

WestonNEWS...

Easter edition 2020

HAPPY
EASTER



westonnews.co.uk

FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Thank you very much, Niamh, for your lovely colourful drawing to brighten up the cover of our Weston News magazine. Well done, Niamh!

EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the first full online edition of Weston News. We're delighted to be able to bring you this edition and hope to reach as many people as possible. In it you'll find some of your favourite features and some notices from your local authorities with information about support during the Covid-19 crisis. Our May magazine will also be online so look out for that at the beginning of next month.

In these unprecedented times we find ourselves living lives none of us could have imagined a month ago. I hope sincerely that you are all staying well. Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant people if you need support. If you're in Hope Mansell parish please see page 9; for Weston-under-Penyard parish please refer to page 7.

This is a time for our community to look after ourselves and each other in the safest way possible. We wish you a very Happy Easter.

LMW

WESTON NEWS AGM

The Weston News AGM was scheduled to take place at the end of April, but has been postponed. We will let you know when we reschedule it.

WOMEN OF WESTON

In accordance with the latest government advice, Women of Weston have decided to suspend meetings until further notice.

However, we will be back! If you are new to the area, looking to make new friends and would be interested in joining our group, we meet on the second Monday of each month between 2pm and 4pm in Weston Village Hall and we aim to have a programme of speakers, demonstrations, craft activities, garden/historic house visits etc. throughout the year. We are a very friendly group with a wide range of interests and ages and would welcome new members. There is no need to 'join' – simply come along to the hall. The only charge is £2 per person (£3 if we have a speaker), which covers the hall hire and tea and coffee, with members joining a rota for refreshments and providing cakes/biscuits – don't worry, they don't have to be home-made! If you would like further information, please contact Judith Gibson on 01989 567775 or email judithgibson2@googlemail.com

ALL CHURCHES ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED

If anyone needs information or advice on anything please contact Rev David Howell, 01989 568736.

ADVERTISERS

Weston News relies heavily on the income from our advertisers and are so grateful for the 36 advertisers who appear in our printed magazine each month. I apologise that for technical reasons it has not been possible to include adverts in our online version. We will be contacting you to suggest how your investment can be adjusted to reflect the lack of exposure during this online phase of the magazine.

RECTOR'S LETTER:

Happy Easter!

Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' (Matthew 28:10)

Eddie James 'Son' House was one of the fathers of the Mississippi Delta Blues. A preacher in his early life, his faith expressed itself through his distinctive slide guitar style and the poignant clarity of his lyrics. One of his best-known songs, 'John the Revelator', is sung unaccompanied, in three four-line verses. It encapsulates the essence of salvation history. It opens with God walking in the garden of Eden, calling Adam who refuses to answer 'because he's naked and ashamed'. In verse 2 Jesus takes three disciples aside, asking them to watch while he prays. As we know, they fall asleep. Finally, when Christ is resurrected, Mary and Martha strike out to see him and are commissioned as the first evangelists.

With the chorus describing John writing 'the Book of the Seven Seals', the song takes us from Genesis to Revelation in under three minutes. Adam causes the Fall of Humanity (there is no mention of Eve) and men, the dominant force in society, continue to disobey the Lord's command, sleeping on the job. So it is left to women to be the agents of God's message of redemption.

Son House's song 'John the Revelator' returns us to the Fall, to why Jesus' dying and rising were necessary. Women appear as part of the solution and God's new order, a message he derived directly

from the Easter Gospel reading. Matthew's Gospel provides more detail and, when the women take hold of Christ's feet, we are reminded of the sheer physicality of the resurrection.

In an age driven by scientific rationalism, it is often tempting to be apologetic about what's perceived to be scant measurable proof of the resurrection, to explain it away in spiritual and esoteric terms. However, our Gospels are clear that Christ's rising from death was physical, observable and tangible, as well as being a radical remodelling of natural and social hierarchies.

This revolutionary, cosmic transformation is the Magnificat in action – new life blossoming, not as the servant of worldly elites, but with explosive generosity among those whom society deems to be worthless – those who are outcast, voiceless, poor. When we try to live as Easter people, perhaps our starting point should be, like the women at the tomb, simple, tangible acts of caring and contact that sing with the hope, joy and challenge of resurrection.

