



The Civil Parish of

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022

Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 7:00pm

Leek Wootton Village Hall

Reports 2021/22

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REPORTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report 2021/22

Councillor Richard Coates

So, this is the third report I have written where I'm starting off by mentioning the pandemic, although with this one it really does feel as though we are growing in confidence, slowly winning the battle and perhaps most of all learning to live with it.

Last year was certainly the 'year of the jabs' and we were fortunate to have two vaccination centres close by at The Warwickshire Golf Club and Stoneleigh Park. These centres helped in getting our first vaccination numbers up quickly and the trend continued with second and third jabs – so much so that the vaccinated numbers for our community aged 12 and over at the end of February 2022 were: First jab 90.6%, Second 87.1% and Third 75.0%. A remarkable result that shows a strong belief in the excellent science that has helped us combat this pandemic.

Once again, the past year saw many community events having to be cancelled but in the autumn the slow return to normality began with some organisations starting to meet again in person and beginning to set dates and events for this year's programme. In September the Parish Council sponsored its first Community Live, a 'what's on' event where local organisations and clubs were encouraged to come to the Village Hall, set up a stall and provide information on what they had to offer and how to join. The day went really well with much discovery and information giving and a similar event will be held again this year.

The re-development of the Recreation Ground car park still remains in the planning phase. We discovered that the reason the current planning application had been delayed was because we did not have an ecological survey in place, something we were told we didn't need in the previous application. However we now have an environmental impact assessment and bat survey for the whole area and this should expedite matters considerably. It was interesting to learn that all construction projects no matter how small now have to have an environmental 'net gain' of new planting to compensate for any destruction of existing planting. Our application to Warwick District Council's RUCIS grant fund is in place for the next financial year and it is our sincere hope we can really get going on this project later this year.

Ongoing maintenance of the carpark has been one of the key issues we have faced and an upside of this was the first ever joint meeting of the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, the Sports Club Committee and the Recreation Ground Trustees who agreed in principal to mutually fund future maintenance. I sincerely hope in the spirit of co-operation and what's best for our whole community further such meetings can be held on a regular basis.

I have been particularly pleased to note that the Warwickshire Police Community Speedwatch programme is up and running again and we have a group of volunteers who have got together and are awaiting their turn to get training with the new speedwatch cameras. Speeding through our area is a constant concern and the new housing development south of Kenilworth has only served to exacerbate the feeling that we are part of a 'ratrun' between Warwick and Kenilworth. The County Council's '20s plenty' initiative is certainly something the Parish Council will be looking at in future.

Our regular Parish Council activities have continued much as before. In inclement weather flooding on certain roads remains a problem but in general County Highways are pretty quick jetting them out. A number of 'orphan' pieces of land such as the hedge alongside the school fence and the rough piece between the top of Tidmarsh Road and Warwick Road continue to cause difficulty. These are small patches of land that no-one accepts responsibility for and consequently they quickly become overgrown and unkempt. If the Parish Council takes them on they become 'ours' by association and will further burden our already stretched volunteers. However it's a problem many communities face with varying degrees of success.

The playground remains a well used and much loved facility for our youngsters and it will shortly be having another load of playbark to topdress the existing surface. The hard cutback of the laurel at the top end has made the space more manageable and enabled the fence to be repaired.

Fibre to house broadband development has continued at a snail's pace. We are fully engaged with Openreach and we've seen some progress but it remains almost impossible to get a definitive rollout date. It seems they have their own priority agenda and 'operational issues' are more often than not given as a reason why things don't happen.

Our Parish Council's Community Grant scheme for local groups to tap into did not have any applications last year so we will be publicising it more widely this year but in the meantime we have made a £500 grant to the Church heating fund.

One of the more significant events that has happened over the past year was the sale by Warwickshire police of part of the Woodcote estate namely The Paddock and The Tennis Courts. In both our Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan it was anticipated that the police would be moving out entirely but with the collapse of the alliance

with West Mercia, they are back in the remaining part of the estate for good. CALA Homes have bought the land and they have already engaged with the Parish Council and have offered an online webinar question and answer session for interested members of the public. A resident's focus group has been formed and has had a number of public meetings and submitted questions to CALA and I understand will meet with them shortly.

