

THE WESTON TURVILLE TIMES

SUMMER 2020

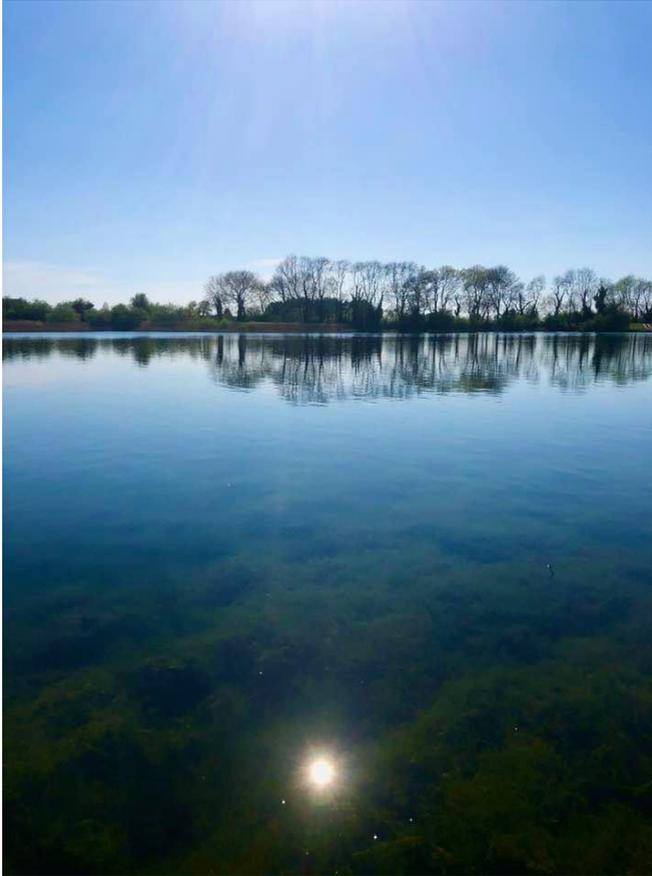


Photo Credit: Baggy Robinson

THE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH
OF WESTON TURVILLE

Published by Weston Turville Parish Council

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Message from the Editor

This summer edition of the magazine has been written and distributed by volunteers during the coronavirus pandemic. Due to necessity, it does not contain some of our regular features but we hope you find it worth the read.

In this edition we have listed some of our local companies who have continued to support the community throughout the pandemic. The list is not definitive and at the time of writing, businesses are resuming work, and I am sorry if someone has been left off! Please think seriously about supporting local trades, local businesses, and local shops when this pandemic is over. They supported you when you needed it so let us return the compliment and help them when they need it.

We have also included the 'teddy bears walk' map for you to experience. There are bears all over the parish sitting in windows and gardens just waiting to be waved at as you pass by.

To help you get around the different bears or just to enjoy the countryside, the footpath and bridleway map for the parish is included and can also be found on the Parish Council website – www.westonturville-pc.gov.uk

The Editor

Contributions to the magazine are welcomed subject to space and the Editor's decision on suitability. The copy deadline for the Autumn issue is 30th July 2020.

We reserve the right to edit all articles.

The Weston Turville Times is a community magazine for the parish of Weston Turville. It is published quarterly and distributed free of charge to every house and many businesses in Weston Turville. Past editions can be found on the Parish Council website - www.westonturville-pc.gov.uk.

The views expressed in articles are not necessarily the views of the editorial team or the Parish Council. We do not endorse any of the suppliers advertising in the magazine.

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c/o clerk@westonturville-pc.gov.uk

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Published by

Weston Turville Parish Council

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Printed by

Buxton Press, Palace Road, Buxton SK17 6AE

Advertising rates for one year:

Whole Page £250

Half page £125

Quarter page £65

Weston Turville Village Hall Annual Report

At the time of writing, along with everywhere else, Weston Turville Village Hall is closed due to the pandemic which will obviously have a knock-on effect of our finances later in the year - but we were financially viable until we had to close! Our income for year ending March 2020 was £25,143 and expenditure was £42,923 (see below for details of a large maintenance project undertaken). This leaves the hall with a healthy £28,783 to carry forward and help subsidise the shortfall caused by the closure.

As many of you would be aware, we lost our biggest hirer with the permanent closure of Topsy Turvy Preschool. This local children's charity had been hiring the hall for over 30 years and we were sad to see them close. It is good news that the School is taking on the pre-school role but obviously it will not generate income for the hall. We were in the process of hiring out the slots that had become free and had attracted several interested groups from dancing to dog training when the lock down was ordered. We review the closure situation regularly and will comply with the issued guidance as to when it is safe to open again. If you think you may wish to hire the hall for a regular event, please contact the booking clerk.

