

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

TheVillageNews

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024



'We will remember them'
Photo by Jordie Riches



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From the editor

I'm not sure why but the turning of the seasons feels even more rapid than usual with the year marching inexorably onwards towards winter. The harvest's in, blackberries in the hedgerows picked and those left on the brambles 'kissed by the devil' and thus inedible and my thoughts are taking a rather domestic turn as I find myself agreeing wholeheartedly with Robert Browning's lines, 'How well I know what I mean to do / When the long dark autumn-evenings come'. Yup, it's time for log-stacking followed by nights by the fire, warming stews and red replacing the rosé on my wine rack.

There's plenty of other ways to mark the new season too, with Hallowe'en, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day all coming up. Weston will be once again celebrating Bonfire Night with the help of Mark and Mick East and the Village Hall Committee along with various refreshments on the night. St Mary's will be commemorating All Souls at the end of October as well as holding the Remembrance Day service on 10th November and mentioning these two services leads me onto a final, reflective note, with thanks to Alexander Pushkin:

The sky breathed autumn, sombre, shrouded;
Shorter and shorter grew the days
... And mists above the meadows brooded.

See you next issue when we really *will* be in the midst of the short, short days!

Alcay



Yasemin Olcay



Jordie Riches



Jordie Riches

Deadline for December/January edition:
7th NOVEMBER 2024



From the Rector

Gareth Miller

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

Dear friends

By the time you read this the blackberrying season will be well over. In fact in my lane it began at the end of July and was almost over by the beginning of September. I went out almost every morning at about 5.30 with my punnet in hand, and now have a freezer full of them! I hope I haven't deprived any locals – there seemed to be plenty left!

I found the whole enterprise hugely therapeutic. Connecting with nature in this simple but rewarding way helped me to get in touch with the primitive man lurking somewhere inside me, the foraging cave man. For someone who spends too much of his time (of necessity) in front of a computer screen or on the 'phone, to collect fruit from brambles was a healing and restorative experience.

I often marvel at how modern humans manage to

exist at all – how primitive homo sapiens overcame all the extraordinary hurdles of life on the evolving planet to become the sophisticated creatures we are today. Of course, in some ways we have become TOO sophisticated, and have not only the means to destroy ourselves but a range of other possibilities that threaten our continued existence, or at the very least our sanity and safety.

It is good, therefore, that many people are eschewing the option of an ever-more-materialistic lifestyle and trying to return to a simpler way of being – living in greater harmony with the environment, thinking carefully about what we buy and what we eat, being more thoughtful about our choices and more conscious of the effects of our actions on others.

Yet, while it is good to seek the simpler life, we also have to try to rise above our primitive instincts – the lust for power, the desire for revenge, the sense of rivalry, the need for enemies. Sigmund Freud identified for us the id, the ego and the super-ego. The first, the id, is the set of uncoordinated instinctual desires; the super-ego plays the critical and moralising role; and the ego is the organised, realistic agent that mediates between the instinctual desires of the id and the critical super-ego. As we age and (ideally) mature, the ego serves to moderate the id, with its base instincts and the dangers associated with them. This is what enables us to become thinking, reflecting adults. Sadly, this summer, we saw on the streets of some of our towns and cities what happens when primitive instincts run riot.

So, let us return to our roots. Let us re-connect with the things that really matter. Here is St Paul's advice:

Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Gareth

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

13th Oct	11:00	Morning Worship
13th Oct	16:00	Harvest Evensong at Hampton Gay
20th Oct	11:00	Holy Communion
27th Oct	10:30	Benefice Communion with the Akeman Church Community Choir
3rd Nov	18:00	All Souls' Service
10th Nov	10:45	Remembrance Service
17th Nov	11:00	Holy Communion
24th Nov	10:30	Holy Communion at Middleton Stoney
24th Nov	18:00	Stir-Up Service with the Akeman Church Community Choir, Kirtlington

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

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

We look forward to welcoming you to our services.

Church news



Before

During

After

On July 20th we organised a work party to bring some semblance of good grooming to the garden. The garden had been allowed to become overgrown in an attempt to meet the ecological criteria established by the Church of England. The extent of the overgrowth interfered with the ability of people to pay respect to their loved ones who are buried in the precinct. At the same time, we have lost several of our very devoted volunteers who helped to maintain the appearance through COVID and some infirmities of age.

As an enticement to the volunteers we offered a BBQ arranged by the churchwarden, Chef Pierre. That was a major drawing card to the event. A singular side effect of the BBQ being in the porch of the church was the lingering aroma of a hamburger parlour the following Sunday service.

During the course of the day we had a total of 31 volunteers, including two forepersons to ensure the group stayed on task. The turnout is a lesson on the impact of social media to mobilise support and our thanks to Nicky Donne for her efforts in broadcasting the message.

