

# LEEK WOOTTON LINK

Leek Wootton Guy's Cliffe Hill Wootton Chesford Goodrest Wedgnock North & Middle Woodloes



who received a less

than complete copy of

the December/January

magazine - some such copies were discovered

but only after everything

#### **EDITORIAL**

Welcome to February issue of *The* Link.

apologising to anyone

had gone out. We now circulate some 650 copies of The Link, Please do help. and can only apologise for the hiccup.

That circulation does mean however that we now need to draw your attention to

the envelope enclosed with this issue. seeks donations which the production your of community magazine in 2025. A modest amount of advertising does provide income and We must begin by all of the work on the magazine and its

distribution is voluntarily, but we need donations everyone in the parish to be able to continue to circulate the advance information and news of activities and events.

Helen & Leslev Eldridge The Editorial Team

### THELINK

Leek Wootton Link is published ten times a year, monthly (doubles: July/August, December/January) free of charge, although all readers are invited to make an annual donation towards the magazine.

#### Submitting Articles or Letters for Publication:

Articles photographs should be submitted bν email link@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk, or they can be hand delivered to 30 Hill Wootton Road (Please note: the Editorial Team reserves the right to shorten or edit any material that is submitted for publication).

The deadline for editorial submissions for the March issue is:

FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

#### Advertisements :

The magazine accepts advertising on a monthly or annual basis. For more about information advertising rates. please contact link.ads@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

Advert submissions are due:

#### 1 WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE MAIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE

#### Other ways to read *The Link*:

If you would like to be added to either the email or postal distribution lists, please contact link@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

The Link is now published on issuu and some back issues are available to view at:

https://issuu.com/leekwoottonlink



Cover Image: By Liz Barry



This month Associate Minister, the Rev Andrew Haines writes...

One word was at the heart of the pre-election prospectus of our present government, and it continues to be at the heart of its proclaimed mission. That word is 'change'. It seems to apply not only in this country. Several other western democracies have changed the colour of their government in recent months. Pending elections may soon bring change in others as well. Change is everywhere. Even in our national Church there are calls for a culture change to enable us to rise above the scandals that have recently beset it. Some times change is forced and hard won. On other occasions it comes as a natural result of time and growth.

The latter kind of change comes to Leek Wootton as Jim and Nicola prepare to leave the Vicarage after some sixteen years of service in this parish. It will probably take time for us to appreciate all that they have done during those years on behalf of the Church and the wider community. Their service has been faithful and committed, both in action and in prayer. This is a time of change for them as well as for us. It may be for them a moment to pause and re-charge the batteries, both physically and spiritually. However, I am sure that it will not be long before new avenues open up for them to exercise their energy and skill in new arenas.

Times of change can lead to uncertainty, and uncertainty can give way to fear. One hymn-writer took a very bleak view of the world around him as he looked at it with a natural eye: "change and decay in all around I see". It can sometimes seem that everything goes from bad to worse.

So, what does the future hold? Yes, there are uncertainties, but there are also firm anchor-points to hold on to, and chief of those anchor-points are the character and nature of God Himself. He is "the same yesterday, today and for ever", and His continuing desire is that we should live in relationship with Him. Through His Son, Jesus, He has provided the means of access to Him and hope in Him. Jesus' promise, now and then, is that, through Him, we may experience life in all its fullness.

Here, then, is our confidence for the future. We may not know when, or on what basis, a new minister will be appointed to our midst. During the coming weeks and months we will have opportunity to be involved in discussions on the possibilities, and I hope that as many as possible will wish to be involved in this process of identifying our needs and discerning our aspirations for the future. So, as Jim and Nicola move on, and we ourselves continue here, we can all do so with a sense of thanksgiving for all that has been, and a sense of anticipation of what, by the grace of God, is yet to be.

Andrew Haines



#### www.leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

## **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

e:admin@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

### WHO'S WHO?

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

**Lesley Allen** t : 07963 815773

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#### CHURCH SERVICES / EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, 2 February

NO MORNING SERVICES due to Road Closures for Warwick Half Marathon

4:00pm CHRISTINGLE for Candlemas (marking 40 days after Christmas)

Sunday, 9 February

10:00am Holy Communion

Coffee & biscuits

10:45am Open Meeting to discuss the Parish Future

Sunday, 16 February

10:00am All Age Worship 11:15am PCC Meeting

Wednesday, 19 February

10:30am Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday, 23 February

10:00am All Age Holy Communion



# All Saints' Church Leek Wootton



# So, What Happens Next?

The Churchwardens and members of the PCC will be meeting with the Archdeacon and Rural Dean on Thursday, 6 February to discuss the parish future. We will report back to you on:

# Sunday, 9 February

10:00am Short Communion Service followed by coffee and biscuits

# 10:45am Open Parish Meeting to discuss the future of All Saints'

The Churchwardens will explain some of the possible options for the future of the parish and find out your views and wishes

**ALL WELCOME** 

Please join us at 10:00am or at 10:45am



#### All Saints' Church Electoral Roll

Every six years there is a complete revision of the Church's Electoral Roll; everyone currently on the Roll comes off and needs to apply again. Rules and details are displayed on the Church Notice Board in the porch and on the Church website. Forms are available in Church and on the Church website where they can be completed electronically or printed off and scanned; either way they can then be emailed to Electoral Roll Officer, Jonathan Cox at ero@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk or, in the old-fashioned way, be posted through the door of 13 Tidmarsh Road, Leek Wootton. The closing date is <u>Friday</u>, 14 February 2025.

### Charitable Giving 2024

At the close of each financial year, the PCC makes donations to a number of charities and the following messages have been received in response to those gifts:



"Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for the donation of £200.00 for Christians in the Holy Land. Your donation will help us to support the most vulnerable at this very challenging time. Please continue to pray for the Holy Land and a peaceful resolution."



**Agapé UK**, which transfers the donation to France in support of the work of the Violleau family, wrote: "Thank you for your support!"



A Rocha UK said: "Thank you very much for your donation of £100.00 towards our work. Your gift will restore declining habitats and reconnect people with nature as we care for God's creation together."

and





A Rocha International wrote: "Thank you so much for the latest instalment of your £100 annual donation, made on behalf of Leek Wootton Church ... As always, we greatly appreciate the church's

kind support and faithfulness to A Rocha's work.

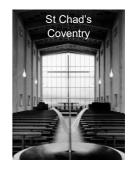
"Wishing you and members of Leek Wootton Church a joyful, peaceful, and blessed New Year filled with God's grace."

Other organisations supported were:











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Caring staff



Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Waverley.info/

www.covmu.org
LEEK WOOTTON MU



Contact: Janet Jackson

e: mu@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

Father, grant us guidance on the year's journey, wisdom in our choices and your grace in living.

May we be people who share joy and compassion in our communities and in our world.

Amen From the MU 2025 Prayer Diary



Thank you for the toys given for children visiting Onley Prison for the Christmas Family Mornings, where MU members volunteer.

Also, for knitting scarves for children for the Clothing Coventry charity that links with the Gateway Homeless Project. Paul Morris, husband of our Diocesan President, volunteers with the charity.



← Christmas cards displayed during the MU Advent Service at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry. Cards are given to prisoners by the Ryehill Prison Chaplaincy at their annual carol service.

MU members volunteer at Ryehill as an 'assigned person' to chat regularly with a prisoner during organised meeting times.

Also displayed are some of the toys destined for Onley Prison.

#### The Gateway Homeless Project

Thursday, 20 February, 2:00pm, St John's Church Hall

A talk by Paul Morris

#### 2025 Subscriptions

Mothers' Union's theme for this year is *Join Us and Join In!* MU is a global, women-led volunteer movement. United in our diversity and living out our faith, we support individuals and families to transform their lives. Embedded in the Church and community, we have unprecedented reach that gives a voice to the stigmatised and vulnerable around the world.

If you would like to support by paying 2025 subscriptions, do find out more by contacting Karen at **Karen.Morris@Coventry.Anglican.org** or Janet. Thank you.



