

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

TheVillageNews

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025



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WESTON SOCIETY

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FOOTPATH WARDEN

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From the editor

As I write this in the sweltering heat with Wimbledon on in the background, schools just about to break up and the long summer holidays ahead, it's hard to think of the chillier months which are just around the corner but there's so many wonderful events going on in Weston in the later part of the year that I can't help but bend my mind to these.

Back in June, the Village Hall's Pimm's and Prosecco evening was a fantastic way of heralding the start of the summer and although things slightly slow down in August, there's plenty happening in September to look forward to, with the Garden Club's Autumn show, the annual Aunt Sally and pop-up pub evening plus the Harvest Lunch to name but three – check out the posters and Dates for the Diary to see what's in store later on.

On a much sadder note, I was extremely sorry to hear of the death of Jean Godwin in early July. A much-loved figure in Weston, she will be sorely missed by friends and family.

Whatever the weather brings over the next few weeks, I hope you all have very enjoyable summer holidays.

Alisa



Photo: Annie Cooper

**Deadline for October/November edition:
4TH SEPTEMBER 2025**



From the Rector

Gareth Miller

*Rector of the Akeman Benefice
and Area Dean of Bicester & Islip*

I am writing this on the 20th anniversary of the 7/7 bombings in London. I just caught a snippet on the radio of the memorial service in St Paul's Cathedral.

We hardly need reminding of the atrocities that can be perpetrated by man against man (and it is sobering that it is usually – though not always – MEN who are the source of violent thoughts and actions). The events in Gaza, not to mention Ukraine, serve up a daily shock to our sensibilities and consciences. Even at the local level, one notices a discernible increase in levels of incivility. More than once recently I have been honked at or had two fingers raised at me for driving within the speed limit! For all the evils around us, and

for all the worries about levels of poverty and social exclusion, it is worth bearing in mind that – generally speaking – health and wealth across the globe are on an upward trajectory. In our own country, although life expectancy figures have dropped a little in recent years, the number of people living well beyond 90 is greater than it ever has been.

This should not make us complacent. It is well known, for example, that while the numbers of elderly are increasing, the number of those fit and capable of looking after them is diminishing.

It is good that, by and large, we have good health care systems in our area and, as far as I can

tell, pretty good community care. But it is easy to turn a blind eye to pockets of need, and in some cases real poverty, even in this fairly affluent part of the world. Our village communities are not monochrome, and I am regularly made aware of people who face major struggles with disability, sickness, childcare, loneliness, bereavement, and many other things. As churches we cannot respond to every need, but we do try to be a caring presence. If you know someone who needs a listening ear, or some other kind of support, do let us know.

Gareth

The PCC owes a huge debt of gratitude to Eric Bohm for his service as Churchwarden. He has performed his duties with his customary efficiency and aplomb, blended with a rather wry sense of humour and Canadian wit! He has had to deal with several thorny issues, while at the same time endeavouring to get the church's finances on a firmer footing. Eric's approach has always been outward-looking, seeking to make the local church a place of welcome and engagement. While battling with ill-health, Eric has continued to stay on top of issues and concerned about other people. We wish him a happy retirement from his official duties, and are grateful and relieved that he has agreed to carry on as treasurer!

St Mary's Church, Weston on the Green warmly invites you to join in our services in August and September

3rd August	11:00	Café Church
10th August	11:00	Holy Communion, Chesterton
17th August	11:00	Holy Communion
	15:00	'3 at 3' Family Service, Bletchington
24th August	17:00	Hymns and Pimm's
31st August	10:00	Benefice Service, Chesterton
7th September	11:00	Morning Worship
14th September	11:00	Holy Communion and Baptism, Chesterton
21st September	11:00	Harvest Communion
28th September	10:00	Benefice Service, Kirtlington

Please note: the times are subject to change. The monthly schedule is posted on the front door of the church as well as the bulletin box at the East gate.

For other services across the Akeman Benefice please visit:
<https://www.akemanbenefice.org.uk/church-services>

From the Register

Funeral: 4th June 2025 Albert John Fulcher

Church news

We held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 30th April, with an excellent turn out. It was here that we officially said farewell to Eric Bohm as a churchwarden.



We are incredibly grateful for all his hard work for the PCC and you can find a tribute from the Rector on the opposite page. We welcome Louise Talbot onto the PCC and thank her for all her tireless support thus far.

We are very lucky to have a new team of 'Church Mice Cleaners' who are keeping the church spick and span. These include Mandy Jones, Emma Bernard, Louise Talbot, Toddy Hamilton-Gould and Tracy Johnson-Hoy. We are especially grateful to Toddy and Tracy who completed a deep clean of the kitchen! Huge thanks also go to Alison, Louise and Sally Brown who are kindly looking after the church flowers.

Peter Driver hosted a drinks and nibbles evening in the church on Saturday 31st May, a lovely way to use our beautiful church space.

The church is open every day of the year. Please do go in, help yourself to a drink, use the facilities, enjoy the cool temperatures and the peace and quiet over the (hopefully) hot Summer months.

Nicky Donne



BENEFICE NEWS

VJ Day

Kirtlington will be commemorating VJ Day with a bring-and-share tea in the church at 16:00 on 17th August, to include the singing of some war-time songs. The afternoon will finish with Evensong for those who wish to stay at 18:00. Do come along, and bring an item of food to put on the common table.

Hymns and Pimm's

24th August, 5.00 pm. Another name for Songs of Praise (but you do get a glass of Pimm's afterwards!) this is a chance for people to come along to an informal service and choose a favourite hymn. We extend a special invitation to those who help behind the scenes – the noble army of flower arrangers, cleaners, singers,

bell-ringers, churchyard-mowers, and many others.

The Harvest Service

will be on 21st September at 11.00 am followed by the Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall.

Re-dedication of Wendlebury Church

Following its refurbishment, Wendlebury Church will be re-dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester during the harvest service on 21st September at 3.30 pm

Oxford Male Voice Choir

will be performing in Kirtlington Church on Saturday 27th September at 4.00 pm.

Akeman Benefice visit to Swedish Link Parish



At Växjö Cathedral with Dean Thomas Wärfman and Bishop Olivia Graham

On 12th June nine people, mostly from the Akeman Benefice and Bicester and Islip Deanery, enjoyed a six-day visit to the parish of Mönsterås with Fliseryd. This parish within the Kalmar County of Sweden has been linked with the Akeman Benefice for seven years and is part of the Växjö Diocese with which Oxford Diocese has been twinned since 2003. The Reverend Gareth Miller, team Rector of the Benefice and Area Dean, organised the visit along with the Reverend Magnus Johansson and his team from the Swedish parish. The two parishes have been alternating visits to each other since their twinning.

The trip, which was more like a pilgrimage, was a wonderful mixture of time spent in churches and cathedrals, enjoying hospitality and appreciating the space, forest roads, colourful architecture and the peace of the Baltic Coast.

