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Vicar's Letter March 2026 – 'God's will for us'

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus says: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me".

How does this sound to you? Heavy? Scary? Liberating?

Whatever your feelings, there can often seem like there is a conflict between what we want for ourselves and what God wants for us.

This conflict can 'bubble to the surface' at this time of year, with our attempts at self-denial or self-improvement during Lent. We see how difficult changing our behaviours can be. We may find progress slow, or we may even buckle and give in and end up back where we started, only feeling worse, feeling that we've failed.

"Let them deny themselves" doesn't mean demeaning ourselves though but rather seeking to keep our priorities in harmony with what Jesus told us in the two "great commandments" – to love God and love our neighbour.

A few years ago I decided that I would give up watching television for Lent and devote the time I saved to prayer and scripture. Hardly a massive act of self-denial, but it helped me on my spiritual journey and altered my behaviour.

God doesn't see any move by us towards him as failure, no matter how small. No turning to him is ever in vain and he smiles at every step we take in his direction.

There can be a tendency in our society nowadays to go to extremes, to deny ourselves something, only to later binge on it.

That is not what God wants from us. He asks us to deny ourselves in order to bring ourselves and our lives into balance.

It is not about abstaining from pleasures, but about balancing our activities within a God centred life.

The writer Margaret Silf imagines that, rather than God having a fixed path for each of us to travel down, he has a dream for each of his children - rather like we may have a dream for our own children.

In this dream God wishes for each of us to live a life touched by love and, by doing so, to help his overall dream for mankind come to fruition.

She doesn't see this as being some wishy-washy dream, but more like a vision (akin to Martin Luther King) – a dream that it is pressing and urgent for us to engage with and which doesn't come cheap.

Jesus came to bring fulfilment of God's dream, and we need to consider if we diminish or add to his work in our daily lives.

So, a quick challenge. Each morning during Lent, as our wishes and hopes for the day come upon us, can we push these thoughts away to allow the larger and quieter voice of God to permeate us?

Can we think of ourselves less, and focus more on the divine will? Maybe by contemplating the words "Your kingdom come, your will be done" as we pray. If we can then we are opening ourselves more fully to God's saving grace.

Revd Jon Barwood jonbarwood@btinternet.com
Team Vicar, Vale and Cotswold Edge
Phone: 07777 148880

Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson
The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785 mobile
7979590826 Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk

Nature Box - Brilliant but Bonkers

This year across the world 130 million intelligent machines will be created. They're called children.

As a rule it will be in the region of 18 years before they become independent and fly the nest. But our garden birds about to undertake this year's breeding cycle will fledge their youngsters within about three weeks - by which time they will have taken their first steps - flight actually - and be ready to feed themselves and to lead independent lives. Yes, brilliant but bonkers.

Nature, when you stop to look for just a few moments, has such wonderful stories to tell. One pair of Willersey great tits successfully raised 10 youngsters last spring in two clutches; and many such success stories have happened naturally for millennia without help from us. Although giving nature a helping hand by providing fresh drinking water, suitable bird food and nest boxes are just a few of the ways that many folk continue to make a real difference in nature recovery.

The wildlife that surrounds us in our village has so much to celebrate and to nurture, such as

- a hedgehog's ability to reduce its heart beat from 200 plus beats a minute to around four during hibernation;
- butterflies adaptation to taste and smell with their feet; and
- dragonflies that we see around us being far more successful predators than lions or tigers.

Giving the natural world a helping hand where we can is obviously a win/win: making a modest but significant contribution to the biodiversity of the world immediately around us; and with our own fitness and mental well-being perhaps benefiting along the way. What's not to like?

Finally, thank you to Jenny, Holly & Tony, Christine, Siriol, Tom, Sarah and Pete for hot of the press recent news of local village sightings as spring approaches.

Bob Topp



WI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY FOR WILLERSEY MARCH MAGAZINE

Our February meeting was a packed one with guests arriving to hear David Dunbar's talk on the historic properties of Willersey and they were not disappointed in what he had to say.

