



The Civil Parish of

# Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019

Tuesday, 28 May 2019 at 7:00pm

Leek Wootton Village Hall

# Reports 2018/19

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## **Chairman's Report 2018/19**

Councillor Richard Coates and Councillor Colin Smith

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This report will differ slightly from previous reports in that it is written jointly by two people, Colin Smith the former Chairman who stood down through illness at the turn of the year and Richard Coates the current Chairman.

*"Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe Parish will continue to be a thriving, rural neighbourhood set within the Green belt."*

So, the vision statement declares in our Neighbourhood Plan, which was voted-in and made in May of last year. This is an important document identifying our aims for the future as we strive to become a sustainable community, which provides decent homes for all residents whilst maintaining our intrinsic character. However there remains concern over the threat to the integrity of our village from the surrounding larger communities of Leamington, Kenilworth and Warwick and we will need to be ever on our guard.

The Council is awaiting the proposals from the Police concerning the new developments at Woodcote now that they have made the decision to re-occupy the site. The expected reduction of housing numbers on Woodcote (Local Plan DS22) will impact considerably on the total housing allocation for the village and the Council is aware of the potential ramifications and will consult closely with District Council Planning. Leek Wootton has previously been expected to shoulder a disproportionate burden of planned expansion when compared with other growth villages in the region and this is an opportunity to put that matter right.

As well as the normal round of individual planning and highways issues the Parish Council responded robustly to the County Council's proposal to vary the Home to School walking route between Leek Wootton and Kenilworth. We saw their idea as non-viable and potentially dangerous and it is pleasing to report that this plan has now been dropped pending a much wider review of proposals for general pedestrian management between the new housing development east of Warwick Road in Kenilworth and Leek Wootton.

The Parish Council raised considerable protest against the future inclusion of the parish with the more urban parish of Cubbington for future district elections. This boundary issue and the integrity of Leek Wootton has been an ongoing concern as mentioned before, given the encroachment of the larger towns surrounding us. Unfortunately, the protests have been to no avail and the new boundaries are now established. This sets us alongside Leamington, closer to more urban parishes rather than the more rural parishes to the west.

The Council financially supported other worthwhile projects during the year including: The completion of replacing litter and dog waste bins throughout the village: The celebration of the 'Battle's Over' 1918 – 2018 hundred year commemoration of the ending of the First World War by the lighting of a huge beacon on the highest point in Leek Wootton: The refurbishment of the children's playground with cushion soft woodchip: The parish Summer Fête in conjunction with All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton Sports Club and other local organisations - all of which represent good examples of the community and local businesses working together to the common end of promoting the village as a fine place to live. A key future project for the coming years is to refurbish and enlarge the recreation ground car park making it fit for purpose in an expanding community.

## **Draft Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

Helen Eldridge, Responsible Financial Officer

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This is a draft report, due to the accounts being subject to approval by the internal auditor.

The Parish Council's gross income in 2018/19 was £15,442 and expenditure was £14,967.

The precept income, which is the core income of the Parish Council, was £13,720. The previous grant for Concurrent Services, which was reduced by 50% in 2017/18 has now been phased out and the Precept has been raised to cover this shortfall. However, the grounds maintenance contract was reviewed during this year and awarded to a company at a substantially lower price to the previous contractors, hence the lower than expected expenditure.

Unplanned expenditure in 2018/19 was the investment in email accounts for all Councillors. In light of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) legislation which came into effect in May 2018, the Parish Council decided to have council email accounts, instead of using their personal accounts for PC business, so that Council business is clearly separated from personal business. The PC invested in Microsoft Office 365 Business Essentials.

The Council also now has a pre-paid credit card for the Clerk's use (instead of a petty cash system).

Expenses for these two items were recorded under general office expenditure, which caused a large overspend in this area in 2018/19, but this was offset by the underspend in Grounds Maintenance. In future they will be recorded as 'office communications' and 'office finance'.

A plan to replace the Council's laptop and upgrade backup and security equipment was brought forward into the 2018/19 financial year due to the surplus caused by the reduction in expenditure on the grounds maintenance contract.

The Community Grant Fund received no applications in 2018/19, but grants were made to All Saints' Churchyard, Leek Wootton Link and Leek Wootton Sports Club.

On 1 April 2018 there were three projects at various stages of development:

- Neighbourhood Plan:  
The final stages of the Neighbourhood Plan were still under way at the start of the financial year. The referendum was held on 3 May and the Neighbourhood Plan was made and adopted by Warwick District Council and unspent GroundworkUK grant money was returned.
- Bin Replacement:  
After the successful bin replacement project during 2017/18, the PC decided to replace the remaining waste bins, also secured permission from WDC to replace its damaged dog waste and litter bin in the northbound bus stop layby and added a new grit bin in Croft Road, after a request for one was made by a resident. In addition to the original £1,000 grant from WRW Community Forum Grant Fund, a further grant of £750 was given by WRW Community Forum Grant Fund and £250 by County Councillor Redford from WRE Community Forum. The total bin replacement project across the two years costs were £2,522. Any shortfall was paid for by the Parish Council.
- Transparency Fund:  
The Council applied to Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils to its Transparency Fund to assist smaller local councils with complying with transparency legislation, which is now compulsory. It was successful in its application for £342 towards office equipment and software to ensure it can post required material to its website. This amount was carried forward into 2018/19. After the purchase of a printer/scanner, software and staffing costs, the project cost £384. Any shortfall was paid for by the Parish Council.
- Battle's Over:  
During 2018/19 the Battle's Over project, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice, was funded by the Parish Council with the support of a generous donation of £250 by Broadlane Leisure. The final cost of this project was £632.

