

THE WESTON TURVILLE TIMES

Winter (brrrr!) 2018

The Community Magazine for the Parish of Weston Turville

Published by Weston Turville Parish Council

People make places ...



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People make places... We all know that's true but it's remarkably easy to forget.

It came to my mind the other day when I was listening to some friends describing their experience at a local restaurant they went to for an important family meal. The conversation was not about the building, or even the food; but all about the greeting they were given as they walked in, the smiles from the bar staff, the way they were seated and their orders taken, the attentive service throughout the meal and the warm and personal goodbyes as they left.

A school is another example; I once was a pupil at a school where the entire staff and student body had to be evacuated and be set up in the local village hall. I remember the Head teacher being very clear with us all. "Our school is still complete", she intoned "our school is all of us, what we believe in, what we do and how we behave with each other. Buildings may come and go but these things last a life time". As is now obvious, I indeed never did forget it, and it is nearly a lifetime ago!

If our sense of neighbourhood comes from the people we know and like, and how acknowledged we feel by those around us, then I hope it is appropriate that this issue of WTT focusses on some of the people that make our community what it is. Some are quite public figures, others less so but they all have their story to tell.

Have a look at the photos on the front page. You may know some of the people, others you almost certainly will not. I hope the articles will enlighten you either way. It was a pleasure to meet every one of them.

Sadly, Santa was unavailable for interview due to being busy, so it therefore falls to the editorial team to wish you a very happy Christmas and as Tiny Tim has it in A Christmas Carol, "God bless us, every-one".



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WTT is published quarterly and is delivered to every house and many businesses in Weston Turville. The views expressed in articles are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Spring issue Copy by 1st Feb 2019 please.

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Martyn Lincoln Centre manager

This is another local event that we are proud to support and facilitate at World's End Garden Centre. We were delighted with the Poppy Cascade and Exhibition that supported the Journey's End play that was part of the Remembrance celebrations in November. We will keep the Christmas shop open for this event so that audience members can experience a unique shopping event.

Chris Webbley arrived in Main Street, Weston Turville on the shortest day in December 1988. He had moved from Sutton Coldfield to take up a senior management role with BT in London. Weston Turville was chosen by Chris and his wife Ann, largely because of the prospect of good education for their two daughters, Rachel and Jessica. Both girls went to Aylesbury High School for Girls. Chris beams with pride as he describes bringing up the two girls in the village.



Chris recalls the warm welcome his family received when they arrived in the village. They had an allotment within a month and immediately joined the congregation of St Mary's church – where he now edits the magazine and where Ann is a bell ringer, organises the Food Bank collection and helps arrange flowers. He describes an environment where there was a healthy engagement between people whether young or old, something he says is still true today, though to a lesser extent. Having spent his working life in the communications industry, Chris is very aware of the impact of the internet and mobile phone technology on social interaction and community events. "I see people connected digitally who are actually rather isolated from each other – and that makes me a little sad."

Retirement of a sort was achieved three years ago. Nowadays, Chris says that he continues to work but the key difference is that he has a choice in the work he does. One example is his Editorship of Horizons, the magazine produced by the church to serve the whole community. This is clearly very important to this committed communicator and he refers to it as part of the 'community glue' that holds the village together.

Chris is perhaps best known now for his work with the Hampden Fields Action Group, of which he has been Chairman since 2016. He is driven to seek solutions to problems to achieve the best outcome for everybody and so has a very clear view that the proposed development has not analysed the traffic congestion issues properly. This is the essence of the challenge being made by the Action Group team and their many local supporters. As he says, "the fight is not over – there are other evidence-based solutions available and these should be actively considered".

His hopes for Weston Turville are that it retains 'a distinct sense of place'.

Many will share that aspiration and be grateful that this long-term resident is still beavering away at it.

Mary Heathcote – Smith arrived in Weston Turville on October 23rd, 2000, with her husband Max and daughter Laura, then aged four. She says, with a winning smile, “it felt like we were on holiday”. Max was still working in London at the time as Mary continued her life long career in nursing. This has included spells in the Army, the United Arab Emirates, Stoke Mandeville, The Chiltern Hospital, Marie Curie as a cancer nurse and working for Risborough Carers in the growing field of dementia care.



Mary has a particular passion for education; she started her own medical training company, M.H.S., and taught first aid and accident prevention in the community. “I loved it”, she says as she describes working with farmers, tree surgeons and local businesses. They went abroad in 2012 with Global First Aid – a project that Mary and Max led to Nicaragua. The fire and ambulance service there is entirely voluntary and the training is sparse. Mary now works at the Westongrove Health Centre, where many of you may have met her. “Preventative medicine is an important part of our offering”, she explained to me. The local NHS surgeries at Bedgrove, Aston Clinton and Wendover now offer free health check-ups for anyone over forty. Mary very much wants the message to go out that everyone is welcome to come in and book up for one. “We will check your cardio-vascular function, your cholesterol and your blood pressure. We can then take a look at your diet, exercise and lifestyle”. Mary is particularly proud of the work of the practice for which she works. She has been a nurse since 1970 and she describes how the idea that to care for someone is a unique privilege comes from her own background and childhood. Her foster mother Hetty, who still lives locally, took Mary and her three siblings in and gave them unconditional love – something that had not been there previously. “I think that’s why I am a nurse” she says with a directness that shows glimpses of her time in the Army.