On our first evening we visited the daughter church of Fliseryd for a Lutheran Eucharist for Pentecost with a joyful choir and atmospheric red lighting within the sanctuary.

The next day our group explored the little town of Mönsterås and walked along the estuary of the Baltic Sea. We visited the parish's beautiful woodland chapel and burial grounds with a newly built barn that houses several tractors

and farm machinery and were invited to a delightful woodland walk and tea with two parishioners from Fliseryd.

One of the many highlights of our visit was the day spent in Växjö where we were struck by the beautiful exterior of the Cathedral with its russet colour paint. Thomas Wärfman, the Domprost (Dean), gave us a tour of the interior with its unusual font and altar triptych and a prayer station in the form of the Tree of Life.

On Sunday morning we worshipped at Mönsterås Church where the clergy in our team were invited to participate in the Eucharist. Once again, we enjoyed the generous hospitality of the parish by being invited to lunch in



Sunday Eucharist in Mönsterås Church: Magnus Johansson, Gareth Miller, Michael Kingston, Diana Glover

the Parish House and an evening barbecue outside one of the parish retreat houses at Tallviken on the coast.

Our last full day was spent in Kalmar where we visited the magnificent castle overlooking the coast, spent time in the baroque cathedral, and made a trip over to the long island of Öland where we were entertained to the traditional 'fika' coffee break in the grounds of another stunning retreat house.

A visit to the beautiful city of Stockholm was arranged as part of our journey home. This included seeing inside the Riddarholmen Church where many of the kings and queens of Sweden are buried.



Magnus Johansson with ordinand Rasmus

We visited the Cathedral with its magnificent statue of George slaying the dragon and also crossed by ferry to the Vasa Museum with its preserved 17th century ship that sank in 1628.

During our time in Sweden not only did we get to know each other as a group of pilgrims but also established continuing and new friendships with our hosts who were generous and open in their invitation to us to participate in the life of their church. It was particularly uplifting to experience Lutheran worship in Sweden - a combination of formal ritual, joyful music and inclusive welcome.

Diana Glover

Chair's comments

Readers will have noticed that I regularly refer to the pace of change in planning and Cherwell District Council's urgency for a Local Plan to 2042 to be accepted. The current issue is the Unitary Council agenda from central government, the seemingly rushed timetable and the effect on our village.

The government has plans to simplify local councils and abolish the two-tier system which in our case is Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Cherwell District Council (CDC). The last major government organisation was in 1974, and a simpler model is felt to be needed. Districts and the County were asked to submit provisional proposals based on rather hurried discussions and no consultation with the parishes earlier in the year. We were made aware of some of the detail of this at the OCC day for parish councils reported in the last issue of this magazine. Further detail has now emerged and is now openly discussed at all levels of local government. There is yet no specific consultation for parishes but this Parish Council is in discussion and sharing our views with OCC and CDC councillors.

There are three options:

- A Greater Oxford Council –

comprising Oxford on expanded boundaries

- A Northern Oxfordshire Council – comprising much of the existing West Oxfordshire and Cherwell districts
- Ridgeway Council – comprising much of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts combined with existing West Berkshire unitary

A greater Oxford council as proposed by Oxford City

(Excerpts taken from an article proposed the Oxford and surrounding area model as the preferred choice for Oxford City written by Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of Oxford City Council.)

Oxford City Council's current administrative boundaries are drawn tightly around the city's existing housing estates and business parks. The conurbation continues to expand, and the city exerts a gravitational influence on surrounding areas which make use of both the work and leisure facilities it offers. But there is little available space to meet the significant demand for new housing, office space, laboratories, leisure facilities and more.

A greater Oxford council (which would include many rural villages including Weston on the Green),

would enable the creation of an additional 43,000-67,000 new homes by 2040 – 40% of which (17,200-26,800 homes) under our current local planning policies would be council homes.

There are sites outside the city in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire already allocated to provide additional housing to meet Oxford's need. A unitary based on the city with expanded boundaries could take charge of some of these sites, ensure that land is used efficiently, increasing density where appropriate to produce well-planned new communities. It would also release Grey Belt land as the Government has directed. It is anticipated that city-adjacent housing sites would be built to higher density low-rise development – which would help reduce pressure on additional housing around existing villages.

Oxford has one of the UK's most successful local economies:

- A net contributor to the Exchequer – generating £7.6bn annually
- Ranked the top performing city in the UK by PwC in 2023 and 2024
- Fifth in the UK for attracting overseas investment

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Planning update

Planning applications relating to the parish are discussed at each Parish Council meeting and a report is placed on the Parish Council website. Full information regarding each application is available via the Planning and Building section on the Cherwell District Council website.

BUILDING APPLICATIONS:

Decisions Received – Permitted

25/00931/F – Oak View,
Northampton Road

25/00660/DISC – Forge Farm

Decisions Received – Refused

None

Withdrawn

25/00583/LB – Williams Cottage,
North Lane

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of replacement single-storey outbuilding, garden shed and associated landscaping.

Applications – Awaiting Decision

25/00139/F – Part of OS Parcel
0006 Adjacent and North of
Normandy, North Lane

Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of five detached single and two-storey dwellings together with access, parking and garaging, amenity space, landscaping and drainage works.

25/00449/REM – Reynards Lodge,
North Lane

Reserved Matters application to
24/00804/OUT – Access (with
Construction Traffic Management
Plan), Layout (with part drainage),
Scale, Appearance, Landscaping
and Biodiversity (with Construction
Environment Management Plan).



25/00356/DISC – Kelberg Ltd,
Northampton Road
Discharge of Conditions 3
(construction management
strategy), 4 (Arboricultural Method
Statement), 5 (surface water
drainage), 6 (biodiversity method
statement) and 8 (lighting details) of
24/00893/F.

25/00418/F and 25/00486/LB – The
Manor Hotel, Northampton Road
Restoration and extension of
Rupert's Cottage to provide
additional guest accommodation
and leisure facilities; re-instatement
of the former outdoor swimming
pool; construction of a new events
pavilion; restaurant extension
within the Manor's west courtyard;
relocation of guest car parking away
from the Manor's principal elevation;
screening of the existing plant and
biomass boiler area; restoration of
wider landscape features including
the historic moat and bridge.

25/01127/F – Summer Court, North
Lane

Demolish existing side extension
and erect two storey side and single
storey rear extension.

25/00582/F – Williams Cottage,
North Lane

Demolition of existing outbuilding
and erection of replacement single-
storey outbuilding, garden shed and
associated landscaping.

25/01418/F – Family Farm House
Part Of A34

Driver rest stop facility including the
formation of a new entry and exit
slip road adjoining the A34, parking
area for cars and HGVs, erection of
an amenity building (including toilets
and catering area), EV charging
station, solar PV array, battery
storage facility, other ancillary
structures/buildings and landscaped
amenity area.

