

Vicar's Letter July 2026

'Taking time to recognise, be thankful and love'

Have you ever lost something important?

Most of us have experienced that moment of realisation when a set of keys, a purse, a phone, or something precious is no longer where we expected it to be. When that happens, we begin to search. We look carefully, retrace our steps, and pay close attention to places we might otherwise overlook. When something matters to us, we recognise when it is missing.

This simple idea lies at the heart of two of Jesus' best-known parables in Luke 15. A shepherd realises that one sheep is missing from his flock and goes in search of it. A woman notices that one coin has been lost and sweeps her whole house until she finds it. These are not grand stories about kings and armies. They are stories about ordinary people doing ordinary things. Yet they reveal something important about God.

God sees what is lost, forgotten, overlooked, or vulnerable. The shepherd and the woman refuse to accept loss as inevitable. They search carefully and rejoice when what was missing is found.

These parables also have something to teach us about our relationship with God's creation.

One of the challenges facing our world today is that we can become accustomed to loss. A field that no longer hums with insects. Fewer birds than we remember from our childhood. A stream, woodland, or coastline that is not as healthy as it once was. Often these changes happen gradually, and because they happen slowly, we stop noticing them.

Yet Scripture reminds us that creation matters deeply to God. In the opening chapter of Genesis, God looks upon creation and calls

it good. Every creature, every plant, every landscape has value not simply because it is useful to us, but because it belongs to God and forms part of the wonderful world he has made.

The parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin remind us that attentive love begins with noticing. The shepherd noticed. The woman noticed. And because they noticed, they acted.

It is often said that we protect what we love. But perhaps an even deeper truth is that we can only love what we know, and we only truly know what we take time to properly see.

That can be difficult in a culture shaped by speed, efficiency, and constant distraction. Yet Jesus' stories invite us to slow down and pay attention. Rather than becoming overwhelmed by global statistics and environmental challenges, we can begin with what is close at hand. We can notice the birds in our gardens, the flowers in the fields, the changing seasons, and the rich variety of life that surrounds us.

Taking time to properly see may seem like a small thing, but it is often the beginning of gratitude, care, and action. So this month, when you are out and about - walking the dog or just out for a summer stroll - take time to recognise, to be thankful and to love God's creation.

Jesus notices and searches, and rejoices when what is lost is found. May we become people who see too: people who delight in God's creation, care for what has been entrusted to us, and never lose sight of the value of every part of the world God has called good.

Rev Jon Barwood

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

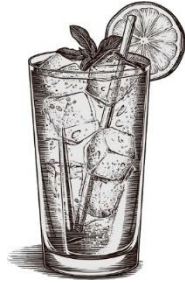
Churchwarden Robert McNeil-Wilson

The Granary, Main Street, Willersey Tel: 01386 852785 mobile
7979590826

Email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk



Parish Summer Special Hymns & Pimms



St Nicholas Church, Saintbury
6.00 pm, Saturday 15 August

A delightful summer evening of favourite hymns and fellowship in this beautiful setting.

Sing well-loved tunes, enjoy a glass or two of Pimms, spend time with friends old & new.

“We could take a walk across the fields...”
“Just look at that beautiful view!”

A convivial summer gathering for all.

*In aid of Saint Peter's Floor Appeal &
The Churches Conservation Trust*

For more information, email: rmw@unisonprojects.co.uk

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Report for June

As advertised we had no meeting or speaker for June, but we always look forward to getting together for our summer trip.

This year despite the dodgy weather, members embarked on a river trip on the Countess Bar and Restaurant in Stratford upon Avon. A 90 minute trip in sunshine. It was leisurely, relaxing and a lovely look at nature

We saw ducks with their young, geese, beautiful swans against the Theatre backdrop and a super heron stood to attention.

17 of us had a lovely cream tea in a vintage floating Barge....perfect. Followed by a cocktail, we sang a rousing rendition of Jerusalem, staff joined in and looked after us so well. What's not to enjoy.

In May, Heather gave a W.I. annual report at the Parish Council AGM.

We had a good eventful 2025 with lots of get togethers enjoying each other's company (we're a friendly bunch!) also raising money for various charities.

Members numbers are 45 and hopefully rising.

