

WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

TheVillageNews

APRIL/MAY 2026



Photo: Annie Cooper



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Village Directory

THE VILLAGE NEWS

EDITOR

Alex Reid: editor@wotgnews.uk

ADMINISTRATION:

Diane Bohm: admin@wotgnews.uk

FINANCE

Tracy Rowan: accounts@wotgnews.uk

CHURCH

RECTOR: The Rev'd Gareth Miller
01869 350224

WESTON COMMUNITY SHOP

01869 350230

Chair (Shamsher Pangu)

chair@weston-sos.org

Manager (Sam Boshier)

manager@westoncommunityshop.com

VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall Secretary

Jordie: 350992

Village Hall Bookings

Jordie and Andrew Wilson:

01869 350992

COMMUNITY VAN BOOKING

Graham Barnett: 01869 350707

SOCIETIES

WESTON SOCIETY

WESTON WALKERS

FOOTPATH WARDEN

Graham Barnett: 01869 350707

GARDEN CLUB

Toddy Hamilton-Gould: 07748 088335

GOLDEN LEAVES

Eric Bohm: 07531 703409

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURS' NATTER

Patsy Parsons: 01869 350331

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Non-Emergency Line: 101

OCC

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Laura Gordon

laura.gordon@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CHERWELL DISTRICT

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gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

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WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH

COUNCIL

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

John Miller, Works: 350511

Tracy Rowan, Finance: 07833 473357

David Williams, Biodiversity: 07825
641167

Parish Council Clerk; Playing Field:
Jane Mullane, 350282

e: clerk@westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk

From the editor

It feels incredibly strange writing this Editor's Letter, knowing it's my last one. I'm delighted to say that David Buchanan has volunteered to be the interim Editor for the next issue (contactable on the same email as the one I've been using) but we are still looking for someone to take this on permanently.

I've been greatly honoured to steer *The Village News* over the past four years, helping to record life in Weston which has included celebrating a Jubilee, a Coronation and village life in general as well as sad farewells to some wonderful Westoners.

I was only able to pick up the red pen of editorship thanks to the invaluable help and support of the original team, Diane Bohm on the administrative side and the late Colin Rosser working on the advertising side, and now also Tracy Rowan who looks after the finances.

My thanks too, to all the contributors who sent articles and photos and so helped me make the *Village News* a snapshot of Weston in the present – and often in the past (both highlighted in this issue's centre spread) – and to the advertisers, without whom we wouldn't have been able to make this a free magazine to every household.

A massive 'thank you' to the delivery team, past and present, who braved all weathers to make sure this was delivered: Bindy Bhogal, Eric Bohm, Ruby Buckland, Nicky Donne, Beck Erija, James Henderson, Mark Johnson, Joy Lawrie, Jordie Riches, Jan Ricketts, Louise Talbot, Andrew Taylor and Jeet and Mark Taylor.

And finally to you, the reader - this magazine is written for you and by you and I hope you've enjoyed leafing through each edition.




Annie Cooper



Annie Cooper

Deadline for June/July edition:
7TH MAY 2026



From the Rector

Gareth Miller

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

Dear friends,

I have just woken up in my armchair and remembered that I am supposed to be writing this letter! Before I nodded off I'd been watching Question Time, and had stayed awake long enough to hear the debate about the war in Iran - started only six days ago at the time of writing. Who knows what will have happened by the time you read this?

I heard on the radio yesterday that certain military leaders in the USA had been speaking of the current conflict as the final one, using apocalyptic and hyperbolic language and proposing Donald Trump as God's instrument in executing His final plan. This sort of talk is, I believe, both questionable and dangerous, and not so very different from the kind of mindset epitomised and articulated by the people who run the theocracy in Iran and other such places.

There will undoubtedly be different views about the rightness or wrongness of the escapade initiated by Trump and Netanyahu, though a show of hands among the Question Time audience found only three in favour. I have to admit to feeling very queasy about this kind of interventionism. Examples from recent years do not bode well for a positive and peaceful outcome.

Whatever the rights and wrongs from a political or military perspective, the appropriation of religious language is dubious. The prophet Amos, writing in the 8th century BC, focused on the intersection of faith and justice, condemning the oppression of the poor, corruption, and the false sense of security among the elite. When he saw his people rallying around a triumphalist religion that guarded its own interests and thought itself superior he called it out. Unsurprisingly, the authorities told him to go home!

