

## **PASTORAL LETTER – September 2025**

### **Beds, Blubs and Blooms**

The garden is ever changing – it never stays still. There are always new things to enjoy. We have a tree in the garden (a katsura?) that drops its leaves early, too early before we are ready. It is a harbinger of the change of seasons.

There is a time in September when the scent of the garden changes – a new smell reminds me of our inextricable orbit of the sun. The seasons change, they come and they go.

Warren Buffet the entrepreneur and philanthropist speaking to class of students asked them pick out one person they admired the most. He then encouraged them to write down why they were admired – a list of qualities. One could do the same with someone you don't admire and put down their qualities. Look at those qualities. The qualities of the first list with a bit of practice you could make your own and which if practiced regularly can become habit forming. Look at the qualities on the second list and avoid them. We have agency over our choices and behaviours.

Brain plasticity is the ability of our brains to adapt its structure and function to learning, experience and injury. Psychologists tell us that if we say something often enough our brains rewire for it. Our thoughts shape our feelings. Our feelings drive our actions, and our actions shape our identity and character. If we can change our thoughts, then we can change who we are and how we behave. This is why prayer is so important – making time in our daily lives to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, reflecting on the nature and character of Jesus not only connects us to God but it can literally rewire us so we become the person we want to be.

Saint Ignatius developed his spirituality when he was in hospital recovering from injuries. He found meditating on the life of Christ, placing himself mentally within the gospel story filled him with joy and peace. He became more aware of God's love and mercy. Spending time contemplating the love of

God transformed him and led him to devote his life to Jesus.

He also practiced the spiritual discipline, 'The Examine' a way of prayerfully reflecting on the events of the day so we become more aware of God's presence. Review the day with gratitude noting its joys and delights. Focusing on the day's gifts. Looking at what we did, the people we interacted with. Inviting the Holy Spirit to direct us to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling—positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Holding that moment in prayer may lead us to intercession, praise, repentance, or gratitude. When such moments happen in the future we will be better equipped to notice them and respond in a godly way.

Jesus came that we might live life in all its fullness – that we might know love, peace, joy and hope.

Change is all around us, it is inevitable. I'm digging up a small bed opposite our kitchen window - its overgrown. I intend to fill it with bulbs and plants which will bring colour and form throughout the seasons – bringing us joy as we do the washing up. I don't have the time (or energy or finance) to do that to every bed, but I can make a difference to this one. The Vicarage Garden is never going to rival Hidcote or Kiftsgate but I can make improvements, I can do a new thing.

Come Holy Spirit - water that which is dry - heal that which is wounded - cleanse that which is unclean. Grant us eternal joy.

Amen

Every blessing, Revd Craig

**Revd Craig Bishop** Tel: 01386 841927

**Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson**

The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785  
mobile 07979590826 Email: [rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk](mailto:rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk)



## Report for August 2025

Saturday morning 2nd August was a busy one for WI members. The committee had worked hard before the event to set up tables and decorations in readiness for our Coffee Morning. This was a fund raiser and many hands were on deck making cakes, setting up the bric-a-brac stall and tombola.

Behind the scenes other members were prepping the coffee and tea. We raised over £500 in support of our Christmas lunch for seniors 'Young at Heart'. Many thanks go to all those who came and made the event a successful one. Nearer the time more details will become available about the lunch.

August is a time for a little relaxation. Many people take a holiday. With relaxation and a chance for a catch up in mind, seventeen of us set up 'camp' on the village green for a little picnic on Monday 4th August. In the afternoon. There had been a downpour but the skies brightened so we opened up our folding chairs, hoping they would not collapse, and tucked into our chosen picnic foods with our drinks also at the ready. We thought we might not see them, but, just as we had almost given up hope, we cheered the 'lads' coming down Main Street in their tractors and trailers on their night out and gave them a wave. We hope you had a good night out boys. We certainly enjoyed ours.

Anne Nixon



## **COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER**

Our next WI meeting is a speaker, Mandy Brashaw, also called The Chatty Gardner who is speaking about "Finding the Angle at Chelsea".

Guests welcome, £5 on the door.

Food donations for 'Caring Hands' at the meeting or contact Sandra Spensley, 6 Willow Road, Willersey.

Crockery hire is available.