It was a momentous task, but it was accomplished with good cheer, comradery, and a sense of contribution to our community.

We are now trying to update the mapping of the churchyard by consolidating information created by Brian Wilson with our current records. We need to do this in order to establish a managed garden within the churchyard. This is more in keeping with the wishes of the Weston community and the Church of England's desire to maintain bio-diversity within its churchyards. Bio-diversity in available space is increasingly important as wild habitats continue to be lost to on-going development.

Our church is very appreciative of the efforts of the volunteers who helped on the day. We are now trying to organise volunteers who will help us to maintain the churchyard on a regular basis. We propose to section the churchyard into manageable sizes so one person can devote one hour every two weeks to mow a specific area. If you would like to help, please speak to either of the church wardens.

Eric Bohm

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The Akeman Benefice Juggles with Fire

Fire-eating was the grand finale to the Benefice service at Bletchington last month. Stilt-walking had been the introduction, and for the sermon we had magic and juggling balls.

"Is your life like this?", asked Juggling John, as the balls followed each other round in an endlessly repeated succession, suggesting the same old treadmill.

"Or maybe it feels more like this?", as the balls frantically swooped up in the air and the juggler desperately tried to catch each one without dropping it.

"Or is it punctuated by highs and lows?" You can imagine.

"You need a change". The balls whizzed past each other as they changed places.

In his top hat and purple gear Juggling John then went on to tell us about God's offer of "Life in all its fullness", which was the theme of the outdoor(ish) service at Bletchington Village Hall in September. Magic with ropes and cards developed his theme and kept his audience rapt.

The Bletchington Silver Band provided a rousing musical accompaniment to the hymn-singing, and all ages were there

and joined in. The youngest ones were able to try some juggling for themselves.

The Akeman Benefice has set itself a difficult act to follow for services in the rest of 2024; we trust the clergy are polishing up their juggling skills! But not their fire-eating: we were warned against that!

Juggling John doesn't just do wacky sermons, he can also be booked for party entertainments and comes highly recommended – he has a lovely manner and a very good line in repartee.



BENEFICE NEWS

Salt and Light: During Holy Week the Christian drama group LAMPS put on a really moving and thought-provoking performance of The Passion.

They have been invited back to present their production of Salt and Light (tales of the first disciples) on Saturday, 5 October in St. Mary Magdalene, Woodstock at 19:30. Tickets are available from stmmwoodstock@gmail.com

Benefice Service: this will be held at Weston on Sunday 27 October at 10:30 with the Akeman Church Community Choir. Do come along!

All Souls' Service: this special service at which we remember our deceased loved ones, especially those who have died during the past year, will be on Sunday 3 November at 18:00.

Remembrance Sunday Service: this will be on Sunday 10 November at 1045.

Stir-Up Service: with a pre-Advent theme and flavour, this service will be at Kirtlington Church on Sunday 24 November at 18:00 with the Akeman Church Community Choir.

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Chair's comments

The end of summer, the beginning of autumn, is always my time of reflection. That is probably because early September always began with a new school year, new goals and reflections on the past year. There have also been external expectations such as a new syllabus, a new boss or an educational reform. I've been thinking how this applies to village life and specifically to the challenges faced by the Parish Council.

What is the difference between a village and a suburb?

This phrase keeps popping into my mind as we've been barraged with housing reforms and emails about targets. One definition of a village is that it has a central meeting point (a church, a shop or a village hall) that has traditionally been based on a farming community with extended families living nearby. The village has a fairly small collection of houses with a friendly community atmosphere. The idea of living in a village is often romanticised as the idyllic rural life. In today's world a village can offer an escape from the town/city-based work environment and offer neighbours and a set of friends who can just enjoy your company for who you are not what you do.

What must/should this modern village have? One criterion is: a village green or playing field, a pub(s), a café and an ice cream parlour!! Welcome to Weston on the Green! We even have a book club, an art group, car repair shop, some great shopping. We have talented food entrepreneurs, quality caterers, a cake designer, an event hire company, a leading barcode company and even real farmers!! This package is worth protecting! (Apologies to all those services and small companies who also add to village life but I'm just making a point).

Moving on to the notion of suburb. It is usually considered to be an 'add-on' to a town or village. Residents are able to take advantage of all that a town or city has to offer and then commute back home. Suburbs differ from villages in that residents are not invested in the history or life of the town they are attached to. We've been very lucky that the residents of our new development have embraced village life, and many have been delighted to discover what we have to offer.

We, as a village, are at a crossroads of development. We are experiencing the generational turnover of homes and have the great resource of new people who

have the opportunity to invest in the community and help form our village of the future. This will entail a trial-and-error period of discovering where they are comfortable and what is missing. It is key to learn about the village, its clubs and associations. New villagers have the opportunity to become 'invested' in the village. We are also at a crossroads in terms of the challenge of more homes required in our district. How could this affect us?