Mary and Max are both heavily committed to the Remembrance Project that took place in early November at World’s End Garden Centre. Max built the set for the Journey’s End play and Mary somehow organised approximately 35 local people to knit and crochet approximately 1400 poppies for a Poppy Cascade exhibition that has drawn considerable praise locally. “I really enjoyed bringing the idea to life – **it was a real Weston Turville community effort**” **Mary says as she starts to tell me about her next challenge. Watch this space I guess ...**



Holly Mackay - Gascoyne and Stewart O'Neill are definitely a young couple who make this place what it is. (Pictured here with God daughter Chloe)

Holly and Stewart took over the Chandos Pub in August 2017 and they became engaged in September 2018. They are planning for the wedding in 2020, which will be quite an event and I can only imagine the Chandos will be involved. They won the tenancy in the face of competition

from many other applicants and one thing that stays with them is the petition in their support that went into the brewery from local people and regulars of the pub. That clearly still means a lot to them.

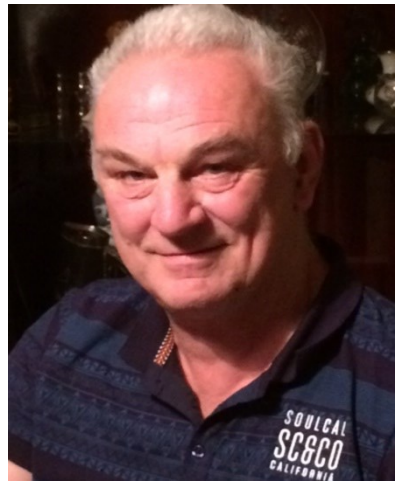
Stewart (26) has been in the pub trade for many years, having been brought up in Stone, near Aylesbury and attending Stone Primary School before Lord William's in Thame. He has been helping out, and then working in, pubs as diverse as the Bottle and Glass in Gibraltar, The Seven Stars in Dinton, Mentmore Golf Club and various town centre pubs before making his mark at the Chandos in 2014. Stewart has always had an abiding interest in Psychology and had an early ambition to be a child psychologist.

Holly (27) was born and brought up in the village by her Mum, Mel, with whom she is still very close. She attended the local primary school before going on to the John Colet secondary school. Through an apprenticeship and subsequent study, Holly is a Level 3 qualified chef with a passion for cooking and food presentation.

They both want to 'bring the pub back to the village'. They are clear in their purpose to provide a hub for local activities and community groups. They already host the Tuesday Lunch Club, a regular Monday Quiz night, Bridge, Mexican Train games, and many more are planned. The Chandos is also a distribution hub for the Weston Turville Times and runs a Box Office for Ubiquitous Theatre, the local theatre company. As Holly says, "The most important part of the job is bringing people together so that Weston Turville does not lose that sense of itself. We will do our bit – remember the little things, take time to greet and get to know people. We aim to be here as long as we can."

And at that moment; the phone rang with a booking and a group arrived at the bar, lost, and in need of directions for somewhere. **Stewart and Holly left me with the very firm impression that the village really does have a pub of its own now.**

Glynn White arrived in Weston Turville in 1978 from Cardiff. He obtained a doctorate in Biochemistry from the University there and went on to work for the Radiochemical Centre in Amersham, which later went on to become Amersham International under one of the first privatisations. He latterly worked for Johnson & Johnson as a Systems Engineer before taking retirement in 2010. This involved frequent international travel for work and conferences. With his wife Barbara, and two young children Lizzie and Joanna, Glynn quickly became involved in village life through the local primary school and the church. Glynn fondly recalls the welcome they received at the



Chequers, from the local vicar, the Revd. Stanley Jones, at the bar of what was then the local ‘spit and sawdust’ pub. “Once we had sunk a pint or two we knew we wanted to be part of the village”, he recalls with a smile.

There followed a wide range of involvements: from intra-village football and cricket matches, coaching Amersham & Chiltern rugby team, working on the PTA, village fetes, active membership of the U3A and much more. The church has always been central to Glynn and Barbara’s life here and he served for many years on the PCC and as a church warden. Glynn helps to maintain the link between school and church with their ‘Open the book’ sessions at the local primary school every Wednesday where they work with the children in acting out the well – known bible stories.

As part of this commitment, Glynn and Barbara work on a team that runs the Youth café at the village hall on Tuesdays between 4:00pm and 6:00pm. This provides a range of activities for young people from 11- 18ys in what Glynn calls “a safe space where mutual respect and a sense of responsibility for each other can be nurtured.”

Glynn is very keen on history and is secretary of the local Historical Society – having written a book on the history of St Mary’s Church, traveller’s guide to all the pubs that are still (and have ever been) in the village and research into the archaeological finds in Weston Turville. Glynn compiled the information that went into the 1918-2018 Remembrance Special Edition of this magazine.