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Yet much more economic growth could be unlocked as there is huge unmet demand for lab, innovation and office space in Oxford. There will be further opportunities for local and regional supply chain businesses, high demand for construction and retrofit skills, and new demand within key sectors such as hospitality and leisure to support an expanded workforce and pace of business.

We want to ensure that as Oxford's economy expands and grows, that local people gain from that growth and don't lose out. They need to get job and training opportunities at all levels.

Oxford City Council is currently working through different boundary options, considering local geography, economic and transport links, and the Green Belt and will be engaging with stakeholders, residents, and businesses in the city and neighbouring areas.

Service transformation and efficiencies

The creation of a greater Oxford council would enable the joining up and improved services that are currently split between Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council, including council housing and social care, and planning and transport.

A new central Oxfordshire unitary council would reflect local identities, bringing the design and delivery of these services much closer to local residents than the current countywide decision-making on services such as transport. Improving bus services into the city from neighbouring villages would be a priority for the new council.

A greater focus on prevention and ensuring access to good jobs would be central to tackling the inequalities that drive pressure on the social care system. Partnerships are key – a greater Oxford council would work with institutions, businesses and grassroots

organisations to prioritise action on inequalities, like health issues, supporting young people, ensuring community safety.

Pixel Financial, a local government finance consultancy, has estimated annual savings of between £18m and £27m are achievable across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire by reducing council expenditure through the creation of the three unitary councils.

A greater Oxford unitary would be financially robust, inheriting the "Oxford Model" with significant assets and wholly owned companies that deliver services for the council and private clients and generate income.

Devolution

Alongside local government reorganisation, the government also wants to create new directly elected mayors across all regions of England.

The government plans to devolve powers and money to the mayors, who would lead Mayoral Strategic Authorities to coordinate housing, transport and economic growth across the region. A greater Oxford council on expanded boundaries would give the city a powerful voice at the Mayoral Strategic Authority.

Three unitaries for Oxfordshire would also give the county three seats on the Mayoral Board – to balance Berkshire having up to six seats, including Reading and Slough.

Initial surveys

In February, Oxford City Council carried out a survey on the interim proposals using its Residents' Panel. The panel is a representative sample of Oxford residents managed on the Council's behalf by independent polling company Beehive.

The survey, which had 266 responses, found:

- 82% think the current two-tier local government arrangements could be improved; 7% disagreed
- 67% think councils should not be too large, so they better meet

the needs of local residents; 11% disagreed

- 61% think a single council covering the greater Oxford area would best meet the needs of residents; 17% disagreed
- 37% think a single council covering the whole of Oxfordshire would best meet the needs of residents; 40% disagreed

The Council has also been engaging with stakeholders about the proposals, including Oxford businesses, universities, civic organisations, parish councils and MPs. *(Readers will note that Parish Councils were not included in these discussions.)*

For more information about the local government reorganisation proposals and a map of the area around Oxford that would be included, visit the A greater Oxford webpage: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/future-local-government/greater-oxford>
(end of excerpt)

Other unitary proposals

I've spent some time giving Oxford City's own description of their plan as it seems to have a dramatic effect on our parish.

However, there are other options as described by Oxfordshire County Council:

1. A single unitary council for Oxfordshire - Oxfordshire Council (responsible for all services to Oxfordshire residents). This is OCC preferred option.
2. Two unitary councils: (This is Cherwell's preferred option) Oxford and Shires Council (previously referenced as North Oxfordshire Council) created from the existing district councils of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire. Ridgeway Council created from the existing district councils of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and the unitary council of West Berkshire.
3. Three unitary councils – with a unitary city on expanded

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boundaries (referred to as Greater Oxford) as well as northern and southern unitaries, also including West Berkshire.

The final proposal will be submitted to Government by 28th November 2025. The Government will then decide what form unitarisation will take in Oxfordshire.

All Oxfordshire councils, with other partners, will continue collaborating to propose a mayoral strategic authority to government as part of the national programme of devolution.

Conclusion

This is a summary of what is

proposed with preferences stated for Oxford City, Cherwell and Oxfordshire County Council. It is a lot to digest, and parishes have a minor say in the outcome. The Parish Council has had a chance to feed in our ideas on several surveys on up until the end of July.

Other than that, we can but wait for the outcome.

There is no doubt that there will be many changes in the area over this parliament. The Parish Council will do its best to respond to all queries, make representations at meetings and refer back to the village.

resident of the village, is coaching a football team and using our playing field. It is welcome news that two of the players are from this village. Hopefully, this is a start of parents engaging in sports with the youngsters of the village.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Village gates need to be painted
- Some benches to be painted
- Spinney is to be cleared of nettles

Please contact myself or the clerk should you be able to lend a hand.

Diane

FOOTBALL

It is great news that Nick Collage, a



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OXFORD TRAVEL options

New website launches

**Travel info: Travelling
in and out of Oxford**

Low Carbon Oxford North are excited to launch the new Oxford Travel Options website (<https://www.oxfordtravelloptions.co.uk>), in partnership with the Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership, offering travel information, advice and inspiration for anyone who lives in, works in or visits Oxford – all in one place.

The site makes it easier to access the huge variety of resources and services Oxford offers in support of sustainable travel, bringing together info about buses, bikes, walking, Park and Rides, lift-sharing and scooting. It has lots of clear information covering everything from different bus tickets to the best bike routes, from wheelchair bus access to cargo bike hire, and from lift share apps to online journey planners, as well as advice for employers on supporting staff travel.



We have quite a lot of good news to share with our members and community as we mark the completion of our first three months of trading as a community-owned Shop and Post Office!

Shop Manager Appointment

We are pleased to announce that Samantha Boshier, a very familiar and friendly face to anyone visiting the Shop, has taken on the role of



Sam Boshier, the new Shop Manager

Shop Manager. Sam has the full support of the committee and staff and we're excited to work with her in her new role.

Sam said 'I'm absolutely thrilled to be appointed as manager of Weston Community Shop & Post Office. Despite not living in the village, I very much feel like a member of the community, having worked in the shop for the last five and a half years. I also have family links to the village - my grandparents lived in Church Close for decades, my mother grew up here and I have been a regular visitor throughout my life.'

In my new role, you can rest assured that I will be working hard to expand and enhance the range of products and services we provide, whilst maintaining the excellent level of service and welcoming atmosphere that all of our customers know and love. Sam Sharp, the Weston SOS Committee, and the wider community did a great job in pulling together to purchase the shop and I'm looking forward to many exciting changes yet to come! I'd very much welcome any feedback, comments or requests, so please pop in and share your views - I look forward to hearing them!'

You can contact Sam by speaking to her in the Shop, or by emailing manager@westoncommunityshop.com

Committee Involvement

I wish to thank the members of the

committee who have given up so much of their time to support the Shop and staff during these last few months.

New Locally Sourced Products

We've welcomed some new product lines to the Shop - locally produced honey courtesy of BK Apiary and Hillside Honey, along with a selection of jams and chutneys from Ma'amalady's. Let us know what you think!