Current challenges

At our September Parish Council meeting, we discussed current housing reforms from central government affecting national projects, district targets and village growth. We noted some of the proposed reforms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published July 30th, 2024. This includes a consultation period ending September 24th 2024 which we have only been able to consider at our September meeting. Fortunately, we've been supported by the Oxford Green Belt Association which has written to the 57 villages in Oxfordshire within the Green Belt. The reforms are recommending that the Green Belt be now seen as comprising some Grey Belt land which is: 'previously developed land and any other parcels and/or areas of



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Green Belt land that make a limited contribution to the five Green Belt purposes'. There is also mention of Brownfield land that has previously had a permanent structure on it which would be considered for housing. The aim is to increase housing growth in Cherwell by 55% per year taking the target to 1,095 annually from 706.

That adds up to a fair-sized town in five years. Villages with Neighbourhood Plans have been asked to revisit their housing allocation and if they decide not to identify sites for development, if they would accept sites identified by Cherwell. To make such a decision there would need to be discussion at a village meeting.

The future

The Parish Council will be looking for support and contribution to navigate all the information and requests coming to us. Valuing village life should be our core value and a commitment to what that means in the future. So, whether you have lived in the village for generations, or for ten years or are just new, your participation is needed at all levels – to support one another, to discover how much enjoyment there is to live here as well as to be aware of what is non-negotiable in terms of growth. The council may need to email residents for further important information so if you are not on our email list please contact me (dianebohm@gmail.com).



Other business

Gigaclear is making progress, albeit at their pace, to sort out the problems and connect willing villagers to full fibre. The Manor Hotel is pleased to be able to offer full fibre to its guests - finally.

The proposed commercial venture at the airfield is on hold as of writing this article. The trial may have started by the time you receive this magazine. If it has started please give feedback on your experience of the noise.

A tree audit of the trees under the Parish Council's responsibility has been undertaken and a survey report produced. The Parish Council has discussed the findings and authorised the required works to be undertaken. Work is required on trees at the Stocks, village ponds and in the spinney,

where unfortunately a number of trees require felling due to ash die back. When further information is available on timings the village will be notified.

Our area has a new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) – Kevin Smith – who is keen to visit parishes in the area and we are hoping he will be able to visit a Parish Council meeting in the near future. In the meantime you can catch up with the local Neighbourhood Policing team at their monthly 'Have Your Say' events which are held outside the Village Hall on a Saturday – when possible these visits are advertised on the website. You can discuss any issues you may have or chat about crime prevention measures and the Policing team are keen to hear residents' concerns and views.

Diane Bohm



hga

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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

24/00804/OUT – Reynards Lodge,
North Lane

24/00893/F – Kelberg,
Northampton Road

Decisions Received – Refused

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

Applications – Awaiting Decision

223/03383/F – 2 Church Close
Two storey side and rear extensions
(re-submission of 23/01872/F).

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).
24/01969/F - Westfield Farm Barn,

Shepherds Close - Proposed
replacement porch & alterations
to the converted barn and the re-
building of a former outbuilding.

Tree Applications

24/00722/TCA – Manor Hotel



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



Oxfordshire County Council

Free electric blanket tests this autumn



Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to take up the offer of a free electric blanket check, part of Oxfordshire County Council's programme to ensure everyone is safe, as well as warm, this winter.

The electric blanket tests are normally very popular, with places limited. Therefore, they must be **pre-booked** by phoning **01865 895999** or emailing **duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

The full list of dates and locations is provided below. The actual address and a specific time slot will be

provided at time of booking:

- Wednesday 18th September 2024 – Cherwell
- Wednesday 2nd October 2024 – Cherwell

If the condition of a blanket is allowed to deteriorate there is the possibility it could become faulty, risking injury and fire.

The service has been provided free of charge to residents for 25 years, and remains as valuable as ever: in 2023, of the 769 blankets tested, over 35 per cent failed the safety test.

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

Village Hall News

BY THE TIME this edition of the *Village News* reaches your home the Village Hall will have in its care the School Honours Board which used to hang in Weston School until 1955. We were aware of its existence thanks to Paula Hessian and Margaret Fissenden's book, *Weston Matters* but had very limited information to work from.

During the 50th Anniversary of the current Hall (in 2023) we tried, without success, to borrow the Honours Board for our celebrations. This year we renewed our efforts and worked closely with Oxfordshire Museum who were storing the Board and had done so since the school closure in 1984 and sought more information about the Board from Paula who told us that from 1928, children at the one-teacher village school could sit an exam to gain a free place at the local grammar school in Bicester. All the local schools put children into these exams, competing for the few places on offer. The School Honours Board, the gift of Lady Greville in 1929, recorded the village successes. Armed with this information, plus a change of staff at the museum and much form-filling, we have been able to have the Honours Board returned to the village on a three-year rolling loan and we hope villagers will be pleased with this addition to the Hall.

