

WestonNEWS...

June 2020



westonnews.co.uk

EDITOR'S LETTER

This month's online magazine is full of photographs! The centre of the magazine is dedicated to the Hope Mansell online Flower Festival: lots of lovely images of flowers, arrangements and gardens. I hope you enjoy looking at all the contributions, and thank you to everyone who submitted.

We have heard a cuckoo across the valley recently too. Anyone else seen or heard any interesting wildlife? Do let me know, take a photo and I will include it in July's edition. *LMW*

NEXT EDITION

Just a reminder that the next edition (July) is the last until we resume in September. If you belong to a group which is hoping to start again in the Autumn then do let me have details. At this stage we do not know if the September edition will be hard copy or online. But we will be back!

WESTON NEWS AGM

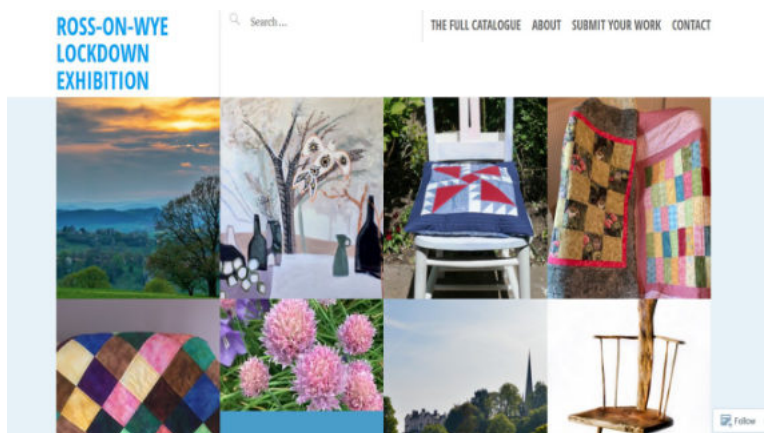
Weston News is your village magazine, if you live in Weston-under-Penyard or Hope Mansell. It is funded by advertising and is produced and, usually, distributed by a group of volunteers. We hope to be able to resume those deliveries later in the year.

The Weston News 2020 AGM will be held on Zoom at 10.30am on Monday 22 June. Residents of the two parishes are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact the editor, Lori Weber, on wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk and she will send you the link. If you're interested in being more involved with the magazine, perhaps by joining the committee, you will be particularly welcome! For further information, please ring José Wilson on 01989 567774.

FRONT COVER

This month's delightful photo of a fine kestrel is from Jeff and Rhian James, Hope Mansell.

St Mary's in Ross is running an online exhibition currently which is well worth a visit. The link is: <https://rosslockdownexhibition.gallery>



GARDENING

Thalictrum or Meadow Rue

Thalictrums, or meadow rues, are loved for their airy growth habit, attractive glaucous foliage and delicate fluffy flowers that waft around in any breeze. They generally are in flower in June and July. They are herbaceous perennials that die back each autumn but seem to shoot up very quickly in the spring. The early foliage often has an attractive purple tint. Most thalictrums are tall, growing from 1.2m to 2.5m; however, there are some that are really quite short and even some alpine varieties, although these are quite specialist and hard to find. They mostly prefer very light shade but will really grow anywhere that is not too dry in the summer. Although they are tall they never normally seem to need staking, but some subtle support from surrounding plants can be useful. However, if your garden is very exposed then they might need some extra support.

Thalictrum aquilegiifolium is widely available and has the RHS award of garden merit. The species has mauve flowers but the cultivar 'Album', as the name suggests, has white flowers during June and July. There is a cultivar *T. aquilegiifolium* 'Thundercloud' which has darker flowers and deep purple stamens. All of these grow to about 1m tall.

Thalictrum delavayi has fluffy sprays of lilac flowers on upright, dark purple stems above clumps of fern-like grey-green leaves. Again, there is a white variety and this one is around 1.2m tall.

One of the tallest cultivars is *Thalictrum* 'Elin', which grows up to around 2m to 2.5m tall with willowy stems covered in blue-grey foliage. From June to August

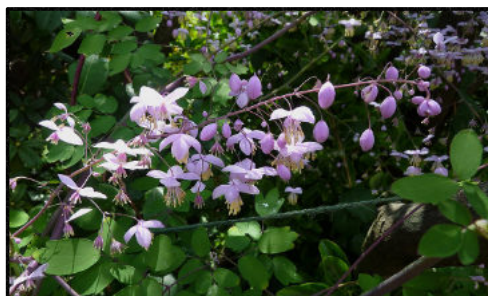
there are lots of tiny lilac-pink flowers with cream stamens in the centre. This is a sterile hybrid, so no self-seeding.

