in older people.

Lewy Body Dementia is a little-known type of dementia that is very different to the most common type, Alzheimer's disease, and requires different support and treatment. It can be very challenging to live with and is often misdiagnosed. We want more people to know about Lewy Body Dementia so that those affected get better support, and there is more scientific research into the disease.

The scarves will be separated and the LBS will offer them to homelessness and refugee groups to try to ensure they are put to good use. If there are any celebrity scarves the LBS will auction them to raise funds for The Lewy Body Society.

If you would like to support this event, further details can be found at:

<https://www.lewybody.org/a-scarf-for-lewy-2024-manchester/>

#AScarfForLewy

The Knit & Natter Group meets fortnightly on Wednesdays at 11am in the Wootton Community Centre. Knitting, Crochet, Stitching & Embroidery are just some of the creations the group enjoy. If this interests you, do pop in, you will always receive a warm and friendly welcome!





### Year 7 Open Evening

We recently held our Year 7 Open Evening which was a tremendous success, thanks to the incredible support of our community and the hard work of both students and staff. It was wonderful to welcome so many new faces, as prospective students and their families explored what our school has to offer.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity for visitors to experience the vibrant environment that defines our school, with students leading the way in showcasing a variety of activities, lessons, and facilities. From interactive classroom demonstrations to engaging conversations with current students and staff, the night provided a comprehensive look at life at our school.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who attended and contributed to the event's success. Our students and staff did an outstanding job representing the school, sharing their passion and commitment, which truly highlighted the strength of our community.

We deeply appreciate the continued support of all involved, and we look forward to welcoming new students in the upcoming school year.

☎ 01604 344744  
 🌐 [www.ccs.northants.sch.uk](http://www.ccs.northants.sch.uk)  
 📱 @CarolineChisholmSchool

### Student Council

This year we've launched the CCS Student Council – an exciting piece of work where young people from years 1 to 13 will get to have their say on ways to improve school life at CCS. Assemblies from the first few weeks have shown videos where presenters from primary, secondary and sixth form explain how this will work. With such a large age range at CCS, this will be organised into three groups: Y1-Y4, Y5-Y9 and Y10-Y13. Elections were recently held, and we look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish.

### Forest School

Our Reception children have had an exciting few weeks exploring the school and forming lovely new friendships. As part of their learning, they have been enjoying time in our outdoor classroom, taking part in Forest School activities. It's been wonderful to watch them make meaningful connections with nature and each other, all while developing important physical and social skills. Rain or shine, their resilience and curiosity have shone through, and it's truly a joy to see their excitement grow.



### Foundation Stage Tours

We are excited to offer a series of open tours for prospective parents and carers to explore our Ofsted-rated "Outstanding" Early Years Foundation Stage.

This is a fantastic opportunity to discover our excellent facilities and meet many of our dedicated school staff. Book a tour today! "Children thrive in Reception and settle into school well." - Ofsted, 2020

**JOG FOR A GREAT CLAU!**

# JINGLE BELL JOG

(or Walk!)

## CHRISTMAS FANCY DRESS FUN RUN

### at CAROLINE CHISHOLM SCHOOL

## Sunday 1st December from 10am

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN THE FUN -  
**GO AT YOUR OWN PACE** (1 and 3 mile routes)

**Adults** (16yrs & above) **£5** - with Mince Pie

**4-16yrs** **£3** - with Medal  
(1 adult per child under 10)

**Under 4's FREE**  
(Medals can be purchased for £1.50 each)

*Raising vital funds for the whole School!*

QR code for pta events

**To book and pay for your tickets, please visit: [www.pta-events.co.uk/ccsfriends](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/ccsfriends)**

**If you require any further information, please email: [friends@ccs.northants.sch.uk](mailto:friends@ccs.northants.sch.uk)**



# St George the Martyr Church

## Farewell – I'll miss you all

In November 2012, I was interviewed for the post of priest-in-charge of Wootton Parish Church. Having served here, now as vicar, for nearly twelve years, it is time to move. This morning I was preparing my final service, taking place on 20th October.