From an administrative point: the hall is run under a charitable trust which was set up when it was built in the early 1970's. As time went on it became impossible to recruit the number of trustees required to fulfil our legal responsibilities under the trust. As a result, a decision was made to incorporate the management of the hall to the parish council thereby removing the requirement of recruiting trustees in the future. The Parish Council is now the sole trustee of the charity and this will enable the hall to continue to function as a community facility and has protected it for the future.

In other news we have completed the refurbishment of the ladies and the disabled access toilets. We have installed an additional cubical in the ladies and replaced the aging and mismatched bathroom furniture with anti-vandal fittings to prevent further damage and flooding. At the time of writing the gents toilets are also being refurbished and again, the furnishings are being replaced by anti-vandalism fittings. We have also used this lockdown period to touch up the paintwork and do running repairs to the hall whilst it has been empty.

The new changing rooms and parish office to the right of the hall are now complete. This new build has resulted in a new exit fire door being inserted into the small committee room as the old one was blocked up. The pavement outside the new build area has also been re-laid to give a smooth slope to allow access and ingress for wheelchairs users.

It is difficult to predict the outcome for the rest of this year as we do not know when or if the hall will be allowed to reopen. We will do everything we can reasonably do, to assist our hirers in getting their businesses up and running again and getting the hall back to the viable and sustainable income generating business it was before the pandemic. We hope that you will bear with us during these changes.

Thank you all for your support so far.

CLlr Mandi Simons

Chairman Weston Turville Village Hall Committee

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Weston Turville Coronavirus Support

Are you in quarantine or self-isolating and unable to arrange delivery of essential items?

If so, please contact someone you know and trust in the **first instance** to help you.

If they are not available to help you, then please contact Mandi Simons on 01296 613958 and help will be arranged through one of our volunteers.

To avoid this service becoming overwhelmed please use us as a last resort not the first port of call.

Please give as much notice as possible.

**If you are in immediate danger call 999
If you require medical assistance call 111**

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Coronavirus Pandemic: A Personal View

What a strange time we are living in. As our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, stated, it is the biggest threat we have faced as a country since the second world war.

This coronavirus pandemic has disrupted our lives beyond recognition and expectation. Amongst other things it has very quickly expanded our vocabularies and I have learnt new terms, like *COVID-19*, *social distancing*, and *flatten the curve*, *doom-scrolling*, *quarantine shaming*, *index case*, *index patient*, *patient zero*, *contact tracing*. I have also learned important distinctions, such as *epidemic vs. pandemic*, *quarantine vs. isolation*, and *respirator vs. ventilators*.

I have been taught the value of things I may have taken for granted before; family, friends, hugs, conversations, countryside, silence, walking, clean air, less traffic, more time to do things I enjoy. It has taught me that I have been lying to myself: I gave excuses for not doing those jobs because I was too busy, well it turns out I wasn't too busy, I just didn't want to do those jobs and still don't!

I have seen more people volunteer to take part in community activities because at last they have the time to get involved, and being involved has meant they have discovered a new perspective on their surroundings and the people around them. More importantly this pandemic has helped us all realise that being rich or famous doesn't make you important to society and that the 'key workers' are often the underpaid and undervalued in 'normal times'. We continue to express our appreciation of these individuals every Thursday evening at 8pm. Let us hope that we will continue to remember when the clapping stops.

It is now coming up to the 7th week of lockdown and the weather has so far made it a lot easier for us in the country who have the privilege of gardens to sit or rural walks to exercise in. I have witnessed things which were a rarity before: parents laughing and playing with their children, whole families on bike rides or walking, adults teaching children how to make and create things. People smiling and chatting, even at a distance, taking time to communicate with others. Now don't get me wrong, this virus is horrid, it kills people, often the most vulnerable in our society. It causes untold grief for families and friends of the victims who have the misfortune to catch it. It is only bearable for most because of modern technology: social media, video calls, broadband and other means of communication.

There is a national scheme in which Bucks Council is participating to document people's experiences of the coronavirus outbreak and what it is like living in lockdown. The idea is that people log their feelings and experiences and, once we begin a return to more 'normal' life, that the diaries are submitted to the archives team. They will store these logs safely for use in the future by researchers. If you would like to take part it's certainly not too late to start up. You can record your experiences either digitally, or on paper; whatever works best for you.

You can describe how your life is now, including thoughts, feelings, facts, whatever you think is important and you can include photos, sketches etc. All submissions will be securely stored. Contact the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies with any queries or questions about this project by emailing: archives@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Not sure where to start?

- Try a daily log with bullet points
- Write about the weather, what is happening in the news
- Include descriptions of what you have been doing each day
- What are you missing about daily life?
- Write about how you are feeling, including your worries and fears

This is something the whole family can take part in and please remember - there is no right or wrong way to keep a diary, the most important thing is that it reflects you.

