

Vicar's Letter September 2026

Vicar's Letter September 2026 – 'Twenty-Five Years On: Remembering 9/11'

Twenty-six years ago, a friend and I spent a few days in New York City. I was excited at the thought of seeing in person many places I'd seen in the movies – Greenwich Village Arch, Central Park, the Rockefeller Center and Grand Central Station, to name a few.

The place I most wanted to visit was the Empire State Building, and I can still remember clearly its Art Deco lobby with its opulent shiny marble and gold leaf, the elevator ride to the top, and stepping outside to the awesome city landscape, with the view of Central Park leading down to the Twin Towers in the distance.

The city's outline - with its ordered blocks encompassing the clear rectangle of Central Park - gave it a sense of order and permanence. It seemed that the city would forever be the unspoilt movie set of my youth, with the top of the Empire State Building being where Tom Hanks met Meg Ryan in *Sleepless in Seattle* and Superman did battle with General Zod!

However, just one year on, the Twin Towers would be no more, and the western world would never be the same. I shudder now when I recall my friend and I walking past the towers, and my casual remark that, at the angle the sun was reflecting off them, it was almost like they weren't there!

We're twenty-five years on now from the 9/11 terror attacks, but the images remain etched in our brains: aircraft striking the towers of the World Trade Center, smoke rising over New York, the Pentagon in flames, and the field in Pennsylvania where Flight 93 came down. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives that day, and countless others have carried grief, trauma and loss ever since.

A quarter of a century is a long time. For some, 9/11 is now part of history. For others, particularly those who lost family, friends or colleagues, it remains an ever-present wound. As Christians, remembering such an event calls us not simply to look backwards, but

to ask where God is to be found in the face of human suffering and evil.

The Christian faith does not give us an easy explanation for tragedy. Jesus knew what it was to live in a world marked by violence, injustice and death, and scripture does not pretend that evil is anything other than evil. The Christian response to suffering is therefore not to offer glib answers, but to draw near to those who suffer.

Twenty-five years on, we remember the victims: people of different nationalities, faiths and backgrounds who simply went to work, boarded a plane or went about their ordinary lives. We remember the emergency workers who ran towards danger while others were running away, those who survived but whose lives were changed forever, and the families who have lived with an empty chair at the table ever since.

We also remember that terrible events can bring out both the worst, but also the best in humanity. The attacks revealed the capacity of human beings for hatred and destruction. Yet the days that followed also witnessed extraordinary courage, generosity, compassion and self-sacrifice.

Christians believe that every human being is made in the image of God, and that violence which treats human life as disposable is a profound denial of that truth. We also believe that death does not have the final word. We may not understand why such terrible things happen, but we proclaim a God who does not abandon his children in their darkest hour. And at the heart of our faith stands Christ: the one who enters into human suffering and overcomes death with life.

As we mark twenty-five years since 9/11, may we remember with compassion, mourn with those who mourn, give thanks for courage and sacrifice, and commit ourselves again to being people of peace.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," Jesus said, "for they shall be called children of God." May that calling be ours.

Revd Jon Barwood

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WI REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

On Saturday August 1st our members were hard at work in the village hall organising and running a coffee morning in aid of 'Caring Hands'. 'Caring Hands in the Vale' was founded in 2003 and aims to help those in need in the Vale of Evesham. It was lovely to see so many people come to support us, including young children with their parents, who enjoyed blackcurrant cordial and cakes. There were lots of prizes to be won in the raffle and a grand total of £770 was raised. We would like to thank everyone who supported us and President Mal also thanked her members who worked tirelessly to make it a success.

On Monday evening twenty-four members met on the village green for our annual 'Picnic on the Green'. The 'green' was 'not green' at all; more like straw after four heatwaves so far this summer. To the sound of popping corks, we enjoyed chatting and catching up. It was a very hot evening. So much so that, holding one fan, and with another around her neck, Tricia tried to avoid the bright sunlight by placing two large umbrellas one over her head and another over her knees which made us all smile. Our only disappointment was that the 'young' farmers who in the past have come down the road in tractors and trailers were nowhere to be seen. However, a group of bikers rode along Main Street and waved at us all so that partly made up for it. I'm sure so many ladies all sitting in a large circle looks a little strange but I can assure you we were not up to anything anti-social! It was lucky that we chose the Monday evening. If we had got together on the Tuesday we might have been soaked with rain. Rain did I hear you say? Is that the stuff that comes down from the sky? Amazing. *Anne Nixon*

WI COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

The next WI meeting for members is on Monday 14th September in the village hall. The speaker for the evening is Jack Boskett 'The Royals Photographer'. Guests welcome on the door £5.00

Donations for 'Caring Hands' welcome and if you would like to buy cards Jackie Jordan will have them available to support 'Cobalt'.