Willing bakers produced cakes for member Angela Bravington who was on duty at Malvern 'Three Counties Show' in the WI Marquee. Tea and cake always popular

Mal _____

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WI Coming Up in July

Meeting 13th July - Village hall 7.15 p.m.

Visitors Welcome - £5 at door.

Speaker: Angela Dunsby (John Moore Museum)
“Prostitution”

N.B. W.I. Coffee Morning Saturday August 1st

Village Hall 10.30 – 12.00 a.m.

In aid of ‘Caring Hands’

Any stall donations welcome -Thank you.

Caring Hands donations contact Sandra Spensley 6, Willow Road Sandra Spensley, 6 Willow Road, Willersey.

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

Paths Around Willersey - July 26



Something happened to our June article. Gremlins appear to have been hard at work! Hopefully there will be more success this month. The resurfacing work on the Main road has been completed and it looks fabulous. It is also a great deal smoother to drive along!

Well done to Gloucestershire County Highways and

the operators who completed the work.



The

Resurfacing and upgrading of the road was totally necessary. Does it detract from the aesthetic quality of the village? Of course not. We all need transportation. Going back to the old days of muddy tracks and cobbled stones is not really a viable option. In a similar way people **5**

need to be able to get about the village to enjoy life and indeed the village itself. That means all people, not just those who are able to walk or run. Those with mobility (and other issues) deserve to be able to do so as well. That is why the PAWS group is campaigning for a suitable circular footpath route around the village. It is important that footpaths are not just left as muddy tracks and cobbled stones. The PAWS Group’s point of view is that improvements and changes to the footpaths would have a very minimal impact on the look of the village, but would provide a great deal of enhancement to the lives of those people with mobility issues. People with mobility issues should not have to use the road. There are equal implications to this.

There is also considerable risk. There is substantially more traffic nowadays than there was in the past. Not only cars but large Lorries use the road through Willersey. The PAWS Group hopes that uncaring and selfish attitudes toward people with disabilities or mobility issues exist only in the minds of a few, and that the bulk of residents do not share this view. The establishment of suitable paths would not detract from the aesthetic quality of the village just as the roads don’t. The Parish Council has decided to seek the views of the Cotswold District Council’s Conservation Officer and also to check planning requirements. Let’s hope that people with mobility issues are not ‘Thrown under the bus’ in more ways than one!

The Group has continued reporting defects to Gloucestershire County Highways via the ‘Fix My Street link’; this includes weeds growing through the newly laid tarmac, on the footpath at the top end of Field Lane, on the Broadway Road.

If you have any views or issues they can be reported at:

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

Gloucestershire County Highways:

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

PAWS Group: willerseypaws@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.



Land's End to John o'Groats for a Cream Tea.

A virtual walk to help fund our church bell repair.

Oh no, I hear you say, that's miles. But with a 100 volunteers walking each day just 1.2 miles over 10 days – August 14th to Sunday 23rd – and lots have already committed, together we will have completed this iconic marathon distance, with a donated celebratory cream tea in the village hall at 3.00pm on Sunday 23rd August.

Lots of us Willersey folk are already walking this distance pretty much daily, and a 'tenner' to join in this community nonsense to raise a £1,000 to help fund the repair of the 4th bell probably isn't going to break the bank?

If you would be happy to join in this village effort to help, please chat to Maggie or Bob Topp or any of our ringers.

Willersey Wednesday Club

Willersey Wednesday Club members enjoyed a special high tea in place of the usual coach outing and were entertained by the magician, **Angus Baskerville**. He was extraordinary! His next gig is in Los Angeles but, before he performs again at the Edinburgh Festival, he will be in Willersey once more at the **New Inn** on the evening of **4 July**. His remarkable skills really need to be seen first hand to be believed.

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 – Kemerton, Beckford and Aston on Carrant – Tuesday 7th July – Moderate 3.5hr 7ml

A walk from Kemerton with a couple of churches and extensive views. Please bring a snack/drink.

Start: 9.30am Kemerton war memorial. Please park considerately in the village.

OS Map ref: SO 946 372. W3W: saturate.suspend.cornering

Walking the Ways 3 (of 5) – Tuesday 14th July – Moderate 4.5 to 5hr 8ml

This circular walk leaves Guiting Power to join the Windrush Way and walk over fields to Naunton. Bring a snack/drink and lunch. Subsequent walks are planned for 4th August & September.

