

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

TheVillageNews

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024



Photograph by Linda Allinson



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Village Directory

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FINANCE

Tracy Rowan: accounts@wotgnews.uk

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Peter Driver: 01869 350569

Eric Bohm: 01869 352006

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Yasemin Olcay: 01869 350230

VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Secretary
Jordie 350992

Village Hall Bookings
Jordie and Andrew Wilson
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COMMUNITY VAN BOOKING

Graham Barnett: 01869 350707

SOCIETIES

WESTON SOCIETY

WESTON WALKERS

FOOTPATH WARDEN

Graham Barnett: 01869 350707

GARDEN CLUB

Fiona Spensley: 07773 696798

GOLDEN LEAVES

Peter Driver: 01869 350569

Eric Bohm: 01869 352006

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURS NATTER

COFFEE MORNING

Patsy Parsons: 01869 350331

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Non-Emergency Line: 101

OCC

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WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Diane Bohm, Chair; Neighbourhood Plan; Finance: 352006

Ben Lanham, Vice Chair; Playing Field: 07887 886138

Susan Davis, Planning; Neighbourhood Plan; Finance: 07518 926880

John Miller, Works: 350511

Tracy Rowan, Finance: 07833 473357

Parish Council Clerk: Jane Mullane, 350282

e: clerk@westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk

From the editor

This issue sees the second anniversary of my editorship of the *Village News* which technically means a theme of cotton should be running through it as apparently that's the official symbol of this time span. Let me assure you, there's no such theme ...

During this time rather a lot has happened both nationally and locally, with the Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's funeral and the Coronation all being celebrated or commemorated by the village. Locally, the recent election saw a major change for Weston in coming under a newly created constituency of Bicester and Woodstock and we now have a Lib Dem MP, Calum Miller. I'll see if he'd like to contribute a regular letter to the magazine starting in the October/November issue.

Other changes even closer to home are that the School Field was put up for auction on 11th July (though the reserve price wasn't reached and at the time of going to print I've no further information) and Yasemin has officially handed in her notice with the Post Office so the process of the shop becoming owned by the community can formally begin. A huge thank you to Yasemin for everything she's done to make Weston Pantry such a wonderful village shop, congratulations and thank you to SOS for working so hard to raise the funds to enable the community to buy the shop, and a massive thank you to all the investors who have helped this plan come to fruition.

We've even had an amazing display of the Northern Lights across the night sky – a packed 24 months in Weston!

Alisa



Photos by Susan Daenke

Deadline for October/November edition:
5 SEPTEMBER 2024



From the Rector

Gareth Miller

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

Well, believe it or not, I am writing this in the early hours of Friday 5 July. I have been up all night, and should probably not be doing this now, being I'm being pressed by a very hard-working editor to get this material in by the morning!

Did you stay up all night for the election results? Perhaps I am a little nerdy, but I can't imagine not doing so. It's one of the highlights of life in the UK! I may have dozed off very briefly at about 3 am, but I was there for Shapps, and Mordaunt, and Rees-Mogg – oh, and Corbyn – and Truss! I find it hard to understand people who are not excited by it, and take themselves to bed at the usual hour!

We are hugely fortunate to live in a democracy. It is far from perfect, but it could be an awful lot worse. I am glad we don't have to make the rather binary choices that our friends in France and the USA do,

though I would be much happier with a fairer voting system. But first past the post is a good deal better than a one-party state!

On election day I was leading Collective Worship at Bletchington School while voting was taking place on the other side of the partition in the hall. I was surprised and pleased at the level of knowledge and interest shown by many of the children, but disappointed that several pupils said that their parents didn't intend to vote. I was also amused by one very small boy who said, "My mum's voting red, as it's her favourite colour!"

So, we have a new government, and I wish them well. It's easy to be an armchair critic, but the burdens of office are huge and I take my hat off to any who offer themselves for elected office. I hope that a new parliament will see greater accountability, greater probity, and a real commitment to public service.

Christians are encouraged in scripture to pray for those in authority. So please do that – for our new MP, Calum Miller; for our new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer; and for all who serve in local and national government – that they may seek justice and equity, with fairness and moderation, in serving the well-being and prosperity of all.

Gareth

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

4th Aug	18:00	Hymns and Pimms
11th Aug	11:00	Morning Worship
18th Aug	11:00	Holy Communion
25th Aug	18:00	Summer Compline with Akeman Church Community Choir, Chesterton
1st Sept	10:30	Benefice Service, Bletchington Village Hall Plaza
8th Sept	11:00	Morning Worship
15th Sept	11:00	Holy Communion
22nd Sept	11:00	Harvest Service followed by lunch at the Village Hall
29th Sept	17:00	Harvest Songs of Praise with Akeman Church Community Choir, Middleton Stoney

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 in the Akeman Benefice please visit: <https://www.akemanbenefice.org.uk/church-services> We look forward to welcoming you to our services.

From the Register

Funeral: 16th May 2024 Tony Henman

BENEFICE NEWS

Summer Compline with Akeman Church Community Choir

25th August at 18:00, Chesterton Church. A lovely reflective evening service, based on the monastic service of compline.

Pilgrim Path Local Walks

For information about walks around local churches: <https://akemanbenefice.org.uk/about-the-benefice/pilgrim-paths>

Joint Creation-tide service with Swedish Partners

An online service with our friends from the Diocese of Växjö, Sweden on 11th September at 18:30 there will be in Sweden.