This community clearly matters a great deal to Glynn and he wants the sense of it being a place where people help each other out to continue. To this end Glynn is now hoping that some younger adults might come forward to help with the running of the Youth Café. If anyone is interested, please contact Glynn through the Editor.

Life continues busily for this “I don’t know how I ever had time to go to work” Weston Turville man who appreciates the past but knows that it will take commitment from us all to develop the future.

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Steph and Daniel Hares at BUCKMOOREND FARM SHOP

Buckmoorend Farm Shop on the Ridgeway, Missenden Road on the Chequers Estate at Butlers Cross, is now Buckmoorend Farm Shop *and Kitchen* with the addition of a brand-new kitchen serving hot food using the fresh meats home reared on the farm by Steph and Daniel Hares.

Stephanie, grew up in Weston Turville (maiden name Lilley) is thrilled with the new professional kitchen with state-of-the-art cooking facilities include a hob, oven, fridges and storage that will enable them to cook a freshly prepared daily special hot dish including hearty soups – with their handmade Scotch eggs and sausage rolls too. Steph moved to WT when she was 3 years old and lived in William Burt Close, just around the corner from the church, with her parents and sister until she was 16. She has very fond memories of a happy childhood in a beautiful and close-knit village community, running around the web of footpaths that she ultimately knew like the back of her hand, knocking from door to door to meet friends and cycling down to the village park. Steph now enjoys taking daughter Eva down there to play.

Steph and Daniel are encouraging people to ‘Try them first’ for Christmas food treats this year. You can order Free Range Bronze Christmas Turkeys (reared by Pearce’s in Stoke Mandeville) with collection from the shop up until lunchtime on Christmas Eve.

The farm shop is open 5 days a week Wed-Fri 10am to 6pm and weekends 10am to 4pm - the NEW kitchen is open at weekends.



Denise Sisson returned from her home in Spain to live in Weston Turville four years ago.

She and her partner, Terry Dean wanted to return to the UK for family reasons. They decided to settle here and, as Denise says, they are really glad to have done so, “it’s a really nice place to live”.

During the 60’s Denise trained at Mountview Theatre school for costume and stage craft. Then after doing a two-year course at

The London College of Fashion worked for the Royal Opera House and the B.B.C. at White City.

Around this time she joined the Flackwell Heath branch of the Women’s Institute and was told that at 21 she was the youngest member of the W.I. in Bucks.

Her own dress making business saw her through what she calls her “child rearing years” she worked for Norman Hartnell, Bellville Sassoon and did many other freelance projects within the fashion, theatre and T.V. industries.

Before going to Spain she’d worked for several years at the Wycombe Abbey School making costumes for the Drama department.

Denise has two sons, now in their 40’s, Martin who is an airline pilot and Tim a local property site manager.

Denise has been involved in local theatre for many years; designing and producing costumes for Wycombe Theatre Company and Fourways Theatre company amongst many others.

Since returning from Spain, she and Terry have once again taken up their theatrical work. Denise designed and produced the costumes for the productions of “A Christmas Carol” “Bottoms Up” and “My Mother Said” for Ubiquitous Theatre.; all recently seen in Weston Turville and Aylesbury.

Now settled here, Denise decided to approach the WTT for help in re-establishing a WI branch in Weston Turville. She placed a half page notice in the last edition and posted a page on the Everything Weston Turville Facebook page and was delighted to receive over 35 responses! An initial meeting was held and the process has begun! **Denise is still appealing for interested women to contact her as the next stage will be to set the Weston Turville WI group up in the new year. Please do so via the Editor.**

We asked for an article ...

THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE AND WHY OF THE HAMPDEN FIELDS ACTION GROUP (HFAG)

When a planning application was made several years ago for 3,000 houses between Aylesbury Bedgrove, Weston Turville and Stoke Mandeville a group of concerned local residents formed an action group. Taking their name from the proposed estate, Hampden Fields, they aimed to challenge the plans to fill the green gap between the three settlements. The group quickly gained support and eventually succeeded in having the application examined by an independent inspector. He turned it down for several reasons, including coalescence and poor traffic planning. His findings were endorsed in January 2015 by the Secretary of State.

Undeterred, the same developers made a second, very similar application just one year later. The HFAG Committee re-formed, asked people what they wanted, heard a strong message of support for contesting the re-application, and returned to the fight. The campaign has been going on ever since.

The main committee of people work on behalf the whole community. We are helped by 1,500 regular, committed supporters, many of whom have been very generous in donating time and money. This has paid for independent experts to analyse and advise us on traffic and town planning, flood risk and legal options. HFAG works to a clear, 5-fold agenda, to

- **scrutinise** every aspect of the application and relevant wider proposals such as the 'Aylesbury traffic strategy'
- **respond** at every stage of the planning process, in writing, with expert reports, and by speaking at committee meetings and public enquiries
- **engage** with our supporters to keep them informed and involve them in the big decisions. We do this via a website, video, regular emails, and 'standing room only' public meetings
- **lobby** opinion-formers, notably MP David Lidington whom we have met many times, plus writing to and being interviewed by local media. The Bucks Herald covered one of our best moments, delivering 5,000 objection letters to AVDC.
- **raise funds and manage our finances**, to provide the resources needed for the campaign and to be accountable to our generous supporters. By far the largest costs are buying in expert advice. Every HFAG Committee member is a donor.

