

Newsletter

WINTER 2022

Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick
PARISH COUNCIL

www.stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk



Stewartby Remembers



Chairman's REPORT

Cllr Lee Melville
Chairperson

Welcome to the winter edition of our Newsletter as another eventful year comes to end. Life does not seem to get any easier after dealing with Covid, we battle cost of living, effects of the Ukrainian war, the death of our late Queen and political turmoil all dominate our lives. Of course life in our Village goes on and the Parish Council has tried to keep working progressively for the community.

This year we saw the arrival of our two new Village caretakers taking care of the day to running and upkeep of the Village, Sports Pavilion and Village Hall. We feel they have become a great asset to the Village and certainly by the bags of rubbish they pick every week, the Village is a much cleaner place. We work hard to ensure the village looks its best with the summer hanging baskets, Christmas lights and various themed events during the year. A special mention must go to Grace Michelle who as always did a great job of decorating the Village for Remembrance.

The Village continues to have its own challenges with ever growing demands

for development and planning and the Mayors Local Plan 2040. The future of education and Marston Vale Middle School and as the community grows, greater pressures on Policing and ASB related issues. You will find more about these topics further in the newsletter.

I am sure next year will continue to test us but the Parish Council will continue to move forward where budgets allow. We hope to upgrade and refurbish the BMX track at the Sports Pavillion, giving some of the older children in the Village a facility that's fit for purpose. A bigger and better summer event subject to licencing application approval and of course continuing to work on matters that effect our day to lives.

A big thank you to the Parish Council clerk and Councillor's for their efforts during the year and wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2023.

Quest Pit - I am sure most in the Village are now aware of the planning application to transform the former Quest Pit into the UK's largest TV & Film studios.



The proposal is a welcome arrival in as at least it is not for more housing or warehouses developments. The Parish Council has engaged with the developer's over the past few months during the consultation period and offered feedback. We can put it on record that we support the plans in principal and believe it could be of real benefit to the community in relations local employment and progressive community engagement with some of it facilities.

We do however have grave concerns at the highways and accessibility plans for the site. The current plans are for a new roundabout with access to the site off the B530 some 250 yards from Stewartby Way Junction. For some time now conversations have been had about the need for a roundabout at the junction of Stewartby Way and the B530. At peak times this junction is very busy and difficult to exit with the fast travel of traffic from Bedford and Ampthill. Any such highways improvements to the new site should incorporate this junction, with a new roundabout and access to the site been at the junction of Stewartby Way, not

some 250 yards down the road. Traffic will only increase in volume with the opening of the site and further housing development within the Village. We see this as must for the applications approval. **Details of the application can be found at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning Ref - CB/22/03616/full or search Quest pit in the planning portal**

As such in its current format we will object to the application on this basis and we encourage you to do the same. You can make your comments on the above website by clicking on consultations

Sports Pavillion – Football Pitches

Regrettably the football season has got off to a delayed start this year. During the very dry and hot summer, the pitches suffered and were not in the best condition for safe play. As we now have had plenty of rain things have improved and we invested in essential repairs. It is hoped next year we will receive a grant to install an irrigation system to keep the pitch in tip top condition. If you have a team and are interested in hiring a pitch, please contact the clerk – clerk@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk

Moving towards a new two-tier primary/secondary school system for Wootton and Stewartby: a consultation

Have
your
say



Email

schools.consultation@bedford.gov.uk

Introduction

The majority of Bedford Borough's schools moved to a two-tier primary/secondary school system, from the previous three-tier lower/middle/upper school system, in 2015 to 2019. The two-tier system is the most common education system across England, where children attend a primary school from age four, and move to a secondary school at age eleven; it is also how teacher training is predominantly organised in the UK with primary and secondary specialists joining the teaching workforce. When the changes took place in most of Bedford Borough from 2015 to 2019 the Wootton and Stewartby cluster of schools chose to remain in a three-tier structure because of the cross-border relationship with Central Bedfordshire. This consultation seeks views on the proposed change to a two-tier system – including those of children and young people, parents, school staff and the whole school community.