WI Crockery and cutlery available to hire. Please contact Mal Jelfs

maljelfs@icloud.com



Paths Around Willersey Scheme September 2026

The PAWS Group was in contact with the Chipping Campden Bulletin and had an inaugural article published in their August copy. The Bulletin covers not only Chipping Campden but

also surrounding Gloucestershire villages including Willersey. We have received great support from the Willersey Church and Village News over the last two years and hope this will continue. We mentioned the proposed publication to the team at the Church and Village News and they were supportive of the plan to extend publishing to the Chipping Campden Bulletin. Hopefully we will now publish monthly articles in both magazines. Congratulations are also extended to the team at the Church and Village News for winning the Willersey Annual Community Award. They do an excellent job – well done.

The hot dry weather has taken a toll on the Village Greens and the Long House Path is presently in a very sorry state. It is not very suitable for able bodied people let alone people with mobility issues, or in wheelchairs!



The PAWS group has is the past voluntarily carried out maintenance of footpaths overgrown by turf. The Parish Council has subsequently stated that should anyone consider that maintenance of any footpath under their responsibility is necessary (in addition to the regular cutting of grass), it should be reported to them for consideration. The PAWS Group **encourages** all residents to do this, at the Willersey Parish Council email address below, or by reporting it to the PAWS Group at their email address and it will be forwarded to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council are currently researching the topics of the Long House Path (which is in dire need of improvement let alone maintenance) and the Village Green by the Methodist Church (including the step by White House Farm), in regard to the provision of new paths which would be adjacent to the road.

The PAWS group has continued to report road and path defects to Gloucestershire County Highways using the 'fix my street portal' (see below link) and has had success with the Highways Authority carrying out repairs.



If you have any views or issues on Village footpaths 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.

It Happened in September **1666**

The Great Fire of London began in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane and raged on for five days. The fire destroyed 13,200 houses, 87 parish churches, The Royal Exchange, Guildhall, and St Paul's Cathedral, and nine people died.



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: Guiting Power: a flourishing village or a chocolate box village? Tuesday 1st September – Moderate 3hr 6ml

The route follows the River Windrush to Naunton & then returns via Barton. Bring a drink/snack.

Start: 9.30am Guiting Power village hall car park.

OS Map ref: SP 095 247. W3W: cotton.fattening.launch

Walking the Ways 5 (of 5) – Tuesday 15th September – Moderate 5 to 5.5hr 9ml

On this final leg we go to Lower Slaughter on the Windrush Way before returning to Bourton using the Warden's Way. We then head off towards Wyke Rissington & return via Rissington Mill & several lakes. Bring a snack/drink & lunch.

Start: 10.00am British Legion Hall car park, Bourton-on-the-Water (£3.00 all day – cash only).

OS Map ref: SP 165 208. W3W: tuxedos.dissolves.crowds

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.

[Type here]

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

COTSWOLD VALE EMBROIDERY GROUP

Our August outing to the craft shop Harry and Floss in Alcester proved very successful. We were made very welcome by Laura the new owner of this shop. Downstairs is an Aladdin's cave of wool in every colour and shade you could ever dream of. Upstairs is a haven of fabric and everywhere are examples of crafts tempting one to have a go.

