Issue No. 14 JUNE – JULY 2025

Westwood Update

Keeping our villages connected

Brought to you by your local Parish Council and delivered to 550 homes



Young Westwood residents enjoy making seed bombs and helping Meadow in My Garden sew a wildflower patch in the recently cleared grounds of the park building

Welcome to the June and July edition of the Westwood Update.

The Parish Council have been busy clearing the rubbish and things left over from the park building's days as a nursery school. Some topsoil has been delivered and planting undertaken. The park building is now looking clear and tidy, thanks to PC members, volunteers and some paid help. The shed has also been moved away from the building following some unwise climbing by certain young people.

The planned occupants of the park building, Meadow in My Garden, have started a programme of community nature activities (suitable for all ages) in the park. Parish Councillors also recently planted a free hedge pack from Woodland Trust, in-filling gaps in the existing hedgerow in the middle of the park.

You may have noticed that Wiltshire Council has been clearing drains and refreshing the road markings in the village. Any potholes, broken stiles or footpaths needing attention should be referred to Wiltshire Council via the free MyWilts app.

As many of you will know we have a new Wiltshire councillor for our ward. Nigel White can be contacted by email at nigelwhite@wiltshire.gov.uk. Nigel has already attended some PC meetings.

Our sincere thanks to George Mumford and Ashley Pittman for their time and invaluable work as Parish Councillors over a number of years. Following their retirement from the PC, the PC is keen to bring on board new councillors and to stay representative of the whole village. For information on what the role entails please contact any current member or the Clerk. If any parishioners would like to assist the PC without becoming a member of the council they would be very welcome. There are several working groups they could assist.

Community nature activities in the park 22nd June 10am-2pm: Come and help to plant a flower border for pollinators in Westwood Park (using young plants and a planting template). 13th July 12-4pm: Picnic in the Park with nature trail activities. Bring your friends along.

WESTWOOD SUMMER SHOW - MON 25TH AUGUST

Schedules for this year's show have now been delivered throughout the village; let me know if you require an additional copy. Please could all trophies be returned as soon as possible to 62 The Pastures for engraving prior to the show. This event is now established as a joint flower show and Church fete, so along with the ever popular City of Bath Band there will be plenty to keep you entertained all afternoon. Teas and cakes will be available in the Parish Rooms.

The site set up will be Saturday 23rd August at 10am. We would appreciate help with this task. In addition to erecting the marquees, there are tables and chairs to move and signs and bunting to be displayed. Please do get in touch if you are able to help. Thank you.

Wendy Packer
Wendy.packer54@ gmail.com

No.10 Tea Rooms, Avoncliff
Summer hours Fri-Sun and Bank Holidays 9am-5pm



Cross Guns
Wed and Thu 11am-9pm,
Fri 11am-10pm,
Sat 11am-11pm,
Sun11am-7pm.
Kitchen Thu-Sun
11.30am-6pm

Westwood Village Stores
Mon-Sat 6:00am-10:00pm
Sun 7:00am-9:00pm
Scarecrow trail maps on sale from Wed 21st May



Iford Cider Taphouse
Fri 6-10pm, Sat 12-10pm
Sun 12-9pm

From the Rector...

Encouragement is a powerful gift. It strengthens us, uplifts us, and reminds us we are not alone. In his letter to the Thessalonians, St Paul recognises encouragement as a gift of the Spirit: something we are called to both give and receive. As a church community, we have much to celebrate regarding supporting and building one another up. St Mary's Westwood is more than just a physical space. It is what Celtic tradition calls a thin place, where the presence of God is deeply felt, and the boundary between heaven and earth feels almost transparent.

Yet, St Mary's is a sacred space and a vibrant centre of activity, service, and mission, with a shared sense of calling and belonging far beyond the church walls or the rhythms of Sunday worship. I am often struck by how people connect with St Mary's in many different ways: through relationships, acts of service, volunteering, community events, or simply through a spiritual bond with this place. We've seen this clearly over Easter, in the services, the School Easter Experience, and in the countless quiet moments of faith and hospitality that have unfolded. As I write, I'm looking forward to the Westwood Teas on 25th May and the Summer Show on 25th August, and many times to gather and be reminded of what truly binds us together. Church is not just about Sundays, it's about belonging and living our faith daily, in community, as part of God's Easter people.