A linked consultation is taking place in Central Bedfordshire in relation to the Cranfield area which is close to Wootton. Many children attending lower and middle schools in Cranfield progress to Wootton Academy. Some Bedford children attend lower and middle schools in Central Bedfordshire. By working together across local authorities and schools, we hope to support the creation of a consistent two-tier system across both local authority areas.

If the proposals are taken forward, children in Wootton, Stewartby and the Cranfield area will be admitted to primary school reception at the age of four and they will stay at that school until they reach the age of eleven, when they will transfer to a secondary school.

The current system means that children change school in the middle of Key Stage 2, and then again part way through Key Stage 3. The three-tier lower/middle/upper school system dates to the 1950s, before the introduction of the National Curriculum. It has gradually disappeared in most areas to be replaced by the two-tier primary/secondary system. This is demonstrated by the fact that in 1983 there were around 1,400 middle schools in England, and this has reduced to just over 100 now. Bedford Borough has already moved to a two-tier system for most schools and at present only Wootton and Stewartby retains a three-tier model.

In addition, teacher training and education across England is now geared almost entirely to the two-tier primary/secondary education system and school performance data, school inspections, and curriculum materials all assume a two-tier model.

Moving to a two-tier model of education would mean Bedford schools would:

- align with the rest of the country,
- align with the national

- curriculum key stages,
- help improve educational attainment by not requiring children to change school in the middle of a key stage of the curriculum,
- help attract and retain teachers who are usually trained for either primary or secondary education,
- provide a clearer pathway for parents with a common age of transfer at 11, and
- reduce the number of transitions between schools in the course of a child's school life.

This will help to give children the best chance of getting the most from their education.

Bedford Borough is a great place to live and work – and recent census results show it to be one of the fastest growing local authority areas in England. That's why we expect the number of residents and homes to grow in the coming years. New homes are being built in many areas and there are good transport links by road and rail for many centres of employment. Most



of the growth of Bedford's population is driven by people moving from other English districts to take advantage of the employment and housing opportunities in the area. A large proportion of these new households include young children. Wootton, Stewartby and the surrounding villages are an area of growth, which will mean an increase in demand for new school places, over the next 10 to 15 years. This consultation seeks your views on proposals to change the schools, in a phased pattern, in the Wootton and Stewartby area to a two-tier primary/secondary model of education. When the consultation is complete its findings will be shared with the schools and academies affected, with Central Bedfordshire Council, and with the Department for Education's Regional Schools Director. All these – particularly schools – will have a critically important role in making the final decision on the way ahead. Your views, questions and comments will help shape the future of schooling in Wootton and Stewartby.

Summary of proposed changes

The proposals for the four schools in Wootton and Stewartby are as follows:

- Broadmead Lower School in Stewartby (Year R [Reception] to Year 4) would become a primary school

(YR to Y6) – so children would remain at the school until they were ready to transfer to secondary school at age 11 to start Year 7. The school's published admission number would remain at 60. Some building works would take place to accommodate the larger number of year groups.

- Wootton Lower School (Year R [reception] to Year 4) would become a primary school (Year R [Reception] to Year 6) – so children would remain at the school until they were ready to transfer to secondary school at age 11 to start Year 7. The school's published admission number would remain at 120. Some building works would take place to accommodate the larger number of year groups.
- Wootton Upper School (Year 9 to Year 13) would extend its age range so that it admits children at age 11 (Year 7) rather than at age 13 (Year 9). Admissions would continue at Year 9 for a transitional period.
- Marston Vale Middle School in Stewartby would close in 2026 but be retained as an educational site, including the buildings, for use in the near future. These changes would be

introduced over several years as illustrated in table 1, 2 and 3. The changes could be introduced as follows:

September 2025

In September 2025 children aged 9 would stay at Broadmead and Wootton Primary Schools into Year 5 rather than transferring to a middle school. Marston Vale middle school would not take a year 5 intake in this year. Wootton Academy would take a year 9 intake.

September 2026

In September 2026 Year 4 pupils would move up to Year 5, and Year 5 pupils would move up to Year 6 at Broadmead and Wootton, completing those schools' transition to primary schools. All remaining pupils in Year 7 and 8 at Marston Vale middle school would transfer across to Wootton Academy. Wootton Academy would thereby become a secondary school with pupils from Year 7 to Year 8 and would also take a year 9 intake. Marston Vale middle school would close.