Definitely a reason to return for more retail therapy. We enjoyed refreshments upstairs but then it was time to move on to Hillers Farm Shop for an enjoyable lunch. Browsing the gift shop and farm shop concluded a most pleasant get together with members of the group. For anyone interested Laura runs Craft Workshops Follow her on Instagram [harryandfloss](#) the shop email is harryandflossalcester@gmail.com

Our next meeting is on Thursday September the third 9:30 to 12:30 PM
Honeyborne Village Hall
Project Sashiko A Japanese form of embroidery
Refreshments available from the Village Hall Community cafe

Alphabetical Capital Quiz

Please name the Capital Cities of these 20 countries.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) Armenia | 2) Bolivia | 3) Costa Rica |
| 4) Dominica | 5) Estonia | 6) Fiji |
| 7) Gambia | 8) Honduras | 9) Indonesia |
| 10) Jordan | 11) Kosovo | 12) Liberia |
| 13) Mongolia | 14) Nicaragua | 15) Paraguay |
| 16) Rwanda | 17) Slovakia | 18) Tanzania |
| 19) Uganda | 20) Zambia | |

The answers are on **page16**

POW - Prayer Over Willersey

I would like to invite you to join me in a new venture to introduce an online prayer group to Willersey. It will take a few weeks to get running. At the moment I am looking for people to join me in a Whatsapp group. If you're not familiar with this a Whatsapp group is where you can text a message to the group and everyone receives it. This means that a prayer can be put online and everyone will see it. You are just required to check into the site and pray for anyone who's requested our prayers. If you think this is a ministry that would interest you, please will you let me know. All I need is your mobile phone number. I'm afraid that this moment this group can only be available to anyone who has a smartphone. This is only available to people over 18. My email number is carolynadam24@gmail.com Thank you for reading this.

All Age Worship Sunday the 16th of August

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. This was the sentence on the front of our service sheet for August. Our theme was Hospitality so hymns and readings followed this theme with readings from Wind in the Willows showing Mister Badger's kindness to Ruby and Mole. Ian read from Genesis the story of Abraham and his visitors who he fed and watered to show his hospitality.

Our prayers were written by members of the congregation.

Caroline's talk followed and she had looked at Bedouin tents as Abraham would have lived in. It all looked very comfortable so thus would have been where he showed his hospitality to the strangers as was the custom but no instant meals in in those it would not have been a 5 minute job with all the preparation. In our congregation this Sunday we had visitors from America and it was their 25th wedding anniversary So we were able to show our hospitality to them after the service. Our next service is Harvest Festival. It would be lovely to see you there. This service will be followed by a Harvest Lunch. Lookout for the posters 11:00 at St Peters on the 20th of September. _____



Garden Rescue

Sitting here writing this I have my fingers firmly crossed for RAIN. No doubt by the time of our garden volunteer day comes around it will raining cats and dogs!

Please can we go for Saturday 5th Sept at 10am - weather permitting.

The Village Garden along with many more has suffered and is looking very sorry for itself. Let's hope that it can be rescued. I was feeling a little sad about it but then it's only plants which can be replaced unlike all the property that people have lost and the dreadful devastation for farmers.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped in anyway, I look forward to seeing you on the 5th Sept. We may have to rethink The Garden if this is going to be the norm.



Saint Peter's Church Services, September

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

Sunday 6 September Trinity 14	10:00 am Morning Prayer ML
Sunday 13 September Trinity 15	9:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 20 September Trinity 16	11:00am All Age Worship Harvest Festival
Sunday 27 September Trinity 17	10:00 am Morning Prayer ML
Sunday 2 October Trinity 18	10:00 am Morning Prayer ML

Weekly Wednesday Holy Communion (BCP) 11:00 am.

Saint Peter's Welcome Café - every Thursday, 2 to 4:30pm

September Cleaning Rota for Saint Peter's

Church cleaning for week ending

September 5th)

September 12th) Julia and Colin Burrows

September 19th)

September 26th) Ann Embury and Gillian Beale

Brass cleaning for September

Ann Tomblin and Janet Parker

Refreshments for Sevicees in September

September 5th Pat and Robert Heming
September 13th Linda and David Dunbar
September 20th All Age Worship Team – Harvest Lunch
September 27th Christine and Richard Sutcliffe
October 4th Rachael Barker

If the date is not convenient for you, please let me know.

Thank you Gillian 01386 852958.

As autumn approaches, another plea for more helpers to keep our Church looking clean and tidy. Can you spare an hour or two occasionally to sweep, dust and polish?

