

WESTON-IN-GORDANO

# Parish Pump<sup>©</sup>

August 2021



Parish Council, Speed-Watch, Social Committee, Gardening Club, Village Hall, Church News, Local History, Rural Life, Seasonal Recipes, Parish Pump Archive, The Common Man and much more!

Photo by Knut Beekmann

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## SPEED WATCH



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Congratulations and a warm welcome to Cllr Ian Holding who joined the Council having won the June election. The Council is now at full compliment, quite an achievement when you look at the number of small parish councils which struggle to fill their ranks these days.

The passion within WIG Council is tangible, a diverse representation of our community with different views and focus, yet all wanting the same thing, to improve and support our parish.

A frustration exists, however, held by parishioners and councillors alike, at the pace and rigidity of proceedings. After all, we all know how far Chamberlain's strongly worded letter got him in 1938 vs Churchill's "just get it done" attitude in the war years.

While I sympathise with those who would have the council dance gingerly around rules, regulation and protocol, I have to ground myself in the reality of holding office in local government, an establishment enshrined in regulation for good reason; the same reason the Magna Carta exists amongst other famous legislative entities. These rules of conduct aim to ensure fairness & consistency, preventing improper abuse of power, protecting parishioners' rights

and interests from unscrupulous actions. Would it be right to bend the rules for a just cause without accepting rules could equally be circumnavigated for unjust causes?

We are still learning our way, finding our feet. We take advice from our Clerk and the 1090 page yellow "handbook" kindly donated to the Council by Bruce Poole.

One of the modernisation changes now in place is a move away from open dialogue throughout the meeting with parishioners who attend in person, on any subject they wish to raise. Why?

Discussing items adhoc on the night disadvantages other parishioners who are not forewarned of the subject matter, they deserve a voice also. This is unfair. Rules ensure fairness for all.

The agenda is in place and publicised in advance of the meeting, this allows everyone the opportunity to voice their opinion on specific topics, either by attending or by proxy via a councillor.

Rather than wait until a meeting, I encourage parishioners to reach out to a councillor, talk to us, we'll champion your cause. See page 27 for details.

"With you we can ensure the potential of our community assets, buildings and services for today and the future, join in the conversation with your Council.

The Parish Council is your council, the more you engage with your councillors the better we will be in delivering for you. Your Parish Councillors are striving to bring the Parish Council up to minimum standard of operation, to progress to good practice then on to best practice and excellence in governance, community engagement, consultation and leadership. Through us all talking and engaging as a community we can deliver the results you want." - Cllr Ian Holding

# Speed Watch

Our current volunteer group consists of: Sheilagh, Wendy and Gary (new to our village), Tony & Jayne, Sister Carol, Vicky Baulch, Jeremy Crowhurst, James Luton, Cllr Stubbs, Cllr Baulch, Cllr Luton, Cllr Cranshaw

This is a great start, but if we want to be really effective over a relatively short period of time, we need more volunteers. If you know of any please get them to reach out to me direct or via the website.

We have reached out to Walton Parish council to provide us with an opportunity to learn a bit of best practise and share tips and advice on the most effective way to carry out the watch.

I know what you're all thinking... just point the speed gun thing at the traffic and record the car details, right!?

And of course, yes this is true but there are different protocols and policies that are in play depending on what we plan to do with the data captured.

When we brought the subject up at the last meeting, I explained that we'd be first looking to analyse the data of road users coming through the village so that we are better informed when looking at implementing speed prevention initiatives.

I am very keen to ensure we avoid traps that other councils have found themselves in whereby they implement an initiative such as speed bumps without fully understanding

whether this is the right solution for the type of road and typical road user.

Let us spend a bit of time understanding what's working in the village next door so that we can move forward with the most effective plan.

We'll then create the process and share with members at an Induction meeting so you're all clear on the Dos and Don'ts from a safety perspective (as well as potentially legal stance too)

I'm hoping we'll meet with Walton soon and with Police having joined the national Speedwatch organisation.

In the meantime please encourage more volunteers, the more we can kick off with, the better.

I hear a lot of passion for this subject so I'm hoping for a massive uptake of people who are willing to help us make a positive change for us all in our village.

Thanks to all who have stepped up, especially to our new parishioners Wendy and Gary!

Cllr Lucy Luton  
[Cllr.Lucy.Luton.WIG@gmail.com](mailto:Cllr.Lucy.Luton.WIG@gmail.com)



“Daddy, what did YOU do to fight speeding?”



## WIG Social Committee

The Weston-in-Gordano Social Committee is a collection of villagers committed to putting on events to bring people together, enhance life in our lovely village and raise money for Charity.

**About us:** we are a committee of six; Peter Williams (Treasurer), Becky Herbert (Secretary), Sheilagh Williams, Becky Stubbs, Steve Doble and Robyn Rimmer. We would always welcome new committee members.

**What we do:** We have a number of regular events that we put on each year, with last year unfortunately being the exception due to the Covid-19 pandemic. These include long running, well-loved traditions such as hosting the bar and barbecue at the Village Fair, the Village Barbeque, the Christmas Meet & Greet and Carol singing, with all money raised at this event going to a nominated charity.

In the past we have organised many events both big and small including two celebration balls held in a marquee in the

Church Field with a meal, bar, band and 'posh' loos, as well as our very popular Quiz nights and Race nights, a Games night, Eurovision night and various fancy dress events, barn dances and discos. In the absence of the pub a few years ago, we arranged themed evenings including Greek, Indian, Mexican, Italian and Spanish 'pot-luck' suppers. We have held a very successful cider and pasty walk, a bee afternoon, various treasure hunts and even a couple of 'Days at the Races' bussing out villagers to Chepstow Race course.

In addition, we have donated funds to assist other villagers with the organisation of their own events, including a fabulous Waverley cruise and 'Halloween' at the Church.



