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## Team Rector's Letter May 2026 – 'Physiotherapy / Little and Often'

I have right-sided trochanteric bursitis which is likely due to a tight Iliotibial band ... Years of walking mean that the balance of my muscles is out of kilter. I am very good going straight but do not have corresponding strength or flexibility with lateral movements. Fortunately, through the skill and expertise of a physiotherapist I have some exercises which will mean, as long as I am diligent and careful, my discomfort will disappear in a few weeks.

This is good news as I have a sabbatical in the summer, and I am hoping to walk from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean across the Pyrenees, walk a bit more of the South West coast path and climb a few more Scottish hills ...

Physiotherapy has ancient roots and can be traced back to the Hippocrates, a Greek physician, sometimes called the 'father of medicine.' The modern discipline emerged in 19<sup>th</sup> century Sweden, but it was the two World Wars that saw physiotherapy expand significantly as therapists helped rehabilitate injured soldiers. Several times I have had cause to consult a physio – all related to sport or walking. When I have followed the prescribed exercises the ailments have disappeared.

All of this has made me think about the church's teaching which generally isn't prescriptive. Do this and you will become more patient or less selfish. Do that and you will be more joyful or less anxious. One of the satisfactions of the Lent course on prayer was by sharing different ways and techniques of praying, practicing them and then reflecting our experiences together we were able to develop our prayer lives.

The Marriage Course we have just started offers a series of exercises and reflections that enhances relationships. The exercises and practical, tried and tested, cheap and achievable – it sounds as if I'm on commission – I'm not.

There is wisdom and insight on how we can develop as disciples and deepen our faith but like a course of physiotherapy we must commit ourselves and our time. I have been learning to identify bird species over several years. It something I do regularly, a little and often, it's

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not something that develops when I neglect it. I am faithfully plodding along with the language app Duolingo – I am by no means fluent, but I am better than I was last month and much better than I was last year. This is true in all aspects of our lives our intellects, our fitness and our spirituality.

The best way to get ready for walking up hills on my sabbatical is to walk up hills. In the next few months, I need to make sure I create time to walk up hills. The same is true for my prayer life – if I want to have a more fruitful prayer life, I need to practice prayer.

Is there an aspect of your life you would like to enhance – is there an aspect of your spiritual life you would like to develop? Practice, little and often, be realistic – and with your faith if you're not sure where to start ask me or someone else who leads worship in our churches - there are a plethora of resources to help us grow.

This month may you enjoy practicing  
May you grow and become more fully alive

Every blessing  
Revd Craig Bishop

**Revd Jon Barwood**    [jonbarwood@btinternet.com](mailto:jonbarwood@btinternet.com)  
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### Why is it called 'May'

From the Latin Maius and associated with the Greek Goddess Maia, the Goddess of fertility, she was the mother of Hermes the messenger of the Gods.

'May' meaning 'perhaps' came from the Latin 'mag' via Scandinavia. – *Etymology is a fascinating subject – try it.*

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## Nature Box - ONE SWALLOW.....



We've all heard of the expression 'One swallow does not a summer make' and this April's weather has certainly been mixed. But right now it is summer migrant arrival time with chiffchaffs and blackcaps to name but two that have already been belting out their songs around the village. But for spectacle and storyline swifts, which will feature next month, and swallows are perhaps the standout migrant species.

Swallows, those forked tail beauties that build their mud nests in our barns and outhouses, and weighing only about 20 grams, have flown 9,000 kilometres, and have already begun to arrive from South Africa. Every returning swallow that we spot is something of a miracle, and may have been completing this epic annual migration to us for perhaps as long as five years. Amazingly on a good day during migration, a swallow may cover 200-300 kilometres in a day. You'd surely need a three Weetabix breakfast for that distance? Other cereals are available.

But there are far fewer swallows than was once the case. For young migrating birds mortality rates are high. Last year one pair of swallows that traditionally nest within the village lost all their chicks when they fell from the nest in the early days. Raising a family is tough. Hopefully those adults have returned and will be more successful this year.

But even for experienced birds that safely manage their migration habitat and farming changes in the UK are now far less accommodating when they arrive. There is a strong correlation between cattle numbers and swallow breeding success, so the significant reduction in cattle and insects that they attract has had a dramatic effect. Village and farm ponds that have traditionally provided access to mud have massively reduced over the last fifty years creating another breeding challenge.

