

# ***THE W2HEN***

## **Weston, Wappenbury, Hunningham and Eathorpe NEWSLETTER**



Bridge in Hunningham

## OCTOBER 2017

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*Weston Parish Council Website:*

[www.westonunderwetherleyPC.org](http://www.westonunderwetherleyPC.org)

*Weston Parish Clerk:*

[westonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:westonpcclerk@gmail.com)

*Eathorpe Village Hall:*

[www.eathorpe.org.uk](http://www.eathorpe.org.uk)

*Eathorpe Village Hall bookings:*

[info@eathorpe.org.uk](mailto:info@eathorpe.org.uk)

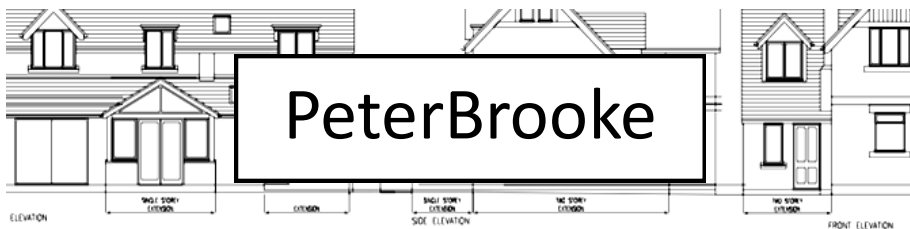
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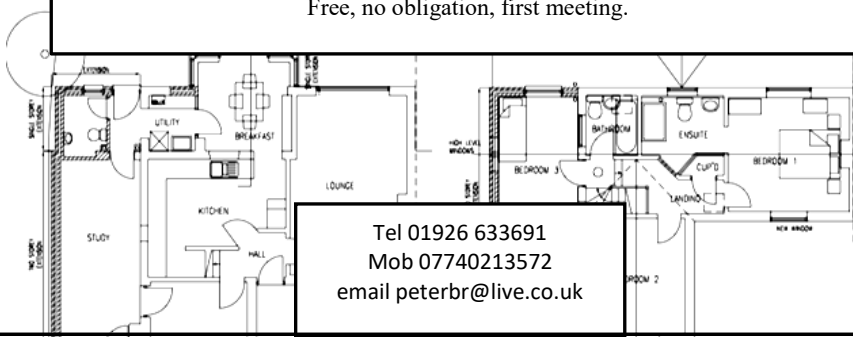
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# VILLAGE NEWS

## **NEWS FROM WESTON UNDER WETHERLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### ***QUOTATIONS FOR PLANTER MAINTENANCE***

A paid volunteer (or group of volunteers) are sought to help plant and maintain the planters at the entrances to the village. This includes keeping grass around the planters mowed and regular watering of the planters particularly throughout the summer months. The Parish Council will purchase the seasonal plants for the planters. To submit a quotation, please contact Jane Chatterton by email to [westonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:westonpcclerk@gmail.com) or Nick Harrington.

### ***REPLACEMENT SAPLINGS***

Three of the fruit trees accidentally damaged by WDC contract services will be replaced as soon as this can be organised with the contractor who has agreed to buy these replacements. A villager has volunteered to help water the saplings while they get settled in.

### ***WILDLIFE CONSERVATION GROUP***

Further a statement received from the Weston Wildlife Conservation Group on the 28th August 2017, we are sorry to hear that the Group is unable to continue planting all of the areas agreed with the Parish Council. The Parish Council remains supportive of the Wildlife Conservation Group, having recently provided a grant in the sum of £150 towards the purchase of wildflower seeds.

### ***NEXT MEETING***

Weston Under Wetherley Parish Council's next meeting in on Thursday 26th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at the Village Hall and then on Wednesday 6th December 2017 7.30 p.m. at St. Michael's Church. All are welcome! See [www.westonunderwetherleyipc.org](http://www.westonunderwetherleyipc.org) for agenda and meeting dates.

*Nick Harrington* - [nickjharrington@outlook.com](mailto:nickjharrington@outlook.com) - 07484 835447.

## **HORSES AND FIREWORKS**

In the firework season, please remember that horses are flight animals and get easily startled by unexpected loud noises, which can be dangerous for both horses and people near them. It would be helpful if private and public displays planning to use fireworks could inform local horse owners and livery yards in advance so they can manage their horses to limit possible injuries to themselves and others. *Hannah Clack*



# HILLTOP FARM CURRY *Night*



On Friday October 6th we will be hosting a curry night to spice up the start of the month, with a special offer of a main with rice or a naan bread and a drink for just £10.