Please contact WI President Mal Jelfs on 858351

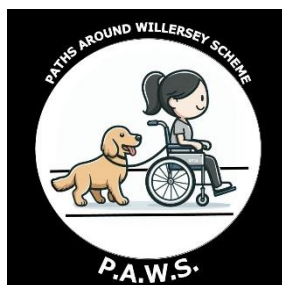
Anne Nixon

## Autumn

Autumn in her cloak of gold  
The grand finale story told  
The summer sun her brilliant show  
Has tempered to a softer glow  
The scent of wood smoke fills the air  
And harvest suppers made to share

Pat Batham

**On Tuesday 14th October there will be a Village Hall  
committee meeting in the committee room.  
at 7pm followed by the AGM at 8pm.**



## **Paths Around Willersey Scheme** **September 2025**

We still hope to go ahead with the Path clearance session scheduled for 10am to 1pm on Saturday 6 th September 2025. We could do with a couple more

volunteers; if you can spare three hours of your time and want to take part, please send an email to register your interest to:

willerseypaws@gmail.com. The work will not be too taxing, and you have the chance to give a little back to your Village. You are needed!

We have had a baking hot summer and the rain that has fallen has been mainly overnight. This has been excellent for sun worshipers and also for weeds! Many of the footpaths that were cleared of overgrowing turf are now suffering from weed growth.

Weeds have pushed up through the path's surface and unfortunately will loosen and damage the integrity of the path. The Parish Council has kindly offered to spray the offending weeds with weed-killer.

The PAWS group is looking at ways of maintaining the paths and are hoping to purchase a second-hand petrol strimmer, which the group can use to assist with minor maintenance. Some of the maintenance falls under Gloucestershire County Highways responsibility. They have a rolling rota for such maintenance and unfortunately resources are stretched.

The PAWS group has been in contact with Gloucestershire County Highways on several occasions and have been assured that the drain on the footpath of the B4632 (which runs from the Willersey Village Sign to the County Boundary, will be fully cleared by pressure jetting. It could however take a couple of months before it can be done. In the meantime the PAWS group has cleared surface weeds to help.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss in regard to Paths around the Village, or are in any way able to help, please contact the group by email at the address below.

Donald: Chairperson P.A.W.S. Group

Contact email: [willerseypaws@gmail.com](mailto:willerseypaws@gmail.com)

## **WILLERSEY HISTORY SOCIETY MEETINGS**

The first talk of the Society will be by David Dunbar on his research into 'The North Cotswolds Silk Industry, particularly in Willersey' at 7 pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in the Willersey Village Hall. Do come and support the launch of the society. £3 at the door.

A second talk (with a detailed official map of the parish) will be given on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7 pm by Robin Woolven on 'Farms and Smallholdings in Willersey in 1943', The topic being his analysis of Willersey's four dozen farmers' and smallholders' returns of how much and what and where they were growing and what livestock (including poultry) they were keeping - all in the WW2 National Farm Survey of 1943-45 papers in the National Archives at Kew.

Further, anyone who would like to give a talk, ideally illustrated, on a local history topic, be it family, a property or house or just Willersey and neighbourhood or childhood memories, is welcomed to discuss their proposal by initially ringing 01386 852211 .

### **Golden Wedding 9th August**

50 years ago to the exact date, I walked from The Bell to the Church as Miss Powell then walked to the Village Hall as Mrs Jordan. A true village wedding. It wasn't the first and I'm sure it won't be the last.

I really wanted to share our thanks to everyone for all our lovely cards and good wishes and most of all to everyone who came to our party on the 9th August for your kind and generous donations. We were delighted to take £800 to Cobalt in Cheltenham. They were over the moon.

So thank you for your friendships throughout 50 years of wedded bliss (Believe that, you will believe anything!).

Jackie and Steve Jordan.

## 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.cotswoldsaoib.org.uk/visiting-and-exploring/guided-walks/>

Cleeve Hill searching for lost landscapes - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Moderate 3hr 6ml

From the car park we walk west to drop down into the Butterfly Park before climbing up onto Cleeve

Common on the Cotswold Way. After admiring the views across the Vale of Severn from the toposcope we return via the radio masts back to the start. Bring a snack/drink.

Start: 9.30am Wardens Wood car park (West Down). Approach from either Brockhampton or from the A40 via Whittington & Syreford.

OS Map ref: SP 009236. W3W:refills.phones.newer

A Walk around Nottingham Hill– Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Moderate 2.5hr 5ml

We start with a couple of ascents on grassy tracks before following the paths through the wood and fields on the side of Nottingham Hill. Then we descend to lower paths for the return. The climbs are rewarded with great views across the valley to the Malvern hills and beyond. Please bring a snack/drink.  
Start: 10.00am Apple Tree, Stockwell Lane, Woodmancote. Please park at the far end of the car park.