Every Christmas, the Social Committee organises the decoration of our village, including the Christmas lights and trees that make the village such a special place each year.

We held a very successful 'Open' meeting at the village hall at the beginning of July and are hoping to use many of the suggestions put forward for future events, to include wine or gin tasting, book club, treasure hunt for all, a visit to a brewery, a minibus pub crawl and village history event to name a few.

**What we would like from you:** We would love to hear your suggestions for future events and we look forward to seeing many villagers, both old and new, at future events.

If you have any suggestions for events/fundraising that you would like to see held in the village or would like to join the committee or help out in any way, please contact **Becky** on **07733449973**.

## Forthcoming events

Village Barbeque from 1-4pm on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> September

**Provisional date:** Carol singing Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 4-6pm followed by our Christmas Meet & Greet serving mulled wine and mince pies at the Village Hall from 6-8pm. This year's charity for money raised from this event will be the south Western Air Ambulance.



## Recent



## Exploits

Despite lockdown, a lot of gardening activity has taken place in the last few weeks to brighten up the public areas of the village.

Thanks to several committed volunteers, planters have been renovated and planted up with hundreds of annuals kindly donated by North Somerset Council. Between us, we have managed to keep the new plants watered daily, so we can now enjoy some attractive displays of flowers particularly around the White Hart. This area was beginning to look quite run down, but we hope that this floral show will demonstrate that the village does care about its pub.



The Village Green project is slowly moving forward, thanks to invaluable help received from several people in the village. As you will probably have noticed, the gravel is now all down and will gradually fade in colour. During the landscaping we found that virtually the whole area was underlaid with hard-core, which explains why the grass was struggling and the weeds outstripping it. Two further planting areas are being created in the gravel area, which will soften the effect, but they need further hard work to excavate as we have discovered yet more hard-core underlying the soil!

Some of the planting in the new beds is temporary, donated by members of the group to tide us over until planting conditions improve. In the autumn, we will be able to plant the shrubs that will provide the backdrop, and the full design of the new beds will be revealed.

The pump area now boasts a beautiful new wooden planter, a generous donation from a kind benefactor in the village. We are looking forward to receiving the restored pump, currently being renovated, another kind donation from a villager. The final touch, to be funded by the Parish Council, will be a sturdy bench, securely anchored to the ground!

## Interested in joining the Gardening Group?

Although originally we met in the Village Hall in the evening, we have worked round Covid restrictions, by meeting in members own gardens, weather permitting. We find this both sociable and fascinating, appreciating and learning from the variety and challenges of gardening in different styles and situations. Tea and cake go down well too!

At our next meeting we will be looking at an established garden of shrubs and perennials, and considering how perhaps it could be improved and rejuvenated by careful pruning and editing. (For full details of next meeting call Penny on 07907 752654).

We are very keen to welcome new members, beginners or experienced gardeners and would like to hear from anyone interested in joining, but unable to make the present daytime slot. As days grow cooler in early autumn, if Covid rules permit, we plan to return to the Village Hall. We will review when to meet, and would move back to evenings if this enabled people working during the day to attend. Do get in touch if you are interested in joining us.

### **Topical tip** – A quick guide to mulch and its benefits

As mentioned above, it is unwise to plant in a heat wave unless daily watering is ensured, and a good water retaining mulch is available.

What do we mean by mulch and mulching?

A mulch is an extra layer of material laid on top of the soil to achieve two purposes: WEED SUPPRESSION and MOISTURE CONSERVATION.

Gardeners know how hard it is to extract weeds from dry baked soil but in well mulched areas they “tweak” out with ease. Currently, soil covered in mulch is damp underneath, plants happy. In bare spots, it’s a different story with often sad wilting specimens, unless regularly watered.

There are various mulches: homemade compost, mushroom compost, bark chippings, “Strulch” (processed straw) and, for certain areas, gravel. If you have dogs never use cocoa shells, as they are toxic to canines.

Spread a good thick layer (2-3”) onto moist soil and wait for the improvement! Over time organic mulch will decompose, helped by the worms and soil bacteria, gradually enriching your soil. However, avoid digging in un-composted material, as this has the opposite effect, depleting the soil, as it removes nitrogen, which is vital to plant growth, as it rots. You will be pleased to learn that recent research suggests that NO DIG gardening is best for the soil and doesn’t destroy structure or helpful micro-organisms.

HAPPY GARDENING

Chris Lewis (01275 849214) Penny Roberts (07907 752654)



# Slow Cooked Ribs



Serves 4 to 8 depending on appetite and other food being served.

And yes, the BBQ sauce really does come from a recipe book written by Snoop Doggy Dog and has proven a massive hit this summer!

## INGREDIENTS

1.8kg racks of pork ribs

150g apricot jam

65g ketchup

2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce

2 Tbsp Yellow American mustard

2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

Optional – red chilli flakes

Oil for baking trays

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Mix the jam, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, vinegar and chilli flakes (if using) together in a bowl with a small whisk or fork until smooth.
- 2 Place the ribs, single layer, meaty side up on greased baking trays. Pour over half of the sauce and brush over the ribs. Turn ribs over, pour the other half of the sauce over the ribs and brush over.
- 3 Cover baking trays in foil and slow cook in the oven at 120C for at least 4 hours. I have been known to reduce this to 110C for 6 or more hours.
- 4 Just before you want to eat the ribs, crisp up either side on either a pre-heated BBQ or under a hot grill. Use a large carving knife to slice ribs between the bones for serving – the meat will be tender and fall off the bones.