Both the Parish Council and the focus group are aware of the emerging planning issues, particularly housing numbers, the style and type of housing, the environmental impact of the project, the traffic situation at The Anchor junction and up Woodcote Lane and Woodcote Drive and the need for a masterplan for the whole Woodcote site. Regarding housing numbers, we think CALA are likely to put in for 85 houses whereas our Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan call for 61. The Parish Council has strongly stated to District Councillors, District Planning Officers and CALA Homes just how important these issues are to us. This was in order to influence their decisions as far as possible and achieve the right outcome for us all. I emphasise the word 'influence' as that is the nature of the power the Parish Council has – the final decision lies with the District Council and their planners. We are now waiting for CALA to put in a planning application when we will know exactly what they are after and can plan our response accordingly. This should be imminent as they have said they would like to get on with building in early 2023. We are also aware of a further component of their plan and that is to lease from the Police and Crime Commissioner part of a section of the woodland behind Waller Close known as 'The Lunch'. CALA will manage it and provide public access. Details of what this entails should emerge with the planning application.

Planning matters will continue to be uppermost in our minds this year because the amalgamation of Warwick District and Stratford District Councils into the new South Warwickshire District Council will result in a new Local Plan being created. Planning submissions have already been asked for by the new Council and our Neighbourhood Plan will have to be reviewed and changed accordingly. The Parish Council will continue to resolutely defend the Identities of Leek Wootton and Hill Wootton and vigorously resist any further encroachment by Kenilworth, Warwick or Leamington.

This year marks the Platinum Jubilee commemoration of the Queen's incredible reign. Our community along with thousands of others across the country will be joining in with a celebration picnic lunch on the Rec on Sunday 5th June. The whole Rec will be alive with activities, games, sports, races, competitions, music, food and fun and I hope as many of us as possible will attend this memorable event and sing the national anthem with gusto and royally toast this remarkable woman. We are also in the frame for the Commonwealth Games this year as Leek Wootton is once again on the track for the Men's and Women's cycle road race which I believe will involve a number of loops through the village. I trust our support will be as vocal as ever for this unique event.

In conclusion does anyone want to be a Parish Councillor? The resignation of Joy Maisey last year for personal reasons has left a vacancy on our Council and we are looking for an enthusiastic, committed volunteer to join our team. If you are people minded and want to give back to our community, I urge you to get in touch with our Clerk, Helen Eldridge who has all the information you need. In mentioning Helen, I would like to formally congratulate her on achieving her professional CiLCA qualification this year and of course thank her for all the unseen hours often unpaid, she puts in for our community.

We are well served by our District and County Councillors, Trevor Wright and Pam and Wallace Redford all of whom have offered valuable advice when needed and I hope they in turn have enjoyed our company too?

Finally I must send a heartfelt thanks to the team of people that form our Parish Council. A more dedicated, committed group of volunteers would be hard to find, giving of their time and effort to make the place we live in, better.

DRAFT Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Helen Eldridge, Responsible Financial Officer

This DRAFT Financial Report is being prepared for the Annual Parish Assembly on 15 March 2022. Therefore, the following closing figures are forecasts only.

The Parish Council's gross income in 2021/22 is forecast to be £20,032 and expenditure £17,734.

The Precept income, which is the core income of the Parish Council, was £18,331.

The Financial Year 2021/22 was once again dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and planned expenditure was, again, disrupted when no in-person Annual Parish Assembly or Summer Fête event took place. In May the temporary legislation that allowed meetings to take place online expired and the Council was required to return to in-person meetings.

The COVID-19 response within the community continued to excel. The WhatsApp hub, originally set up for sharing COVID-19 information was repurposed for general community information and continues. There was little expenditure to facilitate these activities and we were able to respond and 'signpost' people to the help that they required. Thank you to all the volunteers and organisations that have assisted these efforts.

The only community event staged in 2021/22 was in September; the Council held its first Community Live event. This was generally viewed as successful and is to be repeated in 2022.

The Parish Council owns and maintains the children's playground, which this year has required replacement of the gatepost at the Quarry Close entrance, and long overdue maintenance of the laurel hedge. A new layer of playbark is currently on order, with a plan in place to reserve funds towards new playbark every three years.

