

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

TheVillageNews

JUNE/JULY 2026





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Village Directory

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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Eric Bohm: 07531 703409NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
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From the editor

A huge thank you to Alex for being the Editor of The Village News for the past four years! I am certain that we all truly appreciate her hard work and the wonderful newsletter she has produced over those years. Wishing you a long and healthy retirement as Editor!

When the Editor position came up, I thought, "How hard can that be?" and, since there were no other applicants, I took on the role of (Interim) Editor. So here I am, about to find out, and what can possibly go wrong? It is, after all, for the greater good.

Being the Editor of this publication is certainly not something I take to lightly. It has been somewhat daunting, and figuring out what to say in my first Editorial comment has been, erm, 'entertaining'.

Sue and I moved to the village a few years ago, basically to scratch an itch and, satisfied that Hot Fuzz was not a documentary, we downsized to a small, character, period stone cottage in the village.

It was a big step for us, as we had little experience of village life, but the move is without regret.

The village seems sleepy on the surface, but look a little closer and you will see that there is a wealth of activity: in the village societies, St Mary's church, the village shop, Weston Manor and the two pubs, the village hall and in local businesses using the village as a base. The list is not exhaustive, but these facilities, and the surrounding countryside, are there to be used and enjoyed, and they bind the community together. There is something for everyone, as there is in this newsletter.

Thankfully, I am no Tim Messenger and this is not the Sandford Citizen but, with a Cornetto to hand, I have enjoyed putting this edition together, as Interim Editor, and I hope that it seamlessly picks up where Alex left off. Once again, thank you Alex.

The position of Editor (not interim) remains available. If you want to enquire about this position then please contact myself or Diane Bohm.

**Deadline for August/September 2026 edition:
9th July 2026**



From the Rector

Gareth Miller

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

Dear all

A friend regularly teases me that all I do is go to coffee mornings. That's not true, but one of the joys of being a parish priest, especially in rural parishes, is attending social occasions, of which there are many in our villages. In the last month or two, for example, I have not only attended a succession of coffee mornings, but the Wendlebury Community Choir concert, Chesterton Big Breakfast, Bletchington Silver Band concert, Middleton Stoney Quiz, Art Week and Open Gardens, the Weston concert and the village plant sale, and the launching of Kirtlington Community Shop, to name but a few! And we have Lamb Ale and various fêtes coming up! Who said community is dead?

As John Donne famously said, "No man is an island, entire of itself." We are richly blessed in this benefice to have vibrant villages with a huge infrastructure of community activity. All this requires time, effort, and commitment. It has been proved over and over again that individuals thrive when they feel part of something bigger, when they have strong friendship groups and – ideally – close family ties. It is a sad fact,

however, that not everyone enjoys these benefits. Despite our rich community spirit, there are still those who feel lonely or unconnected. Sometimes it is their own choice, but often it is the case that people are uncertain about joining in. There is always the danger, of course, that groups can appear somewhat exclusive to the newcomer.

If you are a member of one of our churches, or indeed of any community group, it is worth pausing to ask the question; "Are we truly inclusive?" Do we not just proclaim, but show, by our words, our attitudes, our actions, that our group is one where all can experience a genuine welcome? Are there perhaps barriers and biases,

albeit subtle or unconscious ones, that we need to examine?

I hope you enjoy the summer, however long or short it turns out to be. Perhaps it affords an opportunity to welcome a newcomer to your village, or to invite someone recently bereaved to a social occasion, or round for a cup of tea, or – if you are one of those who finds joining difficult – to take a first brave step.

"We are put on earth a little space, that we may learn to bear the beams of love."
(William Blake)

Gareth



St Mary's Church, Weston on the Green

warmly invites you to join in on our services and events in June and July



Saturday, June 6th	19:30 Quiz night in aid of church. Weston Village Hall
Sunday, June 7th	09:30 Morning Worship at Bletchington 11:00 Café Church at Weston-on-the-Green 16:00 Evensong at Hampton Gay
Sunday, June 14th	18:00 Benefice Evensong w/ the Akeman Church Community Choir at Wendlebury
Sunday, June 21st	11:00 Holy Communion at Weston-on-the-Green
Thursday, June 25th	19:30 Talk on Christopher Wren's Oxford (and Bletchington!) at Bletchington Church
Sunday, June 28th	09:30 Holy Communion at Kirtlington
Sunday, July 5th	11:00 Morning Worship at Weston-on-the-Green
Saturday, July 11th	19:30 Cantores Concert at Kirtlington
Sunday, July 12th	18:00 Evening Worship at the Akeman Church Community Choir
Sunday, July 12th	11:00 Holy Communion at Weston-on-the-Green
Sunday, July 26th	10:00 Benefice Communion at Hampton Gay 17:00 Songs of Praise at Chesterton

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>

St Mary's news

We held our Annual Parochial Church meeting on 22nd April, chaired by Gareth, and this was well attended. There were wide ranging and interesting discussions on a variety of topics. The PCC are really pleased to welcome Ruth Pangu and Jordie Riches to their number.