When David and his wife Linda moved to Willersey, David commented that he started to go for strolls around the village. Unlike most of us who just go for little promenades to get a breath of fresh air or to keep active, David started taking in the small details of the houses and buildings around the village, particularly those of Main Street and the nearby area,. Wanting to know why there were certain features and intrigued as to the background history of each of the buildings, he started to investigate historical photographs which led him further on to maps. So began his 'project', as he calls it.

Now with about 550 scanned photos on which to compare the past and the present and making use of the archives held by Willersey Parish Council and the Gloucestershire Archives he has been methodically detailing the buildings. It is a work in progress as he scrutinises old Ordnance Survey maps for clues. Like a true detective and with a 'cunning', organised plan he is bringing to light as much as he can about what he calls the 'core' of the village; that is the mainly historic buildings around Main Street and Church Street, up Campden Lane and along Broadway Road. One source of valuable information is our own WI submission to the WI Gloucestershire Federation of 1958.

His most valuable source and one that began his research, is being able to talk to all the residents of the various houses and interviewing people who have lived in the village for many years and who have family ties to the area. He thanked all the people who have helped him so that he can build up a very detailed picture. His documentation is slowly and painstakingly coming together. It certainly is a fantastic project and one that everyone who loves the village will have a lot to thank him for as he profiles all the historic dwellings, whether they be farm buildings like

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Ninds Farm converted to houses or pubs like The New Inn built in the 16th/17thC, cottages or mansions or a school. As he unearths more information we look forward to seeing all the details as he writes it up. It will be a fascinating read at the end of his research, filled with surprises along the way. He hopes to put all the information on the village website. Keep going David. By the end we will owe you a drink or two in our local pubs to celebrate! Thank you for a very interesting talk.

Anne Nixon



WILLERSEY WI

Coming Up in March

Next WI Meeting : will be on March 9th when Rachel Ward & Gemma Luker will give a talk on the *Sue Ryder Charity*
Non-members welcome, £5 on the door

If you would like to contribute to "Caring Hands" with a food donation please contact Sandra Spensley, 6 Willow Road, Willersey.

And if you would love to hire crockery or other items please contact Mal Jelfs on maljelfs@icloud.com

Advertising in the Willersey Church and Village News

Whatever your needs in terms of reaching the local populace remember we deliver over 650 copies to all households in Willersey, Saintbury and adjacent parts of Broadway. We only seek to cover our printing costs which makes our prices very competitive – why not try us.

Contact Alan Gittings at agittings@talk21.com or 01386 858601 /07734363670

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Paths Around Willersey Scheme

March 2026

The PAWS group has been very active behind the scenes, campaigning to establish a circular route around the village, suitable for all users. We also want to improve existing paths on this route. Although not on the circular route, we have included the Path on the B4632, from the Willersey Village Sign to the Worcestershire County Boundary in our labours. This is because it has been subject of much complaint from residents. We petitioned Gloucestershire County Highways to clear blocked drains which were causing repeated flooding to the path. We are pleased to say that despite considerable rainfall since the start of 2026, we are not aware that it has been flooded this year. A success for drain clearance!



Part of the verge at the start of the path has been damaged by a vehicle being driven on it. In previous times this area has been completely submerged. We are in contact with Gloucestershire County Highways in a bid to be allowed to maintain the verge. We will continue to monitor the state of the drains and let you know about any developments.

Gloucestershire County Highways apparently believes that the new Crossing Point on the B4632 Broadway Road, mentioned in last month's Church and Village News, PAWS article; offers a significant improvement in sightlines compared to the previous arrangement. We

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agree that it is better, however the PAWS group believes (and has received complaints from other residents), that the Crossing Point is still dangerously close to the bend. Willersey Parish Council has stated that it supports the PAWS Group in its submission of a report concerning the visibility. We are in contact with both Gloucestershire County Highways and also County Councillor Tom Bradley. We will campaign for alteration to the Crossing Point so that it is further away from the blind bend. We welcome any views from residents. Please feel free to email: willerseypaws@gmail.com.

