

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

# TheVillageNews

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022



Ewes at Manor Farm by Joe Blundell





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WESTON SOCIETY

WESTON WALKERS

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#### GARDEN CLUB

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Gerald Bushby: 01869 351730

#### GOLDEN LEAVES

Alison Townsend: 01869 350569

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

Lyn Barnett: 01869 350707

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Bob Hessian: 01869 350662

#### NEIGHBOURS NATTER

COFFEE MORNING

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# From the editor

IT FEELS EXTRAORDINARY that having featured how Weston came together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in my first edition as editor of the *Village News*, I am writing this letter for my second edition just days after her death.

There was a strange air of quiet in the village the day after the announcement. Tony Holt's Ukrainian flag was replaced by the Union Jack flying half mast, the Church set up the village's Book of Condolence, and the Village Hall invited people to lay flowers on their lawn. That the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Village Hall Committee were able to coordinate it all so quickly and seamlessly is a tribute to the hard work of all the people involved with these three organisations. Thank you to everyone who oversaw each part of this.

One of the tasks of editing the newsletter is sourcing photos. I'm no Henri Cartier-Bresson (to put it mildly) and so would love it if you could send me photos that I can put into a picture library and use as and when I need to (as the magazine is printed, they need to be hi-res). Anything seasonal, community-based, or of the iconic landmarks of the village or scenic landscapes would be much appreciated. They might not be used immediately but it would help me enormously to build up a stock of great photos I can dip in to when necessary. Please email them to editor@wotgnews.uk

Likewise, if anyone would like to contribute an article, please email it to me at the above address.

Have a lovely Autumn and I'll catch up with you in our Christmas edition.



**Deadline for the December/January edition:  
3RD NOVEMBER 2022**





## A letter from the Rector

### Gareth Miller

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

Dear friends,

There have been many poignant and eloquent tributes to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, few more so than that of the President of the French Republic.

The late Queen knew the importance of words. And so does the new King. His noble and moving Accession Speech was a study in good communication, each word chosen with care and delivered with precision and elegance.

The rather quaint language of the obsequies for the late Queen and the accession of her heir serve to connect us not only with our history but also with our profoundest emotions.

Elizabeth's lifelong faith in the God shown to us in Jesus Christ is an example and testimony that will, I believe, inspire and encourage many to re-examine and perhaps reaffirm their own beliefs and values. As Archbishop Rowan Williams was overheard saying, "She showed us that being religious is not eccentric or abnormal." Another commentator has said that when we saw the Queen in church, it was as our representative, praying for the nation. She also did more than any other to build bridges of understanding between people of different denominations and faiths.

Whether you are a monarchist or not, we all owe the late Queen a huge debt of gratitude for holding our nation together through

turbulent and testing decades. And I think we can agree that the King has made a most distinguished and dignified start.

May the legacy of Queen Elizabeth be to cement the bonds of friendship and common respect within our village communities.

So now, dear Queen, may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest. Shakespeare was, of course, referencing the Burial Mass: *In paradisum deducant te angeli* - may the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you and lead you to the holy city; may choirs of angels greet you.



## BENEFICE NEWS

### PET SERVICE

Please note that the Pet Service due to have taken place on Sunday 11 September will now take place in Kirtlington Church on Sunday 16 October at 1600.

### RISE and SHINE

takes place every Wednesday in term time in Kirtlington Church (0915-1045). All ages welcome for coffee, cake, conversation, games, songs ... Do come along, and bring a friend or neighbour.

### PILGRIMS PATHS - 2ND DEANERY WALK

Our second Pilgrim Paths walk will take place on Sunday 9 October. It's a short walk of 2 miles. Lower Heyford to Upper Heyford and back. It's fairly flat and suitable for all ages. Tea and short service on return to Lower Heyford. Meet LH Church at 1400.

### GABRIEL FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

will be sung in Kirtlington Church at 1800 on Sunday 30 October within the setting of a Requiem Eucharist. Please note: this is a service, not a concert, and is free of charge. It will be offered for the late Queen, and for all who have died during the past year. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way you are warmly invited to attend.

### The Ninefold Path

Join a small group of people looking at the Beatitudes (key teachings of Jesus) and how they apply to our everyday lives. Journey with us on Wednesday evenings, every other week, at 2000 in Kirtlington. Message Philip or Gemma Maybank for more details: [gemmamaybank.akeman@gmail.com](mailto:gemmamaybank.akeman@gmail.com) [philip.maybank@gmail.com](mailto:philip.maybank@gmail.com)

<https://www.akemanbenefice.org.uk/>





The death of Queen Elizabeth II gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on her many years of service to our country and the Commonwealth. She has been a source of stability to us all and we must try to emulate that sense of service. It is also time to consider what the role of the church is in the Weston on the Green community.

Our church seeks to provide a quiet and tranquil retreat from the cares and concerns of daily life. We remain open during the day to allow people the opportunity to pray and contemplate. In many respects the Church is a resolute institution in our society reflecting the history of the country and our community. We seek to provide solace in these times of change.

We are able to accomplish this engagement with our community because of the dedicated volunteers who keep

the church clean, help to maintain the churchyard and those who provide a contemplative ambience with colourful seasonal flowers. We have received numerous compliments about the village bell ringing. One tourist commented that it made them feel they were in an authentic English village.

As we move through this period of great change the Akeman Benefice and St. Mary's Church are seeking how to best engage with the Weston community through a schedule or regime of services that our community wish to see. We foresee some experimentation in the formats and timing of services to determine what is best for us all. We ask for your patience and participation in this process to help make Weston a better community.

Please remember the church is open to all.