My feelings are mixed – I shall miss the people and place more than I had imagined possible. At the same time, there are aspects of the job I shall be delighted to leave (including responsibility for a Grade 1 listed building with a leaky roof!) It has been a huge privilege to serve in Wootton. I am truly sorry and ask your forgiveness if I have hurt you or let you down (particularly the mother who wanted her baby baptised at short notice), In turn, know that if you have hurt me or let me down, I choose to forgive you.

In all this, I am heartened by a piece written by The Bishop of Peterborough, The Rt Revd Debbie Sellin, about St Francis of Assisi: He is probably best known as someone who wore a brown habit and cared for animals, although his deeds were more significant and lasting. Born into a family of great wealth, Francis turned his back on power and status when he encountered Jesus for the first time. He went on to live a simple life, inspiring those whom he encountered as well as the many generations who have read his words and shaped their lives by them.

Francis had utmost faith in what God was able to do and once said this:

'Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible'.

This was true in his own life: He found resources to restore three chapels that had fallen into disrepair. He also staged one of the first 'live nativity scenes' as a way of helping people understand the Christmas story more fully and to engage with it in a new and more personal way.

At St George's Church, there will be plenty of opportunities to rediscover the Christmas story and enjoy various activities. These are listed on the next page. Meanwhile, I shall be doing what is necessary to finish well here, trusting that as God works in and through me, miracles will continue to occur. As we start by doing what is possible whilst believing that God will do the impossible through us we can dream dreams, like Francis did and rejoice as God does more than we could ever expect or imagine. Christmas will be better than ever!

May God bless you and keep you.

**Rev Lakshmi Jeffreys**

(For information about Remembrance Sunday or other church events please contact [officewoottonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:officewoottonchurch@gmail.com))

## December 2024

### St George the Martyr Church, Wootton

**Sun 1st (10:30)**

Advent Family Service

**Sun 1st (14:00)**

Christmas Concert

**Sat 7th (Time tbc)**

Christmas Tree Festival

**Sun 8th (10:30)**

Calm and Bright Service of Holy Communion

**Sat 14th (16:00)**

Christingle Reimagined (Outside Service)

**Sun 15th (10:30)**

Calm and Bright Service of Holy Communion

**w/c 16th (Time and date tbc)**

Beer & Carols at the Yeoman of England

**Sun 22nd (10:30)**

Calm and Bright Service of Holy Communion

**Sun 22nd (18:00)**

Parish Carol Service

**Christmas Eve Tue 24th (15:00)**

Crib Service

**Christmas Eve Tue 24th (23:30)**

Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day Wed 25th (10:30)**

Christmas Celebration

**Sun 29th (10:30)**

Calm and Bright Service of Holy Communion

For further details of these and other services see posters or contact [officewoottonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:officewoottonchurch@gmail.com)