Spring has definitely sprung and we are indebted to David Johnson and his team of strimmers for all their hard work in the graveyard. We would also like to thank the Church Mice cleaning team for their spring clean of the church on May 9th. As always the flower displays continue to brighten up the church and we are thankful for the team of volunteers.

We have enjoyed the recent collection of visiting bell ringers, and while sitting out with the lighter evenings, Thursday nights continue to be a joy. Many thanks go to the Bell Tower Captain and his team.

We hosted a wonderful choral concert by The Chapel Choir of Summer Fields School on Friday 15th May, in aid of both SeeSaw Grief Support and St Marys.

Please do join us for future fundraising events, including a quiz night, kindly hosted by Andrew and Jordie, in the village hall on Saturday 6th June.

Finally, looking further ahead there will be a return of the very popular Race Night in the village hall on Saturday 5th September.

Nicola Donne

Chair's comments

The Parish Council continues to work on behalf of the village, responding to community needs and supporting local initiatives. A full report was given to the Annual Village Meeting on April 13th, 2026. Excerpts of it are included below.

Councillors for 2026/27 leading key areas are:

Michael Aldridge: Traffic

David Williams: Biodiversity

John Miller: Works and Flooding

Tracy Rowan: Finance

Diane Bohm: Chair, Planning, and Outreach

On-going: Jane Mullane - Parish Clerk

Special thanks were given to retiring councillor Susan Davis for her twelve years of dedicated service.

Community Initiatives

A new Community Van was introduced in March 2026 thanks to an anonymous donation. The service has supported many residents with transport needs, led by a dedicated volunteer driver team.

Major work was completed to remove the concrete path around the Oak tree on North Lane, helping to protect the historic tree and restore the area to a more rural appearance.

Traffic and Safety

After years of concern over speeding on the B430, OCC Highways agreed to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. The Parish

Council thanked the volunteer Speedwatch team whose efforts and data helped secure the change.

The Council is also exploring the installation of bus shelters that are safe, practical, and suitable for the Conservation Area, while seeking funding to complete the project before winter.

Technology and Environment

The Parish Council has introduced new digital mapping software, upgraded website hosting, and adopted improved gov.uk email systems and security measures.

Biodiversity and sustainability remain central priorities. The School Field continues to be managed as a wildlife meadow, while new tree planting projects and habitat protection work are ongoing. David Williams has led efforts to secure donated trees and support local wildlife initiatives, including swift nest conservation (see his article).

Flood Management and Planning

Flood prevention work has continued through maintenance of Gallos Brook and drainage systems, with cooperation from local landowners. The Parish Council highlighted the importance of managing water flow and protecting the village from future flooding risks.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed and updated and will now move forward for consultation with Cherwell District Council.



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Looking Ahead

Concerns

We are currently learning about the “forever chemicals” PFAS and concerns that involve the proposed large housing development at Upper Heyford and potential contamination over many years of Gallos Brook including its many tributaries. Testing has been done at Weston Fen (SSSI) site in our parish and Leys Farm Ditch in Middleton Stoney. Results indicated elevated levels exceeding drinking water limits by up to 20 fold. The Parish Council needs to understand the potential effect in our area plus the effect on future housing proposals. We will keep you updated throughout the year as training and information becomes available.

Building the Parish Council

The Parish Council is seeking three additional councillors to support:

- Playground development including village sports on our field
- Community outreach including meeting newcomers and/or starting a group for parents and children/youth
- Social media communications/grant applications.

We would like more residents to become involved in village life and contribute to the community wherever possible.

Please note the “**Just Do One Thing**” poster and consider committing to one action over the summer!!

Diane Bohm
Chair

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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

26/00408/DISC 26/00409/DISC (ref 24/00497/F and 24/00498/LB) – Cruck Cottage, Northampton Road

Thatch roof method statement; stone floor tile sample.

Decisions Received – Refused:

Withdrawn

None

Appeals

None

Awaiting Decision

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.

OCC Transport – objection – reliance on car transport.

Archaeology – need more information re excavation for Wedding Barn and Rupert's Cottage.

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. Deferred until June 12, 2026 upon request of the National Highways Department. The Strategic Road Network includes the A34 and thus this appl has drawn their attention.

26/00409/DISC (ref 24/00498/LB) – Cruck Cottage, Northampton Road
Discharge of Condition 15 (skirting boards) of 24/00498/LB.



26/00696/DISC - Siemens OS Parcel 5700 South West of Grange Farm, Street through Little Chesterton

To discharge Condition 5 which requires the submission of details of the plant enclosures and equipment within the service yard and approved plant zones.

