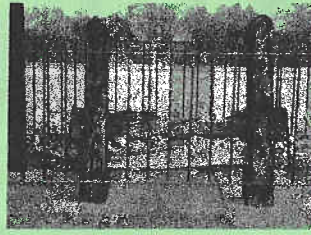


Weston - on - the - Green

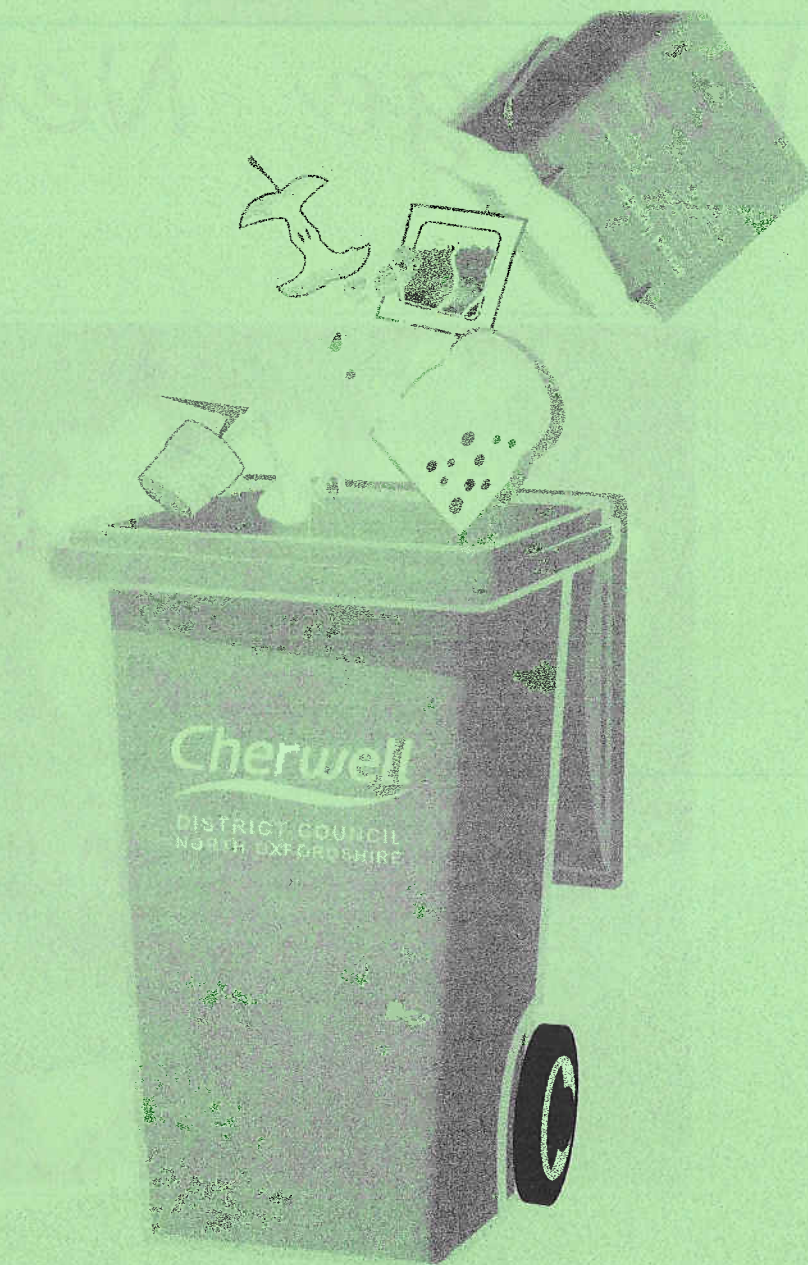


Village News



April - May 2010

SWITCH



Food waste... just brown bin it!

www.cherwell.gov.uk/foodwaste

tel: 01295 221940

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

THE VILLAGE NEWS

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Welcome to the editors 10th anniversary edition of the "News". It seems like only yesterday that I reluctantly took over the reigns from Nora Gibson. In that time the format of items received has changed dramatically and much of what I receive now only needs a number put on the page, although if it is handwritten in pencil that is equally as acceptable.

In this issue the village hall committee have been busy organising future events and table tennis has taken off. There is an apology for an item about the "Ben" in the last issue. By the time this is printed Joan and her supporters will have done this years Sightsavers walk at Blenheim. St Mary's church has some events to publicise. CDC has issued information on planning and voting at election.

Ros Harverson has given up the delivery of the "News" to Westlands Avenue. Ros, assisted by her son Ian, has done this for twenty years and deserves all of our thanks for their efforts. If anyone would like to take over this area, please contact me.

Deadline for the next edition is May 22nd.

In memory of Peter Cosh : May 1925 - Feb 2010.