Years of hard work. Are they all worth it? The evidence shows a clear 'yes'. By concentrating on getting planning law correctly applied – the only real power a campaign group has, compared to the financial resources of the developers – HFAG has:

- *secured a favourable Secretary of State decision the first time round*
- *caused the development consortium to take more than two further years to reach even a provisional Council finding on the re-application, and*
- *(at the time of writing) made the consortium take at least a further nine months to work on the detailed 'Section 106' contributions that the law requires*
- *prompted significant changes to the proposed plans*
- *gained some support from our MP who has at least asked government bodies to scrutinise the applications*
- *challenged the Highways Authority, most recently during the recent examination of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan when their transport strategy came under severe criticism*
- *kept our supporters informed and engaged about this crucial threat to the area*
- *raised, and prudently spent, more than £100,000 over the two campaigns*

What of the future?

HFAG will continue to challenge as long as local people want this to happen. It is not about stopping all housebuilding: of course the Vale needs more houses. But they should be planned and built intelligently. AVDC should take advantage of new infrastructure such as the Oxford – Cambridge Expressway. More importantly, they should use up to date and legally sound evidence to plan such vital things as traffic, flood risk and avoiding coalescence. The HFAG Committee are Dennis Audley, John Benjamin, Amanda Buchanan, Peter Chilman, David Locke (Finance), Chris Webbley (Chairman), Glynn White (Secretary) and Phil Yerby. Contact is via info@hfag.co.uk or on 01296 613556. The website is at www.hampdenfieldsactiongroup.com

The future for our village will inevitably involve change and development; this group of residents is trying to influence that change.

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Many Weston Turville residents enjoyed the **Poppy Cascade and Remembrance Exhibition** that was in the World's End Garden Centre for most of October and up to Remembrance Sunday itself. There were many lovely comments about this and about the Weston Turville Times Special Edition 1918 – 2018 that went out to all local residents in October. The Poppy Cascade idea came to **Lynn Andrews**, pictured here, a couple of years ago and she linked it up to the WW1 100th anniversary celebrations planned for 2018. Planning started and the quest for knitters in

Weston Turville began in earnest. That's where Mary Heathcote-Smith came in – using all of her local contacts Mary started to encourage, dragoon and demand poppies to be created to fulfil Lynn's vision. And they were! At the last count, approximately 1400 were carefully hand knitted or crocheted by volunteers, friends and relatives. Boxes and bags of poppies were being given to Lynn and Mary at such a rate that it was a real challenge to attach them all as they came in. **Lynn and Mary are delighted with the outcome and, as Lynn says, "it was a real team effort, from people too numerous to mention, and an example of the community coming together to commemorate such a special anniversary"**. The same can also be said of the WTT Special Edition 1918 -2018. The team that created it was the Historical Society, Ubiquitous Theatre and graphic artist, Alison Boschen. It was voluntarily distributed by the magnificent WTT distribution team and funded by the Parish Council. Here is a typical example of many communications received: *"Good evening,*

I am a resident of Weston Turville and I received a copy of the centenary edition of the Weston Turville Times through my door today.

The purpose of my email is to say that I really enjoyed the edition and I wanted to extend my thanks to all those who helped put it together.

The content was really interesting, particularly the excerpts from the Bucks Herald and the profiles of the men who died, with the latter highlighting to me the completely appalling scale of the loss of life that the people of Weston Turville had to contend with during the First World War.

I couldn't help but think there would not have been a single family in the village that would have been unaffected by the loss of the 26 men, and how relieved most families must have felt when they heard the news the Armistice had been signed.

Many thanks again for the work undertaken by all concerned to produce the edition and distribute it to the people of this village."



Rod Puddefoot arrived in Weston Turville in 1981 with his wife Jenny and two young children Franklin and Becky from Thame. “In those days it was cheaper than the alternative local villages”, he adds.

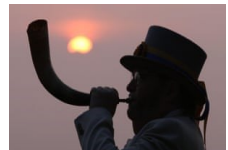
They arrived first in Bates Lane and are now living in a newly extended house in New Road. Rod worked as a technical draughtsman for Hartridge’s and Jenny was a teacher Pebble Brook school. Their two children settled quickly into the local primary school. Rod and Jenny both remember with affection the close-knit community they joined here. The early years centred around the Weston Turville Players drama group – then led by Norman Price. Jenny

produced the costumes whilst Rod appeared on stage in such fine productions as Oliver, Pickwick Papers and Hello Dolly. Rod’s face lights up when he recalls the self-penned musical ‘The Pig and Whistle’. This was created from a true story about his uncle, William Turney, who played fife in the local fife and drum band. They desperately needed to repair the chapel roof and were presented with a challenge. If they won the band competition, money would be provided for the roof. Despite their, not always legal, best efforts the band came second! Nonetheless, a great tale was told.