26/00597/NMA –Siemens OS Parcel 5700 South West of Grange Farm, Street through Little Chesterton
Variation Condition 2 (non-material amendment).

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Biodiversity Update

On March 19th, 2026, I attended a Biodiversity Webinar on behalf of the Parish Council. Representatives from urban, suburban and rural communities discussed how we can better protect wildlife and improve biodiversity for the future.

Topics included threats to nature from agriculture, development on greenfield sites, and a lack of awareness such as hedge cutting during bird nesting season. We also learned about the decline in wildlife populations and how local communities can help reverse some of these losses.

Under the Environment Act 2021, parish, town, city and county councils are encouraged to develop biodiversity plans. Weston on the Green already has a biodiversity plan, available on the Parish Council website.

We are fortunate in Weston to have a rich natural environment with mixed habitats, footpaths, Gallos Brook and the Spinney providing valuable wildlife corridors. Thanks are due to local landowners for supporting environmental schemes, and to villagers who helped clear and replant young trees in the Spinney last year. I have also applied to the Woodland Trust for additional hedging and trees.

With help from Reverend Gareth Miller, Bell Captain Gerald Bushby and Eric Bohm, 16 swift nest boxes have recently been installed in the bell tower of St Mary's Church.



Swifts are sadly declining due to a loss of nesting sites. We already have a monitored colony at Weston Manor Hotel, and a new colony has appeared in Knowle Lane. Hopefully the church tower will soon support another colony. Swifts are a priority species in our biodiversity plan.



We are also lucky to have House Martins nesting in the village. If you have House Martins on your property, please let me know as I hope to carry out a village count this year. If nesting causes problems with mess, I can also provide mess catchers.

Both Swifts and House Martins need our support. If you have any questions about biodiversity, please feel free to contact me.

Councillor David Williams



As I write (7th May), there are reports of continued food price inflation due to the weather, global supply disruptions, and the volatile energy markets affecting the supply of ingredients and the costs of packaging and transportation. Butter, milk, beef, chocolate and coffee have been named as five particularly climate-impacted foods driving the inflation, although reportedly the price of pasta, frozen vegetables, chocolate, eggs, beef and olive oil are said to have seen the sharpest rises of between 50% and 113% since mid-2021 – figures more usually seen over a 20-year period.

We're certainly experiencing increased costs, particularly in chocolate. It's hard to believe that the bigger bars of Dairy Milk and the like were selling at £1 not so long ago, and they're now £1.95! I'm very pleased that we don't set these marked price tags and I can assure you that we're doing our very best to keep our prices as low as possible. Indeed, I pay great attention to sourcing our products from various and differing suppliers to keep our costs - and of course our sale prices, at the best they can possibly be.

On a more positive note, I want to share some village favourites with you... this year so far, we've sold more than 5600 eggs, 925 cartons of milk, 300 Danish pastries, 200 bananas, and 150 sourdough loaves, along with over 3000 items

from our hot food offering, including nearly 1200 sausage rolls and around 620 pasties.

Hot chocolate and café latte are our best-selling hot drinks, while the dark chocolate KitKat, beef Hula Hoops, Ginger Nuts, and lemon cake are the most popular choices of chocolate & sweets, crisps, biscuits and cake. Surprisingly, original Coca Cola still tops the table of soft drinks, while Cetté Nuit Rose and Stella Artois head the rankings in wine and beer.

Our cooking sauce jars are increasing in popularity for quick and easy dinners; our own range of traditional sweets is going down a storm; we have a constantly changing collection of gifts including lovely beach bags and some exquisite jewellery by Peck & Feather; and the Scent on the Green candles are back in stock! Our partnership with Bicester's Sarnie 67 is going well – their freshly made Scotch eggs are in particular demand; and don't forget that we're a pick-up point for North Aston Organics' fruit & veg boxes.

In the Post Office, so far this year we've processed over 9600 transactions, averaging between 500 and 600 per week, and we've been battling to keep our

Evri service, which has been under threat given our not quite meeting our huge targets. By the time you read this, we will have had a final decision, so I hope it's a positive one. If we still have the service, we will need your help to keep it! Also, don't forget that we stock gift cards and Euros.

In other news, we're busy preparing for our building work which should likely happen in August. There is likely to be some disruption with the service we provide from both the shop and the Post Office, which is regretted and I apologise for this in advance. However, completion of the building work will come with some exciting new equipment, displays and products, which I should be able to tell you more about in the next issue.

We're very pleased that Caroline has joined our valued bank of volunteers. We're always looking for more people to lend a hand here and there so if you have some time on your hands and love meeting people, let me know. Lastly, we're still on the lookout for a treasurer to join our committee – this role would be ideally suited to someone with an accountancy background. If you think you can help with this, please get in touch with Sham at chair@westonsos.com.

