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PASTORAL LETTER – May 2024

Ecclesiastical buses

This year we have a great summer of sport - the European Football Championships, the Tour de France and Wimbledon all taking place at the same time - and then a couple of weeks later the Olympics starts. It is an eagerly awaited summer of sport. My sofa is going to get some wear!

You can wait a long time for something and then there is a flurry of activity – you wait ages at a bus stop and then three come at once! In May we have something of an ecclesiastical equivalent – a fleet of ecclesiastical buses to look forward to; “Thy Kingdom Come”, Bishop Rachel’s visit and then the Archbishop of Canterbury’s visit to the diocese.

Thy Kingdom Come, May 9th -19th

From Ascension Day to Pentecost, we are encouraged by the Archbishops to use words from the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy Kingdom Come” as a basis for 10 days of prayer. Please join us as we pray for our friends and neighbours, our communities and all who live and work in the Vale and Cotswold Edge. Resources will be available in all our churches and at [Thy Kingdom Come | Thy Kingdom Come](#)
Monday 6th please join us for a walk from St Lawrence, Mickleton at 9.45am walk to St James’, Campden for 12.30pm lunch. Walk back to Mickleton at 1.30pm for those who would like to walk both ways.

Thursday 9th at 6pm -a special Ascension service for all the parishes of the VaCE in Blockley, at which we will offer prayers for our communities and share Holy Communion

Saturday 18th –a special day of prayer in St Lawrence’s, Mickleton - details can be found on [What's On | VaCE](#)

Sunday 19th in addition to the Pentecost services in the parish churches there is also an afternoon art competition (open to all whatever age or competence), 1pm to 5pm, again in St Lawrence’s, Mickleton.

Bishop Rachel’s visit, May 10th – 12th

The Bishop is visiting the parishes of the Vale and Cotswold Edge Team (VaCE) to join the churches in prayer, worship and mission. **1**

Details of the weekend can be found on [What's On | VaCE](#)

On **Friday 10th** Bishop Rachel will be in Chipping Campden Secondary school. At 6pm she will be joining Dr Stephanie Denning in St James’, Campden who will share her research “Hidden Hardship” with local councillors and community leaders. Please join us on **Friday 10th** at 7.15pm to a service at Chipping Campden Church to launch a prayer guide that helps Christians engage with the issues of rural hardship.

Saturday 11th Bishop Rachel is visiting various events in the morning including the Repair Café in Chipping Campden. Please join us at St James’, Campden at 2.30pm for a service of blessing for marriages (open to all).

Sunday 12th Bishop Rachel is leading a BCP communion service in St Peter’s, Willersey at 9.30am, and at 11.15am she is leading Common Worship communion in St Lawrence’s, Bourton on the Hill. You are welcome to come to either if you would like to.

At 2pm you are invited to join a walk from St Peter’s, Dorsington to St Peter’s, Pebworth arriving for a service at 4.15pm. There will be various activities to help walkers engage with the natural world and think about faith.

At 6.30pm you are invited to join us at a confirmation service in St Lawrence’s, Mickleton, which ends the weekend.

Archbishop Justin’s visit to Gloucester Diocese, May 24th – 26th

++ Justin is visiting the Diocese to join the church in prayer, worship and mission. On his whirlwind tour of the diocese he is visiting various projects and events. The weekend will culminate with a large service of celebration in Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday 26th.

Please pray for each of these events – you are warmly invited to join in where you can.

This month may the Holy Spirit at work in you, through you and around you

Every blessing , **Revd Craig Bishop** Tel: 01386 841927

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Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson

The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785
mobile 07979590826 Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk



WI REPORT FOR APRIL

We began our meeting in the usual way by singing Jerusalem and with Mal welcoming guests who we hope will soon become valued members.

Our speaker for the evening was our very own Willersey resident Terry (Terence) Richardson who many will already know famed for his beautiful photographs of Willersey and the surrounding areas. Having started in journalism, and still writing for 'Classic Tractor' and 'Farm Machinery', he is semi-retired but his passion is photography. Coming from a farming background he has been involved in agriculture all his life and still takes photos for magazine pieces. His advice is to consider not what you see but how you see it. Each of us will see things very differently but we can try to consider more carefully how we take our photos. Showing us a wonderful array of his own photographs he gave us five main tips on how to improve our own skills. Hold the camera steady, focus on the subject or eyes, shoot vertical, shoot square and get as sharp an image as possible.