And that comes to the essence of Rod’s great passion. “If we lose touch with our local heritage, our understanding of our past then we will not be able to appreciate our present and be able to plan for our future.”

He expresses this through his membership of the local Morris Side for 50 years now and his work with own local folk group, Clipperdown. He is joined by Terry Cartmell, Jonathan Ginn and Barry Watson as they keep alive traditional local songs such as the tale of James Snooks, the last highwayman to be hung in England, in 1880 in Boxmoor A.E. Horne’s song about the 52 pubs in Aylesbury, one for each week of the year. Rod has concerns for Weston Turville, hoping that it doesn’t become just a suburb of Aylesbury; devoid of a separate identity. Rod is now retired and reflects back that it was the singing and the music that kept him going. **As I depart I am left with the very firm impression that Weston Turville has a folk singer/songwriter with more stories to tell and more memories to keep alive.**

(Post script – Rod explained that all the local villages had their ‘May Song’ to celebrate the coming of Spring. Does any WTT reader know the Weston Turville one? – Please contact Rod through the Editor if you do.)



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

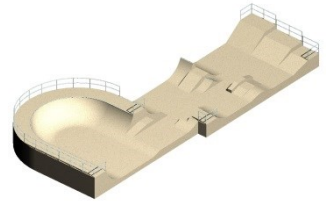


As another year draws to a close it might be a good opportunity to review some of the things the Parish Council has achieved this year which you may not be aware of:

- ❖ We have changed all of our street lights to new LED lights which are more efficient, cause less light pollution and are cheaper to run both in terms of electricity used but also because the bulbs last longer and so they break down less.
- ❖ We have repaired the tennis courts which are very popular with almost daily use.
- ❖ We have replaced benches in several places in the parish that were broken and beyond repair.
- ❖ We have introduced a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish which has already been successful in giving grounds for the refusal of some planning applications which were deemed inappropriate.
- ❖ We have continued to take control over the grass cutting within the 30mph zones and are negotiating with BCC about taking over some of the 40mph verges.
- ❖ We have consulted about the design and building of a skate park for our younger parishioners and it is being progressed so that we hope it will be built and in use next year.
- ❖ We have carried out work on several trees within the parish to ensure their on-going health.
- ❖ We have installed bollards around the green area in front of the shops to prevent it being used as an overflow carpark.
- ❖ We have carried out repairs to the children's play area by the village hall which has been subjected to minor vandalism throughout the year.
- ❖ We have installed CCTV cameras around the village hall after receiving several reports of thefts, damage and dangerous driving.
- ❖ We have worked with BCC to introduce parking restrictions on the entrance to Hampden Hall to obviate obstructions.
- ❖ We have purchased another MVAS (mobile speed indicator) to assist in evidence gathering for speeding issues to hand to the police. Councillors have also received training on the new Sentinel Speed Camera.

- ❖ We have continued to work with developers and AVDC Planning to ensure any plans submitted are appropriate and any moneys due are allocated appropriately to the benefit of the parish.
- ❖ We continue to administer the publication of the Weston Turville Times and the organisation and management of the Village Hall and Village Fete and the hiring out of football pitches.
- ❖ We have installed notice boards for public use in Weston Grove and School Approach.

If you have younger persons living with you that may have an interest in the design of the new skate park we would like to consult with them before a decision is made about what type of park is installed. Please contact the clerk with details and when the drawings are received we will organise a meeting to agree on the best options. Since it is anticipated that most Councillors will not be using the skate park themselves (although the Chairman is currently oiling his 'wheels' just in case), we would welcome any input from potential users of all ages. A copy of the tender document is available on the PC website.



Speeding vehicles on village roads still remain an issue for many residents. We have used the MVAS devices to identify which roads have a speeding problem and what times it is most likely to occur. The Local Area Forum has now purchased a Sentinel Camera which is for the use of Parishes within the Wendover Neighbourhood. This camera actually takes photos of offending vehicles and the

details are passed to the police for further action. We would like to maintain a list of volunteers who would be trained up to use the camera and who would be available for an hour or so at a time at times and dates to be agreed later. It is a non-confrontational role and full training will be provided. If you would like to be involved with this Community Speed Watch initiative, even if it's only on your road, please email the clerk and we will make contact in the New Year. (Photograph of Bedfordshire Speed Watch in action).

We have been received several requests to install more litter bins around the parish. We have purchased the bins but cannot install them yet as AVDC, who are responsible for the emptying of the bins, have recently changed the policy regarding the criteria for getting the bins emptied and we now have to evidence a need for the additional bins. With this in mind we would ask that if you believe there is a need for a litter bin near you, could you take a photo of any discarded litter and send it to the clerk (the photo not the litter!) with time, date and location details so we can qualify for the bin to be installed and emptied. We are exploring other options for bin emptying as well.

We are still getting complaints about the parents mounting the pavement in School Approach during school pick up and drop off times. This is an obvious hazard for the children and parents walking on the pavement. We are currently investigating extending the metal fence in School Approach to finish nearer the junction with Main Street and the extension of the fence to the right of the Village Hall to give safe pedestrian access to the children's play area and field, away from manoeuvring vehicles in the car park.