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But the good news is that although reduced in number they are still a part of our summer landscape. Last year there were three adjacent farms with swallows, and four village properties where they bred. We can sometimes spot them on overhead wires as we drive around the village, whilst keeping one eye on the road of course, as I'm frequently reminded. And why wouldn't we want to see them? They have come an awfully long way to oblige.

But finally, a word of thanks from all of us to those who continue to welcome these long distance travellers and give them space to thrive here in our village.

Bob Topp



## WI Report for May

If you have ever wondered how to make sense of what happens in our own Parliament when you see clips on the news, then our speaker for April, Katy Bull, (Gill O'Donoghue's daughter) helped us understand what she referred to as the seemingly, "unintelligible mush". To the untrained eye what happens on the floor of the House of Commons must seem completely random and disjointed with bells ringing, divisions and three-line whips, but Katy gave us a fascinating insight into the ways in which discussions and decisions are made. Tradition has a way of explaining some of the conventions which we see. For example, using historical clips to help her explain the processes, Katy referred to the practice of "*bobbing*" when MPs stand up and sit down again very quickly waving papers (for what you might think there is no apparent reason) and referring to each other without using their own names. The speaker in the House of Commons tries very hard to keep order and then there is the '*Bottom Boy*'. A "*Bottom Boy*" is a traditional title for a specific staff member in the House of Commons Public Bill Office, responsible for compiling lists of amendments that remain under dispute during "parliamentary ping-pong" between

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the Commons and Lords. You can see what I mean about the terminology. You probably have to work in this environment to make complete sense of it all but now that Katy has helped us understand it much more I'm sure you will be glued to the BBC Parliament TV Channel without having to do an A level Government and Politics exam first. Enjoy, and huge thanks to Katy for her talk.

After a break for refreshments, another part of the evening was devoted to viewing the decorated teacups and saucers. Our members are very talented artists. If you remember from last month many members were given a cup, saucer and plate from our archives and challenged to decorate them. Some beautifully painted and crafted items were on display and Katy judged whose was the best. A very cute one with a tiny mouse taking a bath won her over. Congratulations go to Gay Smith. Not only did she win first prize but also came second with another winning entry too. Next month it's bras. Where will the artistic talents go next I wonder? Watch this space...

Anne Nixon

### **WI Coming Up in May**

Next WI Meeting : will be on May 11th when our locally well known speaker Richard Bradley will be giving a talk entitled "*The Lieutenancy of Gloucestershire*"

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 [maljelfs@icloud.com](mailto:maljelfs@icloud.com)



## **Paths Around Willersey Scheme May 2026**

The PAWS Group's efforts in trying to establish a circular path route around the village, which is suitable for all users, continue. As previously stated in monthly articles from the PAWS Group, published in the Church and Village News; the Group members are local residents and volunteers, who believe that some footpaths in the circular route around the village do not come up to an acceptable standard. This standard being that they should be usable by all residents, including people with mobility issues, wheelchair users and people pushing prams or pushchairs. The circular route that we are trying to establish is: Field Lane, left into the B4632 Broadway Road all the way to Main Street, the length of Main Street to its junction with Collin Lane, left into Collin Close, along Collin Close and back to Field Lane via the connecting alleyway. It also includes the stretch of Path on the B4632 from the Willersey Village Sign to the County Boundary with Worcestershire.

The Group has no statutory powers such as those possessed by the Parish Council and Gloucestershire County Highways. It does however seek to obtain improvements to the aforementioned paths by petitioning such statutory bodies. Unfortunately the Group is only able at the present time to concentrate its efforts on the stated paths. The PAWS Group also provides the residents of Willersey with monthly information updates, which are published in the Church and Village News.

The PAWS Group is still in communication with Willersey Parish Council concerning the length of path that runs in front of the Long House. This issue is under consideration by the Parish Council at the present time and featured in last month's article.

