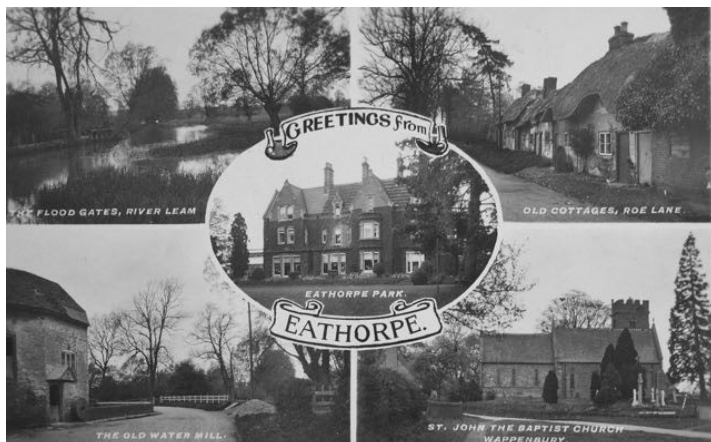


THE W2HEN

Weston, Wappenbury, Hunningham and Eathorpe NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018

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CONTACTS

Weston Village Website:

www.westonunderwetherley.org

Weston Village Hall bookings:

bookings@westonvillagehall.org.uk

Eathorpe Village Website:

www.eathorpe.org.uk

Eathorpe Village Hall bookings:

info@eathorpe.org.uk

Hunningham Parish Room:

01926 632428

Hunningham Parish Room bookings:

paddybtaylor@live.co.uk

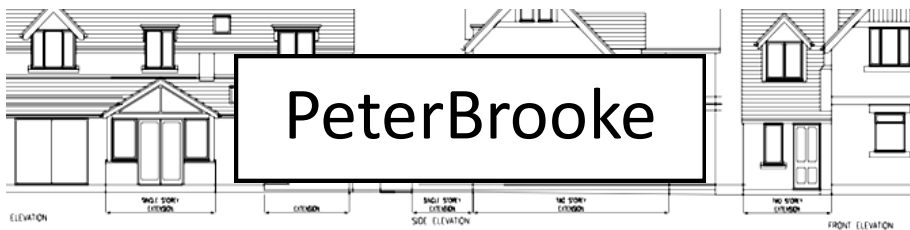


**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from the
newsletter team**

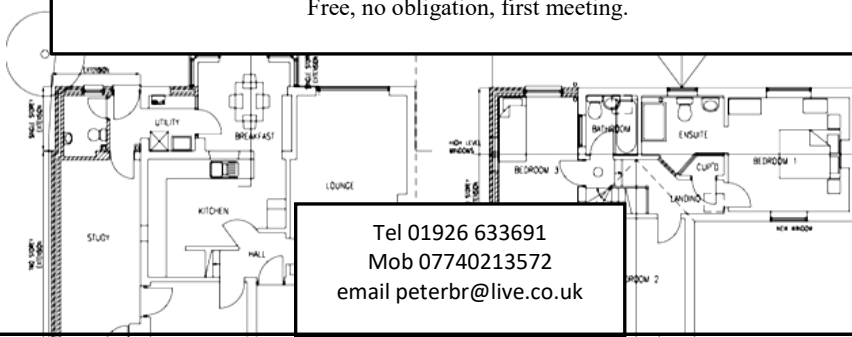
Editor: David Wray 632830 wraydj@gmail.com

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moirarawlings@btinternet.com



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VILLAGE NEWS

MONDAY CLUB

In November we were guests of the Offchurch Afternoon Club and were entertained by the Spa Strummers - a wonderfully amusing group of singers. We knew most or all of the songs by heart and sang along with gusto! Afterwards, as usual, we enjoyed a delicious tea.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch at Wethele Manor on 11th December.

UPDATE ON HUNNINGHAM CHURCH

This is just to say a huge "Thank you" to all those of you who have signed standing orders, or made a donation, for our Church. The level of support we have received has been most encouraging. Your new committee is up and running and includes Mike Bell as Chairman, Kathy Sharma as Secretary, and myself, Paddy Taylor, as Treasurer. In addition, Lotte Ellis, Nick and Rona Horler, Mark Wardle and Annabel Shackleton are committee members.

If you haven't yet signed a standing order, and feel you would be willing to support the village to keep our church building open, then please let me know.

