

# WestonNEWS...

May 2020



[westonnews.co.uk](http://westonnews.co.uk)

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Once again we are pleased to bring you an online version of Weston News. This month we have gardening, cooking and some council notices, so do take a look. Please let friends and neighbours know that this information is available via our website.

We all hope that you are coping with the continued lockdown. Don't hesitate to get in touch with your local Parish Council if you need assistance. The ways to get in touch appear later in this magazine.

*LMW*

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## 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.

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## ADVERTISERS

Weston News relies heavily on the income from our advertisers and we 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.

## ALL CHURCHES ARE CLOSED AND LOCKED

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

## WESTON SCHOOL

As you will all know, we are now in unprecedented times. From Monday 23rd March 2020 both Whitchurch and Weston-under-Penyard Primary Schools closed for the foreseeable future. This is such a challenging time for everyone, including staff, children, parents and the community that both schools are part of.

Staff at school have put in place lots of learning opportunities for the children in the hope of giving them some routine and structure.

However, we do not want to put excess pressure on families at this time, some of whom will be self-isolating, going out to work or working from home.

We know our children are adaptable and resilient. Whatever the difficulties we are all faced with over the coming weeks we will remain a close-knit school family. Staff at Weston School all want what is best for the children.

We are so looking forward to welcoming you back to school when we can.

See you soon,

From everyone at Weston School

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## FRONT COVER

The beautiful photos of bearded iris (see our gardening article on page 3) are from Christine Flint, from her garden in Hope Mansell. I think you will agree that they are definitely worthy of our front cover (or even Country Life!).

## GARDENING: *Iris germanica* or bearded irises

There are lots of types of iris but the bearded iris are often the ones that we think of first. They get their name from the row of short hairs, or the beard, that is located towards the back of each petal or fall. The beard can be brightly coloured and contrasting in colour or it can be subtle and merge in with the overall flower colour. They have sword-like foliage and attractive flowers in late spring. Each flower is made up of large outer petals, known as falls, and smaller inner petals, known as standards.

Bearded irises grow from rhizomes and are fully hardy perennials.

They enjoy a position of full sun, and the rhizome needs to be baked by the sun to encourage flowers, so avoid crowding them with other plants. To do this, place the top of the rhizome at soil level. If the soil is heavy and poorly drained, mix in some grit or gravel to improve matters. These irises grow well in a neutral, well-drained soil, and a south-facing border with the protection of a wall is ideal.

They are also well suited to the sunny edge of gravel gardens where they can thrive in the warm conditions. The most difficult situation in which to get bearded irises to grow well can be in a mixed border, as before you are aware of it surrounding plants have grown over and shaded the rhizomes.

Bearded irises can be planted in autumn or spring. If you've bought potted plants, make sure they're planted at the same depth as they were in the pot. If purchased as a bare rhizome, soak the rhizome in water for a few minutes before planting.

In an ideal world, bearded irises should be divided every third year for the good of the plant and to create more plants. The heart of a mature iris can become woody and unproductive after a few years. After flowering, lift the rhizome with a garden fork. Cut off the healthy young rhizomes at the edge of the plant and discard the woody centre. Replant the new plants immediately and cut back the foliage to about 12cm. This prevents the plants from being rocked about in the wind.

Bearded iris come in various heights, from the really very small that look good in pots to quite tall, and all sorts of colours from creamy white to bright burnt orange through to the deepest darkest purple, but these are mostly available from specialist nurseries or at plant fairs.

There is also one grown more for its attractive variegated foliage than the pale blue flowers that emerge in early summer. One of the easiest cultivars to get hold of is Iris 'Jane Phillips', which is tall with warm azure blue falls and standards, finely lined in deep-blue, and is also a strong grower with an RHS Award of Garden Merit as well. While the flowers are lovely, they can be quite short-lived, but the foliage will look good all summer.

*Christine Flint*



## LOCAL HISTORY: The Bailey Lane

As noted in last month's *Weston News*, you can now once again walk the Bailey Lane from Hope Mansell to Bailey Brook. In talking to a number of people, I've been discovering a bit more about the lane.