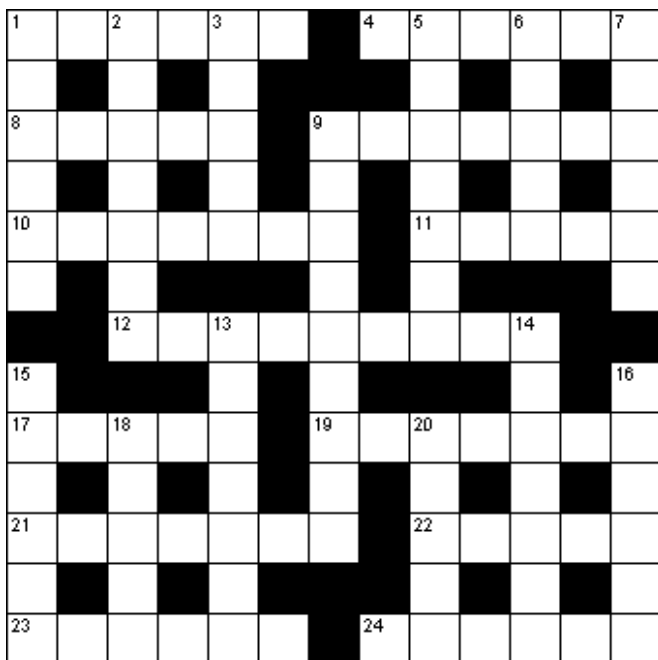
St George the Martyr Church

# 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 Take away (6)
- 4 Dies down (6)
- 8 Collieries (5)
- 9 Euston, for example (7)
- 10 Liberate (3,4)
- 11 Bread maker (5)
- 12 Remember (9)
- 17 Large sea (5)
- 19 Eradicate (4,3)
- 21 Frugal (7)
- 22 Unsociable person (5)
- 23 Urge strongly and sincerely (6)
- 24 Only just (6)

### Down

- 1 Negligent (6)
- 2 Frightening creature (7)
- 3 Eye shield (5)
- 5 Blackberry bush (7)
- 6 Ponder (5)
- 7 Miscellaneous (6)
- 9 Make off without being seen (5,4)
- 13 Fir or larch, for example (7)
- 14 Recount (anag) (7)
- 15 Detest (6)
- 16 Tempestuous (6)
- 18 Terra firma (5)
- 20 City in Majorca (5)

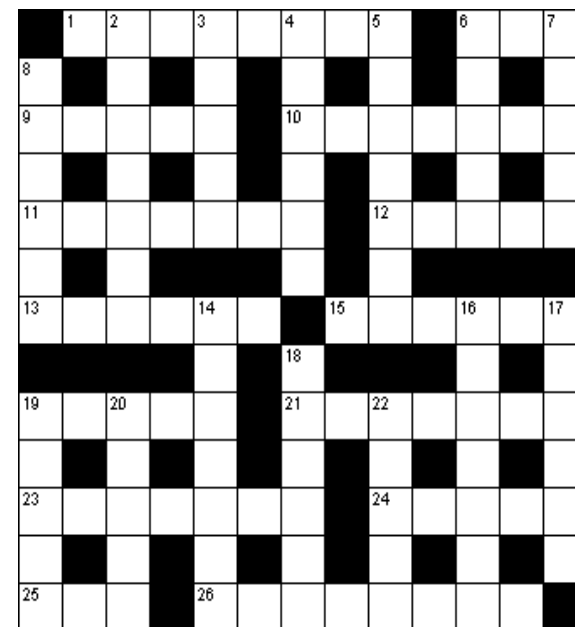
## The Less Quick Cryptic Crossword

### Across

- 1 Irregular form of PC’s radio (8)
- 6 Use a needle, so we hear (3)
- 9 Not late, but almost not beginning (5)
- 10 Any number with illness that’s catching (7)
- 11 Strident noise made by loose stones in front of church (7)
- 12 Social worker is behind those in opposition (5)
- 13 Doctor gets Conservative backing to reveal decay (3,3)
- 15 One with dry ground over there (6)
- 19 Pest given assistance outside public house (5)
- 21 Seen as plain cake? (7)
- 23 Country backing an American state (7)
- 24 Bach provided notes for this publication (5)
- 25 Fuel required for heating a stove (3)
- 26 Bird gazing round lake (8)