The Group is also in communication with Gloucestershire County Highways regarding:

1. The danger at the new crossing point on the B4632.
  2. An offer to maintain the verges of the footpath on the B4632 from the Willersey Village Sign to the County Boundary.
- Any Issues that you might have can be reported at:

[Type here]

**Willersey Parish Council:** [clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk) (or telephone 01386 853635).

**Gloucestershire County Highways:**

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

**PAWS Group:** [willersepaws@gmail.com](mailto:willersepaws@gmail.com)

*(Information contained in articles by the Group is believed to be accurate at the time the article is sent for inclusion in the Church and Village News).*

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

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## Does Anyone Care?

Many times it has been said how clean and litter free other countries appear.

Stepping off a plane in this country and walking to one's car in a car park, it isn't many minutes before the discarded crisp packet/empty coke can are spotted at the side of the road or on the grass verge.

We live in a beautiful part of the country - the Cotswolds, envied by many. but blighted by RUBBISH. So how much rubbish is thrown from moving vehicles. "I don't want it" or "I don't care what happens to it."

In the space of 100 metres two large bin bags were filled recently with litter from the mini roundabout to the corner along the Sainsbury Road.

At the recent football match when England played Japan at Wembley, the Japanese supporters at the end of the game, cleared their side of the stadium of rubbish. It would be nice to think the England supporters did the same, but I have my doubts.

So why do people not care?

A big plea from a long time resident. Keep Willersey beautiful. Be proud of our Best Kept Village reputation as quoted in last month's magazine.

## 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 – Batsford: A journey of Three Churches – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Moderate 3hr 5.5ml**

Starting at the Arboretum we first visit the church in Batsford before continuing on to Blockley church where we will stop for a break. Blockley church is where Father Brown is filmed. Our return route is via Bourton-on-the-Hill where we will visit their church. Please bring a snack/drink.

*Start:* 9.30am Batsford Arboretum & Garden Centre, Batsford. Please use the lower car park.

OS Map ref: SP 183 334. W3W: digs.padlock.convertor

### **Walking the Ways 2 (of 5) – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Moderate 5 to 5.5hr 9ml**

Starting in Hawling we follow the Windrush Way towards Guiting Power before joining Wardens' Way up through Guiting Wood & the Farmcote estate. At Deadmanbury Gate we rejoin the Windrush Way for our return to Hawling. Bring a snack/drink and lunch.

Subsequent walks are planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

*Start:* 10.00am Hawling Methodist Church, Hawling. Please park considerately in the village.

OS Map ref: SP 066 230. W3W: shepherds.truth.successes

### **Three Ways Round – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Moderate 3.5hr 7ml**

Join us on a walk following three named ways between Woodmancote, Woolstone and Gotherington. Please bring a snack/drink. The Apple Tree will be open after the walk.

*Start:* 10.00am Apple Tree, Stockwell Lane, Woodmancote. Please park at the far end.

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

[Type here]

### Sherbourne – A Favourite Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Moderate 5.5hr 10.5ml

A delightful walk with views & ups & downs – a favourite of the walk leader. Please bring lunch, snack & drink.

*Start:* 10.00am NT Water Meadows car park, Sherbourne, GL54 3DL.

OS Map ref: SP 175 154. W3W: outdoors.releases.warthog

### Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May to the end of September – Easy 1.5hr. Expected donation £5.00

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.

## Road Closure Notice

**Temporary Traffic Order** to close the road for carriageway resurfacing. B4632 Broadway Road and Main Street Willersey.

For approximately 9 Days (excl. weekends) between the hours of 09:30 to 15:30. The PROPOSED start and end dates are currently Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026, however, keep an eye on the web page detailed below or the signs on site for any short notice changes.

**Note: there will be significant disruption and maybe access issues, for more details go to village web site**

<http://www.willersey.org/transport.htm#car> or  
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/resurfacing/>

## General Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Neptune has eight moons, what is the name of the largest one?
- 2) When were Individual Savings Accounts (ISA's) first introduced?
- 3) What is the capital of Jordan?
- 4) Which song did Bruce Springsteen win an Oscar for?
- 5) What is the only muscle in the body that is only attached at one end?
- 6) Which dinosaur only ate plants and had spiky plates along its back?
- 7) What does Londinium mean?
- 8) What is a prime number?
- 9) In which city was Anne Frank's hiding place?
- 10) What year did Madonna release "Like a Virgin"?
- 11) Which Disney film features the song "When You Wish Upon a Star"?
- 12) What sort of shop and in which street did the Great Fire of London break out in 1666?
- 13) What was the name of the civil rights leader that Dorothy Parker left the bulk of her estate to?
- 14) What is the name of the first man to set foot on the moon?
- 15) What are the two longest rivers in the world?
- 16) How many sides does a heptagon have?
- 17) What is the largest organ in the human body?
- 18) What is the most popular sport throughout the world?
- 19) What is the largest type of deer?
- 20) Who played Andy Dufresne in "The Shawshank Redemption"?