Sam



‘Do just one thing’

These are jobs that would help keep the village vibrant and tidy:

- plant bulbs, flowers that are bee and butterfly friendly
- encourage your children to have a bee friendly garden or pot
- pick up litter on your street
- report problems as soon as they occur
- foster a flower planter at the entrance nearest you to the village
- be a volunteer driver
- deliver the Village News
- foster a bench near you, clean it and repaint or stain as needed
- help paint the playground fence
- help put up bird boxes
- set up a Neighbourhood watch programme



Sign up: Contact dianebohm@gmail.com or clerk@westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk

Thank you to everyone who came along to our AGM in April. It was a positive evening and thank you for all the ideas and suggestions and support. We are delighted to be putting into action a number of event ideas in the following months.

Thanks also to those who have renewed their **250 Club** subscriptions. For those who do not know, the 250 Club is a fun way to support the Village Hall and aid its upkeep, potentially winning some money in the process! A ticket costs £6 and there are 12 prize draws each year. Of these there are 10 standard draws per year and two “bumper” draws. Standard draw prizes are £18, £12, and £6. We have a bumper draw in June and December with prizes of £90, £45, and £15. The first draw of 2026-27 will take place on 10th June – and it’s a bumper draw! If you would like to support the Hall and play along, please drop us an email at westonvillagehall@live.co.uk telling us if you would like to renew your current subscription, or if you'd like to purchase for

the first time. The results are announced in the Village News magazine and the prizes delivered to the lucky winners. Thank you to those villagers who have renewed their 250 Club numbers and for helping maintain the Hall.

A recent example of the Hall’s maintenance and upkeep is the replacement of the gable end clock. Despite our attempts at repairs the old clock was failing to keep time. The new clock is designed with simplicity in mind with clear numerals to make it easy to read from a distance. We hope this will be a welcome addition to the Hall.

We recently received a small community grant from the Co-op’s ‘Doing Good Together Fund’ to aid us with some planting at the Hall to further improve our biodiversity and to soften the Hall’s appearance. We have planted a beautiful climbing rose called ‘Compassion’, which seems appropriate for a Memorial Hall’s border, as well as some foxgloves.



We have been busy planning some events which we hope will appeal to you. On the evening of **Saturday 6th June**, the Hall will be hosting a **Quiz Night** with a two-course meal. There will be the popular film and music rounds plus others to entertain team members. Team sizes can be from 2-6 people, and ticket prices will be £15 per person. We hope you can join us for an evening of good-natured rivalry and light-hearted rounds of general knowledge!

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This quiz is a fundraiser for our neighbour, St Mary's Church.

We're delighted that we are able to offer a **National Theatre Live** screening in the Hall on Thursday 25th June. Bringing the best of British theatre to our Village Hall for the first time, filmed in front of a live audience from inside the auditorium with multiple cameras, each production is approached uniquely making sure it is captured in the best possible way for the screen. Our first screening will be 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' starring Lesley Manville ('Mrs Harris goes to Paris') and Aidan Turner ('Poldark' and 'Rivals'). Tickets are £10 and includes tea and coffee.

To book for these events please email us at:

westonvillagehall@live.co.uk



The new hall clock

Did you know that we have a table tennis table, bats and balls for hire? If you'd like a game in the Hall it's just £5 to hire for an hour's play! Please email us if you'd like to book!

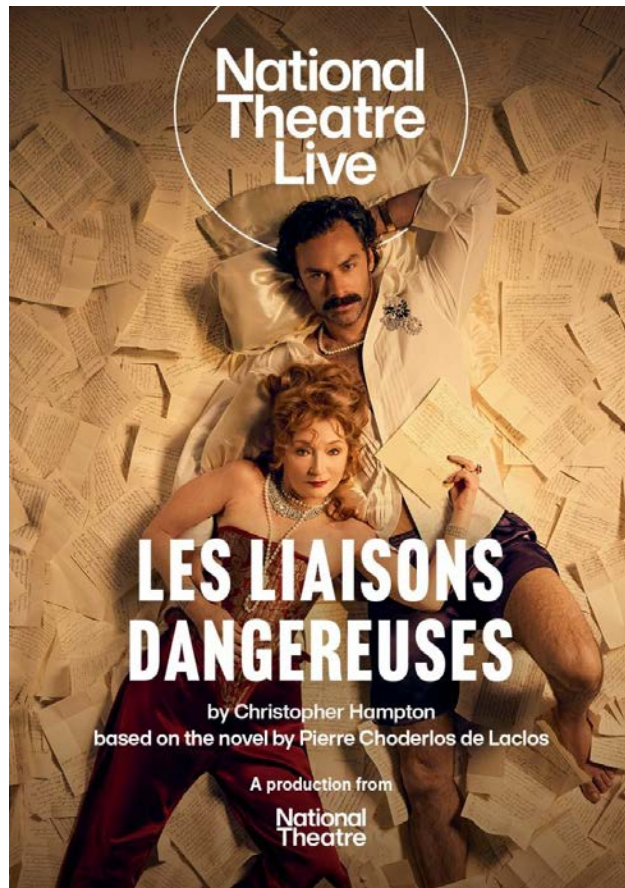
Weston on the Green Village Hall

Thursday 25th June 2026

Doors open 6.30pm, 7pm screening

£10pp

Complimentary tea & coffee



Starring Lesley Manville & Aidan Turner



Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall



Saturday 6th June 2026

Doors open 6.30 pm

Teams of 2-6, Licensed Bar & Meal

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WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

