

PUBLIC NOTICES MAY 2020

MONDAYS BINS KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS.

The next dates are **Mondays 4th & 18th May 2020**

Please put bins and bags out by 7.00am. The Waste Hotline is 01285 623123.

https://publica.force.com/sfsites/c/resource/CDC_Calendars/Mon_2.pdf

PARISH COUNCIL

The Office is currently closed. Please e-mail willerseyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL

Currently closed. Hall refurbishment and Coronavirus outbreak.

METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE – Currently closed

Tel: Penny Ingles 01386 853306.

The MOBILE POST OFFICE

Willersey on Friday at The Bell Inn 12:45/14:45 - still going. **Only for Lloyds customers**, their Mobile Bank visits Broadway Mon/Fri 13:30 to 15:15 and Wed 9:30 to 11:45. **Not with Lloyds? – use Co-Op Post Office.**

NEAREST LIBRARY

All public libraries are currently closed.

COTSWOLD VOLUNTEERS NORTH

Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital and medical appointments should ring the CVN Help Centre: 01608 651415. This telephone is manned from 09:30-15:30 Monday to Friday. At other times there is an Answerphone.

TRAVEL SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50	or	03457 48 49 50
National Bus Traveline	0871 2002233		
Hedgehog	01386 841466	N. N. Cresswell	route R4 01386 48655
Johnsons			01564 797000 for route 1
Pulhams Coaches			01451 820369 for route 606

Bus timetables for Gloucestershire are at www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/ and on the Willersey website at www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus

Contact numbers for Breakdown of Services & Police

Electric Power Faults - 0800 328 1111 or 105.	Gas Emergency – 0800 111 999
Floodline – 0845 988 1188.	Severn Trent. Sewage – 08007 834444
Thames Water - Water Supply – 0800 980 8800	
Police – Telephone 101	www.gloucestershire.police.uk Emergency 999.

©Willersey & Saintbury Village News 2020

Pastoral Letter – May 2020

One of the modules for my degree, which I was in the process of completing when Ros and I moved here in 2017, explored the relationship between the visual arts and pastoral theology. As part of my work for the end of module assignment, I wrote a short illustrated book about ‘waiting’.

The theme for my assignment came about from my work and observations as a hospital chaplain. Hospitals, it seemed to me, are places where people spend a lot of time waiting: waiting for appointments; waiting to see a doctor/nurse/midwife/physiotherapist; waiting for treatment or surgery; waiting for relatives and friends to visit; waiting for test results, and so on.

In lockdown life, waiting has become a significant part of all our lives. Some wait for practical things, such as shopping or medication to be delivered; most, if not all of us, wait for those things that lift our spirits: a phone call (or FaceTime, Skype or Zoom, depending on your technical know-how!) from family and friends and, if you’re able to get out, many of us wait each day for that precious hour when we can leave the house to exercise.

Then, of course, we wait to hear news: news of those we know who have been/are affected by COVID-19; news of when the current necessary restrictions might begin to be lifted; and, macabre though it is, we wait to hear how many people have died, remembering as we do so, that each person included in that shocking daily figure is a mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew. We remember, too, that each one is a precious child of God – created in his image, known by him and loved by him.

What no one tells you, is that waiting is exhausting! A number of people have commented to me recently that they feel unusually tired. I have no doubt that a contributing factor to that tiredness is waiting. As I was thinking about this, I was reminded that the Bible talks of a different kind of waiting and so, as we wait – for all the things mentioned above and so much more – I want to encourage you to wait differently.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, in chapter 40, verse 31, of his prophecy,

**‘But those who wait on the Lord
shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up on wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.’**

Wait differently. Wait on the Lord. Let the resurrected Jesus Christ meet and sit with you as you wait. Know his presence. Just as he transforms darkness to light and death to life, so he longs to transform your tiredness to strength, your anxiety to peace, your despair to hope.

I continue each day to hold you all in my heart and before God in prayer. Do, please, be in touch if I can help or support you in any way.

