

# Wootton Village Newsletter

## Wootton Village Hall

For bookings and enquiries contact Shelly Chapman on 01469 531229 or via Facebook Wootton Village Hall or [email den2121shelc@hotmail.com](mailto:email_den2121shelc@hotmail.com)

### Village Hall Events

Monday - Indoor Bowls 7-9.00pm (Oct-Apr). Contact via Shelly Chapman

Tuesday – Thornton Curtis WI 7-9pm (2nd Tuesday of the month).

Thursday - Indoor Bowls 7-9.00pm (Oct-Apr). Contact via Shelly Chapman

Friday - 9.00am-10am HIIT Classes with Clare Clark (Facebook page Fitness with Clare Clark)

Wootton Village Hall on Swallow Lane is available to hire for all occasions. It's a generous space with a raised stage, tables and chairs, making it easy to create theatre style or relaxed party layouts. A separate kitchen area with serving hatch means it's also ideal for catering events and bars. Hall hire is £40 for the first 2 hours then £10 an hour after this and includes use of all facilities (kitchen, tables chairs etc.).

You can support Wootton Village Hall through Lincs Lotto, tickets are available at [www.lincslotto.co.uk](http://www.lincslotto.co.uk) New committee members are welcome, please contact Shelly if you'd like to join.

**Thornton Curtis WI** meets at Wootton Village Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm. Members come from surrounding villages including Wootton, Ulceby, Thornton, Barrow and Barton. A fee of £4 is charged for visitors or you can become a member for an annual fee of £43. Visitors and new members are always welcome. The next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> February; The Garden Club – Making a Corsage. Please note that the March meeting is the AGM for members only. The WI is a non-profit making charity. For more details contact Margaret on 01469 588395 or Lynn on 01469 530254.

## Saint Andrews Church, Wootton

St Andrew's Wootton is now one of six churches (Wootton, Thornton Curtis, Ulceby, North Killingholme, East Halton and Habrough) forming the Abbey Group which is part of the Deanery of Haverstoe. The Reverend Peter J Green is our new vicar. Please contact him with reference to Christenings, Marriages & Funerals (01469) 589525 or by email [vicarabbeygroup@gmail.com](mailto:vicarabbeygroup@gmail.com)

Wootton will continue to have services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month starting at **a new time of 9.15am** The next services will be the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

- The school are having a service in church on Ash Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 10am.
- Friday 3rd April School Easter service 2:30pm
- Munday Thursday 9th April Holy Communion 7:00pm
- Easter Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 9.15am

# Wootton Parish Council

Funding has now been received for work to the trees around the pond and on the island. This will commence as soon as the contractor is able. The public meeting held (regarding the pond) in November concluded with residents agreeing that a regular maintenance program should be put into place but due to the lack of volunteers able to provide any assistance with this, funding would have to be through donations, funding and the precept. If there are any residents who were unable to attend but are able to create an active pond maintenance sub-committee, whether for fundraising, maintenance or both, please let one of your parish councillors know. It is understood that apart from the 3 clumps of lilies left in the pond for vital shelter for the fish, that there will be some smaller lily growth this coming summer. We were advised that these should be quite easy to pull out and should not be left to re-establish. It is also envisaged that the truck-saw contractors may have to be asked to return occasionally.

Road surface repairs within the village have been chased up with NLC.

Inconsiderate parking within the village remains a problem. Please think of others; are you blocking the path for pushchairs, can your neighbours across the road safely exit their drive, are you causing a safety hazard near the school or blocking a driveway? The Highway code states you must not park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction.

Most dog owners in the village are very conscientious and clean up after their dog but there's an increasing problem with fouling. This is upsetting for all, especially those responsible dog owners that live in the village., it's illegal and there are hefty fines. If you witness dog fouling, it can be reported to the Environmental Crime Department at the North Lincolnshire Council via the website or call 01724 297000. A special thank you to the resident who has placed handy bags in bottles around the village for forgetful dog walkers – please respect their wishes and don't abuse this kind gesture. If you take one please replace it next time you pass.

The meetings regarding development on the field by Lincolnshire Estates Ltd were well attended and residents' comments have been noted. Parish councillors are listening, but cannot comment on these matters until the plans are submitted to them by NLC. If/when this happens, we will endeavour to inform all residents to enable everyone to express their views.

The next parish council meeting will be at 7pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> February in the school house.

At every meeting there is an opportunity for any members of the public present to make comments about the agenda items, for a maximum of 15 minutes total, prior to the commencement of the parish council meeting.