The Council's major project, the Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground Car Park, remains in its preparatory stages, despite going through a tendering process early in the year. This is due to the Warwick District Council's Rural & Urban Capital Improvements Scheme [RUCIS], one source of funding for the project, having its remaining funds withdrawn part way through the year and reallocated to other funds. This means that the Council now has to apply in the 2022/23 financial year. The application for a Public Works Loans Board loan for the balance of the project is therefore also delayed until the RUCIS fund money can be applied for. The PWLB loan will be repaid over future years and the Precept continues to provide a proportion to facilitate repayments; £1,900, was again ring-fenced, pending commencement of the project. Planning permission was in place, but reconsidering the extent of the project for financial reasons has required a new planning application; this in turn has led to additional Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment, which has been paid for by the Council's partner, Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd.

The Council supports community organisations and facilities and has financially contributed to grounds maintenance on the War Memorial Recreation Ground and the defibrillator on the recreation ground, purchased by Leek Wootton Sports Club, which has required replacement of defibrillator pads and the battery this year.

Unexpected expenditure in 2021/22 was caused by a catastrophic failure of the Parish Council laptop. The Council's Finance Committee was at the point of considering planning for the replacement of the computer, and the solution to resolve the immediate issue was to replace the harddrive, which in essence created a new machine. A plan for reserving funds over the next 3 years towards a new laptop has now been budgeted for.

Community Grant Fund

The Council has in place a Community Grant Fund for organisations to apply to for small grants. It remains in contact with a number of organisations about possible future applications. During 2021/22 an application was made for a contribution to the 2021 Church Heating Appeal and the Council was pleased to make a grant of £500. The regular grant of £300 was made to the Leek Wootton Link, which the Council supports to ensure it is delivered to every household in the parish as a key conduit in communication with the community. As organisations re-open following the extended period of dormancy, the Community Grant Fund will continue to make grant funds available.

Other Funds

On 1 April 2021 the following project funds were open:

- LW&GC Parish Summer Fête:

No Parish Summer Fête took place in 2021/22 and on 31 March 2022 the balance of the fund remains £20.

- LWWMRG Car Park:

On 31 March 2021 the balance of the Car Park Fund was £1,900, which has been ring-fenced for future repayment of the PWLB loan (as explained above). At 31 March 2022 the Car Park Fund stands as £3,800.

Other income to the Council was the recovery of VAT, to which the Council is entitled and contribution by Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd to the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Preliminary Roost Assessment as mentioned above.

At the time of preparing this DRAFT Financial Report, prior to 31 March 2022, the Parish Council's expenditure over income for 2021/22 is forecast at £274 and along with the Council's reserve funds, the balance at 31 March 2022 is forecast to be £10,097.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council: Cubbington & Leek Wootton Division

Councillor Wallace Redford

Another year of coping with the COVID Pandemic has passed.

Throughout the year I have ensured that the Parish Council has received a flow of updates on all relevant information for dissemination as necessary to residents.

The County Council continued with its decision for staff to work from home, whilst this has ensured that the administration has been able to continue to undertake its responsibilities, there has understandably been some delays due to sickness.

I am aware that there has been some concern regarding speeding through the village, now that COVID is on the wane I hope to arrange for speed data collation cables to be installed in the Warwick Road so that we can get some accurate data and where necessary take appropriate action.

At the Skew Bridge new signage has been installed and the drain there cleared and jetted through. I am monitoring the effectiveness of this drain.

I have arranged for drop kerbs to be installed at the junctions of Waller Close and Quarry Close with Woodcote Lane and have requested the footpath in Woodcote Lane to be repaired and resurfaced.

Warwick District Council: Cubbington & Leek Wootton Ward

District Councillors Pamela Redford and Trevor Wright

During 2021/2022 Warwick District Council [WDC] has been extremely focused on securing various grants and support for business and the community during the Covid Pandemic.

In the past year WDC has secured and distributed over £53 million in Government support grants to many different businesses including:-

- Business restart grants
- Sport and leisure clubs
- Hospitality and Leisure sector
- Small business offering services (such as hairdressers)
- Community Projects
- WDC Art's team were successful in securing over £256,000 from (ACE) Cultural Recovery Fund

The latest Government grant that WDC staff are administering is a grant of £2.5million for low-income families to help pay for energy efficiency measures, such as, wall and roof insulation, and room heating controls. This round of grants will be targeted at the least energy efficient properties.

The shared service between WDC and SDC is moving forward with a shared waste collection contract, starting in August this year. Further working together covers a shared IT system, a review of both local plans to formulate an overall Local plan, and the general integration of staff and departments. Savings have already been made over the past year in the region of £3 million. Progress will be monitored as we move forward by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee. Warwick District Council will not be increasing its Council Tax this year in recognition of the potential financial difficulties being faced by families in the current circumstances.