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Credits: Annie Cooper, Jordie Riches, David Buchanan



The B430 and Church Road have new surface dressings and white lines, and look much smarter for it, and at some point in the near future the speed limit along the B430 past the village will be lowered from 40mph to 30mph. Some of you may rejoice at that prospect, others possibly not.

Despite its B classification, the B430 is a main road, carrying heavy lorries and commuter traffic trying to avoid the problems of the A34 and the M40 Junction 9, no doubt with the help of their SatNav devices. But it wasn't always so.

The following is a lightly edited article from Paula Hessian's archives.

Early in the 20th century, the road had no tarmac surface and there were no kerb stones or footpaths, just grass verges merging with the packed surface of the road. There would have been mud in winter and dust in the summer, and it was the job of a local man to fill any ruts or potholes with broken stones.

Walking anywhere in the village meant walking along the side of the road or, when a vehicle approached, stepping onto the grass verge.

As motor traffic increased, this became more difficult until, in the 1930's, the Women's Institute decided to 'do something'. This organisation, which opened in the village in 1920, has long been associated with nationwide campaigns on all manner of topics, always aiming to make life better for women. It was, after all, the women who walked to school, the shop and to their friends. The church, chapel, village hall and both pubs were also strung out along the length of the village.

In 1930, the WI minute book recorded that '....a letter should be written to the proper authority requesting that foot-paths of the village should be put in order....'. This was followed by the secretary having to report that '.... as CC (County Council) are taking over various duties on April 1st it was considered that nothing could be done for the present...'.

Having failed initially, they used other tactics. During the early years of the institute, the Lady of the Manor held the then honorary post of President, and her connections with the great and good of the country were called upon.

Nothing happened.

Then came another war and the village and institute were naturally concerned with other matters. Wartime restrictions would have reduced the amount of traffic on the roads, to the extent that children would often play on the road.

In 1952, the institute took up the project again and '...the secretary was asked to write to the road

surveyor at Oxford about the dangerous road through the village, to ask if a pathway could be made under Manor wall to end of village....'.

Again, nothing seemed to happen, although it is a given that the ladies continued to lobby for this much needed footpath. About 18 months later they record '...the secretary was asked to write to Mr Hay, MP, to see if he could help us on the problem of a path on our main village road, also about lighting and speed limit....'.

This time, they seem to have contacted someone who was prepared to move the project forward. A few months later and the minute book records '...letters sent to Mr Hay to say the alteration to our main road was hoped to be done this year and the path we want so badly done....'. Whether it was as a result of the Member for Parliament being approached, or from some other lobby, they seem to know this path would now be constructed.

A year later they triumphantly report '....the path we advocated for, is made from the end of the village to Godwins Farm. It has been gladly welcomed by everyone, as it was so needed...'. The term 'end of the village' refers to the southern end, by the Chequers, and Godwins Farm was at the junction of the B430 and Church Road. Later, the footpath continued north, up to the oak tree at North Lane, albeit much of that footpath was well away from the roadside.

A footpath was also constructed along Church Road as far as the shop, village hall and church, and that provision remains to this day, with pedestrians having to brave the rat-run traffic from the church to the playing fields.



We still do not have streetlights, except by the Chequers roundabout, as the Neighbourhood Plan has adopted a dark skies policy in the village, in part for biodiversity reasons.

Speed limits of 40mph on the B430 and 20mph on Church Road have been in place for some time now, although walking along the B430 narrow footpath beside huge lorries travelling at 40mph (or more) is not pleasant.

It is hoped that the reduction of the B430 speed limit to 30mph will be a further step in the right direction.



Weston on the Green Garden Club

As I write this the sun is shining and my garden actually needs watering, which a few months ago seemed a very unlikely prospect!