September 2027

Wootton Academy would admit pupils at Year 7 and also have a Year 9 intake.

September 2028 and beyond

Wootton Academy would admit pupils at Year 7 and it would admit pupils at year 9 for the last time, completing its

Stewartby School was built in 1937 by Bedfordshire County Council on land given by the London Brick Company.

The junior school was built to serve the children of the village and the senior school took children from the surrounding villages as well as Stewartby. The school was to accommodate 160 boys and 160 girls, most lessons being mixed except for woodwork and gardening was for the boys and needlework and cooking for the girls.



transition to an 11-16 secondary school (with a sixth form provision). This means that all Bedford Borough residents who join Holywell Middle School in 2024 (its last Year 5 intake) will have the opportunity to transfer across to Wootton Academy in Year 9 as they would have done in the previous three tier system.

From this date onwards a two-tier system would be operational in Wootton and Stewartby, with two primary schools, Broadmead and Wootton, and one secondary school, Wootton Academy. Wootton Secondary would continue to recruit a proportion of its intake from schools in the Cranfield area of Central Bedfordshire.

Borough Councillor Tim Hill's Report



PARISH

Mayor Dave Hodgson Set Sights on Speeders – Mayor Dave Hodgson is making progress on his plans to slam the brakes on reckless driving by installing 15 sets of new average speed cameras across Bedford Borough this year. The locations of the new Average Speed Cameras include:
A6 south of Bedford
B530 - Kempston Hardwick
Amphill Road, Bedford
Bedford Road, Kempston

STEWARTBY

Metal Remembrance Poppy – I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for the Remembrance Display across Stewartby. It was installed by a volunteer, with sponsorship by the Parish Council.

ASB – Residents raised their concerns with me on the Anti-Social Behaviour by a minority of local teenagers on the Kiln Drive green spaces and on the Sports Field. As Anti-Social Behaviour

is a criminal offence, I advised the residents to report it to the Police on 101. I've also directly raised the issue with the Community Police Team.

Waste bin removed at top of Pilling Road for new footpath – Residents have reported that the Dog Litter Bin near the Pilling Road/Magpie Avenue junction was removed during the build of the new footpath through to Hansons Reach. I have reported this to Borough Officers. As residents know, the Hansons Reach Estate is not being handed over by Persimmons to the Borough Council. Therefore, Officers can't pursue the developer for payment of a dog bin, although residents have flagged it up as being there. The relevant Officer asked Persimmons to see if there is any intention of them to re-install nearby.

Outsiders parking at end of Churchill Close – Many outside visitors are using the end of Churchill Close to park and then walk around Stewartby Lake. This is causing residents problems in being able to park their own vehicles near their own houses. I hosted a site meeting with the residents and a Borough Highways Officer. The Borough Highways Officer came up with a quick and easy solution

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for the Remembrance Display across Stewartby.

of a "Keep Clear" box, that weather depending as I type this, will be painted by mid-Nov 22.

KEMPSTON HARDWICK

Manor Road speeding and volume

– One newish resident of Manor Road has raised their concerns with me on the traffic issues in Manor Road. I have been working on these issues since before I was humbled to be first elected. I have taken several actions including:

- o Got the Borough to include it in the rota for the Borough Speed Watch Van. Numerous tickets have been issued.
- o Got the Police to include it in the rota for their Speed Gun. Numerous tickets have been issued.
- o I have led Speed Watch teams across my Ward. A couple of years ago, I put out a leaflet in Manor Road asking if residents would like to have one for Manor Road and asking for help in doing so. I got one positive response
- o Regularly got the Borough litter team out to collect litter, but residents are on site and can report on line the need for a litter pick much more regularly.

Memorial Garden

Lots of work has been carried out on the Memorial Garden this year including new plants and a new path which is better for walking on for both dogs and humans.

There are 4 memory walls in the corner of the garden which can have plaques on it and also we can offer a rose bush with a plaque or a bench.

The prices are as follows:

Plaque on wall 8" x 6" with lifetime maintenance £235

Rosebush with plaque and 15 years maintenance £800

Wooden Bench including plaque and 15 years Maintenance £2000

If anyone would like to have these we now have a form which can be requested from the Parish Clerk and returned so that we can order and add to the walls or gardens as required.