Currently we are still awaiting a response from Government on the formal process of becoming one Council, namely South Warwickshire District Council. If the Government gives approval, it would then be referred to the Boundaries Commission, as ward boundaries are likely to change.

In the past year Warwick District Council formed a Housing Company partnership with Milverton Homes Vistry Linden, to deliver 620 new quality homes over the next 8 years. This commitment from the council will accelerate the provision of housing, including much-needed affordable housing in the district.

Work started in February on a £2 million facelift to Leamington railway station forecourt, ready to welcome the thousands of visitors for the Commonwealth Games in July. The first drop-in took place at the Royal Pump Rooms on 18 February and will continue monthly between 10am and 3pm. This is an opportunity for local people to call in and find out about what is happening in the district and across the West Midlands, both in the run up to, and during the Commonwealth Games.

In support of the plans to tackle rough sleeping in the area Warwick District Council secured £835,000 of central government funding to help support a range of ambitious local schemes. Confirmation of the funding will allow the Council to continue with a number of projects to assist those facing homelessness and to provide permanent

homes for those found sleeping rough. This includes the purchase and refurbishment of a range of accommodation in the district where residents can receive professional support to assist them in turning their lives around, so that they can achieve their long-term goals and potential.

Finally, WDC has now installed within its car parks a further 40 electric charging points making the overall total 60. These are in addition to any planned charging points installed by Warwickshire County Council.

Both your District Councillors will continue to work on your behalf.

REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Thank you to those parish organisations that have taken the time to write and submit their reports. The Council understands that many organisations are either extremely busy or dormant during this pandemic.

1st Leek Wootton (All Saints') Brownies & Guides

Hazel Turner, Brownie & Guide Leader

When we reported in April last year, we were looking forward to finally meeting the girls face to face for the first time in over a year. For many of the girls (and leaders), this would be the first time meeting outside the comfort of their own homes. We decided to move forward cautiously, alternating our meetings between outdoor meetings and online meetings. During the Spring Term, both Brownies and Guides worked on Girlguiding Midlands' Moot badge which encouraged outdoor activities, including painting fairy houses, which cropped up around the village, making bird feeders, pioneering, orienteering and fire lighting. The weather wasn't always kind but I don't think the Guides will forget trying to build stools in the woods in the rain!! The Brownies also explored the canal and the Guides went on a Penny Hike.

These activities were supplemented with online activities including tin can pancakes, learning macrame, cooking fajitas, and learning to use screwdrivers. A highlight for me, was making our own butter, shaking whipping cream to Taylor Swift!!

Autumn arrived and we decided to return to weekly, face-to-face meetings at the Village Hall for the Brownies. It has been lovely bringing back lots of Girlguiding traditions, including songs, and sixes. We completed the Girlguiding Midlands Fascinate challenge by completing lots of STEM activities. The Guides' meetings were a mixture of indoor, outdoor and *Zoom* meetings, with 2 Guides making their promises on a night hike. We celebrated the end of term with a joint pizza party and wide games on the field.

This term has finally begun to feel 'normal' with both units meeting regularly indoors. The Guides have begun to work in patrols and plan our term. For Chinese New Year, both units completed the WWF Tiger challenge and we celebrated World Thinking Day. The Guides had a great day out in London, taking part in the Monopoly Run and look forward to more outdoor days and camps next term.

It has been lovely to welcome our 10-year-old Brownies into the Guide unit and the spread of ages continues to grow. This year has been a year of change and we look forward to continuing with 'normal' Guiding and the variety of opportunities that this brings.

leekwoottonbrownies@hotmail.com | leekwoottonguides@hotmail.com

1st Leek Wootton (Centenary) Scout Group

Douglas Faulconbridge, Group Chairman

All restrictions for Scouting activities have now been lifted. Although it has been a difficult time to carry out face to face Scouting, we continued to meet outside or on *Zoom* and ensured a full programme was available for the young people.

We have enjoyed things like kayaking, fires with pancakes and marshmallows, star gazing, walking and team building.

We end the year with a full Cub Pack and a smaller Beaver Colony as many moved up to Cubs.