Through his stunning photographs it reminded us of just how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful area and how, with a bit of patience, we can create well composed images. However, perhaps we don't have quite Terry's level of patience. Sometimes it can take him three hours to get just that perfect shot.

Another invaluable tip was not to bore your friends with a thousand photographs of your holiday. Instead, select the best twelve and wow them with those. They will then be much more impressed, and maybe relieved! Having seen such marvellous images we were itching to get going with our cameras but instead we thanked him wholeheartedly and started whimsically imagining we could be professional photographers like him. Not much chance but we'll give it a go. And a final piece of advice from Terry: take a camera wherever you go. We will, Terry, we will.



COMING UP IN MAY 2024

Our next meeting is on **Monday 13th May 2024**
Willersey Village Hall
A Social Event
AND

Wednesday 15th May evening visit
to Gorsehill Abbey Farm, Organic Dairy Farm
arrive at the farm for 7.00pm
The walk and talk takes place around the farm
Suitable clothing with sturdy footwear is essential
The dairy shop will be open for buying ice cream
milk and other farm produce
Car sharing please as parking is limited
Located along Collin Lane and turn right
where there is a white sign for milk

Any interested partners welcome to come & join us
Contact Mal Jelfs on 858351 with any queries



Willersey Scarecrow Trail 2024 June 17th - 26th

Yes it's soon to be that time again. And like last year our just for FUN Scarecrow Trail will coincide with the Patronal Festival weekend in late June.

This year's theme is **'THE GREAT OUTDOORS'**



There are loads of ideas to choose from here. Perhaps around the range of sports on offer, trekking or cycling, maybe more extreme sports, gardening, outdoor hobbies, wildlife spotting pursuits, explorers and travellers now or down the ages or perhaps DIY or the world of paid work that involves being outside.

Twenty-five scarecrows maintained this lovely tradition last year, with many joining in this Willersey nonsense for the first time. Brilliant!

Lots of these are recorded on the Willersey website: willersey.org. So for those who may be new to the village and fancy joining in please check them out. It's definitely NOT a competition, there are no prizes, but an interest trail across the village for all of us to enjoy.

Come on in the water's fine; what's the worst that could happen? There will be a further update about the arrangements in the next edition. But now is a good time to mentally commit to taking part and mulling over the opportunities in this year's theme. *Bob Topp*

WILLERSEY

KING CHARLES CUP

RUN (OR WALK)

SUNDAY 19TH OF MAY
JUBILEE TREE
REGISTRATION 10AM | RACE STARTS 10.30AM

FREE RACE OPEN TO ALL.
RUN OR WALK | DOGS WELCOME
MEDALS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

UNDER 12 CATERGORY | JUNIOR CUP AWARDED TO FASTEST PUPIL OF WILLERSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL.
OVER 12 CATERGORY | FASTEST LAP RECEIVES THE KING CHARLES CUP.

INTRODUCING THE NEW DISTANCE OF TWO LAPS FOR THOSE STUPID ENOUGH



KINDLY FUNDED BY WILLERSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Guided Walks with the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



Details of the walks available are described on the website (below). **Please check walk details carefully on the website, including whether booking is necessary. Additional walks may be published on the website.**

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

Alderton to Dumbleton Bluebell Walk – Tuesday 7th May – Moderate 2.5hr 5.5ml

A beautiful walk around the hills of Alderton and Dumbleton, essentially to see the magnificent display of bluebells in the woods around Dumbleton Hill. Lunch after in the Gardeners Arms – if open! Please bring a drink/snack.

Start: 9.30am The Gardeners Arms, Alderton, GL20 8NL. OS Map ref: SO 999 333.