Paddy Taylor 632428, or email paddybtaylor@live.co.uk

THANKS TO CHRIS FOYER

We would like to give our thanks to Chris Foyer, who, for more years than she cares to remember, going back to the last century(!!!) has been looking after the bookings for Hunningham Parish Room, as well as preparing our cleaning rota for the Church. She will now be taking a very well earned rest from these tasks. Thank you Chris - your contribution is greatly appreciated.

HUNNINGHAM CAROL SINGING 2017

Our annual jaunt around the village (is it that time again?) will take place on Tuesday 19th December. We will meet at Hunningham church at 6.00pm and Carol sheets will be provided. As usual we will finish at the Red Lion although on the way round I hope that there will be a couple of refreshment breaks (any offers?).

Monies will be divided between the Church and a nominated charity.

Please wear bright clothing as the streets are dark and also bring a torch. The latter turns out to be quite useful in darker situations in order to read the words on the sheets!

Everyone is welcome.

If anyone would like more information please call Mark on 632197 or mwhan-cock@live.co.uk

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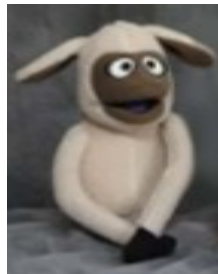
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THE PILGRIM PUPPETS

DECEMBER 2017

3rd Dec.: Offchurch Group Children's Christmas Party WESTON Village Hall 3.00pm
9th Dec.: Draycote Christmas Party BOURTON Village Hall 3.30pm
13th Dec.: ARDEN HOUSE Care Home Leamington 10.30am
15th Dec.: WESTON TODDLERS Weston Village Hall 10.00am
18th Dec.: James Hiron Care Home LEAMINGTON 11.00am
18th Dec.: CUBBINGTON Mill Care Home Cubbington 1.45pm
20th Dec.: Priors House Care Home LEAMINGTON 11.00am
20th Dec.: Stratford Bentley Care Home STRATFORD 2.00pm
24th Dec.: CRIB SERVICE - WESTON Church 4.00pm



JANUARY 2018

22nd Jan.: Our Lady's Catholic Primary Princethorpe 9.10am
28th Jan.: Come 2 Worship 11.00am Hunningham Church
29th Jan.: St Paul's WARWICK 6.00pm

VILLAGE NEWS

DATES FOR WESTON TOTS & BABES

Friday 8th December: Visit from paint & glaze - make your own personalized pottery gifts
Friday 15th December: Pilgrim Puppets show
Friday 22nd December: Christmas Party and last toddlers before Xmas
Friday 12th Jan: Toddlers restarts

FUN & WORSHIP IN HUNNINGHAM CHURCH:

Sunday 17th December -
6.30pm Mulled Wine and Mince Pies
7.30pm Carols by Candlelight
CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday 25th December
10.30am Short Family Service. Bring a present from Father Christmas
Sunday 31st December -
Holy Communion & Crèche, with Reverend Hugh Priestner
Date for the Diary: Sunday 11th February - Puppets & Pancakes 4.00pm

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR WESTON VILLAGE HALL

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VILLAGE NEWS

BARBARA BALL

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death, on November 16th, of a very special lady, Barbara Ball, who was 93 years old. Barbara played a large part in our village of Eathorpe for a great number of years. Having been born locally, the daughter of the local miller, she went to school in nearby Marton.

Immediately after WW2 she went to Germany for a few years as a member of the WRNS, returning to Eathorpe to look after her mother. Barbara then worked at the G.E.C. in Coventry until her retirement.

Barbara enjoyed village life, and was always willing to give a helping hand whenever possible. She was a member of the local O.A.P. Association, and the Monday Club, and was Church Warden of St. John's Church, Wappenbury for many years.

Barbara spent the last few years in a Care Home in Leamington, where she always enjoyed hearing about life and friends in Eathorpe.

EATHORPE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Well the season is pretty much over for this year, even the weeds have decided to take a rest! I am now thinking of Christmas and all of those fresh home grown organic vegetables that will be accompanying the Turkey or whatever roast and there will be a lot of our gardeners who will be eating the fruits of their labours – Sprouts, Kale, Spinach and Chard, Leeks and perhaps potatoes and then there are all of the root crops. Many have been busy getting in the Autumn plantings to provide an early Spring / Summer crop, and will be well ahead when the new season starts. There are still lots of jobs to do before the winter really takes hold, and whilst a warm woolly hat is almost essential, it is so refreshing to be outside, soaking up the late Autumn sunshine.