If anyone wishes to help/volunteer with either Cubs or Beavers then let us know. We also have spaces in the Beaver Colony for new joiners.

info@leekwoottonscoutgroup.co.uk

All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton

No report received

All Saints' Church of England Academy Leek Wootton

Andrew Morris, Head Teacher

All Saints' CofE Academy continues to flourish, even in these difficult times that we have had recently. We are still passionate about providing a broad and balanced education for the children of the parish and surrounding areas and being the centre of our Christian community.

Our aim is to continue to sustain high quality education right in the heart of the parish 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 period the local governing body has continued to develop the links between the two schools in the federation with our shared vision offering excellence for all, a full breadth of learning and a caring environment that is all centred around the Christian faith and ethos.

The school has continued to work through COVID and to ensure that the children have had the very best opportunities and have enjoyed their learning in many creative ways.

The school continues to have Forest School as a key part of what we offer the children within school. Each class has an opportunity to develop their love of the outdoors and their creativity within this area. It is something that the children thoroughly enjoy at all ages. I have been particularly impressed with the children's ability to make bread whilst at Forest school and even how to 'whittle' a peg.

Although external visits have been more limited children within the school have still had the opportunity to enjoy visiting pantomimes at Christmas, virtual museum tours/visits along with onsite opportunities.

We also ensure children develop their love of music and this has been enhanced with a partnership with Warwickshire music with some lovely singing with Waller class. They will be joining other schools later this term to perform their songs in a much larger group. Last year our performances at Christmas and Harvest were all virtual, but we are looking forward to welcoming 'real audiences' in the near future at our traditional Easter performance. As always the children's singing and acting were quite remarkable.

We continue to focus in school on developing our curriculum to ensure the children not only know all of the key requirements, but get to learn them in an enjoyable and fun context. We have enhanced many of the areas we study (such as computing and art) to ensure the children develop skills that are of the highest level.

We are now looking forward as a school to the future, as restrictions reduce and we move forward with greater opportunities to interact and be with each other.

Bring Back Guy's Cliffe

No report received

Cancer Research UK, Leek Wootton Committee

No report received

Kenilworth District Committee of the NSPCC

No report received

Leek Wootton & District Horticultural Society

Brian Melling, Chairman

Along with other organisations and Societies our events in 2021 were cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It was therefore pleasing that the visit to Waterperry Gardens, organised by Steph and Rob Jones, went ahead on 4 September.

Instead of the Annual Show we organised a photographic competition and the winner was Charlie Yeomanson with "FROG" which was prominently displayed in *The Link* magazine.

We are currently preparing our programme for 2022 for which the headers are Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 16 March in the Village Hall, to which villagers are welcome to attend.

The annual Outing will take place on Saturday, 11 June with the venue to be confirmed as soon as approved.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday, 20 August at the Village Hall for which programmes will be issued in due course. The photographic competition has been decided and entries in the categories "Trees" and "Petals" will be welcomed.

Hopefully we will be able to reintroduce our Christmas Social, details for which will be advertised in *The Link* magazine.

Due to retirements and resignations our Committee strength has been reduced to nine. All members continue to manage the Society with knowledge and enthusiasm although it would be beneficial to recruit a few more members to ease workloads. If there is interest, please contact the Chairman, Brian Melling, or the Secretary, Stephanie Jones, when more details about our Society can be discussed.

Plans are in Progress with the Parish Council to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. The Society will participate in the celebrations although the array of vegetables and flowers, particularly dahlias will not be ready for a meaningful display in June. These will be displayed as usual in August.

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Community Live!

Councillor Stephanie Allison, Organiser

This new annual clubs meet-up, inspired by the French *Vie Associative*, started up the first Saturday of September 2021 and is booked in again for September 2022.

Nearly 30 clubs set up stalls in and around the Village Hall to showcase their activities to attract new members. Cakes were served up by the WI and enjoyed in the garden while pop up displays of dancing, singing, goal shooting and wet sponge throwing provided entertainment.

Clubs included: the WI, Warwick and Leamington Beekeepers, Viva, LW Sports club football and cricket sections, the Kenilworth Rugby Club, Scouts and Guides, Closer Look at Nature, the LW Horticultural Society, the LW History Grop, All Saints' Church, the Ladakh and Tibetan Society, Scottish Dancing, the RNLI, Pop Voices, LW and Ashow Handbells, Relax Kids, the Talisman Theatre, Tom Prince Piano, KPC Therapy Centre, Warwickshire Golf Club, Young at Heart, Relax Kids, Kenilworth Art Club, Church Bell Ringers and other clubs represented at the Club Hub information kiosk run by Jill Coates.