The PAWS Group also welcomes your views on any of the Paths forming the circular route around the village. These are the paths that adjoin or run alongside the following roads: Field Lane, Collin Close, Collin Lane, the B4632 Main Street (in its entirety), and the B4632 Broadway Road back to Field Lane. As previously stated we also include the Path on the B4632 from the Willersey Village Sign to the Worcestershire County Boundary owing to the number of complaints about it.

Issues can be reported at:

Willersey Parish Council: clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org (or telephone 01386 853635).

Gloucestershire County Highways:

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>

PAWS Group: willerseypaws@gmail.com

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

Contact email: willerseypaws@gmail.com

THE APRIL 2026 NEWS

Copy for the April News must be received by Tuesday 17th March 2026 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 01386 858601 or Bill 01386 858628, Thank you.

The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

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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.cotswolds-nl.org.uk>

CNL60: I Remember Adlestrop – Tuesday 3rd March – Moderate 2.5hr 5ml

Starting in Adlestrop where once a train carrying the poet Edward Thomas stopped briefly. This brief stop inspired him to write the famous poem, I Remember Adlestrop. We then walk on to the Jacobean Manor of Chastleton House before returning through beautiful countryside. Bring a snack/drink. Refreshments are available after the walk at nearby Daylesford Organic. *Start:* 10.00am Adlestrop village hall, Moreton in Marsh. OS Map ref: SP 242 272. W3W: stretch.trouser.scorched

CNL60: An Ecclesiastical Meander from Abbey to Church – Thursday 12th March – Moderate 3hr 6ml

Starting at Winchcombe Abbey we walk across fields to the isolated gem of Charlton Abbots church, former outpost of the abbey. The return route down the delightful Sudeley valley provides extensive views over Winchcombe and beyond. Bring a snack/drink. *Start:* 10.00am Back Lane car park, Winchcombe (£1 to park all day). OS Map ref: SP 024 285. W3W: statue.harps.supposes

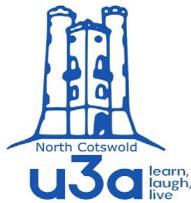
Coln Valley circular – Tuesday 17th March – Moderate 3hr 6.5ml

Bibury was described by William Morris as the most beautiful village in England. Starting our walk here we make our way to Ablington with its hidden manor house. We then re-cross the River Coln cutting through Ablington Downs, before turning on to the old Salt Way. We finish the walk with a brief call at the 12th century St Mary's church back in Bibury. Bring a snack/drink. *Start:* 10.00am Bibury, on road opposite the public toilets. OS Map ref: SP 116 067. W3W: juggles.inflation.photocopy

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.

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North Cotswold Monthly Open Meetings

April 9

David Head

Putin's Russia

May 14

Melanie King

Food of the Gods: An Adventure in Chocolate

June 11

Alan Pilbeam

Along the Banks of the Severn

Open Meetings with guest speakers are at 2.00 pm on the second Thursday of each month in Willersey Village Hall.

Why not pop in and join us. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Interested in joining, please contact Liz Reeves, Membership Secretary

Email: lizreeves17@gmail.com or Phone: 01386 430039
<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-cotswold/welcome>

March Trivia Quiz

- 1) Which two body parts continue to grow throughout your entire lifetime?
- 2) In the movie "Miracle on 34th Street", which department store hires Kris Kringle to play Santa Claus?
- 3) How many millimetres are there in 3.75 metres?
- 4) What is the largest country in Africa?
- 5) What was the name of the first female singer to achieve 30 top ten hits?
- 6) According to the song, what did Molly Malone sell on the streets of Dublin?
- 7) On what date does the Feast of Stephen fall?
- 8) What is the highest mountain in Great Britain?
- 9) What was the Luftwaffe?
- 10) What measurement is abbreviated to tsp?
- 11) Who wrote the novel "Les Miserables"?
- 12) Which solar system planet has the most moons?
- 13) What type of food is a yam?
- 14) Who designed St. Paul's Cathedral in London?
- 15) How many points is the green ball worth in snooker?
- 16) Which breed of dog played "Lassie" in the famous movie?
- 17) What was John F Kennedy's middle name?
- 18) What colour is a giraffe's tongue?
- 19) What is the capital of Latvia?
- 20) What is the largest city in the US state of Ohio?