Please get in touch with Gillian on 01386 852958

Note: Now the Bell has closed the keys can be obtained from Richard Sutcliffe – email rghsutcliffe@aol.com



Agnes

SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR HOME WITH:

- Personal Care
- Companionship & Support
- Shopping
- Insured & CRB checked
- Full UK driving Licence

References available on request

☎ 07933 309 431

✉ agnieszka.jen1972@gmail.com



Honeybourne Village Hall

Sept Film Night



Saturday 26th Sept
Doors open 7pm
Tickets £5.00 pp
Refreshments and Raffle on the night
Tickets available on the door or online at
www.honeybournevillagehall.org

Nearly two decades after the original film, *The Devil Wears Prada 2* explores the modern fashion and media world. **Miranda Priestly** (Meryl Streep) is at the tail end of her career, facing the challenges of a declining print industry and the rise of digital media. She must contend with **Emily Charlton** (Emily Blunt), her former assistant, who has become a high-powered executive controlling advertising dollars crucial to Runway's survival. **Andy Sachs** (Anne Hathaway) returns to Runway as the **Features Editor**, re-entering the high-pressure fashion environment to help Miranda navigate a scandal threatening the magazine.

12A

FUNDRAISING FOR THE REPAIR OF BELL FOUR ST PETER'S CHURCH WILLERSEY

You may have heard that we managed to break our 3rd largest bell in the church tower some months ago and we have been busy raising funds to go towards the cost of repair. We have had a small number of large, individual, donations from Willersey residents for which we are very very grateful. A big thank you to James Dunkley of Willersey Provisions for a very significant donation. With other activities like a World Cup sweepstake and virtual Lands End to John O'Groats walk this August, we have raised just over £3,000. Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far.

The process of removing the bell and effecting its repair is a real challenge of engineering particularly as St Peter's Church dates back to the 12th century and is a listed building. It has ornate stonework, some of which will have to be removed before the bell can be taken out and made good and once it has been repaired it will need to be put back in its place.

We are focusing our efforts on raising another £10,000 for now as we don't really know the true cost of the repair. We have a number of exciting future events and activities planned:

Village Treasure Hunt 26th September

A treasure hunt around the village for all the family. An opportunity to explore the village and learn interesting facts and history of the village. It's £15 per team to enter (every penny goes to the repair fund) and you can reserve your place by emailing Sirriol at: sirrioljh@gmail.com

Sponsored Dedicated Ring 3rd October

The ringers will be taking part in a sponsored ring, we will be dedicating peels, on your behalf, to loved-ones for significant birthdays, anniversaries and in memoriam, for a small donation. To secure your dedication email Robert: rchadburn1@gmail.com

Curry Night in the Village Hall 10th October

Sheila Pitt and helpers will be preparing a range of homemade South East Asian curries. The feast will start at 7.00pm, Beer, Wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase. **15**

Tickets available from Heather at:
Heatherlishman70@gmail.com

Cheltenham 10K sponsored run 22nd November

If you are interested in joining a small group of runners who are taking on the Cheltenham 10K race on the 22nd November and raise some sponsorship for bell four, then please email Heather, at the email heatherlishman70@gmail.com and she will provide you with all the details and a sponsorship form.

Like and follow our facebook page Fundraising for Bell 4 St Peters Church Willersey.

We have a JustGiving page or call Anthony on 07595 348506 to enquire about any of the above.

He whose vision cannot cover
History's three thousand years,
Must in outer darkness hover,
Live within the day's frontiers.

Goethe, Westostlicher Diwan

St Peter's Autumn Clean

It's that time of year again
Saturday October the 17th from 10:00 AM
lunch of soup cheese and fruit
to follow your hard work
Polish dusters and maps provided
Please come and join the working party

Recent Village Sightings -



Sightings and wildlife news aplenty from Rupert, Percy and Ernie, Helen, Rosalind & Chris, Daniel, Jenny, Sandy, Debbie, Sue, Bill & Annie, Sarah, Cathy, Roberta, Siriol & Steve, Sue, Shirley & Mike, Jenni, Christine, Pete & Gi, Andrea and Robert.

Peoples submitted observations are particularly valuable in giving us a snapshot of the diversity of wildlife that Willersey enjoys, as well as sometimes the unusual with more about the escaped boa constrictor later.

But first the bumper year for the day flying humming bird hawk-moth has been celebrated in so many gardens, with an account of one rescued from a lantern and a striking photograph by another observer, along with migrant painted lady and red admiral butterflies, all given a helping hand by the hot, dry southerly winds this summer.