With love, Scott

Rev Scott Watts
Team Vicar

The Reverend Scott Watts, Rector, The Vicarage, Stratford Road, Honeybourne, Evesham, WR11 7PP Tel: 01386 834946
Email: revscottwatts@yahoo.com

Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson, The Granary, Main Street
Tel: 01386 852785 & mobile 07979590826
Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk

Willersey Covid-19 Support Group

If you are housebound, in isolation and require assistance during this difficult time, please call our Call Centre number below, where your call will be directed to a local volunteer in the Parish.

Call Centre telephone number: 0330 1070 300 (calls charged at a local rate).

This number is for non-medical assistance only. For medical assistance still call 111 or for emergencies 999.

Support Group Services:

1. Shopping – food and provisions: to keep parishioners supplied with provisions when they are self-isolating or in the event that they become ill. [See the Essential Suppliers information below.]

Delivering Prescriptions

Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



In the light of Government guidance for the Covid-19 pandemic to avoid non-essential social contact the **Cotswold Wardens Walks programme has been cancelled** from Thursday 19th March until further notice. Please check the website for updates but subject to changing advice please try one of our many **self-guided walks** that can be found at

<https://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/walking/self-guided-walks/>

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. For more information see www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Cotswold District Council Notice

Recycling and Waste Collection

Please note that as a result of staff shortages caused by the Covid-19 outbreak GREEN BINS will not be emptied until further notice, hence do not put them out for collection.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE CLOSURE

We apologise for any inconvenience but the office is now closed and its phone number is disconnected until the village hall refurbishment is completed. Parish Council services however are continuing and if you need to contact the Clerk, please email: Kevin O'Donoghue at willerseyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Why do they call it the novel coronavirus? It's a long story...



MAY MEETING

Another meeting social distancing

'History of the WI'

Maybe you can contact a committee member and tell us some of your memories, experiences or stories to add to the June Village News

Willersey Horticultural Society

Invites you to enter

THE WILLERSEY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020

Entries will be featured, either online or on display, as part of the Patronal Festival celebrations on Saturday 27 June

This competition is for photographs which capture the spirit and essence of this extraordinary time and help record life in this period of Willersey's history.

The competition will be judged in two age groups in each of three themed classes:

Age Groups: A. **Under 16** and **B. Over 16/Adult**
Class Themes:
1. 'Life Goes On'
2. Pets and Animals
3. VE Day Celebrations

Entries will be judged on:

- i) Artistic merit and/or humour;
- ii) Originality and interest
- iii) Evocation of these times

Please submit your photographs, by email. To:
rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk

Indicate: Your name, the Class Theme and Age Group. For entrants in Age Group 'A. Under 16', please indicate photographer's age.

Closing date 15th June

Barn Close Surgery will deliver prescriptions, if requested, to Willersey Stores at 9.00am every Friday, for collection before the Stores close at 12:00. Anyone who is self-isolating or incapacitated and needs to have their prescription delivered more urgently can phone the Barn Close Pharmacy and say "I wish my prescription to be collected by the Willersey Support Group" and arrange the collection by one of our volunteers contacting us.

For parishioners registered at Chipping Campden or Moreton in Marsh surgeries which have no delivery system, our volunteers can collect and deliver prescriptions.

3. Welfare Calls: If you are fearing fearful, have concerns or feeling lonely at this time of isolation, contact us and we'll get one of our friendly, supportive volunteers call on you.

4. Newspapers: If you would like to order a Saturday and/or Sunday newspaper each week, phone 852563 and we will deliver.

Please also contact us, confidentially, via email if you have concerns about any neighbours who may require assistance. Email: willerseycovid19@gmail.com

For as long this situation lasts, we will keep you updated via the Village News, fliers and our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/Willersey/

From the Editors

Times are difficult and it is inevitable that we have to report the latest guidance and advice from the various support bodies that are doing their utmost to ensure we are well informed. However, it does tend to cast a shadow over the content of the magazine so where we can we have varied the content a little to perhaps make that light at the end of the tunnel seem a little nearer. Midst all the sadness there will be some wonderful stories to tell, so we look forward to you telling us about them.

ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES & DELIVERIES

Nisa, Broadway: provides a delivery service to Willersey every day except Sundays, for orders placed before midday. Volunteers can help but it is straightforward; just phone Nisa, make your order, pay by Credit or Debit Card and Nisa will deliver to your door. You can order any item available in the store at that time. **Phone: 01386 859 218**

CoOp, Broadway: (previously Budgens) takes food orders between 10am and 1pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are approximately 30 items available, as shown on the list below. This is also posted on the Willersey FaceBook page for you to see and share. You can place your order with the CoOp, and ask for the order to be collected from the Coop and delivered by contacting the Willersey Support Group Call Centre 0330 1070 300 **CoOP Tel : 01386 842 870**

Fresh Foods	Ambient	Non Edible Goods
Bread	Tea	Washing Up Liquid
Milk	Coffee	Washing detergents
Butter	Soup	Household cleansers
Cheese	Cereal	Pet Food
Yoghurt	Tinned Food, beans	Toilet Rolls
Filletts	etc	Medicine
Mince	Pasta	
Potatoes	Rice	
Fresh Fruit	Squash	
Eggs	Biscuits	
Ready meals	Crisps	

Willersey Stores

Continues to open Monday to Saturday 07:30 to midday. Newspapers are made available outside to ensure social distancing, with payment and change made via a tin on an external table. Other products/groceries etc can be purchased from outside, again with distancing maintained. **Call 01386 853 489**

The Bell Inn, Willersey

The Bell has introduced a daily 'take-away' and home delivery

As we are talking water and boats I know Pat would like to include 'Life on the Ocean Waves'. Most apt and welcome home Pat and Robert!

Next out of its still shiny cover was Neil Diamond's 'Sweet Caroline', and a reminder of Pam McAteer's youth, hot pants and all.

A night under canvas at Girl Guide Camp and tucked into a sleeping bag with a hidden radio Mal would tune into 'Mrs Robinson' by Simon and Garfunkle. She's still Willersey's little rebel.

When Gill O'D suggested Orpheus and the Underworld we thought classy, but of course this was her signature tune at The Moulin Rouge. She arrived in Paris at 16 to train at the most famous Parisienne dancing establishment. I know, it's hard to believe, but what an amazing experience and she still has that wonderful elegance of a dancer.

From Paris we moved to Italy and Gi's memory of her Mamma and Pappa dancing a tango at every opportunity to 'La Camparsita'. You can just smell those warm summer Italian evenings.

Another reminder of a special Mum, and Sue has chosen 'As Time Goes By' by Brian Ferry. We are all with you there, Sue.

Next up, 'Both Sides Now' by Joni Mitchell, and another lovely treat selected by Mary Gittings.

Cathy of course has opted for Luciano Pavarotti singing 'Nessun Dorma', used in the 1972 World Cup, and as Cathy said, a really uplifting piece of music.

Jean Smith then slipped into the room. We had to edit some of the story about the GI's and the jeep rides home, not to mention the jitterbugging, before she finally settled for 'Coming in on a Wing and A prayer' - Glenn Miller and the Embassy Singers. This reminded her of the Lancaster Bombers returning home from their raids.

Our final music had to be Bill Withers singing 'Lean On Me' selected by the NHS. Our true heroes in these difficult times.

Mal thanked everyone for sharing memories, put away the vinyls and closed the lid on the Dansette, before we all had cocoa and tucked down.