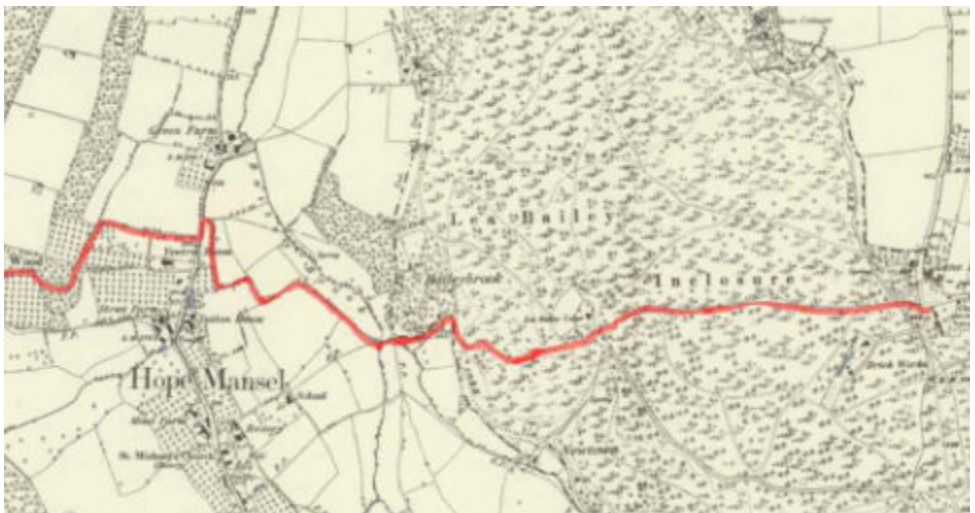
It has appeared on every OS map since the first series, so we know it has been in use for at least 200 years. It's probably much older – quite likely a thousand years or more. Parts of it form a definite hollow way, where through use over time the surface has been worn until it lies below the level of the adjoining fields (it is one of several hollow ways in Hope Mansell).

It forms the central section of a route which runs from the Lime Kilns at the top of Kiln Lane/Chestnut Lane, along the lane, and ahead through the Lea Bailey Inclosure (as the Forestry still call it) of the forest to Bailey Lane End.

Herefordshire Archaeology talks of many medieval charcoal-burning sites in the Lea Bailey Inclosure, and the possibility of iron mining. We know that iron was mined near Drybrook, so the linking of iron, charcoal, and lime (used to extract the iron from the ore) seems logical, and might even go as far back as Roman times and the days of Ariconium, which is, after all, only a couple of miles to the north.

On the 1887 map below you can see that there was a Keeper's Lodge in the centre of the Inclosure. John Margrett and others remember that before the war there was a shop there owned by Jenny Robbins, where she sold enormous gob-stoppers. John Harding tells of riding his motorbike along the lane and continuing ahead through the forest in the 1960s and 1970s.

(1887 map source Ordnance Survey/National Library of Scotland.)



## LOCAL HISTORY: The Bailey Lane (cont.)

It was never wider, but it was flat and smooth enough for small vehicles, and was used for milk and bread deliveries until at least the 1980s – saving a three-mile road trip between Hope Mansell and Bailey Brook. Local farms used it for moving livestock until it was blocked and became overgrown around the turn of this century.

At the moment, apart from some lush nettle patches to either side of the trodden path, it has several dense areas of wild garlic, and I saw a single cuckoo pint the other day. All in all, it's an interesting few hundred metres.

(Many thanks to Ray Margrett for supplying, and to Brian Lewis for fixing, the new gate at the Bailey Brook end of the lane.)

*Ian Lewis*

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## Hope Mansell Flower Festival goes online!

The flower festival in St Michael's church is one of the highlights of the village year. Sadly it can't take place in the church this year, but social distancing doesn't mean that we have to miss out on this event!

We invite everyone, whether flower arrangers, keen gardeners or simply observers of the beauty of nature around us, to take part in a new format, with photographs of your displays, creative work, or beautiful and uplifting views of your garden. These will feature in a special online exhibition on the Weston News website. We will invite visitors to donate to the church via a JustGiving page.

You can get started on your arrangements, or capture your special garden moment, any time with the following instructions. Closing date for entries is **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**:

1. Create a floral display from any flowers and foliage you have available or choose the special view in your garden. The themes are:
  - a. Things to help us feel positive
  - b. A poem of your choice
2. Photograph (with as much light as you can) and send to [wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk), including:
  - a. Title of your display
  - b. Name and where you live (e.g. Hope Mansell, Kettle Bottom, etc.)
  - c. Any comment you want us to add to the photograph



*Photo: Charlotte Cole*

will be a virtual meeting and will include the Annual Council Meeting, but members of the public are welcome to attend by video link or telephone. Email or call Liz New, Parish Clerk for the web address or dial-in phone number if you'd like to join the meeting.

## **Covid-19**

A big thank you to all those who signed up to the Hope Mansell Helpers Hub, offering to help people who are self-isolating. Luckily (because it implies that people in Hope Mansell are healthy or coping, or both), we've so far had only one request for help. The offer still stands, however. If you need help in shopping or collecting medicines or if you just want contact with someone else, please don't hesitate to call us and we'll do our best to arrange help.