W3W: lied.profile.revealing

Badgers Mount and Prestbury Hill Reserve – Friday 17th May – Moderate 3hr 4.5ml

A steady climb to a beautiful area of limestone grassland on the scarp slope adjoining Cleeve Common with great views across the Severn Vale. The area is particularly managed to encourage butterflies and weather permitting there may be an opportunity to see the Duke of Burgundy amongst others.

Start: 10.00am War Memorial, Prestbury at junction of High St and The Bank. Please park considerately in the village. OS Map ref: SO 972 239. W3W: trains.stud.fries

What Links Oxfordshire, a Monarch and a Diamond? – Thursday 23rd May – Moderate 4.5hr 8.5ml

The answer is this walk! Using long distance footpaths this walk takes us on a journey through the ages. From a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to an Iron Age Fort, medieval churches and a WW2 airfield this will be an interesting walk. Please bring drink/snack and lunch.

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Start: 10.00am Bourton-on-the-Water War Memorial (village green). OS Map ref: SP 167 207.

W3W: pickle.forgotten.weaved

Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 28th May to the end of September – Easy 1.5hr

We will walk along the High Street and provide a historical tour of the town. From the granting of Campden's Charter in the 1180s, the growth of the town and its magnificent buildings, to the arrival of the Arts and Crafts movement. Refreshments available in the town after the walk.

Start: 2.00pm on Tuesdays and 10:00am on Thursdays. Meet at the Market Hall in the centre of town. OS Map ref: SP 151 392.

PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. EASY - Length may vary but terrain is mainly flat (level); MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. STRENUOUS – may be rough underfoot and ascents and descents may be steep. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, others not allowed.

Walks are free although we do invite donations to help fund our conservation and improvement work.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Willersey Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Monday May 20th at 7pm** in the Village Hall.

It is a legal obligation to hold this meeting which is the opportunity for residents to raise any matters of concern and for Parish organizations to report on their activities during the past year. District and County Councillors are normally present to respond to issues raised.

Would any organization that wishes to present a report please contact the Parish Clerk. Kevin O'Donoghue, email: clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk, tel. 01386 853635

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It Happened in May!

These Historical Events all happened in May.

- 1) In May 1707 the “Act of Union” joined which 2 kingdoms together?
- 2) On 1st May 1851, Queen Victoria opened what in London?
- 3) In May 1960 the Anne Frank House museum opened in which European City?
- 4) In May 1821, who died in exile on the island of St. Helena?
- 5) In May 1961, who was the first American to travel into outer space?
- 6) In May 1927 the aviator Charles Lindbergh made the first solo transatlantic non-stop flight in which plane?
- 7) In May 1937 the Hindenburg airship burst into flames whilst attempting to moor up where?
a) Munich, b) New Jersey, c) Paris.
- 8) What did John Francis attempt to do on Constitution Hill in May 1847?
- 9) In May 1967 who did Celtic beat, to be the first British Football Team to win the European Cup?
- 10) In May 1844 the world’s second modern police force and Asia’s first, is established, where?
- 11) Naomi Uemura, who in May 1978, travelling by dog sled, became the first person to reach the North Pole alone. What was his nationality?
- 12) Martha Jane Canary was born in May 1852 in Princeton, Missouri. What name is she better known as?
- 13) Who won the Pulitzer prize for Drama in May 1955 for “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”?
- 14) Which potter famous for his “Jasperware” opened his first pottery business in Burslem in May 1759?

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15) In May 1536 which English Queen was arrested and imprisoned on charges of adultery, incest, treason and witchcraft?

16) In May 1952 the world’s first jet airliner made its maiden flight from London to Johannesburg. What model was it?

17) Which cricketer, born in May 1969, is the only batsman to have ever scored a century, a double century, a triple century, a quadruple century and a quintuple century in first class games?

18) In May 1994, 3 time Formula One world champion, Ayrton Senna was killed in an accident during which Grand Prix?

19) The Bank of England underwent the most significant change in its 300 year history in May 1997. What changed?

20) Roger Bannister was the first man to run the mile in under 4 minutes in May of which year?

Please see page 15 for the answers

Mike R

St Nicholas’ Church Saintbury

Saturday May 11th 3pm

Friends of Court Barn Museum

Social/fundraising activity to celebrate C.R.Ashbee’s birthday.