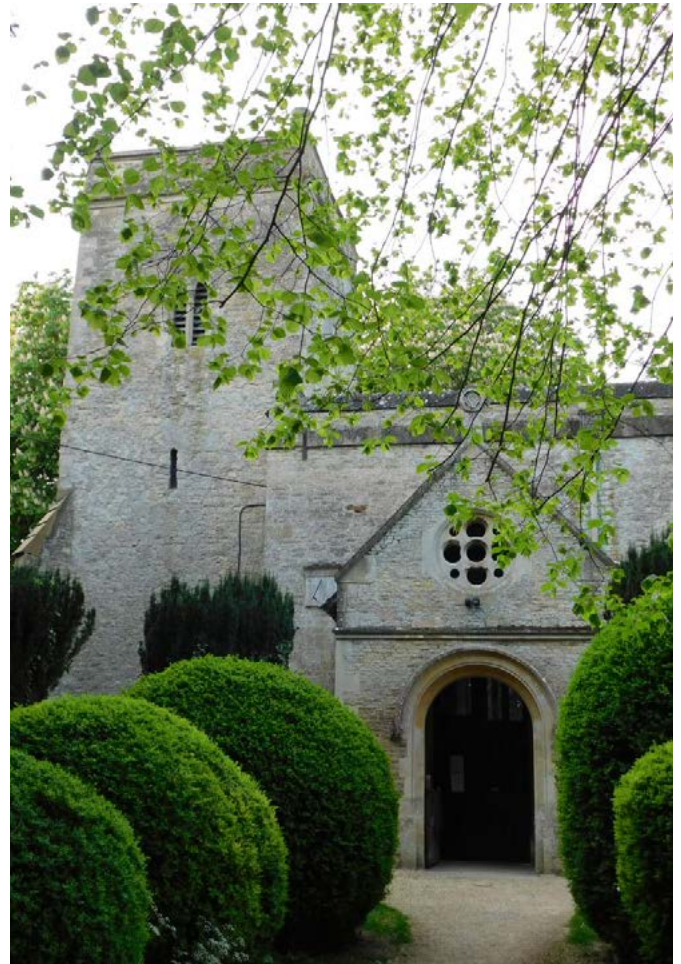
Church news

The table below outlines the financial performance for the six months ended June for both 2023 and 2024.

	2023	2024
Stewardship	£3,099	£5,144
Collections @ Services	£705	£358
Fees	£561	£908
Insurance Claim	£0	£4,575
Other Income	£1,167	£207
Total Income	£5,532	£11,162
Parish Share	£4,013	£3,950
Insurance	£1,020	£901
Utilities	£453	£716
Garden	£138	£296
Projects	£86	£5,835
Other Expenses	£14 5	£509
Total Expenses	£5,855	£12,207
Surplus (Deficit)	(£323)	(£1,045)

The increase in the Stewardship reflects our community's generosity in their support of our fund-raising campaign in September/October 2023. This is very much appreciated and affords us the opportunity of increasing our engagement with the village community. The Insurance Claim was for the repairs to the damage to the churchyard wall by the falling trees. The Projects Costs include the repair to the wall, removal of the trees (£4,825), the Quintennial Inspection report (£650), and a tree survey (£360).

Both reports reveal that there are some maintenance and repair issues that need to be addressed. We have received a quote (£780) from the tree surgeon to



remove branches from several trees to help prevent a recurrence of the tree collapse that occurred in early January.

It is also time for a comprehensive inspection of the electrical circuitry in the church building. On the positive side, we have renegotiated the contract with our electricity supplier reducing the monthly payments from £77.50 to £49.11, primarily due to lower electricity consumption. The annual amount of Parish Share has been reduced by the Diocese from £8,065 in 2023 to £7,540 in 2024.

Eric Bohm

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Chair's comments

Summertime for the Parish Council means lots more grass to mow, football season in the playing field, summer holidays and children wanting fun in the playground and spinney, less traffic (?), bicycles on our streets and long relaxing evenings.

Since the last edition progress has been with the reinvigoration of the Traffic Advisory Committee under the leadership of Graham Barnett supported by Eric Bohm as Secretary. They have picked up the work on Church Road/Lane and the B430.

There has been a tiny bit of progress made on removing the oversized path at the base of the oak tree. Folks new to the village may well be wondering what is going on as we report on this and the lack of action by the County Council regularly. In brief, when the path was built, thoughtless action in terms of protecting our veteran oak tree resulted in roots being cut, concrete bags laid on top of the roots and impromptu design resulting in a path with an unsafe drop. A barrier was erected so children wouldn't fall off the path but drivers at the top of North Lane have visibility of oncoming traffic reduced. We have had three years of to and fro discussion, argument and un-met promises. This past month Cherwell's arborist



stated that he is worried about the tree and action must be taken to remove the path. Let's hope by the time you read this report the path

has been removed.

I doubt anyone is unaware that Gigaclear has installed

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infrastructure for full fibre broadband in the village. There have been issues: not knowing what is happening on your street, hoping to get hooked up but being disappointed by frequent cancellations, getting the product installed only to suffer repeat dropouts in service.

The Parish Council was concerned enough to survey all villagers to establish the full range of concerns and successes (there were some!). James Henderson, our Technology Advisor and Diane Bohm took these concerns to an Operations Director for Gigaclear. A specific team was asked to meet with James and Diane, have a walk around the village and speak with those who have issues— these were operational and included installation, service and signal issue. We had the 'tour' on Monday, 12th June and the lead of the team asked for two weeks to resolve issues. At that point we would review our next steps. Gigaclear requested a village meeting to hear directly from villagers on issues, historic and current. You may not want to use Gigaclear but there is a mandate to make it available to residents of the village. If the day comes when there is a switch from copper to fibre optic cables, the village needs to be able to switch easily. You may ask why the Parish Council is drilling down very hard on this issue. We have a long-term strategic goal – to be prepared for change.

New challenges have a way of

popping up just when you think it would be nice to sit in the sun! We understand that there is to be a commercial venture at Weston on the Green Airfield for parachuting occurring on weekends. The concern for the villages of Weston on the Green, Chesterton, Middleton Stoney, Wendlebury, Kirtlington and Bletchington is that of noise and increased traffic. We will have met with the Squadron Leader and his team by the time this issue has gone to press. We'll pass information to villagers via our Parish Council website and email. Please contact the clerk if you want to be on our email list: (clerk@westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk).

Three councillors attended the Parish Liaison Meeting on 12th June 2024. Susan Davis, Tracy Rowan and Diane Bohm split up during the first session which included a series of 'surgeries' with officers of both Cherwell District Council (CDC) and Oxfordshire County Council. The areas we focused on were Planning & Planning Policy (Susan/ Diane), OCC Highways (Diane/ Tracy). We asked many questions which included: is there a way for houses in the Conservation Area to accommodate 21st century living i.e. solar panels, car charging units and fibre optic boxes on the outside of homes, ransom strips, external lights that stay on all night in a dark village; the long waiting list for speed reduction on the B430, the speedwatch programme results not resulting in speeding

tickets. Responses helped your councillors discuss our specific concerns whilst learning more about regulations.