Eric Bohm, Church Warden

## Our October and November services:

**2nd October @ 18:00**  
Evensong

**9th October @ 11:00**  
Harvest Festival followed by lunch at the Village Hall

**16th October @ 11:00**  
Holy Communion

**6th November @ 16:00**  
All Souls

**13th November @ 10:45**  
Remembrance Sunday service

**20th November @ 11:00**  
Holy Communion

**27th November @ 18:00**  
Advent Service with choir

***We hope and pray you will attend these significant events in our lives.***



## The Old Flight House

The Old Flight House is a refreshingly different antiques centre. It has a fantastic range, from quality traditional antiques to vintage and retro items and stunning painted furniture, all set out in beautiful light and spacious surroundings. A licensed cafe serves good coffee and freshly prepared lunches with a lovely outside terrace for sunny days. Open Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Northampton Road, Weston on the Green, Oxfordshire, OX25 3TJ

01869 343441

 @oldflighthouse

[theoldflighthouse.co.uk](http://theoldflighthouse.co.uk)

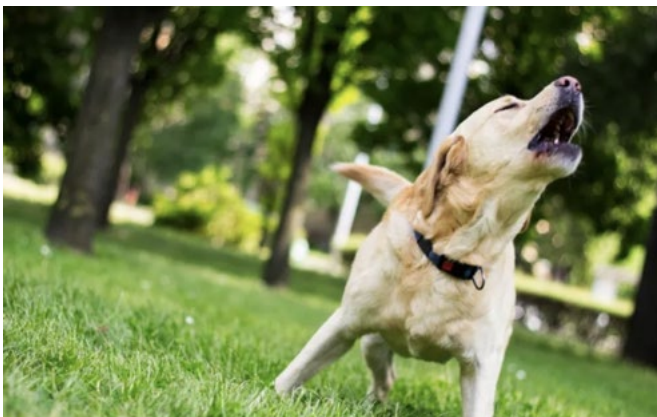
# Chair's comments

**I'M WRITING THIS REPORT** just as the nation is mourning the loss of our Queen. We now have a new head of state and over time we'll get used to saying King Charles and singing the national anthem saying 'him' instead of 'her. With remarkable speed the parish invoked Operation London Bridge and in cooperation with the Church and the Village Hall Committee divided responsibilities. People in the village mourned with friends, sat quietly in the church and took a moment to sign the Book of Condolence. Thank you to those who helped behind the scenes – our village relies on your support at these times.

Heartfelt congratulations to the students who wrote exams in the spring under the trying conditions of being called the 'Covid generation'. They have braved the arduous task of preparing for and writing formal exams, applying to places of further study under conditions no one outside of their generation can really comprehend. Congratulations to each of them as well as to those who actually started university two years ago and have spent a large part of that time at home on their computers. Teaching and learning have changed inalterably and every one of these young people should be very proud of themselves.

## Serious issues

The Parish Council has met over the summer as we are dealing with some serious issues: planning applications on our doorstep, water restrictions, excessive heat, traffic and the worrying news of the cost of living increases. Day to day concerns have been about barking dogs in the night disturbing neighbours sleep, deep potholes, the drying up of North Lane pond and emergency plans for the village in a heat wave. We take these concerns seriously and understand how people are affected by events and behaviour around their property and neighbourhood.



Referring to the issue of barking dogs, taking a formal complaint to Cherwell District Council is probably the last resort. Dog owners are ultimately responsible for their pets, no one wants an argument, so could we ask for some peace and quiet so neighbours can enjoy their gardens and not be disturbed in the night?

## Pot luck!

Our Clerk, Jane Mullane, is very attentive to the concerns about pot holes and has been successful in getting many filled. If you wish to report any highway issue you are able to report it directly at the Fix My Street website: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

We all found the heat wave oppressive, and our elderly villagers were especially vulnerable. The Parish Council sprang into action to provide some relief. We provided cool packs and water bottles to as many people as possible. When we discovered that hardly anyone had a fan, we purchased table fans and handheld fans to add to the kit. Those we were especially worried about had a visit when we shared ways of keeping cool. In some cases, there was follow up just to be sure our seniors were safe. We learned that a response to heat needs to be part of our Emergency Plan and currently we are updating our paperwork.

The drying up of the North Lane pond happens most summers. In the past, hoses have piped water into the pond and on two occasions the fire department has come and emptied their water tank to fill it up.

We've had the extra complication of some fish appearing in the pond. We think they were tenches which bury in the mud and are found on the bottom of the pond. They seemed to have disappeared during July. Once the water level got lower, we were checking the pond for signs of the big black fish that was occasionally seen. Sadly, the fish was found by one of our younger girls. It was struggling and the scene was upsetting. The fish was rescued and re-homed successfully. The Parish Council had been reviewing the management of the pond at our October 2020 meeting but of course Covid put an end to this work for two years. We had commissioned a report from an ecologist from the Environment Agency in which he looked at both ponds and made recommendations for their care and there have been regular pond maintenance days. The Parish Council have been discussing the future of the pond – will it be a natural pond, subject to the ebb and flow of seasonal water and allowing the area to be a natural habitat or will return to being an ornamental pond with the maintenance work that has historically gone on with its upkeep?



### Biodiversity

Biodiversity issues are now quite key to parish policies and are central to our Neighbourhood Plan. We'll keep the village up to date on our work and invite comments of concern. Can we just say, the Parish Council through its Councillors will not get involved in Facebook chats. It is easy to contact us via our published emails and phone numbers. This is especially important when feelings are running high and blame is easily tossed around.

By the time this magazine is published we will have read a draft of the Cherwell Local Plan and have a clearer idea of expectations for development in the village. Concurrently, our team is working on a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and two of us will be taking advice from other parishes who have gone through the process. Villagers will be updated via email.