Hot &amp; Spicy



# Wings

## DIRECTIONS

- 1** Put a layer of chicken wings fleshy side down into a casserole dish and sprinkle with cayenne pepper, cumin and a little bit of salt.
- 2** Put a second layer of chicken wings on top of the first, again flesh side down and season with the cayenne pepper, cumin and salt.
- 3** Pour over the bottle of Franks red hot original pepper sauce and as many shakes of Tabasco sauce depending on taste. I typically add 20 shakes for people who like their wings spicy!
- 4** Using your hands mix the wings, spices and sauces together to ensure all areas of the wings are coated.
- 5** Cover casserole dish and allow to marinate for at least 4 hours in the fridge. Cook on the BBQ until juices run clear.

## INGREDIENTS

*1kg chicken wings*  
*Ground cumin*  
*Ground Cayenne pepper*  
*150ml bottle Franks red hot original pepper sauce*  
*Tabasco sauce*

**Serves 4 to 8**

If cooking in the oven, place wings as a single layer on a baking tray lined with parchment, skin side up and spray with sunflower oil. Bake uncovered at 180C Fan for 25 mins or until juices run clear and skin is crispy.

# BBQ Corn & Chorizo Salad



## INGREDIENTS

4 corn on the cobs, husks removed  
 225g spicy chorizo ring, chopped  
     into the size of corn kernels  
 100g blanched almonds, roughly  
     chopped  
 Knob of butter  
 1 - 2 Tblsp each of Chopped fresh  
     parsley and tarragon leaves  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp Sweet smoked paprika  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp cayenne pepper  
 30ml Oil olive  
 22.5ml (1.5 Tblsp) Red wine  
 vinegar

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 Put corn into a pan of lightly salted water, bring to the boil and simmer for 5 - 7 minutes before draining and brushing with sunflower oil.
- 2 Heat and skillet or BBQ grill to hot and place corn cobs onto it. Cook for 10 -15 minutes turning the cobs occasionally to ensure an even coverage of light charring.
- 3 Melt the butter in a frying pan until foaming and add the chopped almonds. Keep the almonds moving until you see them start to darken in colour. Remove from the heat and add the parsley tarragon and sweet smoked paprika and add to the serving bowl.
- 4 Using the same frying pan, add the chopped chorizo and cook for a minute until the oil yields. Add to the serving bowl.
- 5 Add the chopped parsley and tarragon to the serving bowl.
- 6 Once the corn is cooked, slice the kernels off the cobs, add to the serving bowl with the other ingredients and stir all together.
- 7 Store chilled until ready for serving. Just before serving stir through the oil olive and red wine vinegar.

# Lady Finger Cake

## INGREDIENTS

2 – 3 packs of lady-fingers (aka sponge fingers)	600ml / 1pt double cream
	2 tsp vanilla essence
300g cream cheese	1 x 400g can of cherry pie filling – red or black
150g / 3/4 cup caster sugar	

## DIRECTIONS

- Whip the double cream until stiff. In a separate bowl whisk the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla together until smooth. Fold the cream cheese mixture into the whipped cream.
- Line the bottom and sides of a 9 inch spring sided / form cake tin with ladyfingers, using half of the cream mixture to help keep the fingers in place around the side of the tin.
- Add a second layer of ladyfingers and smooth the other half of the cream mixture over the top. Top with pie filling so that it covers the top of the cake.



4 Store in an airtight container in the fridge until serving the next day. To serve remove the sides of the tin and slice. 2 fingers makes a generous serving after a meal, although I have been known to serve people 3 as this has been a family favourite for almost 40 years!

I have known creative cooks that I have passed this recipe to to make adjustments to the flavours they like in desserts, such as adding Bailey's, sherry or cocoa powder to the cream mixture or using different fruit compotes and/or chopped toasted nuts as the topping instead of cherry pie filling. Having just been gifted a lovely amount of rhubarb, I can't help thinking rhubarb compote would make an excellent topping for this cake also.

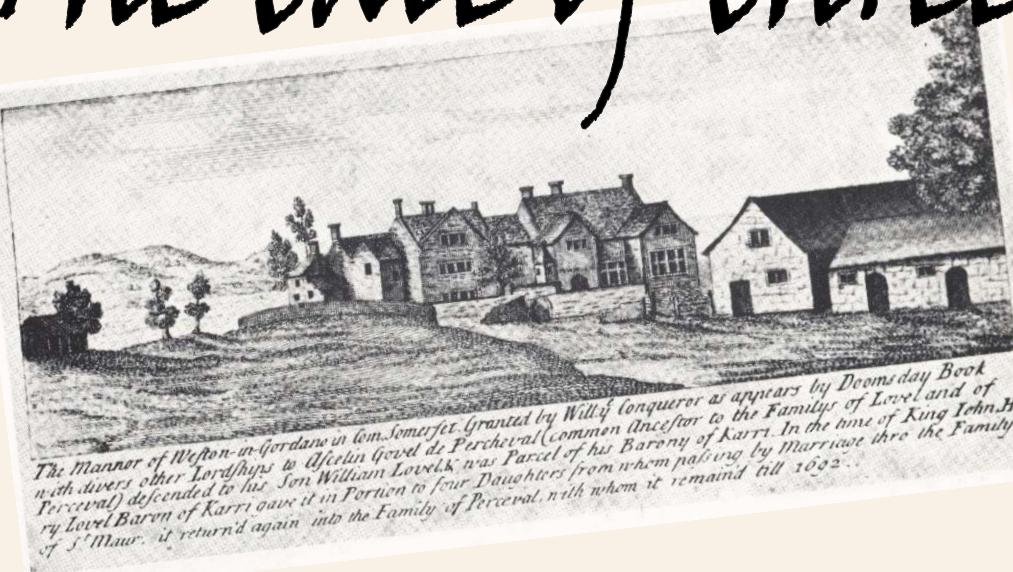
**Below:** Slow cooked ribs, hot & spicy chicken wings, BBQ corn & chorizo salad, green salad and couscous.