A special meeting took place tonight in 44 rooms across Willersey, Mickleton and Honeybourne. All very high tech, for our 'Desert Island Discs'. We kicked back and wound up the gramophone and settled down to our WI night of music in the capable hands of the one and only Meteoric Mal, classily dressed in her Sequined boob tube and long white boots. After a rousing Jerusalem, Reggae style, sung by Gi to get us all in the mood, Mal stepped up to the virtual turn table to spin the first disc. Mary Frost's choice: 'Sitting on the Dock of the Bay' by Otis Reading. Remember this one? Just picture Mary, a fresh 7 stone 16 year old wowing the crowd on the catwalk at art college modelling her creations, going on to design children's clothes for a high class store Pam McMillan up next with 'Wallflower' by Diana Krall - a favourite shared with Roger, recalling great times listening in the car and at home. We now move to the 40s music. Mildred has so many music choices, but we buttoned her down to Glen Miller's 'In the Mood'. We couldn't contain the group, and we were all up and dancing - and boy could we move. Eric Idle's 'Always Look on the Bright Side' has to be a great choice from Penny Burch. We certainly need some of that. For Jackie Jordan it was reminiscing about her and Steve's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Picture a marquee at the back of the Bell and a video made by Tom Jelfs of wishes and memories from all her friends to Pharrell Williams 'Happy'. A great moment to share. Angie Beale chose a song by The Killers, 'Human'. They must certainly have had some great family parties to this piece of music. We wondered if there was more she wasn't sharing! Maggie slid 'You'll Never Walk Alone' by Gerry and the Pacemakers onto the turntable. An eight hour drive from Campden on the National Express to be deposited at Pier Head in Liverpool; trunk dropped to the ground, embarrassingly spilling its contents. Head in hands and the only movement was the Birkenhead ferry. This became her mode of transport for the next term's teaching practice along with the Dockers. Happy days. !

services of food.

Also, groceries, including fresh bread, milk, eggs & bacon etc can be purchased and delivered.

See the advert in this edition for details of the meals and prices available and contact details.

Call 01386 858 405

Wayside Farm Shop, Wickhamford

Place orders by phone for groceries. Delivery to your home, next day or within 48 hours.

Produce is sourced locally, including fruit and vegetables, freshly-baked bread, homemade pies, quiches, jams, marmalade, chutney, pickles, cakes and scones. Also, licensed to sell beer, wines and cider

Call 01386 830 546

The Merry Mouse Van

5pm to 7pm every Thursday, outside the Bell Inn. Featuring pies from the Cotswold Pudding and Pie Co - and a mobile deli selling fine British produce

Essential suppliers and deliveries: you will find updated information on how to arrange shopping deliveries and on local suppliers and outlets in this issue.

Information: It's important to keep up to date with information as it develops, as published in newspapers and on the radio and television. Our Support Group will be keeping you informed via the Willersey Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Willersey/

The Support Group's two additional fliers to every home have been important in keeping parishioners informed as we have developed our services. These were particularly important in reducing the need for parishioners who needed to self-isolate to leave their homes. Particular thanks are due, in this, to Willersey's Vale Press and Lyndon Stowe for printing these updates

Parish Support Update and Events – and Thanks

Dear Friends,

Willersey's Support Group: By the start of May, the Support Group will have been operational for over five weeks, providing essential, practical support to parishioners of Willersey with Saintbury who are isolated, incapacitated or in need of help at this time. Thank you to the eight area coordinators who each organise responses on their own patch and the volunteers who deliver the services – and the Steering Group which manages it all.

Neighbours' support: At the same time, neighbours continue to support neighbours and the WI is actively there for so many parishioners.

Willersey businesses and tradesmen: Sue and Lou from the Bell Inn and Mark and Zoe from Willersey Stores got involved in our Support Group right from the start. The Bell and 'Top Shop' are still providing services to Willersey so please support and patronise them during the 'lockdown'. The Bell's new May Menu for take-aways and deliveries is included in this issue.

s ever, this Village News includes advertisements for our local tradesmen, if you have any plumbing, electrical or structural problems.

Easter: The great cross was raised on Sawpit Green on Good Friday and taken down on Easter Sunday morning (special thanks to Judith for her help with this). Thanks to Gillian and Jennie for stripping Saint Peter's altar of its cloths for Good Friday and restoring the altar with its white altar cloths for Easter Sunday. The Church was decorated with flowers and a miniature Easter Garden, thanks to Tini and her flower arranging team.

