

# WestonNEWS...

July 2020



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

## St Michael Church – Hope Mansell – Church Times

The PCC received the instruction that all places of worship in England could reopen for private prayer from Monday 15th June. The church had been locked since mid-March, the last entry in the Visitors' Book being 17th March. Something that has never occurred previously.

On opening the church door, nature had been busy inside. Cobwebs ran from pew to pew, rather like garlands, even linking the organ within the company. A certain amount of insect life dotted the floor but all easily disposed of. Paperwork was removed as instructed, even the Visitors' Book taken from view. The bell was rung.

Outside the church, of great concern for the last few years has been the look of the ancient yew tree, its greenery being slowly replaced with a thin dull brown not quite spreading over the whole tree. The PCC has given the tree a good time to establish whether it could or would return to its former glory and sought advice. However, sadly there appears no cure.

The PCC has therefore decided to undertake a programme to gradually remove its branches and ultimately the trunk, too.

There have been no services in the church for three months, no Lent Lunch, coffee mornings or Flower Festival to support our costs, which include keeping our churchyard grass tidy. Hopefully before too long we will resume fund raising, as well as services from July, so any financial goodwill to support the church would be much appreciated. *Mary Freeman, Church Warden*

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Hi everyone, I hope you enjoyed the heatwave!

This month there's an update from Weston school, an enticing recipe, more local history about Lea Bailey Lodge and an extra-long gardening article for you. Plus details of the Hope Mansell scarecrow competition – which explains our front cover. More information about this on page 6.

All the usual council notices are included plus good news for church-goers, who can attend services from July. Details at the back of the magazine.

I'd like to thank everyone who has continued to contribute to the magazine to keep it going.

At this stage we do not know if the September edition will be hard copy or online, as we need to sort out safe logistics for our folders, staplers and distributors.

In the meantime, thanks to everyone who has given positive feedback on the online version of the magazine. Please continue to share it with anyone who might like it.

Have a lovely summer and see you in September!

*LMW*

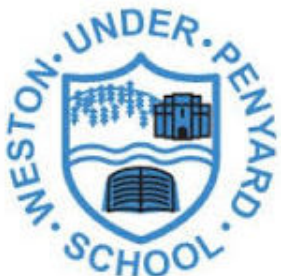
## Weston School

As we are all well aware, we have found ourselves in unprecedented times over the last few months. On Monday 23rd March 2020 our school closed to the majority of children due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, we remained open for key worker and vulnerable children.

Whilst children have been away from the normal school environment, we put systems in place for home learning in order to continue some routine and structure to the children's day, whilst not putting excess pressure on families.

At the beginning of June, Weston School began the process of opening up for families of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who informed us that they wished their child to return to school. We also continued to provide provision for key worker and vulnerable families.

Our priority has always been to ensure the safety of all those in our school community, reduce the spread of the virus and give our children the very best learning support we can.



I would just like to say a HUGE thank you from all the staff here at Weston for the positive messages and comments we have received from so many of our parents and carers. As you can imagine, trying to juggle new ways of working, planning and teaching for pods, cleaning pods and equipment as well as keeping up with Seesaw, Twitter and other learning platforms has been hugely demanding on all staff.

Whilst we still face many challenges, we can't wait to welcome more children back into school before the summer.

### School Dog

In other news, we are really excited to be welcoming a new member of staff to Weston-under-Penyard Primary School in the Autumn term.

Meg is a cocker spaniel/cockapoo mix who was born in May this year. She will be working hard over the summer, training to become a school dog, and is set to become an integral part of our school community.

Research has shown there are many benefits of dogs in school such as:

- Cognitive – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem solving and game playing
- Social – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, well-being and focused interaction

- Emotional – a school dog improves self-esteem, relieves anxiety and can teach compassion and respect for other living things.
- Physical – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, assists pain management, gives motivation to move and walk and stimulates senses.
- Environmental – a school dog increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over
- Reading – reading to dogs has been proven to help children develop English skills and build confidence, through both the calming effect of the dog's presence and the fact that a dog will listen without being judgemental or critical. This comforting environment helps to nurture children's enthusiasm for reading and provides them with the confidence to read.