An ongoing concern – that of the path under the oak tree – is unresolved at the time of publication of this

magazine but I will update the village again via email if we have any concrete (or the removal of it!) way forward.

### Thank you

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who have consistently supported the food bank appeal that we have been making monthly. As autumn closes in and the energy crisis deepens all of us will feel a squeeze on our finances. I have been concerned about asking too much, too often so I put some feelers out into the community. It is felt that we still have so much more than those at the sharp end of the financial crisis. So, our support for the food bank will continue. If anyone would like to join either myself or one of the other volunteers on this project when we deliver the food, let us know. You will be touched by the heartfelt thanks from the team.

Diane Bohm

## Parish Council Meeting Dates in 2022

These are the remaining dates for Parish Council meetings during 2022; all at 7.30pm in the Village Hall:

Notification of the agenda for the meetings will be published as usual on the Parish Council village noticeboard and website 3 days prior to the meeting date.

5th  
October

2nd  
November

7th  
December



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# Planning Update

If you are interested in learning more on parish planning applications they are discussed at each Parish Council meeting and a report is placed on the Parish Council website.

## BUILDING APPLICATIONS:

### Decision Received – Permitted

21/04299/OUT- Reynards Lodge Condition 11 (no dwelling above one storey height) of 21/02146/OUT – removed to reserved matters.

21/00873/F – Kemsley Farm, Northampton Road Conversion of barn to residential dwelling, amended to remove extension. Subject to the provision of further details.

22/01287/F – Forge Farm, Northampton Road Conversion of part of an existing stable building into single-bedroom dwelling for occupation by an equestrian worker.

22/01553/LB – Weston Manor Internal conversion of storage rooms to staff accommodation.

22/01506/LB – Weston Manor Coach house. Internal conversion of existing rooms to 6 new upgraded guest rooms. Request to remove rooflights to newly created guest rooms.

22/01144/F – Parcel of land SW of Grange Farm Chesterton (Siemens development) – Permitted at Committee subject to the further listed investigative requirements.

### Decision Received – Refused

21/04299/OUT- Reynards Lodge 22/01291/F and 22/01292/LB – Westfield Farm Cottage, North Lane Internal refurbishment of kitchen/ bathroom on ground floor; addition of oak frame carport to side of existing garage.

### Awaiting Decision

22/01778/F – Robin's Folly, Mill Lane Demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with sun room.

22/02075/F – Kelberg, Northampton Road Existing paddock adjacent to the current parking lot for large vehicles – change of use from agricultural to vehicle trailer parking area – presumably hard surfaced.

22/01754/CLUP – Dormers, North Lane Addition of solar panel array on the rear roof pitch and flat roof. Certificate of Lawfulness requested.

22/02571/F – Manor Farm Bungalow, Northampton Road Erection of extension and porch - quite a large sitting/dining room extension to the kitchen on the back of the bungalow with raked ceiling and 2 rooflights on the southern pitch.

### Tree Works:

22/02457/TCA - The Laurels, Brooklyn Gardens

22/01624/TCA – Weston Manor Cottage, Northampton Road

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LOOSE PAVING  
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# Weston on the Green Playing Field and Ardley United Football Club



During the 2022/23 football season there will be 2 teams from Ardley United Football Club playing 9v9 football on Saturday mornings in the under 12s age group for the Witney & District Youth Football League. When there is evening light junior training may also be held on Wednesday nights.

The Parish Council will continue to cut the grass and would like to thank Mark East and Robin Stafford Allen for the great work they do in maintaining the playing field area. Ardley United FC will assist to maintain and mark out the pitch. They will store their goals on the playing field but due to use by other football groups the pitch has previously been damaged and so they now have to chain the goals up. For your own safety please do not climb on any of the goals.

Matches will take place on Saturday mornings – kick off normally at 10.30am. Ardley FC advise teams to park in the car park and not on residential streets. If you would like more information

on Ardley United Football Club please contact Head of Youth Development James Stopps on 07889 558480 or juniors. ardleyunited@gmail.com (www.ardleyunitedfc.co.uk)

The Parish Council wish Ardley Utd FC every success for the 2022/23 season and look forward to working with them again over the coming year.



## Weston on the Green Community Bus

We are delighted to announce that we have purchased a community bus which is equipped to take a wheelchair. We hope it will make shopping, doctors' appointments and hospital appointments much easier. Further information about how to book it and what the charge will be to follow.




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VILLAGE PANTRY & POST OFFICE

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# Working with the grain

The summer months are traditionally slightly quieter in terms of bookings for the Village Hall and the Committee took the opportunity to carry out some renovation works. The first project saw new window sills installed throughout all areas of the Village Hall, making it brighter and lighter. The major work over the summer was the restoration of the floor in the main Hall which was looking tired and worn in places. The work started with a light sanding of the wooden floor and then sealant was applied. Underneath the years of use was a light Canadian Maple floor which now has its wood grain on display. The Committee is really pleased with the restoration and hope villagers will be impressed too. Our final project inside the Hall is the upgrade and replacement of the foyer flooring and we hope this will be completed before Christmas. In the Memorial Garden we have planted some climbing roses and installed a butterfly house and bug hotel to encourage the biodiversity in this area. Our thanks go to Robin for installing these and to Mick (aka the wood fairy) for the kind donation of the bug hotel. As the nights start to draw in the Committee are busy planning a number of events which we hope will appeal to villagers.