Anyway, apologies, I digress. I wanted to say thank you to all the volunteers that have come forward to assist with shopping and prescription runs. Thank you to the volunteers who have agreed to deliver this edition of the magazine on their daily exercise. Thank you to the residents who have supported the small independent businesses that have worked throughout these difficult times to provide us with a service and thank you to the businesses who have adapted their working practises to deliver to our homes in order to protect us.

Mandi Simons

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We're going on a bear hunt!

Where to find the bears of Weston Turville village



Thanks to Clare Timms for the map and organising the bear hunt in the village.



A teddy brings a smile to the face and lots of houses across the parish and beyond have been leaving teddy bears (or a happy penguin) in their windows, so you can spot them whilst out for a walk.

How many have you seen in one trip?

From Yogi to Pooh, Paddington to Baloo, most people love a teddy bear. The first stuffed bears were created in 1899 in Germany, by a lady called Margarete Steiff, after a trip to the zoo with her nephew.

However, the name “Teddy” came about in 1902 when, the then US President Theodore Roosevelt refused to harm a captured bear. A stuffed bear was made in dedication to the President that year.

On being so popular, “Teddy” bears went into production and the humble bear became a world popular toy. There is even a National Teddy Day on September 9th every year!

Teddy Teasers (answers at bottom of page)

1. Whose favourite snack is a marmalade sandwich?
2. Which famous bear is 100 years old this year?
3. How many of the bears below can you name?



4. Rearrange these letters to find a famous bear: ZOIFEZ
5. What is the fear of teddy bears called?

For those Home Schooling during the pandemic, these resources and activities may be helpful:

keep
learning.

- www.homeschooling-activities.com
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons - includes famous people teaching core subjects.
- Audible Stories Free stories for kids of all ages www.stories.audible.com Audible have announced all their children's audio books will be free to listen
- David Walliams – Every day at 11am you can listen to one of David Walliams stories, so sit down, take a break, and enjoy 20ish minutes of pure fun!
www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/
- PE with Joe Wickes on YouTube
- Whipsnade Zoo - have a range of educational activities for different ages:
<https://www.zsl.org/learning-resources>
- Arts ...Transforming lives through arts; vast wealth of resources during school closure www.artisfoundation.org.uk
- BBC, Free primary & secondary school teaching resources www.bbc.co.uk/teach
- Oxford Diocese, resources include adult & child friendly prayers, key updates, reflections & activities, resources to help think about what is happening, links to support RE & exploring the world of religion & beliefs
www.oxford.anglican.org/schools

Answers
1. Paddington Bear 2. Rupert the Bear 3. Baloo, Paddington, Yogi, Rupert 4. Fozzie 5. Agri-zoo-phobia

Local Companies still trading and delivering to us during the coronavirus pandemic. (please contact each for trading hours and terms)

Food:

- Meads Farm Shop - deliver for over 70's and vulnerable, pet foods
info@pemeadandsons.co.uk
- The Bakers Shop Wendover 01296 624642 deliver/gluten free/flour. yeast. eggs etc
- Dayla Drinks 01296 630013 free delivery. Alcohol and soft drinks.
- Cook - Berkhamsted -<https://www.cookfood.net/>
- Food home delivery Fruit and Veg call Vanessa 07921 172642
- Number 2 Pound Street Wendover-for awesome wine, cheeses & deli Phone: 01296 585022 www.2poundstreet.com
- Ice Cream from The Works 01296 437289 deliver on Fridays and Saturdays.
- Beechwood Fine Foods, Tring daily deliveries of fresh produce including bread, eggs, fruit and veg as well as cheese 01442 828812 www.beechwoodfinefoods.com
- Kings Farm Shop, www.kingsfarmshop.co.uk deliver boxes of frozen ready meals & meat boxes 01296 622014
- Beef Olive, butcher & artisan deli Parton Road, Aylesbury, order meat on-line for home delivery see range on their website www.beefolive.com Phone:01296 482035
- Orchard View Farm, veg boxes, butchery & assorted groceries
www.orchardviewfarm.co.uk Free delivery within 10 miles radius 01844 273387
- Farmyard café and Farm Shop 01442 826489. Delivers soups, pastries, bakery, cooked food.
- Worlds Best Fruit and Veg at Dobbies garden centre is doing deliveries. Order online or ring Colin 07462 088837 or Leon 07462 088839.