Thank you.

What a small word for all I have to say to you.

Thank you to so many of you, who, during Pete's long and awful illness offered lifts to the surgery, hospital and to take me shopping when my family were unable to do it, also to those who came in and had a little chat with Pete. Thank you, he so enjoyed them.

Then when Pete went into the Fiennes Unit for Dementia at the Horton Hospital Banbury, where he was looked after so well for the last five weeks of his life, again you all came to take me to see him, sometimes in awful snow storms, and also came to see me to see how I was getting on. Wonderful support from everyone.

Thank you all for coming to Pete's funeral, I think we gave him a good send off, also thank you to Peter Broom and Anita Dukes for making it so special, I'll never forget it.

Thank you to all who came back to the village hall to have a cup of tea and a piece of cake, helped brilliantly by Joan, Anne, Joy and Bill, what a team.

Thank you to Derek and Lisa, Simon and Maureen and grandchildren Oliver, Jemma and Elliot (who knew Grandad best of all)

Finally last but not least, thank you for all of the beautiful cards and wishes, seventy four altogether, Thank you all. What a wonderful village we have.

Pauline Cosh

The Revd Derek Walker
The Rectory, Alchester Road, Chesterton. Oxon. OX26 1UW

Dear Friends,

There's been so much doom and gloom recently - what with the recession and its effects, and the increasing sleaze of our politicians – it is very easy to be negative. However with the start of some Spring weather [I write this on Mothering Sunday] and with Easter approaching, we need to realise that there is hope even in the worst of times.

Someone said to me the other day, "With so much that is bad in the world, you cannot prove that Jesus ever lived." The truth is that the Christian faith is based on facts, rooted in history, which anyone with an open mind can explore. There are over 24,000 copies of New Testament manuscripts about the life; death and teachings of Jesus, written soon after Jesus lived on earth, backed by historians. Surprisingly, and by contrast we have another JC, Julius Caesar, who has very little written about him, and the earliest manuscript being written 900 years after his death, but we all believe he existed!!

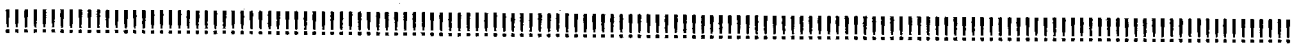
The French philosopher Voltaire boasted that within 100 years of his death in 1728 the Bible would disappear completely. In 1778 the Geneva Bible Society took over his house and used his printing presses to print thousands of Bibles! It is still a best seller.

The best evidence that Jesus lived is internal evidence. There is an old Christian song which has the line 'You ask me how I know he lives, he lives within my heart.' Such is the power of the resurrection truth, that by faith we can know the love and the power of Christ in our lives. So there is hope! The Easter message is full of hope. It reminds us that God entered our world, and that his love paid the price for our sins on a cross outside Jerusalem. That is why it is called Good Friday and not Bad Friday. But that is not the end of the story. Death didn't have the last word, because Jesus rose on that first Easter Sunday and he offers His life to all who will receive Him.

Lifeline is the title of our Mission May 15th – 23rd. There will be plenty of events over the week in the parishes, and an opportunity to come and bring friends to meet together informally. There are several missionaries sharing with us, and the news they bring is the Good News that Jesus Christ lives, and that his love is for each one of us. In a world of doom and gloom, Easter is the Good News we need.

With my prayers,

Yours sincerely, Derek Walker [Rector]



Doggy Doo's Again

Once again the News has been asked to remind dog owners / walkers of their legal responsibility to clear up any mess that the dog they are in charge of may leave upon the public highway, footpath or public place. This last request was from a villager who had to ask a dog's owner to clear up the mess it had just made outside his gate, the owner eventually cleared it away but only under threat of police action.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Weston-on-the-Green

In the **Akeman Benefice** which includes:
Bletchington, Chesterton, Hampton Gay, Kirtlington,
Middleton Stoney, Wendlebury and Weston-on-the-Green parishes

Rector:	The Revd Derek Walker, The Rectory, Chesterton, Oxon, OX26 1UW Tel: 01869 369815. akemanbenefice@yahoo.com
Associate Priest:	The Revd Jane Hemmings, The Rectory, Kirtlington, OX5 3HA Tel: 01869 350224. dauphin.jg@btinternet.com
Churchwardens:	Julia White, Home Farm House, Church Lane Tel: 01869 350723 Robert Aldred, The Green's Cottage, North Lane Tel: 01869 350326