Afternoon tea and cakes followed by entertainment from a group of amateur actors 4 Play from Mickleton.

Car parking in stable yard and follow signs.
Donations welcome. **10**

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Willersey Horticultural Society - Spring Fling 2024

We were blessed with fine spring weather which helped draw the crowds to the Village Hall on Saturday 13th April. Tea, coffee and some very nice cakes were provided by the willing team from “Friends of the Willersey School”.

We had an incredible selection of photographic images from Terry Richardson, preserves from Kerry Lisburn-Taylor, Glass Art from Wendy Stafford and Art & Craft from Nickie Maddaford. In addition, Jennie Bond had a wonderful array of all things Chilli related. Jane Rintoul and Sandy Vale were promoting the forthcoming Farmers Market. Bob and Maggie Topp announced the theme for this year’s Scarecrow Trail in June as being “The Great Outdoors”.

The Raffle was very well supported with lots of generous donations and a significant number of happy winners !! Thank you everybody for taking part.

This year’s Horticultural Show Schedule was released fresh from the printers – new for 2024 were many additional classes for Children and lots of fresh variety for the Adults including the ever popular “Men’s Category Cake”. We have Categories covering Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Beverages,

Preserves, Eggs, Photography, Cookery, Art & Craft. In total we have 67 Classes including 22 Classes for Children.

Copies of the Scheule are available from The Bell, Taylors Garage, St Peter’s Church and online – willersey.org . Pick up a copy and get growing and being creative..... there’s lots of time to make something for the Show in August. Mark Bridgeman

THE JUNE VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the June News must be received by Friday 17th May 2024 unless otherwise notified. Please send in any items of interest, thanks or notice of forthcoming events.

Newsletter completion will start early the next day.

Email them to willerseynews@gmail.com or phone Alan 858601 or Bill 858628, Thank you.

The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at.

www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

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Saint Peter’s Church Services May 2024



This month includes:

- A visit by the Bishop of Gloucester for a special Sunday Service of Holy Communion;
- The first monthly service of Evensong of the summer of 2024; and
- Your local Ascension Day service.

Sunday 5th May Easter 6	10:00 am Morning Prayer
Thursday 9th May Ascension Day	6.00 pm Benefice Ascension Day Service at Blockley
Sunday 12th May Easter 7/Sunday after Ascension Day	9.30 am Holy Communion (Traditional language) with the Bishop of Gloucester
Sunday 19th May Pentecost/Whit Sunday	11.00 am All Age Service
Sunday 26th May Trinity Sunday	10.00 am Morning Prayer

Mid-week Holy Communion (BCP): at Saint Peter’s, every Wednesday at 11:00 am. **Your Church is open for you every day.**

Refreshments for the month of May

May 5 th	Ian and Paula Duffin
May 12 th	Deborah and Mark Taylor
May 19 th	All Age worship team
May 26 th	Adine Keatley and Liz Webb

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Church Cleaning for May

Week ending

May 5th and 12th Rachael and Poppy Barker

May 19th and 26th Flick and Lisa Marcham

Brass Cleaning

For the month of Mayl Jennie Bond

Please collect the key from either The Bell Inn or Gillian Beale at Florizel, Lower Green.

Cleaning materials are in the tall cupboard in the vestry and also in the cupboard to the left of the sink in the South transept.

Thanks again to all the helpers keeping St Peter's Church looking well looked after and cared for

All Age Worship Sunday 23rd April 2024

It was lovely to see you all at our service. The theme was "Seeing is Believing" and it was taken by Carolynne. We are still in the season of Easter and the lesson was taken from John. It was the story of the disciples going fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. This is where Jesus tells them to cast their net on the other side of the boat and 153 fish were caught. These disciples were still unsure if it was Jesus they were talking to. This lesson was read by Mark.

A poem was read the title being "Recognising You". Gillian and Jennie read this. Carolynne and Pat both led prayers and to see if the congregation had listened to this story before we joined in a short quiz. The two winners were Ken and Adine and chocolates were shared by them.

Our next service is on Sunday the 19th of May at 11:00 o'clock and we should be pleased to see you. Just come and join in.