Willersey Footlights

40th Anniversary Show

Willersey Village Hall at 7.30 pm

It is exactly **40** years since Footlights was founded and their forthcoming show will be their 25th performance.

Much to celebrate !!

It will review its' past and look to the future in its' familiar revue style comedy of sketches and music.

Opening with a special **Preview Night** Performance on:

Thursday March 26th

Friday March 27th (**nearly sold out**)

Saturday March 28th (**sold out**)

As ever, all our profits will go to charity and this year we are supporting:

PROSTATE CANCER UK and BREAST CANCER NOW

Bar available on all nights Tickets £10 (Thurs. £7) from:

Online (subject to booking fee) at:

willerseyfootlights40th.eventbrite.com

By email willerseyfootlights@gmail.com

By phone 07734363670

or At Willersey Garage

New Year's Eve Party

A very big thank you to all who came to the village hall to celebrate New Year 2026. We think you will agree an amazing time was had by all. Grateful thanks too, to all who made the event possible you are greatly appreciated.

Due to everyone's generosity we were able to send **£780 to The Salvation Army**, this year's chosen charity. Well done everyone. 🙌 *Malcolm and Sally*



Saint Peter's Church Services, March

Evensong, Tuesday 3 March at 4:00pm

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday 1 March | 10:00 am Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 8 March | 9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) |
| | 4:00 pm Prayer & Praise |
| Mothering Sunday 15 March | 11.00 am <i>All Age Worship</i> |
| Sunday 22 March | 10:00 am Morning Prayer |
| Palm Sunday 29 March | 11:00 am Palm Sunday Service |

Weekly Wednesday Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00 am.
Saint Peter's Welcome Café - every Thursday, 2 to 4:30pm

Your Church is open for you every day

Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's

Church cleaning for week ending

March 7th)

March 14th)

Annie Payne and Sue Clark

March 21st)

SPRING CLEAN

March 28th)

Rachael and Poppy Barker

Brass cleaning for March

Carolynne Adam

Refreshments for March

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| March 1 st | Gillian Beale |
| March 8 th | Linda and David Dunbar |
| March 15 th | Mothering Sunday - All Age Worship Team |
| March 22 nd | Christine and Richard Sutcliffe |
| March 29 th | All Age Worship Team |
| April 5 th | Easter Sunday Gillian Beale |

All Age Service February 15th 2026

Love and understanding two very large components within our lives and the theme for our February service taken by Mark who spoke about these in his talk. How we need to think of these very important components as we go about our lives. For the lessons we had to have a piece from Winnie the Pooh and the Bible reading all with love in their message. It was lovely to see you there and joining in the service by reading lessons, taking collection and helping to give refreshments after the service. You should come along and join us one Sunday.

St Peter's Spring Clean.

Please come and help us sweep and polish to make our church sparkle on March 21st starting at 10:00am. We have lots of comments on how clean and tidy the Church always looks so thank you in anticipation and to our monthly cleaning friends. Come and help and enjoy a bowl of soup at lunchtime. PS Dusters and polish supplied, just bring yourselves.



Willersey's Big Garden Bird Watch 2026



'The best way to enjoy nature is close to home' – David Attenborough

As ever a really big thank you to the 41 households right across the village who gave up an hour of a recent weekend to take part in this year's Willersey Garden Bird Watch. Not for the first time the weather was perhaps not the best, with some surveys showing lower numbers of birds and species than might be hoped for or seen at other times. But our modest citizen science efforts over the last five years are helping us understand how garden bird populations are changing over time.