Start: 10.00am Guiting Power village hall car park, Church Road, Guiting Power.

OS Map ref: SP 094 246. W3W: aimlessly.fits.snored

In the footsteps of Royalists & Parliamentarians – Monday 20th July – Moderate 3hr 5.5ml

Relive the Battle of Stow in its 380th anniversary year, on this fascinating walk. Bring a drink/snack.

Start: 10.00am Fosseway car park, A429 Stow-on-the-Wold GL54 1BX

OS Map ref: SP 191 261 W3W: garden.guideline.march

Crown of Cleeve – Wednesday 29th July – Moderate 3hr 6.5ml

From the Golf Club we climb & skirt the escarpment, enjoying superb views over Cheltenham & beyond. Our return route passes the historic 17C Postlip Hall. Bring a drink/snack.

Start: 10.00am Cleeve Hill Golf Club GL52 3PW. Park either in the golf club or the Quarry car park – Charges apply & you must pay at the machine on the side of the clubhouse.

OS Map ref: SO 989 272 W3W: provider.intricate.spots

Mickleton, Meon, Murder and Gardens – Thursday 30th July – Moderate 4.5hr 8ml

A circular walk around Meon Hill & up the escarpment to Hidcote. Bring a drink/snack & lunch.

Start: 10.00am St Lawrence Church, Mickleton. Park considerately in the village or in the church car park (donation please). OS Map ref: SP 163 435 W3W: microchip.viewer.grub

Chipping Campden Town Walk – Every Tuesday and Thursday starting from Tuesday 26th 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.

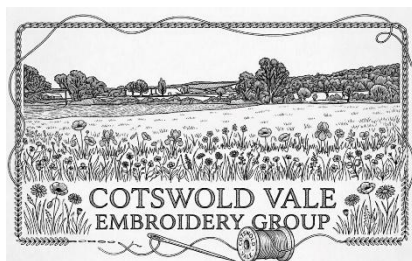
PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. We welcome guide and hearing dogs - sorry, no others.

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

General Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Which female superstar has a daughter called Blue Ivy?
- 2) What type of angle has less than 90 degrees?
- 3) In which UK city was the 1997 movie "The Full Monty" set?
- 4) Besides fingers & toes, what other human body part has unique prints?
- 5) Which African country's flag is green with one yellow star and a smiley curve beneath? a) Mauritania, b) Algeria, c) Morocco.
- 6) Which robot was CP30's partner in Star Wars?
- 7) Who was known as the Crocodile Hunter from Australia?
- 8) Which Christmas poem includes the lyrics "not a creature was stirring"?
- 9) Peter Andre used to be married to which famous model?
- 10) Which country presented the Statue of Liberty to America as a gift.
- 11) How many sides does a pentagon have?
- 12) What has the chemical symbol H₂O?
- 13) How many countries are in the continent of Africa? a) 34, b) 44, c) 54
- 14) What year did World War II end?
- 15) Before the Beatles were formed, John, Paul & George were originally members of which group?
- 16) What is the capital of Lithuania?
- 17) Which American state is known as the Garden State?
- 18) Who was the lead singer of the Supremes?
- 19) What word can refer to a country, a type of meat or three consecutive strikes in ten pin bowling?
- 20) Which two people were told to never leave the Garden of Eden

The answers are on **page 16**



This month's project was an embroidered scroll; one already completed by Gay. It was her work which inspired some of us to pursue this project. Gay first gave everyone useful tips

when starting the scroll. We were then free to prepare the strip of dried teabags (yes really!) by arranging them on bondaweb for stitching. Next month it will be time for the embroidery and fixing the scroll onto the bobbin.

Our next meeting is on Thursday July 2nd in Honeybourne Village Hall starting at 9:30am to 12:30pm. Continuation of embroidered scroll.

Our August meeting will be our outing.

For any information concerning our group please feel free to contact Gillian on 01386 852958.



From the Editors:

We were delighted to receive the **Willersey Annual Community Award** at the recent Parish Council AGM on behalf of the **Team** that bring you this magazine every month. The team includes Judith Mcneil-Wilson's invaluable contribution on the financial process, the worthy 17 distributors of most of the 675 copies and the splendid efforts of our regular contributors.

