Issue No. 12 FEBRUARY – MARCH 2025

Westwood Update

Keeping our villages connected

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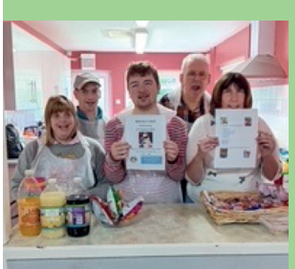
Westwood park (former nursery) building

Welcome to the February-March edition of the Westwood Update. After a short break, we welcome new faces to the Update editorial team.

Parish Council update: the Parish Council has been very busy – we now have a potential tenant and use for the park building as a community hub. We will shortly be introducing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) across suitable locations within Westwood. Details of each are below. Feedback and comments very welcome. Tree and hedge works have taken place in the park as part of our ongoing maintenance programme with the next phase seeing the planting of new hedging (courtesy of the Woodland Trust) along the patchy hedgerow in the middle of the park, the addition of three more fruit trees and, in summer, careful pruning of the avenue of cherry trees to ensure they remain healthy and long lived. Volunteers for planting sessions always welcome. Lastly, a reminder that we have litter picking equipment should anyone wish to organise a litter pick - perhaps as part of the Great British Spring Clean (21 March - 6 April 2025)? Do get in touch via our clerk, Neil, on **clerk@westwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk**

WAVELY CAFE AT WESTWOOD SOCIAL CLUB

The Wavely Café is run fortnightly by adults with learning disabilities. The Café has helped many of the customers to gain new skills and given them more confidence and opportunities in the community.



One customer said, “They like Wavely café as it has allowed them to form friendships outside the service” another customer has been able to gain skills in the kitchen with minimal support and said “Wavely café makes me feel happy and excited and I like serving the customers”.

WILTSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION (BKVC)

In February, entries will be invited for the BKVC. Categories are Large, Medium and Small villages. There are 15 prizes of up to £200. It’s a great way of getting villagers together to keep our villages looking good and to build on our community spirit. Entry is simple and must be received by CPRE Wiltshire by 17 April. Can you help our Parish Council with this? Details are at **www.cprewiltshire.org.uk/category/awards/** or call **01380 722157** and leave a message if necessary.



The New Inn
Wed-Sat 12-3pm
and 6-10pm.
Sun 12-4pm



Iford Manor Kitchen
Winter opening times:
11 Oct - 31 Mar 2025
Fri & Sat 11:45-14:30
Sun 11:45-14:30



No.10 Tea Rooms, Avoncliff
(Reopening 14th Feb 2025)
Fri: 09:00-16:00. Sat: 09:00-16:00. Sun: 09:00-16:00



Westwood Village Stores and Post Office
Mon-Sat: 6:00am-10:00pm
Sun: 7:00am-9:00pm



Westwood Park Building: Community Hub



The Park Building was bequeathed to the Westwood Parish Council in 1981 but since the nursery closed in 2019 the Parish Council has struggled to attract a new lease holder due to the existing covenants that state that the park (including the park building) must be maintained as an amenity for the enjoyment of the Westwood Parish and may not be developed for any other purpose.

Legal advice has indicated that the building cannot be used for residential or solely commercial purposes, but community-based activities and not-for-profit amenity-based businesses would be permitted. The Council also wishes to ensure that any future use does not become a nuisance to neighbouring properties or jeopardise other existing amenities within the Parish.

A small number of expressions of interest have been received and having reviewed the various options, the Parish Council intends to pursue a proposal to develop a Community Hub in partnership with Meadow in My Garden who are a not-for-profit community interest company based in Freshford (see **www.meadowinmygarden.co.uk**). This proposal includes the following activities:

- Establish a community garden including flowerbed meadows, fruit & vegetables.
- Breathe new life into the building, creating a beautiful, inclusive & welcoming space.
- Run regular nature-based workshops, activities and talks for local interest groups.
- Establish a nature-based library and drop-in facility for biodiversity advice.
- Work on collaborative projects with the Westwood Parish Council & Westwood Biodiversity Group to revitalise community spaces and address biodiversity needs.

Further details will be posted at **www.westwoodparishcouncil.co.uk**. The Parish Council is keen to involve the community and encourages feedback on this proposal either by email to: **clerk@westwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk** or in person at the next meeting of the Westwood Parish Council scheduled for the 3 March 2025.

While it is proposed that Meadow in My Garden will act as the backbone for the Westwood Community Hub, other interest groups are encouraged to engage with the project and will be accommodated where practicable.



W.I. Ladies lunch at The Tollgate Inn

The Women's Institute

Lunches have been arranged for 2025. The first one will be at the Seven Stars on 13th February for W.I. members.

The Annual Meeting will be on Monday 17th February at 7.30pm **at the Parish Rooms**. Visitors and new members very welcome.

Westwood Social Club

Happy New Year. 2024 was an extremely productive year:

- **Enfield Room:** rear buildings demolished and replaced. Now home to the upgraded pool table, proving popular with younger members. Purple Noise Youth Music Charity use the Enfield Room and organised a fantastic youth workshop last summer; planning another workshop soon. **www.purplenoise.co.uk**
- **Maintenance team volunteers** made many improvements: refurbished kitchen; roof repairs; upgrades to storeroom and heating; garden cleared and maintained and continue to attend to the upkeep of our large elderly building. Tables and chairs replaced; original chairs donated to a school in South Africa
- IT systems and back-office processes have been improved; rules updated; with strong committee working tirelessly ensuring the day-to-day smooth running of the club. Over £26k of grants achieved to fund improvements.
- **Fundraising events:** Christmas Fayre, Great Clothes Swop; Christmas Raffle; opening for UEFA European Cup matches and music nights were hugely popular, whilst raising vital funds for the Club.