So, the winter is the time to recoup and re-plan, and prepare for the Spring when everything will burst into life and growth again and when all the preparation work starts to make the task of sowing and planting so much more pleasurable – not least because of the anticipated harvests.

We still have a little room for anyone who would like to join us, either for a full or a half sized plot, but only for people who want to eat real organically grown vegetables, achieve a slimmer outline, get fitter, and have a natural suntan and of course have moments of peaceful bliss. Do get in touch if you feel this is for you!

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Although the Police have reported only a couple of incidents in our villages, there have been quite a lot of house break-ins reported in surrounding villages - notably Stoneleigh, Offchurch and Bubbenhall. Below are the incidents reported in the Police Newsletters:

Weston-under-Wetherley: Vehicle Crime: *Between 0800hrs Saturday 21-OCT-2017 and 1615hrs Wednesday 25-OCT-2017 unknown offender(s) stole a black 'Y' reg Suzuki scooter from the side of a residential property in St. Michael's Close, Weston-under-Wetherley.*

Eathorpe - Burglary: *Between 1000hrs Thursday 09-NOV-2017 and 1320hrs Sunday 12-NOV-2017 unknown offender(s) burgled a residential property on The Old Fosse Way, Eathorpe. Offender(s) forced entry via a door to the rear of the property. A tidy search was conducted. No items are believed to have been stolen.*

The Fosse Way, Eathorpe - Burglary: *At some point before 1.30pm on 12 November, offenders broke into a rural home by forcing open the front door. Once inside, the offenders carried out an untidy search before making off with several items, including items of jewellery.*

In addition to these, burglars also entered a property in Hunningham, but apparently made off without stealing any goods, as they were detected by a state of the art security system.

Finally for this month, I repeat the advice given by the Police entitled *Darker Nights*:

- *set a timer switch to turn your lights on when it gets dark - unlit houses are a give away that no-one is at home*
- *lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows - even when you are in. Make sure you double check them again before you go to bed*
- *if you have a burglar alarm, make sure you set it when you go out, and also when you go to bed*
- *don't leave car keys, ID cards or valuables near windows, doors or letter boxes, where burglars can reach through and steal them*
- *lock your garden gates and side entrances. Don't leave tools lying around in the garden, which could be used to break in to your home*

If you have information regarding any of the above incidents, please call Warwickshire police on 101. Alternatively you can report information via CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111 or visit their website

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Paddy Taylor 632428

GREEN MATTERS

Having just spent a busy morning visiting the shops, doing some early Christmas shopping and enjoying the developing festive atmosphere, it may seem churlish to refer to some of the adverse impacts of the busiest retail season of the year.

A recent documentary followed refuse collectors in Newcastle for several days on and around Christmas. Apart from demonstrating what a tough and thankless task this work is, it also brought home to me the enormous and largely hidden level of waste associated with the festive season. The waste operators face greatly increased rubbish levels at this time as we all buy more, dispose of more and recycle less.

Some of this increase comes from the disposal of wrapping and packaging from presents (many of the 16 billion cards sent each year are not recycled) as well as people clearing out old toys and clothing to make way for the new items they have been given. Non-recyclable plastic waste also spirals at this time.

We all aim to eat well over Christmas and food wastage, which is always an issue, is far more dramatic at this time. The equivalent of 2M turkeys, 74M mince pies and 5M Xmas puddings are thrown away. 13,500 tonnes of glass are sent to landfill over Xmas largely from alcohol consumption – if these were all recycled it would save as much CO₂ as removing 1300 cars from the road. It is understandable that we all want to be well stocked with good food for our family and friends at this time of the year but at a time when, even in the UK, many are struggling to feed their families, it must be possible to reduce this level of waste.

Christmas is hugely commercialised and we are encouraged to spend freely but it is worth remembering that some of the most treasured memories for children and adults do not need to be expensive. Children love the atmosphere and magical qualities of this time and the chance for their families to relax and play. Giving and sharing does not always have to mean buying things and sometimes even children can get overloaded with plastic toys – some of the best things in life really are free.