Saint Peter's Church continues to be open, every day. Please go in to pray, be in the presence of God or just enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful church which has been there for our parishioners for centuries, especially in the most challenging times. Thank you to our team on the unlocking & locking roster: Gillian, Jennie, Elizabeth, Tom and Liz.

Online Church services: While services in church are suspended, Saint Peter's Benefice will be running online services, led by Revd. Scott Watts or Revd. Kevin Grumball

You can now access these at 10:30am on Sundays via Zoom. The link and service sheet can be found at <http://grumball.com>

You'll find details of the fun photographic competition in this copy and plans for the important commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe on Friday 8 May. I hope you will do your nest to participate in and enjoy both.

Let's keep praying, keep pulling together and keep smiling.

With love Rob Church Warden

Western sub Edge Cinema *Sadly cancelled until further notice*

Broadway Embroidery Group

Because of the coronavirus pandemic our April and May meetings have been cancelled. I guess it's a chance to unearth those forgotten half-finished pieces!! I may achieve some completed pieces of work!!

Amanda (Mandy) Taylor **14th February 1943 – 4th March 2020**

Peter, Julia, Susanna and Pippa would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, sympathy cards and letters on the passing of Amanda. The number of tributes we have received has been overwhelming and of great comfort to us all. Many of them mentioning "what a wonderful village character" she was, and, "Willersey will miss her". In addition, to "she was an inspiration to many" and "a lovely kind lady".

It was wonderful to see so many people at St. Peter's especially under current circumstances. Thank you to Scott for his guidance, support and a beautiful service. We understand that with the current situation many of you preferred not to attend and we totally respect this. Anybody wishing to make a donation in Amanda's memory is still able to do so via Merstow Green Funeral Home, Evesham and these will be shared between Myeloma UK and LINC (local Leukaemia and Intensive Chemotherapy Fund)

With our very best wishes.



Happy Days



June Scarecrow Trail

Bearing in mind the present uncertainty we all live under this year's trail theme now seems pretty ironic; and much may have changed by the time this Village News copy hits the door mat.

However, it may just be that by the time we reach early June concerns and restrictions may have eased just a little. That being the case 'socially distanced' scarecrows may be a community activity to help in giving us a humorous distraction. But let's wait and see?

In the meantime, here are a few scarecrow themes that might help in our mulling over what we might choose to do:

- what we'd really prefer to be doing rather than?
- what makes other folk enjoy a happy day?
- what might an outrageous happy day activity be?
- what might just a bit of 'quiet me time' look like?
- what might be our 'guilty' secret pleasure?
- or something else entirely, perhaps driven by current events


Panic buying in France wiped out the cheese shelves all that was left was 'de brie'

There will be a further update in the edition for June. But in the meantime, fingers crossed for brighter times ahead when we can edge back towards 'Happy Days'.



Panic buying in France wiped out the cheese shelves all that was left was 'de brie'.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Mouse Makes

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

Read Galatians 5:13-26

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

U O
N T R V
G R A C E G O D
B T H E L P E A C E
T P A T I E N C E I
J G T R U S T R J
C R L O R D L E E
A K I N D N E S S
L O V E H O N T U
M J E R O D E K S
G O O D N E S S
C A Y M O E L S
O B L E S S I S
N F R U I T G P
D T Y H O L Y H I
A S E L F C O N T R O L
A U C O N S I D E R A T E O A R T M I E V E R
E B N I N T E G R I T Y O D Y C A R E S N E
B I C O M P A S S I O N E A C Y A N H T
A T O L E R A N C E S I E L O E I T H
Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S
F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T
G O O D W I L L P

Which symbol goes with which fruit?

AMEN
GCHH
RRHEOD
JEEEAPO
P SERVEV

LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

VE Day 75th Anniversary

17:00 Friday, 8th May 2020

Stay at Home Street Party

Decorate your house in red, white and blue,
enjoy a picnic and raise a glass in your front garden.

8 May 2020 marks 75 years since VE (Victory in Europe) Day when the Second World War came to an end in Europe. The long-awaited news resulted in spontaneous celebrations breaking out across the nation. A national holiday was declared and people from all walks of life came together to mark the moment.