If you fancy joining us, please give us a call on 01926 632978 or email us at [enquiries@hilltopfarmshop.com](mailto:enquiries@hilltopfarmshop.com).

View the menu at [hilltopfarmshop.com](http://hilltopfarmshop.com)



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[hilltopshop](https://twitter.com/hilltopshop)



[hilltopfarmshop](https://www.instagram.com/hilltopfarmshop)



# HILLTOP FARM CHRISTMAS *menu*

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## VILLAGE NEWS

### NEWS FROM HUNNINGHAM

We wish Mike Walker well - he has moved out of Hunningham and is living at Cubbington Mill Care Home, Cubbington. He hopes that people will call and see him and keep in touch.

### WESTON TOTS AND BABES

Weston village hall, every Friday 9.30 - 11.15am. We are looking for new committee members and volunteers to help serve tea and coffee.

We will be closed on Friday 27th October for half term.

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/Westontotsandbabes>.

### MONDAY CLUB

We had a most interesting talk and slide show given by Mr. Peter Coulls entitled "Looking at Leamington". Mostly in the 60s and 70s a lot of us well remembered certain landmarks, now vastly changed.

We also celebrated the 90th birthday of Betty Pertnieks with a present and card for her. Betty has been a valued member of Monday Club for over fifty years.

## SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

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SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER AT 3PM

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**FROM 6PM**

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## VILLAGE NEWS

### **WILDLIFE GROUP TO CHANGE ITS FOCUS**

The Weston Wildlife Conservation Group is grateful to Weston Parish Council for a grant towards verge habitat improvement in the village. However, they have now requested the Council that this may be better used for the replacement of trees in the community orchard that have died for a variety of reasons.

This represents a change of focus for the group, and follows the continuous undoing of their conservation efforts due to verge and hedgerow maintenance by the District and County Councils. The group met recently and concluded that as it had proved impossible to safeguard their planting and other conservation efforts, they should not at the present time extend their efforts to new areas of the village. The group will continue to manage the bank to the West of the churchyard, the area they manage in the churchyard itself, and the Community Orchard. They will also promote efforts towards the success locally of the Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscape Project (<http://princethorpewoodlands.com/>), a project in which over 60% of villagers thought the village should participate; some have become volunteers towards this effort.

It is disappointing that we have not been able to achieve more but, with the help of our volunteers we will continue our efforts to make the village more wildlife friendly. We can only hope that the local Councils in Warwickshire will in time adopt a more sympathetic approach to managing countryside assets which allows our verges to become a haven for wildlife once again.

*Peter Haine*

### **SAD NEWS**

Residents of Eathorpe, and others who knew her, were very saddened to learn of the sudden death, after a brief illness, of Karen Buckingham, of Harton Cottage. Our sympathies go out to her husband, Phil, and the rest of her family for their loss. Karen's funeral is on October 6th in Canley, Coventry, at 1.30pm.



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## VILLAGE NEWS

### HUNNINGHAM - CAN WE PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE?

In Hunningham, we are fortunate to have two very old historic features that help to make our village a place where we want to live.

One is Hunningham bridge, notorious for the number of times it has been damaged by passing traffic and recognised by many as where the Red Lion pub is! And yes, it has just happened again, part of the stonework has been knocked loose once more. Let's hope they don't close the bridge again for these repairs.

The second is Hunningham church. Did you know that it has one of the oldest wooden belltowers in the country and part of it dates back to the thirteenth century? Most of us in the village do not go to church to worship and maybe you never go there. It is open every day during daylight hours and anybody is welcome to go in and have a look round. The comments in the Visitors Book indicate that visitors are charmed by our small church and its rural location and are pleased that it is kept open for them to come and see. Also, if you sit on the bench outside on a nice day (as some do and eat their sandwiches there), the view across and down the valley is a good one. Those who have most recently worshipped at our church did not live in our village, but they loved coming to it. As numbers of churchgoers have dwindled, churches have started to 'consolidate'. Our church, although it can still be used for weddings, christenings and funerals, it will not be used for regular church services. This is not a major issue for those of us who are not churchgoers but it is possible that, without our support, the church could simply be closed and even boarded up.