Shop Renovation Works

We're investigating the possibility and scope of carrying out some repairs and renovation work to the Shop, which will include levelling and re-surfacing the paving in front of the building to create a safer approach as well as additional space for our customers to sit and enjoy some delicious coffee and cake or a sausage roll or two!

We'll keep you updated on the progress of this exciting project.

Sam Sharp, Weston SOS Committee Chairman

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Thank you to all the villagers who joined us at the Hall on a balmy, mid-summer's June evening for our Pimm's and Prosecco event. This relaxed and low-key gathering was perfect for a very warm evening, with the chilled prosecco, and jugs of Pimm's flowing along with good conversation and company. We were delighted that so many could join us and take advantage of the lovely weather.

As we look ahead to the autumn months, the Committee has been busy planning a range of events which we hope will appeal to villagers.

Our next event is the annual Aunt Sally match between the north and south of the village and is taking place on Friday 12th September at 6.30pm. For those of you who are new to the village and/or Oxfordshire, Aunt Sally is a traditional Oxfordshire pub game played by players throwing wooden sticks at a wooden skittle known as a 'dolly' which rests on an iron swivel stake, and dates back as far as the 17th Century. Rumour has it that it was first played at Port Meadow during the Civil War and has been played in the county ever since.

In Weston, we've been holding an Aunt Sally match for the last nine years, and it's always a good evening with lots of good-natured rivalry and fiercely fought rounds! The match is open to all villagers of all ages (no skills are necessary) and everyone is welcome. On the night there will be a licenced bar and Dan's burger van will also be in attendance.

Back by popular demand on Saturday 18th October is the Craft and Food Fair, taking place at the Hall from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. We have lots of wonderful stall holders attending, including Harry Prothero's wood turning, honey from BK Apiary, cakes and treats from BeccaLou Designs, Neal's Yard, Usborne Books, Peck and Feather, Fatimah's Kitchen, Sandie's cards and stationery, and Ma'malady selling jams, chutneys and, of course, marmalade! Please do come along and support our local producers. We will also be selling refreshments, including some lovely cakes, as

a fundraiser for MacMillan Cancer Support throughout the day.

Over the next few weeks we will be adding an additional insect house to the Hall to further increase the wildlife habitats and biodiversity around the garden. We've also planted lots of bee and butterfly-friendly perennials in the border to encourage these visitors. If anyone would like to volunteer to help us maintain the flowerbeds with by carrying out some light weeding and tidying, please could you email us at the Village Hall.

To book for an event or sign up for notifications of forthcoming events, please email us at westonvillagehall@live.co.uk or call us on 350992. As always, thank you for your support.



Saturday 25th October sees an evening of Diwali celebrations, including a three-course meal (including a vegetarian option), a dance performance and other entertainment. Tickets for this event are £15 per adult and £10 per child. We hope you can join us for what promises to be a very special evening.



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We have two fantastic events lined up for November.



Our first event of the month is the Hall's annual firework display on Saturday 1st November at the playing field.

The gates open at 6.30pm with the display starting at 7pm. We are very lucky to have an amazing display courtesy of Mark East (ably supported by Mick!) and we always have a 'pinch me' moment as the first rockets launch and we see such an amazing display right here in Weston.



Wine tasting

Our next November event is taking place at the Hall on Friday 14th November, and is a wine tasting evening, hosted and led by Richard Household of Brompton Wine. Richard holds the WSET Level 4 Diploma, has completed the demanding WSET Educator Programme, and is also a wine judge and a Master of Wine student. Richard strongly believes that wine is to be enjoyed by all, and he will be bringing his knowledge, experience and expertise to Weston. Tickets for this event are £15 per person, and includes the tasting wines, and nibbles. There will also be a chance to buy and order wines on the evening. To book for this event, or the Diwali evening, please email us at westonvillagehall@live.co.uk or call us on 350992.

PHONE BOX LIBRARY

Opening Times for 2025

The phone box is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, from early morning until 4.30 – 5.00 pm when it is then locked up for the night.

Please feel free to borrow a book to read. We only ask that you return it in a good condition for the next person to borrow. Stock will be rotated on a regular basis.

Please could we ask that book donations are not left in the phone box. If you wish to donate books please email westonvillagehall@live.co.uk

Many thanks and happy reading!



250 Club Results

JUNE

1st prize: £90 No 45 Georgina Lamb

2nd prize: £45 No 169 Holly Gaw

3rd prize: £15 No 29 Henry Donne

JULY

1st prize: £18 No 155 David Sweetnam

2nd prize: £12 No 26 Rebecca Thorne

3rd prize: £6 No 115 Mary Warmington



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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Friday 12th September 2025

6.30-11pm at the Village Hall



Pop-Up Pub: Licensed Bar

Annual Aunt Sally Match:

North vs South of the Village

Burger Van

All welcome



A Village Connection to a Very Old Role

John May
High Sheriff of Oxfordshire
2025–26

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD whispers around the village that Weston on the Green has a High Sheriff in its midst this year. That's me – John May – and it's a role I'm thoroughly enjoying and constantly learning from.

The office of High Sheriff is the oldest continuous secular role in the country, dating back over 1,000 years to before the Norman Conquest. In times gone by, High Sheriffs were responsible for law and order across their counties – collecting taxes, raising armies, dispensing justice and, rather grimly, overseeing executions. Thankfully, things have moved on. Today, the role is a voluntary and entirely apolitical one, supporting the Crown and the judiciary, championing local charities, recognising volunteers, and, in my case, placing a particular focus on young people and the challenges they face. The post is unpaid, and I

meet all my own expenses, which means there's no cost at all to the taxpayer; just a great deal of time, energy, and a fair bit of mileage.

So far, the experience has been richly rewarding. One of the joys of the role is its sheer variety. One day, I might be supporting judges at the Crown Court or sitting in on a meeting with the Chief Constable. The next, I could be shaking hands at a youth club, handing out awards at a local ceremony, raising flags with the armed forces, or visiting a school. I've met police officers and prison officers, young offenders and inspirational teachers, charity founders and long-serving volunteers. I've seen first-hand the quiet heroism that underpins so much of life in our county; and I've been humbled by it.

I must admit, part of the fun of the role is donning the traditional Court Dress—a striking outfit of



black velvet with gleaming cut-steel buttons, matching velvet waistcoat and breeches fastened with steel buckles, silk hose, white gloves, and a lace jabot, completed by a smart cocked hat and ceremonial sword. Every detail, from the wild catch of the steel buttons in the light to the careful way the hat is carried rather than worn, connects me physically to centuries of this office. It's a privilege to uphold the dignity and history of an ancient role, and I must confess I rather enjoy the dressing up.

I'm also incredibly lucky to be supported throughout the year by my husband, Mark, who has taken on the role of Chamberlain to the High Sheriff. It's a grand-sounding title, but in truth it mostly means he manages my diary, keeps me pointing in the right direction, makes sure I have the right hat with me, and gently lets me know when I've forgotten someone's name. His calm efficiency, good humour and patience (especially in the face of my frequent costume changes) have made all the difference. I couldn't do it without him.