There is coffee tea and biscuits afterwards.

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Recent Sightings

The Lost Words

"Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first no one noticed."

Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris

The publishers of a widely used children's dictionary recently produced a new edition removing nature words such as *acorn, bluebell, kingfisher, otter, newt and wren* to be replaced by *blog, broadband, cut and paste, vandalism and celebrity*. Words that the publisher now considered to have more merit in today's world.

Unsurprisingly there was a considerable backlash, added to creatively by a truly beautiful book entitled 'The Lost Words', by Robert Macfarlane and illustrated by local artist Jackie Morris.

For all of us, and especially children, recognising the natural world around us is just too important to be sidelined by our rapidly changing world, important though those changes may be. The more we all know about wildlife the more we are likely to care and try to help. The many contributors over recent years to *Recent Sightings* of wildlife to be seen and enjoyed here in Willersey shows how well this is understood.

For this month thanks go to Lena, Anthony, Les, Pete, Sandy, Mike & Shirley, Leo, Sarah, Robert & Helen, Trevor, Sue & Lou, and Adine, for keeping in touch and sharing a wealth of recent sightings of active hedgehogs

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with a garden visiting fox also enjoying some hedgehog food, the rare and welcome sight of a brown hare, two Muntjac deer, a scarlet tiger caterpillar, the first orange tip butterflies and bats now on the wing, migrating ring ouzels, a pair of little grebes nearby, some Canada geese checking out the village pond, blackbirds foraging worms for their newly hatched young, lots of chiffchaffs, news of nesting blue tits, great tits, robins and noisy jackdaws too, and the first swallows seen in the village after completing their marathon journey from South Africa. Phew!

Bob Topp

It Happened in May! Answers

- 1) England & Scotland. 2) The Great Exhibition.
- 3) Amsterdam. 4) Napoleon Bonaparte.
- 5) Alan Shepard. 6) The Spirit of St. Louis.
- 7) b) New Jersey. 8) Assassinate Queen Victoria.
- 9) Inter Milan. 10) Hong Kong.
- 11) Japanese. 12) Calamity Jane.
- 13) Tennessee Williams. 14) Josiah Wedgwood.
- 15) Anne Boleyn. 16) de Havilland Comet.
- 17) Brian Lara. 18) San Marino G.P. at Imola.
- 19) Granted Independence
- 20) 1954 from Political Control.

(The Quiz is on page 9/10)

WILLERSEY FARMERS' MARKETS

The first Willersey Farmers' market was held on Sunday 21st April 9.30 am - 1pm on the Greens opposite the Bell Inn.

The traders were selling some lovely food for us all to enjoy! Hopefully, they will then come back every 3rd Sunday of the month from now on! Parking was organised along Main Street and Church Street.

There were refreshments in the Village Hall.

We are looking for local organisations to sell cakes, scones, snacks every month in the Hall - all money taken can be kept by the organisation for their own funds.

If you are a local organisation and want to be involved please email willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com

The next market is on **May 19th**. We look forward to seeing you there and spread the word around!

Jane Rintoul 07867537745 or Rintouljane88@gmail.com

August Bank Holiday Monday

It is customary for village organizations and residents to place stalls and displays on the green to coincide with the Horticultural Show in the village hall. Please could anyone planning on using the green contact the Parish Clerk.

Kevin O'Donoghue

[email:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk).

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“How many young college graduates have taken demanding jobs in high-powered firms, vowing that they will work hard to earn money that will enable them to retire and pursue their real interests when they are thirty-five? But by the time they reach that age, they have large mortgages, children into school, houses in the suburbs that necessitate at least two cars per family, and a sense that life is not worth living without really good wine and expensive holidays abroad. What are they supposed to do, go back to digging up roots? No, they double their efforts and keep slaving away.”