Willersey's Birds in Numbers

- A total of 632 birds were seen.
- The greatest species number reported were wood pigeons with 89 (recorded in 88% of gardens).
- Followed by goldfinches with 72 (in 24% of gardens).
- The blue tits totalling 67 (recorded in 51% of gardens).
- Blackbirds came in 4th with 51 observed (recorded in 71% of Willersey gardens).
- Other notable sightings of birds on the list included 46 Long-tailed tits, 46 robins and 45 house sparrows.

Some of the birds not listed in the survey but landing in our gardens included 4 great spotted woodpeckers, 2 green woodpeckers, 3 blackcaps, 6 wrens, 8 pheasants, 2 redwing, 2 thrushes, 1 brambling, 2 sparrowhawks and 2 red kites.

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And yes a fair scattering of corvids, with 20 jackdaws and a few crows and rooks.

So what might we say about these numbers?

Although some individual surveys might have been disappointing, the overall numbers compare reasonably favourably with the previous four surveys; and the range of species seen - 32 this year - not dissimilar to other years, which perhaps suggests a reasonably healthy picture.

Yes, there are reasons for concern regarding coal tits where numbers have declined and starlings too, but there are notable good stories.

Collared doves, a bird that has only bred in the UK since 1955, has seen increasing numbers, and red kites and sparrowhawks did not appear at all in the first two surveys in 2022 & 2023. The survey only counts the birds that land in our gardens but general reports of large swirling flocks of goldfinches shows that they continue to do well locally.

Although our surveys only provide a snapshot, what I think we can say unequivocally is that gardens are incredibly important in helping our birds when loss of habitat, natural foods and nest sites threaten their future. Supplementary food, water features, nest boxes, trees and plants that provide shelter are key factors that many are providing.

And if our feathered friends could only 'tweet' on their mobile devices I am certain that they would be most appreciative of our combined efforts in welcoming them into our gardens.

If you would like to report local sightings to Nature Box please email

Bob Topp at bob.topp@btinternet.com

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COTSWOLD VALE EMBROIDERY GROUP

We welcomed a new member to the group and hope Marian will continue with us. Our topic this month is Memories. The idea of reproducing a memory in stitchery has been circulated to members beforehand enabling everyone to have had the opportunity to do some preparation.

There was a real buzz in the room as members shared their memories and how a picture could be created from this idea. Inspiration came from a song, a building, the sea, a walk in the countryside, a view through a window and many more thoughtful ideas

During coffee time a diary of dates for 2026 was circulated. Discussion followed as to what topics could be added to our programme.

Next month the Memories project will continue.

Tuesday March 5th Honeybourne Village Hall

9:30am to 12:30pm

For details feel free to contact Gillian on 01386852958

March Trivia Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) The nose and ears | 2) Macy's |
| 3) 3750 millimetres | 4) Algeria |
| 5) Madonna | 6) Cockles & Mussels |
| 7) December 26th | 8) Ben Nevis |
| 9) The German Air Force | 10) Teaspoon |
| 11) Victor Hugo | 12) Saturn |
| 13) A sweet potato | 14) Sir Christopher Wren |
| 15) Three (3) | 16) A Collie |
| 17) Fitzgerald | 18) Blue |
| 19) Riga | 20) Columbus |

The Quiz is on **page 10**.

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News from Willersey Parish Council

So, February has been a busy month for the Parish Council. On the 11 February, the Cotswold District Council 's Planning Committee was held in the Council Chambers in Cirencester. They were hearing the outline application from the developer **Eagle One, to build thirty homes next to Folly View**. Many of you had objected and Roger Webb, a resident of Folly View and I went to represent **you** at the meeting. We had three minutes each to put our case of objection. We had made sure that it was six minutes between us to ensure we could cover the key points. We were very ably supported by our District Councillor Tom Stowe, who in his five minutes supported the grounds for our objection and showed his knowledge of the village.