A new cultivar is one called *T.* 'Black Stockings' which has lavender-purple flowers held high on striking jet-black stems. This one has an RHS AGM.

Thalictrums are clump-forming and some can self-seed around, particularly the species ones, but not so much as to be invasive, and also they are largely pest- and disease-free. If you need to divide a clump, this is best done early spring or early autumn. However, another advantage of thalictrums is that they can be left for many years undisturbed and do not routinely need to be divided, unlike some other perennials, so are not too much trouble in a mixed border.

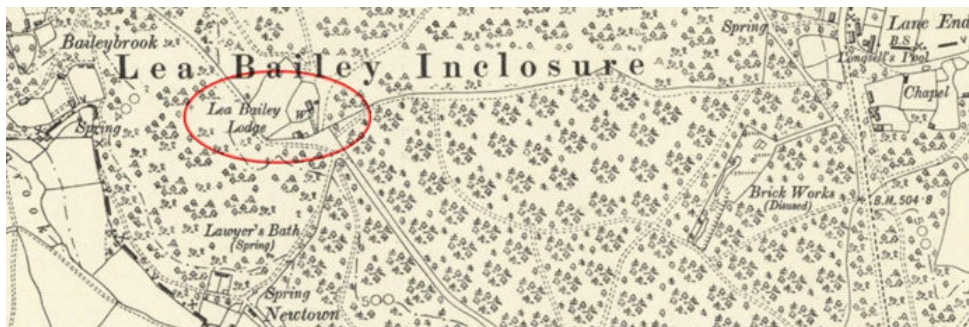
Thalictrums look good in most settings and mix well with other herbaceous perennials and grasses. Given their height and the floaty nature of the flowers, thalictrums are well-suited to growing in herbaceous borders, bringing a relaxed, informal mood to any setting. The flowers are followed by long-lasting seed heads, with the seeds sometimes being eaten by birds during the winter, so they are best left until early spring to cut down the stems which are quite attractive anyway during the winter.

Christine Flint



LOCAL HISTORY: Lea Bailey Lodge

Mary Freeman has sent us the following fascinating response to last month's article about the Bailey Lane.



(from the 1903 Ordnance Survey map – National Library of Scotland)

The Keeper's Lodge was called Lea Bailey Lodge. In brief, from around 1900 it was the home of my great-grandparents, James and Mary Anne Adams, and my grandmother, as well as her brothers and sisters. My great-grandfather was the Head Forestry Keeper for the area and the Forest of Dean from circa the turn of the century. He had a telephone to help carry out his work. His sons attended the Forestry School at Parkend and became Kings Foresters, taking charge of projects in Africa as well as forests all over England. I have some of their obituaries.

One of the reasons my late mother spoke of Jenny Robbins' shop at the Lodge was that the Head Master of Hope Mansell School, Mr Cook, would send her in the lunch time to run to the shop to get his tobacco.



I don't know who is standing in the doorway. Unusually for the area it is a painted house. My mother used to point it out to us from Starve Beech. My sister Jane remembers it was white, but we have no idea when or why it was demolished. My mother spoke of unusual trees planted nearby the Lodge – they were tall – which she said were brought back from the sons' tour of Africa in their capacity of Kings Foresters.

Mary Freeman

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MARKET

Country Markets Ltd is a national co-operative with markets held all over the country, but did you know there is one 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 9.00-11.00am, or email for an order form: 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 now 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.

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.

NOTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETINGS ON 13TH MAY 2020

COVID-19

There was a recent spike of infections in the Ross area and the danger of infection remains. Please continue to take sensible precautions – especially physical distancing.

During the Covid-19 crisis, councils may hold meetings online in order to comply with physical distancing regulations. Virtual meetings are still open to the public, and joining details are published with the agenda. Having said that, we hope that we will be able to conduct our next meeting – in July – in the real world once again. The regulations also permit postponement of the annual public Parish Meeting until after the crisis, and all elections are postponed until 2021.

The virtual meeting began with the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** at which Ian Lewis was re-elected as chair, with Mary Wheeler as vice-chair. Consideration of the audited annual accounts was deferred, as permitted by Covid-19 regulations.

A normal **Parish Council Meeting** followed.

Roads: clerk will chase Balfour Beatty to expedite repair work on the collapsed culvert at the corner opposite Parkfields. It seems we have to buy our own “Hope Mansell” sign to replace the one missing from the southern end of the village. Expenditure was approved and a new sign will be ordered. It appears we’re not allowed to put up the “20 is plenty” signs we previously discussed.