Aunt Sally

Our first event of the autumn, the annual Aunt Sally match between the North and South of the village took place in early September. Although the evening was overcast the rain held off as over fifty villagers joined us for the evening. As always, the Aunt Sally match was very competitive yet good natured, with shouts of encouragement and lots of cheers when an 'iron' hit its target! This year saw another closely fought competition with the final score seeing the south of the village edge to victory over the north of the village by 16 points to 14. The trophy was presented to the top scorer, Alan Rowan, who helped the south to victory with an impressive strike rate. Our thanks go to everyone who helped set up for the evening and on the night - Toddy, Laura and Emma for running the bar, Mark, Andrew and Clive for setting up the Aunt Sally, Paul for the bunting and Dan for the burgers. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the evening and made it such a fun event.

Craft Fair

On October 19th from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm we will be holding a Craft Fair in the Village Hall. We have a fantastic array of stalls already booked to attend, including North Aston Organics (dairy produce, ice cream, and organic meat),

Ma'malade Lady (marmalade, jams, chutneys and pickles), Harry the wood turner (wooden salad bowls and beautiful gift items), Helen and Neal's Yard Remedies with wonderful natural and organic skin, health and beauty products, Sue with her fabulous knitted baby jackets and lots of tempting woolly items, Miranda who is coming with her beautifully decorated scallop shells, Linda with her amusing handmade gnomes and trolls which make great and unusual presents, Sandie with her cards, gift wrap and lovely stationary, Shelley's chocolates from Kirtlington with tasty homemade chocolates, a plant stall selling winter flowering plants and bulbs and Cattleshed Candle Company - all great Christmas presents. Then of course our village representatives, Mandy (BeccaLou Designs) with yummy beautifully decorated cakes and gifts, Rekha with Indian Street Food, Toddy with jewellery and gifts and Sariah Barnwell with jewellery, cross stitch and embroidered gifts. We also hope to have a plant stall and there will be cakes and tea/coffee on sale for everyone and all profits from these will go to MacMillan Cancer Support. Please come along and see all these wonderful makers and crafters and get all your Christmas shopping done early under one roof. Support your Village Hall as well as a very important cancer charity close to all our hearts.



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Fireworks display

As the nights start to draw in the Committee are busy planning a couple of other events which we hope will appeal to villagers.

Our big outdoor event in October is the annual fireworks display. We are very lucky to have an amazing display courtesy of Mark East (ably supported by Mick!) and we always have a 'pinch me' moment as the first rockets launch and we see such an amazing display right here in Weston. This year's event will be taking place at the playing field on Saturday 26th October, with the gates opening at 6.30 pm and the display starting at 7.00 pm.

Please could any donations of wood for the bonfire be dropped off at the playing field on the morning of the event from 9.30 am, when we will start to build the bonfire. Anyone who would like to help us with the build would be very welcome. Once again, we will be selling mulled wine at the evening, plus other beverages. A village favourite, Howe & Co fish and chip van, will be at the event along with Dan's burger van.

We know we are biased, but we think the display put on by Mark and Mick is one of the best in Oxfordshire! 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.

Christmas!

We almost daren't mention it but due to the way the **Village News** runs we also need to mention Christmas! Our Christmas Tree Lights Switch On, raffle and visit by Father Christmas is planned for the first Sunday of Advent, 1st December, at 6.00 pm. On offer will be mulled wine, nibbles and lots of Christmas cheer! To receive a gift on the evening from Father Christmas children must be aged 11 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 ready for the evening! We never take for granted the support of the villagers so thank you for supporting us and the events.



PHONE BOX LIBRARY

Opening Times for 2024

The phone box is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, from early morning until 4.30-5pm when it is 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

AUGUST

1st prize: £18 No 18

Tony Norris

2nd prize: £12 No 147

Eric Payne

2nd prize: £6 2 No

Carole Sweetnam

SEPTEMBER

1st prize: £18 No 12

Ian Jones

2nd prize: £12 No 193

Wiz Bunce

2nd prize: £6 No 175

Pam Dyer

Autumn Craft Fair

Weston on the Green Village Hall
Saturday 19th October 2024

Come along and see all these wonderful makers and crafters and get all your Christmas shopping done early under one roof

North Aston Organics (dairy produce, ice cream, and organic meat)

Ma'malade Lady (marmalade, jams, chutneys and pickles)

Harry the wood turner (wooden salad bowls and beautiful gift items)

Helen and Neals Yard Remedies with wonderful natural and organic skin, health and beauty products

Sue with lots of tempting woolly items and her fabulous knitted baby jackets.