Meg will live with Mrs Smith and her family and will come into school most days. She will have completed her puppy training and will be working alongside a dog expert to ensure she is ready to take on her new role.

We are looking forward to welcoming Meg to our team in September.

## HOPE MANSELL SCARECROW COMPETITION – 19th to 25th July

The Hope Mansell Village Fete, scheduled for Saturday 25th July, has been cancelled this year. Instead we will be holding a Scarecrow Trail and Competition in the Hope Mansell area from Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th July.

Residents are invited to design and make their own scarecrow for display during that week on or by their properties for trail-finders to view from a safe and publicly accessible place. The scarecrow can be based on any theme, from the traditional to the contemporary or futuristic. There will be a small prize for the person solving the trail puzzle and there will be an on-line vote for the best scarecrow.

More information will be made available on the HMV Grapevine Facebook page and via the Village Hall email: [hmvhr9@gmail.co](mailto:hmvhr9@gmail.co).

You will be asked to sign up to be a scarecrow displayer by 5th July so that we can plan the puzzle trail. We look forward to seeing all your scarecrows!

*Jan Powell*



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MARKET

A reminder about our local market in Ross on Wye. Local people join a market and grow, make or bake produce at home which they then sell at their local Country Market. Produce ranges from baked goods such as savouries, cakes, tray bakes and cookies through freshly harvested vegetables and fruit, fresh eggs, local honey, jams and chutneys of varieties you wouldn't find in a supermarket, to an abundance of vegetable plants and herbaceous perennial plants of unusual varieties.

Ross market has been operating since 1947 and we wanted to stay open during the lockdown if it was at all possible, especially as we are a food outlet and many of our customers are of the older generation. We felt we had to make changes and, like so many other businesses, we thought about how we could continue to support our customers in a safe environment. We hastily put together an order form, created an email account and set up a collection and delivery system.

Our customers have been so appreciative that we stayed open and we equally have been glad of their support. We are also very grateful to The Venue for allowing us to use their car park every Saturday morning to collate orders and allow customers to collect their goods.

Although it will be a few weeks until we are operating fully, if you are interested in what we have to offer, either pop along to The Venue in Hill

Street (behind Barclays Bank) on a Saturday between 9 and 11am, or email for an order form: [rosscountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:rosscountrymarket@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you and welcoming you to a new experience

*Anthea*



## ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL

Fiona Leathart's elderflower cordial is still available for sale. It is at the same great price as last year of £3.20/500ml. It is available at the Ross Country Market on Saturday mornings at The Venue, Hill Street, Ross, between 9 and 11am. Orders in advance, by Wednesday evening, can be sent by email to [rosscountrymarket@gmail.com](mailto:rosscountrymarket@gmail.com).

Alternatively, depending on where you live, Fiona could deliver or meet you at a mutually convenient venue. Ring 01989 565271. Proceeds from sales of cordial will be donated to Hope Mansell Church.

## GARDENING – *Agapanthus* or African Lilies

These dramatic, sun-loving, border or pot plants produce large spherical flowerheads, usually in shades of blue from dark inky shades which can be almost purple to pale sapphire, but there are a number now with white flowers. *Agapanthus* come from southern Africa, but, like their fellow countrymen *crocasmias*, they have spread around the world and naturalised where the climate is favourable for them. They are to be seen growing wild on the road verges of Madeira, for example.

*Agapanthus* love plenty of sunshine, fertile soil and adequate rainfall and are also quite heavy feeders, particularly if grown in pots. There are two main types of *agapanthus*: the hardier deciduous ones and then the evergreen types, whose fleshy roots and leaves are very prone to frost damage. The evergreen types are best grown in pots and put under cover during the winter, although a cold greenhouse with some protection in very cold spells should be sufficient unless the winter is very severe. The deciduous varieties are hardiest, dying down in winter. Once established, they should all withstand most conditions. *Agapanthus* vary greatly in height, from the very small at around 1ft to some that can get as tall as 5ft.