Huge thank you to the recipe team, Vicky Baulch and Lucy Luton for their summer hits.

Enjoy!

# The tale of three



## Weston-in-Gordano Manor House

Strictly speaking, Weston has had three manor houses over the centuries.

As long ago as the 12th century – about the same time as the earliest part of the parish church was built – there was a moated manorial settlement some 200m south east of the church. This was probably a timber structure, and little remains to be seen, although in the south east corner of the site there is still a small L-shaped pond which may be the remains of the moat. It dries out in summer. The rest of the site has been covered in several feet of fly ash, the waste from the coal-fired power stations which used to stand in Portishead. It is inhabited by swarms of rabbits which are distinctive because of their dark, almost black, coats: possibly the fly ash, perhaps a genetic variation.

The second manor house site lies about 150m down the lane beside the church, directly behind our house, The Dairy. When the lane was tarmacked in 2004 we found a cobbled surface under the mud, so this was obviously the route from the manor to the church.

This manor house was built in about 1430 by the Perceval family, lords of the manor of Weston from the 1100s to the 1700s. This is the building shown in the engraving, the original of which is in the Somerset County Archive. It's unusual in being built so low down in the valley, where you might think there was a risk of flooding, but the valley is very wide and even in the extremes of weather in recent years, this has never been a threat. It has been suggested that what is now the main drainage rhyne was navigable by flat bottomed boats, which might explain its position, but this is speculation.

# manors.

Today all that is left of the building is a small section of field wall in the south west corner. The lord of the manor at the time backed the wrong side in the English Civil War, so it became knocked about." His troops burnt and remained habitable: the engraving is

a "bit of a ruin that Cromwell demolished part, but it dated 1742, so it was a huge house even then.

After the Restoration, the lord of the manor, Thomas Perceval, who was financially stretched, applied to the King for some reward for his loyalty. All he received was two royal visits to Weston, the cost of which ruined him. The Percevals sold up in 1705 to the son of the lord of Easton in Gordano. In 1714 he died, and the estate was sold to Cann Wilkins, thought to be a Bristol merchant. Wilkins built the third manor house, now known as Weston Lodge, on top of the hill looking down through the woodland to the church and the village.

The manor house of 1430, in its reduced state, remained in use as a farmhouse, but was finally demolished at some point after 1742. But stone is very heavy and transporting it is expensive: look around at the older buildings in our village.

It is likely that at least some of them were built of the demolition spoil purloined from the Percevals' manor house. Many local field walls are built of finely dressed stone which must originally have been prepared, at great expense, for a stately building.

When landscaping our garden, we came across huge quantities of this dressed stone, and much of it has been incorporated into our work. The Percevals' manor house lives on!

David Lewis



**Top Left:** Engraving showing Weston In Gordano manor as it was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Original is in the Somerset County Archive.

**Bottom Right:** Original mullion (vertical element that forms a division between units of a window or screen) from Weston in Gordano manor, in the beautiful gardens of The Dairy.

# Village Hall

Management Committee

Due to Boris and his gang relaxing Covid restrictions from 19th July, I can officially say that the Village Hall is now OPEN for business.

After months when the hall had to close, it will be good to see it being used again. As Covid infection rates are still high, the committee asks all users to remain mindful of social distancing, good ventilation, mask wearing when felt appropriate, but will leave all these decisions to the hirers and attendees. Hand sanitizer will still be provided and we ask that all chairs and tables be cleaned after use and all crockery be washed in hot water.

We hope that regular bookings will return in due course, but fully understand that many will be away in August so look forward to their return in September.

We are very pleased that we can offer a venue for SS Peter and Paul to hold their services, whilst their 'fungus' problem is being dealt with. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a quick fix.

During the lock-downs the Hall received no income, but utility bills and insurance still needed to be paid! You may also notice that new ceiling lights have been fitted. These are less obtrusive and give instant brightness as they are LEDs rather than fluorescent tubes. Hopefully they will also use less electricity.

Please support our Village Hall - so if you are thinking of holding a family gathering, meeting or know of any group looking for a venue (eg Yoga, Tai chi, choir, etc) please get in touch.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Linda (Pearce)  
Hon sec  
01275 848667

Huge thank you to Linda and the team at the Village Hall for welcoming the Parish Council meetings back for face to face gatherings since May. Very professional approach taken vs Covid and it was so nice to be able to see parishioners and engage in our wonderful village venue.

# SPEED WATCH



WANTS

# YOU

**JOIN THE WAR ON SPEEDING  
ENLIST TODAY**

Email Cllr.Lucy.Luton.WIG@gmail.com for more info





Since the June Parish Pump the church has had a variety of ups and downs. in common with the rest of the village. Looking through the last edition we find very few of our hoped-for actions have happened – no Village Fete as planned. restrictions still in force re. singing. "social" distancing. But two plusses are the mouses seem to have been banished. and our mid-week Communion services have resumed. held in the Robinson's home.

The major event for the church has been the confirmation that there is DRY ROT in the building. As far as we can tell this dreaded fungus is restricted to the block of pews on the right/South side of the nave. between the main door and the rood screen. As a result. we have had to close the church so no visitors. nor services.

A treatment company. TDT Preservations from Radstock. are due in on 03 August to dismantle and remove the pews. plus the wooden flooring. hassocks and cushions. We hope the pews can be treated and cleaned

for re-reinstatement but the flooring and furnishings will need to be incinerated. We also have to take up the Victorian tiling in the nave for treatment. We believe the wooden flooring and tiling are bedded straight onto compacted earth with no form of damp-proofing. this "naked" earth will need sterilising.

We plan to re-instate the pews on top of a new replacement wooden floor. Any other remedy would be difficult. and expensive. to put in.