Ian Lewis on 01989 751933,  
[ian@storymachine.co.uk](mailto:ian@storymachine.co.uk)  
or Liz New on 07786 336003,  
[hopemanselparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:hopemanselparishclerk@outlook.com)

## **Statistics**

We would like to collect statistics on Covid-19 infections in the Hope Mansell civil parish. Statistics will be anonymous. We'll need some method of identification to avoid counting people twice, but we won't store any identifying data. If you have or know of an actual or suspected infection, please let us know.

## **Council Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting which normally takes place in May is postponed until later in the year, when we hope a physical meeting will once again be possible.

The next council meeting will take place as scheduled on Wednesday May 13th. It

**Clerk:** Liz New can be contacted on 07786 336003 or email [hopemanselparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:hopemanselparishclerk@outlook.com) for all queries, or items for the agenda.

**Footpath** queries or problems contact Mary Wheeler on 01989 750101. Find more information including full minutes and accounts on our website [www.hopemansell.org.uk](http://www.hopemansell.org.uk)



## Notes from Council Meeting held 16th April 2020

This was a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.

The minutes from the meeting held on 5th March were approved. An addendum to the Standing Orders of the council was agreed to allow 'virtual' meetings to be held.

New plans and correspondence had been received from Mark Hadley of Balfour Beatty. This was discussed by the council and further clarification would be asked for.

Various highways issues were dealt with. Quotations are being sought for road signs for Springetts Lane, Church Lane, The Streete or Whitehall, Rectory Lane, Bury Hill Lane.

The Lengthsman had completed various work around the parish.

### Planning:

P200855 – Brae D'or Pontshill – No objection agreed.

P200930 – Wintergreen – No objection agreed.

P200444 – Woodfield House – Objection agreed.

P200425 – Bollitree Farm – No objection agreed.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan was under review.

The wildflower area proposed along the A40 was ongoing

Defibrillators: a report was given.

### Next meeting: Thursday 14th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting

Please use the parish council website for updates.

Would parishioners please contact the clerk if any work needs to be done by the Lengthsman around the parish or any other matters – westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com

## 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.**



## **CORONAVIRUS – Covid-19 support**

Are you self-isolating and in need of support or able to help others in the Parish ? Weston under Penyard 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 e-mail Nick Richmond the Parish Clerk [westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com) or

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### **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](mailto:post@parkfields.co.uk) or call 01989 750138**

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### **LOCAL RESOURCES**

Don't forget to look at <https://coronavirus.ross-on-line.co.uk> for up-to-date information on what's available around the area.

They have details of opening hours and of collection or delivery services for food, plants, books and more.





## COOKING **Lemon and rosemary chicken**

This is a great dish to prepare in advance and just takes an hour in the oven. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do (and friends and family when we get back to normal).

**Serves 4**

### INGREDIENTS

2 kg chicken pieces  
3 lemons – cut into wedges  
Leaves from a large bunch of rosemary  
3 red onions  
10–12 large black olives – pitted  
4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar  
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
Salt and pepper

### METHOD

Trim the chicken and put in a large bowl. Add the lemons and rosemary. Cut the onions into wedges and add to the chicken.

Add the olives, balsamic vinegar, olive oil and salt and pepper and mix well to coat the chicken with the flavourings.

Cover and leave at room temperature for 1 hour or overnight in the fridge.

Put the chicken in a large roasting tin and add the marinade. Cook at 190°C (gas 5) for 30 minutes.

Turn the chicken pieces to ensure even cooking and cook for a further 30 minutes. Remove the chicken from the oven. Using a slotted spoon, lift out the chicken, lemons, onions and olives and put them in a serving dish. Skim the cooking juices and discard any fat.

Pour the juices over the chicken and serve.

Lovely with baked potatoes and a side salad. Enjoy!



*Liz Rainer*



## Be wary of COVID 19 quizzes

With so many people self-isolating or social distancing, online quizzes have become an increasingly popular way of people staying in touch with friends and family and providing a source of entertainment. Many people are creating and sharing their own quizzes or taking part in online events.

However, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute has received information about some quizzes that, whilst on the surface they appear harmless, are designed to harvest data that can be used to commit financial fraud and identity theft.

Some of these are circulating on social media and even claim to test your knowledge of COVID-19. However, many of the questions you are expected to answer will be personal in nature: your name; address; phone numbers and email addresses; family information; pet's names, hobbies etc.

Security questions for bank accounts and online passwords usually incorporate this kind of information, making it easier for fraudsters to build up information on an individual over time.

This information can be harvested and made available to genuine businesses (that may wish to sell you goods and services), but also to scammers.

- You wouldn't tell a stranger in the street personal information, so why tell a stranger online? Your personal and financial information is valuable.

Protect it!