#### APPOINTING A NEW BISHOP

In November the Coventry Cathedral College of Canons elected The Right Reverend Sophie Jelley as the new Bishop of Coventry. She will become the tenth Bishop of Coventry since the modern Diocese of Coventry was established in 1918 and will make history as the first In his January woman to be Bishop of Coventry. newsletter the Chairman of the Friends wrote:



t:512643

#### "The Bishop's Election

The origins of the election procedure for the bishop are to be found in the legislation introduced by King Henry VIII, and the word "election" is not all that it seems.

Even before the reign of King Henry the consent of the monarch was required for the Dean and Chapter of a Cathedral to elect a new bishop when a vacancy arose. The monarch gives written leave to elect in a document called a "Congé d'élire". In 1534 an Act of King Henry VIII gave power to the king to send with the Congé d'élire the name of the man he desired to see elected.

That is still the situation today. The crown grants to the Dean and Chapter its licence under the great seal to elect a new bishop, accompanied by a letter missive containing the name of the person whom the dean and chapter are to elect. The election should be held within 12 days of notice published in the "London Gazette". In the current constitution of Coventry Cathedral the right of election is given to the College of Canons."

The Rt Rev Sophie Jelley, is expected to take up her post in May/June 2025, and in the interim Bishop Tim Thornton (formerly Diocesan Bishop of Truro) has agreed to be the temporary Acting Bishop.

Bishop Ruth Worsley has returned to her duties as Bishop of Taunton.

#### CRAFT & FLEA

Saturday, 8 February, 10:00am-4:00pm



Not a craft market or a flea market, but a great mixture of local talent and finds, with independent makers, designers, producers and collectors, each handpicked for their quality, on-trend products. No two events are the same, but most will feature: local produce sustainable products - vintage collectables & home - artisan makers & designers - food & drink.

Entry £3, under 12s free. Pre-booked timed tickets with arrival time ONLY stay as long as you want.

#### Do Touch! Interactive Exhibition - Quiet Hour

Monday, 17 and Wednesday, 19 February, 9:00am-10:00am

An interactive exhibition very much for children and families needing less bustle and noise. Pre-book at events@coventrycathedral.org.uk

#### The Tribute to George Michael, by WOW Events

Saturday, 22 February, 7:30pm-9:30pm

A spectacular show revisiting the unforgettable classics of one of the world's most iconic musicians. A respectful recreation of the greatest hits. Book tickets on the Cathedral website.

#### An Evening of Radiohead at Coventry Cathedral

Friday, 28 February, 7:30pm-9:30pm

A "...sonically spectacular celebration of Radiohead's vast universe of music over 30 years." Full live band with vocalists. Book tickets on the Cathedral website.

Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council

## WHO'S WHO?

www.leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk

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#### **David Elsy**

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#### Jonathan Kingston

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#### Jim Kirkwood

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#### Joy Morgan

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**VACANCY** 

**VACANCY** 

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Planning (LEAD) Guy's Cliffe Emergency Planning Finance & Risk Cttee Planning Cttee

Environment (LEAD)
Hill Wootton
Highways
Finance & Risk Cttee
Planning Cttee

Community Development Environment All Saints' Church

Highways (LEAD)
Village Hall
Community Forum
Finance & Risk Cttee
Planning Cttee

Community Development Emergency Planning All Saints' Academy

#### Helen Eldridge (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1 Anchor Cottages, Warwick Road m: 07464 017573 e: clerk@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk

#### LEEK WOOTTON LINK | FEBRUARY 2025

www.leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk



# LEEK WOOTTON &

### GUY'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish Council : Helen Eldridge t : 07646 017573 e : clerk@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk

The Parish Council [PC] met on Wednesday, 8 January 2025, at Leek Wootton Village Hall. Discussion included the following:

#### DEVELOPMENT AT WOODCOTE (POLICE HQ)

Whilst the Council is still waiting to hear about the planning application (W/24/1006) and when it may be expected to be heard by the District Council's Planning Committee, Councillors have met with the Chief Executive of the District Council and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss the future of 'The Lunch'. The current CALA plans simply make part of the land the responsibility of a residents' association on behalf of the owners of the new homes. It is the PC's sincere hope that the woodland may be made available for some form of public use, but also that it is better maintained.

It is believed the Police are working on a masterplan which will be submitted for planning approval in due course.

#### PARISH COUNCIL AS CORPORATE TRUSTEE

The PC has recently been investigating the legal and practical implications of becoming a corporate managing Trustee, following an approach by the Trustees of the Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground.

This matter is currently in the hands of the Trustees (read more on page 31)

#### ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY, 26 MARCH 2025

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place at All Saints' Church on 26 March 2025, starting at 7:00pm. This is NOT a PC meeting, but a meeting of the electorate, at which the PC and various organisations make progress reports to the community.

The PC hopes to also give an update on the current progress of the new housing site in Woodcote Lane as well as other subjects (see page 37 for further information), so there won't be any external speakers this year.

#### TRAFFIC SURVEYS

In the past the PC has not had data shared from earlier surveys and, when it asked, was told the existing traffic information in and around Leek Wootton is historical data and does not give an accurate outlook on the traffic situation as it is today.

The PC has commissioned a number of traffic surveys in new locations around the parish to contribute to the work that will be undertaken when the Community Speed Watch group re-starts in the Spring. This will help the PC build an evidence-based picture of traffic movements through the parish.

County Cllr Redford has kindly offered to pay for the surveys from the

Members' Delegated Budget.

With regard to traffic incidents wherever they occur, please report these to the Police, using 999 if an emergency response is required or 101 if a non-emergency. Dashcam footage may be submitted to Operation Snap online (www.warwickshire.police.uk/police-



forces/warwickshire-police/areas/warwickshire-police/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap)

#### **BUDGET 2025/26**

The budget for the year 2025/26 was discussed and approved. There is a rise in the precept being requested, due to the External Auditor raising concerns about the level of reserves held. The PC has not been in the practice of holding large reserves and over the last few years unplanned expenditure has depleted them. The PC will work over the next number of years to improve its financial position, considering the likely increased responsibilities that it will be required to take on in the not too distant future.

The budget is available to view in the DRAFT January meeting minutes at the PC website.

#### SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

The South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation is now live and will run for a period of 8 weeks, until **11:59pm on Friday, 7 March**. Residents, businesses and other stakeholders are invited to have their say on the Preferred Options version of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (2050) for the combined areas of Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon District Councils for the next 25 years.

# The consultation document and accompanying materials are all available to view on the South Warwickshire Local Plan Website at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp

The simplest way to respond is via the online consultation portal. You can respond to each part of the consultation document using the following four questions:

- Do you agree with the approach laid out in the draft policy/policy direction?
- Do you have any further comments on this section?
- Do you have any comments on this Strategic Growth Location/New Settlement?
- Do you have any comments on a specific site proposal or the Housing Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) results?

Please have a look and add your thoughts.

#### DEVOLUTION

Another local government issue at this time is the 'Devolution' white paper.

On 16 December 2024, the Government published the English Devolution

#### LEEK WOOTTON LINK | FEBRUARY 2025

White Paper. This identifies the Government's intended approach to the devolution of powers from Westminster to more local "Strategic Authorities."

The County and District Councils have made statements and you can read the latest news at:

Warwickshire County Council: https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lld=20921&PlanId=321&RPID=0

Warwick District Council: www.warwickdc.gov.uk/news/article/1267/joint\_statement\_on\_the\_devolution\_white\_paper

At present everyone is waiting to see which existing authority areas will be selected by the Government for Local Government Review, only then will the implications for the existing councils and the 'knock-on effect' for Town and Parish Councils be clear.

#### **COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE**

There have recently been a number of seasonal issues experienced with fallen leaves, snow, ice and consequent flooding... again.

The PC was grateful to see the fallen leaf residue on Warwick Road has been cleared by County Highways, especially after Cllr Morgan drew C/Cllr Redford's attention to the risks it causes to cyclists.