The only other income to the funds was the refund of VAT, to which the council is entitled, and £35 Council Tax Reduction Grant.

In conclusion the Parish Council's income over expenditure for 2018/19 stands at £475 and along with the Council's reserve funds, the balance at 30 March 2019 was £5,296. In view of the state of the Council's finances, it was decided that the precept for 2019/20 would remain unchanged.

**Warwickshire County Council: Cubbington & Leek Wootton Division**Councillor Wallace Redford

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We remain in a confusing situation regarding the Community Forums, Although Leek Wootton is now part of the newly formed County Council Division of Cubbington & Leek Wootton it has remained part of the Warwick Rural West Community Forum whereas the Division as a whole lies with Warwick Rural East Community Forum.

Applications for grants from the forum should be continued to be forwarded to Warwick Rural West who will progress the application and if successful seek joint funding from Warwick Rural East.

Not the most efficient system but I will ensure that Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe does not miss out.

Financial constraints still dominate the County Council's Budget, which means that some difficult decisions have to be made. However, some good news in that extra finance has been to both the Adult and Children's Services

Speeding through Leek Wootton I know is a concern of many residents, unfortunately the Police check on vehicle speeds along the Warwick Road did not reveal violations that would have enabled them to recommend a speed reduction.

I am monitoring the situation from a road safety issue and looking at whether there can be any additional safety measures taken.

Pot holes I know are irritating to road users, so please inform me of offending holes as soon as possible, the sooner I hear about them the quicker I can get them into for repair.

The Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service are providing a home resettlement service for older people leaving hospital (George Eliot and Warwick Hospitals) and doing safety checks in the home and can refer to specialists.

Residents are encouraged to bring to my attention any issues of concern and I will endeavour to ensure that a response is provided as quickly as possible.

**Warwick District Council: Arden Ward**No report received

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***District Councillor Sue Gallagher and District Councillor Peter Whiting ceased to represent Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe within Arden Ward when they both stepped-down at the District Council Elections on 2 May 2019.***

**1<sup>st</sup> Leek Wootton (All Saints') Brownies**

No report received

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**1<sup>st</sup> Leek Wootton Scout Group**

No report received

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

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**All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton**

Rev Jim Perryman, Priest-in-Charge

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

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We work under the banner of being "God's Family, growing in hope and joy, reaching out with love, with the Holy Spirit guiding us." I am delighted to say that, in my opinion, this does reflect reality. However, it has still been a rather disappointing year in some significant ways, yet with some real highlights and perhaps encouraging signs of hope as 2018 has moved into 2019.

Cathedral Events:

One of the major highlights of the past year has been the licensing of Nigel Stallard as Reader which took place at a very uplifting service at Coventry Cathedral in September. Another was the confirmation service in May where David Knott and Guy Allison were confirmed. Other special Cathedral events which have had particular relevance for the parish have been those linked to the celebration of the centenary of the Diocese of Coventry, with the festival in May where Archbishop Justin was with us, the conference at the start of November, and the schools service at the end of November.

Worship:

Attendance at Sunday worship in general continued to be on the low side, despite the expectations which the 2017 NCD survey results might have implied, yet this low attendance doesn't seem to have any obvious underlying factor. I am not aware of a sense that people have 'left' the church, other than those who have relocated, and there are still new members coming and feeling welcomed and valued. There is always a good sense of warmth and fellowship among those who attend, whether they come regularly or occasionally. I do believe that, in most ways, we are indeed a healthy church, but growth appears slow in coming and this is also having a worrying impact on the church financial health at a time when we are looking to improve facilities and seek to return the parish to the half-time post that it used to be, with a view to helping to safeguard the ministry for the future.

The introduction of monthly 'Faith and Life' services, where people from the congregation and from other churches have come to speak on the way their faith affects their daily life, has been a very exciting addition to our regular pattern of worship and I am grateful to those who brought the idea in the Ministry Support Team and to those who have taken an active part in the leadership of this. Attendance at the bi-monthly Wednesday morning communion services continues to be very encouraging, however, with a very committed group and very warm fellowship.

Messy Church continues to meet most months, with a good group of families who seem committed to the group. However, overall coordination and leadership remains a problem which needs to be solved if this is to flourish and grow. Sadly, as thought likely in my report last year, we were not able to continue running a Holiday Bible Club at the school in the summer holiday and there are no plans to do so in 2019 either. It is to be hoped that a new generation of enthusiastic leadership may be found in the future, allowing our children's work to flourish once more, augmenting the general work of the church to help build faith and discipleship among our younger members and their families.

Community Links:

The events which surrounded the commemoration of the centenary of the Armistice were certainly among the highlights of the past year. The close cooperation between church, parish council, community and Leek Wootton History Society culminated in a very powerful, moving and fitting mix of exhibition, worship, remembrance and celebration, honouring the memory of those who fell during WW1, those who returned and those who lived through it on the home front. The special Parade Service in the morning was well attended by all the local uniformed groups and there was a larger than normal gathering at the War Memorial to join with the parade from church for the 11am ceremony. The large crowd who attended the beacon lighting, augmenting the group who had previously filled the church for the evening service was evidence of the way

that this event had touched the hearts and lives of a significant proportion of the villagers as we remembered together our predecessors in this place.