Clerk@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Police



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
Protecting People and Fighting Crime
Together



**Sergeant
Carl Perri**

Bedfordshire Police update

The North Rural Community Policing Team has seen changes to personnel with a new Sergeant in post. Sergeant Carl Perri joins the team with 17 years policing experience, having worked across various policing departments. Sergeant Perri has a passion for community policing and steps into rural policing as a new challenge after spending the majority of this time working in Luton. PC 5729 Vito Napoli and PCSO 7013 Stephen Tarabella continue as your local village officers.

The team have been very active in the last three months, focusing particular attention on ASB that stemmed from Memorial Garden on Park Crescent, opposite local shops and spread into surrounding areas. Reports from the community, patrols, engagement with schools and focused visits to those identified as being responsible have

now reduced the number of complaints and we hope the issue is resolved.

In the last six months the priority for the wider team has been speeding and vehicle related nuisance. I would like to highlight that since February 2022 the team have:

- Conducted 142 speed enforcement operations with the use of speed monitoring devices.
- Issued 45 speeding tickets, with hundreds of drivers stopped and offered advice.
- In addition to our daily patrols around our towns and villages, we have conducted 89 intelligence lead patrols.
- In just the last six weeks we have recovered four stolen vehicles from our area (all stolen from outside our geographic footprint).

New Parish Councillor

Hey I'm Michael. Moving from Milton Keynes, into this small village back in 2017 was quite the adjustment, gone were the days of walking to buy a coffee... But over the last 5 years, I have watched this village grow and flourish because of the amazing people and the community that has developed here.

Personally, my life has also changed whilst being here, from changing jobs to a home-based role and marrying my wife Zoe in a neighbouring village last year. It also gave us the ability to get our Labradoodle Bentley, and it is given us an excellent group of friends

who you might see me running with around the village or having a few too many at the pub quiz!

I love being outdoors, be that exploring our local area on a dog-walk, forcing my wife to walk up a mountain or going for weekends away in our self-built campervan.

As I have managed to explore more of the village and become part of the community, I have seen how much the Parish Council does and the care they take over the village. I love going to the events the council hold and now I want to be able to give back to the community and help where I can as this village is lovely and I want to contribute to the lovely area we live in.



Your Councillors and contacts

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Chair

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Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick Parish Council
Council Office, Stewartby Village Hall,
Stewartby Way, Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9LX

What's on Guide

NOVEMBER

Santa's Grotto with The Snowman
@Centre:MK

11 Nov – 24 Dec

Don't miss out on the opportunity to join the magical journey to the North Pole this festive season 'The Snowman' Christmas experience comes to Centre:MK!

Christmas Illuminations
@ Wimpole Estate

25 Nov – 1 Jan

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas when over a million twinkling lights and seasonal sounds fill the air with festive fun at Wimpole Estate. Look forward to some time together with friends and family as you discover sparkling tunnels of light, then walk under giant baubles and beneath glistening trees drenched in jewel-like colour. For a moment of reflection pause at mesmerising flickering flames in the fire garden, gaze at the larger-than-life illuminations and, to make a moment to remember, don't forget to glimpse Father Christmas along the way.

Land of Lights
@ Gulliver's Land

Nov - Feb

Embark on a visual voyage across the Land of Lights, exploring 12 vivid dreamworlds of imagination and illumination. Explore Land of Lights in the city of Milton Keynes.

Father Christmas
@ Thrift

26 Nov – 24 Dec

Meet Father Christmas and his Elves in a magical Grotto for a Christmas Story with other boys and girls, before going up with your family to share your very own Christmas wishes.

Magical Wickstead
@ Wickstead Park

26 Nov – 24 Dec

Uncover the magic at Wickstead when you join the cheeky elves through the magical experience. Start your journey by boarding the festive train ride where you get to meet Santa's reindeer, Dancer, Prancer & Vixen! Enjoy an exclusive Christmas show in the theatre starring Mrs. Claus before meeting the main man himself, Father Christmas. Finish off this wonderful experience by choosing a special gift from Santa's workshop before having fun on the rides.