The second session of the event included a welcome and look forward from the new Chairman of CDC, Cllr Dr Chukwudi Okeke, the newly elected Leader of CDC, Cllr David Hingley, and the fairly recently hired Chief Executive, Gordon Stewart. Amidst changing times, it was good to put a face to new names and hear their views and goals for the district council. Did the questions that took us to the event get answered? Ultimately some did, but your councillors had to work hard to get answers to: what is the five-year housing supply? When will the Local Plan be back in public view? How can the poor communication between communities and the district be improved? Why do planning applications take so long to be processed? Who is in control of S106 money and how can communities get hold of it?

In this and future comments, we will include information that is important to share with those new/ newish to the village and those who have lived here for years. In this issue we are going to look at living in the Conservation Area, an article by Cllr Susan Daenke, our planning advisor.

Diane Bohm



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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

24/00935/CLUE– Summer Court

24/00804/OUT – Reynards Lodge,
North Lane

24/00497/F – Cruck Cottage

24/00498/LB – Cruck Cottage

24/00816/F – Quick Fit Garage, A34
North

Decisions Received – Refused

24/00745/CLUE – North View,
North Lane - Certificate of
Lawfulness of Existing Use for
Change of Use of existing double
width hardstanding on verge
directly to front of property to
domestic use - hardstanding
straddling highways land.

Withdraw

24/01137/LB - The Old Vicarage
Mill Lane - Renovation of existing
detached garage to incorporate first
floor home office space

Applications – Awaiting Decision

23/03383/F – 2 Church Close
Two storey side and rear extensions
(re-submission of 23/01872/F).



24/00893/F – Kelberg,
Northampton Road - Proposed
erection of 8-bay workshop and
associated works.

24/01102/F – North View, North
Lane – RETROSPECTIVE – Upgrade
of existing verge hardstanding.

24/01136/F - The Old Vicarage,
Mill Lane - Renovation of existing
detached garage to incorporate first
floor home office space.

24/01572/AGN – OS Parcel 4658
North Of Shell Filling Station And
SW Of The Chequers Part Of A34
by Weston On The Green - Erection
of a General Purpose Agricultural
Storage Building (non-livestock).

Tree Applications

24/00722/TCA – Manor Hotel

24/01678/TCA – Holly House,
Church Lane



hga
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Living in a Conservation Area

Conservation Areas are designated for their distinctive character which can be one of the main draws for prospective residents and are certainly linked with higher property values. The planning controls placed over the area can help to preserve the area's integrity and what makes it unique. This means there will be resistance to change that may damage the attractive qualities of the area such as loss of green spaces, the demolition of distinctive buildings and new development which does not reference and respond to the area.

Weston on the Green village is predominantly a designated Conservation Area, and the south half of the village is within the Green Belt, which also provides protection against development

which compromises important green space. The Conservation Area designation respects the village history which dates to pre-Norman times with evidence of historic occupation all around us. The valued character is described in detail in the Conservation Area Appraisal report of 2009 which defines local historic areas that are relevant to current planning legislation. The aims of the report are echoed in the Weston on the Green Neighbourhood Plan (a policy document which was approved by democratic majority in 2021), which includes policies specifically designed to protect the village character.

Living in a Conservation Area brings many positives and perhaps some negatives in not having the

automatic right to do what might be the easiest or most convenient for an individual resident. The pressures to develop land within and outside the village are significant and if the character is not preserved and looked after, we will lose the argument if a new proposal seeks to remove some of those character elements which may have been left to degrade over time.

The Parish Council is working hard to keep the village looking well maintained to make the most of our heritage assets. We encourage residents to respect these efforts, to have pride in our village and parish at large, and value our village historic features and assets.

Susan Daenke

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

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

Weston on the Green Community Transport is in need of additional volunteer drivers.

If you are over 30 years of age with a clean driving licence, no accidents in last 5 years and have spare time during the day, please consider helping to maintain this invaluable Community asset.

Mainly local trips to hospitals or surgery

Contact Graham Barnett on 01869 350707

Weston SOS – The Waiting Game



This article is to assure you that we are still moving forward, although this was always going to be a slow process.

As I write, we have agreed a memorandum of sale with Yasemin. Yasemin has notified the Post Office that she is retiring and we are waiting to hear from the Post Office that we can start the – inevitably lengthy – Post Office application process. We have appointed an adviser from an organisation called 'Post Office Talent' to support us in the process to ensure that we make the best possible application. This remains the final hurdle (Olympian metaphor intended).

We are finalising the legal agreements for those in our share-holder funding-circle who are kindly providing the 5-year mortgage. This will leave us ready to complete swiftly on the purchase once the post office situation is positively resolved.

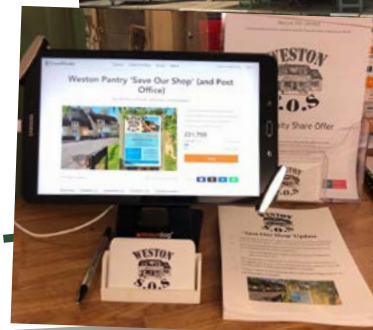
Our focus is moving towards the actual running of a community-owned shop. This will require a different range of skills from the current SOS committee. Once the transition to community ownership has been completed and everything is up and running, there will be an AGM for the shareholders to elect a management committee.

This is some way in the future, but if you see yourself participating in the management of the shop, have ideas for improvements, or fancy volunteering for a few hours a week working in some capacity in the shop, please do get in touch. The business plan includes maintaining employed staff who will continue to run the post office, so volunteers would be additional support which might, for example, extend current opening hours.

Thanks, as ever, to our dynamic chair, Sam Sharp who is acquiring new skills by submitting our annual accounts to the Financial FCA and registering us for corporation tax with HMRC. We are still seeking a treasurer, so if you have any financial expertise or would like to acquire some, please do get in touch. The email is chair@weston-sos.org.

Fiona Spensley
Weston SOS

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC PATH TO WHERE WE'VE GOT TO





Weston-on-the-Green Neighbourhood Watch

We've finally had some summer ... have you been outside more?

Have you been chatting to your neighbours over the garden fence? Neighbourhood Watch is all about getting to know the people who live in your street and understanding the rhythms of life around you.

Are you going away? We tend to think of putting lights on a timer in the winter, when it gets dark early, maybe before you get home from work. But there are rhythms to your use of lighting in the summertime too. If you are away, how about

putting a timer on a lamp in your bedroom so it comes on at the usual time? Are you usually up for the late news? You could put another timer in the TV room light – or even use a TV simulator security light.