The answers are on **page 16**

Mike R

## Cotswold Vale Embroidery Group

It was good to have Rose back with us and to know she is feeling better and will soon be back at work. A “Sit and Sew” morning gave rise to a selection of sewing projects. The display table brought back memories of completed topics with some more recent than others. Plenty of discussion arose from the varied embroidery on show.

Our next meeting is on Thursday the 7th May in Honeybourne Village Hall starting at 9:30am. Our project with Annette Emms is Mosaic Embroidery or Darning with a modern twist!!

Fascinating and therapeutic!

Details of equipment needed will be forwarded to members in the near future.

For any information concerning our group please feel free to contact Gillian on

01386 852958. We are a thriving friendly group with a wide variety of skills. Some members have been sewing for years others are relatively new to embroidery.

### April All Age Service

Our service this month was all about singing as we sung our way through the top ten hymns from Songs of Praise. We sung our hearts out. Even the reading had clashing cymbals, trumpet, harps and more instruments. This being psalm 150 read by Ian. Carolynne took the service and gave out little bits of information regarding each hymn. At the end of the service a vote was carried out to decide which was our favourite hymn from the service. The winner was “In Christ Alone”. Everyone enjoyed the service with ongoing discussions as to favourite hymns. All in all a good service. You should try it sometime. Next month our All Age Service is at 11:00 at St Peters on May 17th.



## Saint Peter's Church Services, May 2026

*Evensong, Tuesday, 5 May at 4:00pm*

<b>Sunday 3 May</b>	<b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday 10 May</b>	<b>9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)</b> <hr/> <b>4.00 pm Prayer &amp; Praise</b>
<b>Thursday 14 May</b>	<b>7:00 pm Ascension Day Service [Benefice Service at Saint Peter's, Willersey]</b>
<b>Sunday 17 May</b>	<b>All Age Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 24 May</b>	<b>11:00 am Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Sunday 31 May</b>	<b>11:00 am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Saint Peter's, Dorsington</b>

**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***

[Type here]

## Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's

### Church cleaning for week ending

May 8 <sup>th</sup> )	
May 15 <sup>th</sup> )	Flick and Lisa Marcham
May 22 <sup>nd</sup> )	
May 29 <sup>th</sup> )	Ann Embury and Gillian Beale

### Brass cleaning for May

Ann Tomblin and Janet Parker

### Refreshments for May

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rachael Barker
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Christine and Richard
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rogationtide All Age Worship Team
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Gillian Beale
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Benefice at Dorsington

The key for the Vestry can be obtained from the Bell Inn or Gillian Beale at Florizel 01386 852958. Cleaning materials next to the sink and in Vestry tall cupboard.