Some of us don't want to see this happen and would like to see the building kept open and maintained. What would you like to happen to this historic building? Unless you count the Red Lion and Hunningham Cricket Club, it is the only community space that we have. The Parish Room is a venue available for hire and is currently used by a few groups on a regular basis.

***On Saturday 7th October at 6.30pm there will be a cheese and wine evening in the Parish Room at the church to which you are invited. The idea is for us to be able to understand how we can secure the future of this historic building. Please come and share your views on what you think should happen to it.***



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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The past few weeks have seen a more disturbing development in the crimes being committed as demonstrated by the two incidents outlined below. In our rural communities the most common type of thefts have been from vehicles or outbuildings and it has been some while since we have reported house break-ins.

Clearly any type of crime/theft is bad news and is traumatic for the victim, but it is surely worse when someone enters your house and goes through personal items whilst deciding what to steal. Similar type crimes have also been reported recently in surrounding villages.

Below are the Police Reports of the incidents:

### ***Burglary at rural home in Eathorpe***

Between 10am and 6.15pm on 27 August, offenders entered the garden of a home in Eathorpe and smashed their way into the conservatory. Once inside the house, they searched the dining room and bedrooms before making off with 2 jewellery boxes and their contents, a single row pearl necklace and an envelope of receipts for items of jewellery.

### ***Burglary at home in Village Street, Offchurch***

Between 7 and 7.30pm on 30 August, offenders entered a home in Village Street, Offchurch after smashing a rear kitchen window with a rock. Once inside the house, the offenders carried out a search of the bedroom before making off with a keepsake box containing cosmetics. The offenders also attempted to get inside the garage and caused damage to the mechanism of the door but failed to get inside and made off.

**The numbers to ring for the Police are: 999 in an emergency, otherwise 101.**

*Paddy Taylor 632428*

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## CHURCH NEWS: PASTORAL LETTER

Listening, quality listening is such a precious gift. Over the years I have listened to so many people's stories and while I have listened I have been enriched. As a Hospital Chaplain, that was what I did, day after day. It involved making myself vulnerable, open to the pain, or the joy, of every situation. Even before that, working for Rolls-Royce, it was my job to listen to scientists in the Advanced Research Department as they developed new technologies. Then I would look for similar research going on in other parts of the world and, when I found things, to bring it to their attention.

And I guess, in a way, it was my job as a Hospital Chaplain to connect people, going through a particular experience, with a bigger picture, a picture that might encourage them to see that they were not alone in what they were going through, that they could still be understood, and that they still might have friendship and support along the way. And all of that was founded upon listening well.

As a commodity, listening seems to be in short supply in our world. Conflict, confrontation and a refusal to understand the other person's perspective seem to dominate, both politically and locally. We take our stand on an issue and refuse to budge. And miss out on that enriching that I mentioned right at the start.

When we feel threatened, it is really hard to listen effectively. I own that for myself. It was easy, in a sense, to listen as a Hospital Chaplain. Far harder, when my own peace and views are invaded by somebody else. And now, as your Vicar, I have to live up to the standard and keep on listening. A few days ago I discovered another writer saying that good listening requires persistent ignorance: in other words, "Don't be satisfied with simplistic understanding, but always delve deeper to really understand the other person." And I find that quite liberating, that we can keep saying 'I don't understand' as long as it is part of our resolve to learn more about how each other ticks.

So now I have to tell you about the Vicar who was busy trying to write a sermon in his study. His little daughter came and stood beside him. "Daddy," she said, "does God help you write your sermons?" "Well, yes, I suppose He does," replied the Vicar.

"So why are there so many crossings out!?"

*Hugh Priestner, Vicar of the Offchurch Group*

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**Address: Hunningham Road, Offchurch, CV33 9AF**

**Cricket** – Sunday “friendly” Cricket with the emphasis on fun and everyone having a go, for adults and youth, who want to play occasionally or regularly. All abilities most welcome to join us, even if you haven’t played for some time. Please contact **Guy Mander: 07779 644275**

**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 SERVICES: OCTOBER

October 1st	Offchurch	10.00am. Morning Worship. Jo King
	Wappenbury	11.00am. Morning Service. Rev David Forster
October 8th	Offchurch	10.00am. Holy Communion + Sunday School. Rev David Forster / David Ellis
	Weston	6.00pm. Evensong. Team
October 15th	Offchurch	10.00am. Family Service. Marcia
	Weston	11.00am. Harvest Service. Rev Hugh Priestner
October 22nd	Offchurch	10.00am. Holy Communion. Bishop John Stroyan
	Hunningham	11.00am. Come to Worship with Junior Church & Pilgrim Puppets
October 29th	Weston	11.00am. Offchurch Group Service Holy Communion. Rev Hugh Priestner