Services at St Mary's Weston on the Green April and May 2010

April 2 nd	Good Friday 10:00	'Hour at the cross' at Middleton Stoney
April 4 th	Easter Day 9:15	Family Easter Communion
April 11 th	11:00	Family Worship
April 18 th	11:00	Holy Communion
April 25 th	10:00	United Benefice Service at Wendlebury
May 2 nd	See list of services posted on church door	
May 9 th	11:00	Family Worship
May 16 th	11:00	Lifeline Praise
May 23 rd	11:00	Lifeline Praise (9:15 Holy Communion at Kirtlington)
May 30 th	10:00	United Benefice All Age Communion at Chesterton

News from St Mary's:

- Following what has been a long and harsh winter, it is wonderful to see signs of spring appearing. During the past few weeks the churchyard has been much admired with its carpet of aconites and snowdrops. Primroses and daffodils are now pushing up. We are so grateful to the loyal team who, with much care and pride, maintain the churchyard. The team of volunteers, headed by Bill Lawrie, is always looking for extra **HELP** to join them. The grass mowing season approaches! If you could help with the mowing at all please contact either Bill tel: 350432 or Julia White tel: 350723. Thank you!
- We shall be decorating the church for Easter on Sat 3 April from 10am and would welcome willing hands for this glorious task.
- Advance Notice - **LIFELINE** - Sat 15 to Sun 23 May. You will begin to see news of our mission in May called Lifeline. Many different events are being planned both in our village and the benefice which we hope will be both thought-provoking and enjoyable.

From the Register: Wedding

March 6th Edward Richard Blagrove and Catharine Helen Elizabeth Evans

We wish Ed and Catharine God's blessing in their life together

Lifeline 2010 May 15th-23rd

Please be ready for a very special week in May. Saturday May 15th to Sunday May 23rd. Yes, it is the F.A. Cup Final on the first Saturday, but it is also our Lifeline 2010 week.

So, if you enjoy a Flower Festival – we have one at Wendlebury for part of the week. If you would like to put a question about the Christian Faith or life today to a panel, we can sort you out at Weston on the Green one evening. The same goes for Cream Teas, buggy walk, flower demo, recipe swap, quiz night, golf day, children's workshop one weekend, and 'Going bananas' the next, and more.....best to take a good look at the programme.

We have five 'Lifeline' services on the two Sundays – non-communion, easy to read service sheet, good hymns, and a short talk, just for you! You will be most welcome.

At these events we welcome John Hibberd and a team who will help us to look at the Christian Faith, and how important Jesus Christ is in our world today. Two mega events – Saturday 15th May Riding Lights 'Roughshod' a national Christian Drama group – who are mind-blowing! A week later, on Saturday 23rd May a Christian Choir 'Adoramus' – well worth hearing.

This is not a money making scheme! It is for the community, it is an outreach from the Akeman Benefice Churches, and it is for you.

Derek Walker[Rector]

**AN INVITATION
TO AN EVENING OF 'ANY QUESTIONS?'**
On Friday 21 May at 8.00p.m. In Weston Village Hall.
Free admission and Refreshments

An opportunity to put questions, and with time for discussion, to a panel of practising Christians, who include a teacher, lawyer and doctor.

It would be helpful to the panel to have some knowledge of the questions before the actual evening! Should YOU have a question or would like more information about the evening, please contact Julia White, tel: 01869 350723. Thank you

Weston on the Green ... something for everyone!

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Golf Day
Team competition
Bicester Golf Club
... meet at 10am
Mon 17th May
Forms and info from:
Robert Aldred 01869 350326

Sat 22nd May
Village Lunch
at
Weston Village Hall
12.30pm
All welcome!

Further details from:
Alison Aldred
01869 350326

Fri 21st May
'Any Questions?'
Come and ask our panel all the burning questions you
have, hear their views and air your own!
Weston Village Hall 8.00pm

**RIDING LIGHTS
THEATRE COMPANY**
presents
'Clear Xchange'

A funny, thought-provoking
sketch show on climate change

Date: **Sat 15th May**
Venue: Kirtlington Church
Time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £7.50 (£5.00)
From: 01865 515711

...one of the best value
theatrical evenings
of the year!

**ADORAMUS CHOIR
& ORCHESTRA**
invite you to a concert of
Choral Contrasts

Date: **Sat 22nd May**
Venue: Kirtlington Church
Time: 7.30pm
Tickets: £10
From: 07759 177014

COME ... AND BRING A FRIEND!