Sadly, plans to support street parties across England have had to be delayed. So, instead, let's mark this historic and important anniversary with our own Willersey VE Day celebrations, in our own front gardens.

THE BELL INN - TAKEAWAY & DELIVERY MENU

PLEASE CALL 01386 858405 before 5pm

SECURE PAYMENTS TAKEN VIA TELEPHONE ON ORDERING

NEW! EVERY WEDNESDAY IS CURRY NIGHT - £10.95

Fresh Cod, Chips & Mushy Peas £10.95 Deep-Fried Scampi, Garden Peas
& House Chips £9.95

Fisherman's Sharing Platter for Two – Cod, Scampi, Calamari, Whitebait,
House Chips & Garlic Bread [V] £19.95

Fish delivered fresh, daily

Chargrilled Mature Beef Burger, Mature Cheese, Bacon, Tomato, Mayonnaise,
Salad & House Chips £13.95

Chicken Goujons £9.95 Halloumi Burger & House Chips [GF/V] £11.95
Mediterranean Vegetable Tart & 2 Cheese Jacket Potato [V] £10.95

Also, fresh white/brown bloomer bread, milk, eggs & bacon delivered to order

What do you call panic-buying of sausage and cheese in Germany? The 'wurst kase' scenario.

SUNDAY SERVICE



Saint Peter's, Willersey with Saintbury

Worship via Skype or Zoom
with Revd Scott and/or Kevin

Every Sunday in May at 10.30 a.m.

Further details on web <http://www.willersey.org/stpeter.htm>

Link and service sheet from <http://grumball.com>

In 2020 there will be eleven Willersey Newsletters. The only double issue will be December 2020/January 2021

THE JUNE 2020 CHURCH & VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the next news must be received by Sunday 17th May unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest or notice of forthcoming events. Newsletter creation will start early in the morning of the next day, the 18th. Drop them into Willersey Stores, phone Alan 858601 or Bill 858628, or email them to willerseynews@gmail.com. Thank you.

The Church and Village News is now published on the Internet no later than one week after the paper edition is delivered. You can find it at www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

Comments on the Newsletter are always welcomed. Please email them to willerseynews@gmail.com or leave them at the Village Stores

For later updates to any Church and Village News do look on our [Willersey Cotswolds Facebook page](#) or on www.willersey.org

Nature Box



Tweet and Greet

It begins whilst it's still quite dark, often with blackbirds, one of our loveliest, relaxed and seemingly effortless singers; and robins and also thrushes, more jazzy improvisers noted for repeating the same phrase, with wood pigeons, collared doves and other birds joining in and building to a crescendo - the dawn chorus, a wall of joyous optimistic sound.

This delight is almost exclusively created by males. They're not looking to entertain us, but engaged in territorial warfare: busy defending their patch and expressing availability and suitability for an amorous liaison. Females, it seems, are drawn to the complexity of an individual bird's song as one sign of a potentially good mate.

We don't need to make a particular effort, just sleeping with the window partly open can do the trick. But if early mornings are definitely not your thing then there's always the bird-evensong, more plaintive in tone but wonderfully distinctive too, especially with a cuppa or maybe glass of something stronger in your hand.

The idea that this is happening right now - because it will always be dawn or dusk somewhere on the globe - is an amazing thought.

And whilst most of us aren't looking 'our' swifts will be completing their 5,000 mile migration and be arriving here in early May. UK's smallest bird - goldcrest - (which seeks out conifer habitat) have been spotted in Willersey by David; more village barn owl sightings reported by Ceretha and also Robert; and a moment of 'raptor rapture' with a low hovering kestrel witnessed by Emma & Steve.

If you'd like to contribute to Nature Box or report interesting local sightings please speak to or email Bob Topp at willerseynaturebox@gmail.com

ANOTHER SHORT LETTER FROM THE METHODISTS!

Well, how are you all coping? I'm sending a silly paragraph, sent by a relative. I hope you enjoy it! Of course, it's not from our WI!