Earlier in the year, those church/community links were shown in another very successful Parish Summer Fête, where another centenary, that of the WI, was noted, and prior to that in the involvement of community groups in our Rogation Sunday service.

The monthly summer teas, from May to September, were also given a boost with a community link as the local scouting leaders took charge of one of the events in support of those from Leek Wootton and Kenilworth who are going to the Jamboree in the USA in 2019. This partnership with other groups in the running of these teas is something which looks to grow in 2019 and I hope is successful in giving these events a much greater community impact.

#### Website and Social Media:

The church website was given a fresh new look and relaunched in the autumn. It now also includes the excellent work done for us by Helen Eldridge which forms the centrepiece of the Visitor Experience Display in the church. I am delighted that this is now able to reach a wider audience. I seek to keep the site up to date and attractive to visitors as well as informative to members. It would be nice to think that people do look at it from time to time to see what is coming up in the church diary and to find up to date information about many of our charity link organisations. I am also grateful to my daughter, Helen, who often posts information on the church Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please be friendly and link up to the church page.

#### Occasional Offices:

During the year since the last APCM, two young children were baptised at All Saints, a thanksgiving service was held for two other children, two teenagers were confirmed from the parish, and there was one marriage. Six funerals of parishioners took place in church or included a memorial service in church after cremation.

#### Working Arrangements:

After nine years of serving on the Diocesan Synod, I decided not to offer myself for re-election in 2018. However, I have now taken on the role of Vice-Chair of Governors for the Green Leek Federation. In addition to my part-time parish duties (40% stipend), I continue to serve as vice-chair of Churches Together in Kenilworth & District. I also work part-time (15 hours a week) as Seasonal Mission Manager for the Intercontinental Church Society, based in Coventry and am grateful for the understanding shown by both 'employers' where my responsibilities for guiding mission in other parts of Europe may lead to my absence from the Parish for short periods, and where my parish responsibilities cause disruption to my normal working pattern at ICS. I am particularly grateful to Rev Andrew Haines who has willingly covered for me at various times.

#### Thanks:

It is always dangerous to single out individuals for thanks for fear of omitting others who also fully deserve a mention. However, with apologies for anyone thus overlooked, I must register particular thanks to, purely in alphabetic order, Helen and Lesley Eldridge, Jonathan and Katie Kingston, Nicola Perryman, Audrey Rowberry, Mark Sayers, Nigel Stallard and Graham and Joan Stevens, who in different ways not only serve the whole church fellowship and parish faithfully and skilfully, but give me amazing support and encouragement for which I am incredibly grateful.

Jonathan Kingston and Nigel Stallard, Churchwardens

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#### Statutory – Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The Churchwardens have examined the Terrier and completed the Log Book for 2018/2019. There have been no changes to the furnishings and fittings during the year.

#### Church

Services, including 8 am services and midweek communion services twice a month and messy church 4 times a year have been maintained. Numbers attending are similar to last year.

The link between Church and School has continued, with children from the school particularly involved in the Remembrance activities and Carol Service and as usual visiting the church for their Easter service.

#### Remembrance activities

The church joined with the School and Leek Wootton History Group to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. The church hosted a display and services in a moving and fitting tribute to those whose lives were lost.

Church building

Other than minor maintenance work there has been relatively little work undertaken on the church building this year. The quinquennial survey was completed along with electrical testing. A programme of ongoing maintenance work has been recommended, but generally the church building remains in good order.

More major work is required on the heating system. Much of the existing pipework probably dates back about a century, and is no longer holding water. We have sought advice on possible options for replacement, and will be pursuing these over the next year.

Churchyard

Although there has been relatively little 'major' work in the churchyard this year, much continuing maintenance has been undertaken, and the churchyard is looking well-kept and attractive.

Open church and visitors' experience

The church continues to be open daily and the visitors' book records many visitors both from within the village and in some cases much further afield, who have clearly appreciated the information provided, as well as the tranquillity and beauty of the building and churchyard.

The Churchwardens would like to express their thanks to all the volunteers who continue to maintain the churchyard, clean the church, decorate the church with flowers, provide refreshments etc and include also the organists, bell ringers, sidesmen, intercessors and communion assistants. They would also like to particularly thank Mark, our bell tower captain who is leaving us after 24 years, and our vicar, Jim and Reader, Audrey.

Eileen Clayton, PCC Secretary

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PCC members met regularly (8 times) during 2018. As evening meetings were proving difficult for some it was suggested that the meetings took place for a trial period, after the Sunday morning All Age service - usually finishing by 12 pm. This has proved successful and is likely to continue.

Over the year the PCC has discussed and actioned a wide variety of actions including:

- A Welcome Pack for newcomers to the Parish.
- Data Protection Rules and Regulations.
- Attended and actioned the annual electrical and quinquennial inspections.
- Obtained and erected new notice boards in the foyer.
- Appointment of a replacement Federation Governor at the School – Tricia Reeve.
- Appointment of Charlotte Digby as a trustee of the School Trust.
- Assisted in the very successful arrangements to commemorate the Armistice Centenary celebrations, a highlight of the year!

I can report that Mark Sayers has now been appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer- a short report from him is included in the annual publication.