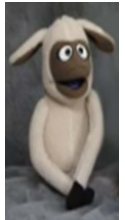
### THE PILGRIM PUPPETS

Saturday 7th Oct - Massive Messy Church, SOUTHAM, in the Council Offices at 12pm

Sunday 22nd Oct - Come 2 Worship, 11am Hunningham Church

27-8th Oct - EUROPEAN FESTIVAL at Warwickshire College, RUGBY

30th Oct - Milverton Rainbows at St Marks, Rugby Road, Leamington, 5.30pm



### The Real Advent Calendar 2017

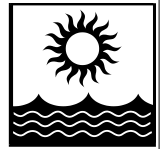
Each year the Meaningful Chocolate Company produces an Advent Calendar with 25 Fairtrade chocolates behind its doors and a Christmas Story Activity Book. Calendars costs £3.99 each and The Offchurch Group of churches will be placing an order if you would like one. To order your calendar either sign up on the sheet in one of the churches, email [jane\\_inman@sky.com](mailto:jane_inman@sky.com) or phone 01926 338704. Deadline for orders: **Sunday 22 October.**

**Offchurch on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/theoffchurchgroup/>

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## GREEN MATTERS

My first columns two years ago were about composting and this is a bit of a recap and update.

At the time I noted that despite everyone saying making compost is easy (yes Monty Don I mean you!), in my view it is something of an art if you are to avoid sludge. If you are happy to wait 18 months for compost and have the space then simply piling up the garden waste will eventually work – so the notes below are for reducing this cycle to at most a few months.

To turn organic material into compost you need a fairly even mixture of green and brown material. Green material is everything from grass cuttings to leafy plants and most waste food. Brown material includes stalky, woody plant material, leaves, bark but also cardboard and paper.

The problems that can occur are not having enough brown material to get an even mix and also if the brown material is too bulky and then fails to break down at the same rate as the green. Small branches can be shredded and I buy bark chippings from WCC to add to the mix which also adds air.

My recent discovery is ridiculously simple. Whenever we prune bushes and weed out stalky material we save this until I next cut the grass and then mow over it so that it gets diced up and mixed up with the grass. This achieves two things: firstly the material is all reduced to a similar size and will decompose at a similar rate and secondly the grass which is prone to turn into a sodden mass of silage, gets well mixed and aerated by the shredded twigs. This also enables us to use material that would previously have gone into the green bin.

We have several composters in action - 2 black plastic 'dalek' ones, an insulated hot composter which gets to c. 70 degrees and delivers compost within 6- 8 weeks as well as a wormery which is fun as well as useful and a bokashi bin -good for dealing with food waste and speeding up the decomposition process. Each of these has its uses and we tend to use them together- eg worms absolutely love the bokashi output and adding worm compost to partially complete compost in the black bins speeds composting and generates more worms.

A couple of things I've learnt to exclude from compost. Adding seeded vegetable and fruits like tomatoes and melons will tend to give you a lot of unwanted tomato plants when you use the compost. Potato peelings are fine in hot composter but in slower bins they will tend to sprout so a degree of care is needed. Tea bags are fine but I find that they are best torn in half (bit of a faff but I now do it automatically)- otherwise they take a long time to breakdown and you may find tea bags in your borders. Happy composting!

*Owen Bishop*

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## EATHORPE MACMILLAN FUND RAISING

We will again be holding a cream tea afternoon in the Village Hall, from 3pm to 5pm, on Saturday, 7th October for Macmillan Cancer Support. There will be a raffle, tea, scones, jam & cream. Please come along and support this very worthy cause, and also to meet your friends and neighbours for an enjoyable afternoon.

There will also be Christmas cards and small gifts on sale on behalf of Bloodwise.

*Maggy Smith & Jill Wheeler.*

## FARMER'S DIARY

We still have four fields of wheat to harvest and there seems no sign of an Indian Summer. Anyone with many spring sown crops has gone into Mr Grumpy Farmer mode. I should have realised the portent when we saw far more snakes on the farm than ever before. It's one thing to try and encourage worms as we do, but having snakes about makes me jump out of my skin as fast as they do.