Hedgehogs are not roaming so far now, males have mated and females are mainly nurturing young, but they are still being reported, with one photographed account of three feeding together. Another family have one dwelling in their garden hedge and spotted nightly on their trail camera. Badgers as we know are omnivorous – with hedgehogs included sometimes in their diet – but one has been seen on a night camera tucking into fallen pears, no doubt an attractive option because of this summer's weather.

Night recording trail cameras, that can be purchased reasonably cheaply, are a great way to see what's inhabiting your patch after dark, with several other contributors seeing badgers, foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs and occasionally muntjac and roe deer.

Reported wood pigeons and stock doves are very much the

sound of summer, but they are also on the female sparrowhawk's menu as two headless garden corpses testify. Although a sighting of a buzzard harassing a sparrow hawk shows that they also have to be careful.

Other lovely accounts list a beautiful deaths-head hawkmoth, pied wagtails, bats, baby toads, juvenile starlings, a little owl – but not sure they have bred here this year - noisy green woodpeckers, news of a thirsty barn owl rescued from a water trough (round of applause), lesser whitethroats along the railway track and a special nest of a pair of garden warblers – both these final two species migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, and the warblers choosing our village to raise their young.

And what about the escaped boa constrictor I hear you cry. Oops, sorry, I lied about the snake. But you did read to the end of this celebration of Willersey wildlife.

If you have news of village sightings please contact bob.topp@btinternet.com

Alphabetical Capital Quiz Answers

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) Yerevan | 2) Sucre |
| 3) San Jose | 4) Roseau |
| 5) Tallinn | 6) Suva |
| 7) Banjul | 8) Tegucigalpa |
| 9) Jakarta | 10) Amman |
| 11) Pristina | 12) Monrovia |
| 13) Ulaanbaatar | 14) Managua |
| 15) Asuncion | 16) Kigali |
| 17) Bratislava | 18) Dodoma |
| 19) Kampala | 20) Lusaka |

The Quiz is on **page 10.**

Nature Box - There's been a Murder

Long time watchers of Inspector Morse and Endeavour will no doubt remember – *spoiler alert* – that many a dark deed was uncovered in Wytham Wood, just outside Oxford.

But perhaps this woodland is more renowned for its long-term studies of flora and fauna, including the research into blue and great tits stretching back to 1947 - the longest known running continuous study involving over a 1000 nest boxes. One of the standout discoveries is that these birds are now egg laying almost a month earlier due to rising temperatures and the earlier emergence of caterpillars.

This adaptation by these particular birds is clearly a smart thing, but what about migrant birds arriving from far away 'only to discover that the insect food they were anticipating to feed their young is not available. With some arriving species their traditional nesting sites have already been taken. Such disconnect is an increasing phenomenon in the natural world with the gathering speed of global warming.

Many species have to make adjustments. This might include in some instances moving further north like sand eels, an important food source for many sea birds, which are necessarily leaving an area too. Some other creatures like the generalist red admiral and peacock butterflies are now choosing other plants to feed upon or lay their eggs. But for those species that cannot make adjustments the future can seem bleak.

Although the loss of some species will be a blow there can be an upside to changes in climate. From being a rarity the elegant white egret is now well established,

with cattle egret numbers increasing too. Even the exotic bee eater has begun to breed in small numbers. Warmer southern winds this year has seen an influx of hummingbird hawk-moths appearing in Willersey gardens.

So simply wringing our hands at change is unhelpful. We should be balancing the pleasure of new species arriving with looking to ameliorate those losses or reductions in numbers where we can. Swallows, swifts and house martins need practical help – suitable nest boxes, water ponds that offer mud for nest building, and supporting local mixed farms that offer the opportunity for insects to flourish and providing space for nature. We can make a difference.

Bob Topp



Willersey Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee are seeking a new Treasurer to take over later in the year.

No experience in accounting is necessary. Just the use of Internet banking would be useful.

For more information about what is involved, please email: contact@willerseyhall.co.uk



Coming Soon



Ann and Sandra's Super Soup Fund Raiser

Saturday 7th November 12.00-3.00

at

Willersey Village Hall

Just 50p entry on the door

**With modestly priced
Delicious homemade soup & roll
Teas and coffees**

Plus

**Raffle with high quality prizes
Tombola stall**

Homemade cake stall

Gift stall

**A splendid opportunity to mingle and catch up with
friends and acquaintances.**

***" All profits to be generously donated to the repairs of the
4th bell at St Peter's Church."***

Parish Council Update

On the 21 July we met for a Parish Council meeting before our break in August.