OS Map ref: SO 974 273. W3W: smothered.workbench.safest

Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

The poster features a background image of St Peter's Church in Willersey, a stone building with a prominent tower. Overlaid on the image are two speech bubble-like shapes. The top one is white with blue text and blue lines radiating from its right side. The bottom one is blue with white text and blue lines radiating from its left side.

**Prayer  
and  
Praise**  
AT ST PETER'S,  
WILLERSEY

**We'd love to see you at a new,  
informal worship service  
happening on**  
**Sunday 14th September**  
  
6.30pm  
St Peter's Church, Willersey,  
WR12 7PJ

## General Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Outside which New York Building was John Lennon Killed?
- 2) Which character does Morgan Freeman play in "Bruce Almighty"?
- 3) Complete the advertising slogan for FedEx: "When there is no.....!"
- 4) Wellington is the capital city of which country?
- 5) What letter is located between letters X and V on a standard keyboard?
- 6) Which famous astronaut once said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind!"?
- 7) In the opening lyrics to Queen's "Killer Queen", what does she keep in her pretty cabinet?
- 8) During which decade did Elvis Presley die?
- 9) How many of Snow White's seven dwarfs have names ending in Y?
- 10) As of 2018, which athlete had won the most Olympic medals?
- 11) "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" is the autobiography about the early years of what inspirational African-American writer and poet?
- 12) Who is the lead singer of the Foo Fighters?
- 13) What are the two main ingredients of a "screwdriver" cocktail?
- 14) What is the tallest breed of dog in the world?
- 15) Who is the author of "The Hunger Games" trilogy?
- 16) Unscramble the following word to reveal a type of cloud: ARSTSUT?
- 17) Which actor starred in: What Lies Beneath, Six Days and Seven Nights, and Air Force One?
- 18) What does the Olympic motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" mean?
- 19) When placed in alphabetical order, which country appears first under the letter C?
- 20) What is the first UK supermarket to sell edible bugs?

Please see page 16 for the answers

Mike R



## North Cotswold u3a

Open Meetings are at 2.00 pm on the second Thursday of each month in Willersey Village Hall.  
You can be sure of a warm welcome.

### September 11

#### Rev Nick Scott - A Chaplain's Life at HMP Long Lartin

HMP Long Lartin is a high-security prison, mostly housing men serving long sentences for serious crimes.

### October 9

#### Arthur Ball - The Wildlife of Panama

A travelog of Arthur's visit and knowledge gained about conservation.

### November 13

#### Philip Bowen - All Political Careers End in Failure

Looking back at historical and recent episodes in politics including the fallout following Brexit.

**You can be sure of a warm welcome together with the opportunity of meeting members from groups such as:**

Arts & Crafts ~ French ~ Gardening ~ Science ~ Opera  
Appreciation ~ Scottish Country Dancing ~ Walking Groups ~  
History ~ Bridge for Improvers ~ Photography ~ Exploring  
Music & many more . . .

For information, please contact Liz Reeves,

Membership Secretary

Email: [lizreeves17@gmail.com](mailto:lizreeves17@gmail.com) or Phone: 01386 430039

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





## The Village Garden

Well what a summer so far. We can't win either it's too wet or too hot! So I'm sorry the Garden has been a little neglected, apart from watering and a few hours. I'm glad to say Derek has smartened up the hedge by

doing a great job and even taking all the rubbish away. He has come up trumps again this year, so thank you very much. Because August has so much going on can we try and get some lovely (yes you are) volunteers for September. What about Saturday 6th at 2pm ? Perhaps the ground will be a little more forgiving then.

It's been smashing to see the Garden used and enjoyed. Even the School used it for some work. I was delighted. My thanks as always, **Jackie.**

**Hi volunteers,**

Just to say we need to postpone our tidy up of the garden. There is a funeral on. So please can we change the 6th to the **20th September at 2pm.** Thanking you all very much, look forward to seeing you. Jackie.