The Garden Club year started with our AGM on Tuesday 17th March. This was attended by 24 people and wine and nibbles added to a friendly and, I hope, informative meeting. I outlined our programme for the year starting with the Spring Fair, followed by a visit to Bunkers Hill Nursery, three Open Garden Evenings and our 60th Anniversary Party and the Autumn Show to finish the season. David Johnson presented the accounts and a proposal to increase the annual subscription to £10 per person was accepted. The Committee were thanked for all their hard work over the past year, as well as extra tasks, tidying up the churchyard and roundabout. Discussion followed about future trips, maybe to a Garden Show and various ideas were put forward. (See below)

Our Spring Show took place on March 28th and we had an excellent entry judged by The Reverend Felicity Scroggie and her husband Justin. They greatly enjoyed the exhibits, particularly the tasting of the cookery entries! Sue Farrow and Fiona Singleton worked tirelessly collating the results and David and Tracy presided over the raffle. Thanks also to Emma Bernard who did an amazing job serving teas. Prizes and medals were awarded to both our adult and junior exhibitors.

Trophy for most points – Adult classes: Toddy Hamilton-Gould

Cookery Trophy – Jordie Riches

Art Trophy jointly won by Mandy Jones and David Buchanan

Junior Medal Winners:

Joint First Medal – Fynley Lucking, Jett Lucking and Oliver Blundell

Joint Second Medal – Felicity Holton, Henry Holton and William Blundell

Well done to All.

We'd love to see more Junior entries and have some fabulous medals and prizes available for our winners.

We had a very enjoyable trip to Bunkers Hill Nursery on the evening of Thursday 16th April. Thirty of us arrived and had free run of the coffee machine and cake table followed by an interesting and informative talk from Andrew accompanied by his daughter Lucy and grandson Jenson. We were told about how the business started, also outlining many exciting plans for the future. We could then browse, making use of a generous 15% discount and I think most people returned to the village bearing plants and pots ready to get to work in their gardens. As a result of this we are taking part in the Nursery's Community Project which resulted in us collecting a tub of late flowering miniature daffodils, which Clive has already planted in the roundabout along with a free primrose and cowslip. Hopefully we will then be chosen to receive 1000 daffodil bulbs in the Autumn to plant around the village. Watch this space.....

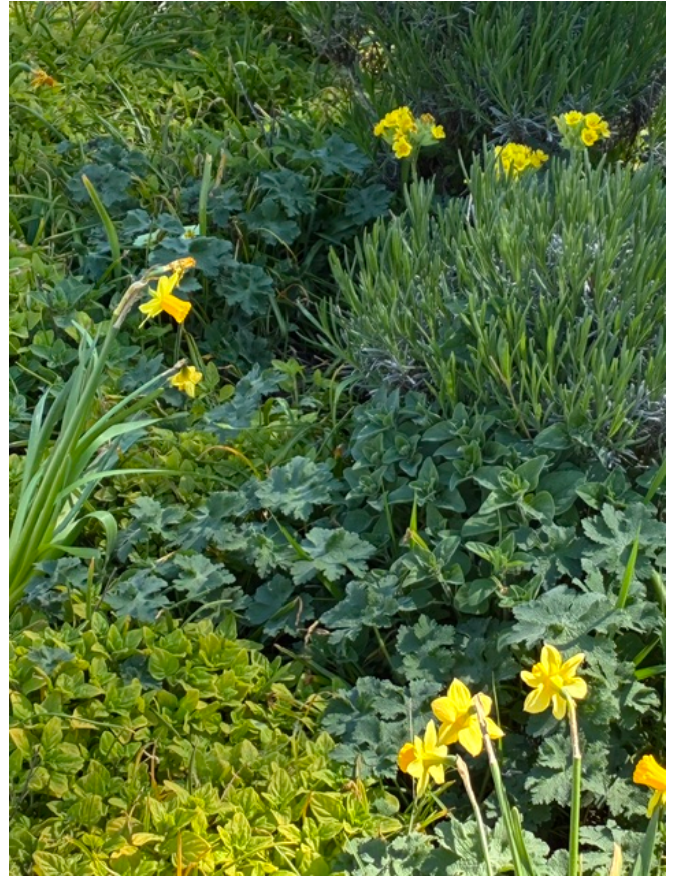


By the time this goes to press we will have had our Plant Sale in St Mary's Church on May 23rd, which I hope will be successful in raising money for both the Church and the Garden Club. We will also have visited Reynard's Lodge, with thanks to Linny and Gerald Bushby, for our first Garden Open Evening of the year on Tuesday May 12th. The next one will be at The Old Vicarage, hosted by Carole and David Sweetnam on Monday June 8th.

On Thursday 9th July we have organised a trip to Badminton House Flower Show. The coach will leave Weston on the Green at 9.15am and return around 6.30pm. I have now allocated all the tickets for this event and it is going ahead as planned. There may be an opportunity for me to order a limited number of extra tickets, so please contact me on toddyhg@gmail.com if you would like to come along.

Also, in July we are holding an afternoon Garden Party to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Garden Club. This will be held on Saturday 18th July between 2.30 and 5.30pm. Tickets for Garden Club members are £5 each and are selling fast, so if you wish to come along for a delicious tea, and hear the Bletchington Silver Band and have a fabulous time in the Dower House Garden, by kind permission of Tracy and David Johnson, then make sure you have paid your membership and bought a ticket.