- Think before you click!
- Be careful who you share your data with. Remember, not all web pages or social media platforms are private and secure.
- Never share information such as credit and debit card PIN numbers.

Please share this information. You can also find the information online here: <https://safeinwarwickshire.com/2020/04/22/be-wary-of-covid-19-quizzes-warn-warwickshire-trading-standards>

## Protect yourself

### 1. Watch out for scam messages

Don't click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

### 2. Shopping online

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, and ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases.

For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shophonlinesafely>

## **Be aware cyber crime has doubled – stay home, stay connected and stay Cyber Aware**

Cyber experts have launched measures to protect the UK from online harm as the country continues to rely more on technology while staying at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

Today (21 April 2020), the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ, has launched its Cyber Aware campaign.

This will be delivered by the NCSC working alongside the Home Office, the Cabinet Office and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and will aim to help individuals and organisations to protect themselves online.

It urges people to protect their data passwords, the accounts they protect and the devices they use to access them. The campaign encourages people to 'Stay home. Stay connected. Stay Cyber Aware', and its top tips for staying secure online are:

1. Turn on two-factor authentication for important accounts
2. Protect important accounts using a password of three random words
3. Create a separate password that you only use for your main email account

4. Update the software and apps on your devices regularly (ideally set to 'automatically update')
5. Save your passwords in your browser
6. To protect yourself from being held to ransom, back up important data.

With many people in the UK trying video conferencing for the first time, the advice includes top tips on securely installing the app, creating a strong password and tracking who is joining the chat. New guidance on the secure use of video conferencing services builds on a raft of advice published on [www.ncsc.gov.uk](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk) since the coronavirus outbreak started.

The NCSC also recommends that you do not make meetings public, connect only to people through your contacts or address book – and never post the link or password publicly.

Suspicious Email Reporting Service has been co-developed with the City of London Police. By forwarding any dubious emails – including those claiming to offer support related to COVID-19 – to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk), the NCSC's automated program will immediately test the validity of the site. Any sites found to be phishing scams will be removed immediately.

More information on Cyber Aware top tips: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/public-urged-to-flag-coronavirus-related-email-scams-as-online-security-campaign-launches>

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040.

**POEM:** In May – *William Henry Davies*

Yes, I will spend the livelong day  
With Nature in this month of May;  
And sit beneath the trees, and share  
My bread with birds whose homes are  
there;  
While cows lie down to eat, and sheep  
Stand to their necks in grass so deep;  
While birds do sing with all their might,  
As though they felt the earth in flight.  
This is the hour I dreamed of, when  
I sat surrounded by poor men;  
And thought of how the Arab sat  
Alone at evening, gazing at  
The stars that bubbled in clear skies;  
  
And of young dreamers, when their eyes  
Enjoyed methought a precious boon  
In the adventures of the Moon  
Whose light, behind the Clouds' dark  
bars,  
Searched for her stolen flocks of stars.  
When I, hemmed in by wrecks of men,  
Thought of some lonely cottage then  
Full of sweet books; and miles of sea,  
With passing ships, in front of me;  
And having, on the other hand,  
A flowery, green, bird-singing land.

## **BAILEY LANE END – VILLAGE NEWS.**

The Village is very quiet these days, as we all tend our gardens and keep our distance. We are all very aware of how lucky we are to have such a beautiful place to enjoy our confinement. It is also noticeable how many people are walking through the woods and enjoying the spring sunshine on their daily exercise.

We had lots of plans for the coming months, all of which will probably have to be put on hold. The first of these was to be a Village Picnic in the Chapel field in commemoration of the end of the Second World War. Obviously this is not now possible and we are suggesting everyone has a picnic in their own front gardens instead. This will be on Friday 8th May (weather permitting) between 2pm and 4pm and those who wish can walk around the village and say hello over the garden gates.

NHS – Thursdays 8pm. We are making a really good effort on this one, improving week by week. We have saucepan lids clanging, bells ringing and an electric guitar which has so far played Amazing Grace and Stand By Me, accompanied, of course, by lots of clapping.

The Village Fete on 4th July and the Open Air Service on Dancing Green on 12th July may well also be in jeopardy, but let's keep hoping.

*Sheila Heath*

## **OBITUARY: 'Flower Man Steve' - Stephen Marfell**

Many of our readers will be familiar with the flowers and wooden figures available for sale on the Hope Mansell junction with the A40 at Ryeford. These were created and sold by Stephen but we learn that he has recently died. A private funeral has taken place and he is sadly missed by his family Alan, Jeannette, Claire, Sarah, Carl and his beloved pet Smudge. His family describe him as a truly lovely, kind, gentle and genuine man.

Please note that the online June edition will be published on Monday 1st June. **Copy by Friday 22nd May please to [wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk). Please note that this will be an online version.**

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