The PC has received a request for a grit bin on Woodloes Lane, which is the vehicular access to Middle Woodloes and also a public footpath and part of Centenary Way. In the November snow there were a number of incidents of people slipping over near the bridge over the A46. Whilst the PC is happy to purchase and place a grit bin in the area, there is a hold up due to County Highways criteria for having grit bins added to the filling schedule. The PC is currently working with C/ClIr Redford to resolve this matter.

After the snow in both November and January, closely followed by Storm Darragh, there were a number of floods at the usual locations and some new ones, including at Blackdown Mill. C/Cllr Redford did confirm that no homes were flooded within the Cubbington & Leek Wootton area. These increasingly regular weather events contribute to the need for a Community Resilience Strategy and at the PC meeting it was agreed that Cllr Morgan will take a lead on this initiative (read more on page 47 OR If you are interested in being involved with Community Resilience, please contact Cllr Morgan at CllrMorgan@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk).

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 5 February 2025, at Leek Wootton Village Hall.

Minutes of all Parish Council meetings, when signed, are published on the website at www.leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk. Any local issues can always be raised at meetings under Public Question Time or by contacting any of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk, details of whom are listed on all noticeboards, the Parish Council website, in the Parish Directory and the Bulletin.

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#### **OBITUARIES**

We publish here brief obituaries for members of the community who have died recently. We send condolences to their relatives, and to all who have recently been bereaved.



John Wilfred Harlow 1949-2024

John was the only son of Mary and Jack, born in Anstey, Leicestershire. He enjoyed school and after A-Levels studied at Coventry College of Art & Design, going on to become a Graphic Designer. He met his wife, Jenny, whilst at college and, after a summer internship at Cogent Elliott, a local Ad Agency, went on to work with them full time.

John and Jenny's home for many than himself, and he p years has been Gypsy Cottage, on the corner of Woodcote Lane and opposite to *The Anchor Inn*, where John became a regular customer in the front bar, which was named as the 'Harlow kho he loved and adored. Lounge' to record his long-term residency, and where he met regularly with his circle of friends.

He was not a practical man, a DIYer or gardener, and Jenny insisted that he stick to cutting the grass. He was a much-loved family man with children. Ben and Ella. and was always being 'daft' with his three grandchildren, Barney, Rosie Rufus

John was argumentative and stubborn with strong views on many subjects both national and local. He had his '15 minutes of fame' when the national press and then the BBC *Today* programme were alerted to the story of the binmen refusing to empty his recycling box because "it contained livestock" — a live maggot had crawled into a rinsed out dog food can!

John was a Freemason, a very generous man, giving to many charities, helping those less fortunate than himself, and he produced the programmes for the Kenilworth Rugby Club for many years. He will be missed by many, especially his pals at *The Anchor* and, of course, his family who *he* loved and adored.



Image from Remembering John Harlow



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Edna Wilson 1929-2024

Raised in Thurlaston, Rugby, Edna was the eldest of five children. When she left school, she began an apprenticeship with a hairdresser in town. In 1951 she married her childhood sweetheart, Fred Wilson, who grew up in the same village.

Fred was a farm labourer who secured a job in Wolston. A prefab dwelling was attached to the job, and they settled there for a while, but within a few years Fred was 'head hunted' by the Edgars, and he accepted the position of Farm Manager at Elms Farm in Leek Wootton. He and Edna moved into their cottage in the village,

and lived there for the rest of their lives. When Fred died in 2019, Edna was determined to remain in her home and this she managed.

An excellent homemaker, super cook and baker, Edna won many awards for her sponge cakes, scones and pies at local shows. An active member of the Dahlia Society and local groups, Edna had many friends over the years.

Although they were unable to have children of their own, both Edna and Fred loved all children and played an active role in the lives of their nieces, nephews and friends' children.

As was Edna's wish, there will be a private cremation, her ashes will be mixed with Fred's, and they will be scattered together.





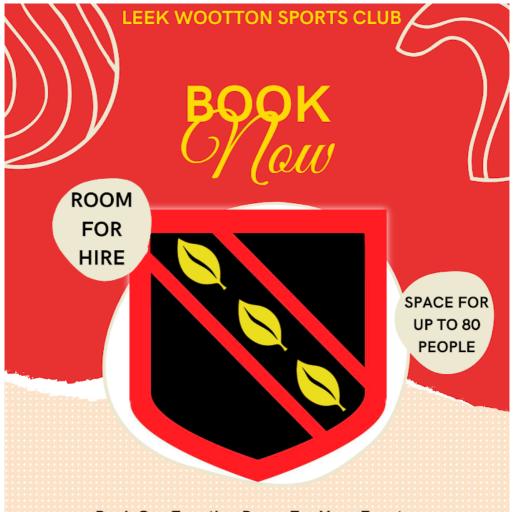
Barry Charles Kimberley 1939-2024

Barry was born in Birmingham and served with the Warwickshire Constabulary Kenilworth in and Nuneaton before transfer а Headquarters brought him and Jenny to Leek Wootton in 1970. They both became integral members of the

community, and their children, Maria and lan, grew up in the parish. There are now 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Barry died on 23 November just six days after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, and less than two months after marking his and Jenny's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 3 October. They both loved jazz music, and three classic pieces were played at Barry's funeral on 11 December.

Jenny, Ian and Maria now wish to thank everyone who has supported them with so much kindness at this time, and for all the messages and cards they have received.



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#### **MORE INFO:**

www.leekwoottonsportsclub.com

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Bob Cooke**

As we were in the late stages of preparing to put this magazine together, we were sorry to hear that Bob Cooke died on the morning of 24 January. Our condolences to his family and friends.



LEEK WOOTTON & GUY'S CLIFFE

**NFWS** 

f LWandGC @ LWandGC Community

### Storm Darragh

Saturday, 7 December



Storm Darragh wreaked havoc through the midlands and this parish, with both Woodcote Lane and Warwick Road being closed for some time. The aftermath of the Warwick Road incident, where the top of a tree broke off and fell, smashing through a car windscreen, narrowly missing a 15 -year-old girl, is still visible.

The driver, Sue Margetts writes:

"I would like to thank the kind people that supported me & my daughter this evening. A large tree fell as we were driving through Leek Wootton and went through the windscreen just missing my daughter!! To say we were extremely lucky is an understatement. There really are kind people around

and we are very thankful."

A number of trees fell in The Lunch woodland and one also fell from the Police-owned pocket of woodland at the rear of Quarry Close, Woodcote Lane and Waller Close, strategically falling gardens, fences into several outbuildings - this has now removed.

Please be cautious when walking in the woods where there are unstable trees, especially when the weather is bad. We are currently in Season' (Storm Éowyn has just passed through).

See also Community Resilience article on page 47





#### **BUT I'M STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS!**

It's been a privilege to serve many individuals and community groups as 'YouTree' over the years, as well as being your Vicar.

I may be retiring as Vicar, but I'm only relocating across Kenilworth so I'll be happy to carry on providing my printing services - and will even have more time to delve into your Family Tree.

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See my website for options and prices. www.youtree.perryman.org.uk

#### Farewell to Jim and Nicola

As many of you will already know, this month is a sad one as Jim and Nicola Perryman will be leaving Leek Wootton as Jim retires after more than 36 years of ordained ministry and just over 16 years as Priest in Charge and Vicar here at All Saints'.

I am sure that we will all have special memories of Jim and Nicola's time here and of all that they have given us. Perhaps Nicola's moth trap evenings, Jim's poems at the carol services, his gloriously raucous Easter proclamation that "Hallelujah; Christ is risen", his assemblies at the school, where he was simply 'Reverend Jim' to a generation of children, or how he introduced online worship during the COVID lockdowns.

Jim and Nicola have contributed so much to our church and community life that

it is impossible to sum it up in a few words. To say that they will be missed is true, but something of an understatement. Perhaps the best tribute is to say that for many of us it is hard to imagine Leek Wootton without them!