THANK YOU!! The commitment of our hard-working Church Wardens, Jonathan and Nigel is to be commended, they are always available, knowledgeable and willing to tackle anything.

In conclusion, there are vacancies on the PCC, anyone who can spare some time to join us in our aims to be a welcoming inclusive church, would be very welcome.

Mark Sayers, Treasurer to the PCC

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The financial statement attached herewith was presented to the PCC on Wednesday, 28th January and accepted as a true record of its financial dealings for the year ended 31st December 2018.

In 2018, in addition to planned giving and open plate collections, we have received many substantial Donations from Families and Charities, making for an increase in our end of year result.

During 2018 we have changed our power supplier to "Bulb", resulting in a saving for the later part of 2018, plus, our insurers reduced our monthly premium by 10%, based upon our loyalty and no claims for many years.

There were 3 funerals and 3 wedding services held at All Saints', along with Interment of Ashes and other events. This has been a major factor to our income for 2018.

In 2018 charitable donations were made to Akany Avoko, Barnabas Fund; Churches Together in Kenilworth & District; Intercontinental Church Society; Kenilworth Youth for Christ; Agapé France; St Chad's, Wood End;

Friends of the Holy Land; The Royal British Legion; Latrine in Agra Nepal (new this Year); and Ifakara Bakery Project.

This year we again end with a small surplus, however, our cost for next year will be rising, so my 2019 forecast is break even or small loss.

Our Parish Share paid to the Coventry Diocese was £32,000, this being a reduction from the previous year. However, 2019 Parish share has been revalued along with other Kenilworth Deanery Churches, with the result that our 2019 Parish Share payment will now be £34,500.

Our planned Giving scheme has seen a reduction, with only one new member, although many existing members have increased their giving during 2018. We must all consider and encourage where possible a major improvement in this vital income for our Church.

## **All Saints' Church of England Academy Leek Wootton**

Andrew Morris

Executive Head of the Green Leek Foundation

[www.allsaints-leekwootton.covmat.org](http://www.allsaints-leekwootton.covmat.org)

All Saints' CofE Academy has now been a valued part of our church and community for just over a year as an academy which is part of the Multi-Academy Trust of the Diocese of Coventry. It has continued to flourish as part of the trust and it continues to be part of the Green Leek Federation (linked with Burton Green CofE Academy).

Our aim is to continue to sustain high quality education right in the hearts of the two communities we serve and to also ensure we support our children and stakeholders to flourish and become the very best versions of themselves they can be. Over this time the governing body has continued to develop the links between the two schools and this now includes a shared vision offering excellence for all, a full breadth of learning, a caring environment that is all centred around the Christian faith and ethos.

2018-2019 has once again been a successful year for us as children have moved onto secondary schools with high levels of attainment, have participated in many sports competitions and have experienced a wide range of rich experiences. Underpinning all of these achievements is our strong Christian ethos and values.

Staffing remains the same with a strong committed body of staff who are passionate in supporting the learning of the children within their care.

### Admissions

We continue to be a popular school with more parents seeking places for their children than we are able to accommodate. Places are very carefully allocated for each Reception intake using a range of criteria that are prioritised and agreed after consultation with the Local Authority and Diocesan Board of Education, and meet the requirements of the code of practice for admissions produced by the Department for Education. Our published admission number is 20 and it would be extremely unlikely that the class wouldn't be full.

### The Curriculum

Standards in the core curriculum of literacy, numeracy and science continue to be high at the end of both Key Stages 1 and 2 and results show that the school is achieving above national expectations, and has done consistently over the past years. This is a tribute to the excellent teaching skills of the staff, the very positive attitudes children have to learning and the tremendous support we receive from parents.

Every year the government demand ever increasing standards and I am pleased to say that All Saints' delivers on this and more. Our children not only achieve highly in attainment, but they make fantastic progress that is easily in the top 10% of schools nationally.

### Broad Opportunities

All Saints' is committed to providing a rich broad curriculum where all the wonderful and varied talents of our children are recognised and celebrated. All of the children have participated in history and geography, sport, music and art.

We continue to offer enrichment days where the children have a clear focus for a day of learning. This year we have enjoyed days on 'Peace and Reconciliation' focused on WWI, fantastic science day learning and we are looking forward to an Easter day in the upcoming weeks.

Each class participated in visits and experiences to support the curriculum. Our younger children visited the Herbert Art Gallery to learn more about objects from the past.



A highlight of the Year 6 unit 'Shall we send the children', was the visit to Coventry Cathedral, the Motor Museum and the Herbert Art Gallery to visit their WWII exhibitions.

On a lighter note the Autumn Term ended with a very enjoyable visit to the pantomime!

Children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed our first residential for this age and had a fantastic time challenging themselves with climbing and abseiling. This year our year 5 and 6 children will be once again enjoying a longer residential in the Isle of Wight where we have a vast array of exciting activities planned.

Sport continues to be very important to our school and the children enjoy taking part in football, netball, athletics and swimming to name but a few. We are proud to be fully competitive whilst ensuring all of our children have an opportunity to shine.

#### All Saints' Extra

Extended Services beyond the school day have increasingly become an essential aspect of the provision provided by the school and are now well embedded in school life. We continue to provide activities from 8am until 5.15 and employ an Extended Services Coordinator and Playworkers in order to continue to develop the range and quality of before and after school opportunities. Some activities are provided by staff employed by the school others by a range of outside providers from sports coaches to artists and language specialists.