We just put it together and I guess we don't always get it right, so thanks for the tolerance on that score.

Bill and Alan



Saint Peter's Church Services, July

Evensong services at 4:00pm, first Tuesday of each month

Sunday 5 July	10:00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 12 July	9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 4 pm Prayer & Praise
Sunday 19 July	All Age Worship
Sunday 26 July	10:00 am Morning Prayer

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

Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's

Church cleaning for week ending

July 4th)
 July 11th) Ann Embury and Gillian Beale
 July 18th)
 July 25th) Annie Payne and Sue Clark

Brass cleaning for July

Pat and Sally Heming

The key for the Vestry, where there are cleaning materials can be obtained from the Bell Inn or Gillian Beale at Florizel 01386 852958. Please let me know if we are running out of cleaning materials. Thank you once again for sparing time to keep our Church looking clean and well cared for.

Refreshments for July

July 5 th	Gillian Bealer
July 12 th	Rachael Barker
July 19 th	All Age Worship Team
July 26 th	Christine and Richard Sutcliffe
August 2 nd	Adine and Liz Webb

Please let me know if you are unable to help on the date set.

Gillian 01386852958



Agnieszka

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References available on request

☎ 07933 309 431

✉ agnieszka.jen1972@gmail.com

TOWER TOUR OPEN MORNING AT ST PETER'S

Bank Holiday Monday Morning, August 31st 2026, from 10am

See the bells inside the tower.

Find out what goes on upstairs when the bells ring out over the village.

Learn a little about our wonderful tradition of English Change Ringing.

Have a go at ringing a bell.

Meet our friendly band of bellringers.

Spaces are limited, so pre-booking is essential. For more details, and to reserve your FREE one-hour tower and ringing experience, call or message Robert Chadburn (on WhatsApp) on 07805 892086, email him at rchadburn1@gmail.com, or leave your name and a contact number with Sue or Lou at the Bell Inn and he will get in touch with you.

"I had no idea it was anything like that!"

"It's so much more complicated than I ever imagined"

"Great fun and interesting too"

There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Bell 4 Restoration Appeal.

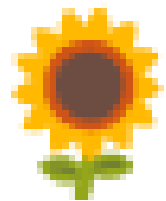
One Big Garden Thank You.

Even with the threat of rain four volunteers turned up for the community garden tidy.

Everyone worked really hard, great job

Angela, Sandra, Mal and Sue. We rewarded ourselves with coffee cake and a cup of tea, and plenty of chat, what could be better?

My thanks, Jackie.



Recent Village Sightings



Just lots to report, but let's begin with some of the little guys.

A shared photograph of a stunningly beautiful privet hawk moth, which has a wing span of about 4 inches in old money, and although not especially rare, is the largest UK resident moth – and it's here. Reports too of mating red damsel flies, more sightings of a cinnabar moth and hummingbird hawk moths. Early June can often be a quiet time for butterflies before numbers increase in July; but the attractive painted lady butterflies that migrate to the UK have frequently been seen, with this looking to be a bumper year.

For those keeping an eye out and really enjoying seeing swifts over Main Street it is worth saying that this can often be weather dependent. Blue tit chicks in the nest, for example, need a feed at least every four hours to survive; whereas swift chicks can be left for up to 4 days. Parent swifts will travel many hundreds of miles, maybe even popping across the channel, if food is in short supply locally or the weather inclement, before arriving back with fresh supplies. A recently reported casual stroll down Main Street was celebrated by seeing swallows, swifts and even house martins, which are now nesting in three Badsey lane properties. An absolute delight, although the following evening it seemed deserted!

It has been heartening to learn that the RSPB has been working alongside Open Reach to install swift nest boxes to existing properties with their cherry pickers; and with builders Barrat Redrow in a similar fashion with integrated nest boxes on thousands of new builds across the country.

The black chipolata telltale calling card of garden visiting hedgehogs have been seen in quite a few more gardens, with crunchy shop bought hedgehog food markedly improving the chance of a visit and them increasing their range. They typically have their young in June and July, with 'hoglets' venturing out after another four weeks.

One report of a green woodpecker, and another of a garden visiting greater spotted woodpecker with two young in tow – a special moment.