We thank God for all the blessings that He has brought us through Jim and Nicola and pray that He will be with them in the next chapter of their lives.



Nigel Stallard and Jonathan Kingston, Churchwardens



# Star School: All Saints' Academy

BBC CWR's Harrison Mayne visited All Saints' C of E Academy to meet the children and their contribution was broadcast on 6 December 2024 within CWR Breakfast with Phil Upton.

Listen now at www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0k9cyvx

# Midnight Mass from St Mary's Church, Warwick

Midnight Mass from St Mary's Church, Warwick, was broadcast on BBC1. This is still available to view online at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0026flh





### **New Chief Constable**

On 9 December Warwickshire Police announced that, following a recruitment process led by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alex Franklin-Smith had been selected as the preferred candidate to be the new Chief Constable for Warwickshire.





HINTONS NURSERY Coventry Road, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5FJ Tel: 01926 492273

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### What the Dickens

#### Name the Charles Dickens novel from the clues provided

- One of his best-known works is about a young orphan boy who is thrown out of the Workhouse for asking for some more food. He walks to London where he falls in with a gang of child pickpockets organised by an old Jew. Other adventures follow, until all ends well for him. Characters include, the eponymous boy, Fagin the Jew, the Artful Dodger a young pickpocket, Bill Sikes the villain and Mr Bumble the Beadle.
- 2. His first novel told of the adventures of a gentlemen's club set up by an amiable old, bald headed, portly gent, his companions Winkle, Tupman and Snodgrass and his manservant Sam Weller. They travel around England encountering among others the charlatan Mr Jingle and his manservant Job Trotter.
- 3. This tragic story tells of Little Nell Trent and her grandfather who run an antique shop. The grandfather's obsession with gambling at cards bankrupts them and throws them at the mercy of the villainous Daniel Quilp. They run away from London and have many adventures before Nell dies after begging in a rainstorm. Quilp's evil ways are discovered, and he dies by drowning in the Thames while escaping from the Peelers.
- 4. This is a novella set at Christmas time and tells of a stingy, grasping old curmudgeon called Ebenezer Scrooge who thought Christmas was "Humbug". However, he was visited by four ghosts on Christmas Eve; the ghost of his dead business partner Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. Christmas morning sees him as a changed man after the revelations of the ghosts. His clerk Bob Cratchit and Bob's crippled son Tiny Tim also feature along with others.
- 5. This novel was Dickens' favourite and semi-autobiographical. It tells the story of the eponymous life of a young man. There are many sub-plots including his early childhood with his harsh stepfather Murdstone, the family servant Clara Peggotty, and his school days where he meets an older boy, James Steerforth. His adult life brings him into contact with the fraudulent but 'ever so humble' Uriah Heap, his aunt Betsey Trotwood, and the ever optimistic 'something will turn up' Mr Micawber. Our protagonist marries the fey and fragile Dora Spenlow, who dies in childbirth. Despite his grief, he becomes a famous author and marries his childhood sweetheart Agnes Wickfield.
- 6. This is a story about a beautiful woman who married Sir Leicester Dedlock for his money. But she carries a dark secret: she had an affair in her youth with a soldier and had a daughter by him. The family lawyer Tulkinghorn discovers her secret and blackmails her, causing her to commit suicide. Esther Summerson is the secret daughter of Lady Dedlock (and Dickens' only female narrator). There are several other sub-plots including the Jarndyce versus Jarndyce case in Chancery Court. Other notable characters are Inspector Bucket (who investigates his wife for Dedlock), Tulkinghorn (who is murdered), and Krook 'the keeper of the dump' (who dies by 'spontaneous combustion').

- 7. In this book, orphan Pip (Phillip Pirrip) rises from poverty with help from his secret benefactor, the escaped convict Magwitch. Pip loves the cold-hearted Estella, raised by the jilted and bitter Miss Havisham to break men's hearts. As Pip learns his benefactor's identity and faces betrayal and loss, he discovers true worth lies in loyalty, love, and humility over wealth.
- 8. This book's eponymous character fights his cruel uncle Ralph to save his family. At Dotheboys Hall, he defies the tyrannical headmaster Whackford Squeers and befriends Smike, rescuing him from abuse. Meanwhile, his sister Kate faces predatory advances from Ralph's friends, but our protagonist manages to protect her. With resilience and love, he confronts hardship, restores his family's honour and finds happiness with Madelaine Bray.
- 9. Amid the French Revolution, Dr Manette reunites with daughter Lucie, loved by both Charles Darnay, a nobleman, and Sydney Carton, a disillusioned lawyer. As Darney faces death by guillotine, Carton sacrifices himself by taking Darney's place, declaring, 'it is a far, far better thing that I do.' Their fates intertwine with Madame Defarge's vengeful schemes.
- 10. The eponymous young man, disowned by his wealthy grandfather, travels to America seeking his fortune. He faces betrayal by hypocritical Seth Pecksniff and greed from his grandfather's nephew Jonas, while loyal Tom Pinch offers kindness and support. Mary, his love, remains steadfast, and he ultimately reconciles with his grandfather, uncovering true values of love, integrity and humility. Comic relief is provided by the alcoholic midwife Sairey Gamp.



JAN RAWNSLEY'S CHRISTMAS ART EXHIBITION 2024

# Painting Competition - Results!!

During Jan's Exhibition in December, 17 Children and 5 Adults collected a painting board, paper, a palette of paints and brushes to take part in the PAINTING COMPETITION which was a Charity Fundraiser for Coventry Haven Women's Aid.

# Coventry Haven Women's Aid

The Entries



The winners were **LILY JACKSON** aged 6 [below left] for her contemporary painting of a snowman in a snow scene for which she won a Wildflower Meadow bag to keep her art in, and **IZZY LAWRENCE** aged 7 for her lovely picture of a Christmas Robin winning her a Start Up Painting Set.



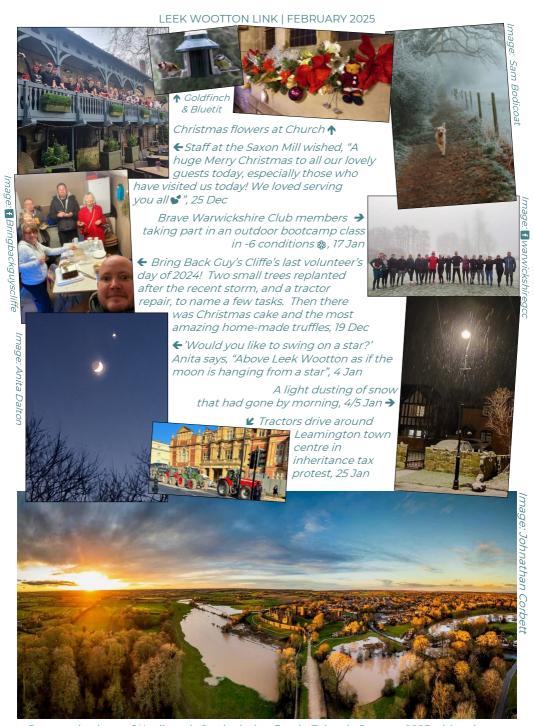


The competition raised £225 for Coventry Haven Women's Aid. Jan will run another Children's Painting Competition during Warwickshire Open Studios in June 2025.

### **DECEMBER & JANUARY IN PICTURES...**

Please submit your photos to link@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk





Panoramic photo of Kenilworth Castle during floods. Taken in January 2025 with a drone ... here's a great idea instead of spending £150k on a virtual tour at Abbey Fields make the lake a permanent feature (as it was in Elizabeths days) ... great for tourists and wildlife.