Try Going Bananas!
A fun afternoon for children
aged 5-11
Sun 23rd May
2.30-4.30
Wendlebury
Village Hall
NOT TO BE MISSED!
Registration forms from 01865 515711

Planning March 2010

Applications Received/PC Comments

10/00004/TCA	1 x Horse Chestnut – Repollard tree to the primary pollard points Williams Cottage, North Lane	No objections
10/00017/TCA	1 x Ash – Fell Mill Brook, Mill Lane	No objections
10/00075/F	Single storey rear extension Weston House, Church Road	No objections
10/00052/TCA	1 x Fir – Remove Sunnyside, North Lane	
10/00252/F	Two storey rear extension Pear Tree Cottage, North Lane	

Cherwell District Council Decisions

09/01708/F	Removal of existing gates and replace with new Sunnyside, North Lane	Approved
09/01758/F	Erection of 2 no. industrial units of B1/B8 use re-submission of 08/02227/F Land adjacent and north of 5 Landscape Close	Approved
10/00004/TCA	1 x Horse Chestnut – Repollard tree to the primary pollard points Williams Cottage, North Lane	Approved

Perfect Party Marquees
Stylish, affordable marquees
and party tents for all occasions
Ian Fulcher
Telephone: 07818 834061
Email: perfectparty@hotmail.co.uk

Stylish, affordable marquees and
party tents for all occasions
Planning a party, let us help make
your day run smoothly

Ian Fulcher 07818 834061
Email: perfectparty@hotmail.co.uk

Glass hire available for your Xmas party

Village shop and Post Office

I would like to thank all of the customers who struggled through the snow to use the shop and Post Office. It wasn't always easy to reach us along the very slippery road, but thank you to the many that made it. We have managed to secure a new dry cleaning and shoe repair service and hopefully we will soon be able to supply fresh fruit and veg.

Helen

THREE PEAKS UPDATE

It is now only 7 weeks until the Yorkshire challenge. Training has been stepped up with longer distances being covered. A towpath walk from Shipton to Oxford and back was 18 miles. This was followed by the Glyme Valley walk from Chippy to Woodstock about 16 miles if you follow the prescribed route, 20 miles if you made up your own! Various high calorie munch bars have been tested and we think we have settled on the most palatable, this includes the ubiquitous Kendal Mint Cake.

The support team has been busy preparing for the big day, boots have been cleaned, books have been read and bar billiards has been practised, should all be ok.

If you wish to sponsor the ladies and help raise money for Helen and Douglas House please contact the "News" or, alternatively there is a collection tin in the Post Office.

Team sweetie

WESTON QUIZ 19th March

Score: Teams 1: Quiz master 0

The quiz master might have made it a draw had he not forgotten the answers to a couple of the more complicated questions. Still, it's not about winning it's about having a good time, and I hope we managed that even if we will now never know what that wedding music that goes "dah dah daaah, de dah de dah de daah daah" actually is. 14 teams and 65 guests are forever baffled.

Helen and I see the quizzes as a night out in the village with food and friends, with the questions giving the guests something to talk about. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have had, both from people helping behind the scenes and turning up to take part. Quite a number of people generously provided wonderful deserts, and then paid £12 to come in and eat them. We are most grateful. The profit from the evening was £786.32, of which £250 has been donated to the Weston Memorial Hall and £536.32 to the Friends of Dr South's School computer appeal. I did want the 32p to buy a pencil to write down what I need to do for next time: More sport, specifically tennis: Make sure all the anagrams actually spell something: Write down the answers as I am supposed to know them: Hire a security team to deal with enquiries about extra points!

Thanks especially to the Oxford Gliding Club (www.oxford-gliding-club.co.uk) who donated a passenger flight over Weston as the main raffle prize, and to the team of helpers: Joan Davis, Bernita Long, Adrienne Evans, Julia White, Kris Bartlett, Pam Miller, Bill & Joy Lawrie, Lynda Betts, Elizabeth Tatham, Megan Washington, Sarah Chambers and Helen, the one in our family with the energy.

Derek Roskell

Ref "Ben Jonson"

"It is sad" the paragraph starts at the bottom of page seven of the village news, I would rather look at the top of the page saying "Good Neighbours" which thank goodness most of us are. The Ben is going through a hard time at the moment and I feel it is up to us, the good neighbours to give as much help and support as we can, I feel the word incompetence is incorrect, force of circumstances would be more appropriate.

Toby has given his support to many events such as food and wine when the Christmas lights are switched on, the children's party and the eco saga. Now it is our turn to support him and the Ben.

If the Ben should go down through lack of support who knows what we could get instead of our friendly local pub. We could be lumbered with a gin palace complete with juke box, fruit machines and loud music until the early hours.

I know which I would rather have in this tranquil village in which we live, so please give your support to Toby and the Ben.

Joanne Stewart

An apology

With reference to the above letter and three emails received, the editor apologises for the tone of the report in the last issue. I appreciate that some people were upset by the forthright comments I had made about the Demise of the Ben. I accept that the item could have been reported in a different manner and apologise to those who protested on behalf of the Ben.

At present the Ben is closed and a notice attached to it informs me that Punch taverns are offering a lease to interested persons.