We heard from our District Councillor, Gina Bloomfield, that Cotswold District Council will merge with other District Councils to form a single Unitary Authority across Gloucestershire - what that means for Willersey will become clearer over time.

The application for sixty homes on the B4632, the site known as Terrafy, was heard again by Cotswold District Council's planning committee. This application for development, which has been around for some time, was deferred at the previous planning committee due to the concern regarding the entrance onto the busy bend and the sewage issues. The Clerk of our council once again represented the PC and was also putting a case for the monies that the village would receive if the development went ahead. Unfortunately, Highways have declared the siting of the development safe and the concerns regarding sewage an ongoing issue which should not impede the development. A very disappointing result. We do not feel that we have been listened to and neither have the developers met our requests. There was another meeting in July with Severn Trent, regarding sewage and surface water. Severn Trent accept that the situation is not working for us all and will undertake various investigations. Our thanks to Roger Webb for pushing Severn Trent on behalf of us all. At the May meeting we 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 looked at the new evidence and voted unanimously for the teams to play. We have asked them to marshal the parking and use the other parking areas on offer and to fully inform away teams of the parking issues.

The PC were concerned that the contractors have not completed the surfacing around the much used and enjoyed play equipment in the recreation ground. The contractors have not met their obligations and we continue to chase. We do not want to stop children playing there, especially at this time of year, but ask parents and carers to be mindful of the surface at this time.

We have agreed a programme of works in regard to the Forest School which runs on the Parish Council owned field Pool Orchard. Our thanks go to Nigel Foxall who continues to volunteer to do this work for us and the school

If you are a Facebook user, please do follow "Willersey ParishCouncil" (last two words are adjoined) -I am afraid that our old site has been renamed and that we have lost all our followers. So, if you previously followed us- please redo.

We hope that you have enjoyed the summer in Willersey ...lots going on and the circus visited us too! Our next meeting will be September 21 st at 7pm.

Jane Rintoul

Chair of the Parish Council.

WILLERSEY HISTORY SOCIETY

On **Monday 28 September** David Dunbar will give a presentation on his project researching the Historic Properties of Willersey. The event will take place in **Willersey Village Hall** and will begin at **7.00pm**. An entrance fee of **£2** will be requested.

There is currently one further event planned, with nothing beyond that presently envisaged. If the History Society is to continue we need ideas for future activities, so please let us know if you would like to make a contribution to a future event. Assistance can be provided with preparation and staging of a talk etc if desired.

If you have any ideas for future events and would like to discuss them, please contact Jane, Hazel, Mike or David, or email the society at willerseyhistory@gmail.com.



Willersey Farmers Market

Next Farmer's Market
Sunday 16th August, Be There!

Q & A Meet Anna Kiryla

Name?

Business Name?

When did you start your business?

Where are you based?

What products do you sell?

What is your best selling product at WFM?

What do you like most about WFM?

Where were you born (optional)?

What's your favourite sport?

What's your favourite film or TV programme?

What's your favourite takeaway?

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Red wine or white wine?

Bitter, lager or cider?

What's your favourite season of the year?

What would you say is your greatest achievement?

Well! We would never have guessed that!

Anna Kiryla

Hentony Ltd

April 2021

Evesham

Small batch gins, all made in Evesham

Hentony London Dry Gin

Friendly atmosphere and the wide variety of local produce

Lublin in Poland

I love swimming

I have a long list but I love British humour so comedies like Bridget Jones and Friday Night Dinner are amongst my favourites

Thai

Again, I have a long list but China would be top of the list

White

Lager

Summer

My family

I can lick my nose

WILLERSEY WHISPERS

By Willersey Farmers Market's Roving Reporter

A strange thing happened on my early morning dog walk a few weeks ago. We were approaching the roundabout at the Smallbrook end of the village when an old boy in a bright orange high viz vest emerged from a car. Slightly hunched, and carrying a spade, an old sledgehammer and a wooden sign, he must have been at least 75 and looked as though he should have been at home watching Breakfast TV.