Meals take-away & deliveries:

- The Chandos, Western Turville will deliver locally and surrounding villages.
www.thechandosarms.co.uk 01296 613532
- Istanbul Meze & Grill Restaurant Wendover 01296 709276
www.istanbulwendover.com. Collect and delivery.
- George and Dragon Wendover Thai food and delivery
- SushiVan, Local delivery co.uk menu on-line www.sushivan.co.uk

Art & Craft & Stationery

- Almar – Tring for stationery & crafts - 01442 823934
- Berkhamsted Arts and Craft for delivery 01442 866632

- Tring Bookshop will deliver 01442 827653
- Fancy That Gift shop on-line virtual shop www.fancy-that.co.uk in Tring will deliver 01442 828925
- Lost Sock Launderette: collection and delivery of washing tel: 01296 337794

Garden & Ironmongers:

- Chiltern View Nursery – garden Centre they will take orders over the phone & deliver 01296-613823 chilternviewnursery.co.uk same day delivery
- Hartwell Nursery info@hartwellnurseries.co.uk
- Bachelor's Nurseries for plants and compost - 01442865722 - deliveries twice a week - Minimum delivery spend is £25
- Grace's Ironmongery – in Tring for calor gas deliveries.
- Metcalfe's Hardware are open in Tring and delivering - 01442 823144

Culture and Art: (some not so local!)

- National Theatre at home; watch for free on YouTube www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home
- Singing: Join in and sing Handel's Messiah with the Isolation Choir on-line www.choraline.com
- Opera National De Paris YouTube videos for free performances from dancers in their houses.
- Bucks County Museum for art and follow Facebook page for activities.
- Royal Institute of Painting in Water Colours 208th Exhibition
- Turner Prize-winning artist Keith Tyson recently launched @isolationartschool on Instagram to teach you how to paint.
- The National Gallery, London are doing free talks, demos, etc at www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Religion:

- Prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak can be downloaded in various formats from the Church of England website – www.CofE.io/ChurchOnline
- Online Church Services are conducted by many local churches, check www.achurchnearyou.com for details of church websites.
- Diocese of Oxford live stream Sunday Service at 10am each Sunday www.oxford.anglican.org
- Some Mosques, Temples and Synagogues are also doing online prayer meetings and can be found by searching online.

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Views from local residents:

Dear Editor.

My favourite walk was to start by going along Church Walk, though the Churchyard, over the fields to the canal and on to Halton Lane. I then left that Lane to take the straight wide path, the winding narrow path alongside the sailing club, the reservoir embankment, descending the steps (or the ramps) to Worlds End Lane and hence back to the village.

I began this walk on 26th March as part of the permitted exercise, one of the exceptions outlined by the Prime Minister the evening before. Otherwise he advised, stay at home.

I fell but fortunately did not break any bones. I was helped to my feet by a man who I did not know, and I would like to thank him for his help. It was on the narrow path alongside the sailing club. I fell again, but this time it was descending the concrete steps, with concrete ramps on either side. I came around finally in the ambulance, and one of the crew mentioned that their call had come from a lady who saw me fall.

My personal wish is to thank her for her considerable kindness.

I noticed that my head was bleeding and that it was being bandaged. Again, no bones were broken but I no longer have a favourite walk!

Thanks are also due to the NHS ambulance crew for their efforts, and the doctor and nurses at Stoke Mandeville Hospital for their looking after an old man who should have known better.

What I have learned from this are two lessons. First, don't do things which when younger seemed easy; act your age and know your limitations [I am 85.]. Secondly, remember to ask their name when offered help, unless of course you are unconscious!

Ed Schoon

Cigarette Ends...

A local resident doing a litter pick of his area has commented on the amount of cigarette ends being discarded in the road. Please be considerate when cleaning your car and disposing of your rubbish.

Please send any letters or articles for the magazine to clerk@westonturville-pc.gov.uk
Contributions to the magazine are welcomed subject to space and the Editor's decision on suitability. The copy deadline for the Autumn issue is 30th July 2020.

Parish Council News

What is usually one of our busiest times of the year with auditing of accounts, Annual Parish Meeting and elections has not gone quite as expected this year. The audit of the parish council and village hall accounts is being done remotely by our auditor this year, meetings have been cancelled and projects stalled but we are hoping to get going with these again as soon as we can.

What has been evident however is the wonderful community spirit in Weston Turville, people have come together to help those vulnerable to the coronavirus or self-isolating. Vice Chairman Mandi Simons has done a great job coordinating the efforts of the volunteers and we are very grateful to those offering their services.

As the Annual Parish Meeting could not take place this year, the Parish Council and Village Hall reports have been published in this magazine, any queries please contact the Clerk or speak to one of your parish councillors.

Wildflower Verges

Some of you may have noticed the wildflower beds that have been planted on verges around the village. Thanks go to Susie Wells for her hard work; we're looking forward to seeing the colourful displays in the coming months/years.



The Parish Council will be carrying out further planting of bulbs and shrubs around the parish later in the year, if you have any suggestions of areas that would benefit please contact let the Clerk know.