#### Parent Partnership

One of the strengths of our school is the quality of the partnership with parents that is embedded in the life of the school. Regular events which underpin our active partnership with parents continued throughout the year with open assemblies and parents' consultation evenings.

Parents have continued to support the school on a day to day basis through the very positive support they give to their children's learning; practical support that some parents give in classrooms and a range of after school activities. The PTFA. has worked very hard on a range of fundraising activities throughout the year. This has allowed us to provide additional enrichment opportunities as well as a fantastic new play area for the children.

#### Church Partnership

All of the children have visited All Saints' Church regularly as either part of the curriculum or as part of a service. It is important for the children to recognise this important link between school and the church within our village. We are very grateful that Jim visits us regularly and takes an active role in supporting the school and developing our Christian ethos.

At the end of the summer term our Leavers assembly was held in church during which Year 2 received 'Pots of Gold' and Year 6 were presented with Bibles and books to support their move to secondary school. Once again, we appreciate the continuing support of local trusts that funded these gifts.

It was very special to be able to join with the church and community in the annual carol service. The warmth of the welcome on occasions such as this embody the unique links that we share as church and school working together,

In the upcoming weeks we will be looking forward to our Easter assembly dramatised by children in Years 3 and 4. It is a highlight of the year and we are pleased that so many members of the church congregation share this with us. The church- school partnership is much more than a series of events however special they might be. We know and that we are held in your prayers and value this tremendously. Not only has the partnership been sustained but it has continued to grow from strength to strength.

#### Links with the community

As a school that has our history rooted in the heart of our parish community, links that we are able to develop with individuals and groups are very important to us.

During the year the whole school has worked together to celebrate festivals through drama and music and we are pleased that many members of the community have joined us at our Harvest and Christmas celebrations. The oldest children in the school delighted us with their considerable talents when they performed The Wizard of Oz at the end of the year.

Once again, the school hosted the annual 'Children's Society Box Opening' which was attended by people from the wider community

## Bring Back Guy's Cliffe

No report received

[bringbackguyscliffe.org](http://bringbackguyscliffe.org)

## Cancer Research UK, Leek Wootton Committee

Shirley Calvert, Secretary

We have had another successful year of fundraising from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. During this period we raised £6,556.99, which has been sent to Cancer Research UK. This is an increase of £269.63 on last year. In April the youngest member of our Committee took part in and completed the Manchester Marathon when she raised £511 for Cancer Research UK, which we were so pleased about.

Our fundraising year began in June with the Summer Supper, when we had a Greek theme and this raised the sum of £1,283.31.

In August Committee members Joy Maisey and Janneke Patel created a wonderful floral display of the Cancer Research logo, which was entered at the Horticultural Society's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, when they were awarded a Highly Commended. The Committee were very proud of their efforts.

In November, following on from the success of a couple of years ago, we held a Wine Tasting Evening with wine enthusiast Chris Wildt. Once again, we provided a variety of delicious cheeses, along with bread and fruit cake, to help soak up the alcohol. This event raised £785.26.

In February we held our annual Skittles Challenge, with a fish and chip supper during the interval. This was a fun evening for the teams who took part and for anyone watching. This evening raised £701.50.

Our final fundraising event of the year, Jean and Jim's Big Breakfast, was held on 1 March at the Sports Club. Sadly, Jean was unable to be there on the day, as she wanted to stay with Jim during his last few hours. A large number of people supported the event and we were kept very busy serving breakfasts right from the start of the day. However, with the many people who kindly helped the Committee, we were able to cope. Helen Eldridge came along with her camera and was able to capture the event with some wonderful photos. Our thanks must go to Jean for her continued generosity in providing all the food. We raised a wonderful £2,432.62.

In addition to the Committee's fundraising events and Anna's marathon run, we received £500 from a Plant Sale, £137.30 collected by the Aqua Fit class at The Warwickshire, £130 from Alan Clarke who sold unwanted items from his garage, £12 from a neighbourhood BBQ, £34 from the Village Quiz and £30 which was the fee received by Geoff Holiday for his talk to the WI. These generous donations are included in the total amount sent to Cancer Research UK at the beginning of this report.

We very much appreciate the continued support from within the village and surrounding areas. Without this support we could not continue to hold our events and we look forward to another year of successful fundraising.

## Kenilworth District Committee of the NSPCC

Mary Robins, Chairman and Midlands Divisional Vice-President

The members of the Committee number seven this year. We do have times when medical treatments on our volunteers affect how much we can do to raise money, but we maintain an annual average of £5,900.

In Leek Wootton we have held events at the Village Hall at Christmas, a cake stall at the Parish Summer Fête and most recently providing tea and cakes at the *Teddy Bear Parachute Jump* at All Saints' Church, at which we raised £228.

Also, several us and our menfolk take part as Marshals for the *Two Castles Run* in June. The NSPCC receives £50 per volunteer, so anyone who would like to be a Marshal let Mary Robins know please.

Missing from our calendar now is the sale of hot chocolate at the Christmas tree sale at Hilary Farm, Hill Wootton, since Julia Green left the area and our Committee. Don't forget that her recipe book is still for sale entitled *Enjoy*.

We always welcome new volunteers onto the Committee, we all do only as much as we are able. Thank you to all the supporters in the district and we look forward to raising funds for many years to come.