Next time we hope to have some new clubs and organisations joining such as the Police, Clay Pigeon Shooting and Boot Camp!

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Summer Fête Committee

Stephanie Allison, Committee Member

No Summer Fêtes were held in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in 2022 we are looking forward to the opportunity to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

The Big Jubilee Lunch: Sunday, 5 June 2022

Planning is underway to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the four-day bank holiday weekend 2-5 June 2022 with a big lunch on the Sunday. Combined with summer fête-type activities, this picnic-style lunch is a chance for people to celebrate not only our inspirational figurehead, but also our community having the freedom to gather once again after COVID restrictions.

Planned are barbecued nosh and beer, homemade cakes and tea, hay bales and bunting. Entertainment plans include a silver band, terrier racing and a best dog show, a tug-of-war, a family treasure hunt you can download on your phone, cricket-, football- and golf-themed games as well as traditional garden games, crafts and an art tent.

Leek Wootton History Group

Lesley Eldridge, Secretary/Treasurer

The History Group continues to contribute material to *The Link* for most editions and throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic has responded to a variety of enquiries, sometimes being able to liaise between a person with some answers and the enquirer.

The past year, rather like other recent years, has been quiet due to the lack of activities in the parish, but the Group provided a stand for the Community Live event in September 2021, which was well received and a number of visitors spoke with us about local history.

We are looking forward to being able to contribute to the celebrations around the historic Platinum Anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

Leek Wootton Link

Lesley Eldridge, Co-Editor

The past year has been severely hampered for everyone by the COVID 19 pandemic, but *The Link* has continued to provide a monthly update to the parish of activities in the community and other news relevant to our readers. *The Link* continues to grow in strength with more pages (at times) and more content.

Unfortunately, like many other things, the cost of printing is increasing, but thanks to the advertisers and generous donations from many readers, we are confident that we will be able to continue to provide the quality of magazine that we are currently producing. Also, the GiftAid that many donors commit to is bolstering our income and we thank all those good enough to donate. We hope that the quality of the product and information provided will encourage even more of our readers to donate.

We must thank all our contributors, distribution organiser and distributors again for their ongoing assistance.

Leek Wootton Sports Club

Graeme Couchman, President

Leek Wootton Sports Club comprises the cricket club and the football club and is also used by other local groups such as Bridge and Young at Heart. It is regularly used for social gatherings around pool, darts, bingo and skittles as well as fundraising quiz nights and special talks with guest speakers.

Over the last season, the football section continued to flourish with over 180 children. The main challenge is lack of space and a need to find more pitches; this has been heightened by the imminent closure of Castle Farm which will leave four teams with nowhere to play. The football section is looking for any support that can be given.

The cricket section is growing with over 70 children coached and teams for every ability. Sunday adult matches boast an age range from 80 to 11. The cricket club is hoping to have new nets this year.

The Sports Club Committee is looking for enthusiastic people interested in sport and particularly those with marketing or finance experience.

Leek Wootton Toddler & Baby Group

Janet Jackson, Contact

This valuable village community group meets in the Village Hall on Thursdays (term-time) 10:00-11:30am.

It takes place as there continues to be a participant who will take a 'lead' role which at present is Cheryl Flounders, a number of those who come along are willing to ensure the Hall is open, activities are put out and there is provision for refreshments, Clare Wragg still acts as Group Treasurer and Janet Jackson supports as needed.

There is a warm welcome for parents, grandparents and carers and babies to pre-schoolers. To keep going the Group also needs to advertise well such as through recommendation, All Saints' Church, 'Toddle Magazine' and Facebook.com/Baby & Toddler Group – Leek Wootton.

Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd

Ian Watson, Chairman

Leek Wootton Village Hall provides a facility for the use of the inhabitants and employees within the Parish of Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe and the local area. The Hall is used for meetings, parties, community suppers, flower shows, as well as providing a regular venue for playgroups, scouting groups, dancing classes and many more clubs and societies. The hirers include parish organisations and charities, groups for adults, youngsters and children.

The Village Hall has been closed at various times over the last year to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and is now fully open in accordance with Government guidelines.