A particular highlight for me has been a series of Breakfast Conversations I've been hosting across Oxfordshire – from Banbury to Blackbird Leys, Didcot to Chipping Norton. These early morning gatherings bring together youth workers, police officers, teachers, health professionals, community leaders and, most





importantly, young people themselves. We sit down over tea and toast (or more likely a bacon roll) and talk – honestly and openly – about what’s working and what isn’t. The idea is simple: listen to those on the front line, share stories, and begin to map out the kind of Oxfordshire we want for our young people.



These conversations have been shaped by my theme for the year: Hearing the Young Unheard. It’s simple in phrasing but urgent in purpose: about truly listening to young people whose voices are often overlooked and amplifying the efforts of those who support them. My aim is to shine a light on early intervention, celebrate programmes that help young people thrive, and connect sectors – schools, youth organisations, businesses, the justice system, sports groups and faith communities – to build stronger networks of support. Central to this is promoting inclusion and equity.

A wonderful example of this in action was my recent visit to Bletchington School. There, I met enthusiastic pupils, dedicated staff, and Merlin, the school’s gentle therapy dog. The children shared ideas ranging from composting and electric buses to wildlife zones and inclusive support for disabled pupils. They spoke about fairness, kindness, and the importance of feeling heard. The visit was warm, insightful, and by turns funny and profound; a true reminder that young people often hold the clearest view of the issues we face. Their honesty brought Hearing the Young Unheard vividly to life.

In some ways, the High Sheriff is a rather peculiar role – dressed in velvet breeches and a bicorne hat, attending courts and civic ceremonies – but in other ways, it offers a unique platform. It gives me the chance to shine a light on the people and projects that often go unnoticed, and to bring together those who care passionately about improving our communities.

In 1714, James Norreys of Weston on the Green served as High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. Now, more than 300 years later, the role has returned to the village. I’m deeply honoured to be the 1,083rd person appointed—and only the second from Weston to hold the post. That

said, I daresay Mr Norreys enjoyed rather grander surroundings at the Manor than Mark and I do in our house on North Lane. So while I may be the village’s second High Sheriff, I’m almost certainly the first whose duties include putting the bins out on a Wednesday morning. (Note from Mark: John never puts the bins out; he always leaves that to me!)



If you see me dashing off in my regalia, now you’ll know why. It’s a joy and a privilege to serve in this ancient office – and a particular pleasure to be doing so from here in Weston on the Green. If you’d like to know more about what I’m up to during the year, feel free to stop me, drop a note through the door, or take a look at the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire website or social media pages. I’ll continue posting regular updates – and probably the odd photograph of me looking slightly too warm in velvet.



Weston Society

Weston Society met on Monday 12th May for a really interesting and informative talk on the Purton Ships Graveyard, where a number of wrecked and abandoned ships are buried or semi-buried in the banks of the River Severn, near to the estuary.



Our speaker was passionate about saving the history of these vessels and was able to share much of that history with us.

At the time of writing our next meeting will be the AGM on Monday 14th July when our own Paula Hessian will be speaking about The Weston Front, a group of villagers who came together to save Weston from the proposed "Eco Town". We will also be reviewing the year and planning the future of the Society.

Our next meeting after that is scheduled for Monday 8th September, details to be confirmed.

We meet on the second Monday of alternative months, all are welcome free of charge to their first meeting, there is an annual subscription currently of £20 per person for anyone who then wishes to join, which enables us to pay for use of the Hall, pay for speakers and to share wine and nibbles after the meeting.



Weston Walkers

Our latest two walks have both been slightly dramatic - May was planned as a beautiful circular walk from the village of Combe, which started well in bright sunshine as we dropped down from Combe, crossed the river Evenlode and stopped off to visit North Leigh Roman Villa.

As we then headed back in the direction of Stonesfield we were caught in a mighty thunderstorm, thunder, lightning and torrential rain, trying to shelter as much as we could until the worst passed us by. Being totally drenched we cut the walk short and headed back to Combe though had pretty much dried out again when back at the car.

June was planned as a circular from Kirtlington, past Northbrook and over the canal and river to Tackley before crossing the railway line and back to Kirtlington via Pigeon Lock. Unfortunately a herd of cattle just beyond the river took too much of an interest in us so for the sake of safety we doubled back to the canal and followed the towpath back to Pigeon Lock.

Hopefully our planned walk for July will have been more straightforward and the next walks after that will be August 11th and September 8th.

All are welcome to join in as and when, there is no commitment to every month, so if you wish to enjoy

sociable company, conversation and exercise please come along and join in or speak to me.

There are now also several local walks to enjoy published on the Weston on the Green Parish Council website, under Health and Wellbeing.

If while out walking you encounter any problems with overgrown vegetation, damaged stiles or footbridges, or any other issues, please let me know for Weston Parish or Katie Holt (01869 350219) for Bletchington Parish, in order that they can be reported to the County Council for repair.

Graham Barnett 07974 774159



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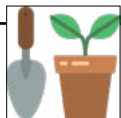
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Weston-on-the-Green Garden Club

What amazing weather we had for our first two Garden Open Evenings. The first was held on May 20th hosted by Emma and James Bernard at Mulberry Cottage. The garden looked beautiful with a lovely display of Spring flowers. We had a good attendance and a very convivial evening in beautiful sunshine was enjoyed by all.

The second Open Garden was hosted by Neil and Kelly Parkinson at Westfield Court House on 10th June, and once again the sun shone on the righteous!! Kelly has worked extremely hard to alter this large secluded garden to achieve separate seating areas, all making the most of different vistas and her imaginative planting. The roses were particularly lovely.

The next Open Garden Evening will be held before this issue comes out at The Dower House, Church Road on 22nd July, hosted by David and Tracy Johnson. On August 26th at 6.30pm we will be hosted by Phil



and Helen Price at Jubilee Cottage, Church Road. The last Open Garden Evening will be hosted by Alan and Tracy Rowan at Home Farm on September 9th, again at 6.30pm.

On Saturday 6th September we will be holding our Autumn Show in the Village Hall. Schedules will be in the Community Shop from the beginning of July. This year we will be holding an Auction of Produce at the end of the show. Anyone exhibiting can donate their produce to the auction at

the time of entering. We will also be holding a "Decorated Garden Fork" competition, open to adults and children. There will be lots of classes for our Junior Gardeners with medals for points winners and extra prizes. The usual array of trophies for adults will be up for grabs, so please get growing, use your photographic skills, and think about recipes for the cookery classes. We will be holding a raffle along with delicious cakes and tea.

Toddy Hamilton-Gould

GARDEN CLUB CHRISTMAS TRIP TO WADDESDON MANOR

On the 26th November there will be a trip to Waddesdon Manor to look at the Christmas decorations in the Manor, see the illuminations and visit the Christmas Market.