Miranda who is coming with her beautifully decorated scallop shells

Linda with her amusing handmade gnomes and trolls which make great and unusual presents

Sandie with her cards, gift wrap and lovely stationary

Shelley's Chocolates from Kirtlington with tasty homemade chocolates

Cattleshed Candle Company

And then, of course, our village representatives:

Mandy (BeccaLou Designs) with yummy, beautifully decorated **cakes and gifts**

Sariah Barnwell with jewellery, cross stitch and embroidered gifts

Rekha Mistry with **Indian Street Food**

Toddy with **jewellery and gifts**

We also hope to have:

A plant stall along with cakes and tea & coffee on sale
all profits from these will go to
MacMillan Cancer Support.

**Support your Village Hall as well as
a very important cancer charity
close to all our hearts**



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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

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



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Hall

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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older





Weston-on-the-Green Neighbourhood Watch

Are you signed up to get the Thames Valley Alerts?

This is a free email service to let you know about crime and crime prevention information, and lots more, all relevant to the local area. If you sign up, you can select which information providers you want to hear from, such as the Police, Local Authority, Neighbourhood Watch or the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

You can also get scams' information from Action Fraud, Get Safe Online or Trading Standards, and news from the Fire & Rescue Service such as dates

for electric blanket testing. To sign up to this service, go to: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Did you know that there is an alternative to calling 101 for non-emergency police reporting such as car theft, suspected drug dealing or property damage? You can also report these incidents online on the Thames Valley Police website - the front page has a 'Report' tab and clicking here lists the various types of reports. Go to: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

As the evenings are getting shorter, perhaps consider using timers to automatically turn on lights or TV simulators in your house. Most

timers are easily adjustable to come on at dusk. Using low-wattage bulbs will cost only pennies in electricity.

You can find further information on the Neighbourhood Watch tab of the Village website: westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme still needs street coordinators, especially in the north of the village. Please do get in touch if you can volunteer to help us.

Thanks
Weston-on-the-Green
Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
wotg.nhw@gmail.com

Short mat bowls

Short mat bowls is becoming an increasingly popular sport and ever ahead of the curve, Weston used to have a group of people who played short mat bowls every week - the mat and bowls were kept in a large wooden box in the Village Hall. Sadly, most of the players have now passed away and the mat was sold to a church group in Witney.



The mat would just about fit diagonally between the entrance door end and the fire exit. The bowls members also occasionally played other teams from Kirtlington and Long Hanborough and every year near Christmas we had a

competition night. This not only had KO bowling, but also food and drink - which possibly might not have been the best combination for helping to keep your eye in but made for a very fun evening ...

Mick East

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Ghosts

of

WITH HALLOWE'EN fast approaching my mind turned to the stories of Weston's ghoulies and ghosts ...

Weston's ghosts seem to fit into several categories – those associated with the interior of a building, those associated with a specific era in the history of the village and those who could be best described as 'passing through'.

Stories associated with the interior of a building relate to two women, Maud and Alice.



Alice appears only as a figure sitting in a chair in the corner of a room beside the fireplace, in Knowle Farm, a 17th century farmhouse. Discounting church records relating to the 20th century and looking for anyone who could possibly have been associated with Weston, the earliest 'Alice' was the daughter of John Winlow and was baptised in 1608, just at the beginning of the 17th century. There are eight other

Alices throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries but we always seem to think that a ghost must be from the earliest times.

If our Alice came from the time of the building of Knowle Farm and she was born or died here then she could be one of these nine Alices. If she was a girl from outside the village who married into a family and lived at Knowle Farm or was perhaps a servant working at the farm then I can't trace her through our church registers. Indeed, without a surname, Alice will remain a mystery, as does the reason why she stayed in Knowle Farm, a benign apparition, seen by at least three people on separate occasions in the 20th century.



The other ghost associated with the interior of a building is the one known affectionately as 'Mad Maud' who is part of what was called Room 7 in Weston Manor where she is responsible for a cold presence or strange feelings of those brave enough to venture into the room and windows unexpectedly opening.

Here we have even less to go on. There are no Mauds in the church registers earlier than the 20th century. At one point after 1066, when Weston was given to Robert D'Oyley, ownership of the manor passed to the daughter and heir of Henry D'Oyley I who married Maurice of Gaunt. Her name was Maud and she is the only Maud I can find in the records associated with the manor.

Stories, however, abound about Maud – she might be a serving girl who fell to her death down a staircase or she might be a nun who disobeyed her vows and had a relationship with a monk or another man. The serving girl is always said to have fallen down a spiral stair which was only added to the building in the middle of the 19th century. As for monks and nuns, neither lived here although monks from Oseney Abbey may have visited to oversee their tenants. Why Maud is associated with just one room in the Manor has never been explained. The majority of the building is post-Medieval, the oldest, north range being the only remains of the Medieval bailiff's home. The location of Room 7 is not in this oldest range. So ... who was Maud and why does she remain a presence in the building?