Rev. David Howell



Dear resident,

In response to the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Herefordshire Council is working with community organisations and local businesses to help connect people to support being coordinated in your area.

You may have been asked to isolate yourself and stay at home. This will no doubt be a worrying and challenging time for many but also a time to come together and support one another, especially the most vulnerable in our communities.

There are some simple steps we can all do to take care of ourselves and others.

1. Protect yourself and others

- Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Minimise contact with others
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

2. Create your own plan

Over the next few months, life as we know it is going to change and to prepare for this it will be important that you have a

plan that supports you to live well until the advice to isolate changes.

Think about the support you will need and those who can help you while you self-isolate. This could include family, friends, neighbours or people you know in your community.

Your plan might include support with things usually taken for granted such as shopping, picking up medication, support with pets, posting mail, picking up other urgent things, someone to check in on you or someone to just have a chat with

3. Contact us if you need further support

If there are gaps in your plan and you need further support, please contact the Herefordshire Council Talk Community team using the details below.

Contact us on 01432 260027; or email talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

I wish you and your family well in this difficult period, but rest assured that we are doing everything possible in Herefordshire Council to maintain essential services to you and your community.

Yours faithfully,

Alistair Neill

Chief Executive, Herefordshire Council

GARDENING *Bergenia*, or “elephant’s ears”

These rather overlooked hardy evergreen perennials are often just considered ground cover for dry shady areas of the garden, but they are much more than that. They have vibrant displays of spring flowers together with good bold foliage that can develop good winter colour as well. Their early flowers also provide pollen and nectar for our insect pollinators.

While *bergenia* will grow in those dark dry shady areas of the garden, in that type of situation they will never grow as well as they can. They really need almost the opposite, good light and exposure, for the leaves to colour well in the winter. For good winter colour they are best in those open areas on poorer drier soils and then, in the best cultivars, the foliage will develop wonderful mahogany, plum and even coral tones in the colder weather. *Bergenia* can flower better in slightly cooler, moister conditions and their flowers come in all shades of white to deep pink with good green spring foliage to set them off. Good companions in the cooler places are hellebores and coloured *Cornus* stems. If grown in a sunnier spot, then they are good to show off and contrast with thin-leaved grasses or spiky plants. Maybe they should be considered as the hostas of the dry garden.

Some of the best cultivars for winter foliage are *B. purpurascens* ‘Irish Crimson’ and *B. ‘Britten’*, which have deep pink and white flowers respectively and good attractive foliage. *B. ‘Wintermärchen’*, a smaller cultivar, has small upright leaves

which colour well, and pink flowers in the spring. There is also *B. ‘Claire Maxine’* with well-formed pink flowers held above the foliage. *B. ‘Beethoven’* is probably the best of the paler-flowering forms, with good winter foliage colour and flowers that only fade faintly to pale pink as they age. Meanwhile *B. ‘Mrs Crawford’* is a superb white-flowering cultivar with deep plum-red winter foliage and is said to be the only white-flowering cultivar that does not fade to pink as the flowers age.



Some more good news is that maintenance is quite minimal for *bergenia*. They need a tidy up in early spring to remove any older brown or damaged leaves, which can shelter slugs and snails, and then later in the spring remove any faded flower stalks. If the plants become very congested, which can happen after three or four years, then replant healthy sections of the rhizomes after flowering. As *bergenia* are clump-forming perennials that spread by rhizomes, propagation is easy by removing small sections of the rhizomes and replanting elsewhere or potting up to share with friends. This can be done in spring or autumn.

Christine Flint



The Neighbourhood Development Plan was under review.

The litter pick held at the end of February was well supported and another one would be held in the autumn with refreshments in the village hall afterwards.

The wild flower area proposed along the A40 was ongoing.

The steps up to Weston Church would be done, subject to legal advice being sought about liability towards the users of the steps. The council had done all it could to ascertain ownership of the steps.

The Men's Shed in Ross would build three new noticeboards to house the footpath maps. The artwork on the maps needed to be clearer, and quotes would be obtained.

The parish council was seeking opinions from young people in the parish. A questionnaire would be sent to the pupils at Weston School and be available on the website for those children not attending Weston School. Two councillors would visit the school and talk about the council.