A Grand Festive Tour

Join Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild and his beloved dog, Poupon, on a festive trans-European tour, exploring the unique holiday traditions that light up each country's winter season. Every stop on their journey will highlight a different city, blending local heritage, seasonal customs, and links to Waddesdon's famous collection.

Outside, the Manor and Gardens will be illuminated with an innovative new immersive light show, combining a specially commissioned digital projection, lights and sound. The lawns and trees in front of the house will be transformed into a living, moving tapestry of colour while the popular Christmas Fair and Food Village move to the South side of the Manor.

The coach will leave Weston at 12.30 and return at around 6.30pm. The price is £60 per person or £45 if you are a National Trust member, and will include coach, entrance to the Manor, Gardens, Light Trail etc. Please contact Toddy on toddyhg@gmail.com or 07748 088335 for payment details.



JEAN GODWIN 1928-2025



A much-loved Mother,
Grandmother and
Great Grandmother,
Born 24th December
1928, died 8th July 2025.

Weston on the Green Community Bus



Our generously donated Community Transport vehicle is an excellent service helping villagers get to their doctor and hospital appointments.

Equipped with a wheelchair hoist, residents can book this for trips in the local area.

To book please contact Graham Barnett on **01869 350707** giving as much notice as possible

Neighbours' Natter News

Come along and join us for a cuppa and chat in the Village Hall and meet friends and make new acquaintances. We have tea, coffee, squash and biscuits. Unlimited refills for the total cost of £2 per person. The Natter is held regularly on the second Thursday of the month, with the next ones coming up on 14th August and 11th September.

NEW THIS MONTH...

We already run a very successful Magazine Swap (new donations always welcome) and are now expanding this to include Jigsaw Puzzles. Bring in your old puzzles and exchange them for a new challenge! We only ask that all puzzles donated have no missing pieces!

Hope to see you,
Patsy.

Everyone is welcome to ...

Neighbours' Natter

Weston-on-the-Green Village Hall
Thursdays Aug 14th & Sept 11th 10am - Noon
Join us for coffee or tea and a biscuit. (£2)

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Newby Cottage Fire Update



As most of you are aware, our parent's house was mostly destroyed by fire on the 5th April. We thought we would give an update on the rebuild so far.

We have managed to empty the house of anything left, along with burnt timbers and what was left of the straw. This has been a huge task with friends and family coming along to help us. This has now finished and work will start to put things back on the house. We've now had the architect come out they will draw up the technical plans for the house.



Some of you will notice that scaffolding has started to go up on the house. This will enable us to be able to repair walls so that when new beams and rafters are added back, we are able to do this safely and more easily.

Our parents are back in the village; by the kindness of Karen and John Miller they now have a home of their own until we can get them back into their old house.

The offers of support from people in the village and our friends and family and some we don't even know, have been amazing, and we as a family are very grateful for everyone's support.

I have managed to purchase at least half the number of tiles needed, but the sum of how much weight the roof needs to hold is immense! 5,950 tiles weighs 9.5 tonnes and we need the same amount again, so this gives you some perspective of the skeleton we need to build to allow the house to take this weight, and even though the thatch was due to be replaced with tiles, one half of the house was OK, but the front part of the house there was already going to be additional work to support this weight on the roof.

Repainting of the internal stone walls has started and it is looking good thanks to my brother and his team Darren and Dan.

My brother Neil and I grew up in this house so our aim is to get it returned to a condition for our parents to move back into but maybe with some extra modern technology and futureproof it for them too!

We hope to give you all an update every Village News so you can see the progress, as long as we have something to update you all with, that you might be interested in reading about!

Thank you all once again for your support and help, my brother and I are truly grateful for this.

If you have any building materials or might have something we can use for the rebuild, or even if you have contacts in the building trade that might be able to give us good rates on materials, please feel free to email us on Kate.newman001@gmail.com and we can get back to you.



My parents don't need anything at the moment in their new home but we may be after things once we get them back in the rebuilt house but our dry storage is limited at the moment so thank you for anything that has been offered, rehomed or politely declined - thank you.

Kate & Neil (/Newman/Hessian)

From the grotto of the Wood Fairy

Greetings. You may have noticed that the shop window shelves are bereft of wooden figurines. This is because I have them all at home. There has been no falling out with the shop who are trying to comply with the myriad of tax and consumer laws.

To this end VAT was being charged on the figures at 20%. As the whole purpose of making the figures was to raise money for the church and village hall via Friends' Produce and I can see no reason why this Government should benefit from my pastime, until Friends' Produce is exempt from VAT, I will keep them at home. They will still be available from me personally at Bramble Cottage.

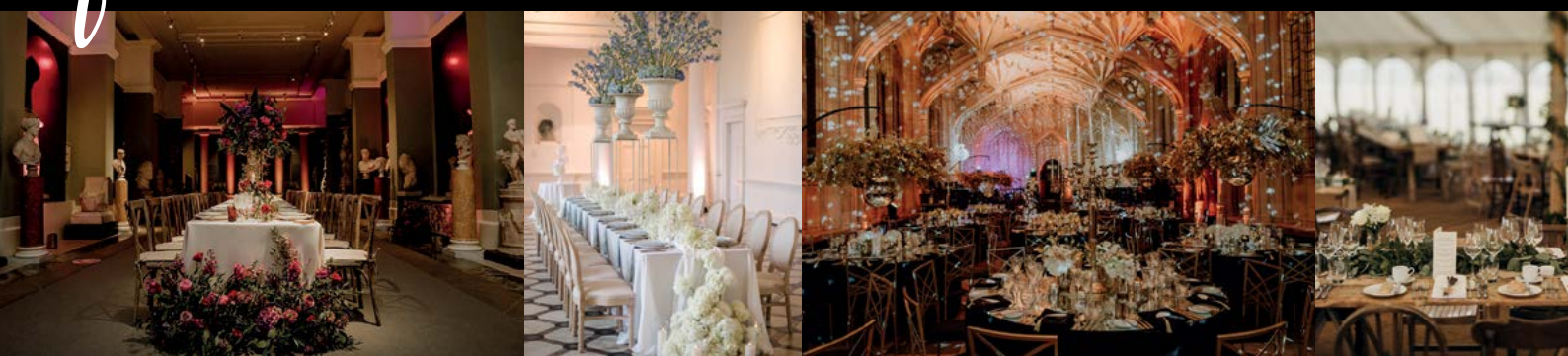
On a similar subject, kindling is being charged at 5% as fuel material. While I still disagree with this charge on charitable goods, kindling will be supplied from September onwards - however, the cost is likely to rise by 50p. Hopefully I have enough of a supply to last throughout winter.

Thank you for your support and suggestions over the past eight years.

The Wood Fairy



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B. K. Apiary – what's behind the name?



The 'B' is for Bob and 'K' is for Kate – the father and daughter who run B.K. Apiary situated in Weston.