# Leek Wootton Link | FEBRUARY 2025 Leek Wootton Village Hall Regular Users

Organisation	Contact	Activity Times
Living Your Yoga	Lucy Holtom e: info@livingyouryoga.co.uk	Monday 09:30
Leek Wootton Beavers and Cubs	Jo Elsy e: mail@jelsy.myzen.co.uk t: 01926 854623	Monday 17:30
Leamington Spa & District Twins Club	Elizabeth Daniels e: liz.daniels86@gmail.com m: 07872 900312	Tuesday 10:00
Line Dancing	Annie Murray e: anniedanceuk@aol.com t: 01926 864554	Tuesday 13:45
Leek Wootton Brownies	Hazel Turner e: leekwoottonbrownies@hotmail.com m: 07970 908073	Tuesday 18:00
Leek Wootton Guides	Hazel Turner e: leekwoottonguides@hotmail.com m: 07970 908073	Tuesday 19:30
Leek Wootton Women's Institute	Lesley Kirkwood w: https://warwickshirewi.org.uk/wi/leek-wootton m: 07855 518315	Third Tuesday of each month 19:30
Bump2babyReality	Sally Seddon e: sally@bump2babyreality.co.uk m: 07960 323874	Wednesday 10:00
Kenny Art Group	Barbara Kenny e: skbk267@yahoo.co.uk t: 01926 852413	Wednesday 13:30
Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council	Helen Eldridge e: clerk@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk m: 07464 017573	First Wednesday of each month 19:30
Leek Wootton Village Hall Toddler & Baby Group	Janet Jackson t: 01926 258264 e: toddlers@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk	Thursday 10:00 (term-time)
Maria Textile Design	Maria Manuel e: mariathomastextiles@gmail.com t: 01926 853794	Monthly on a Friday 09:30
Leek Wootton Village Hall Committee	Genny Wilson e: genny@klasinski.co.uk m: 07921 132079	Day varies every 3 months 19:00



## Committee Secretary Needed!

Would you like to be more involved in your Community and and join our sociable and friendly group?

Do you have 1-2 hours free a month? Do you have attention to detail? Do you have Microsoft experience?



If your answer is YES to the above, then you could be a great help to the Village Hall, and the volunteer Management Committee.

Our current Committee Secretary will be stepping down in the Spring this year, and is keen to mentor their replacement. If you think this role might be of interest, and would like an informal chat to simply learn more, then please contact Genny Wilson on genny@klasinski.co.uk or mobile number 07921 132079.

# Poptastic Party on 30 November



t: 409641



In the words of Frankie Valli 'Oh what a night!'

The Hall was magically transformed into a 1970s disco by Committee Members and some everhelpful spouses. Disco lights lit up the many vibrant decorations, and the well-stocked bar!

A cold starter was ready on the table as many attendees arrived beautifully attired in colourful '70s fashionable outfits. A glass of 'Baby-sham' *(aka* 

Prosecco) welcomed each guest as they arrived.

The 1970s style starters were followed by Beef Bourguignon and vegetables, followed by Black Forest Gateau.

The music playlist was full of nostalgic 70s tunes from ABBA to Village People and everything else between, so as soon as the lights were dimmed the dancefloor - the boogie down area - was filled with enthusiastic boppers!



A good night was had by all, so on behalf of the Committee, many thanks for supporting this event.

Finally, we would like to wish all the Parish Community the very best throughout 2025!

# Your Local Hall, perfect for one-off events, meetings, or for regular bookings!

Hiring Charges	Main Hall	Parish Organisations / Events	Other Parish Users	Non-Parish Users
Category 1	Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00	£8.00 ph	£15.00 ph	£18.00 ph
Category 2	Mon-Fri 18:00-23:00	£8.00 ph	£15.00 ph	£25.00 ph
Category 3	Sat & Sun 09:00-18:00	By arrangement	£17.00 ph	£25.00 ph
Category 4	Sat & Sun 18:00-23:00	By arrangement	£17.00 ph	30.00 ph

Committee Room (Maximum 20 Persons)

Parish Users: £7.00 ph Non-Parish Users: £10.00 ph

Kitchen: £10 payable for the cooker, or £20 for the cooker, dishwasher and heated cabinet

- Hire of the Hall, or the Committee Room, is for that room only
- Please make sure that you take home all belongings
- Please ensure that you take all your rubbish away with you as there is no council rubbish collection from the Hall

Your help is vital to keep the Hall in its present condition for all users!

BOOKING INQUIRIES TO MRS S FEWTRILL

(e: lwvh@outlook.com or t: 01926 409641)





Charity number: 522953

# LEEK WOOTTON WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND

Chair : Richard Coates

If anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee would they please contact the Chair, Richard Coates (t: 01926 856223).



### **COMMUNITY LIVE!**

SPORTS | INTERESTS | ARTS & CRAFTS | CLUBS & THINGS TO DO on vour doorstep at this FREE event

Coordinator: Steph Allison

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2025

Please contact clerk@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk to reserve space



www.leekwoottonandguyscliffe.org.uk

**f** LWandGC

LEEK WOOTTON LINK

Editors: Helen & Lesley Eldridge e: link@leekwoottonchurch.co.uk

#### THANK YOU!

All of our advertisers are important to us, but we have to give a special shout out to electrician Andrew Cadby. Late in the evening of the Friday before Christmas we lost all power at 'Link HQ'. Andrew sorted everything out on the Saturday morning and, when no other operative could be found, he returned on Christmas Eve to resolve the root problem with the central heating. Candles and woolly jumpers to the fore, but thank you again Andy.

Lesley Eldridge

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# CANCER RESEARCH UK

LEEK WOOTTON

Secretary: Diane Wilson

m: 07950 736272



#### ADVANCE NOTICE:

# Jean and Jim's Big Breakfast

Friday, 16 May @ 09.00 until 12.00 - Leek Wootton Village Hall Donations on the day

A date to look forward to in the CRUK Leek Wootton calendar, and in the community, is Jean and Jim's Big Breakfast. Chat with friends and neighbours and enjoy a fabulous breakfast and refreshments.



# Leek Wootton CRUK Fundraising Page and QR Code



**1 ←** To further support all the events we do, CRUK has provided us with our own fundraising page and QR code (see top of page). Any funds raised via this route will go straight to CRUK but will be attributed to the fundraising efforts of the Leek Wootton CRUK committee. It does mean, that should you be unable to attend an event, there is a route to donate, should you so wish.

Please note this Fundraising Page is not for ordering tickets for any future events.

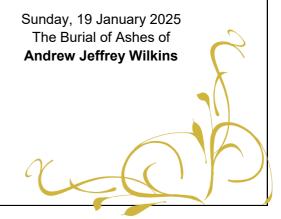
#### From the

# Parish Registers

Saturday, 30 November 2024 The Burial of Ashes of **Karin Margaret King** 

Sunday, 1 December 2024 The Baptism of **Sebastian James Needham** 

Sunday, 8 December 2024 The Burial of Ashes of Joseph Hardman











Secretary: Steph Jones e: lwhsociety@gmail.com

## Jam Jar Posies for Mothering Sunday

We would like to invite children to a Jam Jar Posie making event in celebration of Mothering Sunday. They will be able to choose from a selection of spring flowers and foliage and create an arrangement to give as a gift. Ribbon and tags will be available.

There will be two sessions running on the morning of Saturday, 29 March starting at 10:30am and 11:30 am.

The sessions will last for approximately 45 minutes and the price is £15.00 per child, which will include spring flowers, jam jar, ribbon, tags and refreshments for them.

If you would like to book, please contact: LWHSociety@gmail.com

### Wreath Making December 2024

Thank you to all that joined us for the wreath making sessions in December. Many unique wreaths were produced, and everyone was happy to have a spectacular garland to display on their door!



#### Dates for your Diary 2025

- AGM Wednesday, 19 March, 7:30pm 9:30pm, Village Hall, all welcome
- Posie Making Saturday, 29 March, 10:30am 12.30pm, Village Hall
- Annual Show & Fete Saturday, 16 August, 2:30pm

Photographic categories for the Annual Show will be:

'Front Door Within Three Miles' and 'Blue'



# FREE ANTIQUES VALUATION DAY St Francis of Assisi Church Hall,

110 Warwick Road, Kenilworth, CV8 1HL

Refreshments in aid of WCS Care
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 10<sub>am</sub> – 2<sub>pm</sub>

Bring along your Antiques, Gold, Jewellery, Watches, Silver and Collectables

Items may be consigned into Auction

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E: clivejones@hansonsauctioneers.co.uk

www.hansonsauctioneers.co.uk

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Email: stuart66rouse@gmail.com

# Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday, 26 March at 7:00pm at All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton

Residents, voluntary organisations and the business community are invited to attend the Annual Parish Assembly.