Then there is the tragic tale of a child who was killed by a fire at the Manor. I have only heard one report of a ghost, or ghosts, associated with children who may have died as a result of fire at the Manor. Did they live there, were they children of employees or just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time? Digging deeper, I found no record of a fire at the Manor and in the churchyard none of the markers refer to a death of a

Weston Past



are cited as cause for present-day horses avoiding certain areas of fields.

There is one record of a ghostly Cavalier being seen sitting in the bar of the Manor – how much this is the result of the quality of the Manor cellar I don't know!

All in all, we seem to have plenty of ghosts, some seen by quite sane, down to earth people, but unfortunately it's impossible to identify the people by name or clarify the circumstances which resulted in them remaining as apparitions after death.

All we need now is to discover Weston's very own Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future to add to the collection ...

Paula Hessian

child as a result of fire. The earliest legible stone dates from 1753 – is this early enough for a ghost? Although the church Registers begin with a burial in 1598, none of the children's burials refers to a fire nor fit the suggestion of 'died, along with another child, in a fire at the Manor'. This would suggest if there was a fire and if two children died that it occurred before 1598 – an early enough date to associate with a ghostly apparition, even if this one has only been seen once.

Ghosts who seem to be associated with a particular time can be summed up as 'coaches and Cavaliers'.

A coach and four appeared, out of the fog, in front of a car in the early 21st century. The occupants of the car followed the coach until it disappeared into the fog somewhere near Weston airfield.

Possibly related to the report of children dying in a fire is another case involving a coach or wagon. During the second half of the 20th century one of the Manor's gardeners refused to walk across part of the courtyard as he had seen a boy run down by a coach

or wagon on just that spot – the horse and vehicle having passed through the building's walls. Again, the church records do not give any clues like 'killed by a wagon' or similar so the boy, the coach or wagon and the era of this ghost can't be clarified.

The Cavalier has been seen riding his horse through the outer wall surrounding the Manor grounds and also similarly ignoring the wall around the churchyard. There is some evidence with this one as Cavaliers may well have been in the area when King Charles had his headquarters in Oxford and there were several battles and skirmishes locally.

Both the alignment of the road through the village and that going past the church out towards Bletchington have been changed and could account for the ghost 'riding through the wall' as the walls would not have been where they are now at the time of the Civil War. We also know that Cromwellian troops were billeted in the Manor and in the village and there were local skirmishes resulting in horses being killed and buried in nearby fields. These





Weston Society

Weston Society met on Monday 8th July when we had a talk on the Oxfordshire Bus Museum, based in Long Hanborough, with a history of local transport on Oxfordshire and information on the many exhibits in the Museum.

Following the talk the members discussed the future of the Society, deciding to increase subscriptions to £20 for the coming year and to review the situation again next year, if no new members are forthcoming.

At the time of writing, the Society is due to meet on Monday 9th September when our own Paula

Hessian will be sharing some history on parts of our village.

The next meeting after that is scheduled for Monday 11th November, with the speaker yet to be confirmed.

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



Weston Walkers

Our walk in July was a circular from Bletchington, taking in Hampton Poyle and Hampton Gay, some of which turned out to be quite overgrown and difficult walking in places so has been reported to Oxfordshire County Council.

Due to the intense heat and threat of thunderstorms we decided it safer to cancel our August walk, so at the time of writing will be walking again on Mondays 9th

September, 14th October and 11th November.

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 published on the Weston on the Green Parish Council website,

under Health and Wellbeing.

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

Graham Barnett 07974 774159



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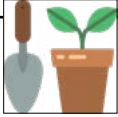
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Weston-on-the-Green Garden Club

We had two successful Open Garden evenings in July and August and are grateful to Toddy & Clive Hamilton-Gould and Len & Jan Rickets for opening their gardens in July and to Andrew & Harry Taylor and Emma & James Bernard for opening their gardens in August. The weather was again kind and attendance was excellent, with both evenings over-running as everyone was having such a good time in such beautiful spaces!

The Autumn show was another enjoyable event, with attendance better than the Spring Show but still not an ideal date for several regulars. It was great to see a few new faces whom we hope will come again. We were grateful to Ann Holt, Toddy Hamilton-Gould, Tracy Johnson, and Helen Jackson for delicious home-made cakes which were enjoyed with tea and a chat. However, we would still like to encourage more show entries next year. The show was particularly grateful for the impressive entries from Norman Boardman, who had grown some spectacular vegetables.