Ed

From the Archives

I believe this photo has been shown before but if anyone has any idea what it represents or where it was taken please contact Margaret Fissenden or Gwyneth Learner.



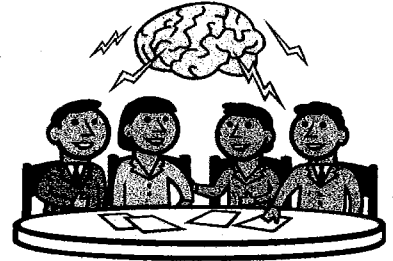
WESTON ON THE GREEN MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL 2010 8PM-9PM

Come and give us feedback about our activities last year and tell us your ideas for events in the coming year!

Wine available to aid brain storming!

If you enjoy attending village hall events then **please consider helping** to run the hall and organise future events. The committee we will be down to only five members next year! Come along to the AGM or contact Paul Warren 350770.



250 Club - Recent Results

Jan 1st	£18	152	Linda Watson, Church Close
2nd	£12	82	Michael Tunbridge, Coppermill
3rd	£6	90	Mr & Mrs L Ricketts, Cherrycroft
Feb 1st	£18	126	Mr & Mrs B Wilson, The Moat House
2nd	£12	26	Mrs Thorne, 16 Church Close
3rd	£6	145	Mr & Mrs Boardman, Normandy, North Lane
Mar 1st	£18	107	R Stafford-Allen, The Cedars, Mill Lane
2nd	£12	214	Mr & Mrs J Williams, Village Farm Court 3
3rd	£6	179	Keyna O'Reilly, Cairn Cottage, Church Lane

Many thanks to almost everyone for renewing their subscriptions for 2010. This year there are still some tickets available at £6 each.

MVHC secretary Paul Warren Cairn Cottage, Church Lane Tel: 350770.

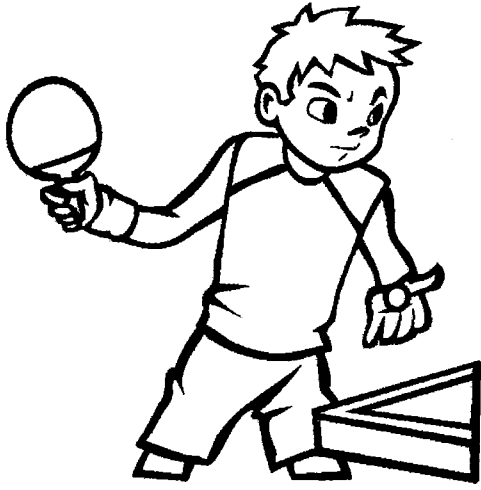
PEACH BOY

On Valentine's day more than sixty adults and children packed into the village hall, most of which was occupied by the huge portable theatre, to watch a Japanese superhero being born into a land of monsters and magic in a delightful musical play, courtesy of the Oxford Theatre Company. The standard of performance was very high making a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon's entertainment.

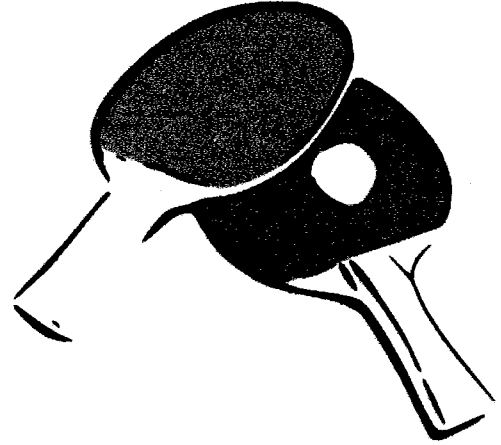
It was great to see such good support for our first visiting-theatre event for many years and we hope to book them again for next year's production of Alice in Wonderland.

Paul Warren





New Table Tennis Club



Weston Village Hall

Everyone Welcome

Under 18s 7pm-8pm

Over 18s 8pm-9pm

**Wed 7th April, Wed 14th April, Tues 20th April, Tues 27th April
Wed 5th May, Wed 12th May, Tues 18th May, Wed 26th May**

'FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL'

The football season may be coming to a close, but for most of us the real event is yet to start. The 2010 World Cup in South Africa begins on Friday 11th June and, as is customary at this time, many England fans are starting to dream of ending 44 years of hurt and talking up their chances of winning the World Cup for the first time since 1966. To mark the occasion, The Village Hall Committee is pleased to announce a FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL this summer.

It all starts on Saturday 12th June at 5pm with a **Weston versus the Rest of the World XI** football match on the playing field. Come and support your village and then support England in the Village Hall from 6.30pm where their first group game against the USA will be shown LIVE ON THE BIG SCREEN. It will be a fun atmosphere in which to watch the game with free entry for all the family. There will be face painting, a World Cup quiz, alcoholic and soft refreshments to get you in the spirit of the occasion. Then do it all again the following Friday 18th June from 7pm as England take on Algeria.