Parish Council Information

The Chairman of the Parish Council will present a report on the activities of the Parish Council 2024/25 and the Community Resilience Coordinator will present this new initiative

In addition, the Parish Council will initiate a discussion about the Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL]. CIL is a levy that local authorities charge on developments to assist in the delivery of infrastructure to support development in their area. A portion of CIL income is paid to the parish or town council affected, to be spent by them to offset the impacts of development in the area. This is collected by Warwick District Council (the Planning Authority) and you can read more about it at www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20798/community infrastructure levy cil

The Parish Council has received a CIL payment of a little under £7,000 after the new home built on Warwick Road was completed and is likely to receive more CIL money when the new homes at Woodcote (which have outline planning permission) are complete.

It is important that the PC consults with you, the local community, to develop a list of the infrastructure priorities in the area. Any projects suggested should benefit the broadest section of the community and there will be an open forum to discuss ideas. These can also be submitted in advance by email to the clerk@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk

#### Other organisations

Reports will be available from the County and District Councillors, as well as other community organisations. We provide reports in a written format, but organisations are welcome to address the Assembly.

www.macmillan.org.uk

**MACMILLAN** 

Chairman: Ros Commander

MACMILLA t: 511373 CANCER SUPPORT

ADVANCE NOTICE:



# **FASHION SHOW**

by Justina

The Warwickshire Leek Wootton Warwick CV35 7QT With 2-course lunch + glass of Prosecco

£38.00

Wednesday, 19 March 2025 Starting at 12:30pm

Tickets now on sale from Jean Singleton and Joy Morgan



https://warwickshirewi.org.uk/wi/leek-wootton

## LEEK WOOTTON WI

President: Leslev Kirkwood

e:gestureswithspoons@googlemail.com

© Cetty IIIIages

It was back to normal for the WI as we gathered for our January 2025 meeting, and we were delighted to welcome Leek Wootton's very own Mary Robins as our speaker for the evening. Recounting her career as a dancer she took us from her first steps to stories of the professional career she pursued. It was a fascinating evening as she told tales of her early days from panto to the Black and White Minstrel Show where she was a member of the Television Toppers [left].

However, not content with regaling her audience with nostalgic anecdotes, our members were encouraged onto their feet, and we were soon introduced to the mysteries of "kick, ball, change". I can recount that that was a complete triumph once we could identify our right foot from our left! Altogether a very good evening thanks to Mary.

Shaking the Christmas dust off we are looking forward to the year ahead and of course would welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet the third Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall at 7:45pm or give me a ring for more details.

Lesley Kirkwood

m: 07855 518315

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The Club met at the Sports Club in December with teams taking part in a General Knowledge Quiz prepared and run by Chairman, Brian Wilson. An enjoyable morning concluded with the consumption of wine, sausage rolls and mince pies!

In January there was a more regular Club meeting when members were entertained by Hazel Carter and her talk entitled 'Elaine's Coming Out'. Hazel explained that 'Elaine' was the name her younger brother gave to the donor kidney that he was given in 2022 by his sister Hazel Elaine. Hazel talked about the research and enquiries made of both the recipient and donor before the donation could take place, the procedure involved and the after-effects. Whilst clearly a very serious topic she made it entertaining as well as informative.

We learnt that before the donation her brother's GFR (glomerular filtration rate) reading was 8. GFR is the measure of the kidneys' ability to filter liquid; the norm is anything in excess of 60. Hazel's was 62.5 before the donation but it dropped to 31.25 afterwards because, of course, she then only had one kidney. Her brother's reading went up to 31.25 and has stayed at that level. Hazel's has improved to 37 as her remaining kidney has grown.

Six people die each week waiting for a transplant in the UK and a third of donations in the UK are from living donors. Hazel assured us that there are no long term after affects and she went on to take part and win a bronze medal at the Donor Games. She clearly leads a normal active life, and her brother continues to live a relatively normal life, albeit with the help of anti-rejection numerous medicines.



The Club will next meet in February, when member Richard Coates will give a talk on The Zulu Wars.

Kenilworth Probus I Club welcomes retired, or semi-retired, PROfessional and BUSiness men. They meet once a month to hear talks on a wide range of topics and enjoy a good chin-wag over a drink at the bar (possibly followed by lunch together, to continue discussions, at The Anchor), and occasionally visit places of interest, including local factories, etc.

If you would like to find out more, please contact probusleekwootton@gmail.com



Coordinator: Cllr David Elsy

e:environment@leekwootton.org.uk

# Woodcote Lane

# Migratory toads crossing

We know that in decades past Woodcote Lane was the site of high numbers of migratory toads, during the months of February and March. After spending 2 or 3 years in the East



Lunch woods maturing, the adult toads would make their way across the road to the lakes on Police HQ land. Sometimes the males hitching a lift on the back of the larger females; all in the hope that their sperm would fertilise the female eggs once they reached the lakes.

#### How can you help?

If you drive along the lane in the evenings of February and March please take care and look out for these lovely amphibians. They are particularly fond of migrating when it is dark, damp and mild.

Either driving or walking, if you do see any toads, you can safely pick them up and help them across, just wash your hands afterwards. Please send any sightings of dead or live toads to the environment group. We would love to know how our local population of toads is fairing.

What is the difference between a toad and a frog?



TOAD on the left has grey, dry warty bumpy skin

FROG on the right has more colourful, smooth slimy skin and longer legs than the toad.



# 2024 Results

Last year was the first year that we asked Parish members to help us survey our toad population. Seven visits in total were made to Woodcote Lane on evenings in February and March.

Only 2 live toads and 2 dead toads were seen. Can you help us increase our number of visits this year by walking the lane once or twice on a mild damp evening? Remember a zero find is always important data. Many thanks.

# RSPB and Parish Big Garden Birdwatch 2025



# We hope you have remembered to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch!

How many birds landed in your garden, during a one hour period, over the last weekend in January?

Do please send us your results using the email

address above. Thank you.

Look out for our Parish results in the next LINK issue.

# LW and GC Parish Environment Group Meeting



Wednesday, 12 February at 6.00pm 10 Hill Wootton Road



Anyone with an interest in our Parish wildlife is most welcome to attend. We will be thinking particularly about activities for the year ahead.



www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk

# STONELEIGH LADIES CHOIR

If trying something new is one of your new year resolutions, you might consider joining us at Stoneleigh Village Hall.

Stoneleigh Ladies Choir was formed back in 2013 by twelve enthusiastic ladies from the village. Since then, the membership has grown to 35 to 40 ladies from all over Warwickshire and Coventry. The idea is to enjoy ourselves in the company of like-minded women, so we meet in the village hall on Thursday afternoons (term time only) between 1:30 and 3:00pm (except the last Thursday of the month when we meet at Baginton village hall) to sing under the leadership of our musical director, Seb Farrall who makes it a fun afternoon.

We have just begun a new term and we're learning Songs from the Sixties which many of us remember the first time around, so now would be a great time to join us. There is no need to read music and there are no auditions just come along where you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

For more information about the choir contact our Secretary on sharronmced@gmail.com or see our website on www.stoneleighladieschoir.org.uk.

If you would prefer a chat, telephone Pat on 07817 899097.



# LEEK WOOTTON HEDGEHOGS

Contact: Sally Ellis m: 07771 996952



Another busy year ended with 294 hogs through the rescue and 16 of these have remained with me over winter as they aren't able to be released for a variety of reasons including the lower temperatures, lack of food and a few are even hibernating. There are also another 24 hogs out with foster carers so I will have a very busy time when we are able to release them!