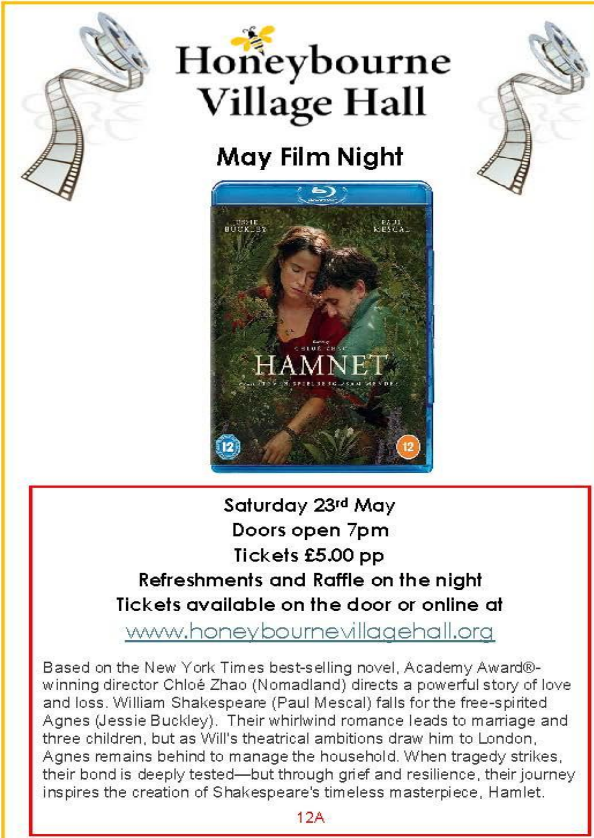
## Easter Saturday at St Peter's

After six weeks without flowers, the flower arrangers had transformed the Church for Easter with some beautiful floral arrangements. On display, Saint Peter's knitters had their knitted figures depicting Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Easter Garden.

The afternoon proved to be extremely busy with visitors enjoying refreshments and taking their chance on the Easter tombola. The gifts on the craft store were also popular. At the end of the day a grand total of £360.51 was raised for

caring hands in Evesham. Refreshments realised a total of £188 for Church funds

So many people were involved in making the afternoon of success it is impossible to single anyone out however thank you to all who made savouries and cakes, those who served drinks and to those washing up and clearing away. Thank you to the craft makers and to all supervising the stalls. Last but not least a thank you to everyone who came and supported the afternoon's event



**Honeybourne Village Hall**  
May Film Night

**HAMNET**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
Doors open 7pm  
Tickets £5.00 pp  
Refreshments and Raffle on the night  
Tickets available on the door or online at  
[www.honeybournevillagehall.org](http://www.honeybournevillagehall.org)

Based on the New York Times best-selling novel, Academy Award®-winning director Chloé Zhao (Nomadland) directs a powerful story of love and loss. William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) falls for the free-spirited Agnes (Jessie Buckley). Their whirlwind romance leads to marriage and three children, but as Will's theatrical ambitions draw him to London, Agnes remains behind to manage the household. When tragedy strikes, their bond is deeply tested—but through grief and resilience, their journey inspires the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet.

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## Recent Village Sightings –

Now before we get to this month's village sightings a few straight forward key points about the RSPB's recent advice about feeding birds in the summer months between 1<sup>st</sup> May and the end of October.

- It's still OK to continue feeding with mealworms and fat balls.
- But stop putting out seeds and peanuts during this period.
- Remember to clean feeders thoroughly each week.
- Consider avoiding the use of bird tables or flat feeders.

This advice has been given after extensive RSPB research to reduce the spread of a really nasty infection (Trichomonosis) affecting mainly finches, which has been killing large numbers of them and has been exacerbated by the infection being spread on bird feeder hotspots. In the winter months we can all return to using seeds and peanuts in feeders when natural food is scarce.

But what have we been seeing lately on our patch?

Hedgehogs have been reported from five gardens as they move around seeking a mate. It was interesting to hear on the BBC's Secret Gardens programme, now on iplayer, that females often seek out multiple partners. Also under cover of darkness reports of busy foraging wood mice and a tentative looking fox, with some of the first sightings of bats at dusk.

A couple of less common birds have shown up: a firecrest and a ring ouzel – a bird which resembles a blackbird posing as a vicar with a white collar, migrating to higher ground to breed. But no less brilliant news of nesting blackbirds and robins, a garden visiting jay and a dashing sparrowhawk, an overflying kestrel and several red kites, more daytime little owl encounters, a pheasant that seems to have moved in permanently to one

garden, the first ducklings have been guided by mum to the pond, a singing skylark – what a wonderful sound – and the first swallow of the year returned to a property on Main Street. But, hold the front page – the first calling cuckoo heard close to the village. It's quite a heady mix.

Mining bees that have chosen one person's front lawn as their residence; an early hummingbird hawk moth, and plenty of early butterfly sightings on warm days including holly blue, brimstone yellow, peacock and lots of orange tip butterflies, with just the males having those striking orange wing tips. Well, they would, wouldn't they?

But even if we don't see these creatures personally just knowing they touch base in our post code is special. "The world can just seem so much bigger when you let nature in." Nick Acheson – naturalist and nature writer.