Details of all your local representatives can be found on the notice board by the pond as well as at [www.woottonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.woottonparishcouncil.co.uk) You can also contact Karen - the clerk to the parish council by email on [adair1@btinternet.com](mailto:adair1@btinternet.com)

The number for general North Lincolnshire Council enquires is 01724 297000 and the out of hours number for NLC Emergencies is 01724 276444

# The Nags Head at Wootton

Special dates for your diary include:-

- Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> – Burns Night – Whisky tasting night – six/seven whiskies plus nibbles only £20 per person.
- Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> – Northern Soul artist Jimmy Dee 9pm start.
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February – Female solo artist Emma Kelsey.
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Gin tasting night – always a superb night with six/seven special gins plus nibble for only £20.
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Female singer Jo Jo.
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Return of popular band Adrenalin.
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Local super duo – Cardee.

Sunday carvery sittings at 12 - 3pm and 4.30 - 6pm. A special reduced price and free delivery to pensioners in the village, please call in advance to book.

Keep an eye out for other information in “The Monthly Nag” on Facebook at [thenagsheadwootton](https://www.facebook.com/thenagsheadwootton)  
Tel: 01469 588253 Email: [thenagsheadwootton@hotmail.com](mailto:thenagsheadwootton@hotmail.com) and website  
[www.thenagsheadwootton.co.uk](http://www.thenagsheadwootton.co.uk)

## Wootton Saint Andrews CoE School

We had a very busy Autumn Term at Wootton St Andrew’s School.

The Christmas productions were absolutely wonderful and the children performed with pride and enthusiasm. It is such a lovely way to kick start the festive season. Many thanks go to all parents, friends and other family members who helped children learn lines and provided costumes as without the support the shows would not be so magnificent.

The school had a visit from Ofsted at the end of November and we are very pleased to report that our last inspection grades remain the same so we continue to be good with outstanding features. The report states, ‘Pupils are happy at school.... They enjoy coming to school.... Pupils are kind to one another....Relationships with parents and carers are very strong.’ We always strive to do our very best and offer an effective and enjoyable curriculum.

Thank you to those who joined us for the carol service. Y6 did a superb job in leading the service. Our Easter service will be held at **St Andrew’s Church on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2.30pm**. All are welcome!

To contact the school office call 01469 588361 or email [admin.wootton@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:admin.wootton@northlincs.gov.uk).

**If anyone has any historical information about the village that we can share, please drop Sally a note – details below.**

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Information collated within this newsletter has been provided by the Parish Council, the Church, the School, the Village Hall and the Nags Head. It has been funded by the Parish Council. If you have a village event for future inclusion, please email [sally@snakedavis.rocks](mailto:sally@snakedavis.rocks) 53 High Street, Wootton.

# Thumbs Up: A Roman linchpin from Wootton

by Adam Parker



A linchpin dating to the Roman period (1<sup>st</sup>-early 5<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD) was discovered by an agricultural worker in a field in Wootton in the 1980s. A linchpin is a pin that passed through the axle of a cart or chariot to hold a wheel in place. The pin has an unusually decorated head, depicting a human thumb. It was reported



to the academic community in an article in 1988 and has been in the collection of the North Lincolnshire Museum (Scunthorpe) ever since.

Recent research by myself, an archaeologist and PhD Student now based in Barton-upon-Humber, and my colleague Stuart McKie has shown that the linchpin is unique in Roman Britain and probably possessed important magical qualities alongside its pragmatic function. I first became aware of the pin whilst briefly a resident of Wootton (2017-2018) and was amazed to find that one of very few Roman objects from Wootton was relevant to my PhD studies into Roman magic! There have also been at least twelve Roman coins found in the fields surrounding the village.

The object consists of an iron shank with a large, curved head in copper alloy covering it. The curve of the flange would have sat on top of the fixed axle and the human thumb was thus making a 'thumbs up' sign towards it. It really is an unusual thing. In Roman Britain, hands and fingers were used to make many gestures that may have been considered lucky or used to ward off evil, the commonest of which involved tucking the thumb under the forefinger to make the *manus fica* ('fig sign'). Holding onto the thumb was used as a component of several magical spells. An extract from a Roman spellbook (the *Papyri Graecae Magicae*) gives these instructions: "A charm to restrain anger and charm for success. No charm is greater, and it is to be performed by means of words alone: hold your thumbs and repeat the spell seven times: 'ermalloth archimalloth stop the mouths that speak against me, because I glorify your sacred and honoured names which are in heaven.'"

The thumb pointed towards the axle to add supernatural protection to the mundane function of the linchpin and intended to help prevent the wheel falling off or getting stuck. It probably formed part of a four-wheeled cart used as a sort of Roman taxi-service. The nearest Roman road was 5km south-west of the modern village, so how it ended up in a field in Wootton we simply do not know.

Information and photographs kindly provided by Adam Parker. More information can be found at his website, Roman Magic [www.romanmagic.wordpress.com](http://www.romanmagic.wordpress.com) click on December 2017. The artefact is in the Roman collection of the North Lincolnshire Museum in Scunthorpe.