The planning committee, following discussions and questions to the planning officer, voted to approve the application. Obviously, Roger and I were disappointed, as we felt that we had put forward a good case. When the PC and residents review the official notification and the conditions put on the development, we can decide on our next steps. Thank you to all who have done so much to support the objection.

At the Parish Council meeting on Monday 16th February, Roger summed up the planning committee very well and gave an update on all the flooding and sewage issues. The PC and residents will continue to lobby Severn Trent, and others, regarding the state of our sewage system, made worse by the persistent rain. We know many of you have been affected by this and please do send any issues to our clerk so we can keep an accurate log.

We also discussed the speeding issues in the village and discussed new signage. Tom Bradley, our County Councillor, also informed us that Willersey was potentially in line for being an early adopter of the 20 mile village speed limit in Spring 2027. So, more to work through on that one. We are hoping to install a new speed camera in Broadway Road soon.

Other issues that continue to be discussed- footpaths, the new path in Broadway Rd, the halt, due to the weather, of the new playground surface in the Rec.

The PC have also been approached by Gloucestershire County Council, about developing a new Emergency Plan. This would need to cover all potential emergencies that may happen in and to the village.

More information to follow next month but we need volunteers to help us in the development of the plan, which hopefully will never need to be used.

Please do contact our Clerk with any queries or issues and our next meeting will be Monday March 16th 7pm at the Village Hall.

Jane Rintoul Chair WPC

Clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk

HONEYBOURNE COMMUNITY *coffee morning*

HONEYBOURNE VILLAGE HALL | EVERY THURSDAY 9.30 - 12




COFFEE/HOT CHOC £2
TEA £1.50


CAKE £1.50


MEET FRIENDS &
MAKE NEW FRIENDS FROM
THE WIDER COMMUNITY


BORROW A BOOK



Broadway Baby and Toddler NCT

Soon to celebrate its two year anniversary, Broadway Baby and Toddler NCT group is a friendly group welcoming all parents, grandparents and carers with their babies, toddlers and preschool children. Held on

Tuesdays 10–11.30am in the Broadway Youth and Community Centre, there are hot drinks and homemade cake for the adults, a healthy fruit and toast snack for the children, lots of toys and a craft activity. At the end we get out the song bag to choose our favourite characters for nursery rhymes.

Past crafts have included keepsake handprint Valentines cards, Christmas decorations and sponge painting poppies. We have regular pop-up sales of pre-loved children’s clothing, and seasonal visits from a photographer. On Tuesday 14th April, we will have a party to celebrate two years of the group, with extra cake of course!

Nisa Broadway recently generously donated £300 from their Making a Difference Locally (MaDL) grant scheme. Nisa had supported us since the group’s very beginning, when it was run as a small baby-only group. Their donations over the years helped to subsidise our costs and keep the group running for the community.

Run by volunteers, we have a fabulous team who bake, make the hot drinks, set up the toys and pack away each week. We’re always looking for new faces to join us - there’s no expectation to do every week or even the whole session, so if you could help us out with any part of the morning, we would be very grateful to have you!

Please follow Evesham NCT Facebook for updates
Contact coordinator.valeofevesham@nct.org.uk

WILLERSEY HISTORY SOCIETY

As many of you will know, we’ve had a couple of meetings of the Society, and the good attendances indicate a high level of interest in our village history. We aim to keep this going but badly need more people to come forward with proposals for talks or other activities. So, if you’d like to get involved, please have a word with Jane, Hazel, Mike or David at our next event (details below) or get in touch via the society email address, willerseyhistory@gmail.com.

On **Monday 30th March** Robin Woolven will give a talk on “The Cotswold Connections of George and Algernon Gissing”. The Gissing brothers were writers, George being more successful than Algernon. Algernon Gissing resided for a significant period in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Broadway and Willersey. While living in Willersey, he is believed to have occupied for at least part of the time the former cottage latterly known as Charlie Mandy’s Cottage and now demolished which stood partly in front of Chestnut House and Upper Rose Cottage on Top Green. Among Algernon’s work were many references to the local area, in particular his book “The Footpath Way in Gloucestershire” which includes a chapter devoted to Willersey. The meeting in **Willersey Village Hall** will start at **7.00pm** and the entry fee will be **£3.00**



Charlie Mandy’s Cottage partly in front of Chestnut House and Upper Rose Cottage. Photo supplied by Clive & Eileen Lockyer.