No-one wants to be a “kill joy” and I have always loved Christmas but if we are all thoughtful about what we buy and how we dispose of it, we can play our part in reducing the environmental impact of the festivities. Happy Christmas! *Owen Bishop*

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Saturday 9th December:
10.00-16.00

Saturday 16th December:
10.00-15.00

Sunday 10th December:
10.00 -15.00

Sunday 17th December:
10.00-15.00



Carols in the Café - Thursday 14th December

The Windmill Singers will be joining us for a musical
lunch as they sing some wonderful Christmas songs & carols in
the café whilst you dine. We will be serving lunch from
our seasonal menu between 12.00-14.30.

For more details and to book tickets for any of our events
visit hilltopfarmshop.com or call 01926 632978.

Please support my



WANTED OLD TEXTILES

Hello, I am Abby, I have lived in Weston all my life and I am planning and preparing for an educational expedition to Botswana in the summer of 2019. We will spend time alongside the local people making a meaningful contribution to the needs of the community. As part of this challenge I need to raise £3995 for my expedition fee, so as one of my fundraisers I am collecting unwanted textiles.

Please feel free to email me with any suggestions or concerns at afmorris2@icloud.com.

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Tennis – Two good floodlit courts. Families, experienced players and beginners are all very welcome. We also play in the local Rugby tennis league. Please contact **Jon Thorne: 07584 901116**.

Netball – Adults and juniors of all abilities welcome. We train every Monday and we currently have two teams that play in the Coventry & Warwickshire League. Please contact **Abbey Richards: 07733 033341**.

Come and have a go – we look forward to seeing you!! Mark Swaby, Chairman, 07774 645754



CHURCH NEWS: PASTORAL LETTER

We have all got Christmas on the brain. It's crunch time. No avoiding the Festive Season: cards to write; presents to buy; food to plan, money to find! But what are your best Christmas memories?

I can recall one Christmas, when the children were little and we had survived and reached Christmas afternoon. There was no bigger plan than to watch some long awaited film on the television. Instead, I switched off the 'box' and announced that we were going out. There was a deal of muttering and moans and groans; no catch-up or recording devices either to see the programme later. Where did we go?

We went to the local Hospital. We visited the patients who could not get home for Christmas. And as we toured the wards, the children soon realized they were enjoying themselves. The patients and the staff were delighted to share Christmas friendship with these three children who had come out to spend time with them. My three were showered with chocolates and sweets, fruit and any other goodies that came to hand. Everyone made such a fuss of them and we all had a ball! It turned out to be an inspired thing to do for us as a family as well as for those we met.

My wife has a way of cutting an orange in half and then turning the orange inside out. Then it is easy to pick off the juicy flesh and enjoy it. That Christmas, we were turned inside out. And we discovered an inside out way of celebrating Christmas, not thinking of our own desires and enjoyment, but (briefly) putting others first. And we were blessed: I cannot think of a more 'juicy' Christmas afternoon than that one. So I am going to wish you a blessed 'inside out' Christmas, with the hope that you uncover what that means for you!!!

And I will have to start looking for mine!

Let me also offer a little personal update: Carole and I cannot move into Hunningham Vicarage until after New Year. Alterations are taking longer than anticipated. So that and the dark nights mean we have not been able to cement some of the friendships we began earlier in the year.

Hugh Priestner

Vicar of St Gregory's, St John's, St Margaret's and St Michaels

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CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER		
Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday	St Gregory's – 10.00am	Holy Communion
	Weston Village Hall - 3.00pm	Family Christmas Party
Sunday 10th	St Gregory's - 10.00am	Holy Communion + Sunday School
	St Gregory's - 6.30pm	Tree of Lights Service
Saturday 16th	Offchurch – 3.00pm	Messy Church
	St Michael's – 6.00pm	Carol Service
Sunday 17th	St Gregory's – 10.00am	Christingle Service
	St Margaret's – 7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Monday 18th	St John's – 7.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 19th	St Gregory's – 7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve	St Michael's – 4.00pm	Crib Service
	St John's – 10.30pm	Christmas Communion
	St Gregory's – 11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Christmas Day	St Gregory's – 9.30am	Family Communion
	St Margaret's – 10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 31st	St Margaret's – 11.00am	Holy Communion
CHURCH SERVICES JANUARY		
Sunday 7th	St Gregory's - 10.00am	Morning Worship
	St John's - 11.00am	Morning service
Sunday 14th	St Gregory's - 10.00am	Holy Communion + Sunday School
	St Michael's - 6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 21st	St Gregory's - 10.00am	Family Service
	St Michael's - 11.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28th	St Gregory's - 10.00am	Holy Communion
	St Margaret's - 11.00am	Come to worship, Junior church