## THE OCTOBER VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the October News must be received by Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 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](http://www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm)



## Saint Peter's Church Services September 2025



<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10:00 am Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	9.00 am Holy Communion BCP  6:30 pm Pray and Praise
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	11.00 am Harvest Festival <b>All Age Service</b> Followed by <b>Harvest Lunch</b>
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	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.**  
**Saint Peter's Welcome Café - every Thursday, 2:00 - 4:30pm**

**Harvest Lunch** *We would love you to join us for a Harvest Bring and Share lunch after the 11:00am Harvest Festival Service on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Bring a plate of finger food and we will provide the wine.*

### Refreshments for the month of September

September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra and Ken Spensley
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	Carolynne Adam
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	(Harvest and Baptism) All Age Worship team
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Pat and Robert Heming
October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Gillian Beale

## **Church Cleaning for September**

Week ending

September 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

Rachael and Poppy Barker

September 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Jennie Bond and Gillian Beale

## **Brass Cleaning**

For the month of September Pat and Sally Heming

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 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

Our August All Age Service was about teamwork. One for all and all for one. Sounds familiar but it should be as it was the slogan of The Three Musketeers and so we followed this theme through the service. Carolynne took the service with Richard and Gillian reading our lessons. When the congregation came into Church, they were given a slip of paper asking them to write down what they thought were the essential requirements to make a team work. Later in the service they were collected in a mixing bowl and stirred round. Then some were read out to the congregation and Caroline talked about the ideas saying teamwork makes the dream work. Working together means we can accomplish more. Our collective dream is to share the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and we do this by listening to one another. Although we were a little thin on the ground but included two visitors from Virginia USA. Thank you to all who helped to put the service together and helping with the service. I know I keep saying this but we would love to see you. Why not try out our next service? It is Harvest Festival. Some good hymns to sing so I'm sure you will know them. We hope to see you at 11:00am on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Willersey Parish Council**

The Parish Council does not hold a formal meeting in August, but this doesn't mean we have been idle.

We commissioned a new speed survey in Collin Lane, in conjunction with our speed camera, as we are aware that residents remain concerned about speeding vehicles and the build outs.

We are exploring possibilities and costs for works at the Methodist Church Green, to see if accessibility can be improved, subject to budgetary constraints and legal restrictions. In addition, conversations have been held with Gloucestershire Highways regarding various road and footpath issues around the village. This has met with mixed success, safety issues at Jordans Farmhouse cannot be started until the new financial year, due to lack of funds at County Council level.

However, work is due to commence in September on a new stretch of footpath on Broadway Road, to address the precarious crossing at Nutgrove/Wrenswood, This is something the PC has campaigned for in excess of over 3 years.

Residents can report issues directly to Gloucestershire Highways using the Fix My Street app or online forum.

The Duck Pond is due for its biannual maintenance in the autumn, and it is to be hoped our growing duck population will appreciate their home improvements! Our thanks go to Liz Ward for her support of the PC in feeding the ducks appropriately.

We hope residents enjoyed the Bank Holiday offerings, with the activities held on the greens courtesy of the PC. The cemetery wall was repaired recently, and new planting has taken place to enhance the surroundings. Access to the whole churchyard is now available from the church car park, down accessible paths which we hope will be of benefit to those less mobile.

We have also been conversing with Severn Trent over ongoing Sewage issues. This remains of concern to us, as well as residents, especially in light of proposed applications for housing developments within the village. Recently, Severn Trent were carrying out manhole surveys throughout the village, which may or may not have relevance to these.

No formal planning applications have been received, at the time of writing, and we will of course keep you informed as soon as something is received.

PS. Apologies from Jane Rintoul that in her piece in the newsletter last month, one of our Parish Councillors, Warren McDivitt was wrongly named. Jane has apologised and she would like him correctly named in this magazine.

### *The Welcome Café*

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

**freshly brewed coffee**  
**and pots of tea , with homemade cakes**  
**and savouries.**



## General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) The Dakota Building                      | 2) God                                 |
| 3) "Tomorrow"                               | 4) New Zealand                         |
| 5) Letter C                                 | 6) Neil Armstrong                      |
| 7) Her Moet et Chandon                      | 8) The 1970's                          |
| 9) 5: Dopey, Grumpy, Sneezy, Sleepy, Happy. |  |
| 10) Michael Phelps                          |  |
| 11) Maya Angelou                            | 12) Dave Grohl                         |
| 13) Vodka and Orange Juice                  |  |
| 14) The Great Dane                          | 15) Suzanne Collins                    |
| 16) Stratus                                 | 17) Harrison Ford                      |
| 18) Faster, Higher, Stronger.               | 19) Cameroon (not Kingdom of Cambodia) |
| 20) Sainsburys                              |  |

The quiz is on page 9

## WILLERSEY FARMERS' MARKETS

Thank you to all who came along and supported our "Summer Sunday Morning" Farmers' Market on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August.