To criticise your nation's military adventurism is seen as unpatriotic, and to call for mercy invites the

accusation of weakness. Rhidian Brook, in a recent *Thought for the Day*, reminded us of the words of Umberto Eco: 'Triumphalist nations reject critical thinking as they see it as a form of emasculation.'

Brook went on to say that God certainly does have a plan for the world, just not one that involves massive violence. The Jesus we find in the gospels did indeed fight a battle - a battle 'against the systems of power that kill and oppress, against the principalities and forces that grip the human heart; and he took on death itself. This was an EPIC battle, that took the fury of the world and transformed it; and his weapon of choice was love.'

Let us pray and trust that in this Easter season the victory of love over sin and death may prevail, first in our own hearts, but then overflowing into the life of our nation and our world.

Gareth

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

3rd April, Good Friday	10:00	Family Service, Chesterton
	14:00	An Hour at the Cross, Wendlebury
	20:00	Sung Compline, Kirtlington
5th April, Easter Day	11:00	Holy Communion
12th April	18:00	Benefice Choral Evensong with the Akeman Church Community Choir
19th April	11:00	Holy Communion
26th April	10:00	Benefice Communion, Bletchington
3rd May	11:00	Morning Worship
10th May	11:00	Holy Communion, Chesterton
	18:00	Benefice Choral Evensong, Kirtlington
14th May, Ascension Day	19:00	Holy Communion, Wendlebury
17th May	11:00	Holy Communion
	15:00	Family Service, Bletchington
24th May	10:00	Pentecost Communion, Middleton Stoney
31st May	10:00	Benefice Communion

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>

BENEFICE NEWS

Agape Supper On Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, there will be an Agape Supper, as in previous years. At the time of writing the venue is still to be confirmed, so please look out for further publicity. If you would like to take part, please let Julie know by sending an email to enquiries.akeman@gmail.com

Choral Evensong will be held on 12th April at Weston on the Green at 6.00 pm.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings
 This is the season for our annual meetings. Weston's will be held on 22nd April at 7.30 pm - do please try to come if you can.

Art Week begins on 9th May at Middleton Stoney

Concert Weston on the Green will be holding a concert with the Summer Fields school choir in aid of St Mary's on 15th May (time TBC).

Open Gardens Middleton Stoney will be holding an Open Gardens on 16th May.

Pilgrim Paths Walk the Pilgrim Paths on 17th May from Islip to Woodeaton starting at 2.00 pm.

Lamb Ale Festival, Kirtlington
 This runs from 30th – 31st May and there will be the Lamb Ale service at Kirtlington Church on 31st May at 10.45 am

Chair's comments

The Parish Council's focus is able to shift to projects and development once the finance and audit winter cycle is completed. At the March meeting we made decisions that have been the result of research and action planning. We also having some exciting and welcome news.

David Williams has been co-opted as a councillor for the Parish Council. He has lived in the village for ten years and has a vast range of experience and learning in biodiversity. David's portfolio is to continue to create more awareness of ecology in and around the village.



He was interested in being a parish councillor because he has a bit more time now that he is retired. He wishes to help the parish by using his life skills and experience for our benefit. David served in the RAF, is a volunteer at the RSPB, the Vincent Wildlife Trust, British Trust for Ornithology and is Warden for the South Wales Wildlife Trust. Currently David is engaged in providing swift boxes for the arrival of the swifts in May. Permission has been granted to put some boxes at the church which is in keeping with other examples across the county. The Parish Council team is delighted to have David 'on board' and we look forward to his perspective on a variety of topics.

The Council has taken a major decision to change our provider for our website and emails. Parish Online operates as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company. Its strap line is 'Empowering Local Councils with great technology'. The website change has been prompted by the benefit of having a provider that is aligned with national policy on accessibility. The site uses government design guidelines and provides ongoing maintenance and upgrades making sure that we have the latest features, security upgrades and aligns with new legislation. The site is encrypted and safe for visitors and has a knowledge bank that helps with the work we do on the website. We are proud of the website that we have and so have taken several months of research and discussion before making this decision.

Councillor emails have historically been aligned with personal accounts. We have been aware that this does not lead to easy transition of councillors and it also clogs up our personal emails. Part of our package with Parish Online is we will move to .gov.uk emails and these will name our portfolio. You will have seen this with the Clerk's email i.e. clerk@westononthegreen-pc.gov.uk . In the next edition of the Village News, our new addresses will be announced.