Regrettably all this work is going to cost a considerable sum but we have no idea at the eventual amount. We need to sanitise the damaged area first to prevent further contamination.

As a result of the closure. we are having our services in the Village Hall. These "al fresco" services have been successful. if only because the seats are so much more comfortable than the church's solid wood versions.

A recent happening was a service being

interrupted, ever so nicely, by one of David Downs' men asking us to remove cars so he could access the fields below the church. Most of the congregation, including Noel Hector in his flowing priestly robes, had to go and re-position their cars. Apologies to David Down and his people.

For the future, we're in the hands of the Wells authorities and their wishes. It does look as though the church will remain closed for some considerable time.

A successful mini-Fete. A great deal of Becs Hall's time and effort had gone into planning a varied and entertaining Village Fete for 2021, but for the 2nd year running it had to be cancelled due to the dreaded Covid. However, raffle tickets were already on sale and selling so fast a mini-Fete in the Village Hall on the original date of 10th July was created. Apart from the raffle, there were plants on offer, and a goodly choice of cakes, including an enormous celebration cake covered with strawberries and raspberries, donated by Miima's Cakes.

Over £900 was raised on the raffle, thanks mainly to Becs, Annie and Margaret trudging around the village knocking on doors. Cllr Dav. Baulch drew the winning tickets... of villagers, mainly. A further £300+ was raised from the cakes and plant sales. Thanks to everyone who helped, or donated prizes.

The church is making good use of the Village Hall of late – thank you Linda and the Committee for being so welcoming and helpful.

Currently planned are our Harvest Supper (Saturday, 02 October) and Harvest

Thanksgiving service (Sunday, 03 October). Both will be in the Village Hall. We are also looking into re-start our coffee mornings on the last Saturday of the month, and on occasion after morning services. We are being very cautious in taking advantage of so-called relaxations of the Covid restrictions but we are ever hopeful 16th August will bring further relief.

Reverting to the earlier comment about cars blocking Old Pound/Church Lane, please would car drivers visiting the church park carefully, not causing extra pinch-points, if necessary parking on the grass verges beyond the "farm" gates, as the Lane is frequently used for commercial vehicle access.

John Bridges



Dry rot in the church

# Social Committee Questionnaire

We need your feedback and we need you for future events.....

Please indicate from the suggestions below which events you would be interested in attending:

**Race Night**

**Wine / Gin / Cocktail tasting**

**Village treasure hunt / cider and pasty walk**

**Visit to historic site / garden**

**Book club**

**Hedgehog talk**

**Village history event**

**Minibus pub crawl / brewery tour**

**Quiz Night**

**Bring your own supper (pot luck)**

**Village BBQ**

**Please make your own suggestions....**

Return your form to Becky in Gordano Villa (beckyherbert@gmail.com) or post to Parish Pump, Meadow View Farm, Meadow Drive, WIG, BS20 8PS by 30<sup>th</sup> August



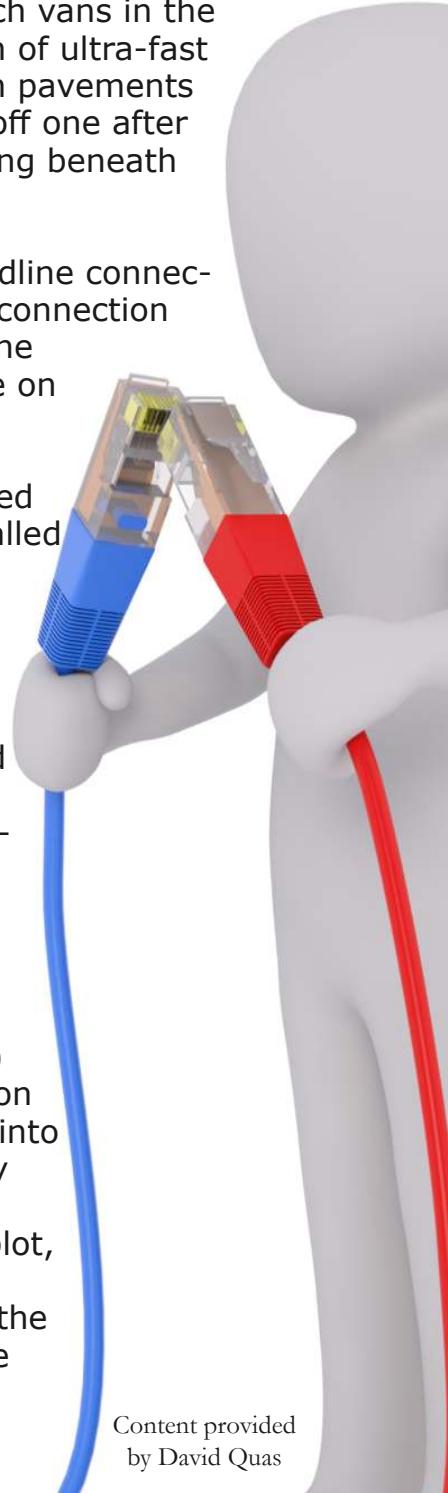
By now, many will have seen Openreach vans in the village, proceeding with the installation of ultra-fast full fibre broadband. For example, both pavements in Meadow View Drive were cordoned off one after the other as workers accessed the piping beneath the street.

For those properties with overhead landline connections, using telephone poles, the fibre connection will be an overhead connection using the same telephone poles. It will terminate on the outside wall of the property.

For those properties with a “new” ducted underground landline connection (installed during the last 20 years or so) the fibre connection will use the same duct. It will terminate on the outside wall of the property.

For properties with an old underground landline (which is not ducted) the fibre connection will terminate at the boundary of the plot (referred to as the curtilage).