News and recent sightings from Steve, Clive, Hugh, John & Julia, Derek, Sandy, Donald, Pat, Tini, Tony, Shirley & Mike, Sarah, Pete, Lena, Robert & Helen, Charles, Siriol, Heather, Jill & Dave, Tom, Sue & Louise and Helen W.

To report local wildlife sightings please email [bob.topp@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.topp@btinternet.com)

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## General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1) Triton                                     | 2) April 6th 1999          |
| 3) Amman                                      | 4) Streets of Philadelphia |
| 5) The Tongue                                 | 6) Stegosaurus             |
| 7) London (under the Romans)                  |                            |
| 8) Whole number only divisible by 1 or itself |                            |
| 9) Amsterdam                                  | 10) 1984                   |
| 11) Pinocchio                                 | 12) Bakery in Pudding Lane |
| 13) Martin Luther King Jr.                    |                            |
| 14) Neil Armstrong                            | 15) The Nile & The Amazon  |
| 16) Seven (7)                                 | 17) The Skin               |
| 18) Football (Soccer)                         | 19) The Moose              |
| 20) Tim Robbins                               |                            |

The Quiz is on **page 10**.



# Willersey Footlights

## The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show



Finale 'The Greatest Showman'  
....and it was also 'The Greatest Show'.

Footlights objectives are to entertain the community, raise money for charity and enjoy themselves in the process. This they achieved in all 3 categories in no small measure. Their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show understandably reminisced but came up to date and also fantasised with the future by sending 'Mr Bumble' into space. Their ubiquitous mix of song, dance and humourous sketches was delivered with great enthusiasm, colour and dare we say some talent (the producer might cross that bit out). Great credit to all the cast, not forgetting the staging, the lighting and special effects, and of course the Front of House staff covering Reception, Bar and the Raffle. Well done all.

The bottom line? It does cost to put on the show but the show made a profit of **£2002** (certainly the highest in recent years) and it will be equally shared by:

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### Prostate Cancer and Breast Cancer Now.

Finally a great thank you to all who came and it is your generosity that made the donations possible, we hope you enjoyed it.

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### WILLERSEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Peter Busby, Project Officer of Cotswold Archaeology, will be giving a talk on the **Roman Swords** recently discovered in Willersey at **7.00pm on Thursday 14 May at Willersey Village Hall**. The swords were featured in a recent episode of the TV programme Digging for Britain. The talk will be a joint event with Broadway Museum. The entrance fee is **£3.00** on the door or can be pre-booked on the Broadway Museum website. The Museum will be running a paid bar with proceeds going to support the running of the Museum.

**New event:** On **Monday 29 June** we will host a "Show & Tell" event in which all are invited to exhibit memorabilia and artefacts associated with the history of the village. The event will take place in **Willersey Village Hall**, starting at **7.00pm** and the entrance fee will be **£3.00**. Please bring along any items or records connected with the village's history and share your knowledge together with any anecdotes about them. The event will be low key with small groups moving from one exhibit to another and there will be no requirement to speak to a large audience.

If you would like to get more involved with the society, please contact Jane, Hazel, Mike or David, or email the society at [willerseyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:willerseyhistory@gmail.com)

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## St Peter's Willersey Bellringers



*The band who entered for the Newing trophy. Back row: Beccie Williams (No 4 bell), Chris Wainwright (No 3), Robert Chadburn (Captain on No 5), Peter Kavanagh (6th Tenor). Front row: Rekha Pitt (No 1 Treble), Sarah Fletcher (No 2), Lena Stranks (No 2 for raising and lowering). Photograph by Garry Murphy.*

Willersey St Peter's bell ringing team celebrate a superb second place in this year's Four Shires Newing Shield, alongside a Tower Merit Award recognising the tower's outstanding year.

A significant step up in both the standard of competition and technical difficulty, the Newing Shield result marks a major achievement. Ilmington, an elite band who have dominated in recent years, took first place — but Willersey ran them close, even surpassing them on the technically demanding “lower,” described by the judge as “exquisite.”

The Merit Award, presented by the Ringing Master to the tower achieving most over the year, reflects the strength and depth of ringing in the village. Four new ringers took part in competition for the first time in the Brazier Trophy, with special praise given to the overall quality of the tower's striking. *By Lena Stranks*

## Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and is financed by part of the council tax.