Playing Field

With the long summer evenings and, hopefully by the time this is published, restrictions lifted to allow us to meet up with friends again, we expect the playing fields to be well used over the summer months. However, last year we had issues with antisocial behaviour, some drug use and a lot of littering resulting in our Clerk litter picking most days. Please encourage your teens to use the area responsibly and if you see any antisocial behaviour, please report directly to the police.

Skate Park and MUGA

At the time of writing we are still awaiting a decision on our planning application submitted last year. We are working with the Planning Authority, Sport England and our MP to try to progress this eagerly awaited facility.

2020 Local Elections

The local elections which were due to be held in May were cancelled. This means that all current county and district councillors will become councillors for the new Buckinghamshire Council until May 2021 when elections will be held. Parish Councillors also remain in post until May 2021 when elections for parish councils will also be held. There is currently a casual vacancy for a parish councillor – see noticeboards or website for details how to apply.

Litter Pick – September

The Parish Litter Pick planned for 18th April was unfortunately cancelled due to the restrictions in place. It is hoped that a date can be rearranged for September to coincide with the Tidy Britain campaign. The Parish Council will support the Parish Litter Pick and provide litter pickers, black sacks and high viz jackets to volunteers. Please come along and meet up at the village hall car park on the day or if you want to litter pick in your area on another day, let the Clerk know and she can arrange for you to borrow the equipment. Watch the village noticeboards and website for further details.

Village Hall

Following the closure of Topsy Turvy Preschool there are now vacant slots available on weekdays – if you are looking for a space for your club, exercise class etc please contact the Clerk – 07909 485369.

Meetings of the Parish Council and its committee are held in the new extension to the right of the hall. Full Council meetings are normally held on the 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August and December when there are no meetings) at 7pm. Most meetings finish about 9pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Planning meetings are at 6pm on the 1st Thursday.

Check the website for any changes to dates, minutes and agendas. The Clerk to Weston Turville Parish Council can be contacted at:



01296 612838 or 07909 485369



clerk@westonturvilleparishcouncil.org.uk



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- John Wesley



Parish Council Annual Report

As I write this, we have all been on lockdown for 5 weeks and we are finding inventive ways to occupy ourselves and also keep isolated to help our hard working NHS and Care workers.

Your Parish council has been unable to meet formally but have kept in contact using phones and video where needed to keep all our services running. Our clerk has been doing a sterling job ensuring we comply with new legislation to cover this period. The councillors were supposed to be up for re-election this May, but all elections have now been delayed till 2021. We did have several events planned for the coming months, but these have all been cancelled and we are looking to hold these either later this year if possible or more likely in 2021.

Despite this we have had a busy year working with local residents who have planted wildflowers in several locations around our village which over the coming months and years will ensure the natural environment is preserved for all of us to enjoy, We have also now completed our extension to the village hall giving us new changing facilities and also a smaller independent meeting room, we also have funding in place for a new (M.U.G.A.) Multi Use Games Area and a skate park. The planning application is currently with the local planning authority and we are working with them and Sport England who have raised an objection as they are keen to not have additional sports facilities on playing fields.

Our investment on your behalf in new LED streetlights has been a great success with a better light and making areas feel safer and a small bonus in slightly reduced electricity bills.

There are currently several areas of concern that residents bring to us, these include speeding and new housing developments. The Parish council are putting together vehicle and speed data to provide hard facts in order to back up these concerns. We also work with developers where appropriate and support residents where they have issues over planning.

We would urge all residents to contact the clerk directly with any information that can assist us with making our Parish a safer and more neighbourly community.

We also have a development plan for the Parish Council where we review projects and are currently working on the following:

- Additional fencing around the car park
- Replacing Bus shelters
- Investigating additional cycle path access for the whole Parish
- A village sign
- Providing new noticeboards
- Installed new dog waste and litter bins
- Repair and replace benches

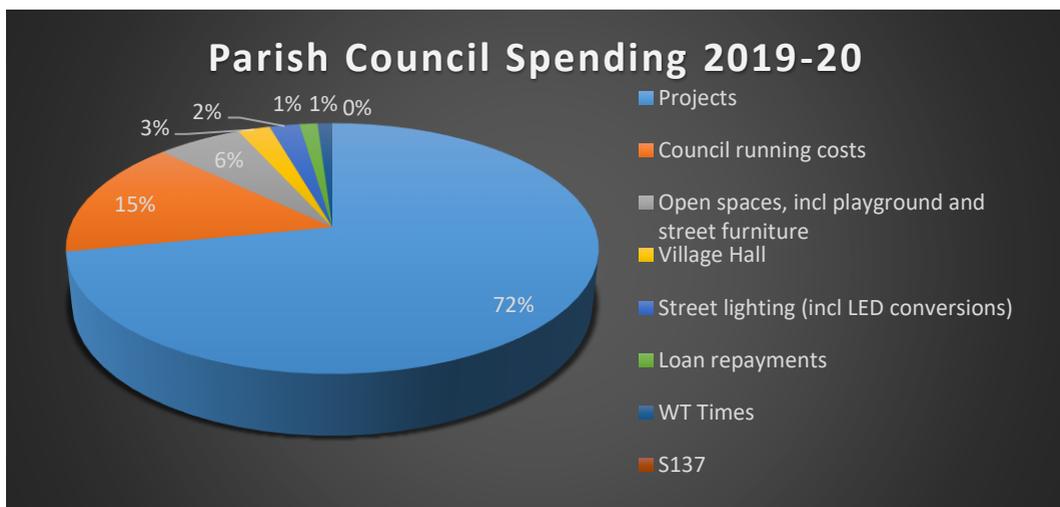
Please visit our web site as this is our main method of getting information out to residents. This will be continuously updated and we are happy to add details of groups that meet within our Parish