When the Openreach build is completed you will need to sign up with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and the ISP will complete the connection from the Openreach termination point into the property. This could be significantly more expensive where the Openreach termination is at the boundary of the plot, as it will involve installing a new duct between the boundary of the plot and the dwelling. Install is on track to complete the network in October.



# PARISH PUMP

WESTON-IN-GORDANO  
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

This edition's Parish Pump from the archives is July 1989, a month which saw an IRA bomb in Hanover, West Germany, Britain's dock workers on strike and 1500 British tourists delayed for 8 hours due to French air traffic control strikes. Sky Channel is re-branded as Sky One in this month.

If you enjoyed this blast from the past head to the Parish Council website where you can browse the catalogue of Parish Pumps from 1984 onward.

## COUNTRYMAN'S DIARY

It has been a very hot and dry last two months and this has had quite an effect on wildlife. The abundance of Spring flowers was followed by many Summer flowers being smaller than normal. In dry places such as Middle Hill plants are already wilting and dying back and many grasses have already flowered and died back. Butterflies have enjoyed the good weather and at present you can find Marbled Whites on Middle Hill as well as Large Skippers. Also on Middle Hill you may find the 5 Spot Burnet moth which flies during the day. Both the Burnet and the Marbled White is fond of the purple Greater Scabious which can be found on the Hill.



Reptiles too have enjoyed the weather. I have seen Slow-worms on Middle Hill and there have been reports of Grass Snakes coming into gardens attracted to ponds. The Grass Snake is actually very much attracted to water, being an excellent swimmer and feeding mainly on amphibians.

An interesting walk to take at this time of year is along the public footpath 'between' Weston and Walton Moors, which starts from the Main Road about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile out of Weston. Part of this takes you alongside one of the rhynes, cutting across the Moors. This area is very rich in wildlife, (INCLUDING HORSE FLIES!). Flowers to look out for are Yellow Flag, Ragged Robin, Purple Loosestrife, Pink Water Speedwell, Brooklime, and many other water-loving plants. There are also lots of Damsel and Dragonflies. The Damsels have very thin bodies while Dragonflies have much fatter bodies and are generally larger. You should see the Small Red Damsel (all red body), and some blue ones, (there are three species of these), and if you are lucky you may see the Emperor Dragonfly - a long one with blue and green markings.

If the good weather continues we may get some interesting migrant butterflies, (I have already seen Red Admirals). One to look out for is the Clouded Yellow, a fast flying butterfly that lives on the Continent and crosses the Channel in good years.

Bill Dixon

# Angela's Corner

Emerging from the restraints of Covid rules and regulations has been a strange experience. I don't know whether to feel relieved, excited or apprehensive, or all three together, but it has been such a pleasure to walk through the village and meet friends and neighbours who are slowly emerging themselves and just chat normally!

Talking about emerging, it was with absolute amazement that we saw the emergence of the most beautiful dragonfly from it's pupa in our little garden pond. As it rested from its incredible birth, drying out its wings in the morning sunshine, we were able to catch the moment on camera. Isn't nature wonderful!



Also emerging from our little hideaways have been our "Lockdown Paintings", all 82 of them!! All done by Stu Redway and myself, and not seen by the outside world before, not even by each other until the other week!

They will be on display in the Village Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> August 11am - 3pm, for those who wish to see them, and hopefully we will raise some funds for Amyloidosis Research at The Royal Free Hospital. Stu is being treated for this rare disease and any help we can give them will be gratefully appreciated.

We'll update you with our final report in the next Edition. We hope you've enjoyed seeing the results of our challenges as much as we've enjoyed doing them. We will continue painting, maybe not as regularly, but we've both rekindled our artistic streaks and it's great to work together and do something we can share.

Take care, and stay safe.

Angela Borland



I sit; I watch:

I am; You are.

But who? What do we mean?

Strangers - but close in some strange way.

A shrug; An eyebrow;

A smile; A touch.

We are so close - but still apart.

A friend who is always there!

We sit; We are content;

I'm here; You're there.

No words - not needed!

Friends indeed and always here!

Stu Redway. 2012



AUGUST 2021 21



Trees are an important part of every community. Imagine living somewhere without any trees? Streets, parks, schools and gardens are lined with trees that create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment. The beautiful old Scots Pine Trees in the churchyard are a lovely example of this and provide a glorious landmark to our village.

#### *What are their value?*

Trees essentially provide us with food and oxygen. During the process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide and produce the oxygen we breathe. They intercept unhealthy dust particles in the air by acting as a filter, and absorb pollutants i.e. carbon monoxide.

They contribute to the environment by improving air quality, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife. The birds, bats and many insects feast on the nectar. Animals also eat much of the same fruit and nuts that we enjoy. In particular the apples at the back of my garden! This process however helps disperse seeds over great distances.

Hundreds of living creatures call trees their home. Leaf-covered branches keep many animals out of the reach of predators. Many of the pheasants around here roost up high to stay safe.

Trees control climate by moderating the effects of the sun, rain and wind. Leaves absorb and filter the sun's radiant energy, keeping things cool in summer. We all appreciate the shade they can provide in hot sunny conditions and will often see David's cows and many other animals, sheltering under them in the blistering sunshine. I love the shade my neighbour's Silver Birch provides my garden in the morning.

Both above and below ground, trees are essential to the eco-systems in which they reside. Far reaching roots hold soil in place and fight erosion. Trees absorb and store rainwater which reduce runoff and residue deposit after heavy rainfall. Fallen leaves make excellent compost that enriches soil. Many of the keen gardeners in the village will vouch for that!

Trees can also provide personal and mental health benefits. Different species exhibit an endless range of textures, shapes and vibrant colours. Looking at them can be breathtaking and make you feel calm and relaxed. Many of us have, or will, plant trees as living memorials of life-changing events.