The large deer have been majestically striding through the fragile crops doing their impression of "Monarch of the Leam" as they join the ever increasing band of muntjac soon to be rudely interrupted by HS2 (or will they?).

Did I really see a peregrine falcon eyeing up some wood pigeons? I am not sure but there was no mistake about the violent buzzard and carrion crow fight that turned into a serious aerial battle. There is no love lost between those two.

So the Handsfree Hectare at Harper Adams University has been robotically grown and harvested. What this technological triumph has proved is that a swarm of smaller automated machines has the potential to do the work of larger kit causing less soil damage with possible cost savings in the future. The snakes might be tucking up for the winter but we still need to finish harvesting those wheat fields.

*Mr Grumpy*

*Weston Hall Farm*

*(Andrew McGregor)*

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## WE CAN ALL BE HEROES

We can all be heroes. We don't need super powers, capes or bat shaped cars. All we need to do is register ourselves as organ donors. Everyday roughly 3 people die waiting for a transplant, and as it stands there are 6347 people on the waiting lists.

One of those people was my mother. Luckily for her and my family on the 23 August 2016 she received the ultimate gift, the gift of a healthy life. When my mother was a child she contracted a virus which affected her kidneys, eventually leading to her first transplant at 23 years old, however after two pregnancies the kidney gave out. Her second transplant sadly failed, followed by 15 years of dialysis. My mother is a tough cookie, but dialysis does take its toll, not only on the person, but their family. It means many hours spent away in the hospital, even on holidays, even on birthdays. You don't get a break from your illness.

Though our family and friends rejoice over a year on from her transplant, we know that there is a family out there mourning the loss of a loved one.

Though their life was cut short, they saved lives, and not just my mother's, as one donor can change many people's lives. It is also possible to be a live donor; kidneys, lobes of lung, lobes of the liver, bone and amniotic membrane can be transplanted improving many people's quality of life.

Since the age of 4 I had only known a mom on dialysis, and now as an adult I now get to experience my mom, my best friend, in her prime. We now have many more years of laughter and love to share, advice to be given and consoling to be done.

I don't think we appreciate life enough, our bodies and what they can do, our mind and what it can create, even when faced with illness. Love those around you and love yourself. Take care of people, and take care of your body. You are not just a bag of bones, you are beating heart, breathing lungs and cleansing kidney, and you might be that for someone else one day. Please register for organ donation, it truly changes the lives of patients and of their families

<http://www.channel5.com/organ-donation-facts-and-stats/>

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/supporting-my-decision/statistics-about-organ-donation/>

*Hannah van Wyk*



# with Belvoir!

## Letting your home? Be with a winner!



Contact us on 01926 422251 or  
email [leamingtonspa@belvoir.co.uk](mailto:leamingtonspa@belvoir.co.uk)

Weston Events Presents....

# Scarefest

## The Return of the Scarecrow Festival

25th - 28th October

### Theme:

Halloween - Scarecrows and Fancy Dress Competitions - Cash Prizes! Make a life-sized scarecrow based on any Halloween idea and display it outside your house.

### Rules:

Your Scarecrow will be judged by: how authentic it looks as a scary/ amusing scarecrow, artistic, use of inexpensive materials and straw showing.

Scarecrows must be in place by 09.30am on Wednesday 25th

October so that they can be judged and photographed

They should stay in place until 31st October for everyone to have a chance to see them and for Halloween.

You must display your scarecrows allocated number for the trail map.

### Judging:

Saturday, 28th October for the Scarefest Fancy Dress, BBQ, Beer & Music evening in the Village Hall where the results will be announced

### Further Information:

Text or phone Bren 07769 913686 by 23rd October to confirm your intention to enter the competition. Entry is free. You will be given a number to pin to your Scarecrow to locate it on our Trail Map.

- Photos will be shown on the Village Facebook page identified by their number only.
- 27-28th October: Free Trail Maps will be dropped through Weston letterboxes.
- Saturday 28th October 5.00pm onwards - BBQ food, Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks for sale, plus Music and Prizes awarded in the Village Hall
- Best Scarecrow Prizes - 1st £50; 2nd £25; 3rd £10
- Best Fancy dress Prizes - £10 each Winner: Child - under 5; 6-10; 11-16; Adult Male; Adult Female