Anyone interested in taking part please ring, Mary Robins, 01926 512643

## Leek Wootton & District Horticultural Society

Stephanie Jones, Secretary

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

Our programme of events again proved popular with yet another successful year and the splendid continued support from the local community continues. Strong support continues from local businesses in the form of prizes for the raffle and we are grateful for that support. Their support is now being detailed on the back of the Show Schedule.

The Annual Outing, on 4th June took in Coton Manor Gardens and the Kilworth Hotel and Theatre, organized for the first time by Steph and Rob Jones.

The Annual Show, held on 18th August was a great success, notwithstanding the fact that the weather had impacted on exhibitors' ability to show their produce at the levels seen in the past. It was nevertheless a good presentation, bolstered by the floral display. The exhibits from the local societies and groups, who had been invited to enter displays as part of the 150th anniversary of the Show, were excellent. The exhibit from the Macmillan Cancer care won the special award. The outside facilities were much improved. The new tables seemed to draw the visitors for tea and cakes. Presentations of prizes by Jean Singleton and Philip Sylvester were an added bonus. All of this contributed to what could easily be called a garden party atmosphere, the only down side was the failure of the PA system to adequately project to the outside audience. This will be addressed for the 2019 show.

In terms of awards, The Banksian medal was won by Brian Kingham and the Jim Perkins Salver went to Paul Bugden. The Gillitt Salver, presented in memory of past President Audrey Gillitt by her family, was won by Angela Guest. Income was slightly better than previous years, maintaining a healthy financial position.

### So, looking forward with notes for your diary in 2019

The Outing this year will be to Spetchley Park Gardens in Worcester on Saturday 8th June, note the change from Sunday to Saturday. The outing is being organized by Steph and Rob Jones with full details being on the website.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 18th August. There will as usual be stalls and teas along with entertainment for the children and young at heart. Photographic categories will be 'Orange' and 'Silhouettes'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years.

The Society website continues to attract support from far and wide.

The website can be accessed at [www.leekwoottonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.leekwoottonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk). You can also contact the Society via [lwhsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lwhsociety@gmail.com). It is worth having a look at all the information, including photographs that make up the content.

Thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the Committee who have given unstinting support. Special thanks are due to our Secretary Mary Murdoch for her boundless energy, Christine Hurcomb as Treasurer, Angela Guest as reported above and to Steph Jones who has assisted with meeting minute taking and production, as well as maintaining the Website.

It is sad, but inevitable, that committee members reach the point where they feel it necessary to retire from their roles. Mary Murdoch has decided to retire from her role as Secretary but will continue on the committee, Mary joined the Committee in 2003.

At the Annual General Meeting the following elections were approved

President	Dennis Eassom
Chairman	Brian Melling
Vice Chairman	Jim Barr
Secretary	Stephanie Jones
Treasurer	Christine Hurcomb
Show Secretary	Angela Guest

And in recognition for her service to the Society

Mary Murdoch was appointed Vice President

Our thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the Committee who have given unstinting support.

Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 members, including the Officers, and we are currently at 14

members.

Anyone interested in joining should contact one of us and we will be pleased to talk them.

### **Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe, Haseley & Wroxall and Old Milverton Conservative Association**

No report received

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### **Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Summer Fête Committee**

No report received

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### **Leek Wootton History Group**

Lesley Eldridge, Secretary/Treasurer

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The main focus for the History Group in 2018 was its involvement with the events organised in the parish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of WWI. Knitted poppies were created and used for display in All Saints' church; an exhibition reflecting upon the war time years for men from a small rural parish was mounted in the church from All Saints' Day until 19 November; and a 'Battle's Over' Commemoration Service was planned and held on the afternoon of 11 November before residents gathered for the lighting of a Beacon of Light – part of a nationwide act symbolising an end to the darkness of war and a return to the light of peace.

When Sean Rouse took over the tenancy of The Anchor in June 2018, he indicated that he wanted to display items about the parish on the internal walls and the History Group made available to him a number of images held in its archive, as well as placing on loan a framed Ordnance Survey Sheet, dated 1888, which covers much of Leek Wootton and Hill Wootton.

The Group continues to respond to a number of varied enquiries as and when they occur.

### **Leek Wootton Link**

Lesley Eldridge, Co-Editor

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The Leek Wootton Link is published by the PCC of All Saints' Parish Church ten times a year (double issues July/August and December/January) and is distributed to every household and business property in the Civil Parish and the Ecclesiastical Parish where boundaries differ. Some copies are also sent/delivered to, for example, past residents and other people who have asked to be kept informed about the community.

The magazine is available for information and news from across the community, i.e. parish organisations, charity committees and individuals, and the Parish Council makes a grant to the PCC to support its requirement to disseminate its news and advice to every property in the Civil Parish.

The balance of the cost of production is met from advertising revenue and by voluntary donations from recipients. The work of the editorial team and of all who are involved in the distribution of just over 500 copies of The Link is undertaken voluntarily.

### **Leek Wootton Sports Club**

Paul Baigent, Secretary (2018/19)

[leekwoottonsports.club](http://leekwoottonsports.club)

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#### Sports Clubs

All of our sports Clubs have had a degree of success over the past year and all continue to grow and are in a healthy state, both on and off the pitch.