Distraction danger

On another topic, I want to warn you about something that happened to a friend of mine in Tesco's car park in Bicester. She had just finished putting her shopping in the car and someone tapped on the window telling her that she'd been hit on the back

bumper by a car that had driven away. When she got out to inspect the "damage", a second person stole her purse and phone from the handbag she'd left on the seat.

Distraction burglary can happen in all sorts of situations, and I'm relating this one so if it happens to you, you'll be aware, and cautious. And always report incidents to 999 if there is danger to life or an ongoing crime, otherwise to 101.

For information about email, phone and online fraud, there's a website called www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk which has a lot of useful information

You can find further information on the Neighbourhood Watch tab of the Village website: westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk. and you can contact the Weston on the Green Neighbourhood Watch Scheme at wotg.nhw@gmail.com

Patsy Parsons



BICESTER FOOD BANK

EMERGENCY FOOD
FOR PEOPLE IN CRISIS

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

All donations of non-perishable food received with thanks.

Supported by St Mary's Church, the Village Hall, and the Parish Council.

Seeded by The Trussell Trust





IN THE APRIL EDITION of the *Village News* we mentioned the installation of the two bird boxes, made by David Williams, and we were delighted to see them in use by a family of blue tits over the last couple of months. These have been a very welcome addition to the Hall and we hope that they will be used during the breeding season next year.

The nestlings have not been the only addition to the Hall. In mid-May we installed an accessible fire escape path to the rear of the Hall. The path was completed in just two days and has made the pathway by the kitchen (and to the fire door) smarter, safer and more accessible for all Hall users. Mindful of the Hall's heritage, the bricks for the air raid shelter which could be seen at the back of the Hall were not disturbed and are still visible to the side of the path.

The Village Hall roof, following its clean by Kieran and KJ Cleaning Solutions, has also undergone some minor repairs and we are very grateful to Alan Rowan, of AR Home Improvements, based

here in the village, for carrying out the repairs to the roof. Thank you to both local businesses for their invaluable advice, expertise and help in completing the works at the Hall.

Another addition to the Village Hall grounds is a 'please clean up after your dog' sign. Regrettably, in recent months, we have had a number of incidents of dog mess being left on the lawns and garden and this isn't nice for those who mow the grass and tend to the flowerbeds to find these deposits.



The garden makes up part of the Memorial Hall which is dedicated to those villagers who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars so please could we ask dog owners to clean up any mess and place it in the dog bin at Mill Lane. This would be very much appreciated.

In June two villagers asked about the condition of one of the cherry

trees at the Hall. We noticed it hadn't had any blossom this year, or last year, and a visit by Bicester Tree Services confirmed our concerns. The tree was dying and needed to be felled. The tree was planted by the WI in the mid-1990s and was dedicated to Mrs Win Fox, a much respected and long-standing founder member of the WI in Weston. We have had discussions with Paula Hessian (with both her WI and history of Weston knowledge) and with Mrs Fox's daughter about the tree and the decision to remove it has not been taken lightly. Our aim is to ensure the other cherry tree remains healthy and, from a safety perspective, that the tree is felled correctly and safely.

Over the next couple of months the Hall is playing host to a few events that may be of interest to you. Our first event is taking place on Saturday 7th September and is a pop-up pub with the annual Aunt Sally match between the north and south of the village. 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. One theory is that it was introduced by Royalist soldiers, stationed at Port Meadow during the English Civil War, who were bored and came up with a game very similar to the one played today. In the village we have been holding an annual Aunt Sally match since 2016 (excluding during the pandemic). Every match has seen



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a lot of fiercely- fought rounds and good-natured rivalry on the evening, and we're sure this year will be no different! All villagers of all ages are welcome. Dan's burger and hot dog van will be selling hot food and there will be a licenced cash bar.

Our next two events take place in October, with the Craft Fair on October 19th and the firework display on Saturday 26th October. The Craft Fair will have lots of stalls, including North Aston Organics, Neal's Yard Remedies, and our very own village businesses of BeccaLou Designs, Peck & Feather, Dough & Dine, and Rekha's Indian Street Food. We will also be raising money for MacMillan Cancer Support via the sale of teas and coffees during the day (10am -3pm).

For this year's fireworks display we are asking that donations of wood for the bonfire be dropped off at the playing field on the day of the event from 9.30am. The bonfire building will take place in the morning and the evening starts at 6.30pm. A village favourite, Howe & Co Fish and Chip van, will be at the event along with Dan's Burger van. This is one of our favourite evenings and we think we have a fantastic village firework display. In order to maintain this we have, for the first time, had to raise the entry fee and details of this can be found on the poster in this edition of the magazine.

We hope you can make a date in your diary for these events and we look forward to seeing you!



PHONE BOX LIBRARY

Opening Times for 2024

The phone box is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, from early morning until dusk 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 137 Emma Gubbins
2nd prize: £45 No 20 Bill Lawrie
3rd prize: £15 No 127 Zosh Barton

JULY

1st prize: £18 No 168 Ben and Kate Lanham
2nd prize: £12 No 202 Josie Cartwright
3rd prize: £6 No 62 Chris Parsley

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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Saturday 7th September 2024

6-11pm at the Village Hall



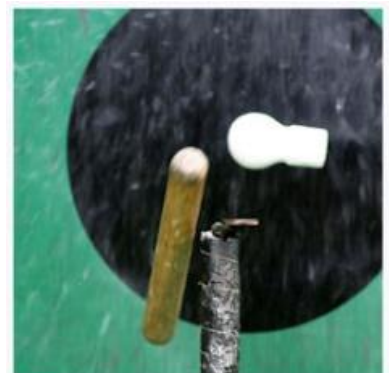
Pop-Up Pub: Cash Bar

Annual Aunt Sally Match:

North vs South of the Village

Burger Van

All welcome



The Amaryl^lis's

EARLY IN THE 1970S, just after moving to Weston, I was invited out to tea. In fact the invite was worded "You are coming to the am.....s coming out party, aren't you?" What was this? In the hope that this would be fun and I might meet more people in the village I said 'Yes' and didn't let on that the word 'am.....s' didn't mean anything to me and 'coming out', in those days meant something to do with debutants – were there deb's in Weston and would I count?

On the given afternoon I and the person who had invited me went to a house in the village where several villagers were sitting round in the conservatory, drinking tea – a tea party. I met several people who I had not yet seen in the village and eventually realised that 'coming out' referred to the huge blooms on the windowsills.