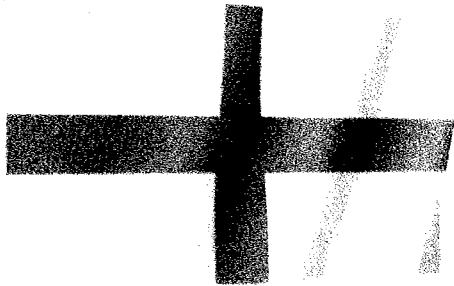
Depending on the success of these events (and that of the England team!) further matches will be announced.

So make a date with the Village Hall this summer and cheer on England to glorious victory in the World Cup Final/noble defeat on penalties (delete as applicable).

But before all this, training gets underway for the Weston V World XI match. If you would like to represent your village on this historic occasion and are aged between 12 and 120, then informal kick-about are being held on the playing field **every Sunday morning** at 10.30 from May 9th.

The World Cup comes to Weston on the Green!

LIVE
England World Cup Matches
in the Village Hall



Sat. 12th June
England V USA from 6.30pm (KO 7.30pm)

Fri. 18th June
England V Algeria from 7pm (KO 7.30pm)

+ more TBA (depending on England's progress!)

- Follow England on the **BIG SCREEN**
- Free entry for all the family!
- Beer and other refreshments available!
- World Cup Quiz!
- Face Painting!
- And more!!!



Weston on the Green V Rest of the World XI

Playing Field, KO 5pm

Sat. 12th June

**Come and cheer on your village,
then cheer on England!**

*We are looking for players aged 12 – 120 to represent the village in this match. If you would like to play (or just enjoy a kick-about) then join in the informal training sessions every Sunday morning at 10.30am, 9th May onwards.

BOOK EXCHANGE

SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 10AM – 12NOON

AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN AT 9.30AM – COFFEE AND BISCUITS AVAILABLE – MEET FRIENDS

Please bring as many books as you would like to give away and in exchange for the first two you can take away any two others **for free**. After the first two any other books will be sold for £1 each; proceeds to the Village Hall. Any books left at the end will be given to the League of Friends at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Please bring any books you have enjoyed reading and can bear to part with. There will be tables for children's books, romances, thrillers, history, biographies and any other categories. It will be a good opportunity to make fresh space on your bookshelves or to clear the stacks from the floor!

WESTON ON THE GREEN VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE VILLAGE FETE

SUNDAY 20TH JUNE 2010

2.30PM – 5PM

Lots of games and attractions for all the family: jousting ramp, Punch & Judy, magic show, bouncy castle, penalty shootout, skittles, splat-the-rat & other games, School band, Tombola, plant sale, glider display, cream teas, etc. Full programme will be published in the June village news.

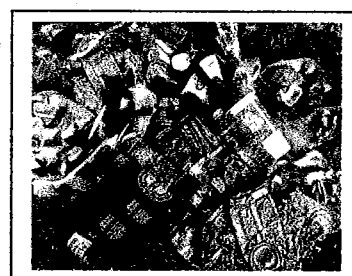
Of course staging the fete will require many helpers. Further suggestions for stalls and attractions and any offers of help should be directed to Michael Tunbridge 350691 or Paul Warren 350770 or Andrew Wilson 350992.



**KEEP WESTON TIDY
LITTER PICKING**

SATURDAY APRIL 10th

**Can you give an hour or two to help tidy
up our village?**



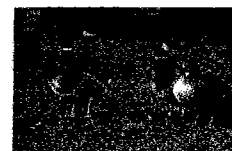
Please meet at Village Hall 10 am.

Gloves and bags provided



Duck News

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY (OR TWO) MAKES!!



The day was Wednesday 27 January 2010 when John Miller brought his super set of machines to the pond. The weather was fair but bitterly cold.

Firstly a cherry picker was parked on the pond bank on which construction mats had been placed to prevent any serious damage to the grass. We went to hide. John stood on the cradle and was hoisted across the water to the willow tree which he pollarded by cutting all branches right back to the lowest branch which is left to sprout again in the Spring.

A powerful chain saw was used to lop the branches which fell into the water. These were gathered up by John's mate and Duckmeister Normo. The smaller branches were placed in a big industrial chipper which shredded them in no time at all and then delivered them straight into the hopper of the dumper. The larger branches were stacked up for a neighbour (no names, no pack drill but close to this esteemed organ..) to collect.