## Fireworks!

Our main event in October is the annual fireworks display. This will be taking place at the playing field on Saturday 29th October, with the bonfire lit at 6.30pm and the display starting at 7pm. Once again we will be selling mulled wine and hot snacks. The entry to this event is a minimum donation of £1 with any profit going towards next year's display. We know we are biased but we think the display put on by Mark and Mick East is one of the best in Oxfordshire!

Earlier in the month, on Saturday 8th October, between 9 and 10am is the bulb donation event. A few years ago villagers kindly donated spring and summer flower bulbs for the Memorial Garden and we had a riot of colour during the early months of the following year. We are hoping to replenish some of these bulbs and hope we can create another dazzling display

of tulips, alliums, primroses and gladioli for the village to enjoy. We are also planning a number of Film Nights for the autumn months and we hope our first screening will be, 'Fisherman's Friends 2: One and All' (certificate 12A). We will be serving a fish and chip supper to accompany this film and once we have the DVD release date confirmed we will start to publicise this event. Please keep an eye out for posters, emails and Facebook posts announcing the date. We hope that villagers will sing their way out of the Hall as they did when we showed the original Fisherman's Friends back in 2019!

## Christmas is coming!

Our Christmas Tree Lights Switch On, raffle and visit by Father Christmas is planned for the first Sunday of Advent, 27th November, at 6pm. We can't guarantee any snowfall like last year but we can

*continued on page 14*

JULIAN  
TAYLOR  
SOLICITORS

Human Resources  
& Employment Law

Contact us on 01869 351833  
julian@juliantaylorhr.com  
to discuss any enquiries.

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service.



Nicola Wallbank



Julian Taylor



Paula Rome

from page 13

guarantee mulled wine, nibbles, carols and lots of Christmas cheer! To receive a gift from Father Christmas children have to be aged 10 or under and live in the village. To register your child for a gift please email westonvillagehall@live.co.uk with the name, age and address of your child and we will make sure Father Christmas gets the details!

The Village Hall Committee would like to run the Advent Windows once again this December so if you would like to create an Advent window please email us with your preferred date and location. For new villagers this event takes place from 1st to 24th December with a house (or business) in the village revealing an Advent window each day and leaving it on display until just after Christmas. A map is also produced to show where the Advent windows are in the village. Our Village Hall Facebook page has photos from previous years for those seeking inspiration and we are happy to see the return of previous years amazing Advent windows!



The Village Hall Committee is deeply saddened by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the users of the Village Hall we offer our sincere condolences to the Royal Family. For seventy years Queen Elizabeth II has represented continuity and stability in an ever-changing world. Her life of unstinting service, duty and dedication has been an inspiration to many. Her Majesty the Queen made an unparalleled contribution to our country and the world in her seven decades on the throne, shaping Britain to be what it is today. She has been a symbol of an historical era as well as a participant in it, helping to create a unique and adaptable monarchy that will be talked about for centuries to come.

The Village Hall Committee was proud to display the portrait of the Queen for those seventy years. Upon hearing of her passing this portrait was draped in black velvet as a mark of respect. Together with the whole nation, we feel a deep sense of loss and immense gratitude for her years of extraordinary service.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

God Save the King.

## 250 Club

### Recent Results

#### JULY

1st	£18	62	Mrs C Parsley
2nd	£12	187	Mr J Lloyd
3rd	£6	76	Mrs S Matthews

#### AUGUST

1st	£18	224	Mrs E Bernard
2nd	£12	21	Mrs P Dyer
3rd	£6	131	Mr & Mrs N Cunningham

#### SEPTEMBER

1st	£18	236	Mr D Sweetnam
2nd	£12	10	A Williams
3rd	£6	63	Mr W Bunce

At present there are more than 20 unallocated numbers available for purchase £6 each.  
Paul Warren Cairn Cottage, Church Lane Tel: 350770.

### Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

### Bring a bulb event



#### Can you help?

The Village Hall Committee would like to plant up the memorial garden this autumn with spring and summer bulbs and wondered if you could donate a bulb from your bulb buying to this project? If you are able to help please drop off donations at the Village Hall:

**Saturday 8th October, 9.00-10.00am.**

Thank you!





## Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

### Living Advent Calendar Windows Event

1<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> December 2022



After the success of last year's Advent Village Windows we would like to run the event in 2022. If you would like to create an Advent window please could you email [westonvillagehall@live.co.uk](mailto:westonvillagehall@live.co.uk) or contact us via Facebook (Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall) with your preferred date and location.

Many thanks

The VH Committee

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# 'Community Day' at th

The parish had some wonderful Community Service on August 14th 2022, provided by Dalcour Maclaren staff. This company is located at Staplehurst and staff regularly use the Village Pantry and Post Office. On occasion they have a spirited cricket or rounders match in the playing field.

The company has encouraged us to use them for service in the community and so we chose to focus on the children's playground, picnic area and playing field boundaries.

The work was led by Robin Stafford-Allen and supported by Mark Johnson and Eric Bohm.

One of the ongoing issues in the playground has been the uneven edges of the rubberised tarmac. We were advised to try the technique of filling the raised edges with earth and encouraging grass to overgrow.

The equipment in the playground was refreshed. Paint work was waxed and wooden framework was oiled.

Hopefully, there is lots of grass seed trampled into the ridges and our repair will be successful.

The team arrived with lots of equipment including the necessary trimmers and hedge trimmers, shovels, and most importantly, brownies!

An enormous number of brambles were removed, tall grasses grown around poles and up through benches were trimmed.

We had a couple of volunteers from the village as well and some help from two enterprising young boys.

A group of children explained the various issues of making mud at the mud kitchen and we were sure to leave them with lots of extra earth.

We had a wonderful afternoon, and the area looks refreshed!