It consists of up to nine residents who either take decisions or must be consulted on most matters that affect the village. It is supported by a Clerk whose office is in the village hall. It is **not** party politically aligned.

Councillors are either elected or co-opted onto the council and the council now wishes to co-opt further members.

Duties will be to attend the monthly council meeting and help take decisions on a variety of issues including planning applications, highway matters and upkeep of the village.

The Council owns and administers the village greens, recreation ground, the village quarry, Pool Orchard and the cemetery.

In the last few years, the council has rebuilt the village hall, extended the cemetery and installed new equipment in the recreation ground. In the coming few years, due to proposed developments, it is expected to receive sums of money to be used to further improve the village for residents.

No qualifications/experience are required but Councillors should be team players and willing to participate via email, telephone and face to face on a regular basis.

Full support will be available to bring new councillors up to speed. If you would like to know more please contact the Clerk.

Kevin O'Donoghue, email: [clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk)  
tel: 01386 853635

## **THE JUNE 2026 NEWS**

Copy for the June News must be received by Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 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](mailto:willerseynews@gmail.com) or phone Alan 01386 858601 or Bill 01386 858628..The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at. [www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm](http://www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm)  
To search the Village website enter [www.willersey.org/#search](http://www.willersey.org/#search)

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## News from the Parish Council

A key part of the Parish Council's role is to consider and comment on planning applications. I think all Councillors feel that our comments have little impact on the end result but we continue to take this part of our role seriously and responsibly.

Most of the applications are about properties already in the village but at our recent meeting we consider the proposed new application for another nine properties to the land North of Folly View. The PC will object most strongly to this outline application because it adds extra strain to our infrastructure and is within the National Landscape (previously Area of Outstanding National Beauty). It also brings Willersey closer to the boundary of Broadway and goes against the nuclearisation of villages. The Council also discussed some proposals about the path by the Long House and its possible encroachment onto the Village Greens. The wish to increase accessibility is a difficult balance with maintaining the look of feel of the village and the practical considerations and we will continue to discuss this going forward. We also heard about the new speed camera on Broadway Road, installed on the left side of the road going towards Broadway just before the 40 speed limit. Initial findings suggest significant and worrying levels of speeding. There will be increased signage over the next few weeks, and we hope to see speeding coming down.

We have vacancies for Parish Councillors and are embarking on a recruitment campaign. Please see the advertisement in this magazine. Any queries please do contact our Clerk or talk to a current councillor. We look forward to welcoming you and new ideas onto the Council.

Next month our meeting is on Thursday 28 May at 7pm. This will be an Annual Parish Meeting and we ask all village based organisations to come and give the meeting a three minute overview of their organisation over the last year.

Please do email [clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willerseyparishcouncil.org.uk) to confirm your organisation's attendance.

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All residents are welcome to come along.

The Parish Council meeting will follow on after the Annual Parish meeting. Enjoy the sunshine!

*Jane Rintoul*

## WILLERSEY FARMERS' MARKET

### WILLERSEY WHISPERS

From Willersey Farmers Market's Roving Reporter  
Pickled Onions are like Marmite, you either love 'em or you hate 'em. Well if you fall in the love 'em camp then Willersey Farmers Market is just the place for you. Why? Because much-loved, ever present WFM fruit and veg stall holder Elaine is renowned for pickling her own onions. I found that Elaine's pickled onions are legendary throughout the Vale of Evesham, so I had to investigate :-

Meeting Elaine became a pickled onion masterclass. Actually, they're shallots, they're not onions at all. Elaine has her own recipes, five of them in fact, starting with the least explosive :- Tangy Pickled Shallots, to Sweetened Pickled Shallots, to Spiced Pickled Shallots, to Hot Pickled Shallots, to the Super-Charged Pickled Shallots (with chilli flakes, spices and bird's eye chillies). Apparently, the Super-Charged version is known in the Vale as Elaine's "Blow Your Socks Off" variety and comes with a health warning.

We needed an independent taster. Now one of my son-in-laws is a big, hairy, Welsh rugby playing fireman. More importantly, he's partial to a pickled onion. So was he up for the challenge? You betcha! He was up for it. Which of Elaine's 5 recipes did he go for? Yep, you guessed it in one. Son-in-law went super-charged!