I've been keeping bees for over 45 years. When I was young, our next door neighbour kept bees and I was able to watch him open up his beehives and look closely at his bees. I wasn't afraid of them – they were at least 10 yards away although I did wonder why he wore a funny hat with netting covering his face. It wasn't until I rescued one of his bees that had fallen into a water tub in our garden and which then thanked me for my kind deed by stinging me that I realised that they needed to be given a lot of respect!

Later, when I was in the 6th Form at school studying biology for my A-levels, the teacher announced one day that the school was going to keep bees (he was a beekeeper himself) and would any boy in the class like to help. I was so eager to want to learn about bees and bee-keeping, that I was the first person in the class to put their hand up and as turned to look round the classroom, I then realised that I was the ONLY boy to put their hand up! So I was lucky to have an excellent relationship with the teacher who taught me nearly everything I know about honeybees and their biology. That was 62 years ago and it was 45 years ago that I got my first bee-hive along with a colony of bees and I've been keeping bees ever since.

Kate got interested at a young age. My favourite recollection of her childhood days was when she came with me to remove a swarm of bees in a small apple tree in the Old Vicarage in Weston. She was wearing her own bee suit and held the cardboard box under the swarm as I proceeded to put the bees in the box. Unfortunately, she wasn't holding the box directly under the swarm, so when I shook the branch, the clump of bees fell all over her. I did have a photograph of this event but this is one of many photographs lost in the Newby Cottage fire.

As for the above-mentioned fire, the hives were fortunately too far away to be affected by the heat and smoke. But the next day after the fire, I did go and tell them about it – local country superstition that you tell your bees anything and everything like births, marriages and deaths and I always go and wish them 'Merry Christmas' and a 'Happy New Year' at the appropriate time.

We have around 20 hives, some bigger than others – meaning the hive contains more bees. This time of the year (June/July, August), we would expect there to be between 30,000 and 50,000+ bees in each hive. We have to manage the hives properly, otherwise this would trigger the bees to swarm if there's insufficient room in the hive for the queen to lay her eggs. So the hives are regularly inspected – if you let a hive swarm you'll be losing at

least a third of the bees from the hive and that's bad management!

For us, it has been a good year beekeeping. The winter wasn't too harsh and we didn't lose any colonies due to the weather. At the moment we (and the bees) would welcome some rain which would encourage the plants to produce more nectar for the bees to collect. Needless to say, we could have done without the house burning down!!! Kate tells me that money from the sales of honey this year will all go towards the cost of rebuilding the house. The Village Shop stocks our honey and we're glad that we're able to support them and them us!

And remember, it is real Oxfordshire honey made by the bees of B.K. Apiary from nectar collected from flowers growing in and around Weston on the Green. We don't add anything to it, we don't take anything away from it, we don't heat it up or freeze it. We don't try and claim that it is 'organic' as we have no control as to where the bees fly to gather the nectar.

And if you don't like the taste of the honey, I'll lend you a bee-suit and we can go and tell the bees about it!

Bob Hessian

WESTON ON THE GREEN GARDEN CLUB



AUTUMN SHOW

TO INCLUDE AUCTION OF PRODUCE

**SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER
2.30 - 4.0pm at the Village Hall
Schedules in the Community Shop
Displays of Flowers, Vegetables and
Cookery. Tea, Cakes, Raffle. Special
prizes for Junior Gardeners.
"Decorated Garden Fork Competition."**



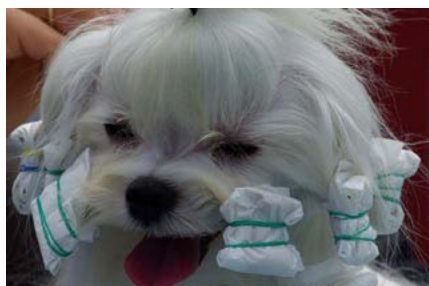
Greetings from Alexandra House of Joy.

On 16th June 2025 we announced that construction of Alexandra House of Joy has entered a new direction. This was necessary due to the yearly rise in cost of building materials. A decision was made with our Design Developer that we would now begin a three-phased approach.

This has brought great excitement within the charity because we have achieved raising £950,000

and therefore have enough funds to begin building. We have a few hurdles to jump of course, but our mission is that God's Vision will be revealed sometime in 2026. For more details, visit our website: www.alexandrahouseofjoy.org

None of this would have been possible without the many supporters who have so wonderfully believed in AHOJ and given time, money, goods etc. We shall always be indebted to every single person - thank you for the bottom of our hearts.



Bicester and Woodstock MP, Calum Miller with Rachel Scott-Hunter

We still need to fundraise, so please come and support our Family Fun Dog Show at Whitelands Farm and Sports Ground, OX26 1AJ on Saturday 9th August, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. There will be lots to do and see, and much fun with the dogs and their owners, all vying to win a rosette for their much-loved pooch.

Ian and Rachael Scott-Hunter



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Joint concert with Friends of Welsh National Opera and
OXFORD WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR
 With harpist Zanna Evans

Saturday September 6th 2025 at 4.00pm

Tickets £20 per head

At Bletchington Village Hall OX5 3FD

Easy access and ample free parking

To attend this event please contact: **Bernadette Whittington**
 Email: bwhittington2@btinternet.com

Address: Manor Farm, Wotton Underwood, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP180SB (for cheques)
Mobile No. 07813907466

Please note: We will not be issuing physical tickets for this event, and there will be a list of attendees at the door on admission.

I wish to apply for (No).....tickets for Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir Concert
 I am paying by bank transfer to Oxford Friends of Welsh National Opera.
 Sort Code 09-01-55, Account No. 21026709. Please put your surname as the reference.

OR

I/We enclose a cheque (payable to Oxford FWNO) for £.....

Name.....Mobile No.....

email.....

Autumn Craft & Food Fair
Saturday 18th October
10am-3pm
at Weston on the Green
Village Hall
OX25 3QR

**Arts & Crafts, Jewellery, Cakes,
 Wood Turning, Handmade Gifts
 and lots more**

**Refreshments in aid of Macmillan
 Cancer Support**
Tel: 07748088335 for info

Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall



Bonfire & Fireworks **Saturday 1st November 2025**

Weston on the Green Playing Field

6.30pm Bonfire

7pm Firework Display

Burger Van

Mulled Wine and other refreshments

Bonfire construction from 9.30am-12pm on the day
Wood donations can be brought to the playing field from
9.30am on Saturday morning

Offers of help please contact Paul Warren 350770

Entry: £5 per adult, £2 per child



All proceeds towards the 2026 display

Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Friday 14th November 2025

7.30pm-10pm

Wine Tasting Evening

**with Richard Household, Brompton Wine, holder
 of WSET Level 4 Diploma.**



Tickets are £15pp

**RSVP: westonvillagehall@live.co.uk or call 350992
 by 31st October 2025 to book a ticket**

Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Saturday 25th October 2025

Doors open 6.30pm

Diwali: Three Course Meal & Entertainment

Licenced bar

Ticket price: £15 per adult, £10 per child



To book email westonvillagehall@live.co.uk or call 350992

CALUM MILLER MP



I continue to work hard, with the support of my small team, to represent you in Parliament and to ensure that the issues you raise with me are addressed. Since setting up the office and hiring the team we've replied to thousands of email enquiries and picked up a wide range of casework. We have assisted flood victims, followed up with problems in housing, education and health to name just a few. My small team and I work to represent all the 102,000 people (approximately) across our constituency of Bicester and Woodstock. So far, our first year has been a privilege and a steep learning curve. One of the best things about my job is meeting more people in communities like Weston-on-the-Green, and elsewhere.