Photos by Mark Johnson and Diane Bohm





# The Jubilee Playing Field







## Weston Society

Weston Society began when a few like-minded people met in the Ben Jonson one night and discussed their mutual worries that the village they then knew might be under threat. This threat, from developers, was successfully overcome but the original group became interested in the preservation of the village and its environment and slowly became a group who met on a monthly basis to enjoy speakers on many topics ranging from local history, the environment both built and natural and the people and activities specific to our area.

Over the years we have broadened this to include the wider environment and, on some occasions, national and international events but our main focus has always remained our village and its people.

We now meet on the second Monday of alternate months to hear speakers on a variety of topics. Unfortunately our planned meeting for July had to

be postponed at fairly short notice due to COVID appearing to run riot amongst the members! Our following meeting was the AGM in September when Bob Hessian was talking about his many years' experience of beekeeping, postponed from July.

Simon Wenham will be speaking on "The Great Exhibition" on Monday 14th November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Simon is an excellent speaker, having spoken to us last year on the history of Salter's Steamers and boatyard.

All are welcome free of charge to their first meeting; there is an annual subscription of £10 per person for anyone who then wishes to join, which enables us to pay for speakers and to share wine and nibbles after the meetings.

**Graham Barnett**



## Weston-on-the-Green WI

The WI in Weston has a long history. The first meeting was in 1920 and from then until the 1960s the institute provided an opportunity for women to improve their knowledge of the world, have fun together and fight for improvements in our rural community, especially during a time when being self sufficient was essential rather than an ideal. During WWII the ladies continued to meet and were active in many schemes to 'make do and mend', another ideal which has come full circle.

By the 1960s, the institute, although well supported and with adequate funds, folded because of a lack of members able and willing to serve on the committee. It was reformed after almost three years, when an influx of new young families came to the village with the completion of Westlands Avenue. Since then, with a membership of usually around 30, there has been support for many local and national schemes – footpaths, a new village hall, waste bins and much more. Together our members have also raised thousands of pounds for local charities. Supporting our institute financially became a shared effort and for many years we provided catering for events and parties.

Like all organisations we have suffered through Covid mostly only able to meet on Zoom and really missing just being together in person. But, we are back and getting back to normal.

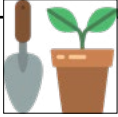
We would love to invite all you ladies to join us. If you are new to the village, it's a great way to make friends, or if you have been here some time come along, bring your enthusiasm and give us a try, you will be very welcome.



We meet once a month, 11 months of the year, on the third Wednesday, from 7.30pm in the village hall. Our speakers are varied and booked for the next few months. We will find out more about Ben Jonson the man not our local, an alphabetical look at the history of Oxford, enjoy a Christmas buffet, a visit to Transylvania and a talk entitled "Life and Times of Primrose Garden", with a visit to the garden in Steeple Aston when the snowdrops are out. During the Summer we have had outings, coffee mornings, a theatre visit and an afternoon tea to raise funds for Macmillan. The organising of the meetings is in the hands of committee members, including a secretary, treasurer and president who meet once a month at a time and place that is convenient.

Want to give us a try? It is quite simple – just come along on the 19th October, 16th November, 21st December, 18th January and/or 15th February. If you would like to register your interest then contact our secretary, Lyn, on 350707, leave a message on our email address [wotg.wi@gmail.com](mailto:wotg.wi@gmail.com) or ask a member. Looking forward to seeing you.





## Weston-on-the-Green Garden Club

The garden club celebrated its annual Autumn show on Saturday 3rd September. The dry summer presented more challenges than usual in the vegetable and floral classes, however there was still plenty to admire. There were fabulous entries in the art, photography, handicrafts and cookery classes. Unfortunately there were no entries in the children's classes, something that we would like to encourage looking to the future.

The garden club committee has been unchanged for many years and some members now need a break. The club needs fresh volunteers in order to continue.

The club has its annual AGM on Tuesday November 1st at 7pm and this would be a great opportunity for those who would like the club to continue to turn up and show their support and find out what would be involved in the running of it. Joining the garden club committee will provide a great opportunity to meet people and get involved with a much enjoyed and valuable club within our village.



It was wonderful to see so many supporters of the club at the Autumn show, having tea, cakes and of course celebrating the winners of the various show classes receiving their awards. I feel it would be a terrible shame if that was to have been the last show.

I hope to see many eager volunteers at the AGM, until then I wish you all well, putting your gardens to bed for the Winter.

**Emma Bernard**



## Weston Walkers

Our planned walk for July did not go exactly to plan due to various circumstances, ending up with only one of our regulars actually walking! August proved more successful when 6 of us walked a 4-mile circular from Noke across to Oddington and back along the edge of Otmoor.

At the time of writing our next walks should be on Monday 12th September and then Monday 10th October and Monday 14th November, details to be finalised. 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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## Owls, Bees, and Avian Pox!

I'd like to report that the barn owls in our loft are alive and well (and I mean the adult birds, this year's youngsters having left in July). But due to "camera failure" I've not been able to monitor the nest box. I did inspect it in late August and it was empty which allowed me to clean the box out – the debris consisting of owl pellets, half eaten corpses of mice, voles and rats, and thousands of beetle and fly larvae that feed on all this. I have to wear a close-fitting mask whilst I do this as the debris is very dry and dusty and not the sort of thing you'd want to inhale! The new camera will be in-situ when you read this report and it should be giving me quality, coloured pictures from inside the nest-box. I've yet to decide whether or not to "live-stream" the pictures.