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Willersey Farmers' Market Meet your traders

Question & Answer

NAME? Chris Beddis

BUSINESS NAME ? Otilie Scrumptious Chocolate

WHEN DID YOU START YOUR BUSINESS ? May 2020

WHERE ARE YOU BASED ? South Littleton

WHAT PRODUCTS DO YOU SELL ? Chocolate Truffles , Chocolate Bars and Novelty Chocolates.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST SELLING PRODUCT AT WFM ? Chocolate Truffles

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WFM ? Friendly atmosphere ; meeting people and great stall holders.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN ? Romney Marsh , Kent.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SPORT ? Womens Football , Womens Rugby , Cricket and Olympics.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME ? Only Fools and Horses ; Victoria Wood ; (NB. I once met Ronnie Barker)

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TAKEAWAY ? Chicken Korma.

RED WINE OR WHITE WINE ? Rose'

BITTER, LAGER OR CIDER ? Cider

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SEASON OF THE YEAR ? Autumn

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT ? 1.Our 2 children 2. Starting this business.

WELL ! WE WOULD NEVER HAVE GUESSED THAT ! I worked in the Ambulance Service and was commended by the Chief Executive. I was also a Finalist in the Community Care Awards in Fortnum & Mason in 2016.



Flooding and Sewage spills in Willersey The situation at Badsey Lane Pumping station

Over the last ten years at times of heavy rain flooding and sewage spills have been regular occurrences in Willersey especially in the Colin Lane area.

As part of the Parish Councils attempts to stop more housing developments they together with local residents, have sent numerous photographs to Severn Trent and emailed their Asset Protection team to eventually get Severn Trent to acknowledge the problem. S.T. are currently doing an assessment of what action is needed to not only solve the current recurring problem, but what major expenditure is needed to upgrade Badsey Lane Pumping Station to accommodate the current applications for an extra 90 homes.

The 30 home outline planning application for Folly View has been approved with strict conditions with regard to Severn Trent's situation, hence the assessment currently in process.

The upside for the village as a result of our discussions with Severn Trent is the short term action they have taken to try to stop the Badsey Lane Pumping Station being overwhelmed causing the back up into the Village and the flooding and sewage spills. With the heavy rain we have been experiencing to help reduce what could have been a severe problem they have sited four 5000 gallon linked holding tanks above ground at the Badsey Lane Pumping Station. Two temporary pumps have been sited to pump the water from the original underground holding tanks at Badsey Lane into the four 5000 gallon tanks. The underground holding tanks are each 30 feet deep. 3000 gallon Road tankers then come two, three and more times a day to empty the four holding tanks. We estimate that up to 100,000 gallons of water/sewage has been taken away! On Friday last week as a Road Tanker was reducing the levels in the holding tanks all the underground chambers were full and water/sewage was coming out of the manhole in the road on the Badsey side of the bridge. That illustrates the size of the problem.

There is no doubt this temporary set up has eased the situation and we will keep you updated as we get more information.

Roger Webb

BREAKING NEWS.....

Literally minutes before we went to press , **Willersey Farmers Market** has announced the appointment of a Roving Reporter. Details are currently scarce , but apparently the Reporter has been tasked with keeping you informed of new WFM developments - new stall holders , new products , even quirky off-beat stories about our regular stall holders and their range of products. More will be revealed next month
Your next FM is on Sunday 15th March.



PUBLIC NOTICES March 2026

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **2nd, 16th & 30th March 2026.**

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 on 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 **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

It's 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/ 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 – 0800 783 4444

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

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

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