The whole operation was carried out with the utmost speed and efficiency. Norman was full of praise for the professionalism and care shown by John Miller and his mate and we are all extremely grateful for John's generosity. He told us that he was glad to carry out the work as his children enjoy their visits to the ducks. We are glad to report that during the tree operation us ducks were safely enclosed in our winter quarters.

We are all pleased with the outcome, our pond looks a lot bigger. Us ducks have regained full territorial rights and are having a ball! The only thing that has spooked us lately is the sight of Normo in his new "summer" waders. The surrounding wooden fence had to be removed to facilitate the tree cutting, but this has all been renewed by the duckmeisters Normo and Simo. Simo has also taken on the task of sourcing a new contact for replacement ducks as Alan Birkbeck our great friend and mentor has retired from breeding waterfowl.

Recent bright sunlit days have brought an upbeat feeling to the lane, detracting from our anxiety of yet another proposed planning application to build-a sunken house- on the land directly behind the pond. The fifth in as many years. The fifth to be defeated. 'We shall fight them in the fields, on the beaches, in the duck pond but we shall never surrender!' we keep hearing. See why Normo has new waders? Watch out for the cigar and brandy. Duckmeister Simo has circulated drawings on this monstrosity to village residents. It's your choice-you just have to object

So, good days, bad days but we will continue to be here for your pleasure long after these Johnnie Come Lately archee-texts have come and gone. We need your support in this latest fight and do big up Big John Miller. He's our hero today.

Quack!Quack!

Villagepondducks@weston.com

OXFORDSHIRE MOBILE LIBRARY

Do you enjoy a good book? Why not visit our mobile library? It comes to Weston on alternate Tuesday's at 9:25am in the Village Hall car park. There is a good selection of books for both adults and children. Your free membership card can be used at any County library.

Dates:

April 6th & 20th

May 4th & 18th

WESTON WALKERS GROUP

We sincerely hope that we are more fortunate with the weather this year and have fixed six dates for this seasons walks. We always meet at the Village Hall at 1.30p.m. And the walks are led by different people each time. We are going to meet on the second Monday of each month from April to September this year and as usual we will meet at the Village Hall at 1.30p.m.

Each walk will be led by a different person and they will usually be 4 to 6 miles in length, with an open invitation for anyone who enjoys walking to come along. Last year we seemed to pick a lot of wet days which meant we had to cancel as we had said we would only walk when it was fine. This year two brave souls have agreed to go each time regardless of rain etc – but they have their fingers firmly crossed that we have chosen all fine days for the coming season.

The first walk will be on Monday April 12th.

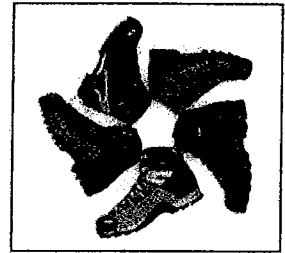
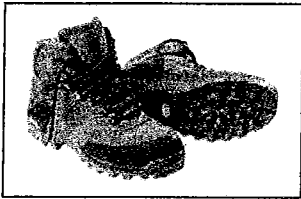
Other dates will be Monday May 10th.

Monday June 14th.

Monday July 12th.

Monday August 9th.

Monday September 13th.



Do hope that you will come along on April 12th.

If you need any further information please ring either
Jan Ricketts 350402 or Margaret Fissenden 350338

HELP FOR HEROES EVENT

To all the people, who supported, made the fantastic range of cakes and gave generous donations to the Big Breakfast and Cake Stall on 27th February, a very big thank you.

Even the weather was good to us, a sunny day but cold
(a day without snow or rain thankfully).

A record number of eggs were eaten (134) the most we have ever cooked.

We are pleased to say the event raised **£1045.00** in aid of Help for Heroes.

To all our 'customers', the breakfast team appreciate your continued support for our events, as we enjoy providing them, along with raising money for good causes.

Oxford Brookes University

Can you help? An appeal for memories from students of Oxford Polytechnic and the College of Technology

While 'The Poly' and the older College of Technology no longer exist in Oxford, their value to Oxfordshire is still clear. Students of both institutions have gone on to live and work here, benefiting local businesses and communities with their knowledge and expertise.

Oxford Brookes is rightfully proud of its roots in the Polytechnic and the College of Technology, and the achievements of former students of all our past institutions have reinforced the university's reputation for producing skilled and well-rounded graduates.

In 2015 Brookes celebrates its 150 year anniversary. We believe the celebrations should include and involve all alumni, whether you studied at the College of Technology, Oxford Polytechnic, Dorset House, Lady Spencer-Churchill, Westminster, Oxford City Technical School or the university itself.

To achieve this, we are appealing for memories from all former students of all our past institutions. By sharing your anecdotes and photos with the Alumni Office you can help to illustrate the shared history of the entire Oxford Brookes community, and make 2015 an unforgettable celebration for everyone.