Prize cups were awarded as follows: Moore Blackthorn Trophy for most points in the show:

Norman Boardman

C Gregory Challenge Cup for most points in vegetables:

Norman Boardman

C Ancil Challenge Cup for the best onions: **Norman Boardman**

The Dahlia Shield for the best dahlias: **Norman Boardman**

J Heard Challenge Cup for roses: jointly **Norman Boardman and David Johnson**

W.P. Jones Challenge Cup for the lady with the most points:

Toddy Hamilton-Gould

E.M. Westlake Cup for most points in baking: **Toddy Hamilton-Gould**

R Smith Challenge Cup for most points in Art classes: **Susan Davies**

D R Radford & G Thorpe Cup for best tomatoes: **Susan Davies**

Caroline Price Cup for most points in floral art classes:

Fiona Spensley



Above: Andrew Taylor with his roses
Below: James and Emma Barnard's garden

We have lost track of a couple of cups, so please let us know if you have them, please email fiona@coppermill.uk for this or any other questions about the club.

We have one final event of the year, which is a day trip to the wonderful Chatsworth House and Garden on Monday 11th November (leaving at 8.30 am and returning 6-6.30 pm). The house will be decorated for Christmas and there will be a Christmas Market and the Chatsworth Farm shop. The cost is £65 which covers coach transport and entry fees for house and garden. Please be in touch with Toddy email: toddyhg@gmail.com for further details, anyone is welcome to join the trip which is not restricted to garden club



members. The coach capacity is 50, but there are still spaces as I write this article!

Fiona Spensley, Chair





WESTON ON THE GREEN GARDEN CLUB
DAY TRIP TO CHATSWORTH HOUSE & GARDEN
11TH NOVEMBER 2024

A coach trip from Weston on the green to visit Chatsworth house, which will be decorated for Christmas, is being organised by the garden club.

The coach will leave the village at 8.30am and arrive Chatsworth at around 11.00am.

We have entrance to the house, garden and a Christmas market in the grounds, with plenty of time to explore.

We will rejoin the coach at 3.00 pm to drive the short distance to Chatsworth farm shop.

The cost is £65 per person, and includes coach and entrance.

Please contact Toddy for more info or to book: toddyhg@gmail.com 07748 088335

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**Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall**



# **Bonfire &**



# **Fireworks**

**Saturday 26th October 2024**

**Weston on the Green Playing Field**

**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**



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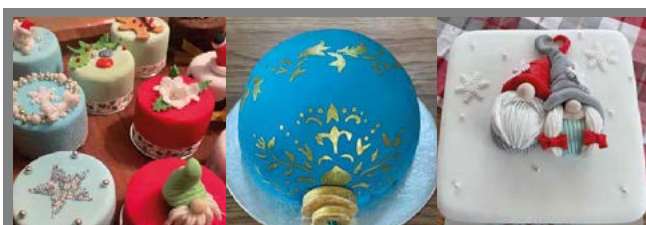
Everyone is welcome to ...

# Neighbours' Natter



Bring your  
Magazines to Swap

**Weston-on-the-Green Village Hall**  
Thurs Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 10am - Noon  
Join the chat over coffee or tea and a biscuit.



### BeccaLou Designs

Individually hand-decorated Christmas cakes available at the end of November  
4-inch square and 4-inch hemisphere - £18 | 6-inch round - £26 | 8-inch round - £35  
2-inch round (gift size) - £7

Various traditional, cute and contemporary designs  
A limited number of bespoke Christmas cake requirements can be catered for on request if  
ordered by 1st December  
Other celebration cakes available. Allow at least 2 weeks prior to date required.

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for Weston-on-the-Green Bus Service 24

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**Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall**

***Sunday 1st December 2024, 6pm***

**Join us for the turning on of the Christmas Lights, mince pies,  
Christmas Raffle, 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 11 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)**



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A decorative border of various autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and brown surrounds the central text area.

# **Autumn Craft Fair**

**Saturday 19th October 2024**

**10am-3pm**

**AT**

**Weston on the Green Village  
Hall**

**OX25 3QR**

**Arts and Crafts, Handmade Gifts  
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**Refreshments in aid of  
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### STEP 3

#### Apply online

Visit **gov.uk/pension-credit** to apply online.

Alternatively, you can call the **Pension Credit claim line** on **0800 99 1234**.

### STEP 4

#### Wait to hear from us

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We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years and it is essential that all training is attended.