*The value of our trees is simply infinite.*

Cllr Becky Stubbs

Hedges, bushes and trees have all been growing at a rapid pace through the summer. This natural bloom brings with it challenges we must be mindful of. Footpaths and pavements are inundated with overhanging brambles.

Homeowners are responsible for keeping overhanging foliage in check. So please cut back when your bushes, trees and brambles interfere with pedestrian routes.

# PARISH COUNCIL LOGO COMPETITION



**Your design could be adopted as the official logo for Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council!**

**We're looking for a logo which reflects our community, the parish. The design should be:**

- Colour
- No bigger than A4 in size (bear in mind the logo will be used on our branding, online, letterheads etc)
- Include the words Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council, or WIG Parish Council, WIG or similar.

**The top 3 entries will be chosen by the Parish Council at the October council meeting. The final design will be decided by public vote at the November council meeting, following public display of the designs.**

**Don't worry if you are not artistic, it's the concept we are looking for rather than the finished product. If you prefer to describe your logo in words, that's fine.**

**The competition is open to children as well as adults, so parents please encourage our budding designers!**

**Entries should be sent either electronically to [Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com) or by post to Parish Pump Logo Comp, Meadow View Farm, Meadow Drive, Weston in Gordano, BS20 8DS**

**The closing date for the competition is 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021**

**Please include the following details with your submission: name, age group (under 18, over 18) and contact details. Good luck!**

**First Prize: Logo adopted by the Parish + £50. Runners up in each age group: £20**



The Craft Class is starting again after the long COVID break.

We meet in the Village Hall, 2pm to 4pm on the second Wednesday each month.

Everyone is most welcome, bring any handicraft you like doing....knitting, card making, bead work etc.

Or just come for the natter and a cup of tea.

Any questions phone me on 845218.

Hope to see you soon, Gwyneth



# JOKES

The government in Egypt has instructed Cairo taxi drivers to drive around the city sounding their horns.

Its hoped that a return to familiar city sounds will help restore calm following the pandemic. Operation "toot 'n' calm 'em" will last for seven days.



*My son got his results from his sound-engineers exam the other day;*

*I am very proud as he got a 1-2, 1-2, 1-2*

**I COULDN'T AFFORD A DNA KIT, SO I JUST ANNOUNCED ON FACEBOOK THAT I HAD WON ON THE LOTTERY, I SOON FOUND OUT WHO MY RELATIVES WERE.....**

What do you call 2 birds that are stuck together? Velcrows

**WHY DO SWEDISH WARSHIPS HAVE BAR CODES ON THE SIDES?  
SO THAT WHEN THEY RETURN TO PORT,  
THEY CAN SCANDINAVIAN.....**





**Parish Pump Team:** [Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com) or Parish Pump, Meadow View Farm, Meadow Drive, Weston in Gordano, BS20 8PS

**Cllr Dav Baulch** [cllr.dav.baulch.wig@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.dav.baulch.wig@gmail.com) or WIGPC, Meadow View Farm, Meadow Drive, Weston in Gordano, BS20 8PS

**Cllr Lucy Luton** [cllr.lucy.luton.wig@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.lucy.luton.wig@gmail.com)

**Cllr Becky Stubbs** [cllr.becky.stubbs.wig@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.becky.stubbs.wig@gmail.com)

**Council Clerk** [wig.parishcouncilclerk@outlook.com](mailto:wig.parishcouncilclerk@outlook.com)

**WIG website** [www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Village Hall Hire** Linda Pearce 848667

**Social Committee** Becky Herbert ([beckyherbert@gmail.com](mailto:beckyherbert@gmail.com))

**Speedwatch** [cllr.lucy.luton.wig@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.lucy.luton.wig@gmail.com)

**Craft Class** Gwyneth 845218

**Gardening Group** Chris Lewis (849214) & Penny Roberts (07907 752654)

We're also on Facebook, look us up!

**Join the mailing list for up to date communication directly into your email inbox, parish news, social committee events, alerts, parish council, lost and found etc. Email: [Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com) and ask to join the WIG mailing list!**

# Useful Links

In this edition I'll cover several aspects of our online content which may be of interest, especially to those who haven't explored the site fully yet.

Recently we added a social media feed which links to our WIG Facebook page. This means anyone not wanting to use Facebook can still view the WIG FB page via the main website by using this link

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/social-media](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/social-media)

We also now have a YouTube account where meetings and presentations will be displayed. Feedback on this feature has been positive, allowing parishioners to watch, pause, walk away and return to proceedings in the comfort of their own living rooms. All our meetings are now being recorded for YouTube and will feature closed caption transcriptions for those who need them.

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/wig-youtube](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/wig-youtube)

The website Forum is a new addition to the site. Anyone that signs up as a member can post to three categories, accident reporting, crime and parish maintenance requests. Also if you become a member you'll receive notification whenever new content is uploaded to the website.

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/forum](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/forum)

Parish Pump Online contains posts from community groups, local business, photo albums, the Parish Pump archive and much more.

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/parishpumponline](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/parishpumponline)

I'm compiling and researching a definitive list of service personnel for our online roll of honour which you can see here

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/roll-of-honour](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/roll-of-honour)

No update would be complete without mentioning the events page. Everything from parish council meetings, to social committee events can be found here with details on how to attend.

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/events](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk/events)



## Squire Sweep

A chimney sweep service from  
Michael Squire

Tel: 07504 253 467

Email: [squiresweep@gmail.com](mailto:squiresweep@gmail.com)

Visit: [www.squiresweep.co.uk](http://www.squiresweep.co.uk)

### Meadery Gardening and Cleaning Services

#### Kate and Gary Pointing

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North Weston, Portishead BS20 6RZ

01275 843359  
Kate Mob 0790 229 0989  
Gary Mob 0751 649 1212  
[themeadery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:themeadery@hotmail.co.uk)

To advertise in these pages and on our website please contact the Parish Pump team at [Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com) or write to Parish Pump, Meadow View Farm, Meadow Drive, Weston in Gordano, BS20 8PS.