Between all the team members of Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue, we received over 800 hogs. Sadly, we weren't able to save them all but we continue to match the national average of 50% of them released back into the wild.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society has recently published some guidance on how to support hedgehogs in your area. The following information is taken and adapted from it.

Nearly a quarter of the hedgehogs born into the world die before leaving their nest; about half of the rest do not survive to adulthood. You can help by:

- Providing a safe environment in gardens and allotments. Always garden with wildlife in mind, leave a corner or edge as a wildlife sanctuary.
- Collect materials logs, leaves, brushwood, etc. that hedgehogs can use to build nests or shelter in. Nests are refuges by day, vital for breeding and winter survival depends on hibernation nests (hibernacula).
- Supplement their natural diet of beetles, worms, caterpillars and suchlike with some protein (e.g. crunchy meaty hedgehog/kitten biscuits), particularly in periods of unseasonable weather in winter and in summer. Always leave a shallow bowl of water out.
- Seek advice and take immediate action when you see a hedgehog or hoglet in trouble.
- Help them to avoid man-made hazards and eliminate or reduce such dangers whenever possible.

Sadly, most of us see more squashed hedgehogs than live ones. Their natural defence mechanism — rolling into a ball — is no protection against road traffic. Please watch out for hogs on the roads at night, do all you can to avoid hedgehogs that may be crossing the road and if it is safe to do so stop and assist them to get across quickly but never take a healthy hedgehog away from its environment to somewhere you deem to be safer, it may well leave dependent young behind or be unable to survive at the new unfamiliar and possibly unsuitable site.

#### LEEK WOOTTON LINK | FEBRUARY 2025

When you do see this sad sight, please be sure to log it, if possible, at www.bighedgehogmap.org.

Pesticides are potentially dangerous to hedgehogs and slug pellets are no exception. Hedgehogs may eat the pellets, and they could potentially eat the poisoned slugs and snails. In April 2022 the outdoor use of metaldehyde slug pellets was banned and it is also illegal to sell or supply metaldehyde slug pellets for outdoor use in the UK.

Alternatives to chemicals can work very well, for example copper bands and tape are available to place round the base of plants or pots. "Beer-traps" (i.e. a bowl of beer sunk in the ground) can be an effective way of killing slugs, but make sure hedgehogs cannot access it to drink. Some people have reported success at protecting plants by sprinkling coffee grounds round the base (coffee shops will often let you have these for free).

Garden rubbish frequently provides a home for hedgehogs and should be carefully checked before bagging up and taking to the tip or burning.

Grass, especially if a little longer than usual, is another possible home for hedgehogs and care is needed before mowing and strimming. Cut the grass to a more reasonable length and then check again for hedgehogs and other wildlife. Never burn pampas grass without first checking there are no hedgehogs using it as a nesting place. If you do decide to use a strimmer, please carefully check the area first.

Garden ponds can present a danger, hedgehogs can swim and are sometimes attracted to them, but they may drown if they cannot get out. Gardeners should ensure that there are slipways around the edge of the water to enable the hedgehogs to escape – half submerged rocks or even a piece of chicken wire to be used like a scrambling net or wrapped round a wooden ramp are suggested. Pond levels should be kept topped up.

Netting of all kinds – that used for covering plants and fruit, as well as tennis nets, fishing nets and suchlike – can be a major hazard as hedgehogs easily become entangled in them. Any hedgehog found in netting should be taken to an independent hedgehog rescue centre as soon as possible because even if all the netting is removed, the friction caused by the hedgehog trying to escape can cause skin to break down several days later. Using semi-rigid netting at the base (2 feet tall is a good height) and then the more flexible netting on top is a good suggestion. Their inquisitiveness can also get them into trouble if their head gets stuck in various kinds of containers – empty food cans, yoghurt pots, plastic cups and fast food containers, etc.

The plastic rings that hold 4 and 6 packs of cans together, elastic bands and plastic bags are a problem too, because wildlife, including hedgehogs, can get trapped in

them. Always make sure the bands and circles are cut through and as with all litter, disposed of responsibly.

Keep a watchful eye on dogs in the garden, especially in the evenings when hogs are about. If necessary, keep them on a lead. There has been an increase in the number of attacks on hogs and dogs disturbing nests of hoglets.

As always, if you need any help or advice about a hedgehog you are concerned about, please contact me.

# Mystery of secret tunnels under one of UK's most fascinating houses may finally be solved



Much of the ruins and grounds are relatively unexplored

For many years, a partially ruined set of buildings owned by the Freemasons on an ancient site has been shrouded in mystery.

New work is now taking place to unwrap the secrets of Guy's Cliffe in Warwickshire.

The manor-style residence and grounds has taken different forms over the years and suffered many setbacks – including a devastating fire in 1992 – which have hidden

the site's secrets.

Several clues have fuelled mysteries and legends – among them unexplained voids under the courtyard and the top of an arch poking out of an escarpment.

In the new year, specialists are heading to the tranquil site in Warwick with technology that can see through walls and scan under soil.

Custodian Adrian King said: "We believe that, before Warwick Castle was established, there was another castle nearer Guy's Cliffe and the two places may have been connected by the tunnels which have long been spoken about in the area.

"I can only speculate as to where the tunnels lead. If there was a series of castles, or strongholds, perhaps they were interconnected. It could have been that they were useful as a way out, perhaps in case a siege had occurred around the town and that could have been Guy's Cliffe's route to and from the town in that respect.

Skip forward to the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Guy of Warwick, who gave his name to the site, is said to have lived as a hermit in a cave at the foot of the cliffs. According to folklore he is buried within Guy's Cave, his death being followed by his wife throwing herself from the same cliffs.

It became a licensed place of worship in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but then after King Henry VIII started his dissolution of the monasteries, it is possible the suspected tunnels were built and



The entrance to Guy's Cliffe House which lies just outside Warwick

expanded upon to escape his inspectors.

Around 1750, slave owner Samuel Greatheed bought the estate and built a Palladian Georgian house – the ruins of which dominate the site to this day.

It was used as a hospital during World War One but after World War Two, when it was a school for evacuated children, the estate fell upon hard times and it was broken up and sold in 1947.

The Freemasons became tenants of Guy's Cliffe in the 1970s before taking ownership in 1981.

In 1992, disaster struck when a fire tore through the main house while Granada Television filmed Sherlock Holmes. The TV company was using it as a backdrop with gas flames simulating a fire. There was a sudden change in wind direction, sending sparks onto rotten beams and internal woodwork.

The Freemasons continue to use the buildings for meetings.

Story by Josh Layton Extracted from https://metro.co.uk

31 January to 11 May 2025 Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

# **Unravelling History**

Why not pop along to the see the latest exhibition?

Co-created by Leamington-based quilt artist Annabel
Rainbow, Unravelling History showcases the work of five
internationally renowned textile artists and is free to enjoy.



# LEARN AND PLAY BRIDGE AT LEEK WOOTTON SPORTS CLUB



Bridge lessons for beginners and improvers each Monday at 10:00am from 7 October.
Bookings: Contact David 07887 855086

Gentle Bridge Group playing on Wednesday mornings, 10:00am - 12 noon (be seated by 9:50am) No partner required. Coffee/Tea provided. Prizes awarded. £2.50 per player. More details: Contact David 07887 855086 www.hs2.org.uk







# **Notification**

# Notice of A46 weekend closures and lane restrictions, near Kenilworth



#### **Duration of works**

Phase one: 8pm Friday, 7 February - 6am Monday, 10 February Phase two: 8pm Friday, 14 February - 6am Monday, 17 February Our work is subject to consent

#### What to expect

A road closure of the A46 with fully signposted diversion routes suitable for HGVs and local traffic and special local access in some areas. Some disruption to journey times during the closures

Follow signed diversions, do not rely on Sat Navs

#### What we will do

Keep all sites safe and secure and update you on any changes www.hs2inwarwickshire.co.uk

Plan ahead and leave more time for journeys!