Westwood with Iford Primary School

As we begin 2025, it's the perfect time to reflect on the wonderful events and accomplishments of the past month at Westwood with Iford School. I'm thrilled to share some of the highlights with you.



Christmas post fun

Willow class kicked off the festive season by writing letters to Father Christmas and taking them to the post box to post them. They were so excited when they received their replies from Father Christmas!

Christingle at St. Mary's Church

We all enjoyed our Christingle service at St. Mary's Church, a treasured tradition for our school and wider community. This years' service was particularly special, as the children embraced the meaning of the Christingle with great enthusiasm and understanding.

A heartfelt thank you to Reverend Jenny and the team at St. Mary's for their warm hospitality and for helping to make this service so meaningful. Thank you also to the parents, carers, and friends who joined us to celebrate.



Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church

This December, our school was honoured to participate once again in the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church. The tree's theme, "Small School, Big Heart," showcased the children's talents and their ability to work together to create something truly special.

The Christmas Fair and Carols Around the Tree

Our annual Christmas Fair brought together families and friends from across the village for an afternoon of festive fun.

The fair concluded with a heartwarming carol-singing event around the Christmas tree outside. The sight of everyone gathered around the tree, singing together under the twinkling lights, was a perfect reminder of the strength and warmth of our community.

Thank you to our PTA; Friends of Westwood School and all the staff who worked tirelessly to organize this event. The funds raised will go a long way toward supporting exciting projects and activities for our children in the year ahead. We are currently raising money to replace some of our wooden climbing equipment on the playground.

Whole School Nativity Performance

Of course, no December at Westwood with Iford would be complete without our much-loved whole school nativity performance. This year's production, "Born in a Barn," was a resounding success, showcasing the talents and enthusiasm of our pupils.



A huge thank you goes to the dedicated staff team who worked so hard to prepare the children for the performance, their efforts ensured that the nativity was a truly memorable event.

We look forward to 2025 as an exciting year ahead, filled with new opportunities for learning, growth, and celebration. We welcome visits from families throughout the year who would like to know about more about our beautiful small school.

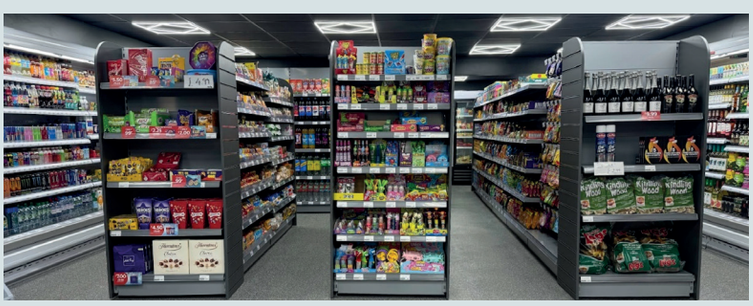
Heather Saunders, Head of School, **01225 862408**



Westwood Village Stores & Post Office

Opening hours: Mon - Sat (6:00am to 10:00pm)
Sunday (7:00am to 9:00pm)

- Post Office open soon
- Hot foods & hot drinks available soon
- Groceries, wine, alcohol, fresh fruit & veg, milk, frozen foods.



Premier League Fantasy Football League

Thank you very much to all those who signed up to the Westwood Village Fantasy Premier League at the start of the football season. We have 12 players in the league with the team Braveheart currently top of the table, closely followed by Ken Tucki FC and LeBarp Wanderers.

If you are playing FPL this year and you are up for the challenge, It's not too late to take part, the code for entering the league is hmue6v. It would be great to see as many people as possible playing for the trophy. If you have any questions, you can get in touch with me at **steggall135@gmail.com** or mobile **07932 417178**



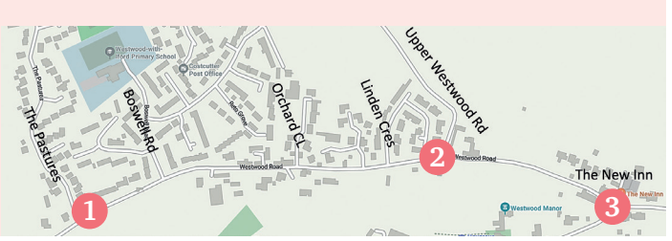
Speed Indicator Device

Due to continuing concerns regarding the speed of traffic through the village the Parish Council are actively investigating the installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). The device will be temporarily installed in various locations along Lower Westwood Road where there is a good line of sight and greatest benefit to Highway Safety. Consideration will be given to minimising the impact on the village scene and the device will be moved every couple of weeks to comply with Wiltshire Council guidelines. It is hoped this will reinforce the 20 mph speed limit and deter motorists from speeding.

Proposed locations [What3Words]:

1. East of junction with The Pastures **[bossy.figure.pound]**
2. West of junction with Upper Westwood Road (also known as Lyefield Lane) **[system.spots.mirror]**
3. Southwest side of the New Inn crossroads **[larger.linen.joins]**.

Further updates will be posted on: **westwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk**



ONLINE

Parish Council agendas, minutes etc and village news including this Update are posted on the Parish website: **www.westwoodparish.co.uk**

HARD COPY

Parish Council minutes and agendas are also placed on our new village notice boards.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook page Westwood Waffle has news, issues, items to give/sell and generally *"all things Westwood"*.

NEXT ISSUE

Please send content for the next Update to **village.update@westwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk** by 17 March. Please limit to 150 words, images welcome. Editorial discretion may be exercised.

The Parish Council does not recommend, endorse or assume responsibility for the accuracy or the content of this Update.

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