The Parish Council work hard on your behalf to make this area a better place to live and work but we are now two councillors short and could do with some help! If you have an interest in joining us and doing something positive for the future of Weston Turville please contact the Parish Clerk. We would particularly like to hear from anyone on Hampden Hall or Weston Grove.

Remember to check our website for reported issues and contact details of other agencies.

Parish Council meetings are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August and December when there are no meetings) at 7pm in the Village Hall. Most meetings finish about 9pm. **Everyone is welcome to attend.**

Planning meetings are at 6pm on the 1st Thursday in the hall.

Check the website for any changes to dates, minutes and agendas.

The Clerk to Weston Turville Parish Council can be contacted on:



01296 531432



07584 040264

clerk@westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk



If people make places, then perhaps teachers make people. There may be something in that.

In the first of a series of features over the next three issues about teachers who influence the local education offering, the WTT met with **Karen Mitchell**, Principal of the Buckinghamshire College Group. The group consists of Further Education campuses in Aylesbury, Amersham and High Wycombe.

We met in her office at Aylesbury and Karen immediately began reflecting back on her own school experience. “It was a dreadful experience, I wanted to be a PE teacher but didn’t get the qualifications and grades.” So she then went to the local college and undertook a childcare qualification, which led into nursing for 18 years,

mainly in trauma and A&E. At this time she was bringing up two children, Stuart and James – both now in their late twenties.

The link with Aylesbury College began in 1998 when Karen joined as a part-time Health tutor. Rising through the ranks she now runs a three-site college group with over 8,000 students of varying ages studying a very wide range of vocational subjects.

Karen is passionate about what she does. “We have the capacity to transform lives here. This is technical, professional and vocational skills-based learning at all levels including A-Level equivalents, apprenticeships and higher education. We provide access to opportunities and build the confidence of our learners – some of whom may have struggled in other environments”.

The College serves both employers and students – the local area review of 2016 set out an agenda of what was needed locally by employers and this ultimately led to the merger of the two colleges.

Karen now has a particular concern over funding levels in the FE sector. A report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies highlighted the scale of the issue: per-student spending in FE and sixth-form colleges is around 8 per cent lower than in secondary schools. Spending per student in FE has also fallen by around 12 per cent in real terms since 2010. “FE has not only been the sector most squeezed since 2010, but this also follows a long-running pattern of being treated less generously than other parts of the education system”.

Nonetheless, this determined educator will continue to drive her team to continue to provide the same real opportunities for our young people and adults to succeed that she herself received back in the 1980’s



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Weston Turville U3A

Membership of Weston Turville U3A costs just £15 a year.

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So if you are no longer in full time employment or raising a family this wonderful world of opportunity awaits you. So why not join us?

Further details about the numerous activities of the Weston Turville U3A branch can be found on the website: www.wtu3a.org, or from our Secretary on 01296 613772.



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WestonTurville Historical Society

Meetings

When: Last Friday in month, Sept – June; excluding December.

Time: 20:00 - 22:00; Doors open at 19:30 for welcoming refreshments

Venue: Weston Turville Village Hall;

Cost: £2 for members, £3 for visitors



A large number of old local postcards have been scanned and placed on the site allowing the public to see the many changes that have taken place in and around the village over the years. The website can be found at www.wthsoc.org.uk. Standard membership of the Society costs £3 per person per year with family membership available at £5. Membership benefits include a discounted entrance fee to meetings and organised trips some of which are offered to members at no cost. Membership application forms can be downloaded from the website or via email to: Secretary@WTHSoc.org.uk

Alternatively, come along to a meeting and join in person. Entrance to individual meetings, however, is open to all at £3 per person. Meetings are held, in the Village Hall, School Approach, HP22 5RW on the last Friday of each month Sept-Nov & Jan-June. The only exception to this venue will be the meeting this November which will be held in the Union Chapel, Worlds End Lane, HP22 5SB. Again, details of the meetings can be found on the website but the following dates and talks have been arranged:

30th Nov 2018 Peter Burford "The World's Oldest Mechanised Paper Mill" Note – Venue this time only is The Union Chapel

25 th Jan 2019 Dr. Jill Eyers "The Grave Trade – The Archaeology of Burial"

22nd Feb Michael Court "Archaeology along the Route of HS2"

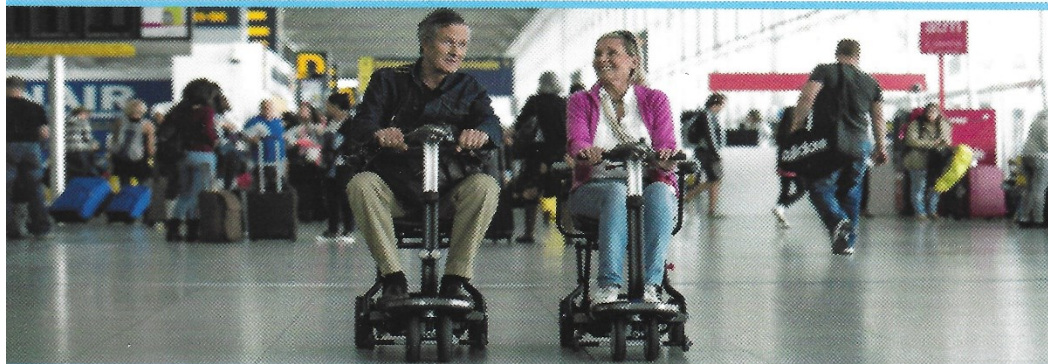
29th Mar Will Phillips "Treasures from the Social History Collection" 26th Apr Alison Doggett "History of the Chilterns Landscape"