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An exciting feature of Parish Online is the mapping function. It is tailored for local councils in the UK, offering specialised tools for asset management, planning and community engagement. It features integrated Ordnance Survey maps, Land Registry boundaries, and aerial photography with capabilities for creating custom map layers, printing, and sharing interactive public maps. It also includes measurement tools (distance/area) which is helpful for planning. Several of us have been active in learning to use this tool. Our aim is that new councillors will have a modern, time saving tool that will make our work just that bit easier.

In March the Neighbourhood Plan team presented the recommendation for the Neighbourhood Plan Review which is due this year. We are entering a time of considerable change: a decision about Cherwell's Local Plan which will have an effect on us, the government's proposals for the introduction of Unitary Councils across Oxfordshire and the uncertainty that will bring to our local planning structure. We will share our ideas about how our Review will fit into this landscape on April 13th, 7.30pm at the Village Annual Meeting at the Village Hall. We will firstly take your questions and comments on issues that concern you as a villager. This is an important meeting as the decisions the Parish Council takes with regards to the Review will affect the village for several years. Please attend and share your views.

A great deal of work has been done before the March 1st deadline trimming hedges. Work has also been done

clearing ditches to allow water to flow more freely through the village. We are working with our neighbours to advise and support further ditch clearance. The fear of flooding is in all our villages and in some cases, neighbouring villages have suffered. You may or may not be aware that there are a number of streams flowing under the village and the water table is very high. Our streams carry water from Banbury down through the village and onto rivers that flow to the Thames. We are aware of the very large housing development proposed at Heyford Park and there is some concern amongst villages of the effect on flooding downstream. By keeping water flowing through the village we feel we can mitigate the effect of flooding.

We are in the midst of discussions re bus shelters along the B430. We have some constraints: Conservation Area design code and budget. We hope to have a solution for the April Parish Council meeting.

Thank you again for your generosity with the Food Bank. Donations from the village make a difference!!

I will end this article with homage to Alex Reid for her excellent work as Editor of the Village News. It has been easy to work with Alex in my role as Administrator. Four years under her leadership have flown by. Alex has an eye for design, and her knowledge of the village has prompted a number of articles and memorials that are important in our village history. Thank you Alex.

Diane Bohm, Chair



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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



Planning update

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

BUILDING APPLICATIONS:

Decisions Received – Permitted

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

Decisions Received – Refused/ Withdrawn

None

Appeals

25/00041/REF – Reynards Lodge,
North Lane - refused

Awaiting Decision

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

25/01418/F - Family Farm House,
part of A34

Driver rest stop facility including the
formation of a new entry and exit
slip road adjoining the A34, parking
area for cars and HGVs, erection of



an amenity building (including toilets
and catering area), EV charging
station, solar PV array, battery
storage facility, other ancillary
structures/buildings and landscaped
amenity area.

2037 earliest connection to
National Grid for solar.

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

Northampton Road
Thatch roof method statement;
stone floor tile sample.

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New dog waste bins

The Parish Council has recently installed a new dog waste bin at the rear of the playing field and a further new dog bin is to be located towards the Chequers end of the village to help keep footpaths and green spaces clean.

Please note dog litter bins are also located at the playing field car park, Knowle Lane, Village Hall car park, Westlands Avenue and North Lane and are emptied regularly by Cherwell District Council. There is also an additional dog bin at The Manor.

Please report any unemptied bins to Cherwell District Council via: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/report-dog-bin>

For the bin at the rear of the playing field please contact the clerk as that one is emptied by a volunteer.

Thank you to everyone who helps support the Parish Council in keeping the village tidy.



Highway works



Drain Clearing in the Village

Oxfordshire County Council has scheduled a new annual programme of highway drain and gully clearing, which is expected to be completed by the end of March in the parish.

This routine maintenance helps ensure roadside drains are clear and able to cope with heavy rainfall, reducing the risk of localised flooding.

If you notice a blocked drain or drainage issue after this work has been completed, you can report it online via FixMyStreet (<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>)

Road Resurfacing Works

Oxfordshire County Council have indicated they will be carrying out road surface dressing and sealing works on Church Road and Church Lane (21st – 25th April and 27th

April – 1st May) and on the B430 (25th -26th April, 9th – 10th May and 16th – 17th May).

Please look out for updates and confirmed dates on the Parish Council website and Facebook page along with road signage in case of any changes to the schedule.