Also nest box house sparrows on a second brood, a recently fledged starling, and sadly news of a young dead badger, possibly succumbing to the very hot weather period with water and worms hard to find. The demise of a wood pigeon signalled by a pile of feathers and probably predated by a sparrowhawk; evidence of a garden visiting badger with some unrequested lawn 'aerating'; a garden visiting grass snake, a young swallow flying off after getting a second wind; a baby thrush with guiding parents and a charming photograph of a frog keeping cool in a bird bath. Wish I'd thought of that.

Great news and sightings from Sue & Alan, Peter & Andrea, Ian, Penny, Sandy, Debbie, Christine, Pete & Gi, Sarah, Derek & Helen, Sandy, Heather & Ian, Andrea & Mark, Christine, Natasha, Julia & John, Robert & Helen, Derek & Marion, Sue & Paul, Linda & Jim, Cathy and Mike & Shirley. Thank you.

If you would like to share wildlife sightings please message.

bob.topp@btinternet.com

General Knowledge Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Beyonce | 2) Acute | 3) Sheffield |
| 4) The Tongue | 5) a) Mauritania | 6) R2D2 |
| 7) Steve Irwin | 8) Twas the Night before Christmas | |
| 9) Katie Price | 10) France | 11) Five |
| 12) Water | 13) c) 54 | 14) 1945 |
| 15) The Quarrymen | 16) Vilnius | 17) New Jersey |
| 18) Diana Ross | 19) Turkey | 20) Adam and Eve |

The Quiz is on page 10.

Nature Box – Nightingales

On popping in to buy some produce from the local Nightingale Orchard farm shop, and being aware that newer properties often adopt the name of the very species their development has perhaps crowded out, I asked the owner, rather cheekily, when was the last time he'd seen or heard a nightingale. "Why this morning," he said. "Really", I replied somewhat astonished. 'Why yes', he said, my wife - Joanne Nightingale. Lesson learnt!

Several years ago we were lucky enough to spend two nights in a woodland tree house. The early April trip was specifically timed to hopefully hear the first arriving nightingales. We were not disappointed.

Knepp estate in West Sussex has become a hotspot for nightingales, once a far more common migrant. Night time it turns out is the best time to hear them, and high up in the canopy with the tree house gently swaying added to the experience. Males are first to arrive back with their beautiful repertoire of song to lure in a female to the scrubby understory that provides ideal nesting territory - safe from cats and foxes. There's nothing quite like hearing them in the dead of night with their glorious sound travelling better with no competition from other noises.

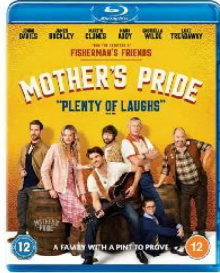
But in centuries past living alongside bird song of all description - and unaffected by the noise of modern life - would have been a very different and meaningful experience. Interestingly, recent research has uncovered just how many communities have a bird's name as part of the place name. It turns out, perhaps surprisingly, that the crane, a bird that was once common and is only just returning to breed in England, is linked to more place names than any other bird – Cranfield, Cranbourne, Cranford, it's a long list. Another bird, the swallow, associated with the end of probably a challenging winter in centuries past and heralding the warmth of summer, features in many place names such as Swallowfield near Reading.

But today it seems that perhaps all of us are far less aware of the natural world around us. It is interesting to look back on one aspect of the Covid lockdown when a quiet settled over much of the land. People often commented on how loud the birds were singing. Of course the difference was that they were not being drowned out by the seemingly constant noise of modern life. **Bob Topp** **17**

WILLERSEY HISTORY SOCIETY

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 have nothing to show you will be very welcome to come along and learn about the exhibits.

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



Honeybourne Village Hall

July Film Night

Saturday 18th July
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £5.00 pp
Refreshments and Raffle on the night
Tickets available on the door or online at
www.honeybournevillagehall.org

From the team behind 'Finding Your Feet' and 'Fisherman's Friends' comes Mother's Pride, a story about the Harley family who after losing their matriarch, must come together to save their pub and village through the art of beer-brewing.

12A

Bell Ringing the Tradition

Ringling 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 then select St Peter's bells from the menu.

By Peter Kavanagh

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
tel: 01386 853635

News from the Parish Council

The Parish Council have met twice since I last wrote in the magazine.