I'm aware that other people have been putting up barn-owl nest boxes on land around the edge of the village and there are signs that these are being used by owls for roosting in during the day (and also by kestrels). Back in the 1970/80s, Little Owls were often seen and one family nested in a woodpile at the back of Fir-Tree Farm. I had a "close-encounter" with one in 1986 whilst doing some work at



Knowle Farm after Mrs Gott had died. It was around midnight, and I was in a room where the only piece of furniture was an old sofa. I heard strange noises in the room but couldn't see anything and I immediately thought of "Alice", the resident ghost of Knowle Farm. I eventually plucked up courage to look under the sofa with a torch and I then came face to face with the eyes of a Little Owl that must have fallen down the chimney. Not sure who was the most surprised – me or the owl!

### Little Owl

There's no shortage of bird feeders

in our garden and we do get a thriving community of birds that come and visit, especially on the peanuts – blue-tit, great-tit, coal-tit, long tailed-tit and very occasionally marsh-tit. Haven't seen a willow-tit for years. Nuthatches do visit now and again. And loads of goldfinches on the nyjer seed feeder. This will sometimes bring in siskin and redpoll in the winter months.

But this summer I noticed two great-tits with strange growths on their wings. I was able to get some decent photographs and I sent these off to the RSPB for comment.

They explained that they thought these birds had avian pox which is a disease caused by a virus and is often found within wild bird populations. They advised me to write to the Garden Wildlife Health Advice group at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, which of course I did! They replied that they couldn't reach a definitive diagnosis without performing an examination of the great tit carcasses. However, from the pictures I'd sent they thought that avian poxvirus infection was the most likely cause of such growths. It's been seen in some British garden birds for many years, most commonly affecting species such as the dunnock (hedge-

Join us for

## Neighbours' Natter



Weston-on-the-Green Village Hall

Thursdays Oct 13<sup>th</sup> and Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 - Noon

£1.00 for coffee or tea and a biscuit



sparrow), starling, feral pigeon. First noticed in birds of the tit family, especially great-tits, since 2006. The RSPB advised me to clean and disinfect our birdfeeders with a weak bleach solution and not put them out again for a minimum of three weeks, preferably placing them in a different part of the garden – this should also help prevent cross contamination. We've not seen any re-occurrence of this in our garden but let me know if you've seen something similar – the Zoological Society would like to know!

### Bee plus

Finally – honey bees. My talk to the Weston Society, scheduled for July, didn't take place because of the excessively hot weather and outbreaks of Covid in the village. It was rescheduled for the 12th September meeting which was a few days after the Queen had died. Difficult to talk about bee-keeping without mentioning "queens"! However I will say that both Charles and Camilla keep bees at Highgrove and Clarence House although whether they will have time to do so now is a different matter. The Highgrove honey is described as "organic" something that we can not describe the honey we sell as we can't control which flowers and crops the bees visit or say that they've never visited flowers in a village garden that have not been sprayed with greenfly killer! But then we don't sell our honey at £25 a jar!!!

Bob Hessian

## From the dusty confines of the Wood Fairy's grotto

Isn't it amazing how a bit of dust highlights the cobwebs!

It's started already, 2 days into September and there were enquiries about kindling. Have you not heard of thermal underwear or pullovers? The Wood Fairy reckons to don at least two additional layers before lighting the fire. Luckily, over the scorchio summer months, a shed full of wood has been put aside for turning into kindling. The first 9 bags were despatched to the shop on 3rd September.

I have 6 big bags of nobby ends, (offcuts from the scroll saw and kindling), approx 10kg each. If you aren't fussy what your kindling looks like these are £10 each with £1 deposit returned on the bag when I get it back. Order from the shop on a first-come-first-served basis.

On a different topic, the Wood Fairy has had a variety of challenges over the summer -replacement fence posts, refurbishment of garden bench and saving the carved rail from a rotten Coronation bench which is now refixed to a new bench in the playing field.



There have been some tricky things as well. Making a new paw for a wooden cat, making finials for chair backs and worst of all putting prickles on hedgehog families. Halloween shapes have been cut ready for October. Also in October the Wood Fairy transforms into the Firework Fairy on the 29th for one night only at the playing field. A host of elves, witches and 2 pyrotechnicians help you to have a great Village bonfire night. See you there.

The Wood Fairy, AKA IroTytt



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With our new and extremely experienced Fundraiser in place the funds are moving in the right direction and we are ever closer to our first million.

**Celebrity Quiz Evening**  
**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 7.30 pm**  
**Chesterton Community Centre**

Further details at:  
[www.facebook.com/AlexandraHouseofJoy](http://www.facebook.com/AlexandraHouseofJoy)

To purchase tickets go to  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-alexandra-house-of-joy-quiz-night-tickets-407353755047>

To find out more about our project and mission join us at Unit 56, Castle Quay Shopping Centre, Banbury on 21<sup>st</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> December or visit us every Saturday and alternate Thursdays on our stall in Banbury Market Place.

**Ian & Rachael Scott-Hunter, Co-Founders, AHJ**



## BeccaLou Designs

Christmas cakes available at the end of November  
 A selection of sizes and designs are sold as seen so if you see one you like, buy it while you can!!  
 A limited number of bespoke Christmas cake requirements can be catered for on request if ordered by 1st December  
 Other celebration cakes available. Please allow at least 2 weeks prior to date required.

Email: [mandy@beccalou.uk](mailto:mandy@beccalou.uk)

Tel: 01869351771 or 07941949743 [f](https://www.facebook.com/BeccaLouDesigns) BeccaLou Designs [i](https://www.instagram.com/beccalou_designs) beccalou\_designs  
 Or order through Weston on the Green Village Pantry

## Run out of your regular medication?

Request a limited emergency supply online at [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) to collect from a pharmacy.