Please see our web site for details of when our next formal meeting will take place

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk and my fellow councillors for their hard work over the last 12 months, working on many projects and helping to make our Parish a better place.

Cllr Martin Jarvis, Chairman Weston Turville Parish Council

Parish Council Financial Report for year ending March 2020 - *Please note these are the unaudited accounts, full audited accounts will be available in September.*



2019-20 Income and Expenditure

Total Income	£288,646	(includes £195,801 s106 funds for the extension to the hall)
Total Expenditures	£278,618	
Surplus of £10,028 added to the Council’s reserves for future projects.		

2020-21 Budget

Precept	£95,200	This equates to a 2% increase to residents
Other income	£23,538	Incls VAT refund, pitch hire fees, advertising
Budgeted expenditure	£119,531	

Projects planned for 2020-21 include: Skate park and Multi-use games area funded by s106, teen shelter and picnic benches for recreation ground, Village Sign, full inspection and test of streetlights.



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THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S ARE RINGING



Are YOU one of those many people who say “I really do like to hear the sound of the church bells being rung”? Wouldn't you enjoy the sound even more if you were helping to make it?

The bells are rung regularly (Sundays, weddings, National occasions) and the present band at St Mary's should be able to continue for a little while yet! BUT looking ahead, we do need some new recruits to join our team NOW, so they can learn and be ready to take over as Anno Domini creeps up on our present band. “Full circle ringing”, which is how we ring at St Mary's (and most other churches in UK), is a very English custom. It would be a great shame if it were to die out.

You don't need to be musical or (as some people imagine) very strong and age need not be a barrier either - I taught someone who was 78 when they first started, but at the lower end it would be 11 or 12! So why not just come along to the Church on a Thursday evening at about 7.30 and see what it is all about? We would love to meet you!

But THIS MESSAGE IS NOT JUST FOR YOU. Please think about how you could help to secure the survival of bell ringing, either by having a go yourself or spreading the message among family and friends. Please mention it to them when you next meet. And, even if they don't live in the village (or are not even local), mention it anyway, as the shortage of ringers is a country-wide problem and I could help them to find a tower more convenient for them!

If you would like more information, please give me a call or come and chat to me or any of the other ringers and we will try to answer your questions -- Thursdays, 7.30pm at the Church, no appointment necessary!.

Remember, it's never too late to try something new!

Brian Robson

Captain of the Bells, St Mary's, Weston Turville
(01296 432197) or bandsar@talktalk.net

Weston Turville Women's Institute

All meetings of the Women's Institute have been cancelled until further notice.



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WESTON TURVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It goes without saying that we have had to cancel until further notice the monthly meetings of the Weston Turville Historical Society. To all members of the society and to all readers of the Weston Turville Times we hope that you remain safe and follow the social distancing directive.

We will, of course, recommence the monthly meetings when it is safe to do so. They are held on the last Friday of each month, except July, August and December, at 8:00pm in the Village Hall. We need to confirm some of the speakers for future meetings, but the list below will give you an idea of our plans and being optimistic we have these commencing in September 2020 although obviously this may change.

In the meantime whilst we are all self-isolating we can recommend that you have a look at our website, www.WTHSoc.org.uk. The site contains a great deal of information about the history of Weston Turville, copies of old postcards, link to other relevant historical sites etc.

Weston Turville Historical Society Speaker Programme 2020/21

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
September 25 th 2020	Katherine Gwyn	A Day in the Life of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.
October 30 th 2020	Helen Fry	Latimer House, the secret listeners & the man who set it up
November 27 th 2020	Neil Rees	The Czech Connection – the Czech Cabinet in exile in Aylesbury Vale in WW11
January 29 th 2021	Judy Dewey	Wallingford Castle, Royal Stronghold of the Thames valley
February 26 th 2021	Denise Beddows	Buckinghamshire Spies & Subversives
March 26 th 2021	Michael Hardy	Lacey Green Windmill after 350 Years
April 30 th 2021	Penny	Dunstable and the Hat Trade (T.B.C.)
May 28 th 2021	Emily Toettcher	Amersham in Victorian Times
June 25 th 2021	Glynn White	AGM + The History of Weston Turville

For further information on the Society, visit www.WTHSoc.org.uk, or email: secretary@WTHSoc.org.uk. New members and visitors welcome.