On the 28 th May we had our Annual Parish meeting, with an attached Parish Council meeting and then on 15 June we had our June Meeting.

In May we were delighted to present Alan Gittings and Bill Jabelman with the Annual Community Award, in recognition of their work on the “Willersey with Saintbury Church and Village News”. They accepted the award on behalf of the team that contribute to the magazine including the delivery team. Thank you to all who contribute toward keeping us in the know.

Many of the topics at the Parish Council come up regularly. Some are beyond our control and decisions are made elsewhere, such as planning. Others are frequently discussed as they are complex and involve a number of different factors to resolve. We also need to have a view on ongoing issues, such as village upkeep.

A planning issue came to the top of the list between meetings, as we were informed that the application for sixty homes on the B4632, the site known as Terrafy, was to be heard at by Cotswold District Council’s planning committee. This application for development has been around for sometime and was identified for development when the Local Plan was adopted in 2018. However, the issues regarding the village’s infrastructure, particularly sewage and the exact location of the site, on the busy bend, meant that the PC had objected. The Clerk of our council represented the PC. Alistair McGrigor, a resident from Folly View, spoke of the sewage issues and our District Councillors, Gina Bloomfield and Tom Stowe spoke against the development. The decision of the meeting was to defer the application for the traffic situation to be reviewed and that no development should commence before Severn Trent had submitted their plans for how they are going to deal with sewage situation. Thank you and Well Done to our representatives for putting forward such a good case.

At the May meeting we also discussed the use of the recreation ground for a neighbouring football team. The PC voted to not allow the use for matches and training due to past parking problems by the rec. However, we discussed this again at the June meeting, as new evidence and solutions have been shared. Due to Local Government rules, the PC is not able to make a U turn on a decision immediately but we will vote on the new evidence and motion next month.

The PC continues to consider options for developing improved pathways in the village. Following discussions with others, we will present a plan to villagers for their views in the near future.

The PC continue to hear from Councillor Peter Cottle who oversees the two speed cameras in the village. The new one in Broadway does appear to be catching less speeding but the numbers and speeds of those who continue to do so remains too high.

Enjoy the long summer days.

Jane Rintoul

Chair of the Parish Council.

Credit where credit's due

We all have cause to moan about our local authorities from time to time, so it's nice to be able to offer a word of praise to Gloucestershire County Council following the resurfacing of Broadway Road and the top half of Main Street. The water leak was unfortunate, but at least the offending section of pipework has been replaced along with three new valves. I admit to being perplexed why the resurfacing didn't continue down Main Street to The Pike, but let's enjoy our nice new section of road before someone comes along and starts digging it up!

David Dunbar



Willersey Farmers Market

Q & A

meet

Archie Clare

Name?	Archie Clare
Business Name?	Eadles Butchers
When did you start your business?	1975
Where are you based?	Oxford
What products do you sell?	Free Range Meats
What is your best selling product at WFM?	Sausages
What do you like most about WFM?	Friendly people (and free coffee)
Where were you born (optional)?	Oxford
What's your favourite sport?	Formula 1
What's your favourite film or TV programme?	River Monsters
What's your favourite takeaway?	Meaty pizza
If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?	Monaco
Red wine or white wine?	Neither
Bitter, lager or cider?	Lager
What's your favourite season of the year?	Spring
What would you say is your greatest achievement?	Getting my Geography Degree from Oxford Brookes University
Did you have a nickname at school (optional)?	Absolute Legend!
Well! We would never have guessed that!	

(something funny or offbeat about you.
The more bizarre the better.
Or it could be a funny occurrence at WFM).

I recently fell into the Grand Union Canal at Blisworth near Milton Keynes

Next Farmer's Market

Sunday 19th July

Be There!

THE AUGUST 2026 NEWS

Copy for the August News must be received by Friday 17th July 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..The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at: www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm
To search the Village website enter www.willersey.org/#search

To advertise in the magazine please contact Alan on above number or email agittings@talk21.com

WILLERSEY WHISPERS

From Willersey Farmers Market's Roving Reporter

Who watches Countryfile ? It wouldn't be Sunday without Countryfile would it. So, who's your favourite Countryfile presenter? I suspect many of us would say Cotswolds own Adam Henson. Did you know that he used to play rugby for Stow on the Wold ? Very popular bloke is Adam. Always stood his round at the bar after the match. No airs or graces, no showbiz glitz. Good old Adam !