"A different topic this edition. The sight of a very old and rusty bicycle ridden by an even older, rustier, white haired and bearded man on the road between here and Portishead provokes many comments, not all accurate, so here are the facts.

Back in my early teens a bicycle was my freedom; rationed petrol was only available to essential users and public transport was a bit thin, so the roads were empty. It was safe, quiet and ideal for cycling. I had use of my brother's bike as he was away in the Navy until, in 1947, he returned and, understandably, wanted his bike back. A trip to the local bike shop and a £5 note (a week's wage in those days) procured a second hand Raleigh Lenton which I am still riding to this day. Some bits have had to be replaced, a new saddle, rear wheel and handle bars (dropped handle bars are bad for your street-cred at my age) but the rest is much as it was then even the ragged saddle-bag.

Since those early days it has taken me to school and to work, done National Service carrying aircraft radio sets on its handle bars at various airfields around the country (including RAF Westonzoyland, near Bridgwater) and travelled the UK. Abroad, it has taken me through France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and into Switzerland on one trip and to Holland, Germany and Denmark on another.

I feel very sad for the youngsters of today as our roads are now so choked with traffic that they are not safe for kids on bikes. All my early travels were done in comparative safety but I'm now scared stiff particularly at Quarry Batch, on the way to Portishead, where the road is narrow and the hedges poke brambles and nettles out at you as you go by, and the edge of the road has drain covers and other hazards. Most drivers are considerate but those who aren't are a nightmare.

My rusty steed has never let me down and 69 years later is still going strong. I'm struggling!"

The late & great John Harrison, September 2016

# Parish Pump

If you wish to contribute to Parish Pump content, advertise in these pages, give us feedback, ideas or for any correspondence relating to our publication reach out to:

Parish.Pump.Editor@gmail.com

Alternatively you can write to us at Parish Pump, Meadow View Farm, Meadow Drive, Weston-In-Gordano, BS20 8PS

Special thanks to our distribution team without whom nobody would be reading this!

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# Meet the Team

Dav Baulch - Editor

Nev Hall - Jokes

Stu Redway (Honorary Editor)

Anne Chavasse and John Bridges - Church news

Becky Herbert, Sheilagh - Social Committee news

Beccy Stubbs - Rural life / nature

Chris Lewis and Penny Roberts - Gardening Group

Dav Baulch & David Lewis - History Pump

Vicky Baulch and Lucy Luton - Recipes

Angela Borland - art, poetry, prose, anything goes

Knut Beekmann & Mia Baulch - Photography



Printed by FearWorks Media Ltd.



I started writing at some point before I was 10. Half finished short stories sit in a box in the loft, painstakingly printed on a dot matrix printer, bound with irregular staples. I never finished any of them. I had the inclination to put pen to paper, without really knowing what to say.

At 18 years of age I dabbled in journalism, writing a small music review column for Nottingham University newspaper. This was born out of the desire to attend gigs for free rather than any definitive longing to publish. My member-of-the-press card, in its plastic case and lanyard was a sign of status amongst the sweaty long haired youth of the 1990s, crammed into the venue eager to catch sight of their icons.

I'd grown up watching *Press Gang*, a teen series following a group of young adults producing a newspaper. Again, motives were slightly skewed, I wasn't so much watching for inspiration on a potential career, but for the glimpses of Julia Sawalha my teenage mind craved.

Whatever the underlying causes, I have, for many years, had within me the desire to publish. Publish what? I didn't know. This specific, often overlooked desire was

pigeon-holed, tucked away as folly, an unachievable and frivolous aspiration.

In late 2013 my other passion, history, started to deal cards upon the green felted table of life, which would eventually rekindle the publishing thirst. For the next five years I explored the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in depth, absorbing enough knowledge to run tours to the Somme and to research soldiers when commissioned by interested relatives. An important part of my hobby-come-business was documenting my findings, producing booklets and files, placing facts, maps, first hand accounts and quotations together in a thought provoking yet educational format.

Without realising, I was now on the path to my first novel, self published in 2020, set in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. I vividly remember the feeling when the last word was typed, slumping back into my chair with an enormous sense of accomplishment; only to spend the next few months formatting the proof copy; a huge undertaking with no prior experience and not something I yearn to repeat any time soon.

The book complete, publishing could be ticked off on the bucket list, surely? With startling rapidity I found myself whipped up with the excitement of local government, joining the Parish Council and then into the jaws of parishioners hungry to see our beloved Parish Pump live on. Well, the cards are being dealt, let's see how this hand plays out.

"All in."

# Weston in Gordano Parish Pump

[www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.wigparishcouncil.co.uk)

## Save the Date

- 21/08 - Stuart and Angela's art - Village hall
- 26/08 - Parish Council Meeting - Village hall
- 31/08 - 10pm Peak of Aurigids meteor shower
- 04/09 - 1pm Village BBQ - Church field
- 08/09 - 2pm Craft Class - Village hall
- 30/09 - Parish Council Meeting - Village hall
- 02/10 - 7pm Harvest Supper - Village hall
- 03/10 - 10am Harvest Festival - Village hall
- 13/10 - 2pm Craft Class - Village hall
- 28/10 - Parish Council Meeting - Village hall
- 10/11 - 2pm Craft Class - Village hall
- 14/11 - 6pm Remembrance Sunday - Village hall
- 25/11 - Parish Council Meeting - Village hall
- 04/12 - Christmas Fayre - Village hall - TBC
- 08/12 - 2pm Craft Class - Village hall
- 18/12 - Carol singing / Meet & Greet
- 19/12 - Carol Service - TBC
- 30/12 - Parish Council Meeting - Village hall