We are especially keen to hear from alumni with personal memories of John Henry Brookes for a biography celebrating the life of the university's spiritual founder.

Please email your memories and photos to alumni@brookes.ac.uk We can also answer any questions you have about strengthening your relationship with Oxford Brookes, from updating you with news and events to helping you enjoy the many benefits available to all our alumni.

History

Oxford Brookes University began life as the Oxford School of Art in 1865, when it occupied one room on the ground floor of the Taylor Institution in the centre of the city. Five years later the School of Science was incorporated, offering a wide range of scientific and technical subjects and evening classes in the University Museum. In 1891, the School was taken over by Oxford City Council's Technical Instruction Committee and renamed Oxford City Technical School.

Oxford City Technical School

John Henry Brookes became Vice-Principal of the Oxford City Technical School and Head of the School of Art in 1928 and over the next 30 years he exerted a powerful influence on the development of the institution. He was committed, throughout his life, to the goal of making education available to all. When he was appointed, the School was scattered over 19 sites around the city. In 1949, a 25-acre site was secured in Headington and Lord Nuffield laid the foundation stone six years later. Brookes referred to the move to Headington as 'setting foot in the Promised Land'.

Oxford College of Technology

After his retirement in 1956, the institution was renamed yet again, becoming the Oxford College of Technology. In 1963, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited the newly completed site at Headington to preside at its official opening. Four years later, the Government announced its decision to create polytechnics, and the Oxford College of Technology became Oxford Polytechnic in 1970. Six years later, it acquired a new campus at Wheatley, just outside the city centre, when it amalgamated with Lady Spencer-Churchill teacher training college, and in 1988 it incorporated the Oxford School of Nursing.

From Oxford Polytechnic to Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Polytechnic became a university in 1992 under government legislation and decided to honour its founding Principal, John Brookes, in its new title. Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy in Oxford also became part of the new institution. In 1993, Oxford Brookes University acquired the 14-acre Headington Hill Hall site, formerly home to media tycoon Robert Maxwell. The following year, the University elected Baroness Helena Kennedy QC as its first Chancellor.

WESTON ON THE GREEN WI

Our annual dinner, held this year at The Chequers on January 25th, was much enjoyed – good food, good company and not far away.

The meeting on February 17th did not quite go as planned. Our speaker was caught up in that evening's traffic standstill on the A34 and M40 – a not unknown occurrence in these parts – and was unable to reach us. However, after a short wait, we resorted to a cup of tea and refreshments followed by a quiz, produced by our ever resourceful President.

The Art and Craft Group continue to meet in the Village Hall, once a month on Monday afternoons from 2 pm. The March 22nd meeting will concentrate on silk ribbon embroider and silk painting, but there is always room for UFOs (UnFinished Objects). It is open to all villagers, not only WI members.

Equally open to all Westoners is the walking group which plans to meet on the second Monday of each month from April to September, leaving the Village Hall (usually) at 1.30. The first walk of the season will be on April 12th, weather permitting.

Back to WI matters: Our March 17th meeting incorporated our Annual General Meeting. Our President, Michèle Tootell, agreed to soldier on for another year and our new committee was duly elected to steer the members through the coming year. After the serious business the members enjoyed the chance to design two dresses from a collection of fabric, ribbons, lace, etc. The creations that were conjured up were impressive. Is there no end to the talents of Westoners and our members from neighbouring villages?

We have recruited several new members during the last year and, as ever, welcome any new, or oldcomers in the village, to whom we can recommend our interesting and varied talks and enjoyable monthly meetings.

Our meeting on April 21st will welcome Bill Heine as our speaker on "Heinstein of the Airwaves", and at our May 21st meeting we shall be putting our minds to the resolutions for the National Federation AGM in June.

GL

WESTON ON THE GREEN SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be on **24 May** at 7 p.m. John and Pat Cavan have very kindly invited us to visit The Mill House. John will talk about the history of the mill, and the work done to improve the flow of the water. I'm sure it will be an interesting evening of village history.

Our AGM will be held at the Village Hall on 12 July at 8 p.m.

Liz Machin 350974

enmachin@btinternet.com

Haiti Appeal

Thank you to all those in Weston who supported our coffee morning on Saturday, January 24th at Bletchington Village Hall, in aid of the Appeal for Haiti. A grand total of **£470** (including £100 which was gift-aided) was sent to the Disasters Emergency Committee (which covers many of the major charities). Your support was much appreciated.

Ian and Kathy Gedling

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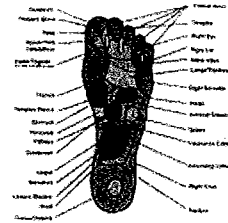
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