The draft minutes from this meeting can be viewed on the website.

In line with the government's guidelines there will be **no** meeting of the council which was due to be held on Thursday 2nd April.

Notes from council meeting held 5th March 2020

The minutes from the meeting held on 9th January were approved.

The meeting began with an update of the traffic calming measures for the A40 given by Mark Hadley from Balfour Beatty. The work was likely to begin in June. Several aspects of the proposed work had yet to be completed and would be addressed.

Two new councillors were co-opted onto the council – Mrs Helen Barker and Mr Adrian Bagg.

A new vice chair was appointed – Mr Chris Morris.

Various highways issues were dealt with.

A new Lengthsman had been appointed – Terry Griffiths Contracts. Some gully work had been done and further maintenance days would be carried out.

Various work on the footpaths had been completed, with further work planned.

Planning: 200378 Ariconium Place, Retrospective planning for 'turning areas' – it was agreed to object to this application.

CORONAVIRUS – Covid-19 support

Are you self-isolating and in need of support or able to help others in the parish? The Parish Council would like to put people together to help them get through the current emergency.

What we would like to offer is a telephone befriending service to provide isolated people with contact and reassurance, and a shopping service for those unable to leave home who don't have anyone they can call on.

If you are in need or can help, please email Nick Richmond, the Parish Clerk, westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com or phone him on 07444 827022.

THE CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED

There will be a 'virtual' service held each Sunday at 10.30am hosted by David Howell.

Please contact Linda Dunn – 562818 or email: lmarydunn@sky.com to find out how to join in.



The first one was held on 22nd March and was very successful.

Your presence would be very welcome.

A MESSAGE FROM PARKFIELDS COUNTRY HOUSE

As Parkfields is in a 'lockdown' situation for all events, we are on hand should any Weston-under-Penyard residents require any type of support provided on a completely voluntary basis.

That could be grass cutting, dog walking, cleaning etc.

We are up for anything and you know us, we like to keep busy! Please encourage anybody that is looking for some help and/or support to get in touch with us without hesitation.

The email is post@parkfields.co.uk or call 01989 750138

COOKING Veggie burgers

It's simple to make your own vegan or vegetarian burgers. Since January this year, big supermarkets have introduced pre-prepared and over-packaged "plant-based" goods. But why not try your own? This recipe is a suggestion and it's very adaptable to whatever you have to hand.

This makes 4 big or 12 dinky patties.

INGREDIENTS

400g tin of chickpeas or borlotti or kidney or butter beans, drained and rinsed.

300g of your choice of cooked, cooled and mashed carrots/potatoes/sweet potatoes/ parsnip/ softened spring onion,
Lemon juice, black pepper, a little crushed garlic.

Your additional flavouring could be a pinch of cumin, coriander, paprika, chilli flakes or fresh garden herbs.

METHOD : Mash it all up together. Some chunky bits are good for the texture.

Using a little flour on your hands, form either 4 burger-size or more little snacks.

Cook in your oven on a lightly oiled baking tray at 200C (180C Fan) for around 25 minutes, flipping them over at half time.



Jan Powell

Thank you!

Cate and her three daughters, Anna, Clare and Helen, would like to thank all the wonderful people who helped at both services to remember Martin Lamport on 29th February. The flowers in both churches were so bright and cheerful. Together, the wonderful community produced a superb lunch for 150 people in Weston Village Hall. It was a lot of washing up and a big thank you too for Rev. David for helping with it. I am sure washing up is not part of a vicar's job description! Thank you so much, Linda, Debs, Gill, Susan, Marilyn, Mary and all your helpers. It meant so much to the Lamport family to have community support.





Coronavirus: we're here to help!

If you live in Hope Mansell parish and are self-isolating – whatever your age – and you'd like help with shopping, fetching and carrying, online activity or would just like someone to talk to, the Parish Council is co-ordinating a **Hope Mansell Helpers Hub** with the Village Hall committee and other local volunteers. Just get in touch and we'll do our best to link you up with someone who can give you the appropriate help.

Volunteers

And if you'd like to offer help, please call, or preferably email, Ian or Liz with your name and contact number and we'll be very pleased to add you to the list.