**CLOSING DATE: 1 November 2024**

If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact us on:

✉ [pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:pallcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk)



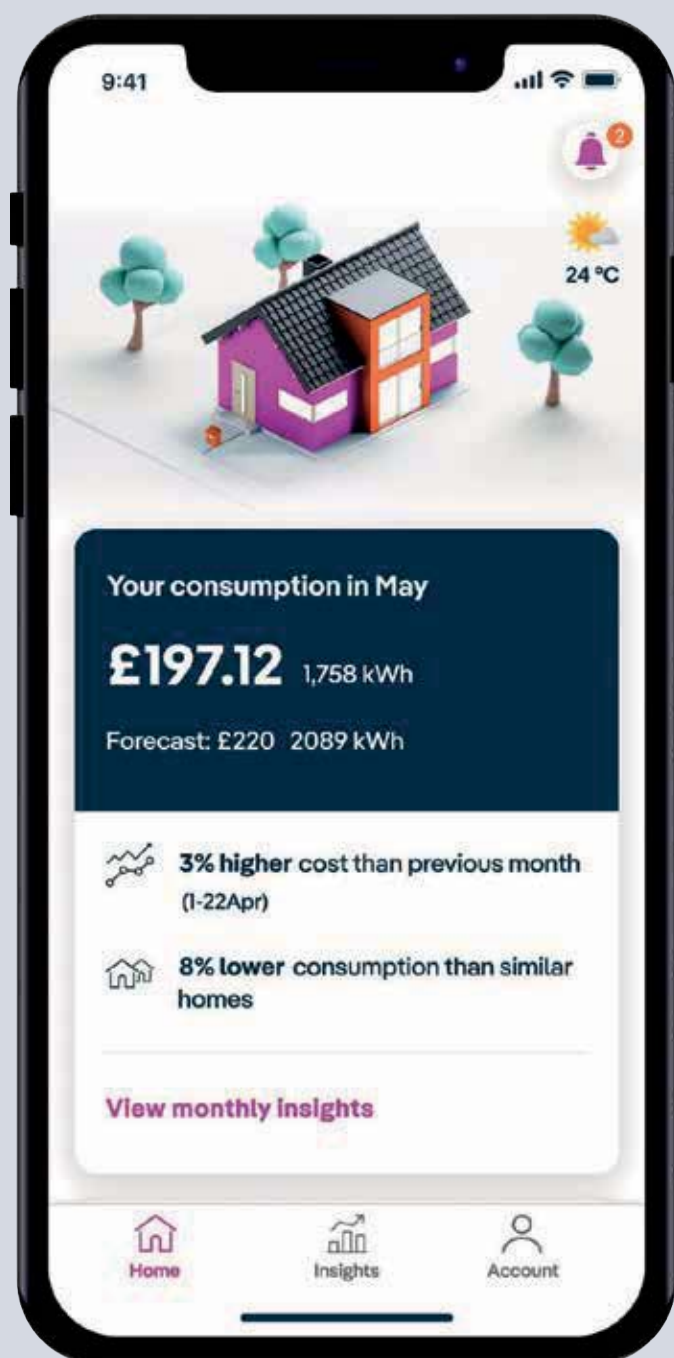
[www.khh.org.uk/bereavement-support-volunteers](http://www.khh.org.uk/bereavement-support-volunteers)



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## Dates for the Diary

|               |                     |                                                       |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st October   | 12.30 pm            | Golden Leaves Lunch                                   |
| 2nd October   | 7.30 pm             | Parish Council meeting                                |
| 5th October   | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm  | Food Bank Collection, Weston Pantry                   |
| 10th October  | 10.00 am – 12.00 pm | Neighbours' Natter                                    |
| 14th October  | 1.30 pm             | Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall              |
| 19th October  | 10.00 am – 3.00 pm  | Craft Fair                                            |
| 26th October  | 6.30 pm             | Bonfire and Fireworks Night, the Playing Field        |
| 28th October  | 2.00 – 4.00 pm      | Craft Group                                           |
| 2nd November  | 9.00 am – 12.00 pm  | Food Bank Collection, Weston Pantry                   |
| 5th November  | 12.30 pm            | Golden Leaves Lunch                                   |
| 6th November  | 7.30 pm             | Parish Council meeting                                |
| 11th November | 8.30 am – 6.30 pm   | Garden Club trip to Chatsworth House and Garden       |
| 11th November | 1.30 pm             | Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall              |
| 11th November | 7.30 pm             | Weston Society                                        |
| 14th November | 10.00 am – 12.00 pm | Neighbours' Natter                                    |
| 25th November | 2.00 – 4.00 pm      | Craft Group                                           |
| 1st December  | 6.00 pm             | Christmas Tree Lights Switch On with Father Christmas |



**WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN  
VILLAGE PANTRY & POST OFFICE**



### FRIENDS' PRODUCE

As ever massive thanks to Mick, Toddy and Corrinne and to all of you who have been dropping off produce from your gardens and greenhouses. We appear to have a bumper year with runner beans, cooking apples and amazing plums from Knowle Lane. Extra special thanks go to 94-year-old Bill Laurie for his homemade marmalade and jams. Many villagers who saw the jars we got thought Pam Miller had come back to life and they just flew off the shelves! The amount raised since the last edition of the Village News towards St Mary's Church and the Village Hall is £109.24.





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