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Weston Turville U3A

The U3A (University of the Third Age) movement is a misnomer. It is not a university as members don't get degrees as there are no exams, no entrance qualifications and no certificates. It is a group for those who have retired or are in semi-retirement and provides the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences with others like-minded people.

There are learning activities, outdoor pursuits, social events and outings.

We have a general meeting at 2.30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month at Aylesbury Rugby Club in Weston Turville where new and prospective members are welcome.

Further details about the various activities of the Weston Turville U3A branch can be found on the website: www.wtu3a.org, or from our Secretary on 01296 613217

The Church is the People



As I write this article at the end of April, I realise I have absolutely no idea what things will be like for us all by the beginning of June!

All our usual way of living and conducting our everyday lives has been turned upside down and inside out. So many activities timetabled into our days and weeks have just stopped and we are physically distanced from one another. I have no idea if anything has changed as you read this article, but I suspect not by very much.

St. Mary's Church is actually locked! How very strange. In times of national crisis it has always been the time when the church stays open as much as possible as a place of gathering together in community spirit with each other and God or for a private space for peace, prayer and reflection, but not this time. It is locked.

If we talk to each other about the church our minds in Weston Turville may automatically turn to our beautiful 13 century building and its stunning setting. It is certainly a peaceful and beautiful place to go, but the current crisis has really flagged up the fact that the church is not the building, but the people. It is the people who matter.

Jesus preached love, kindness and service to others and particularly care for the vulnerable. Although we are distanced and restricted in so many ways, I feel the community has opened up in these wonderful ways. People are communicating as never before, we are all helping each other and keeping in touch, albeit by unusual means. I can now use Zoom! I have had time to talk to my new neighbours over the fence. I know them so much better than I might have done. We feel thankful for each other and take pleasure in simple things. We have become more acutely aware of the beauty of God's creation that surrounds us. 'Everything Weston Turville' is full of beautiful photographs.

There are many challenges ahead of us all, naturally underlined by fears for the future. But with an ever strengthening community spirit of love and care for each other I pray that these things will continue when life has eased up a bit, and that for now we might live in the present moment, take each day as it comes and live in hope.

Rev Susan Fellows
St Marys Church

What's on in our area?

The regular What's on feature will return in the next issue, hopefully clubs and events will be able to take place again by then. Stay safe everyone.

St Mary's Weston Turville Improving Facilities Team, SWIFT

On behalf of the SWIFT team and, indeed, the PCC and all at St Mary's Church, I hope you are reading this while in good health and managing to lead a near-normal life in these extraordinary times. In spite of the present difficulties, when we are not able to hold any services or events in the church or village hall, when you cannot even visit the church, the work of SWIFT continues at an increasing pace. Our architect and other professionals, working from home and on-line, are producing plans and technical specifications leading to inviting tenders from suitable contractors. If other factors were normal we would expect to start construction within a few months.

Unfortunately, as with so many other charities and organisations, we have had to cancel all the fund-raising activities planned for this year. Our table-top sale, FUN DAY, the village fete and other events that were in the planning stage will all have to wait - possibly until next year. However, we do not want to put the construction of our Community meeting room on hold while inflation continues to increase the price. If you support our project, as we know the majority of people we speak to in the village do, and have been wondering if it will ever happen, the answer to that now is a very definite YES! If you would like to help us with a donation or fund-raising activity but have held back in case the project were to fail, now is the time to help us get over the final hurdle of raising the money. The sooner the final total is raised the sooner the meeting room will be available to the whole community - and that includes you.

The SWIFT Community Project will provide a modern meeting room with fully accessible toilet and baby-changing facilities and level access for wheelchairs. This facility is for YOU and the community of Weston Turville.

When lockdown finally ends there will be great demand and enthusiasm to catch up with children's parties, celebrations of the lives of loved ones for whom normal funerals could not be held, resurrection of clubs and groups who have had to suspend their activities and the start of new such groups, the need for which has become apparent this year. What better than to start these new activities in a brand new, exciting venue at St Mary's Church Weston Turville?

Please help us now by sending your donation to the Rector, Revd David Wales, The Rectory, Church Walk, Weston Turville HP22 5SH or to Roger Fellows (SWIFT Treasurer) at 65 Craigwell Avenue, Aylesbury, HP21 7AG. Cheques should be made payable to "PCC Weston Turville, SWIFT". Transfers can be made to our bank account, PCC Weston Turville, SWIFT, a/c number 51685922, sort code 60-01-31. Please use Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25% at no additional cost to yourself.