The new layout, live music, range of stalls and the sunshine made it a great success with the traders, and I hope with you too.

We will be keeping the new layout for the September Market on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 9.30-1pm.

We are always looking for new stalls and now musicians! Please contact [willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com) for more info.

See you on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Willersey Farmers' Market Team





## Recent Village Sightings

The more unusual creatures that we are sometimes fortunate to spot are always something of a bonus, like the racing pigeon complete with identification rings that was noted in a Willersey garden recently. Perhaps racing pigeons are seen by some as more attractive looking than our common wood pigeon? But if we only occasionally saw maitre d'hotel type waddling wood pigeons they might just be flavour of the month. Attracting three buzzing May bugs to your face whilst out wearing a head torch, an account shared recently, might not be everyone's top fancy, but great to know they are out there as part of our wildlife network.

Getting up close and looking at out insects can reveal such beautiful creatures like the noted metallic green and purple striped rosemary beetle. There have been other sightings of the day flying hummingbird hawk-moth that is sometimes seen as a good luck omen. They have truly amazing flying skills, hovering as they sip nectar through their long proboscis. Further news of hedgehog garden visits from three sources, with one sliding into a kitchen to finish off a cat's supper. Sadly some of the more unusual spots of once common wildlife is much rarer here these days like the high flying musical skylark recently reported. But they're still here, just.

Migrating swifts in number were seen by several people with one magical account capturing some low

level feeding as they refuelled. By the time you read this these eternal wanderers will likely be well below the Sahara desert, like the returning swallows and house martins, all hopefully to return to us next April/May.

Another garden browsing deer has been spotted. Fingers crossed this will have been a good summer for some local breeding birds.

Certainly mewing buzzard youngsters have been audibly in evidence. Large mixed flocks of tits have been doing the rounds of garden feeders. Good quality fat balls attract the tits; and sunflower hearts will bring in those delightful red crowned goldfinches.

Observations shared by Helen, John & Pat, Brenda, Colin, David, Penny, Sandy, Sue & Louise, Andrea, Mike & Shirley, Sandra, Robert, Sarah, Donald, Pete, Penny, Richard, Sirioli & Steve and Derek. Thank you all. Bob Topp.

*If you would like to report local sightings to Nature Box please email Bob Topp at [bob.topp@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.topp@btinternet.com)*

## Broadway Library

Now open on Fridays

### Opening Times:

Monday 9.30 - 4.30pm

Wednesday 9.30 - 4.30pm

**Friday open 9.30 - 4.30pm**

Saturday open 9.30 - 1pm.

**Tele. 01386 822722**





After June we take our summer break, reconvening on Wednesday, September 10th.

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 email the Chairman - Terry on; [triffik@yahoo.com](mailto:triffik@yahoo.com) or call/text him on 07527 398429



### Willersey Footlights

Open Meeting on **Friday 26th September** in Willersey Village Hall at 7.30pm to discuss plans for our 40th Anniversary and 25th Show Celebrations in March 2026.

If you would like to be a part of the Anniversary Show please come along to this meeting. This show is going to be very special. For those who are new to the area, Willersey Footlights are an Amateur (very amateur) dramatics society who put on Variety Shows to raise money for charity. If you would like to be involved in this very special occasion, on stage or off, please come along and get involved.

Neville

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Contact: Katy Gunn (Marketing Co-ordinator)  
Phone: 01608 697006 Email: [katy@cotswoldfriends.org](mailto:katy@cotswoldfriends.org)

### **Cotswold Friends celebrates Cotswold Volunteers at Sezincote House & Garden**

Nestled amongst the rolling Cotswold hills sits the unexpected yet magnificent Sezincote House & Garden, a spectacular Indian house in the Mogul style of Rajasthan, complete with minarets, peacock-tail windows, jali-work railings and pavilions, surrounded by the most beautiful gardens, water features and statues. Thanks to the generosity of the owners, Camilla and Edward Peake, we were able to host our Volunteer Summer Party in their Orangery and Gardens.

This was a wonderful way to thank and celebrate the amazing work our volunteers do, the impact they make on the local community and the joy they bring to so many older and vulnerable people throughout the Cotswolds. After a very stormy morning, the sun shone down on everyone throughout the whole event.