**ADVFRTISING** 

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#### LEEK WOOTTON LINK | FEBRUARY 2025

https://leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk/community-resilience

# LEEK WOOTTON & GUY'S CLIFFE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

**COMMUNITY** Contact : Cllr Joy Morgan

e: CllrMorgan@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk

Since our item in the December/January Link about Snow Preparedness, we have seen floods across Britian, and a highly unusual Red Alert across the UK during Storm Éowyn which, with winds of 100mph recorded, threatened life, damaged buildings, brought down trees and caused power cuts — 725,000 properties in Ireland lost their power supply as did thousands in Northumberland, County Durham, Tyne & Wear and Cumbria. And, as climate change continues to affect weather patterns, in recent months we have seen devastating floods and wildfires across the world. Could we, as individuals and as a community, cope if such a major event happened in our locality?

There are a number of steps you can take to protect yourself and your property before or when a storm is forecast. These include:

- Securing loose objects outside a property such as bins, ladders, trampolines and outdoor games, garden furniture and tools
- Checking fences and roof tiles are secure
- · Clearing guttering of debris such as moss and leaves
- · Closing and fastening external doors and windows
- Securing storm shutters, if they are fitted to your home or business
- Parking vehicles in a garage, if you have one; otherwise ensuring they are as far away as possible from buildings, trees and fences
- Closing and securing loft trapdoors
- Making sure you know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water in case you have to leave your home, for example because of flooding
- Charging mobile phones, laptops and any other critical devices including battery packs
- Making sure you have a torch to hand, with spare batteries, and a portable radio so that you can listen in to a local radio station for the latest news and information.

Would you like to know more about how you can be prepared for extreme events? Are you interested in helping to develop resilience in our community? If so:

- Come along to the Annual Parish Assembly at 7:00pm at All Saints' Church, Leek Wootton on Wednesday, 26 March 2025
- Contact Councillor Joy Morgan at CllrMorgan@leekwoottonandguyscliffeparish.gov.uk to express your interest in joining a community resilience group.

There are opportunities, too, for children, families and young people to get involved – please contact Cllr Morgan if you would like to know more.



Happiness Reed: DipFHP RFHP | Registered Foot Health Practitioner



e:treasurerlwsc@gmail.com

# Life Membership: Jim & Nicola

Leek Wootton Sports Club Life Memberships are an honour that the Committee has historically given out to people who have provided service to the Club/its members over a sustained period of time, or a oneoff service that was deemed to be so significant that it warranted recognition. An example of this predates my time at the Club but apparently two of our Life Members provided life-saving treatment to a member during a cardiac event.

We have not granted a Life Membership for a few years now, but the Committee discussed the fact that Jim and Nicola Perryman, whilst not regular users of the Club at the moment, had provided significant service to the wider community for an extended period and that we should recognise this in some way. Knowing that Jim would be participating as one of the handbell-ringers at the Carols at the Club event on 20 December, it felt



like that was a great time to make the award. We kept it secret so that it would be a nice surprise for them both but unfortunately Nicola couldn't join us that evening and so I made the award to Jim on both of their behalf. (I wasn't originally planning to wear an elf costume, but my daughter convinced me to put it on earlier in the evening!).

Andv McAvan

#### SODUKU Solution from Dec/Jan

_								
6	2	1	4	7	9	8	5	3
3	4	9	8	6	5	1	7	2
8	7	5	1	2	3	6	9	4
1	6	2	5	4	8	9	3	7
9	3	4	7	1	6	2	8	5
5	8	7	9	3	2	4	6	1
2	1	6	3	9	7	5	4	8
7	9	8	2	5	4	3	1	6
4	5	3	6	8	1	7	2	9

#### **ADVERTISING**

# **Holiday cottage** in Salcombe Devon

3 bedroomed cottage in the heart of Salcombe, walking distance to local amenities and beaches. Full weeks and short breaks available, pet friendly.

For further information please contact Pamela Beddow 07967 122268 or

pamelawilkins38@aol.com





# THE WARWICKSHIRE

Set in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside, our club offers members superb facilities in comfortable surroundings with attentive and knowledgeable staff close at hand.

- 2 x 18-hole championship golf courses •
- 9 hole par 3 course
- Driving range
- Modern & spacious gym
- Over 120 classes per week
- Pool and wet spa

- Reformer Pilates
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- Family activities, crèche & teen gym
- Conference & Banqueting
- Access to 13 other Club Company golf courses

TO FIND OUT MORE, BOOK A TOUR OR TO JOIN CALL US ON 01926 622577
OR VISIT WWW.THEWARWICKSHIRE.COM

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

Looking ahead to 2025, here are some key dates for your diary

	MARCH		JUNE
19	Macmillan: Fashion Show	9	Two Castles Run
	LW Gardening Club: AGM	15	Father's Day
21	Link Deadline (Fri)	20	Link Deadline (Fri)
23	Annual Parochial Church		AUGUST
	Meeting	16	LW Gardening Club: Annual
26	Annual Parish Assembly		Show
29	Posie Making Workshop	22	Link Deadline (Fri)
30	Mothering Sunday	25	Summer (BH)
	APRIL		SEPTEMBER
18	Good Friday (BH)	6	Community Live! 2025
21	Easter Monday (BH)	19	Link Deadline (Fri)
22	Link Deadline (Tue)		OCTOBER
	MAY	24	Link Deadline (Fri)
5	May Day (BH)		NOVEMBER
8	VE80	21	Link Deadline (Fri)
16	CRUK: Jean & Jim's Big		DECEMBER
	Breakfast	25	Christmas Day (Thu)
17	Spring (BH)	26	Boxing Day (Thu)
21	Link Deadline (Tue)		

# DEFIBRILLATOR

Located on the exterior west wall of the Village Hall, facing the sports field, Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground. **Call 999 for access & instructions** 

# **BUS SERVICE**



#### LEEK WOOTTON

**IndieGo PLUS** demand-responsive transport service operates from 6:00am to 7:30pm Monday to Saturday (no service on most bank holidays).

Book your ride by downloading the free **IndieGo PLUS app**, available from Google Play or the Apple App Store. Using the app allows you to quickly see your closest meeting point, book and pay for your ride, and track your vehicle in real-time. Rides can also be booked by telephone on **01926 895559**. Telephone lines are open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Download the app: Search 'IndieGo PLUS' on your favourite app store
Call the call centre: 01926 895559
Find out more about the service at:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/indiegoplus

#### OUT & ABOUT IN LEEK WOOTTON & GUY'S CLIFFE

See main articles for further details

Sunday, 2 February

Yorkshire Pudding Day

**Warwick Half Marathon** 

www warwickhalf com

Wednesday, 5 February

**Parish Council Meeting** 

19:30 at the Village Hall

Sunday, 9 February

Open Meeting re: All Saints' Church

10:45 at All Saints' Church

Friday, 14 February

St Valentine's Day

**Church Electoral Roll Closing Date** 

See page 6

Mayor of Warwick's Valentine's Barn Dance

Tickets £20 from Warwick Visitor Centre

Sunday, 16 February

**PCC Meeting** 

11:15 at All Saints' Church

Tuesday, 18 February

Kenilworth Probus I Club

See page 39

Leek Wootton WI

19:45 at the Village Hall website

Friday, 21 February

LINK DEADLINE

Friday, 28 February First Day of Ramadan

**LWSC: Pie Night** 

--- MARCH ---

Saturday, 1 March

St David's Dav

APPOINTING MEW VICAR



THE PREACHING





THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AUDITION





THE 'VISITING THE SICK' TEST



THE ROBING CONTEST







THE TOR

THE CHURCH MEETING CHALLENGE

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# WHAT THE DICKENS? QUIZ ANSWERS From page 23 & 24

| 8. Micholas Mickleby | 9. A Tale of Two Cities | 10. Martin Chuzzlewit Christmas Carol | 5. David Copperfield | 6. Bleak House | 7. Great Expectations 1. Oliver Twist | 2. The Pickwick Papers | 3. The Old Curiosity Shop | 4. A