Service Times in June and July

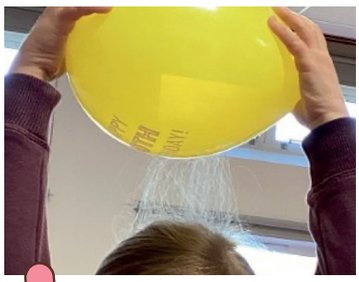
1st June - 11.15 am Holy Communion
8th June - 11.15 am Holy Communion on Pentecost Sunday
15th June - 11.15 am Matins on Trinity Sunday
22nd June - 11.15 am Holy Communion
29th June - 9.30 am Benefice Service at Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon
6th July - 11.15 am Holy Communion
13th July - 11.15 am Holy Communion
20th July - 11.15 am Matins
27th July - 11.15 am Morning Prayer

Westwood Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Parish Rooms on Tuesday 13th May. Residents were provided with the Chairman's report detailing the Parish Council's work during the past year (details on the website). A presentation was given on the work being undertaken and future of the park building and details of future events planned by the potential occupants of the building. Westwood Social Club presented details of current and future events and progress made on improving facilities for residents to enjoy. Highways issues in Lower Westwood are being addressed by the addition of a Speed Indicator Device and details of locations, planned monitoring was also provided. Finally, Cllr Bishop explained that there are 3 vacancies on the Council which it is hoped can be filled in the future. Councillors would also welcome residents interested in joining one of the working groups - Highways, Park Area, Footpaths, Planning, Environment. (Please contact the clerk: clerk@westwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Takeaways for the Parish Council to consider include speeding issues in Upper Westwood, footpath management and any parking issues close to the Park Building when the building is occupied.

Westwood with Iford primary school



In March, we celebrated Science Week with a range of exciting activities.

Pupils engaged in hands-on experiments and heard inspiring talks from guest speakers, sparking curiosity and showing how science applies to the real world. Willow Class's fossil exploration was a highlight, while Chestnut Class impressed with their innovative science fair projects. The sunshine also allowed for successful outdoor experiments - thank you to our guest speakers for enriching the week.

April brought joyful Easter celebrations. Children proudly wore their bonnets, took part in a competitive egg rolling contest, and enjoyed a fantastic Easter egg hunt. Thank you to our staff and amazing PTA for organising such fun-filled events.

We're also proud of our Year 4s, who had a brilliant time on their first residential to Charterhouse. They embraced new challenges, developed new skills, and made lasting memories - well done to all for their enthusiasm and resilience!







Westwood Social Club

Skittles

Westwood Social Club is running a summer fun league which will run for 13 weeks from the end of June until September to coincide with the extremely popular winter skittles league but with a twist: games will be played on a Tuesday and Wednesday night and involve skittles, pool, darts and cribbage at just £2 a player.

We're looking for teams of 6 on the night but no limit to the total team players. So get involved and have a fantastic night playing games and helping to support your local village social club. Our ever-growing club guarantees a night of fun and laughter (and extremely reasonably priced drinks at a well-stocked bar). Look out for notices around the village for posters with more information.

Waverley Cafe

We were so pleased that Selwood Housing Association attended the Waveley Café on 30th April to produce a short film to show their staff highlighting the community impact that their grants have achieved both with the refurbished kitchen and disabled toilet facilities.

Coming soon...

Abba Re-Bjorn return on 20th Sept. Tickets £15, available to buy on-line and at the Club.



We welcome new Members £10 per annum.
Visit our web page for more details

Westwood Parish Rooms



Manor Teas

Welcome back to the Sunday Manor Teas from 2-5pm starting on Sunday 25th May to match the opening times of the National Trust Westwood Manor. These are run by a mixture of your village societies, funds raised from sales of lovely cakes, tea and coffee going to them; so come along and support their worthy causes. The last Manor Teas will be for our Westwood Show on Bank Holiday, Monday 25th August.

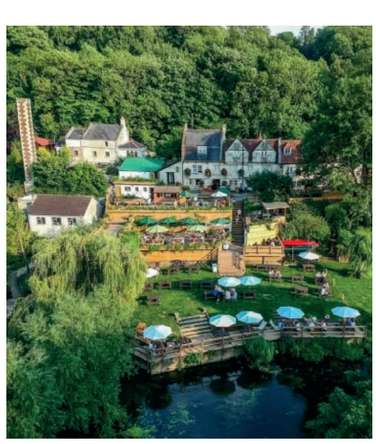
Opportunities for your activities in your hall.