Where's this going you ask ? Well, sadly WFM has been made aware of less than flattering film footage of Adam. Footage that he might not want you to see.

WFM " Honey Man " Martyn keeps many of his bees on Adam's farm. Many of you will know that Martyn featured on Countryfile a few months ago. Wickhamford resident Martyn was seen moving more of his beehives to Adam's farm and Adam was "helping ". As they moved one hive from the back of Martyn's van, the lid of the hive was knocked off and bees escaped. Martyn, the true professional, dealt with it but was stung multiple times. Adam on the other hand made a quick exit as he disappeared into a cloud of dust.

Now this was all filmed and WFM has access to the film but, obviously, neither Martyn nor WFM organisers are the type of people who would embarrass Adam by making this film public. Merry May Honey is one of the most popular stands at WFM and we're lucky to have such an excellent, very local product. Soaps, lip balms, candles and, of course, honey are always on offer. Regular buyers come back every month and Martyn has become a friend to many customers.

A number of Willersey residents have also been on Martyn's Beekeeping Experience Days - a relaxed and informative 3 hour introduction to beekeeping and candle making. It's a fun way to spend an afternoon, tea is included, and customers always leave buzzing.

This month the Church celebrated Father's Day giving thanks for the love and help they give us whether as a father, grandparent or a mentor. We wanted to give our thanks. Carolynne took the service and for her talk she chose the story of Jairus and his daughter. Her father was a leader at the synagogue so might have seen Jesus on his visits when his daughter was taken ill. He wanted to find Jesus to ask if he would come to his daughter. He pleaded with him to come and heal her. Jesus was delayed by an ill lady who had launched touched his cloak. Jairus was anxious and messengers appeared with news he didn't want to hear "Your daughter is dead", do not bother but Jesus carried on reassuring Jairus his daughter was asleep. Jairus trusted Jesus and he could help. He was only doing what many fathers would do for their daughters. Occasionally extra help is needed for families but this story tells us Jairus was sure Jesus could so he waited patiently for his help to be given.

During the service members of the congregation had been asked to bring a memory of their father. These were displayed on a table and during the service we shared these memories. Thank you for bringing them to the service and sharing them. As always there are people who help in this service so firstly thank you to Carolynne for guiding us and then Gillian, Pat and Robert. Thank you to all. If you would like to read a lesson or take a prayer we would love to hear from you either Gillian or Jennie.

July

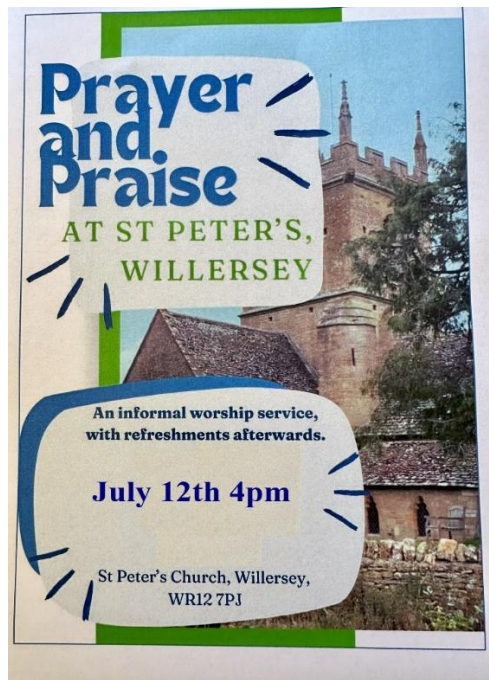
Originally the 5th month of the year and called Quintilis then along came Julius Caesar, he added 2 months to the calendar and surprise, surprise, named one after himself.

Big month for celebrating

In Canada - Canada Day (1st)

In USA - Independence Day (4th)

In France - Bastille Day (14th)



PUBLIC NOTICES JULY 2026

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **6th and 20th July 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.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 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 at Broadway Co-Op.

BROADWAY SURGERY is in Station Road WR12 7DE

It's telephone numbers are 01386 853651 and 01386 858136.

NEED TO TALK? The Samaritans - Call 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

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