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**OXFORD FRIENDS**  
**"TEA AND TOP C's: Glorious Young Voices" Sunday 23rd October**  
**2022 at 3.30pm (doors open at 3.00pm)**  
**at Bletchingdon Village Hall OX5 3FD (parking nearby)**

Please join us for this concert of much loved music given by **future stars of opera, from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, introduced by Donald Maxwell**, the internationally famous baritone

This event is dedicated to the memory of Elaine Ledingham and Madeline Matthews, both such loyal supporters of WNO and the Oxford Friends.

**Tickets £15 to include a light tea which will be served after the concert at around 5.30pm**

1. I/we require.....ticket(s) and enclose a cheque for £....., made payable to Oxford Friends of Welsh National Opera
2. I /we require..... ticket(s) and are paying £....., by bank transfer to  
 Oxford Friends Of Welsh National Opera, Sort Code 09-01-55,  
 Account No: 21026709. Please put your surname as the reference.

Please complete and return this application form, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to:

Mark Charnock, Manor Farm House, Bletchingdon Oxon OX5 3DP

Tel. 01869 350149. Mobile No. 07774 803540 Email: fmlcharnock@yahoo.com

Name.....Tel.....

email.....

Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

## Bonfire & Fireworks

**Saturday 29th October 2022**

Weston on the Green Playing Field

**6.30pm Bonfire & 7pm Fireworks**

**Hot snacks! Mulled Wine and other refreshments**

**Bonfire construction from 10am-12pm on the day**

**Offers of help and donations of wood please**

contact Paul Warren 350770

**Minimum Entry Donation = £1 pp**

All proceeds towards the 2023 display!



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# Queen Elizabeth II

1926 - 2022



## How Weston-on-the-Green marked the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



*Her Majesty the Queen has been a cherished presence in all of our lives. She has been our example and a rock for the nation and commonwealth. Her devoted service has given stability to the nation throughout this Elizabethan age. Her deep, personal Christian faith has been an inspiration to many.*

The Bishop of Oxford



The Parish Council, St Mary's Church and the Village Hall Committee worked together to enable the village to mourn the death of our longest serving monarch within hours of the announcement.

On Friday 9th September the church bells were tolled at 12 noon for an hour and a short service of thanksgiving was held that evening, with a fuller service on Sunday 11th September.

A Book of Condolence was placed inside the church and the Village Hall welcomed villagers to lay flowers on their lawn in the Queen's memory.



*In times when nothing stood  
But worsened or grew  
strange  
There was one constant  
good  
She did not change*

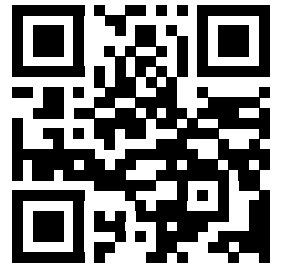
Philip Larkin  
for the Silver Jubilee



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## John Howell MP writes...



JOIN with people from across the world to express my deep sadness at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. My deepest sympathies to King Charles III, his Queen Consort and all of the Royal Family at their loss. The affection that Her Majesty showed to all those she met is now reciprocated in the outpouring of grief. She will be sorely missed. May she rest in peace. Long live the King.

### An historic week

The House returned from the summer recess on Monday 5th September. It was always going to be an historic week with the incoming of a new Prime Minister on 6th September. The fact that resignation of one Prime Minister and the invitation to another took place at Balmoral instead of the traditional Buckingham Palace was no great surprise as we have seen the frailty of the Queen in recent months. No one questioned the decision of a lady in her 90s asking for others to come to her. Having seen these events at Balmoral only a few days before her death meant that the news of her death came all the more as a shock, her dedication to duty and her service to the nation continuing to the end.

Having had one Monarch for seven decades most of us are seeing events that have not taken place in our lifetime and indeed with the advent of television during the late Queen's reign some of these ceremonies have never before been seen by more than a few. We greet our new King and

indeed, barring tragedy, it will be a King that we welcome for the foreseeable future. It is historic too that a Prime Minister is asked to form a government by one Monarch and to be greeted by another a few days later.

In Parliament normal business was suspended as we entered a period of national mourning. The House sat for two days to enable MPs and Lords to pay tribute to the late Queen, and for oaths to be sworn to His Majesty the King. The Palace of Westminster was prepared for the Lying in State and other procedural and ceremonial events

The timing is such that following the period of national mourning we would be entering the annual period of Party Conferences. However at the time of writing it is not clear whether these will go ahead and thus what the schedule for the sitting of the House will be. By the time this newsletter is published this will have been decided.

### New Prime Minister

When the House returns there will be much to do, and our new Prime Minister will be able to proceed with her agenda to address the critical issues that our country faces. It is good that she just managed to squeeze in the key announcement on the support for people in relation to the energy crisis before these historical events

took place. This has been widely welcomed.

If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way in you have access to that. My email address is [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk). Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD). Please note that correspondence sent through the post takes longer to reach me as it has to go through offsite security scanning before being delivered.

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com).

Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

*Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA*



# From your local councillors



We have loved talking to residents over the last couple of weeks and getting to know more of you better. If you see us around Weston please say hello. Just a few things from us:

### District Council Motions

We are delighted that three motions were unanimously passed at the full District Council meeting on the 18th July. The resolution of these motions seeks to help residents who are currently struggling with these difficult times.

The motions that we passed were:

- A motion to declare a food poverty emergency
- A motion declaring a cost-of-living crisis
- Refugee Crisis motion

You can find more information about the motions on the Cherwell website, as well as the resolutions that were passed: <https://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=114&MIId=3645&Ver=4>

### Cost of Living

As set out in the above motions, we are aware that the cost of living is becoming increasingly difficult for many residents and would like to support you in any way we can. Cherwell District Council have a dedicated support page, which is updated as new advice and help becomes available: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/118/communities/977/help-with-the-cost-of-living>

If you are struggling at all please get in touch with us and we will do our best to get you the right support.