Tree-felling in the Lea Bailey Inclosure has been brought forward from July to mid-May, in spite of the presence of two goshawk nests, and disturbance to all birds nesting in the area. The Council has supported protests to Forestry England, who are, it seems, complying with the letter, if not the spirit, of the law. We have contacted Jesse Norman, MP, and William Wilding, County Councillor, in the hope of campaigning for a change in the law, whereby Forestry England would face the same restrictions on cutting and felling in the nesting season as farmers already do.

Covid-19 helpers: thank you once again to all those who offered to join the helpers list. We’re happy that nobody needs our help, but please ask if you do. Contact Liz New, details below. We’d like to collect anonymous infection statistics for Hope Mansell parish, so we’d be pleased if you’d let us know if you or anyone you know have been infected.

(Continued)

Planning: we are looking into whether the structure at Buttercups, Dancing Green, fits the regulations for a mobile home and will ask for a site meeting with the planning officer.

Clerk: Liz New can be contacted on 07786 336003 or email hopemansellparishclerk@outlook.com for all queries, or items for the agenda.

Footpath queries or problems: contact Mary Wheeler on 01989 750101.

Next meeting: Wednesday 1st July 2020 at Bailey Lane End

Find more information including full minutes and accounts on our website www.hopemansell.org.uk

VE Day Anniversary

The village celebrated the day by putting on an amazing display of Union Jacks, World War II memorabilia and front garden family tea parties. A very happy and friendly atmosphere was created when villagers wandered around and chatted over garden gates. 1940s music was played and amplified from Malcolm and Jenny Hatton's front door, making the afternoon very special.

Our Thursday 8pm celebration of the NHS is growing week by week. We now have guitar music, bells, whistles, car horns, saucepan lids, and vigorous clapping, which must be heard as far away as Weston under Penyard and Hope Mansell.

Sheila Heath

POSTPONEMENT OF OPEN GARDEN EVENT

Due to the current situation with the Covid-19 virus and government guidelines, the open garden at Armada Lodge in Hope Mansell on 26th and 28th June has been postponed. A new date will be arranged when safe to do so.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Here is the collection of photos and comments showing a wonderful array of flowers and garden scenes. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

INSPIRED BY A POEM

This garden arrangement is by **Janet Jacobs**. Here is the poem which inspired her display:

Put Something In – *Shel Silverstein*

Draw a crazy picture,
Write a nutty poem,
Sing a mumble-grumble song,
Whistle through your comb.
Do a loony-goony dance
'Cross the kitchen floor,
Put something silly in the world
That ain't been there before.



FLOWER FESTIVAL

Lori Weber – A paler shade of white

More inspired by a twist on a song title rather than a poem. The pale colours of these flowers and grasses, a mix of garden and wild (all growing at Yew Tree House) brought to mind the Procol Harum song.



FLOWER FESTIVAL

THINGS TO HELP US FEEL POSITIVE



Fiona Leathart, Starve Beech (left)

This beautiful Wisteria was planted as a 'no-hope' 'stick' in a pot on our patio several years ago. It is a delight every year. Its roots have grown through the bottom of the pot by now and in between the brick pavers.

Charlotte Cole, Kettle Bottom (right)

In these weird and worrying times Hope Mansell salutes all those who are working tirelessly and selflessly to keep us safe, well and fed!





FLOWER FESTIVAL

VARIED PHOTOS TO CELEBRATE FLOWERS AND GARDENS

Beauty and wildlife from the garden of **Jeff and Rhian James**





FLOWER FESTIVAL

Elaine Shaw

I have always had an affection for Greece and the Mediterranean and when my pond became too much to maintain, I decided to create a Grecian paradise on my doorstep. I now have an ideal oasis to enjoy a glass of wine and allow myself to imagine I am in the Mediterranean.



The second picture is a favourite Azalea. The backdrop shows a multitude of colours at the back of my garden.



HOPE MANSELL

FLOWER FESTIVAL



Meri Mayhew

I have chosen an arrangement of common wild flowers found in Hope Mansell, having been able to collect almost 30 different flowers (but no rare or endangered ones!) from our hedgerows and woodlands. With the current restrictions, it makes me appreciate even more how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful place.