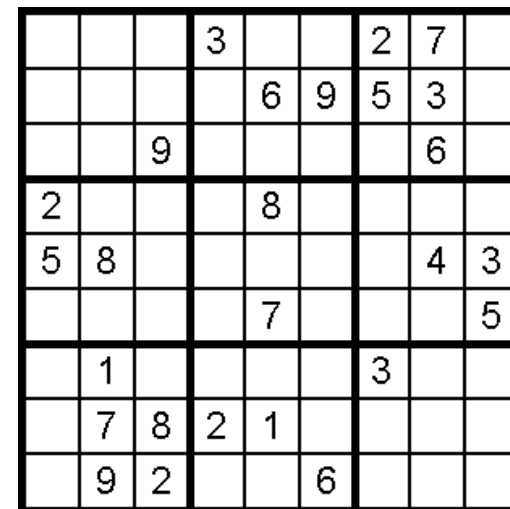
### Down

- 2 Picture seaside town with fish (7)
- 3 Bound sound? (5)
- 4 Hammerhead in gloomy boat (6)
- 5 Attorney General, initially in elegant old US city (7)
- 6 Speedy old satirist (5)
- 7 Funny fellows holding note for payment (5)
- 8 Let lad see out (6)
- 14 Sea Lord involved in trials (7)
- 16 Go and dance madly in a ten-sided figure (7)
- 17 Going on horseback in part of Yorkshire (6)
- 18 Capital in the bank a raffle provides (6)
- 19 Getting old silver in front of gold (5)
- 20 Sunglasses not first in the underworld (5)
- 22 Folklore monster making Tom’s head go round (5)



## 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](http://simplydailypuzzles.com)

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# Wootton People

Each edition of the newsletter will feature someone who lives or works in Wootton. In this edition Wootton resident Keith Fossey interviews Mike and Jean Penny.

Mike and Jean are well known throughout Wootton and have contributed to the community in many ways over a long period of time.

### How long have you lived in Wootton?

Jean moved into The Old School in the High Street in 1980, and Mike moved in a year later after they married. The house has quite a history. Built in 1838 as a one storey school room, it became a Meeting Room once the adjacent school was built, was then used for storage by a builder and finally converted to a house in 1967.

Jean moved to the house from Horton and of course, at that time, East Hunsbury, Grange Park and Wootton Fields did not exist. She taught at the Lings Upper school for 25 years until her retirement in 2005. She finished her career as Head of the English Department. Jean was an extraordinarily committed teacher who happily taught difficult and underprivileged students for whom she never lost a strong sense of empathy.

Mike worked at the Nene College of Higher Education (now the University) and had a number of roles such as Senior Lecturer in Arts and Social Science. He retired from the College in 1999 when he was Dean of Faculty and one of three academic heads in the institution. After retirement, Mike undertook occasional writing and tutoring for the Open University. A keen sportsman, Mike played cricket for Horton House.



### So, what do you like about Wootton?

We moved here because we loved the idea of village life. Whereas the village has grown so much, there is still that village feel about the place. We know so many people and have great neighbours who look out for each other.

### What have you done since retiring?

We like travelling and have various interests but making contributions to village life is important to us. Jean became a Parish Councillor when she retired and served the community for 7 years. She set up the Wootton Seniors Group in 2011 when she found that most age groups in the village were catered for, but there was nothing for seniors. She remains the Chairperson of this very successful, self-funding organisation which now has 70 members (see feature elsewhere in the magazine) and holds regular yoga sessions for the group.

Jean is also a sides person at St George's Church, a member of the Wootton Medical Centre Patient Participation Group and a member of the Wootton Heritage Organisation (see feature elsewhere in the magazine).

Mike is a keen bridge player in Towcester and at the Northampton Bridge Club and a keen quizzer for the Old Northamptonians. He is a passionate Manchester United season ticket holder. Locally, Mike has been a trustee of the Wootton Memorial Hall for 15 years and a committee member of the Wootton Heritage Organisation for 6 years.

### And the future?

We intend to carry on contributing to the community for as long as we can.

**Mike and Jean – many thanks for sharing a little about your life with me. All communities need people like you to provide services for others to enjoy.**

**On behalf of all Wootton residents, may I thank you for what you do!**

## 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 13.

### Quick

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## WOOTTON HERITAGE ORGANISATION

# Good Summer, Interesting Autumn

Despite the intervention of holidays we were active throughout the summer. Our May meeting was saved by WHO member Keith Fossey when the planned speaker was forced to cancel. Keith stepped in at very short notice and delivered a well organised, interesting and insightful talk on his charity work in Swaziland. We learnt a lot about his educational charity but also something about the country and its somewhat bizarre and despotic ruler.