Christmas Tree Festival
@ St Paul's Church, Bedford

30 Nov - 4 Dec

This event never disappoints and this year the theme is Musicals. Entry is £3.00 under 16s go free. Daily community concerts & competitions. Festival concert: Friday 2nd December 7.30 pm In aid of the church and Bedford Hospital Charity & Friends

What's on Guide

DECEMBER

The Magic of Christmas

@ Mead Open Farm

Dates throughout Dec

Explore the magical Christmas walkthrough on your way to meet Father Christmas.

Family Festivities

@ Turvey House

8 – 11 Dec

Discover the magic and heritage of a stately home Christmas at Turvey House.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

@ Milton Keynes Theatre

10 Dec – 8 Jan

Treat the family with a visit to the theatre to see this fantastic pantomime.

The Christmas Town Market

@ Bedford Town

10 – 11 Dec

Over the weekend, there will be local artists and makers with artisanal gifts and decorations on offer accompanied by festive cheer provided by local bands and choirs. The Christmas Town Market will also have free train rides between Silver Street Square and Midland Road on the Love Bedford Express. Gumbles Amusements will once again be returning to offer free rides for children and Santa's Grotto will be taking place in the Harpur Centre.

Dick Whittington and his Cat

@ The Place, Bedford

16 – 24 Dec

Adventure awaits brave Dick Whittington in the big city – and beyond – where he'll need all the help he can get from his furry friend... And from you, of course! Expect musical mayhem, rampaging rats, silly sailors and a cat who's convinced the story is actually Puss in Boots.

Kids' Christmas Disco

@ The Forest of Marston Vale

16 Dec

Join us this December for our kids Christmas disco! With a DJ and party games, food available, and a visit from Santa, it's the perfect way to get your little ones excited for Christmas. Parental supervision is essential. Price - £15 per child. Parking charges also apply.

Christmas Activity Trail

@ The Forest of Marston Vale

19 Dec

Santa has hit a cloud on his journey and a few presents got lost in the sensory garden! Help find the 10 missing presents and get them back to Santa before Christmas Eve! Spot them all, and complete the trail sheet to win a prize. Price - £3 per child (age 1+) Parking charges also apply.

Party with a Princess at Christmas

@ Forest of Marston Vale

20 Dec

Head to the Forest Centre this Christmas for a festive afternoon tea, hosted by the Princesses! Come along for an afternoon of meet and greets, Christmas games and sing-a-longs, followed by a children's afternoon tea fit for royalty. Dressing in your best finery or fancy dress of your choosing is encouraged, but not mandatory. Parental supervision is essential. Suitable for ages 3+. Price - £15 per child. Parking charges also apply.

Christmas Junior Animal Keeper Day

23 Dec

This Christmas head down to the farm for some animal fun! Get the children out on to the farm and spend the day in the company of our animal keepers and animals. Price - £33 per child.

Alice in Wonderland

@ The Place, Bedford

27 Dec

Join Lamphouse on a fascinating, funny, music-filled adventure down the rabbit hole this Christmas. Based on Lewis Carroll's original story with new songs, lots of laughs and many many hats, this is Alice, with a difference! We're all mad here! Suitable for all aged 6-106!

Please go to

[www.raring2go.co.uk/
bedford-and-biggleswade/
whats-on](http://www.raring2go.co.uk/bedford-and-biggleswade/whats-on)
for all the latest
information and details
of what's on in the area

Christmas Magic Show

@ The Forest of Marston Vale

28 Dec

Krisgar's back again with a Christmas themed magic and puppet show for the whole family. Join award winning Krisgar and sidekick Tricky Teddy for a magical morning in the beautiful surroundings of the Forest Centre & Millennium Country Park. Suitable for ages 4+. Price - £5 per person. Parking charges also apply.

Board Game Day

@ The Place, Bedford

28 Dec

A free, open afternoon dedicated to Board Games & play. Bring the family, bring your friends, bring that game you just got for Christmas. A chance to mix and mingle with other board gamers & unwind.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

& SANTA'S GROTTO

26th November 2022

**STEWARTBY
VILLAGE HALL**

12pm - 5pm

Light Switch on 4pm

**Seating and Refreshments
available inside**

clerk@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk



**S
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**Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick
PARISH COUNCIL**