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LOOSE PAVING
DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING?**

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As ever, I'm starting with a huge thank you for the support of our shop and Post Office from our customers, staff and volunteers.

You may have seen our Landi training in the Post Office – we're all very excited about having another trained member of staff to help serve our customers with banking and delivery services. Please be patient with us as she gets to grips with the complex system and the plethora of services we offer.

We now stock M&S and Amazon-specific gift cards as well as the One4All card for multiple retailers in the Post Office – a great gifting option for birthdays, etc.

And as we head into holiday season, remember we stock Euros and we can order other currencies for collection.

You may have tried, or at least seen, our fabulous selection of indulgent chocolate products in the shop of late.

We have Italian chocolate eggs, cute little boxes of praline eggs, milk chocolate hearts, a couple of options from the 'deliciously ethical' Montezuma range, and we've also

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP

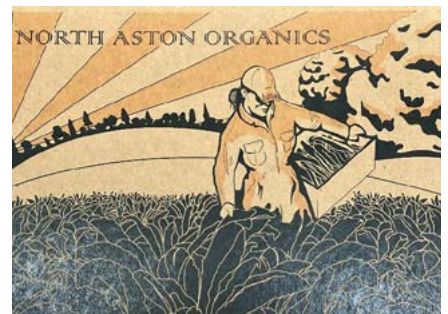
started stocking the iconic red Tony's Chocolonely bar.

In the world of sweets, we've gone retro with the addition of coconut mushrooms, dolly mixtures, chocolate limes and little bags of clotted cream fudge, and hopefully coming soon are more old favourites including liquorice comfits, jelly beans and cinder toffee.

Our jumbo baking potatoes are going down a storm and are a perfect accompaniment for a casserole, such as beef & ale, lamb & mint or sausage & onion, or to make a creamy mash ideal with chicken chasseur – we have jars of all of these sauces in stock as well as sweet & sour, and we're

expecting more pasta and curry sauces soon, including the tikka masala, which sold out really quickly!

With spring comes a wider availability of lovely fruit and veg, so do take a look at North Aston Organics website – you can order a box from them and collect it from us.



In hot food, our warming oven is bursting every morning as the bacon & cheese turnover and the tikka slice have proven so popular they've become permanent fixtures alongside our famous sausage rolls and pasties.

The big news however is that we have partnered with Bicester's Sarnie 67 to bring their fabulously fresh, deliciously satisfying sandwiches to our customers in Weston.

The specialist sandwich shop and deli hand crafts everything on-site using local ingredients; they bake fresh and they even brine and cook their own pastrami and ham.

We also couldn't resist their signature Scotch eggs, which I can honestly say are the best I've ever tasted!

Our alteration plans are in progress and I will keep you updated – I can't wait to see customers sitting on our new terrace enjoying a chat over a glass of wine or one of our great coffees!

As ever, if you'd be able to help out in the shop here and there, or if there's anything you think we ought to stock, email us at shop@westoncommunityshop.com. We always welcome your thoughts.



WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN

TheVillageNews

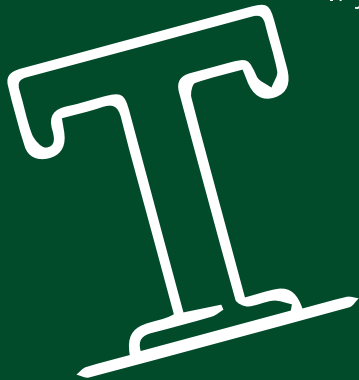
The Village News is looking for a new Editor

to take over from the June/July 2026 issue onwards.
If you're interested in helping to keep the Village News going

Please contact either
Alex: editor@wotgnews.uk

or

Diane: dianebohm@gmail.com





Over the last few weeks it has been lovely to see the spring bulbs donated by villagers last October burst into bloom and herald brighter days ahead. Thank you to everyone who donated, and we look forward to seeing the tulips and alliums appear later in the season.

We have several events currently in the planning stage so please do keep an eye out for posters around the village and an email with details about these forthcoming events.