— Yuval Noah Harari,

[Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind](#)

“According to Buddhism, the root of suffering is neither the feeling of pain nor of sadness nor even of meaninglessness. Rather, the real root of suffering is this never-ending and pointless pursuit of ephemeral feelings, which causes us to be in a constant state of tension, restlessness and dissatisfaction. Due to this pursuit, the mind is never satisfied. Even when experiencing pleasure, it is not content, because it fears this feeling might soon disappear, and craves that this feeling should stay and intensify. People are liberated from suffering not when they experience this or that fleeting pleasure, but rather when they understand the impermanent nature of all their feelings, and stop craving them. This is the aim of Buddhist meditation practices. In meditation, you are supposed to closely observe your mind and body, witness the ceaseless arising and passing of all your feelings, and realise how pointless it is to pursue them. When the pursuit stops, the mind becomes very relaxed, clear and satisfied. All kinds of feelings go on arising and passing – joy, anger, boredom, lust – but once you stop

craving particular feelings, you can just accept them for what they are. You live in the present moment instead of fantasising about what might have been. The resulting serenity is so profound that those who spend their lives in the frenzied pursuit of pleasant feelings can hardly imagine it. It is like a man standing for decades on the seashore, embracing certain ‘good’ waves and trying to prevent them from disintegrating, while simultaneously pushing back ‘bad’ waves to prevent them from getting near him. Day in, day out, the man stands on the beach, driving himself crazy with this fruitless exercise. Eventually, he sits down on the sand and just allows the waves to come and go as they please. How peaceful!”

— Yuval Noah Harari,

[Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind](#)

The Welcome Café

Every Thursday, 2pm to 4:30pm
in **Saint Peter's Church**

offering

real coffee

freshly brewed tea

cake and savouries





So it's almost May and we have some exciting presenters added to our meeting schedule that you will not want to miss. On May 1st, local singer, Melissa Hollick is going to perform a number of songs from the 50s and 60s, which will certainly be a lot of fun. Then on May 15th we have a presentation by local DJ Dave - Dave Smith on his escapades at Land Rover, and then on May 29th we have the Harvington Ukelele Band - we have them every year and they are an absolute delight.

Coming up in June, we have our annual Summer Outing and this year we have a day-out on the Severn Valley Railway. So if you are interested in coming along to any of these events, including the summer outing - let us know - all new visitors are welcome.

Remember, everyone over 55 is welcome to come along and find out what we are all about - no expectations. We meet every other Wednesday afternoon at the Willersey Village Hall. The meeting starts promptly at 2.30pm so we suggest you might plan to arrive by 2.20pm. After the presentation and meeting, we have a variety of teas/coffee, sandwiches, cakes and - a good chance to meet others in the community and just socialise. Anyone from the villages local to Willersey and Broadway is welcome to come along and join us. See you there.

For more information you can email the Chairman - Terry on; triffik@yahoo.com or call/text him on 07527 398429

Welcome Café in St Peter's Church

Opened on the 29th of February the cafe is attracting a good number of people from the village and further afield. Freshly brewed coffee is getting good reviews and the selection of homemade cakes continues to be varied and much enjoyed.

The atmosphere is one of friendship and no one is left on their own. Times are every Thursday 2 to 4:30 pm. A warm welcome awaits you.

Acorn creative deserve a thank you for their help in advertising this event with informative banners, flyers and not forgetting our trendy aprons.

Thank you also to Rachael Barker for the initial Welcome Cafe posters

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL TREASURER WANTED

Our village hall committee is made up of representatives of all village organisations, so this is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and get involved in village life. Our Treasurer Tracey is returning to full time employment, so we are looking for someone to take her place. Tracey will give full training to a new treasurer and remain on hand to ensure a smooth handover over. If you would like to become part of a very friendly Village Hall Committee and take on this important role please email nevillejelfs@gmail.com.

Neville Jelfs Chairman 07980-870309

Cotswold Vale Embroidery Group

Our “Inches and Twinches” project is proving popular. Some members had completed a set and had displayed them in a box frame. Well done Gay and Pauline. Inspiration for the rest of the group.

Next month is our visit to Pershore

The plan is to meet for coffee at number 8 in the Main Street and to view the displays there.

Then a guided tour of Pershore Abbey around 11:30 am.

Weather permitting we could enjoy a picnic in the park, head home or discover Nellies, the fabric and haberdashery shop for some retail therapy. We can always find space for another embroidery thread or piece of fabric to add to our ever increasing stash!