He turned left at the roundabout, crossed over the road and started walking up the A44 towards Fish Hill. What was this, some form of bizarre suicide attempt? Cars hurtled by, then one of those enormous cold storage lorries passed within about 3ft of him as he banged the sign into the solid ground. Red faced and with hair sticking up, he emerged from the draft of the lorry as if he had just crawled out of a tumble dryer.

What was he doing walking up the A44?

I should have guessed. He was putting out Willersey Farmers Market signs advertising the forthcoming event on the Sunday. In fact, he puts out ten of them every month. All roads approaching Willersey are covered. The signs were kindly donated FOC by Acorn Creative. Do the signs encourage more visitors to the market? Who knows, but it's another small example of the efforts made to make the market a success for visitors and stall holders alike.

Everyone loves market day with the multi-coloured stalls on the village green, the camaraderie, the varied choice of products and the live music but there's a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes in the weeks between the markets. The members of the small Farmers Market team all play their part in making it a success. So when I told the FM organizers that I was a bit worried by the old boy on the A44, they smiled knowingly and muttered things like "stubborn" and "law unto himself" and "won't listen". To ease my concerns and to lighten the mood, they decided to throw down a challenge :-

The first customer at the next FM who approaches an organizer and gives the correct location of all ten signs will win a £20 gift voucher to be spent at the market. The stubborn old man with the sledgehammer is barred from entering.

More revelations next month



WILLERSEY FOOTLIGHTS



Willersey footlights will be holding their AGM at the Village Hall on September 18th at 7.00 pm all existing members and newcomers are encouraged to be there particularly as the next production is high on the Agenda.

The next show '**Decades**' is scheduled for April 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2027 and will be looking back - how far? Who knows - this is Footlights.

Preliminary thoughts and ideas are already in place with early rehearsals starting on November 6th with further bookings on November 20th and December 8th.

New members always welcome.

EXERCISE CLASSES WILLERSEY

Gill's classes are restarting on September 1st!

" My classes are aimed at the 60+ who are wanting to maintain flexibility, mobility, strength and stamina. They also help to improve balance.

All this in a non competitive, friendly class on your doorstep!"

Come along for a free trial class.

Mondays Seated Exercise. 3pm

Tuesdays Aerobics. 7.30pm

Fridays Dance Exercise 10.15am

New members welcome. Enquiries:

Gill O'Donoghue 854830

THE FIRST EVER WILLERSEY PARISH BOUNDARY WALK & RUN SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

Excitement is rapidly building as the plans come together for the first ever Willersey Parish Boundary Walk & Run. With sponsorship from the Willersey Farmers Market the event is now being publicized. If you are intrigued and want to know more then read on.

It will be a 4.5 mile (7.2 Km) easy route over footpaths and fields to the north of Willersey. There are 9 stiles to jump over plus 9 gates to pass through. The whole route will be waymarked with Marshalls at strategic locations. In addition, you'll have a card with a map and easy to follow written directions.

Starting at the Jubilee Tree on Main Street with the finish inside the Village Hall. There will be an array of refreshments provided by the Bellringers and St Peter's Church, so, please bring some cash to help their fund-raising efforts. The Hall will also be open to non-participants of the walk as well.

We will have two start times – 1.00pm for the people walking the route and 2.00pm for the people who wish to run the route.

We have been very fortunate to secure the services of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Richard Bradley, who will be flagging away the entrants at the start

THE OCTOBER 2026 VILLAGE NEWS

Copy for the October News must be received by Thursday 17th September 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.. We aim to acknowledge emails received. The Church and Village News is published on the Internet at: www.willersey.org/churchandvillagenews.htm

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

North Cotswold u3a

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

10 September

Mark Kershaw: The Golden Age of Television?

A talk about Television in the 1970s and 80s, when there were only three channels and colour TV was very new.

8 October

Kirsty Hartsiotis: The Arts & Crafts Movement in Cotswold Churches

The Arts and & Crafts Movement made a big impact on country churches - from church building to stained glass, from woodcarving to conservation.

12 November

Christopher Holton: The Gordon Russell Design Story

Gordon Russell was a design pioneer—a furniture designer, maker, calligrapher, entrepreneur, educator, and advocate of accessible, well-crafted design.