31st May Laura Cotton "Winter Paralympics: from Stoke Mandeville to PyeongChang"

28th Jun Glynn White "Archaeological Findings from the Proposed Developments around Weston Turville"

Contact For further information on the Society, visit www.WTHSoc.org.uk, or email: secretary@WTHSoc.org.uk. New members welcome

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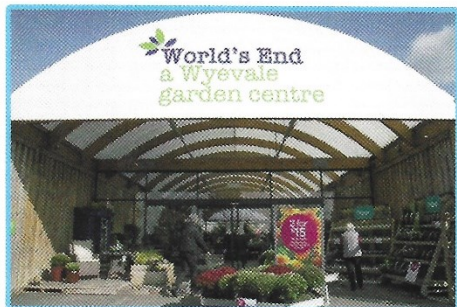
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Wednesday	7.30pm	William Harding School, Aylesbury
	7.30pm	Wendover Memorial Hall
Thursday	7.30pm	Weston Turville School (Strength)
Saturday	9.30am	Stoke Mandeville Combined School
Sunday	10.00am	Jubilee Hall, Birtton



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Email manager@TopsyTurvy-preschool.co.uk
Web www.topsyturvy-preschool.co.uk

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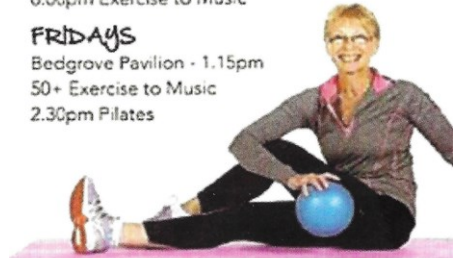
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It is essential for everyone to take care of their ears and hearing as damage to the auditory system could be irreparable. However, if you have hearing loss it is especially important to preserve and protect your remaining hearing as communicating freely with others is vital.

As hearing loss generally occurs gradually, many people don't notice the subtle decline until friends or family members point it out. Our brains are very good at filling in the gaps through a combination of lip reading and knowing the context of the conversation, hence hearing loss often goes unnoticed.

Hearing is delicate and susceptible to damage, even from everyday activities and environments. In this article we would like to highlight some risk areas which are not necessarily obvious when considering hearing protection, and to share some helpful tips to minimise damage wherever possible.

Whatever level of hearing you have it is crucial to do everything you can to preserve it.

Here are some top tips:

- Don't stand too close to loudspeakers, especially in an environment where you have no control over the volume.

- Become familiar with the decibel levels of common everyday activities such as mowing the lawn or blow-drying your hair.
- Acoustically optimise your house to absorb sound - consider soft furnishings, carpets and curtains, particularly in kitchen areas where noise levels can soon become high and make listening environments a challenge.
- Be aware of car noise and how this affects how loud you set your car stereo. Spend some time setting the balance of your speakers to allow you to get the best listening environment.
- DIY – if you are taking on a DIY project be aware of the noise levels of power tools such as drills, hammers, circular saws etc. Consider noise protection
- Certain large events can be noisy and push the boundaries of safe listening levels. These include airshows, firework displays, music events and football matches. Consider noise protection.
- Be vigilant of any change in your hearing or existing tinnitus symptoms and ask your audiologist for advice if you have any concerns.

For the full version of this article visit our website: www.astonhearing.co.uk/

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Church of St Mary the Virgin, Weston Turville



Concerts, FUNdraising FUNctions and events, 2018

Our breakfast service, on the first Sunday in every month, is continuing to flourish with new young families joining us. All age groups from very young children to the other end of the age-scale enjoy one another's company while being served toast and marmalade, pastries, tea and coffee. Due to demand, we are now serving breakfast from about 9.30am or even before. The main worship, with Eucharist, starts at 10.30. Puppets are welcome to join in this service and children will also be able to take part in some artwork. The next breakfast service will be on Advent Sunday, December 2nd. Please come, bring friends and family to help us celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season together.

Our annual Christmas and Craft Fayre will be in the village hall on Saturday 1st December, from 11am to 4pm. There will be the usual stalls, including Christmas gifts, cakes, books, tombola, raffle and refreshments. Father Christmas will be there to welcome the children with small gifts. There are also tables for hire so if you would like to sell you own craft work or make money for a charity please contact Roger Fellows on 01296 424982.

For all Christmas services see the diary dates below. The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, with the church choir and the Weston Turville School Friday Choir is on Sunday 16th December at 6pm. Come early to get a seat! Please stay for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie after the service.