In July there was a tour of St George's Church, ably led by WHO Secretary Paul Ansell, which proved a success. We were grateful to the Church for laying on refreshments to round off the evening. Also in July we broke with tradition in holding the annual member's meal at Mike and Jean Penny's house. There was a little trepidation about taking on an event previously farmed out to commercial operations. We needn't have worried; the craic was good, the food, organised and prepared by the committee, enthusiastically received, a respectable amount of drink washed it down, the weather was excellent and a joint effort dealt with the admittedly large amount of clearing up. It was certainly a precedent worth taking on board for consideration next year.

We also broke slightly with tradition by locating our annual walk during the day in August and at a different venue. Dave and Alison Warwick scouted and set up a circular walk based on The White Mills Marina and Boathouse Café on the Nene near Earls Barton. Again a very enjoyable, very accessible, outing that's worth repeating.

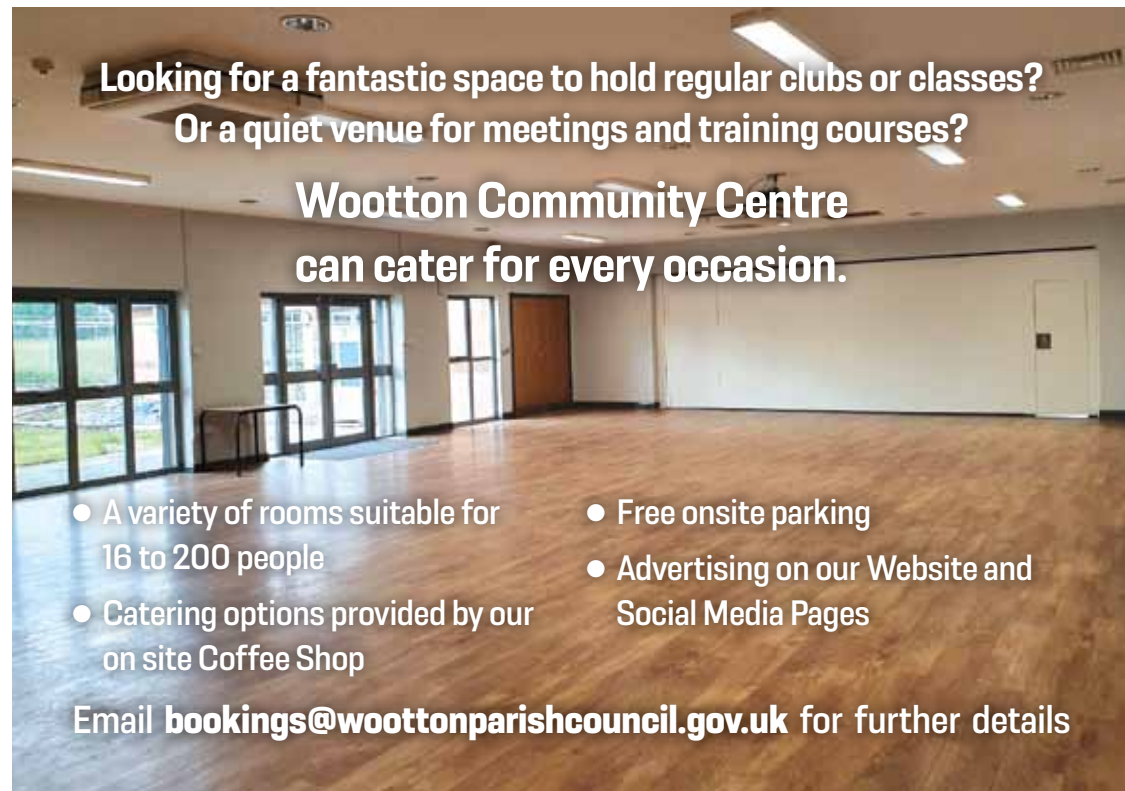
The AGM was held in September with the main purposes being to review the year and distribute the money we've raised to various community groups and organisations. It was pleasing that the amount we were able to allocate was especially healthy. The meeting was well attended by members and recipients of donations. We were particularly pleased to welcome Cllr Emma Fisher, Chair of Wootton Parish Council, who formally handed out the various donations.