HOPE MANSELL

FLOWER FESTIVAL



Fox in the acer

Lady in blue – both from **Mary Freeman**

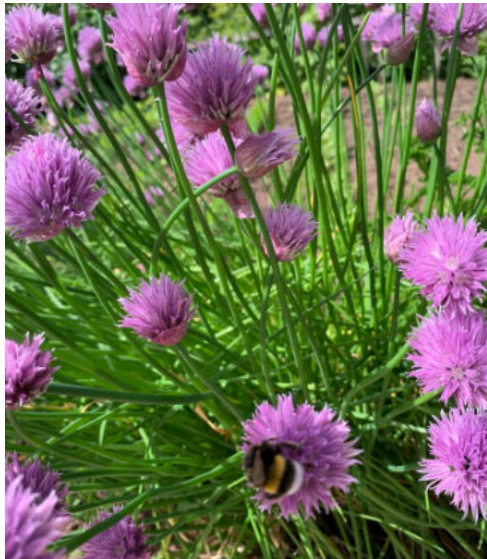




FLOWER FESTIVAL

Venera Town

This garden photo (right) is entitled
"Lady in Waiting"



On the left we have a very
"Busy bee..."

This photo of two beautiful
climbing roses is entitled

"Love and Peace"



FOOTPATHS IN WESTON UNDER PENYARD

“Reasons to be cheerful!”



During the current lockdown it is clear that many more of you are getting outside and using the local footpaths. If you have not, then you might want to consider this:

However much you are isolating due to Covid-19, we are still allowed to get outside to exercise with members of our own household.

- Walking is proven to improve our physical and mental well-being
- We live in a wonderful part of the country and have no need to drive anywhere
- We have 15 miles of footpaths within the parish that you have a right to walk
- It is springtime and the wild flowers, trees and birds are all performing for us
- The winter's mud is long gone, and the footpaths are now at their best
- The weather continues to be superb for walking (at the time of writing in mid-May)

So, what are you waiting for? Maybe you do not know where these footpaths are, and so here is some help for you. Just use the link below to download a map of the parish showing all the rights of way. The footpaths are shown in purple and the roads in red.

<https://weston-under-penyard.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Emap-Highway-Footpaths-WESTON-UNDER-PENYARD-1.pdf>

Where a footpath commences at a road you will find a fingerpost. All stiles and gates are marked with round waymarkers to keep you on track.

Some words of warning:

- When walking, make sure you follow the current government advice about Covid-19
- All our footpaths in Weston under Penyard are on private land. We have a right to walk only on the footpaths and we must not wander over the fields
- Keep dogs under effective control and ensure they do not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access. To avoid spreading disease to livestock, please ensure that you clear up any dog poo.
- Our parish footpaths are only open to walkers and are not open to horse-riders, cyclists or motorcyclists
- The walks shown here on our parish map are known as Public Rights of Way. Additional footpaths are included on maps issued by Ordnance Survey, but we have no right to walk them.
- Finally, for the benefit of all residents and landowners, please comply with the Countryside Code provided by Natural England.

Details of the country code can be found using the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701188/countryside-code.pdf

Please feel free to let us know if you agree that our footpaths are 'Reasons to be cheerful'.

Also, whether you are a landowner or a walker, if you have any problems to report or just need advice please contact the Parish Footpaths Officer or the Parish Clerk.

Parish Footpaths Officer – Councillor John Smart – 1johnsmart@gmail.com

Parish Clerk – Nick Richmond
westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com You can also report footpath problems to Herefordshire Council at <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem>

John Smart





Notes from Council Meeting held 14th May 2020

This was a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.

The minutes from the meeting held on 16th April were approved.

Linda Dunn was appointed chairman and Chris Morris was elected vice chairman. It was agreed to set up four working groups:

- Finance, admin and communication
- Planning
- Highways and Public Rights of Way
- Environment and Climate Change

Councillors were appointed to each group.

Other officers were also appointed:

- Footpaths officer – John Smart
- Weston village hall representative – Terry Prince
- Lengthsman liaison – Terry Prince
- Tree officer – Paul Rutter
- Defibrillator liaison – Linda McGill
- Crime and Police liaison – Martin Firman

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: P201113 – Chestnuts Barn, Pontshill – No objection agreed.

The wildflower area proposed along the A40 was ongoing.

Defibrillators – a report was given.

Next meeting: **Thursday 4th June.**

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

Would parishioners please contact the clerk –

[westonunderpenyardparishclerk@](mailto:westonunderpenyardparishclerk@outlook.com)

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The parish council's website has details of the village emergency telephone system (VETS), centred around the defibrillator in the phone box at the end of Church Lane. By calling 01989 500 999 (after having rung 999 for the emergency services), you can ask for help should a defibrillator be urgently needed in a case of suspected cardiac arrest. The call will be answered by one of several trained volunteers who will collect a defibrillator, bring it to you and assist in its use.