Payment details are as follows: Account Name: David Johnson Account No: 04885198 Sort Code: 07-12-26.



The Garden Club have a busy Summer ahead and I look forward to seeing many of you at our events. If you are not already a member, do please join us. We are a friendly, welcoming Club and would be delighted to see you.

Toddy Hamilton-Gould

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VILLAGE SOCIETIES

Weston Society

Weston Society met on Monday 9th March when Simon Wenham gave a fascinating, if sometimes gruesome, talk on Poverty, Pestilence and Public Health in Victorian Britain.

Our next meeting after that will be our **AGM on Monday 13th July** when we will review the past year and plan for the next.

Our own Paula Hessian will also present a talk of local interest on that evening.

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 and pay our speakers.

Wine and nibbles are available, for a small donation, after the meeting.

Weston Walkers

The Weston Women's Institute first started the walking group with a Village Walk highlighting the history and stories around our roads and buildings.

This then developed into a monthly walking group enjoying local public footpath routes, led by different members of the group.

I took over the co-ordination of the group in 2016, when also volunteering as the Public Footpath Warden for the parish. In the early 2000's there were regularly over 20 walkers, plus dogs, from Weston and Bletchington meeting every month to enjoy a variety of local routes.

Over recent years numbers have, for various reasons,

diminished to only being five or six now on the list, though often only two or three now walking each month.

Three of us enjoyed a local walk in March and two of us in April, starting out wet, drying out and then wet again at the finish.

So, for my part I shall continue to walk the local public footpaths to ensure they remain accessible for all, reporting any issues to the County Council Countryside Access Team for follow up.

I shall continue to lead a walk on the second Monday of each month, meeting at Weston Village Hall at 1.30 pm, weather permitting.

Next dates: Monday 8th June & Monday 13th July

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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Thurs June 11th & July 9th**

PHONE BOX LIBRARY Opening Times

The phone box is now open all the time!

Please feel free to browse the shelves and borrow some books. We try to rotate stock on a regular basis and are always open to donations.

If you wish to donate a large number of books and would like us to collect them please email westonvillagehall@live.co.uk

Many thanks and happy reading!



FRIEND'S PRODUCE

There haven't been many donations to the Friends Produce initiative this period; it's not a great time of year for spare fruit & veg! However, we're approaching apple season so if you have an abundance of apples or any other fresh produce grown in your gardens or allotments, please bring them to the shop and 100% of the proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Church and Village Hall.

However, we're very grateful to Toddy and Mick, who pledge a proportion of their sales. In total during March and April, the initiative raised £91.33, which has been split and paid to the Church and Village Hall.



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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Recollections of the churchyard clear up

Back in the 80s the churchyard was overgrown with large bramble bushes all along the inside of the roadside wall. Wally Harkness did his best with a mower, but he was the only one.

As the last living member of the clean up team I have put together a short piece on our achievements. The acts of clearing were done by Sgt Tony Norris (formerly known as Tony Pratt), Bill Laurie, Wally Harkness and myself.

We began by clearing the bramble bushes to the roadside wall. This was achieved by much cutting, scratching and the loan of a small 3600 tracked machine from David Beecroft. The brambles were slowly cleared and burnt as we went, this was mostly done by myself and Cherrie. Having cleared the tops, the machine was then used to drag out the roots, level the area and track it back in. From then on, we obtained a concrete

garage from Bletchington Sports Club that myself and Wally concreted a base for, erected the shed and fitted a new roof complete with an oak cross on the gable end. Win Fox who was well up in the church hierarchy, said we would need a faculty from the vicar to erect the shed, this prompted the response from Tony, "██████████" and we carried on!

This worked ok for a while until one day the shed was broken into and various bits of machinery were stolen. To overcome this a metal covering was put on the door supplied by a metalworker in Marcham that I knew. This is still in place today. Bill acquired a couple of mowers from where he worked and we had a strimmer which hung in the roof.

One thing that stands out is the removal of a large tree trunk that lay at the top of the bank to the stream, this was completely dead and had been cut around for many years. Tony put the end of a lighted cigarette to one end and over the

course of a week the tree smoldered away into ash.

We won an award in 1992 in recognition of our work from the Oxfordshire Village Ventures Competition. We continued keeping the churchyard tidy for many years, well into the 2010s.

Mick East

Editor's comment: I am sure that you will all be pleased to hear that the grounds maintenance of St Mary's churchyard continues to this day, with the help of a group of volunteers from the village. The most recent clear up was on Saturday 2nd May, when volunteers, armed with trimmers, mowers and so on, worked hard to clear away weeds and overgrown areas. I am sure there was a well earned pint or two afterwards!

We rely on volunteers for this work. The more the merrier.

Future clear up dates will be posted in this newsletter.