Leek Wootton Village Hall Ltd is a limited company charity with Trustees who are unpaid Directors. The Hall is managed by the Leek Wootton Village Hall Committee. This is made up of the Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer; other Trustees/Directors; the Booking Secretary; a representative from each of the parish organisations/user groups and elected members who provide particular assistance.

We are always looking for volunteers to help manage and maintain the Village Hall so if you would like to assist and join the Committee, please contact us.

To enquire about availability or to make a booking, please contact the Booking Secretary, Mrs S Fewtrill.

t : 01926 409641 (after 4:00pm) / e : lvvh@outlook.com

Hire Rates

Main Hall	Parish Organisations / Events	Other Parish Users	Non-Parish Users
Category 1 Monday to Friday 9:00am -6:00pm	£7.50 per hour	£11.50 per hour	£16.00 per hour
Category 2 Monday to Thursday 6:00pm -11:00pm	£7.50 per hour	£12.50 per hour	£17.00 per hour
Category 3 Friday 6:00pm -11:00pm Saturday/Sunday	By arrangement	£14.50 per hour	£20.00 per hour
Committee Room			
	Parish Users	Non-Parish Users	
Maximum 20 Persons	£7.00 per hour	£9.00 per hour	

Full day rates at Committee's discretion.

An additional charge of £15 is payable for use of the cooker (gas hob and electric oven), dishwasher and heated cabinet.

A 30-minute setting-up charge and 30 min clearing-up charge is added to ALL bookings for the Main Hall (except for regular parish users). Entry/use of the hall is for the hired period only.

Hire of the Main Hall includes access to the kitchen, toilets and the storeroom (for the tables and chairs), but not to the first floor Committee Room.

Hire of the Committee Room includes access to the kitchen and toilets only (if appropriate at the discretion of the Booking Secretary).

Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground

No report received

Leek Wootton Women's Institute

Lesley Kirkwood, President

Due to the COVID pandemic our meetings, events and activities were heavily curtailed during the past year.

However, a number of walks were arranged and our reading group meetings were held both in person and via *Zoom*, whilst complying with COVID restrictions.

The County Federation was very active and supported our local WI, with advice, welfare and organised many *Zoom* events.

These were very good, but of course were no replacement for our in person meetings, which have finally resumed with our February 2022 meeting.

Our current membership numbers 61 and we are confident that our numbers will remain at a good level over the next year.

We are hopeful that COVID restrictions remain at their current level and we can look forward to a full and interesting programme in 2022.

The Leigh Educational Foundation

No report received

Macmillan Cancer Support, Leek Wootton

Roselyn Commander, Chairman

We have had a very quiet beginning to the year. Sadly, we felt we had to cancel our St George's Day Dinner at The Anchor, due to the concern of the rapid spread of COVID at another function.

The Committee is now concentrating on our summer lunch at the Village Hall on 1 July. We shall also be holding our Macmillan coffee morning on 4 November and lastly, our biggest fund raiser, The Fashion Show to be held at The Warwickshire Golf Club on 28 September.

Let's hope for a more normal life next year.

Mothers' Union, All Saints' Branch

Janet Jackson, Contact

All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton's Mothers' Union Friendship Group is linked to Mothers' Union Worldwide as it supports family life, women and communities. Annual membership subscriptions help to support MU's work and most months we plan a walk from church together.

Individual members in everyday life endeavour to support community life and have been helping with activities such as Leek Wootton Baby & Toddler group, fundraising through sponsored litter-picking locally for the 'Away From It All' holidays outings appeal, providing gifts for the 'Teams 4U Shoebox Appeal' also Goody Bags and 'Hug in a Mug' for mums

admin@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Sonia Scrimshire, Hill Wootton NW Coordinator

Hill Wootton NW has an excellent network; we keep an eye out for one another/property and I am duly notified of anything suspicious or of any local reported incidents. Hill Wootton has a number of unoccupied buildings and in January the Royal Mail post box was stolen.

I work closely with my counterpart in Leek Wootton to work towards a strong community-wide network.

Prior to COVID and to the departure of our former Safer Neighbourhoods Team [SNT] representative, we enjoyed close communication with the Police. PC Paul Coleman was a familiar face within the SNT / NW network locally and was most supportive and we hope, post-pandemic, we can re-establish this valuable link.

Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team, Warwick Rural West

No report received