All *agapanthus* are well suited to being grown in pots. Use a loam-based compost like John Innes No 3 mixed with a little grit and some slow release feed granules added for long-term feed.

Keep them watered and feed well during the growing season, but do not have them in too big a pot as they will flower better if slightly constricted but not totally pot-bound. If planting in the open ground, moist, well-drained soil is ideal and in full sun if possible as they will not flower well without sun for most of the day. Poor, dry soil needs the addition of plenty of organic matter and fertiliser. Feeding twice a year (in spring and midsummer) with rose fertiliser, or regular feeding with liquid tomato feed, provides plenty of nitrogen and potash for strong growth and abundant flowers.

It may take two or three years for plants to establish before flowering really takes off, but after this they will grow into large, long-flowering clumps. If the clumps become too big, then they can be lifted and split every four or five years. Deadhead the flowers unless you want to keep the dried flower heads for decoration. They also make good, long-lasting cut flowers. The following are a selection of cultivars that all hold the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

*Agapanthus* 'Flower of Love' is a compact deciduous free-flowering *agapanthus* with large rounded heads of deep blue flowers on short upright stems, around 2ft tall.

*Agapanthus* 'Northern Star' is slightly taller, free-flowering, with stiff stems supporting rounded heads of violet-blue flowers with a darker stripe down the centre. The deciduous foliage also has an attractive dark flush base.

*Agapanthus* 'Loch Hope' is another deciduous one for the border, tall up to 4ft, with narrow strap-like greyish-green leaves and upright stems with trumpet-shaped, deep blue flowers.

*Agapanthus* 'Jacaranda' is an early-flowering type with mid-blue flowers, striped with a deeper blue, in bloom from June through to August, around 3 ft tall and an evergreen cultivar.

*Agapanthus* 'Snow Cloud' is another evergreen cultivar with large round heads of narrow pure-white flowers with yellow anthers on strong stems, tall at around 4ft.

*Agapanthus* 'African Skies' is an impressive evergreen agapanthus producing large, rounded flower heads of mid-blue blooms with darker stripes on strong stems. Again this one is tall and imposing at around 4ft.

Agapanthus are easy partners for many other plants. For a cottage garden look, combine with hardy geraniums, roses and penstemons. However, if planted with crocosmias, orange dahlias and heleniums, then the blue flowers will really stand out against the orange tones. Create a tropical theme in pots with the large evergreen agapanthus and cannas.



## **A message from West Mercia police:**

### **NHS test and trace – fraud awareness**

If NHS Test and Trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number: 0300 0135 000. The only website the service will ask you to visit is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

Contact tracers will never:

- Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- Ask you to make any form of payment
- Ask for any details about your bank account
- Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- Ask you to purchase a product
- Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet
- Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS

*Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040*

## RECTOR'S LETTER

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Before Jesus sent his disciples out on their first solo mission, he imparted dire warnings about the rejection and hostility that they would inevitably face. This is the background to today's Gospel reading. Now, just before the disciples depart with nothing but the clothes they're standing up in, come words of reassurance and hope. But these words are not for the disciples themselves. Jesus explains that anyone who welcomes one of his disciples receives Jesus himself and, by extension, his heavenly Father. The reward for such hospitality is not for the disciples, but for those who welcome them.

So where is the reward for the disciples themselves? They have sacrificed their personal comfort, material possessions and security to go on this mission – do they not deserve some form of recompense? This passage makes it clear that any small act of kindness or thoughtfulness brings overwhelming rewards, because doing God's work is a reward in itself. The reward for a faithful disciple is not something that can be measured "in human terms", as St Paul describes it in his letter to the Romans. Rather, the disciple is rewarded by a deepening relationship with God and an experience of God's love and spiritual gifts.