Our first event is taking place on Saturday 30th May and sees a return to the Hall of Alan Johnson. Alan may be well-known for his career as a politician, but all the while he harboured a long-held wish to be a pop star. In 'The

Beatles, Harold Wilson & Me', Alan charts his remarkable story from growing up an orphan in a slum in West London to the corridors of power and the surprising ways the lives of The Beatles and his political hero Harold Wilson interwove with his. This show aims to delight Baby Boomers everywhere, with a nostalgic but unsentimental look back at post-war Britain and how the great figures of the age influenced the country we live in today. Alan might never have quite made it onto Top of the Pops, but arguably his impact on public life is all the greater for it. As John Lennon once sang, "life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." Tickets for this event are £10 and can be booked by emailing: westonvillagehall@live.co.uk with the doors opening at

6.30 pm and the show starting at 7.00 pm.

Ahead of this event the Village Hall AGM will be taking place on Wednesday 15th April at 7.00 pm. All villagers are welcome to attend and hear what we have been up over the past year and to hear our plans for 2026-2027.

Save the date!

On the evening of Saturday 6th June, the Hall will be hosting a Quiz Night with a two-course meal. There will be the popular film and music rounds plus others to entertain team members. Team sizes can be from 2-6 people and ticket prices will be £15 per person. This quiz night will be raising funds for St Mary's Church and booking is now open for this event.

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Results

FEBRUARY

1st prize: £18 No 62 C. Parsley
 2nd prize: £12 No 121 D. Parsley
 3rd prize: £6 No 88 D. Bohm

MARCH

The March draw hadn't taken place by the time the Village News went to print and will be published in the next issue.

PHONE BOX LIBRARY



Opening Times

The phone box is now open all the time!

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

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

Many thanks and happy reading!



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Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Saturday 30th May 2026

Doors open 6.30pm

Show starts 7pm



**the beatles
harold wilson
& me**

mono

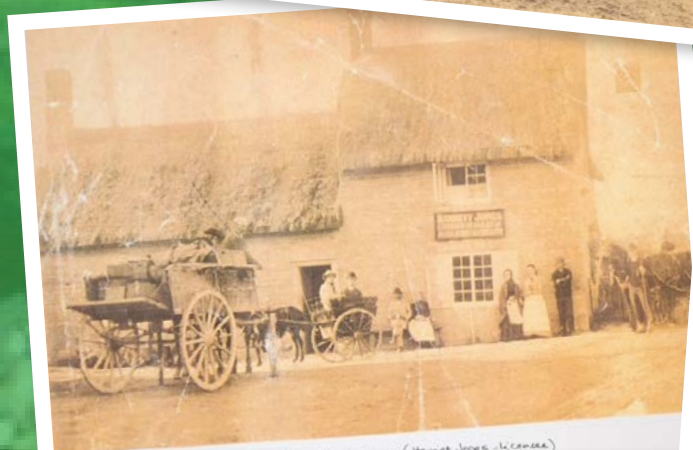


Tickets £10

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• Weston – Past and Present



Photographers

Kayleigh Beadle
Annie Cooper
Joseph Coyle
Debbie Jones
Mandy Jones
Jordie Riches

Present •





Weston Society

Weston Society met on Monday 12th January for a really interesting and informative talk by Stephen Barker entitled 'Women in the First World War', highlighting the various ways women empowered themselves to fill a number of necessary roles during the war years.

We will have met again on Monday 9th March to welcome Simon Wenham speaking on 'Poverty,

Pestilence and Public Health in Victorian Britain'.

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



Weston Walkers

A combination of unsettled weather and unavailability of regular walkers led to us having to cancel our first walk of the year planned for February.

At the time of writing, our next walks are planned for Monday 9th March and Monday 13th April, meeting at Weston Village Hall at 1.30 pm and then on the second Monday of subsequent months.

All are welcome to join in as and when, there is no commitment to every month, so if you wish to enjoy sociable company, conversation and exercise please come along and join in or speak to me.

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

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

Graham Barnett
07974 774159

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...when we can deliver!

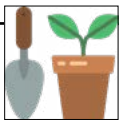


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Weston-on-the-Green Garden Club

By the time you read this we will have had our AGM and will have outlined our plans for 2026. Our Spring Show will also have taken place on 28th March.

We start the year with a visit to Bunkers Hill Nursery on Thursday 16th April. We arrive at 6.00 pm for coffee and cake and a brief talk on the history of the nursery.

We then have time to explore and buy plants at a 15% discount. I think this will be a lovely evening and at the same time we will be supporting a local business. If you would like to join in, please email me on toddyhg@gmail.com

Our Garden Open Evenings for members start with an invitation from Linny and Gerald Bushby to visit their garden on Tuesday 12th May at Reynards Lodge, North Lane and the next one will be on Monday 8th June at The Old Vicarage, Mill Lane, hosted by Carole and David Sweetnam, both at 6.30 pm.