### Three-month Free Bus Passes for Ukrainian Guests

Cherwell District Council have been working closely with bus companies to offer a three-month free bus pass to any Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The passes will enable guests to travel in their local area, as well as access Oxford city. There will be a number of passes available and suitability will depend on where the guests are living, working or what journeys they are more likely to need to take.

Information about the scheme will be published on County Council website from 22nd August. This should help guide people into choosing and then applying for the right bus pass for them: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/ukraine>

### Keep In Touch

Finally, we just wanted to say please do keep in touch! We love hearing from you and want to support residents in any way we can. Even if it not necessarily a district matter, we will try and point you in the right direction of who can help the best.

Emails: [gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or [angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or call us on 01869 717712.

**CLLrs Gemma Coton and Angus Patrick**



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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 6pm*

Join us for the turning on of the Christmas Lights, mince pies, Christmas Raffle, carols around the tree, and festive cheer!



Enjoy a glass of wine, and mince pies as we turn on the Christmas lights and officially start the festive season in Weston!

Children will also receive a small gift from our special visitor, Father Christmas!

(Gifts from Father Christmas are for children of the village aged 10 and under.

To register your child for a gift please email [westonvillagehall@live.co.uk](mailto:westonvillagehall@live.co.uk) with the name, age and address of your child)

Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

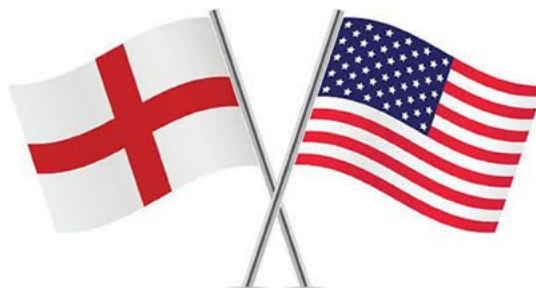
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**World Cup Football**

**Group match: England v USA**



**FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022**



**Doors open 6.30pm, K.O 7pm**

On the big screen

Cash Bar

Pizza



[Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall](#)

**Coming soon!**

**Fish & Chip Supper followed by a screening of  
‘Fisherman’s Friends: One and All’ (12A)**

**[date to be confirmed]**

Two course supper: £10pp





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## Dates for the Diary

|               |                     |                                             |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1st October   | 10.30 am – 12.00 pm | Macmillan Coffee Morning                    |
| 5th October   | 7.30 pm             | Parish Council meeting                      |
| 8th October   | 9.00 -10.00 am      | Bring a Bulb event                          |
| 9th October   | 12.30 pm            | Harvest Festival lunch at the Village Hall  |
| 10th October  | 1.30 pm             | Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall    |
| 13th October  | 10.00 am – 12.00 pm | Coffee Morning                              |
| 19th October  | 7.30 pm             | WI Meeting; in the Village Hall             |
| 29th October  | 6.30 pm             | Village Hall Fireworks at the Playing Field |
| 1st November  | 7.00 pm             | Garden Club AGM                             |
| 2nd November  | 7.30 pm             | Parish Council meeting                      |
| 8th November  | 12.30pm             | Golden Leaves Lunch                         |
| 10th November | 10.00 am – 12.00 pm | Coffee morning                              |
| 14th November | TBC                 | Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall    |
| 14th November | 7.30 pm             | Weston Society                              |
| 16th November | 7.30 pm             | WI Meeting; in the Village Hall             |
| 25th November | 6.30pm              | World Cup England v USA on the Big Screen   |
| 27th November | 6.00 pm             | Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On             |
| 3rd December  |                     | The Big Breakfast in the Village Hall       |

## Fuelling success

The Nolan family have supplied domestic heating oil to local homes and businesses for over 50 years. To this day Nolan Oils remains a family firm owing its success to a small team of staff dedicated to customer satisfaction.

As well as domestic heating oil, Nolan Oils are able to supply a wide range of fuels and lubricants for domestic, agricultural, haulage and industrial applications. We operate from our site in Middleton Stoney, as well as another base in Chipping

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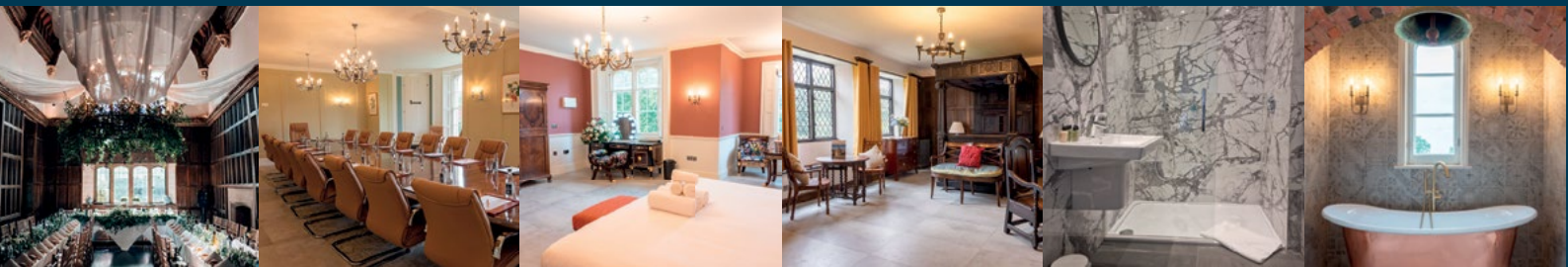
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