Contact: Ian Lewis, chairman,
ian@storymachine.co.uk, 01989 751933; or
Liz New, clerk, on 07786 336003
hopemansellparishclerk@outlook.com



Lots of local information can be found on the Hope Mansell Valley Grapevine



PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus – Please see page 9 for details of the Hope Mansell Helpers Hub.

We should like to collect statistics of infection. If you live in Hope Mansell civil parish and are infected with the Covid-19 virus or believe yourself to be, please let us know. (Collected data will be anonymised, but we do need to identify you to avoid counting twice.)

Civic Award – A special thanks to Rob Davies for taking his JCB to the Bailey Brook at Parkfields and clearing out collapsed walls of various vintages so that the brook no longer floods the road. Thanks also for installing a new stile on footpath HM3.

Notes from council meeting on 11th March

Stuart Anderson has now moved away from the area and is therefore no longer a councillor. Richard Hibbard and Mark Jones were co-opted and welcomed to the council.

Roads – Sheila Heath was thanked for her work in achieving the extension of the 40 mph speed limit through Bailey Lane End, which is now long enough to be enforceable. It was agreed that research would be continued into the practicality of a Speed Indicator Device.

We will continue to report potholes and to pester Balfour Beatty, but please report problems directly to Balfour Beatty (link on the Parish Council website) as well as to us. We will ask a lengthsman to quote for clearing the roads of mud which does

not come from an identifiable source. (In general, the spreader of mud is obliged to clear it up.) We will follow up our report of the missing Hope Mansell village sign.

Footpaths – We will arrange installation of the gate at the top of the Silence, and John Jones has taken the gate up there ready to be installed. The Bailey Lane is now clear to walk from Hope Mansell to the Bailey Brook, and Ray Margrett and Ian Lewis have applied for it to be added to the Definitive Map as a right of way. We agreed the purchase of a battery pole multi-tool/hedge trimmer so that we can help keep footpaths clear.

Climate – We decided to adopt the climate emergency policy which now appears on the website.

Planning – We have expressed concern to Herefordshire planning department that, while planning permission was granted for a mobile home at Buttercups in Dancing Green, the new building is a permanent log cabin.

Clerk: Liz New: 07786 336003/
hopemansellparishclerk@outlook.com for all queries, or items for the agenda.

Footpath queries or problems contact Mary Wheeler on 01989 750101.

Next meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2020 at Hope Mansell Village Hall. Includes AGM and Annual Parish Meeting. Find more information including full minutes and accounts on our website www.hopemansell.org.uk

STOP PRESS – Special thanks to Ray Margrett, who has installed the gate to replace the stile at the top of the Silence.

POEM Home-thoughts, from Abroad –
Robert Browning

This month's poem is suggested by Mary Freeman. If you would like to suggest a poem appropriate for any of our monthly issues, then please get in touch. (For copyright reasons, we can only use a poem where the poet has been deceased for more than 75 years.)

O to be in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the
brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard
bough
In England – now!
And after April, when May follows,
And the whitethroat builds, and all the
swallows!
Hark, where my blossom'd pear-tree in
the hedge
Leans to the field and scatters on the
clover
Blossoms and dewdrops – at the bent
spray's edge –
That's the wise thrush; he sings each
song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could
recapture
The first fine careless rapture!
And though the fields look rough with
hoary dew,
All will be gay when noontide wakes
anew
The buttercups, the little children's
dower
– Far brighter than this gaudy melon-
flower!

ON A LIGHTER NOTE: *“I've spent the morning moving our bookcases into a room by themselves. I'm shelf-isolating.”*

CREATE A RAINBOW

You may have seen reports about thousands of rainbows being placed in windows as a sign of community and hope. We would like to invite you all to do this. It's a lovely activity to do with children too. We are all allowed one walk a day and perhaps these rainbows will provide added interest as we get our much-needed daily exercise in and around our villages.