The cricket club had a challenging season as the 1st XI unfortunately got relegated from the Premier Division of the Cotswold Hills League. The 2nd XI playing in Division 5 had a good season and finished as champions and will compete in Division 4 this coming season and the Sunday XI also had a good season of friendly fixtures. It was also the third year of the youth section which had higher numbers than the previous years which resulted in a number of Junior teams playing matches against local clubs.

The football club continue to grow and this season they have 14 teams across all of the age groups with some having had a successful season. A number of our teams won silverware over the season in both cup

and tournament competitions although there were no league titles this season. The Club now has three teams into the Midland Junior Premier league this season and we are the only club in the immediate area to offer junior football at the three levels of Regional, City & District football. A massive achievement this last year was the award of FA accreditation to the club; this will provide many opportunities for the Club including possible grant opportunities. We no longer have an adult team playing at Leek Wootton.

A new darts team has formed and they play on Monday nights and are doing well in their debut season. Crib and Dominoes have also had a successful year we are pleased to see that Bridge and Probus continue to use the Club and both sections are in a good state.

#### Social Activities

The Committee have continued to introduce some new social events at the Club over the last year as well as some of the old favourites. One of the new events this past year was a Ladies Night where we hosted a Fashion Show. There was also a new event on New Year's Eve this year which was a great success however we did have to cancel a few events due to a lack of ticket sales including the Christmas party which was disappointing.

The Discussion Group continued to grow and we had a number of guest speakers on topics from The Cold War, Local History, Future Car Design and an Evening with local author and screen writer Andrew Davies. These events greatly added to the variety of events at the Club and added significant funds. The Bingo evenings continue twice a month and are well supported.

#### Membership

Following the previous year's decline in membership numbers the position has stabilised with a slight increase from 604 to 610.

#### Staff

This last year did see long-term employee Christine Jelly retire from her role as Bar Manager and we would like to put on record our great thanks to Christine for all her hard work over the years and wish her well for her retirement.

We are also delighted to welcome our new Steward Nigel Rodgers to the Club; Nigel has many years working in the pub & club industry and of late he was the steward at the Towcester Conservative club but he also worked previously at the Nelson club in Warwick and we were delighted to secure his services.

#### Buildings & Equipment

Our buildings do need regular maintenance and occasional improvement. This past year there were no major investments but there was regular maintenance undertaken to the bar facilities and general infrastructure but we are aware that we do need to improve the facilities generally. As a consequence, we have set up a small working group to lead a project to improve our toilet, kitchen and changing room facilities and we have called this "Project 20" – to deliver facilities for the next twenty years. Although at present it is in the planning stages further details will materialise over the year.

#### Charity Contributions

Once again, the Sports Club has made significant contributions to local and national charities including Cancer Research, Leukaemia Care and Myton Hospice amongst others. In total circa £3K was raised for charity by the Sports Club and its members. Further charity events are planned throughout the year.

### **Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd**

No report received

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### **Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground**

Richard Coates, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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The Trustees meet on an ad hoc basis when necessary. The need for a fit-for-purpose car park is the current project being developed. The existing one is inadequate for the expanding needs of the community and the Trustees are working alongside the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council to formulate a solution. Fundraising a potential sum of over £100,000 is what is needed, but thus far major national funding organisations are not interested in car parks so it is likely we will have to generate our own. Crowdfunding and applying to local District Council matched funding sources are being considered.

## **Leek Wootton Women's Institute**

Genevieve Wilson, President

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

During the last twelve months Leek Wootton WI membership has grown, and we are now delighted to have over 60 members, most of whom attend meetings in the village hall on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of August, which is our summer recess. During the year we devote nine meetings to hear from speakers on a variety of topics; some funny, some informative, but all are generally interesting!

We started our programme in 2018 with a talk by Cheryl Rawbone, Chairman of the Friendship Project, a charity that links specially trained adults with young disadvantaged children, in order to help build the child's confidence and importantly, their self-esteem. In February we had Mary - who is also a member of LWWI - talk to us about the art of bee keeping, where we learnt so much about this insect and its vital role in our environment. In April we were joined by Jane Barnes, who talked about her busy life as a Dairy Farmer's Wife, describing how all the cows have personalities! Another speaker, Mollie Murray, had us crying with laughter as she shared her varied experiences as a silver service waitress.

We thoroughly enjoyed an evening of Scottish Dancing in July and under Margaret Baker's careful instruction, we were soon performing recognisable Scottish Wheels. Our final talk of the year was by Keith Forster, who told us all about the National Memorial Arboretum.

On a serious note, the WI is an important campaigning body and this year the WI members around the UK voted for 'Mental Health Matters' from six different proposed resolutions.

As 2018 was the WI Centenary year, we invited costumed historian Paula Cornwell to appear as Lady Denman to open the annual Parish Summer Fête, and judge the dog show competition. LWWI also submitted several items into the 150th Leek Wootton Horticultural Society show, and we were proud to achieve a 'First', and a 'Highly Commended'! Finally, to round off the centenary year we held our Christmas meal at Guys Cliffe. It was a great social evening, where we enjoyed seasonal games, a few carols and a lovely Christmas meal.

As a village WI we have groups to reflect our interests, so there is a monthly craft group held in the village hall, on the first Monday of each month. We also have an active book club, regular organised walks, and outings to local theatres and restaurants. We very much enjoy looking after the small WI garden in the centre of the village, which provides an opportunity for a 'weed and natter'.