The fire at Bicester Motion was an enormous shock. My team and I were heartbroken to hear the dreadful news that we had lost three members of our community. Dave Chester was a well-known and liked business owner. Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler were doing their job protecting us, running towards danger when we all run from it. During the evening of the fire, and since, I have been in contact with the relevant senior staff. The investigation is now being carried out: it is important that it is thorough and comprehensive. My thoughts are with the injured firefighters and the bereaved families who are grieving for the loved ones they have lost. I have met with relatives of the

three victims of the fire, and have assured them of my continued support.

I would like to thank campaigners whom I have worked alongside to make the case for a fully accessible underpass to replace the London Road crossing in Bicester. At the end of March, I met with the Chief Executive of East West Rail, David Hughes and the Rail Minister, Peter Hendy. Following our discussion, I got written confirmation that two underpass options, one including space for cars (as well as cyclists and pedestrians) are now being considered. This is a welcome update, since the consultation at the start of the year did not include this option. In June, I presented the House of Commons with my petition, signed by over 4,500 people calling for an underpass that will allow cars as well. The response from the community to support this was incredible and I am so grateful to all those who collected signatures and all those who signed. It is important that Bicester's voice is heard when this decision is made by ministers over the summer.

I reflected the views that residents and local representatives had shared with me to Cherwell District Council (CDC) ahead of the deadline for responses to Oxford United FC (OUFC)'s planning application for their stadium at the Triangle. I have met with CDC, Chiltern Railways, National Highways, OUFC, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley

Police. The decision is expected to come to planning committee in July.

I am Foreign Affairs Spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats and make regular interventions in the Commons on Israel/Palestine, Ukraine/ Russia, China/ Hong Kong and other topics. I will continue to push the Government to exert pressure on the international stage for the Government of Israel to allow UN agencies safe access to provide aid to Palestine and for Hamas to release all Israeli hostages. I was relieved that 16 months on from the Lib Dems first calling for it, the Government have sanctioned extremist Israeli ministers Ben-Gvir and Smotrich for their part in advocating for settler violence and annexation in the West Bank. I have urged the Government to recognise the state of Palestine so there can be a pathway to a two-state solution. I was part of a group of Liberal Democrats that met with a delegation from the US Congress to discuss trade, global security and how to further our shared values and cooperation.

Congratulations to all councillors elected to the County Council on 1 May. Oxfordshire now has a Lib Dem majority administration after they won 36 of the 69 seats. I know that your councillors are committed to working hard for the benefit of all in the county and I look forward to working with them.

Launton and Otmoor Update

July 2025



YOUTH VOICE SURVEY

On behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Youth is working with the National Youth Agency to create a comprehensive map of children's and youth voice forums and opportunities for engagement with local and national democracy for children and young people across Oxfordshire. This work will inform and support Oxfordshire's future generations programme, which is based on the principles of Future Generations.

Your feedback is invaluable in ensuring that future services can reach, engage, and be informed by a greater diversity of children and young people. We need your support to map out the great work that is already happening across education, the public sector, and the voluntary, community faith sectors.

Please take 15 minutes to fill in this survey to help us all to better understand existing youth voice in each area of our county: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ChildrensAndYouthVoiceForumMapping2025/>

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about Oxfordshire Youth 10 please visit <https://oxfordshireyouth.org/>

Local Government Reorganisation

As some of you may already be aware, the Government have asked all local councils with a two tier authority (District and County) to come up with proposals for a unitary authority. Cherwell, alongside the other District Councils, have put forward a proposal for two unitary councils, broadly following the existing boundaries of the councils. They have proposed one council, called Oxford and Shires, which will consist of Cherwell, West Oxfordshire and Oxford City, and the second, called Ridgeway, which would consist of South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire. You can find out more about the proposal here: [twocouncils.org. Home - Two Councils](https://twocouncils.org/Home-Two-Councils). Consultation closed on the 16th July.

Oxfordshire County Council have put forward an alternative proposal

for one unitary council, which would consist of all of Oxfordshire. You can find their proposal here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution/interim-proposal>. This consultation closed on the 27th July.

Oxford City Council have also put forward a proposal which would consist of three unitary councils within Oxfordshire. You can find their proposal here: <https://greateroxford.org/>

Get in Touch

As always, please do get in touch! Our emails are gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk, alisa.russell@cherwell-dc.gov.uk and julian.nedelcu@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or phone us on 01869 717712.

All the best,

Gemma, Alisa & Julian

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Dates for the Diary

2nd August	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Food Bank Collection, Weston Pantry
6th August	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
11th August	1.30 pm	Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall
14th August	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Neighbours' Natter
3rd September	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
6th September	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Food Bank Collection, Weston Pantry
6th September	2.30 – 4.00 pm	Garden Club Autumn Show
8th September	1.30 pm	Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall
8th September	7.30 pm	Weston Society
11th September	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Neighbours' Natter
12th September	6.30 pm – 11.00 pm	Annual Aunt Sally match and Pop-up Pub
21st September	12.30 pm	St Mary's Harvest Lunch; at the Village Hall
22nd September	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Craft Club
1st October	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
18th October	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	Autumn Craft and Food Fair
25th October	6.30 pm	Diwali Night at the Village Hall



FRIENDS' PRODUCE

As ever a huge thank you to the members of the community who donated towards the friends produce initiative in aid of St Mary's Church and the Village Hall. Despite a few teething issues over the last couple of months we have managed to raise £168.48 for the period March - June. This has been split and paid to the Church and Village Hall.



Supporting
Weston-on-the-Green Village Hall

Play Cherwell Lottery and support our cause!

- Make a difference to the community and support the Village Hall
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket and a further 10p goes to other good causes
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

Just visit CherwellLottery.co.uk and search for
Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Give as you Live
Online

Weston on the Green
Memorial Village Hall

By using **Give As You Live online**, or via the **Give As You Live App**, you can raise funds for the Village Hall for free! Choose Weston on the Green Village Hall as your chosen charity and then shop online at over 6,000 stores. It's as simple as:



Browse

Over
6,000 stores!



Shop

Visit the store via
the website or
App, then shop as
normal



Raise

Give As You Live
make a free dona-
tion to the Village
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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall, **registered charity no. 264754**
Thank you for your support



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