The Autumn programme starts on October 16 when Derreck Baxter will reprise his annual autocratic appearance as the WHO Quizmaster. The WHO Quiz will be in the Memorial Hall at 1930 on October 16. It's always fun and quite competitive too. We welcome any team of 4. Most teams fortify themselves with a bottle of wine and there will be light refreshments provided as well.

Our second Autumn meeting is on 20th November when Dr Fred Myers will talk on The Grand Union Canal through Northants. Fred is knowledgeable and always well organised, well prepared and interesting. We encourage people to attend. As with all our meetings it's in the Memorial Hall starting at 1930. Members pay £3.00, non-members £4.00. Light refreshments are provided.



## The perfect space for every occasion



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- A variety of rooms suitable for 16 to 200 people
- Free onsite parking
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# Regular Activities

## at the Centre

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



Classes	Contact Details	
<b>MONDAY</b>		
<b>Wootton Warriors Bootcamp</b> Train outside – feel great inside	6.30am – 7.30am	Patrick Jelly Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Pilates</b> Improve your posture & flatten your tummy	9.30am – 10.30am	Nikki Freeman Tel: 07903 500734 nikkifreeman181@gmail.com
<b>Chair Yoga</b>	11.00am – 12.00pm	Julie Jones Tel: 07719844090 hello@juliejonesyoga.com
<b>Pilates</b>	6.00pm – 7.00pm 7.00pm – 9.00pm	Lucy Pringle Tel: 07957 541478 alignedpilates@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Wootton Warriors Bootcamp</b> Train outside – feel great inside	7.00pm – 8.00pm	Patrick Jelley Tel: 07905 564221 jellley1@hotmail.co.uk
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
<b>Boogie Beans</b> Children's group party and entertainment	10.00am – 11.00am	Amanda Balneaves Tel: 07766 731542 info@boogiebeans.com www.boogiebeans.com
<b>Sing &amp; Sign</b> Helping babies communicate before speech	1.15pm – 3.15pm	Tan Briant tanbriant@singandsign.co.uk www.singandsign.co.uk
<b>Pilates</b>	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Jan Blaber Janmodernpilates-@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Mancave UK</b> Men's Mental Health Support Group	7.00pm – 9.00pm	follow @THEMANCAVE_UK
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
<b>Get Up &amp; Go</b> Strength and balance exercises	11.00am – 12.00pm	Michelle Lewis Tel: 07423 074891 stepforwardwithlewis@gmail.com
<b>Wootton Seniors Club</b> Wootton Senior Residents – Weekly meet-up	2.00pm – 3.30pm	Jean Penny Tel: 01604 762323 jeanpenny42@icloud.com
<b>Evolve Weight Loss</b> Relaxed approach, no announcing results	5.30pm – 6.30pm	Sylvia Paget slimwithsly@virginmedia.com evolweweightloss.co.uk
<b>Wootton Warriors Bootcamp</b> 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](mailto:bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk) [www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Main Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm

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



# COVID & FLU VACCINATIONS

Walk-in vaccination available\*

Available at the  
**Wootton Community Centre**

Starting Thursday Oct 3rd 2024 and will be offered ongoing until further notice:

Tuesdays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Thursdays: 9.30am to 12.30pm

Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Saturdays: 9.30am to 12pm

For onsite Disability Aid Service please call 07840402881

For Bookings / Queries Contact:  
West Chemist on (01604) 713 297

\*priority will be given to those who have booked in advance



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07468 019 923



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**Thursdays: 9.15am Wootton Community Centre**

**Mondays: 11.00am Chair & Standing Yoga**  
**Wootton Community Centre**

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[www.juliejonesyoga.com](http://www.juliejonesyoga.com)

Get in touch to ask questions or to book:  
Tel 07719 844090  
Email: [hello@juliejonesyoga.com](mailto:hello@juliejonesyoga.com)



# 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](mailto:bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Advertising / editorial queries:  
[bookings@woottonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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)

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\* **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:**

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

**Alternative format:**

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### We are here to help

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