I later learnt that 'am.....s' was a garbled form of amaryllis – a huge bulb with each stem bearing 4 or five blooms. Some blooms were approaching a foot across and the colours ranged from white to deep red with all the shades between and some having stripes and decorative colouring which was stunning.

Nowadays, with amaryllis bulbs being readily available in garden centres and especially popular as a gift that will progress from a bulb to a spectacular flower these are quite common – I'm sure many homes have a bloom or two – often about 2–3 months after the bulb has been first watered and as many are given at Christmas time amaryllis coming out parties could be held in spring or early summer.

Now for the Weston connection. The lady who had the many amaryllis bulbs was Mrs Cissie Beecroft. Many years before I met her, she and her husband had run a small shop selling tinned goods and vegetables and also had a van delivering fish round the local villages. Later, when I gathered memories of the village in the early 20th century I found many who remembered waiting outside her house to have the left over bits of fried batter when her fish and chip shop closed for the night. Recently Weston has had a mobile fish and chip van visit every Tuesday, but how wonderful was it that at one time we had our own fish and chip shop!

Cissie was herself the supplier of nuggets of information, whenever I spoke to her. One I remember was that she recalled hearing the salute fired in Oxford when Queen Victoria died – I guess the wind was in the right direction. The schoolteacher had taken all the children outside the school to listen, so she must have had an idea of the timing.



Cissie Beecroft and her amazing amaryllis

When the village was sold in 1918, Cissie went with her father to pay for their cottage. A friend called



Coming Out Party

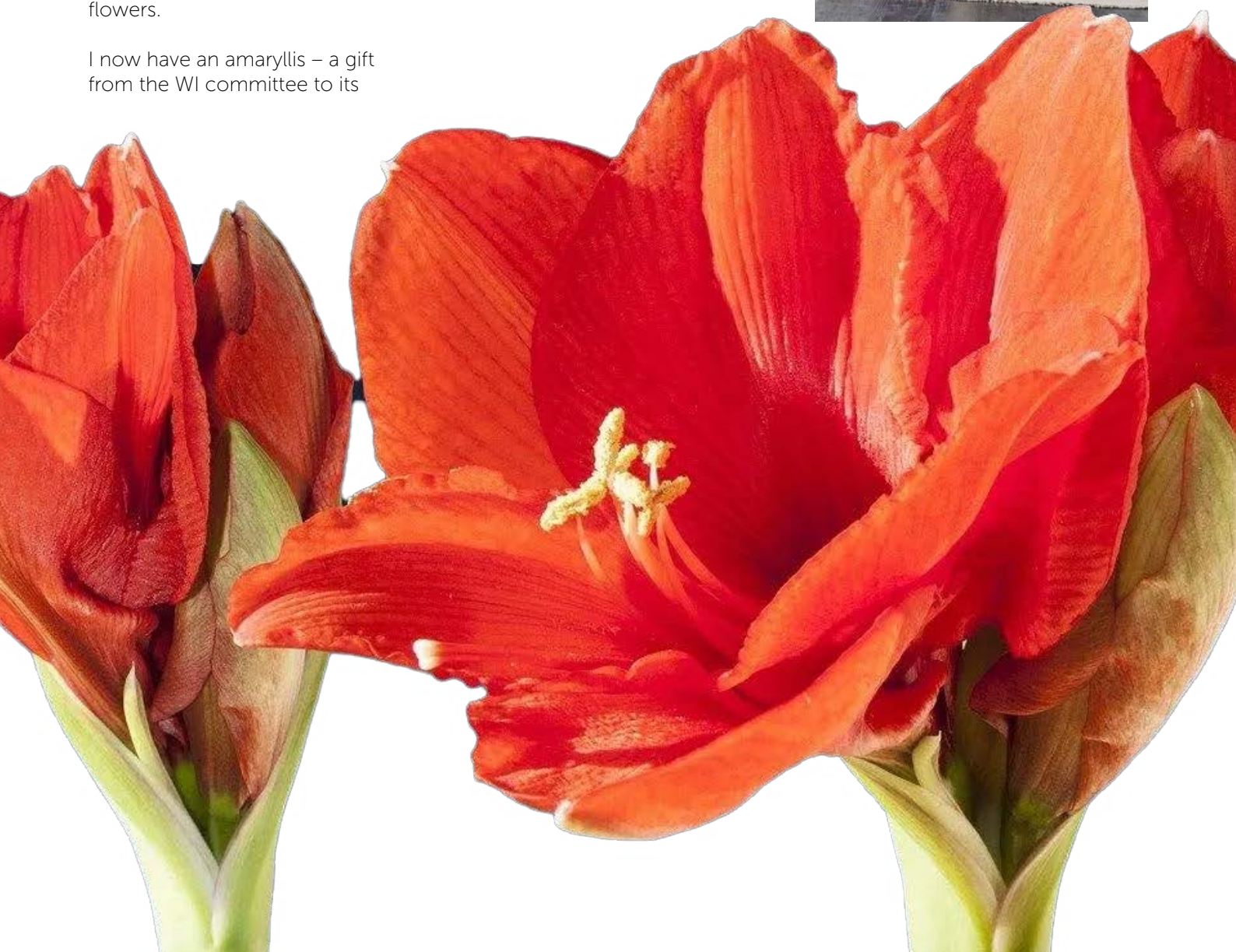
her to 'come and celebrate' – it was 11th November, but Cissie chose to continue on to Oxford with her father and there saw a train carrying injured from France. Her compassion at seeing these men remained and was evident when she told me the story in the 1970s.

And so, over the following 50 years, I treasured the memory of the first Amaryllyis Coming Out Party I attended and then, just a few months ago, I was shown a newspaper article dating from 1985 showing Mrs Beecroft and one of her plants, which had produced 12 flowers.

I now have an amaryllyis – a gift from the WI committee to its

members at Christmas 2020 when we had been in and out of lockdowns and having a tea party seemed never to happen again. Mine has flowered twice and now has fresh foliage, but sadly, no flower bud this time. Looking at the size of the flowerpot in the newspaper picture, I think I must re-pot the bulb, in new compost and in a bigger pot. I don't really have very green fingers!

Paula Hessian





Weston Society

Weston Society met on Monday 13th May when Maurice East gave a fascinating and informative talk on the part that Cowley Works played in the Second World War, how car manufacturing changed overnight to building war machinery and eventually constructing and repairing light aircraft.