As always we still remain a very popular centre for activities such as Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Art Groups and Watercolour Painting Classes.
WE STILL HAVE SPARE SESSIONS AVAILABLE:
Wednesday afternoons & evenings
Thursday afternoons & evenings

And finally we are available for private hire on Saturdays for all sorts of parties, weddings, and family gatherings. With such a professionally furnished kitchen and the tables, chairs, and place settings for up to 60 guests, this is a splendid village facility.

Seek us out at **bookingsparishrooms@gmail.com**

Eating and Drinking around Westwood Exciting News...



Westwood has always been fortunate in having a surprisingly wide range of places to eat and drink including the New Inn, the Iford Manor Kitchen and No 10 Tea Rooms at Avoncliff. Now the eagerly awaited reopening of two popular venues has finally happened. Iford Cider Taphouse is now up and running with Mexican food on offer alongside a variety of ciders and beer; while down at Avoncliff, it's great to see the Cross Guns reopened with Will from Iford Manor Kitchen at the helm in time to benefit from the recent sunny weather. Both are fantastic places for outside eating and drinking!

For opening times see the front cover of this newsletter.

WILD WATERS FESTIVAL

The 'Wild Waters Festival' will take place from Saturday 31st May to Sunday 15th June.

A festival of river-themed community events celebrating our local river, the Bristol River Avon, it also draws attention to the pressures on it from both climate change and loss of biodiversity. The communities involved are those along the river from Bradford on Avon to Batheaston as well as Box and Colerne on the By Brook which flows into the Avon.

Many different events will take place up and down the valley during the festival from art workshops, to walks, talks, film screenings and music events, to name but a few, details of which can all be found on the events tab of the festival website: **www.wildwatersfestival.com**

The co-ordinators of this grass roots festival are both climate and nature group leads of their respective parish councils: Elli Bate (Freshford PC) and Richard Mann (Winsley PC).

The festival has already gained wider recognition by becoming a recognised project of both Big Chalk **https://www.big-chalk.org/projects** and Carbon Copy **https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives** and is linked to the UK wide Great Big Green week **https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/** and is running at the same time as the Festival of Nature in central Bristol and Bath (festivalofnature.org.uk), which has a water theme this year.

We are supported by Launch Point Adventures https://**www.launchpointadventures.co.uk/** and Giving Print **https://www.givingprint.org/**

INSTAGRAM: **@WildWatersFestival**

National Garden Scheme



Following last year's very popular opening, the garden at the Old Vicarage is opening on Sunday 22 June. Please come along.

The entrance fee goes to National Garden Scheme charities and profits from the teas at the Parish Rooms will again go to planting schemes within the village.

Westwood WI



In May Westwood WI held its AGM and reflected on a full and interesting year with many and diverse speakers, thriving clubs, much valuable community work and an expanding membership.

Before the AGM, Debs Marrison enlightened and entertained us with a talk about her extraordinary costumes ranging from a giant octopus (for a Little Mermaid themed party) to a ball gown dedicated to those who succumbed to breast cancer. Looking ahead, we would welcome anyone who has perhaps thought of joining us to come along to our next meeting at the Parish Room on 16th June when there will be a talk on Financial Wellbeing.

Peter Lovesey: pioneer of period detective novels and former resident of Upper Westwood



An obituary appeared in The Times on 18th April for Peter Lovesey who died on April 10th 2025 aged 88. He and his wife Jax used to live in Upper Westwood, prior to moving firstly to Chichester (before 2011) and then to Shrewsbury (by 2017) where they were closer to family. He met Jax whilst both studying English and she produced some lovely cards from her water colour paintings. Peter was described as a "prolific" writer who "possessed the gift of entertaining readers, setting his stories at different times in the past as well as the present" and creating memorable characters such as Sergeant Cribb and the detective Peter Diamond. Peter is survived by his wife as well as their son Phil and daughter Kathy and may well be remembered by current Westwood residents.

NEXT ISSUE

Please send content for the next Update to **village.update@westwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk** by 15 July.
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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