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FARMER'S DIARY

It appears the robot technology I spoke of at Harvest festival is already out of date. The future is not just driver-less tractors but swarms of light footed robots working their way over the fields 24 hours a day. These little chaps can spot a target weed, selectively spray it and leave the crop unsprayed. A sort of organic system that's not organic if you see what I mean. They are developing robotic pickers to replace the Eastern Europeans who presently harvest most of our home grown fruit. In some crops, rather than pull the whole thing up and throw the unripe away, the robots will return and pick those at a later date. 23% of the present fruit crop is thrown away at the point of harvest.

DEFRA think this robotic technology is the way forward and that post Brexit we can feed everyone and prevent the appalling food miles needed to import all that produce we demand all year round. There is now a Countryside productivity grant available nudging us to be more efficient and increase output.

Much as I admire technology there is an art to farming and it is in danger of being replaced by science. I really enjoyed rolling a field at night to beat the imminent rain and doing so only because I could see what I was doing on a computer screen and all without hands on the wheel. However, this latest robot invasion created a rather melancholic mood as I recalled the corn and hay harvest tea breaks. Hot, tired and some gentle banter punctuating the summer air, with farm labour and holiday helpers sitting on small bales or even bags of rogued wild oats. Would you go back? I here you say. Of course not, but there is something very satisfying in a job well done, especially if it is accomplished by a large team. In "Far from the madding crowd", Gabriel struggles manfully to sheet up the crops before their certain ruin by an angry storm, Bathsheba helps and there develops a heart-warming bond. Modern life could be causing us to lose something very precious. Now the telescopic forklift does the lifting with only the Test match special team for company. The helpers we used to have sadly turned into annoying vandals as they let the grain out of parked up trailers, set fire to our straw and created "amusing" corn circles. The vandals have largely disappeared, to where I do not know.

As I look down from the hill to the wood I see 5 or 6 farms all cared for by friends and neighbours. The crops have established well. There is not a robot in sight. Only the patchwork of fields and hedges so unique to our countryside. There, not just by the use of science but by the age old art of the farmer.

Andrew McGregor

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Be with a winner!



Contact us on 01926 422251 or
email leamingtonspa@belvoir.co.uk

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH WESTON CHRISTMAS SERVICES – ALL WELCOME



SATURDAY 16^h DECEMBER – 6.00pm
CAROL SERVICE with mulled wine & mince pies

CHRISTMAS EVE SATURDAY 24th DECEMBER –
4.00pm CRIB SERVICE with The Pilgrim Puppets

10.30pm CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION
AT ST JOHN'S WAPPENBURY – Rev Bob Clucas

10.30am CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE
ST MARGARET'S HUNNINGHAM

THE FUTURE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The current situation

At the moment we print copies of the newsletter, and deliver them, to every household in the four villages. Printing currently costs us £150 per issue and we produce 10 issues per year. Thus our total costs are £1500 per year. The income we get from advertisements and donations is less than £600 per year.

It's obvious, then, that we have a financial problem! We estimate that we have enough funds to produce another 4 or 5 issues of the newsletter and then, if we do nothing, the newsletter will have to fold.

A way forward

Several people already receive the newsletter by email and have told us that they prefer it this way. At the moment, these people also receive a printed copy each month, which is wasteful, so we propose to stop doing this.

We also propose to ask those who DO wish to continue to receive a printed version to pay a small annual subscription of £5.

It may take a couple of months before we fully move to this new arrangement, which gives us chance to check that we have everybody's email addresses or postal addresses before switching completely to the new distribution means.

Could we ask you, therefore, to complete the form below and:

Either send it to David Wray, Woodbine Cottage, Eathorpe, L'Spa, CV33 9DE

Or email the details to wraydj@gmail.com.



I wish in future to receive the newsletter by email / delivered to my house *

* Delete as appropriate

Name:

Email address:

Postal address:

I understand that, if I wish to have the printed newsletter delivered to my house, I will be billed for £5 annually.