At the time of writing, the Society is due to meet on Monday 8th of July when we will be hearing all about the Oxford Bus Museum in Long Hanborough, well worth a visit for those who have not been, also incorporating the Morris Motors Museum.

The next meeting after that is scheduled for Monday 9th September with the speaker yet to be confirmed.

Unfortunately, as with other organisations, due to lack of members and increasing costs the Society is in danger of having to close, so we would encourage villagers to seriously consider joining for an enjoyable social evening with speakers on a variety of interesting topics.

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 £15 per person for anyone who then wishes to join, though this may have to be increased, 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 walk on a warm and sunny afternoon in May commenced in Kirtlington taking us down to Pigeon Lock, along the canal towpath to Northbrook before heading back via field paths to our starting point.

At the time of writing we plan to walk again on Mondays 8th July, 12th August and 9th September.

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 01869 350707



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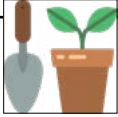
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Weston-on-the-Green Garden Club

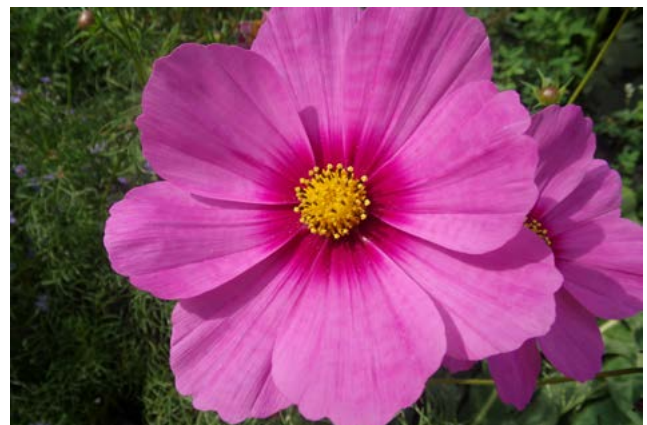
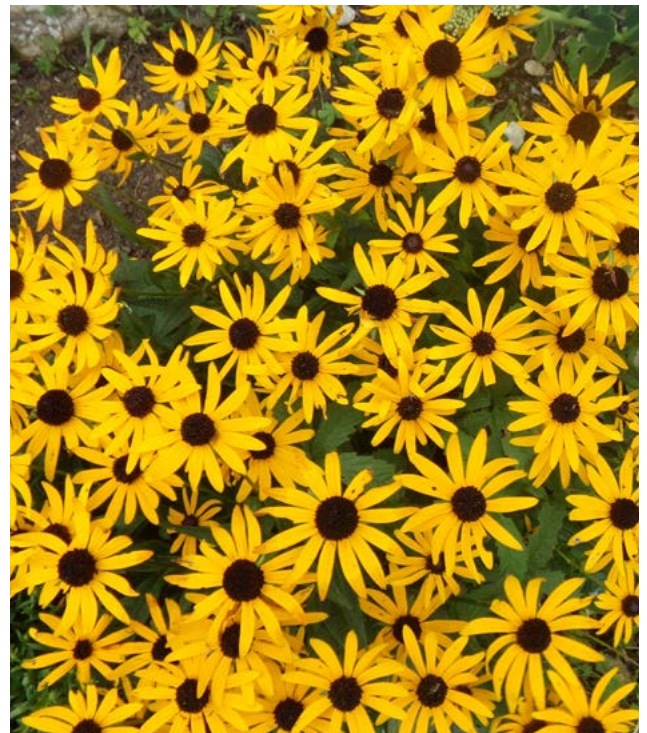
We held a very successful open garden at Dairy Cottage to open our season of garden visits, on a perfect summer evening. Jennie Henderson has created a vibrant and welcoming space, with inspiration in both planting and garden design. Particular thanks to David Johnson, our treasurer, for bringing wine of all shades, serving with one hand and collecting subscriptions with the other!

When this issue arrives with you, there will be one open evening remaining, but it's a double evening with two gardens in Church Lane. We will start at The Cottage, where Andrew Taylor has been working hard on his roses and sunflowers and we will then move, glasses in hand, to Emma Bernard's garden at Mulberry Cottage. The date is Tuesday 6th August, 6.30 to 8pm, with a glass of wine and nibbles served at the Cottage.

As ever, the evening is weather dependent. We will email our mailing list in the early evening of the day if there is any doubt about the weather conditions, please email f.spensley@btinternet.com to be added to the mailing list. Anyone from Weston is welcome to turn up and join the club or renew their membership at the open garden.

The date for the Autumn show will be Saturday 31st August, 2.30 to 4:00pm. Copies of the schedule for entries are available in the Village Shop and all are welcome to enter. There are exhibition classes for vegetables, flowers, flower-arranging, cookery, photography and other crafts for adults and there are specific classes for children (the latter with prizes). We hope to offer a workshop for children the previous weekend to work on their entries, the event will be advertised on the village Facebook page. Alternatively just visit the show and have a chat with fellow villagers over a tea or coffee, and delicious homemade cakes.

Fiona Spensley, Chair



Photos by Andrew Taylor



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Barn Owls update

With the lack of a working nest box camera earlier in the year, we have been unable to have the bonus of watching the activities of our pair of barn owls. By the time I've crawled across the loft floor trying to be as quiet as possible, on reaching the nest box I've already heard the scurrying of clawed feet and flapping of wings as the occupants have exited.

In March I was wondering whether there was a pair of birds or whether one of them was still looking for a mate - with such rubbish weather in this month, I wasn't going to stand outside on a wet and windy evening hoping to see one or two white owls flying around. However, my neighbour vouched that he had seen both birds.

My 'Barn Owl Diary' has the following entries for this year:

3rd April: 1 egg present

9th April: 4 eggs present

14th April: 6 eggs present

4th May: 1 egg hatched

23rd May: 6 owlets present – they are very ugly at this point!

I looked again on the 20th June – six almost fully grown barn owls present. Unfortunately I couldn't take a photograph because as they were so active there was a danger they would fly past me and into the loft space which would have been a disaster.

One of the youngsters emerged at 4.00 am on 4th July to take up a perch on the patio umbrella. There were five around the previous night, all competing for this top spot.

A new camera is now all connected up and working and ready to go in the box once these youngsters have dispersed. We've missed not having the opportunity of watching them grow up this year. However, there is the possibility of a second brood and if so, these will get the full publicity treatment!