On Saturday, May 23rd between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm we will be holding a Bring and Buy Plant Sale in St Mary's Church. This will be a joint fund raiser for the church and the Garden Club. There will be tea and cake for sale and a raffle. We would be very grateful if you could plant a few extra seeds and take cuttings so we have a good selection on offer. Do come along and support us and raise money at the same time. If you have plants to offer and cannot manage to get them to the church, let me know and I will come and collect them the day before.

Membership is now due and is £10 per annum. This can be paid by cash at any of our events or transfers made to David Johnson Sort Code 07-12-26 Account Number 04885198.

We are running a tallest sunflower competition for children and giving away seeds to plant with full instructions. We will come and measure all of them on the same



date in August (to be decided at a later date) and prizes will be presented to the winners in different age groups.

This is open to children under 16 in the village as well as residents' grandchildren in the area. Seeds will be available at our Spring Show and in the Village Community Shop and at the Garden Open Evenings. Get them early and yours might be the winner!!

I hope you will all renew your memberships and take part in the events we have lined up for 2026. None of us know whether the Summer will bring a drought or a deluge but whatever's in store for us, enjoy your garden!

Toddy Hamilton-Gould





Walking in Oxfordshire

All the information you need to get walking in our beautiful county.

With the days getting longer, put a spring in your step, dust off those walking boots and head into the fields.

'Walking in Oxfordshire' has lots of interesting walks, both local and slightly further afield, all to download and print for free:
<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire>.

It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more.

Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

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FROM THE GROTTTO OF THE WOOD FAIRY



As many of you will have had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, here is a salutary reminder of what might have been:

Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday poor Jack went to plough,
His mother made pancakes but didn't know how.
She tossed them, she turned them, she made them turn black.
She put too much salt in and poisoned poor Jack.

This ditty was told to me as a boy by Mum, who came from Devizes and spent her time in the RAF as a cook.

It is a timely reminder of what could still go wrong.

There are some Easter chicks and bunnies in the shop.

Sadly, the kindling has run out.

The Wood Fairy would like to thank Alex for her time as editor but I know full well that family must come first. Hopefully the *Village News* will continue, as it gives villagers an insight into what goes on even if they don't attend meetings etc.

Mick East

Everyone is welcome to ...

Neighbours' Natter

Join us for conversation,
coffee or tea and a biscuit. (£2)



Bring your MAGAZINES and PUZZLES to exchange.

Weston-on-the-Green
Village Hall, 10 am to 12 noon
April 9th and May 14th

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



There's no such thing
as the
Dog Poo Fairy



Anne Brown

1940 - 2026

Anne was born in 1940 to Amy and David Elkington and grew up in a rapidly changing world, belonging to a post-war generation when young women for the first time were expected to work, contribute resolutely, at the same time marry, start and raise a family. Her resilience and forbearance were instilled in her from childhood when rationing, scarcity, along with prevailing general attitude of 'put up and get on with it' shaped her outlook on life.

As a young girl, Anne learnt to swim in the tidal pool at North Berwick, not the warmest place on earth. I am not sure many of us, indeed anyone from today's generation would be as tough to do the same.

This toughness combined with a quiet sense of adventure, led Anne to her first career working for M15 - a job she felt great honour and pride in. This role hints at her intelligence, discretion and inner strength. Although her work sounded incredibly glamorous, Anne, of course, firmly contradicted this. She said it mostly involved watching buildings in the middle of nowhere in dreadful weather.



Her most exciting moment she spoke about was also quite embarrassing. She was asked to follow a gentleman from the Russian Embassy. As he boarded a bus, Anne followed immediately, looking for him when she got onboard only for him to stand, smile and offer her his seat saying "we will be together all day. Please make yourself comfortable".

That story captures Anne perfectly - never making a show of her achievements, simply getting on with what needs to be done.