Due to the numbers now attending events such as our breakfast service, cream teas and others we are short of trestle tables. If anybody is aware of tables, either short or long, becoming available from other sources, I would be very pleased to hear from you (Roger Fellows 01296 424982).

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 1st December, 11am to 4pm, St Mary's Church Christmas and Craft Fayre in the village hall.

Sunday 2nd December, breakfast service in church, see above for timing.

Sunday 16th December, 11.30 am, Christingle Service in church.

Sunday 16th December, 6pm, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in church

Thursday 20th December (not Wed 19th!), 2.30pm, Nativity Service in church.

Monday 24th December (Christmas Eve), 11.45pm, Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day, 10.am, Family Eucharist

Saturday 12th January, 2-4pm in church, The annual SWIFT Bring and Buy Sale of Unwanted Christmas Presents.

Soup lunch in church, 12 noon to 1.30pm, third Thursdays, from 17th January 201

SWIFT was formed in 2011 to look into ways of improving accessibility to and within the Church for those with any sort of disability. The project includes the provision of a small meeting room available for use by small groups (up to about 30 seated) from the village community, complete with wheelchair-accessible toilet and baby-changing facilities. The church will thus be better able to cater for children, the elderly and less able members of the community.

Sadly, we were not successful in our application for a grant of £150k. The Garfield Weston Fund had £5m available but received over 2,300 applications totalling almost £200m! Nevertheless, having reached a total of £182k we are now in a position to apply for other grants which require 50% of funding to be in place. We have since been awarded a grant of £3k by the Bucks Historic Churches Trust and also some more personal donations. A legacy is also pending which should take us to around £190k. Please help us with your support and donations to top £200k as soon as possible. This would be a great boost.

We are also preparing a list of clubs or other local groups who may be interested in using these new facilities, once completed and look forward to hearing from you if this may apply. Please let us know what facilities you would wish for so that we can fine-tune the detailed plans and facilities for best effect. We are now offering the church building as an interim venue to help to raise interest and identify demand for the future. Obviously this has to fit around services and other regular use of the building but please contact us if you would like to investigate this use.

Donations can be made by Googling "Make-a-donation/charity/SWIFT" This has just been revised and updated and includes the facility to include gift aid. Alternatively, contact Roger Fellows on 01296 424982 for details of other ways in which you can support and help us.

Our new website, using the previous address (www.swift-wt.co.uk), is now live. It is still early days and we will continue to add and improve information on the site. Any new ideas would be welcome.

Our regular **Soup Lunches** take place on the third Thursday of each month. There will not be a soup lunch on December 20th, because of Christmas services but we will restart on January 17th, in the church from 12noon to 1.30pm. Please come and enjoy delicious home-made soup, rolls, cakes, coffee and a good chat. If you or anybody you know would like to come but are unable to get there without help, please let us know.

If you would like to join the team providing and/or serving the soup and other refreshments on an occasional basis please contact Revd Susan Fellows or me on 424982. The larger the team the less frequently you will be needed to help and the more variety of soup for all to enjoy.

Our annual Bring and Buy Sale of Unwanted Christmas presents will be on Saturday 12th January from 2pm to 4pm. Please come and bring any duplicated or otherwise unwanted gifts and buy something else for yourself from the large and varied range of new items which are always on offer. Hot drinks and snacks are also available and this is always a good opportunity to get together, discuss your Christmas fun and disasters and generally have an enjoyable post-Christmas afternoon to lighten the January gloom.

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Weston Turville Times

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WESTON TURVILLE LUNCH CLUB AT THE CHANDOS ARMS

The Lunch Club has been going since 2015. We older members of the community get together each month at the Chandos Arms, usually on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 and enjoy conversation and laughter over a two-course meal, reasonably priced at about £8.

For some of our number living on their own, it is a chance to meet old friends and make new ones, to swap stories, and yes, sometimes to empathise with each other's ailments and operations.

If the idea appeals to you; why not give me a call or leave a message on 01296 612275. There is no membership fee. All you pay for are the cost of your meal, a tip if you are the generous sort and any drinks you may have from the bar. We only ask that you enjoy yourself.



Michael Foote

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Aston Clinton Surgery	01296 630241
Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)	01296 585858
Bedgrove Surgery	01296 330330
Bucks County Council (BCC)	0845 370 8090
Citizens Advice Bureau Mon-Fri 10am-4pm	03444 111 444
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Electricity Emergencies	0800 783 8838
Environmental Health out of hours (AVDC)	01296 585093
Fly Tipping hotline	0845 330 1856
Gas emergencies	0800 111 999
GP out of hours	0300 130 3035
Highways out of hours	01296 486630
NHS Direct	111
Pest Control (AVDC)	0844 482 8348
Police non-emergency	101
Samaritans	08457 909090
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296 315000
Wendover Health Centre	01296 623452
LOCAL COUNCILLORS	
Bill Chapple OBE (BCC)	01296 426814/382095
Mike Collins (AVDC)	01296 632039
Carole Paternoster (AVDC)	01296 630710 / 585717
David Lidington Aylesbury MP	0207 219 3432
Weston Turville Parish Council	07584 040264



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