Bob Hessian



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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall



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6.30pm Bonfire

7pm Firework Display

Burger Van

Howe & Co Fish & Chip 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 2025 display

Tony Henman

1940 - 2024

TONY HENMAN was born in Woodstock, the eldest of three children. His father Albert was a local solicitor and his mother Peggy, who died young, ran an antiques shop in Summertown.

Tony's schooldays, at New College prep school and Malvern College, were dominated not by academic pursuits but by the sporting endeavours which remained his lifelong passion. At Malvern, he captained the Winchester Fives team, enjoyed squash and played for the first team at a range of sports, winning School Colours for cricket and football.

To his chagrin, he was forbidden to compete at cross-country in his teens because of a leaking heart valve, but he managed to play high-level sport for another six decades with no apparent ill-effects, and indeed was renowned for his pace and stamina - although his 'take no prisoners' attitude on the hockey pitch led one opponent to nickname him 'HardMan'.

At 18, he was articled to his father's firm Henman Ballard, and after qualifying spent several years at the London solicitors Hextall Erskine. He re-joined his father's practice in 1965, building its reputation for personal injury litigation, mainly working for major insurance companies and it was during this time that he and Jane moved to the village in the late '60s, becoming an integral part of village life with their three sons, Michael, Richard and Tim all going to the village school. Tony's legal practice thrived and he established other branches in the Thames Valley before a merger with a

larger practice, Freeth Cartwright, in 2012.

Tony's passion for sport was well-known, so much so that when he led his bride down the aisle, it could be seen that his normally smooth, clean-cut face was disfigured by two black eyes and a painful-looking broken nose, injuries sustained not from a stag-do but from a fiercely struck ball during a scrimmage in a county hockey match. Even their honeymoon was not immune from the groom's passion for ball games

as he cut it short by a couple of days to play hockey for Oxford Town in a local derby match.

Fortunately, Jane was more understanding than most because, as she explained, 'hockey was such a major love in his life as well as tennis, which was not only of his but of all our family now and back through the years since 1900 when my grandmother first played at Wimbledon, followed by my mother and father.' Their union was a stable and happy one, lasting over 55 years.

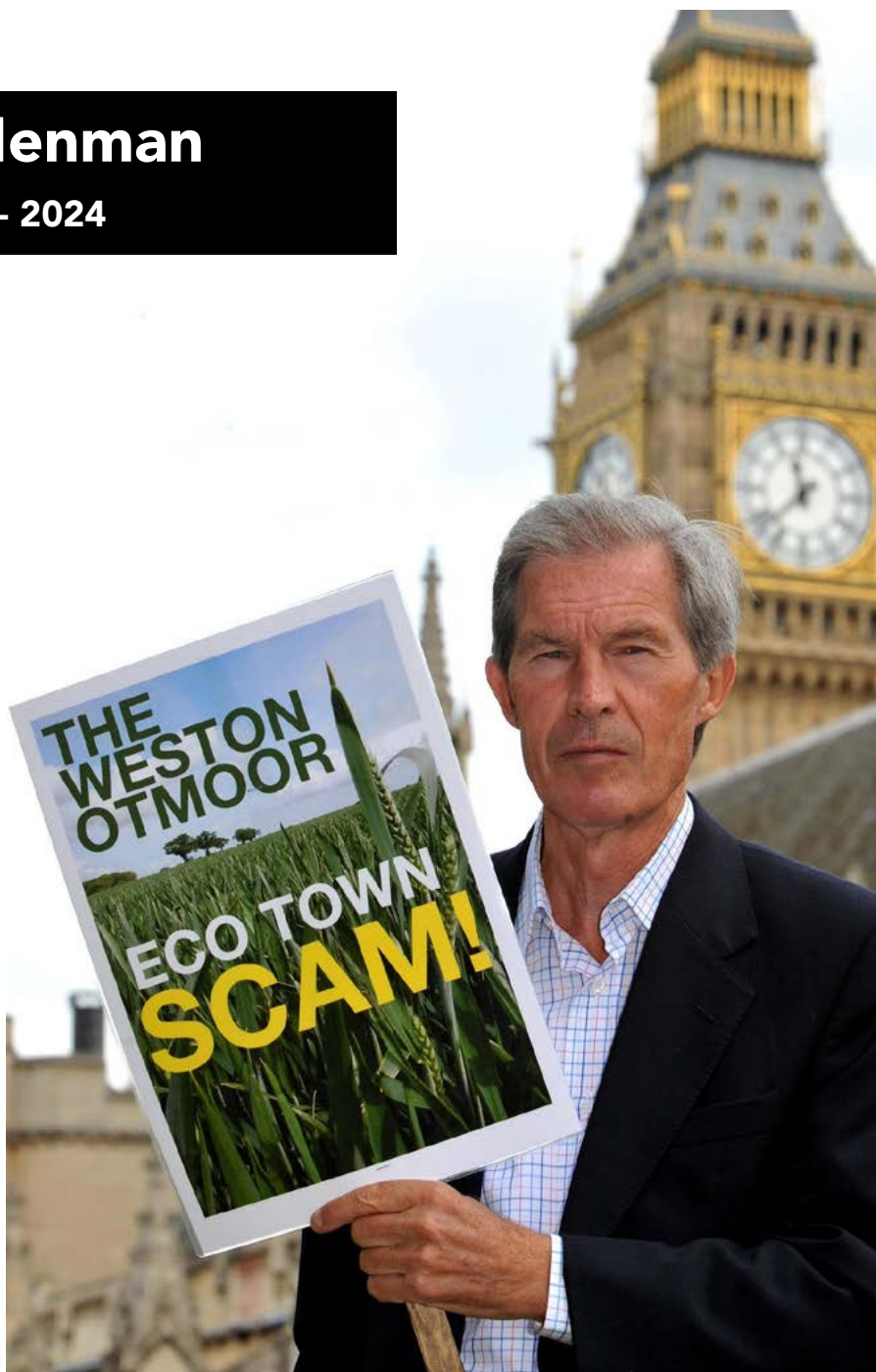


Photo © John Stillwell



Playing hockey for England over-55s in the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur

Tony shone at hockey, cricket, tennis and squash. As well as representing Oxfordshire in all four sports, he also played football for Headington United prior to them becoming Oxford United. He turned out for the Oxford Hawks Hockey Club for over 60 years, played England Seniors hockey in all age groups up to over-75s and won the European Vintage Championships in 2002.