And this reward, freely given, is more fulfilling than any material incentive. We can see this in Luke's account of the seventy disciples returning from their mission elated and energised (Luke 10:17–20).

The world saw the largest daily increase yet in coronavirus over the weekend. Despite clear progress in containing the virus many people still live in fear. The way to overcome fear is with love. In

Revelations of Divine Love, Julian of Norwich likens Jesus to a mother and repeatedly refers to him as our "heavenly" or "beloved" Mother. Some modern-day liturgists might think it wonderfully progressive to refer to God as "she", and it may please some and shock others, yet Julian was doing it back in the fourteenth century.

The reason Julian likened Jesus to a mother was to illustrate that he never lets us, his children, suffer more than necessary. In the way that a mother will allow her child to fall so that he or she may learn to navigate the world, she will never allow any real harm to come their way. Yes, we may endure suffering on earth (and we know that some of that suffering will be far worse than a fall), but when we do suffer Jesus will hold us lovingly and swiftly raise us.

When friends and family look after us, or come alongside us during difficult times, it is their instinct to mother us, just as Jesus mothers us. Jesus acts through us, his children. He is "utterly at home" in us, according to Julian, and lives in us for ever.

Julian of Norwich referred to Jesus as our "heavenly Mother". Though a mother will let her child fall in order to learn the realities of life, she will, however, do all she can to prevent him or her from coming to serious harm.

Jesus works through each one of us to bring his mothering love to the world. As Jesus dwells within us, it is our calling to make sure that we look out for each other and help each other to navigate the world.

*Rev. David Howell*



## PARISH COUNCIL

A report of the parish council meeting of 1st July will appear in the September edition of Weston News. In the meantime, please remember that we are still available to co-ordinate any requests for help arising from the Covid-19 situation.

### **BROADBAND IN HOPE MANSELL**

Fastershire recently announced some changes to the rollout of broadband with Gigaclear. The headline proclaimed that even more areas would be included in Gigaclear's fibre-to-the-home network. But it also means that the existing schedule will be adjusted, and that – surprise! – the start of the network build in Hope Mansell, Pontshill and Dancing Green is now scheduled for the fourth quarter of this year – that is, beginning in October, rather than the previously announced start this month (July).

But there's still hope of connection by Christmas!

If you think you might be interested in signing up with them, Gigaclear's package prices currently range from £39 per month for 30MB/s download speed to £79 for 900MB/s – [www.gigaclear.com](http://www.gigaclear.com). Currently, typical ADSL download speed in Hope Mansell seems to be under 2MB/s.

Gigaclear will be the only fixed-line alternative to current ADSL services in this area, and you may feel that you'll want to keep a "normal" telephone line as well, since the Gigaclear service is Internet only. You can use Internet telephone services like Vonage or Skype on Gigaclear but – unlike the normal phone service – your Internet phone won't work if you have an Internet problem or if there's a power cut.

If you want higher speeds but don't want to sign up with Gigaclear, you could try investigating mobile Internet. There are patches in the parish where it works well, and others where it doesn't work at all. The three networks all have slightly different coverage – and have all recently dropped their prices. For example, I'm currently paying ee £32/month for unlimited data and getting speeds of 50–70MB/s from a router in the top floor of my house in Hope Mansell.

*Ian Lewis*

Chairman, Hope Mansell Parish  
Council

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



## Notes from Council Meeting held 4th June 2020

This was a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.

The minutes from the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May were approved.

Various highways issues were dealt with.

The proposal for road signs for Springetts Lane, Church Lane, The Streete or Whitehall, Rectory Lane, Bury Hill Lane was ongoing.

The Lengthsman had completed various work around the parish.

The public rights of way were in good order around the parish thanks to the Lengthsman.

Crime & Prevention Initiative – a representative of Smartwater (the marking of property) would attend a council meeting once the lockdown restrictions had eased.