If you can crochet, then here is a link to a website where you can find a pattern to crochet a rainbow for your window:

www.kerryjaynedesigns.com



LOCAL TAKEAWAY AND FOOD DELIVERY OPTIONS

BOUCHER CATERING

Take away meals – all meals are £4.00 per person

Can be taken home to be frozen or reheated

Lasagne

Cottage pie

Fish pie

Steak and ale pie

Bolognese

Chicken and mushroom pie

Chilli con carne

Curry: korma, tikka masala or jalfrezi

We are also delivering “Essential Boxes” - £15.00

Contents:

6 eggs, small packet of rice, small packet of pasta, tin of baked beans, small bag of sugar, tea bags, coffee, small block of cheese, block of butter, small bag of flour, packet of biscuits

ROSS GARDEN STORE

We have fruit and veg in stock now plus milk, toilet roll, and a number of other lines. We can deliver around town £10 min. order (gardening product can be mixed with any other) and are open at the moment each day although our café is closed.

Ring for details 01989 568999. Approx. £5.00 delivery charge in town/ £10.00 min spend required.



Please call: 01989 720267

WESTON CROSS

**New take away/delivery menu.
available 12–2pm and 5–8pm.**

Weston Cross chicken £9.95

Home made chilli con carne £8.95

Home made chicken tikka masala
£8.95

Home made short crust meat and
potato pie £9.95

Pasta arrabiata with garlic bread
£8.95

Home made broccoli and brie pie
£9.95

Home made vegetable korma £8.95

Home roasted ham, egg and chips
£8.50

Pork and leek sausages with mash
£9.95

Deep fried scampi £8.95

Chicken breast stuffed with cheddar
and wrapped in bacon £9.95

Hand battered cod and chips
Small...£5.95 Large...£9.95

Jacket potato with cheese, beans,
chilli £5.95. Prawns £6.95

If you have any dietary requirements
or allergies please let us know. To
order please contact us on 01989 -
562759

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Some other local pubs, restaurants and
shops are offering meals or food boxes
for delivery or collection. The best
source we've found for keeping up to
date with what's on offer is: [https://
coronavirus.ross-on-line.co.uk](https://coronavirus.ross-on-line.co.uk)

Here is a selection but do check for the
latest situation. Facebook can be more
reliable than websites.

Field Fayre, Ross-on-Wye – Order
groceries for collection by email or
phone – 01989 566683

Colts Village Stores & Filling Station,
Bishopswood – Grocery boxes,
collection only – 01594 862959

Inn on the Wye, Goodrich – Grocery
boxes for collection – 01600 890872

Hanks' Meat & Game, Ross-on-Wye,
deliveries – 01989 562216

Woods of Whitchurch will bring orders to
your car, and deliver to the vulnerable,
including home-made ready meals –
01600 891021.

Takeaway meals
The Rumbling Tum, Ross-on-Wye –
www.therumblingtum.com for menu –
01989 567660

The Moody Cow, Upton Bishop has a
takeaway menu. Check online and email
dawn@moodycowpub.co.uk with your
phone number – 01989 780470

Cafe Zam Zam (your *Ed.*'s favourite
Indian) are also offering takeaway
service and will deliver up to 3 miles –
01989 764030

STAYING CONNECTED DURING THE ISOLATION PERIOD

There are lots of interesting ideas emerging to keep in touch with others. Families and friends are holding virtual dinner parties and quizzes – some friends and I had a virtual lunch together the other day, using WhatsApp. It was great fun!

Here are some tools to help you connect with others. All these are free, though they will use some of your data allowance:



WhatsApp video – Find the name of the person you want to have a video call with and click on the video icon, top right of the screen. Let them answer, touch the screen to click on the + icon in the top right corner, and add another person. You can have up to four people on a video call.



SKYPE operates over all smartphones, iPads and computers. You need to download the software from the internet, set up an account and search for the people you want to connect with. Then click on the video tool to connect.



ZOOM is a great multi-video tool. The free version has a limit to the time of your 'meeting' of 40 minutes, but up to 100 participants (<https://zoom.us>). An interface needs to be downloaded before you can start setting up or participating in events. Participants also need to download a small piece of software.

If anyone would like any support to use these tools, please give me a call as below.

YOUR VIRTUAL EVENTS

if you have any reports or ideas about virtual events you would like to share, then please send me an email as below. *LMW*.

Please note that the May edition will be published on Friday 1 May. **Copy by Friday 24th April please to wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk. Please note that this will be an online version.**

Any comments or suggestions for the editor: Lori Weber: 07967 816631
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