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MISCELLANY

Greetings from Alexandra House of Joy. As I write this, on May 3rd, I hope you are enjoying these days of glorious sunshine whilst they last!!

We have two events this year which are very exciting, and are particularly aimed at anyone who might be an 'adrenaline junkie', and those who love a climbing challenge!

On July 18th, '26, 12.30pm onwards, we are offering anyone a free Tandem Skydive for an adventure of a lifetime. All to raise much needed funds for AHoJ!!



Then on September 12th '26 we are taking bookings to join the group challenge of climbing Snowdon Mountain, Llanberis, North Wales. Anyone who would like to join either, or both events, all you need to do is contact me on
alexandrahouseofjoy@gmail.com

and I will send you further details, plus the sponsor forms, so that you can reserve a place.

For future diary bookings, our seventh Celebrity Quiz with Dr Darragh Ennis, (The Menace of The Chasers), will be on November 27th '26 in Chesterton Community Centre.

This is a very popular event, and Darragh gives everyone a really fun filled, brain taxing, evening!! Finally, we only have £18,000 to raise now to reach our goal of £1,000,000!!

Rachael and Ian Scott-Hunter



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

Gardening tips for June

Want to help garden birds? Don't feed them in warmer months.

The RSPB have released guidance on feeding birds, stating that putting up bird feeders in your garden could be putting some species at risk of disease. Stop filling bird feeders with seeds and peanuts from **1 May to 31 October** as this will prevent too many birds gathering in one place. Instead, still put out small amounts of mealworms, fat balls or suet all year round.

Keep Bird Baths Topped Up

Fresh water is essential for birds in warm weather. Keep a shallow dish with a few pebbles and help insects drink safely. However, only put out a bird bath if you can replace the water **daily** and clean the bird bath **weekly** to prevent the spread of diseases, especially in the warmer months.

Let the grass grow

June is peak time for insects like butterflies, bees, and beetles. Leaving even a small patch of lawn uncut creates shelter and food for the likes of Meadow Browns, Large Blue butterflies, and Thick-legged flower beetles.

Go chemical-free

Gardening organically is a good way to ensure that the food and plants you grow are free of pesticides or chemicals, and the wildlife will thank you for it too.

By stopping the use of chemicals, slugs, snails, and insects such as aphids will return, but don't worry! In time, so will their natural predators, such as hedgehogs and slowworms to help keep pest numbers down.



Insect Week: Tiny Creatures, Big Impact

They may be small, but insects make a BIG difference to nature recovery.

From 22 June to 28 June, the Royal Entomological Society's spotlight week is a celebration of all things insect.

And these small critters really do make all the difference... there are more than 24,000 species in the UK alone, and they can be found in almost every habitat. Their jack-of-all-trades role spans pollinators, predators, pests, parasites, and prey, and the study of insects has long been central to conservation, food production, medicine, and ecology.

At Wild Oxfordshire, insects are essential to our Yellow Wagtail Partnership project. Established in 2020 by patron Dr Robin Buxton, the Partnership works with the Earth Trust Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm, to "learn and communicate as much as possible about the impact of different land management techniques both on this species and the wider environment".

As a migrant species, insects are a vital part of Yellow Wagtail diets. However, recent changes in farming practice and other human impacts on

Wild 
Oxfordshire

the landscape have led to habitat and insect declines, harming Yellow Wagtail populations. They now find themselves on the conservation red list.



How You Can Help

Help to look after our grasslands.

- Stick to the path and avoid wandering into the fields as this may disturb nesting birds or lead to nest abandonment.
- Be respectful of the livestock, keep dogs on leads when there are calves in the fields.
- Remember to take your and your dog's rubbish home with you.
- Don't have BBQs on the grasslands, as you may cause a fire.



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A collection is held on the first Saturday of every month,
9.00 am–12.00 pm outside the Weston Pantry.

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Dates for the Diary

3rd June	19:30	Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
6th June	09:00-12:00	Food Bank collection, Weston Community Shop
6th June	19:30	Quiz night in aid of St Mary's, held at the village hall. Doors open 18:30
8th June	13:30	Weston Walkers- meet at the Village Hall
8th June	18:30	Garden Club: open evening at the Old Vicarage
11th June	10:00-12:00	Neighbours' Natter at the Village Hall
25th June	19:00	National Theatre Live screening of 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' at the Village Hall. Doors open at 18:30
27th June	Evening	Dolce Vita Swing at Weston Manor
1st July	19:30	Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall
4th July	09:00-12:00	Food Bank collection, Weston Community Shop
9th July	09:15	Trip to Badminton House Garden Show. Coach leaves at 09:15
9th July	10:00-12:00	Neighbours' Natter at the Village Hall
11th July	13:30	Weston Walkers- meet at the Village Hall
13th July	19:30	Weston Society AGM at the Village Hall
18th July	14:30-17:30	Garden Club 60th anniversary party.



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