We regularly have visitors to our meetings who often comment on how welcome they feel, and admire the facilities in our village hall. We're proud to be part of the community in Leek Wootton, and happily support community activities such as the Parish Summer Fête, and the many events at the Sports Club.

## **The Leigh Educational Foundation**

Richard Coates, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

[leigheducationalfoundation.org.uk](http://leigheducationalfoundation.org.uk)

The Leigh Educational Foundation has continued its financial support for the young people of Leek Wootton, Ashow, Stoneleigh and Burton Green. Young people up to the age of 25 can apply for assistance in any educational endeavour they undertake.

Financial help can be given for school trips both home and abroad, school uniform and equipment of all kinds, college, university and training expenses as well as support for youth groups and sporting teams.

Trustees meet four times a year and in this financial year awarded over £30,000 to deserving, young local people.

## **Macmillan Cancer Support, Leek Wootton**

Ros Commander, Chairman

We hold four functions a year, the first one being the fashion show at the Warwickshire Golf & Country Club. We invited 156 ladies to see the fashion show, held by Justina Fashions of Wellesbourne. This was very successful and we raised £2,766.50.

We will hold a summer luncheon at the Village Hall on 7 June. We have the speaker Molly Murray speaking about life in the back-to-back houses through the eyes of a child.

Super Cars Sunday, when we invite people to take a ride in unusual and rare cars.

We round off the year with a bridge drive and then, when the year draws to a close, we have our AGM and finish off the year with a Christmas lunch and a sigh of relief.

We aren't a big committee but managed to raise £7,500 last year.

No one is untouched by cancer and we need all the help we can get .

## **Mothers' Union, All Saints' Branch**

Janet Jackson, Correspondent

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Mothers Union is an international Christian membership movement of 4 million members, actively supporting family life and communities where needed in the UK and worldwide since 1876. As a global Christian movement in 84 countries, MU works with people of all faiths and none to empower women, combat gender inequality and gender-based violence and promote the participation and representation of women in decision making.

During 2018 we shared MU updates and coming events in our parish magazine: Our events included a meal out, hearing a speaker from Coventry Haven refuge for women and children, an annual summer lunch and regularly meeting together for fellowship; looking at news and current issues related to MU, women and family life, a bible passage linked to this and to pray for the work of MU. There were also opportunities to attend events at local branches, in our deanery and in the diocese: The 'Thy Kingdom Come' call to prayer service in Coventry Cathedral was streamed live so members around the world could join in.

Individual members organised or took part in MU projects such as: The 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal, collections of clothes and toys for families in need through 'Coffee Tots' and 'Carriers of Hope', helping in a refugee families' Parenting Group crèche, greetings card making and a garden party in aid of 'Away From it All Holidays' and Christmas gifts for prisoners families. There was also a focus for Haven Refuge with an Open Studios raffle and donating gifts and toiletries.

Over 2018 All Saints MU acknowledged that we no longer have sufficient numbers of members prepared to run a local Branch so after consultation with membership and our Diocesan office we are formally closing our branch and forming instead an All Saints MU Friendship Group, with members now paying their subscriptions directly to our diocese. We will continue to meet from time to time for fellowship, mutual support and to pray for our communities and will retain our close links with other MU branches in the Kenilworth Deanery and Coventry Diocese.

If you would like to also become an MU member; embracing the opportunities of being within a grassroots organisation with a global vision see [www.mothersunioncoventry.com /membership](http://www.mothersunioncoventry.com/membership)

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

No report received

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## **Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Warwick Rural West**

No report received

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## **Toddlers / Stay & Play at Leek Wootton Village Hall**

Janet Jackson, Contact

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Thursdays, term-time 10-11.30am

For Babies to Pre-schoolers. £1.50 per family

A warm welcome is extended for Parents, Grandparents and Carers

Baby area, Craft, mat and ride on toys, Snack-time and Singing,

Also fun outdoors in our woodland play area,

Just turn up and join us for a friendly and relaxed morning.

(Contact Janet 258264)

Above is our advert which gives an idea of what we are.

Over the year our numbers were higher which is enjoyable and enables payment of the rent and our annual insurance. Some families from the community who have little ones came along regularly; helping with tasks like advertising us on Facebook and inviting friends, opening up if needed and, bringing and preparing our snack. As our funds had dipped last year and so the group could continue our treasurer applied to the Warwick Rural West Community Forum and following our bid the group were awarded a one-off grant. This was good for the village as we are a worthwhile community support to families with babies and young children up to school age.

## **Tower Bellringers**

Mark Sayers, Tower Captain & Ringing Teacher

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We now have 14 registered Coventry Diocesan Guild ringers for Sunday Service and all other occasions. We continue to teach new ringers from not only Leek Wootton, but all towers within the Coventry Diocesan. This is undertaken on the 4th Saturday Morning in each Month.

Our Tower Bells have become one of only Two Teaching Centres in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. During 2018 our standard of ringing has developed, so giving our band of ringers the challenge of entering the Coventry Diocesan Guild Striking Competition and achieving second place in the call change section.

From 7th April 2019 Nathan Gould will be taking over as Tower Captain, so bringing an end to my own service for the last 23 Years. However, I do intend to visit as often as possible for many years to come.

We wish to encourage all residents in the area, to come along and enjoy the opportunity of learning the ancient art of church Bell ringing, under the control of approved ringing Teachers.