One highlight in his memorable sporting achievements was in 2020 when, after the lockdown had been lifted, there being no Wimbledon Championships that year, the Chairman of the All England Tennis Club allowed members to have a game on Centre Court – a great honour as normally no one ever plays on the court outside the Championships.



Centre Court with Jane and Tim 2020

In later life he took up real tennis and was also a good golfer. Despite his increasing frailty he was still playing a few holes using a buggy only months before his death.

His love of Weston really came into play in 2007 when the village was threatened with a so-called 'Eco Town' to be called Weston Otmoor and he and other concerned villagers formed the Weston Front to fight the proposed development of between 15,000 and 20,000 houses in the land opposite Weston Manor Hotel and adjoining land both sides of the A34.

The defeat of the proposed Eco Town was a classic David v Goliath confrontation and with his forensic expertise alongside others such as Norman Machin with his planning expertise, Weston Front was able to claim victory and the plans were rejected.

Tony was also highly involved in the committee to save the school field from development by Lagan Homes and was a real force behind Yasemin to help make Weston Pantry become what it is today. His eloquence when



Tony and Jane

speaking at the original meeting to discuss the future of the shop was inspirational in galvanising the community to take ownership.

Described as an outstanding sporting all-rounder, he was also a devoted family man and enjoyed introducing his grandchildren to the sports he loved.

His widow Jane, their three sons and seven grandchildren survive him.



Coaching Jennie's grandson Alexander



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Autumn Craft Fair

Saturday 19th October 2024

10am-3pm

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on Kirtlington Playing Field

Sunday 4th August, 3-5pm

In church if wet.

**Some chairs, rugs and games
will be provided
but you are welcome to bring more.**



Alexandra House of Joy



The charity Alexandra House of Joy is based in Chesterton at this present time and will finally be in Bicester once we have achieved our Vision and Mission to have raised enough funds to build a very much needed centre for young adults with profound learning disabilities and their primary carers.

For those of you who haven't heard of us, we would love you to visit our website for more information so that you can see how and why we started, what has happened, what our aims are, and where we are presently. I am available for a talk on the charity if it would be of interest. The website is alexandrahouseofjoy.co.uk

At present we are committed to

working very hard to raise funds and we wanted to let you know in advance about two of our exciting fundraising events that are coming up. We would love to see you at them.

Bingo Night Friday 27th September
Pavers Shoe Store will be hosting a fantastic Bingo evening which was extremely popular last time. It will be held in the Chesterton Community Centre, Geminus Road, Chesterton, at 7.00 pm. The bar will be open, there will be a raffle too, and the prizes are definitely worth playing for!!

Celebrity Quiz Night Friday 25th October
Our second event, which is always extremely popular with a full house sell out early on, is

another Celebrity Quiz evening which is run by Dr Darragh Ennis (the Menace on The Chase), Chris Curtis (winner of Britain's Brainiest Family) and Vince O'Connor (Oxford League Team player). Again in Chesterton, 7.00 pm with a bar and fabulous raffle prizes. Tables of eight.

To book look out for our post on our Facebook page and follow the instructions. You will find this by typing in www.facebook.com/AlexandraHouseofJoy. If you have any problems with this and would like to come to the event, please just call me on 01869 325135. We'd love to see you. God bless and keep you safe.

Ian & Rachael Scott-Hunter
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Dementia Oxfordshire

Dementia Oxfordshire is holding an information drop-in event at the

Windmill Centre, Deddington
on Wednesday 4th September
10.00 am – 3.00 pm

As well as lots of information from Dementia Oxfordshire's own team of advisers about how to live well with dementia, there will also be a host of other organisations with helpful support for older people, including advice for family carers, how to avoid scams, where to access community activities and how technology can make life easier around the house. There will also be delicious refreshments, craft stalls, a Zumba taster session and musical entertainment.

Admission is free. For more information, please call Katie on 07827 235441 or email: katiesmok@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk

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Dates for the Diary

3rd August	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Food Bank Collection, Weston Pantry
6th August	6.30 – 8.00 pm	Garden Club Open Garden, The Cottage then Mulberry Cottage, Church Lane
7th August	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
8th August	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Neighbours' Natter
12th August	1.30 pm	Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall
31st August	2.30 – 4.00 pm	Autumn Garden Show
3rd September	12.30 pm	Golden Leaves Lunch
4th September	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
7th September	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Food Bank Collection, Weston Pantry
7th September	6.30 – 11.00 pm	Pop-Up Pub and Aunt Sally Village Hall Event
9th September	1.30 pm	Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall
9th September	7.30 pm	Weston Society
12th September	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Neighbours' Natter
23rd September	2.00 – 4.00 pm	Craft Group
29th September	12.30 pm	St Mary's Church Harvest Lunch
2nd October	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
19th October	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	Craft Fair
26th October	6.30 pm	Bonfire and Fireworks Night, the Playing Field



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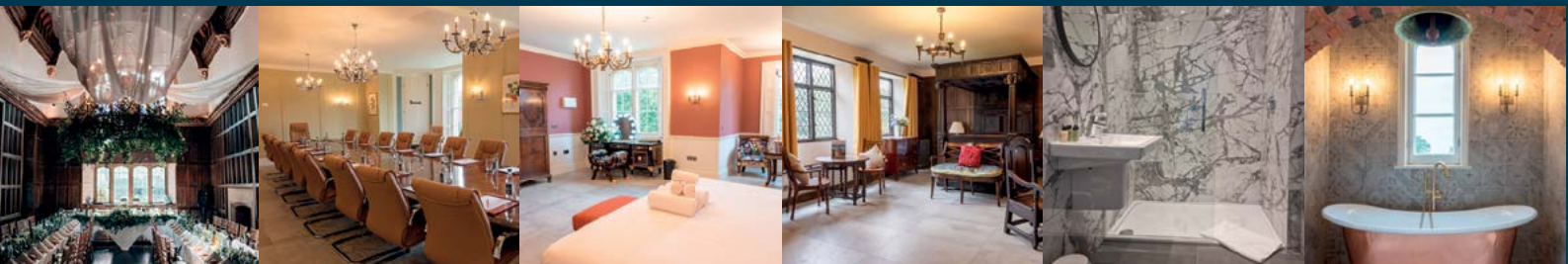
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