Meeting on Thursday 2nd of May at Number 8 in Pershore at 10:30 am. There is parking in Broad Street by the Abbey and a car park near to the Abbey.

Childswickham Quilters Exhibition

Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th 2024
at Lifford Hall ,Lower Green Broadway,WR12 7BU.
10.00 am to 4.00pm

Display of Quilts and Craft Stalls, Quilting Supplies
The Patchwork Basket, Quilters Corner-The English Quilter

Demonstrations and Raffle - Tombola
Light Refreshments Admission £ 2.00 p

Proceeds to Local Charities **21**



Nature Box- Peregrine



The peregrine is the fastest bird in the world when descending at up to 200mph and they are living just up the road.

If you happen to be visiting Chipping Campden for a coffee, a spot of expensive retail therapy or a just a stroll make a point of looking up at St James Church to see if one of the peregrines is resting up and on show. They have recently bred here successfully and you might just be lucky and seeing one is really a 'wow' moment. Although they pair up they are more faithful to a particular site than necessarily to a particular partner.

A recent increase in peregrine numbers is significant. During the second World War many were shot to help protect message carrying homing pigeons. For many years they were unscrupulously shot like lots of raptors before law gave them some protection. The now banned hazardous farming chemicals that slipped into the food chain weakening their egg shells and added to their woes causing frequent reproduction failure.

Although they used to be confined to rugged uplands and coastal areas, successful breeding has seen numbers grow with them increasingly seeking out new inland nesting sites. Churches, 22

power stations, large urban buildings are just some of the sites now commonly used. In London alone there are approaching thirty breeding pairs, second only to numbers in New York.

When mature, peregrines are very skilful hunters, taking a wide range of prey, not just pigeons; and being opportunists will intercept migrating birds such as redwing and fieldfare. Tiring homing pigeons occasionally fail to make it back to their loft. In urban settings where there is lighting peregrines have also become very proficient night hunters, and migrating birds, which often choose to fly at night because its cooler and believing it to be safer from predators, are adding to the peregrine's diet. In order to ensure sufficient food they will often cache caught prey for when there might be a need due to a period of severe weather.

Like all young birds making their way in the world is tricky, and on average only 50% survive the first year; and like the much maligned sparrowhawk starvation is often the cause.

The fact that peregrines feed on a wide range of other birds strongly suggests that their increased presence does not pose a threat to one particular species, and not least because along with other predators they often seek out and cull the weak helping to keep nature in balance.

Bob Topp

PUBLIC NOTICES May 2024

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **13th & 27th May 2024.** Please put all 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

Please note that the situation on these can change at any time if say the weather is bad. Just leave your bins out for a late collection. (Food waste every week.)

PARISH COUNCIL The office is on the corner of the Village Hall. Open every Monday from 10.00am to noon. Outside these hours, please contact the clerk on 01386 853635 or email clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk

WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne 01386 858368, or email

willerseyhall@btinternet.com or see <https://www.willerseyhall.co.uk/>

METHODIST COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE Tel: Penny Ingles 01386 853306.

The MOBILE POST OFFICE Visits Willersey on **Friday at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45.** There is a **Post Office and cash machine in Broadway Co-Op.**

BROADWAY SURGERY is in Station Road WR12 7DE
Telephones 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEAREST LIBRARY The nearest library is in Broadway.
Open Mon & Wed, 9:30am – 4:30pm. Saturday 9:30 – 1pm 01905 822722

COTSWOLD FRIENDS Anybody who wishes to have transport for hospital and medical appointments ring the Cotswold Friends Help Centre: transport section 01608 651115. This telephone is manned from 09:30-15:30 Monday to Friday. .

SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50 or 03457 48 49 50

National Bus Traveline 0871 2002233

Hedgehog 01386 841849

N. N. Cresswell to Evesham 01386 48655 for route R4

Diamond Bus to Stratford-upon-Avon 01527 813120 for route 1

Pulhams Coaches to Cheltenham 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 83444

Thames Water – 0800 980 8800 British Telecom - 0330 1234 150

Police – Telephone 101 (999) www.gloucestershire.police.uk