Contact for all the above: Roger Fellows 01296 424982 or roger@rwfellows.co.uk

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Weston Turville Allotments Association – Celebrates 100 years

This year is a big year for WTAA as it is our centenary. On 30th July 1920 WTAA Limited was registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act of 1893. Funds were raised locally by 104 members who contributed £504. On 12th May 1924 an indenture was signed transferring ownership of Mullins Field and the Warne to WTAA. The limited company has since been dissolved and WTAA is managed by a committee of volunteers.

To celebrate this it was suggested that we create a wild flower garden at Mullins Field (off Church Lane). We had a vacant plot that proved to be ideal. This project is being led by two of our members Susie and George who have been working hard, and it is looking fantastic. By the time you read this we hope that the flowers will be blooming and covered with bees, butterflies and insects. Also, look out for the wildflower beds that they have created round the village.

During the coronavirus lockdown we have been extremely lucky as there are few restrictions placed on tending the allotments and we have been hard at work on our plots to get them ready for this season. The weather has been beautiful, but a little dry and as always we are hoping for some rain (not too much and preferably at night).

We currently have a few vacant plots which we hope to let to new members as soon as the restrictions allow us to, email wtaacommittee@gmail.com to register your interest.

Here's hoping that our wonderful allotments will survive for the next 100 years.

Cathy Terry



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A graphic illustration of musical notes and a treble clef. The notes are scattered across a set of five-line musical staves. A large, dark treble clef is the central focus, with various eighth and sixteenth notes floating around it.

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An isolated reflection

We have been self-distancing for weeks now. Neighbours bring us shopping twice a week. Everything is paid for online. While this Pandemic remains horrific in every way, the upside has had a positive effect on our lives. I no longer have to get out of pyjamas if I don't feel like it. I can pretend I am some creative genius and sit writing all day. The weather has been fantastic, so I was lured outside and planted vegetables I'd never even eaten before. Eventually, because my husband's hair grows up (like Marge out of the Simpson's) I was forced to go for a blue rinse or try a haircut. He opted for the second choice.... it doesn't look too bad. Hopefully, the bald bits at the back will grow out quickly.

I'm rediscovering the joy of people, reconnecting with friends of years ago. Dog walkers still stroll past the house, but with renewed interest at seeing another being they can interact with, albeit from a distance. Our fruit trees are laden with blossom this year, so I've been raking out old pairs of tights to cover a couple of branches in the cherry tree. It's a competition the birds always win though. Nature has rediscovered our little patch of garden. Birds and butterflies that have never visited, now frequent. Birdsong seems so much louder.

Like most people I seem to be cooking a lot more from scratch and making food dishes last a lot longer. I find this fun and can concoct recipes with the simplest of ingredients. We have so far only had one disaster. At the onset of Covid 19 my husband was told our wine delivery was cancelled. Four weeks later having modified things at their supply depot, the wine company delivered. However, in between, my husband had placed another order, which has subsequently been delivered too; so now we seem to have boxes piled everywhere, which hopefully will last for the next year. And then there was my poor vacuum cleaner. It gave up the will to live, then died. Stoically, until the end trying to cope with dust balls that I happily ignore. Well, I ordered a new upright. The suction is so great it lifts carpets. I was mortified that after every room I had to empty the cylinder (not really.... couldn't give a hoot).

Another final pleasure has been keeping in touch with my U3A writing group. It has evolved into something really special. Not only do we pass on information, writing or emails, but You Tube funny clips etc. So I will be interested to see when we meet up again how much it has broadened and strengthened us as a group. Now I must go and do a bit of hula hooping before I go and bake some goat's cheese tarts.

Susan Conolly

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Dog bins (full or damaged)	Buckinghamshire Council - 01296 585858 (please quote the bin reference number eg AV123 which is on each bin)
Environmental Health issues – including noise complaints	Buckinghamshire Council - 01296 585858
Fly Tipping	Buckinghamshire Council - 01296 585858
Highways and Rights of Way	Transport for Bucks – 01296 395000, option 2 Or https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/
Litter – missed bin collections, overflowing public litter bins	Buckinghamshire Council - 01296 585858
Park and recreation ground	Parish Council – 01296 612838
Planning matters, including enforcement	Buckinghamshire Council - 01296 585858
Street furniture, eg benches, bins, bus shelters, noticeboards	Parish Council – 01296 612838
Street lights located in Hampden Hall, A413 or A41	Transport for Bucks – 01296 395000, option 2 Or report online via https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/
Street lights located in Weston Turville village	Parish Council – 01296 612838
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