Meanwhile, Elaine was pickling her onions late into the night. Growing conditions were perfect for shallots last year, so the quality has been top notch. Demand has surged and Elaine is pickling for all she's worth. Bizarrely, she always pickles with Tragic Opera booming out in the background with Verdi's Rigoletto being her favourite.

Eventually, we caught up with son-in-law who seemed to be recovering well. He gave us the old thumbs up, wiped his sweaty brow, and exhaled deeply. So we took that as a big seal of approval for Elaine's pickled onions. Fantastic news!

The question is :- are you up for the challenge?

Elaine will be at the next WFM on Sunday May 17th with her pickled onions and all her fresh, locally grown fruit and veg.

More revelations next month .....

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## Willersey Farmers Market remaining dates for 2026

May 17<sup>th</sup>      June 21<sup>st</sup>      July 19<sup>th</sup>  
August 16<sup>th</sup>      September 20<sup>th</sup>      October 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 15<sup>th</sup>      December 13<sup>th</sup>  
1:30 to 2:30pm      [Willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:Willerseyfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

### Meet your traders

Name?      **Anna Harvey**  
Business Name?      **Wayside Nurseries**  
When did you start your Business?  
**Started as Abbey Road Nurseries in 2000**  
Where are you based?      **Elmley Castle**  
What products do you sell?  
**Shrubs, Perennials, bedding, Christmas wreaths**  
What is your best selling product at WFM?  
**Complete mix of plants and shrubs**  
What do you like most about WFM?  
**The lovely community feel**  
Where were you born?      **Offenham**  
What's your favourite sport?      **Walking**  
What's your favourite film or TV programme?  
**Strictly Come Dancing**  
What's your favourite takeaway?  
**Indian**  
If you could go anywhere in the world, where?  
**Canada**  
Red or white wine?      **Red**  
Bitter, lager or cider?      **Lager shandy**  
What's your favourite season of the year?  
**Summer**  
What would you say is your greatest achievement?  
**Our four sons (two of which are twins)**

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## PUBLIC NOTICES May 2026

### MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May 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](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 [contact@willerseyhall.co.uk](mailto:contact@willerseyhall.co.uk)**  
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/](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 – 0800 783 4444

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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## Bell Ringing the Tradition

Ringing church bells started with Paulinus, Bishop of Nola and Campania who introduced bells to Christian churches in 400AD. Church bells appeared in Britain in 750AD. St Peter's current six bells (originally three) were installed in 1712. The sound of bells in a British village ringing out can have several communication messages, calling villagers to prayer, they are rung on special occasions, weddings, funerals and dedicated Peals or quarter peals.

In times gone by, in combination with sundials (solar time), bells would be rung on the hour to let villagers know, who were working the land, what the time of the day it was. Sundials were not the best method of keeping time due to seasonal variations and the tracking of the sun between the east and west coasts, there was a 30-minute difference in time. This error with the time caused a problem with the growth of the railways as accidents were frequent with trains operating on different times. This led to the introduction of railway time in 1840, aligned with local mean time for London or "London time" church clocks then could keep accurately time. It's hard to believe that the daily practice of selling time to banks in London, from a watch set against the Royal Observatory by Ruth Belville, only ended in 1943 upon her death.

Another, bell communication, was if a village was being attacked the bells would be rung in reverse rounds (6-5-4-3-2-1) the villagers on hearing this would return to the village to defend it with pitch forks, so keep your ears peeled!

We are fortunate in Willersey to be led by our experienced tower captain, Robert Chadburn, who is teaching a great number of ringers in 2026 supported by Neil Garner (The Pebworth tower captain) and Beccie Williams who is our new vice tower captain, Ringers of 2026 are: Caleb Arthey, Carys Arthey, Helen Chadburn, Sue Clegg, Sarah Fletcher, Ray Hall, Siriol Hunter, Pete Kavanagh, Anthony Lishman, Heather Lishman, Garry Murphy, Natacha Murphy, Rekha Pitt, Peter Reading, Lena Stranks, Bob Topp and Chris Wainwright.

For further information about the bells of St Peter's and Saintbury search for [willersy.org](http://willersy.org) then select St Peter's bells from the menu.

*By Peter Kavanagh*