You can be sure of a warm welcome together with the opportunity of meeting members from groups such as: Arts & Crafts ~ French ~ Gardening ~ Science ~ Opera Appreciation ~ Scottish Country Dancing ~ Walking Groups ~ History ~ Bridge for Improvers ~ Photography & more . . .

For information, please contact Liz Reeves, Membership Secretary

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



**The Friends
of Court
Barn Museum**



KINGHAM'S
AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS

Table Top Exhibition

 The Church Rooms, Church Street,
Chipping Campden

 Saturday 19th September 2026

 11 am to 3 pm

Showcasing unusual personal collections



**Free Antiques Roadshow-style
valuations with Kinghams Auctioneers**
bring along your antiques, collectables and hidden treasures

Donations for Court Barn are appreciated
Cafe serving light refreshments

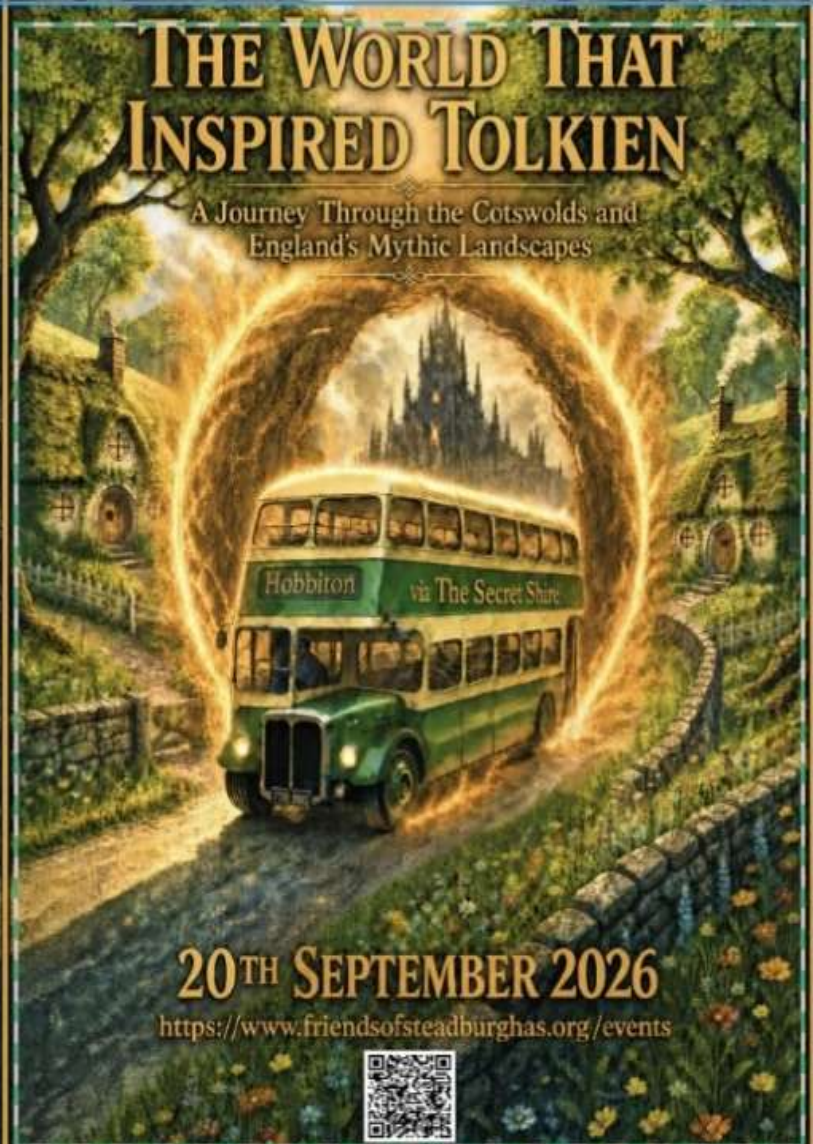


www.courtbar.org.uk
www.kinghamsauctioneers.com



THE WORLD THAT INSPIRED TOLKIEN

A Journey Through the Cotswolds and
England's Mythic Landscapes



20TH SEPTEMBER 2026
<https://www.friendsofsteadburghas.org/events>



BOOKING

PUBLIC NOTICES SEPTEMBER 2026

MONDAY KERBSIDE BIN COLLECTIONS.

The dates for the bins are **14th and 28th September 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
Its' 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