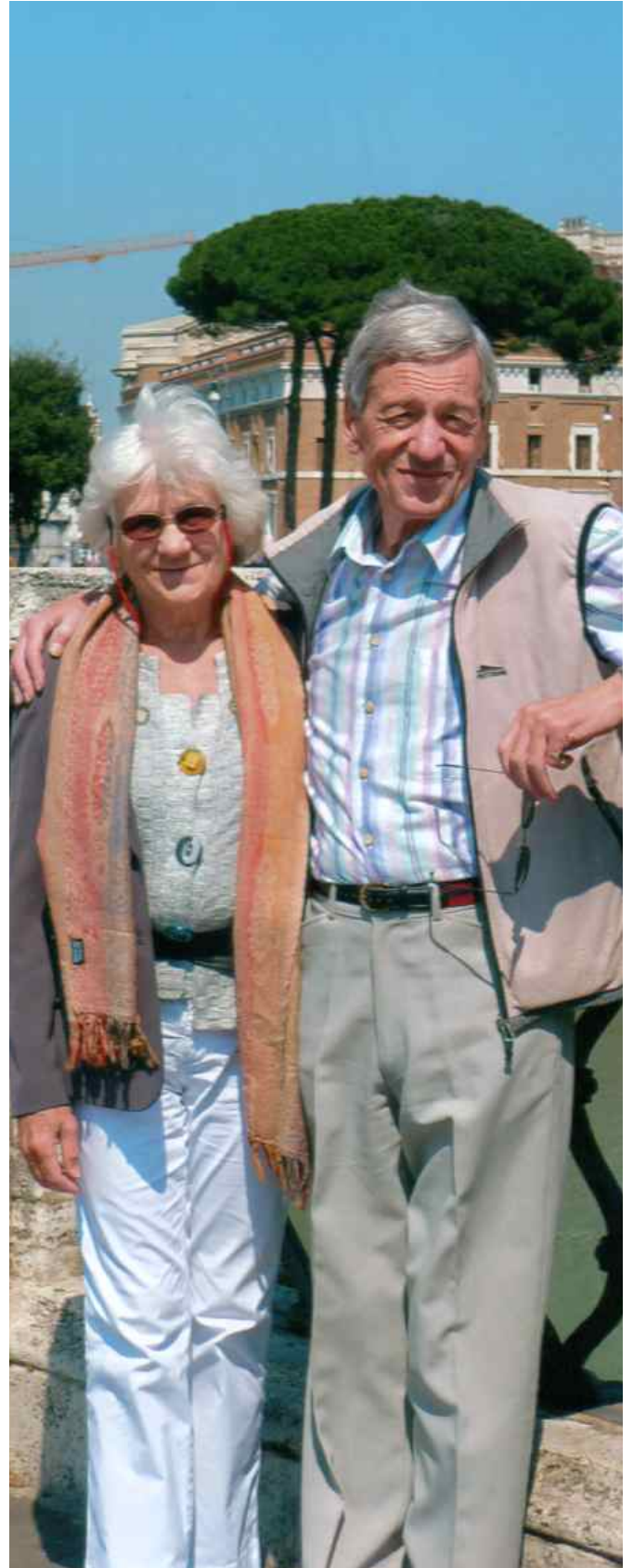
Anne married twice, first to Clive Brewer, with whom she had two children, Richard and Francesca. Together they set up house in Lower Heyford converting an old mill into a home.

Anne relished the experience of converting or building a house from scratch. And is something she did three times; The Mill in Lower Heyford, The Barn, North Lane here in Weston-On-The-Green, and Court House built on the tennis court of the Barn, which she built with John Brown, whom Anne married whilst she and her children were living at the Barn.

Anne and John shared many wondrous years together filled with their passions, especially gardening and travelling, both of which suited Anne perfectly. She loved beauty, order, and exploring the world beyond the garden gate.

For many years, Anne ran the local polo club in Kirtlington as Club Secretary, a role she embraced with dedication and love. It wasn't just administration for her, it was the people, community, and making sure things were done properly and ran well.

She cared deeply and gave a great deal of herself to it. She thrived in standing her ground when on occasion a disgruntled, and perhaps overly self-important polo



player got upset when something didn't suit them or go their way.

Though Anne was always warm and welcoming, she could be tough and it is obvious what care, standards and a fierce sense of responsibility she had for those around her.

Anne loved future generations and had a warm

affiliation with the younger members of the family, fondly being called Annie-Annie.

Anne was a woman of strength, loyalty, character, and charm. She lived through times of great change, adapted to them, leaving her mark on many lives - often in ways she may never fully realized - and was quite simply unforgettable.