Right ladies, Judith Bickerstaffe has kindly emailed the crochet patterns for the face masks and matching underwear sets. Anyone who runs out of wool should message Delia who will leave fresh supplies in a vacuum sealed sandwich bag on your doorstep. She will knock the theme tune to Miami Vice on your door, so you know it's her, you'll have to take potluck on colours, but I do know there is a particularly lovely shade of burnt copper. Mavis has drawn up a rota for the Haz Mat suit and WW2 Gas Mask, it is one size fits all so please don't specify size requirements. If any of our less able members need provisions such as bread, milk, wine, Gin or pickled walnuts please contact Cynthia, who will pop to the shops for you providing her moped isn't being used by her grandson for pizza deliveries.'..... The above is fiction – or is it?

Our church remains empty and we cannot meet. The above will remind you of our busier lives! We have no idea when we'll be out of it. We had hoped to start our croquet again in May, but.....and, of course coffee mornings!

We have a good clap on a Thursday evening and enjoy conversations at a distance. Marie Dow, one of our members, is making good progress in hospital. The rest of us carry on! We have a weekly service sheet with prayers and reflections from our Evesham Church. If you'd like one let us know and we'll see that it's delivered.

Penny Ingles

North Cotswold University of the Third Age

Unfortunately due to the outbreak of Coronavirus we are suspending all activities and groups until further notice.

We hope to be able to resume in September.

Group leaders will keep you informed.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-cotswold/events>



VE Day Remembered

Social isolation has cut short plans in Willersey to record this event, but here is one person's recollection to help compensate.

"This is the BBC Home Service news and this is Alvar Lidell reading it.

Today a meeting was held between heads of government of the free nations and agreement was reached that war with Nazi Germany is over. Europe is now free."

My father asked me to open the front door and listen. The dreaded noise was heard: "It's the sirens, dad." "No, listen." and we all shouted, "It's the all clear". Church bells began to ring and the maroon went off from the police station. People were dancing in the street, singing and shouting. The 'girls in the park', the ATS group with their 'Ack, Ack' guns, (which we weren't supposed to know about), flashed their brilliant searchlight and lit up the sky.

We realised mother was missing and I was sent to find her. She was sitting in the garden with her head in her hands. She said she could think of at least 8 women in the road who were not rejoicing. They had all lost their husbands in the dreadful war - and there were lots of children who would never see their father's face.

The next day, VE Day, saw people ripping up floorboards from bombed out houses to make bonfires. A great parade was organised from central Birmingham of countries who came to support us from right across the world, and my friends and I were dancing on the pavement to the Yankee band, glancing round all the time in case my mother saw me jitterbugging. Soldiers were carried shoulder high in triumph, pianos brought out onto the street and people danced all night. Nothing seemed to matter anymore.

A brief edited account from Jean Smith's recollections.

10



Are you 'lockdown' Quiz weary?

Well quizzes only test your knowledge base and memory recall, how about these that perhaps test your powers of logic and analytical skills.

- 1 Why is circular the best shape for a manhole cover?
- 2 Two people A and B sit at a rectangular table. Behind them is a large enough pile of identical cigars. A puts a cigar on the table. B then puts a cigar on the table A then puts another cigar on the table. Then B and so on. The winner places the last one the table. All cigars must touch the table. In placing his first cigar on the table how does A guarantee that they will win?
- 3 Can you think of two numbers which do not contain a zero but when multiplied together make 1,000,000,000?
- 4 You have a glass of milk and a larger jug of water. You take out a spoonful of milk from the glass and put it in the jug. Stir the jug mixture thoroughly. Then take a spoonful of the mixture and put into the milk. Stir again. Is there now more water in the milk or milk in the water?
- 5 A Three-Digit Number -Take digits 1 & 2.- Reverse them. Multiplying this 2- digit number by itself gives the number. Take digit 3 - Cubing it also gives the number. What is the three-digit number?
- 6 What are the next 5 letters in the sequence?

O T T F F S S

Answers in the June issue (and a few more questions).