Planning: P201266 – Highfields, Bromsash. No objection agreed.

P201389 Porch Farm New farm entrance. No objection agreed.

P201420 Bury Hill Cottage Two storey extension. No objection agreed.

P200345 Bollitree Farm Erection of farm building – re-consultation. No action required

Various projects on hold – renewal of footpath sign boards and steps leading up the church.

The wildflower area proposed along the A40 and tree enhancement scheme is ongoing.

Next meeting: Thursday 2nd July. There will be no meeting in August. Meeting to be held on Thursday 3rd September.

Please use the parish council website for updates and the minutes from this meeting can be viewed on the website:

[www.weston-under-penyard.co.uk](http://www.weston-under-penyard.co.uk)

Would parishioners please contact the clerk –

[westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com](mailto:westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com) – if any work needs to be done by the Lengthsman around the parish or any other matters.

### **CLEARING UP AFTER YOUR DOG**

There has been an increase of dog owners not clearing up after their dogs, especially on the lanes around the parish and on the footpaths.

With more people taking their daily exercise please could dog owners be more considerate. Please pick up any mess and take the bags home for disposal, do not leave them in hedgerows or on the pathways

## LITTER PICKING

Even though traffic has been quieter during lockdown and most walkers are great at taking any litter home with them, our roads and lanes in the parish have started to get a bit messy again with litter. Some people already go out from time to time to clear an area near where they live, and we are really grateful for that – thank you if you are one of those people.

### **Would you be able to spare an hour or two from time to time to do a bit of litter picking in the parish?**

So that we can all play our part in keeping our parish tidy, the Parish Council has purchased some litter-picking sticks and hi-vis tabards so that anyone who would like to can borrow these and do a bit of litter picking to help keep things tidy on our roads and lanes.

The pickup sticks, tabards and a supply of bags are kept at Linda Dunn's house, The Olde Shoppe opposite the Weston Cross pub. If you would like to arrange to borrow sticks and tabards, please call Linda on 562818 or please email

[Imarydunn@sky.com](mailto:Imarydunn@sky.com) to arrange a convenient time to collect them. When you have finished with them, you can return them there as well. If you want to hold on to a stick and tabard for a while to do several litter picks, just let Linda know that when you pick them up.

When you have finished, please take your filled bags to the Village Hall car park and put them into the large waste container there.

While we have Covid-19 around, returned pickup sticks and tabards will be kept separate from others to be given out for at least 72 hours before being reused so everything should be safe from any infection.

It would be great if we can have several volunteers all doing an hour or two of litter picking each month and helping to keep the parish tidy.

**Thank you in anticipation of your help.**

## COOKING: Lettuce soup

We have had an extremely good crop of lettuce this year and I had to be quite inventive using it before it went to seed, as I hate to see crops unused. So I found my recipe for lettuce soup. I promise it is much nicer than it sounds!

### Ingredients

1 chopped onion

250g/9oz lettuce

400g/14oz peeled and cubed potatoes

800 ml/1 1/3 pints vegetable stock

Salt and pepper

Cream and chives, parsley or dill for decoration

Fry the onions until translucent. Then add the potatoes and lettuce, stirring constantly for one minute. Add the stock and bring to a simmer. Cover and cook for 10–12 minutes or until the potatoes are very tender. Blitz with a stick blender or in a liquidiser. Season to taste and serve with cream and herbs sprinkled over the top.

Can be enjoyed chilled or warm. I freeze this soup for colder days, when we need warming up and reminding of the sun.



## LOCAL HISTORY:

### More about Lea Bailey Lodge

*This is turning into quite the mini-series. Here is an additional piece sent in by Allan Ockenden.*

Further to earlier articles about Lea Bailey Lodge, the 1889 1:2500 OS sheet shows the lodge in great detail. The garden around the house is shown together with outbuildings and a paddock, in all about 2.3 acres. The layout of forest rides has changed little in the last hundred years and the position of the lodge is easily located today. Careful inspection at the site can still reveal remnants of the old boundaries and the footings of the demolished buildings beneath the undergrowth.