Richard Brewer

Since the beginning of 2026 we have continued to steadily raise funds (in whatever way we can!) to add to our target goal of £1 million so that we can begin building the vision we have for a bespoke centre where young and older adults and their families can find everything they need by way of care, support, encouragement, inclusion and respect.

Our mission and hope is to commence building this year and we are delighted to share with you that we are now only £25,000 away from that very milestone.



In February we held a very exciting Quiz which was led by Dr Darragh Ennis, (The Menace from The Chase), and all thanks to him and

Chris, and all the people who so willingly supported the event, we raised an incredible sum of £2,767. This was the sixth Quiz hosted by Darragh and Chris, and we are immensely grateful for all they do for us.

If you would like to keep informed about our Charity, our events, and what we are doing, please do visit alexandrahouseofjoy.org We would love to see our lovely neighbours in WotG involved with us.

Rachael and Ian Scott-Hunter



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ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2026

**Join your neighbours to discuss the future of
our village!**

Date: Monday, April 13th, 2026

Time: 7.30 pm

Location: Village Hall

Agenda Highlights:

Welcome & Apologies

**Chair's Annual Report: A look back at the past year's
achievements**

**Presentation: Neighbourhood Plan Review
(ie. future housing)**

**Open Forum: Your chance to ask questions and share
your views**

***Come along to hear what's happening in your village and
what is important for the next few years
Weston on the Green Parish Council***

**Weston on the
Green Garden Club
Bring & Buy Plant Sale
in St Mary's Church
Saturday May 23rd
10am-2pm
Tea and Cake Raffle**



Weston on the Green Memorial Village Hall

Quiz night

Saturday 6th June 2026

Doors open 6.30 pm

Teams of 2-6, Licensed Bar & Meal

Tickets £15 per person

Supporting St Mary's Church

To book tickets please email westonvillagehall@live.co.uk



KEEP
CALM
AND
BOOK YOUR
QUIZ TEAM

You need
photo ID
to vote at
a polling
station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



RISE AND SHINE

community café for all ages 

**Every Wednesday morning in term-time
9.15 – 10.45 in Kirtlington Church**



Home-made cakes, Fairtrade tea and coffee, and chat, plus, for the young ones, healthy snacks, activities, singing and a story.

Email joannaclifford.akeman@gmail.com for queries, but no need to book, just turn up for a warm welcome!



Dates for the Diary

1st April	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting
9th April	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Neighbours' Natter
11th April	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Food Bank Collection, Weston Community Shop
13th April	1.30 pm	Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall
13th April	7.30 pm	Village Annual Meeting
15th April	7.00 pm	Village Hall AGM
16th April	6.00 pm	Garden Club visit to Bunkers Hill Nursery
22nd April	7.30 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
7th May	7.00 am – 10.00 pm	Local Elections, voting station in the Village Hall
9th May	9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Food Bank Collection, Weston Community Shop
11th May	1.30 pm	Weston Walkers; meet at the Village Hall
11th May	7.30 pm	Weston Society
12th May	6.30 pm	Garden Club Open Garden, Reynard's Lodge
12th May	7.30 pm	Annual Parish Council meeting
14th May	10.00 am – 12.00 pm	Neighbours' Natter
15th May	TBC	St Mary's Concert with Summer Field's School Choir
21st May	10.00 am – 2.00 pm	Garden Club Bring and Buy Sale, St Mary's Church
30th May	7.00 pm	Alan Johnson: The Beatles, Harold Wilson & Me

FRIENDS' PRODUCE



Thank you to the members of the community who donated towards the Friends' Produce initiative. Remember, if you have an abundance of fruit or veg in your garden or allotment, please bring it to us and we'll sell it for a donation, 100% of which goes to the Church and Village Hall.

Thank you also, to everyone who bought raffle tickets - Jan was overjoyed with her hamper!

We covered the cost of the hamper and donated the remaining sum (just over £40) to Friends Produce.

In total, during January and February this initiative raised £225.10, which has been split and paid to the Church and Village Hall.





At times we all
need a little
support

The Oxfordshire Targeted Youth Support Service is **here for you.**

Working together we can support you to build life skills to inspire dreams to reach your potential, develop healthy relationships, learn to keep yourself safe and make decisions that are right for you.



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**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

WINE NIGHT

HOSTED BY GUSBOURNE
AT WESTON MANOR HOTEL

Date: 08/05/26 | Time: 7:00 PM

Price: £79 - 4 Course Spring Tasting



Book now by emailing events@thewestonmanor.com