Our new Volunteer Manager Georgia, who joined us in June, was delighted to be able to attend her first volunteer event. "It was so lovely to finally get an opportunity to put faces to names and meet so many of our wonderful volunteers. They all had such amazing things to say about Cotswold Friends; the roles they play, the people they interact with and the clients that they get to help."

As Cotswold Friends grows, our need for volunteers ever increases. There are many roles to suit all interests and time commitments. You become part of the Cotswold Friends family and will make a huge impact on your local community, whatever role you choose to do. Of course, you get to come to all the parties too! To find out more, please get in touch with our Volunteer Team on 01608 697007 or email [volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org](mailto:volunteering@cotswoldfriends.org).

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**About Cotswold Friends      [www.cotswoldfriends.org](http://www.cotswoldfriends.org)**

Cotswold Friends' vision is that no older or vulnerable person in the Cotswolds should be lonely or isolated. They aim to reduce loneliness and isolation, improve health and wellbeing and support independent living. They do this through Community Transport, Support Services and Community Activities and are supported by a huge team of dedicated Volunteers.

**Poppy Party at St Peter's**

I hope that you saw the poppy display that was arranged at the church for last year Remembrance Sunday. The knitters at St Peter's would love to add to this and would like to ask you to help us, and so we are arranging a Poppy Party at the church on **Saturday 20th September** from 11.00 am until 3.00pm

Please feel free to call in at any time during the day and make a poppy with us. Don't worry if you can't knit or crochet there will be help, if you don't have any resources we have plenty.

Please just bring yourselves, men and women and children over 10, (for children under 10 there will be poppy related activities suitable for their age) and help us to add to our poppies so that we can make a really wonderful display outside the Church for Remembrance Sunday. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a wonderful atmosphere, so please come and help us.

For more details ring Carolynne on 859364

We hope to see you there.

Thank you, Carolynne Adam

**Nature Box – Invisible Women**

August is a period when many birds are losing feathers and duly growing new ones. The male mallard ducks on the pond are a good example, where for some time they look not dissimilar to the females before re-growing new feathers to achieve their more striking and distinctive appearance with a glossy green head and white collar ready for the next breeding season.

Bird feathers were once highly prized accessories for women's fashion where birds such as hummingbirds, storks, cranes, grebes and many other species were slaughtered both here and worldwide for extravagantly feathered hats. Even some of the more expensive women's hats were adorned with whole stuffed birds as part of the decoration for those in high society.

But towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century a small group of women lead by Etta Lemon – a name that many of us might be unfamiliar with - campaigned vigorously against this barbaric practice, and duly becoming the founders of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The fur and feather trade was at one time big business with powerful vested interests ranged against these pioneering women. Interestingly for many years these women were completely airbrushed out of the RSPB history books, with men dominating the association and taking credit for their successes as if these influential women had never existed.

Happily, in more recent years, this has been rectified with full recognition of the leadership shown by Etta Lemon and her colleagues, with their photographs now prominently displayed in many RSPB reserves. Part of their legacy is that discrimination against the roles that women might hold has long since changed and is now underlined by Beccy Speight's appointment as the head of the RSPB, which continues to spearhead this important work to support bird life both here and across the world

***Bob T***

## Flower Arranging Group

The group will be busy for St Peter's Harvest Festival which will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 11 o'clock. Autumn displays together with fruit and vegetable produce will give the Church a very festive feel. Please leave any donations by 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in the kitchen area.

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 10-12PM  
WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CAKE WHILST RAISING MONEY FOR A  
GREAT CAUSE.

CAKE STALL GAMES RAFFLE SPLAT THE RAT



WORLD'S BIGGEST  
COFFEE  
MORNING

MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT

## PUBLIC NOTICES September 2025

### MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025.** 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](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](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk)

**WILLERSEY VILLAGE HALL** To hire the hall please telephone Annie & Bill Payne on 01386 858368, or email [willerseyhall@btinternet.com](mailto: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 **Fridays at The Bell Inn 12:45 to 14:45.**

There is a **Post Office inside and a cash machine outside Broadway Co-Op.**

**BROADWAY SURGERY** is in Station Road WR12 7DE

Telephone numbers are 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

**NEAREST LIBRARY** Leamington Road, Broadway

Open Mon. Wed. & Fri. 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.

### **TRAVEL 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/](http://www.easytraveling.org.uk/gcc/) and

on the Willersey website at [www.willersey.org/transport.htm#bus](http://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](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)

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