The Lodge was built around 1810 in response to the Parliamentary Act of 1808 “for the increase and preservation of timber in Dean and New Forests”. It was one of 24 so called ‘Glenbervie lodges’ which were erected in various parts of the Forest under the aegis of the then Chief Commissioner for Woods and Forests, Lord Glenbervie, who was Surveyor General from 1803 to 1810. The lodge would almost certainly have had an inscribed stone above the doorway. This, alas, was lost with the demolition of the lodge in the 1930s.

By the end of the 18th century the timber reserves in the Lea Bailey, as

with many other parts of the Forest, had become depleted and the area subject to encroachment with the building of many cottages and the annexation of small plots of land. Glenbervie oversaw a programme of re-forestation and the creation of substantial new fenced enclosures in order to protect this new planting and deter further encroachment. The new forester’s lodge was sited in the corner of a new 169-acre enclosure which occupied the northern part of the Lea Bailey, and the surrounding ditch and bank can still be traced in the woods today. By the 1860s two other enclosures totalling 136 acres had been established in the southern part of the woods, bounded in part with a stone wall, the remnants of which can also still be found, particularly along Elm Lane.

*Allan Ockenden – Newtown*



**Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series sheet 1889 showing detailed layout of the lodge and its grounds.**

## CHURCH SERVICES

As we begin to open up our churches, we will see some differences in the way in which we conduct our services. There will be no hymns being sung and in their place a shorter Said Communion Service, where we will take bread alone. There will be additional Lay-Led Services where possible, and these will be in the format of Mattins. We will continue to participate in our Benefice Zoom Services on the 2nd Sunday of the month, as these have proved very popular and enjoyable. We're also extending the joviality of the Benefice Zoom Services by offering a new 12 noon Zoom meeting on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays for those people who are still unable to attend church. The option to open the churches for services is just that, 'An Option'; it is not mandatory, and whilst as I write this everybody has chosen to participate in the opening up, this may well be (as is everything during

this uncertain time) subject to change, and will be reviewed at the end of August. It may not work out for each parish and we may have to have a rethink, but we are blessed with the support received from on high as to do what is right for us. Please do bear with us as we find our feet getting back up and running. David and the whole team of Church Wardens and Lay Readers look forward to welcoming you all back.



### St Lawrence's – Weston-under-Penyard

5th	11.15 am	Mattins
12th	10.30 am	Ariconium Benefice Zoom Service
19th	11.00 am	Said Communion
26th	10.00 am	Said Communion

### St Michael's – Hope Mansell

5th	9.00 am	Said Communion
12th	10.30 am	Ariconium Benefice Zoom Service
19th	11.00 am	Said Communion
26th	9.30 am	Mattins

**POEM: I love to see the summer beaming forth – John Clare (1793–1864)**

I love to see the summer beaming forth  
And white wool sack clouds sailing to the north  
I love to see the wild flowers come again  
And Mare blobs stain with gold the meadow drain  
And water lilies whiten on the floods  
Where reed clumps rustle like a wind shook wood  
Where from her hiding place the Moor Hen pushes  
And seeks her flag nest floating in bull rushes  
I like the willow leaning half way o'er  
The clear deep lake to stand upon its shore  
I love the hay grass when the flower head swings  
To summer winds and insects happy wings  
That sport about the meadow the bright day  
And see bright beetles in the clear lake play

## **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 versions. We will be contacting you over the next month or so, to suggest how your investment can be adjusted to reflect the lack of exposure during this online phase of the magazine.

The next edition will be the September edition – publication end August/early September. All contributions by Friday 21st August to [wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk). Any comments or suggestions for the editor: Lori Weber: 07967 816631

Advertising: contact Lori Weber: 07967 816631 or [wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk)  
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