Currently, because of the coronavirus outbreak, the system is suspended. However, once the need for social distancing is over, we need to recruit three new volunteers to act as responders. Initially, you would be taught how the telephone system operates and would take part in a phone trial to check your number works. This will be supplemented later by basic first aid training.

If you are interested in acting as one of the volunteers, please contact Linda McGill by email at

lmcgill54@btinternet.com.

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

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.

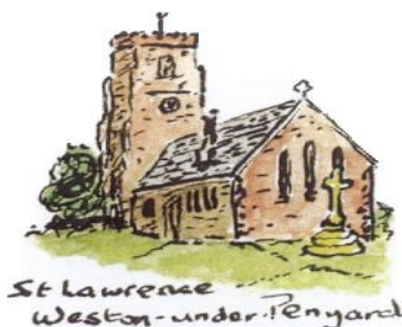
THE CHURCH IS NOW CLOSED

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.



COOKING: Broad Bean and Pea Hummus

Broad beans are my favourite veggies and they should be in plentiful supply this month. This recipe takes a few minutes to whip up and is really versatile.

INGREDIENTS

300g podded peas (fresh or frozen)
300g broad beans (fresh or defrosted from frozen)
4tbsp sunflower or olive oil
2 peeled garlic cloves
Zest of 2 lemons and 1 lemon's juice
More extra virgin olive oil
Salt and black pepper



METHOD

Bring the peas and beans to the boil in salted water and cook for 3 minutes. Cool under running cold water and drain well.

Gently cook the garlic in 4 tablespoons of oil for 3–4 minutes; don't brown the garlic!

Whizz veggies with the oil and garlic infusion in a blender, with salt and pepper, lemon zest and the juice with another 3 tablespoons of extra virgin oil, taste and season again.

Stir in more oil if you need it.

You can serve it as a dip, in a bruschetta, in wraps or flatbreads, and it also works well stirred into pasta.

Jan Powell

Recruitment to the Magistracy (Family Bench)



The Staffordshire and West Mercia Advisory Committee, (Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire) is recruiting new magistrates from June 1st. It is now possible for people to apply to become Family magistrates without being appointed to the Adult Bench first. Magistrates should be between the ages of 18 and 70 and need no formal qualifications as training is provided. They should:

- be of good character
- have good powers of understanding and communication
- possess some social awareness
- show maturity and a sound temperament
- display sound judgement
- be both committed and reliable.

During the current public health emergency, advisory committees are continuing to encourage applications and to accept and sift them as planned (but in order to comply with social distancing and travel restrictions candidates will not be interviewed until it can be done safely).

Sue Furnival J.P. D.L.

01531 641955

WISH – have you heard about WISH Herefordshire? It's a free online wellbeing information and signposting service, providing details for over 950 different services and groups across the county, along with promoting over 350 activities and events every month. It currently offers a comprehensive list of over 100 local suppliers which are providing community food boxes, groceries and hot meals during the coronavirus lockdown, alongside a great range of local and national online exercises and activities to keep you active and entertained whilst you're staying at home.

To find something for you and your family, take a look at www.wisherefordshire.org or follow WISH on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by searching @WishHereford.

Affordable warmth – Herefordshire Council is working with E.ON to help people across the county improve the heating of their homes by installing free first-time gas central heating systems in around 300 eligible residents' homes. The project follows a successful funding bid by the Council to the £150 million Warm Homes Fund, established by National Grid, and administered by community interest company Affordable Warmth Solutions.

Eligible households not connected to mains gas and currently relying on inefficient ways of heating their homes, for example electric storage or panel heaters, could be eligible for the measures, which are part of the Warmer Homes Herefordshire scheme. Subject to eligibility, where there is no existing gas supply to the property, a new gas network connection will also be provided by Affordable Warmth Solutions, usually at no cost.

Further info please see online: Warmer Homes Herefordshire

POEM: All in June – William Henry Davies

A week ago I had a fire	Till to my garden back I come,
To warm my feet, my hands and face;	Where bumble-bees for hours and hours
Cold winds, that never make a friend,	Sit on their soft, fat, velvet bums,
Crept in and out of every place.	To wriggle out of hollow flowers.

William Henry Davies

(Monmouthshire – 1871–1940)

Today the fields are rich in grass,
And buttercups in thousands grow;
I'll show the world where I have been –
With gold-dust seen on either shoe.

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 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 published on Wednesday 1st July. All contributions by **Friday 19th June 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
Advertising: contact Lori Weber: 07967 816631 or wstnnews@yahoo.co.uk
Distribution queries: contact José Wilson: 01989 567774

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