

# WESTMILL VILLAGE NEWS



Issue No. 7  
December 2015



*Wishing everyone a  
Merry Christmas and a  
very Happy New  
Year.*



## **Westmill Art Exhibition 2015.**

We hope that you all enjoyed this year's exhibition and the variety of work on display. We had 226 pictures from 52 different artists. Over the three days of the August Bank Holiday more than 260 people attended our annual event. During the exhibition we sold 28 pictures. We are pleased to say that we cleared £900 which enabled us to give a donation to the Greg Trust and also to the church for the refurbishment of the organ. The balance will be retained for future expenditures which may include new display lighting, repairing or repairing the display boards, a village sign etc.

Once again, many thanks to the artists without whom the exhibition would not be possible and to the many willing helpers who gave so much time and effort to make it a success. We managed to live up to the standards set by Muriel and Mavis over the years.

Well done to all. Now we are looking forward to next August Bank Holiday weekend which will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the exhibition.

On behalf of our new Art Exhibition Team,  
Olga Partridge



## **CHURCHYEAR TIDY UP**

On Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> we had a turnout of 35 people to help in the Churchyard; this was the largest number of helpers we have ever had. It was very good to see a number of workers who had only recently moved into the Village and surrounding area.

It was a very successful morning, not only because of the general tidying up but we managed to reduce the last huge Yew tree by the Church wall from about 30 foot to 10 foot. This was a wonderful achievement thanks to those chaps who worked so hard on that particular project, Ray, Winston, Damien, Nigel, John, and David McMullen who also provided the trailer to remove all the debris from this project.

The refreshments that were served by Judy Thody and Di Plummer created a very welcome break and gave many of our newcomers an opportunity to get to know some of their neighbours. Wendy Leaney and Gail Fox kindly provided some delicious biscuits and cakes.

We will be having our next year's Tidy Up on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Our Seasonal grass cutting will commence in March 2016.

This rota entails cutting the grass areas each week - the weekly cut usually takes about 45 minutes. This last year we had 12 helpers which meant that each helper was called upon once every 6 weeks and I would be pleased to hear from anybody who would be prepared to join our present team.

Finally, grateful thanks to all who give their time to keep our Churchyard always looking in wonderful condition.

Michael Thody 271321.



# **WESTMILL CAROLS ON THE GREEN**

**WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2015**

**JOIN US ROUND THE TREE AT 6.30 P.M.**



**Followed by Mulled Wine,  
Stollen & Mince Pies in the Village Hall.**

**This is a great way for those living in Westmill  
to meet and welcome new villagers.**

Any donations of wine or snacks welcome.

Ray Partridge, Chair, Westmill Events Tel: 273654



## BCH Dog Unit

Did you know you can now follow the activities of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Dog Unit online?

The team works with officers across Hertfordshire and share the latest news and information about what they have been doing - such as arrests, finding missing people and drug seizures - on Facebook and Twitter.

Additionally, the unit share photos of the current dogs that work with the Constabulary and puppies that are being trained to become police dogs.

To find the team on Facebook, please visit:

[www.facebook.com/BCHPoliceDogs](http://www.facebook.com/BCHPoliceDogs)

To follow the team on Twitter, please visit: [www.twitter.com/dogpoliceBCH](http://www.twitter.com/dogpoliceBCH)

For further information about the unit, please visit:

[https://www.herts.police.uk/hertfordshire\\_constabulary/about\\_us/specialist\\_units\\_operations/beds\\_camb\\_herts\\_dog\\_unit.aspx](https://www.herts.police.uk/hertfordshire_constabulary/about_us/specialist_units_operations/beds_camb_herts_dog_unit.aspx)

Regards,

**Giles Cooper** *Press & PR Officer*

*Neighbourhood Watch* Email: [fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk)



## THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

The magic of Christmas is timeless, warming each heart and each home  
And the feast of the family draws us, no matter how far we may roam...  
We all want our dear ones around us, when the season of love draws near,  
And in the traditional manner, we join in the hearty good cheer...  
Perhaps we lose sight of the manger, the scene of that first Christmas Day,  
And maybe the worth of that present, depends upon what we can pay...  
But the gift of that first Christmas morning, cannot be measured in gold,  
For love will always be priceless, it's ours to have and to hold.

Margaret Forbes

## DriveSafe Scheme

In response to the continuing concern expressed by many Westmill residents regarding speeding through the Village, the Parish Council have been liaising with Hertfordshire Constabulary's DriveSafe Scheme. It is proposed to carry out a traffic speed monitoring exercise in the New Year.

If you are interested and one of those who feel that traffic speed is excessive in Westmill, a petition will be placed in the Tea Room for anyone to sign and perhaps volunteer to take part in Hertfordshire Constabulary's Police Community Volunteer Scheme. The petition will be submitted to Herts Constabulary, who will then organise the provision of monitoring equipment for use in various locations in Westmill. Two volunteers from the DriveSafe Scheme will become lead volunteers and will assist with the administration of the scheme and collection/return of equipment. Lead volunteers will be subject to police vetting procedures.

If you feel that you would like to help make our Village safer, please contact Diane Bowtell for any further information. 01763 273398/272077.

## BELL RINGING

I'd always watched in wondrous awe and listened quite spellbound,  
And really wished that I could learn to make that glorious sound.  
I've been along to practice nights and slowly, over time,  
Have learned how tail and hand strokes surely cause those bells to chime.

It's not as easy as you think to make those beggars peel,  
And not a case of mighty strength, but rhythm, touch and feel.  
I try to master all I've learned to help improve technique  
But must remember I can breathe, if not I feel quite weak.

You expert campanologists will all know what it means,  
And see my limitations when I say I'm stuck on 'Queens';  
So 'ere I make more progress (let's hope it's not too long)  
I need to differentiate my own bell's ding and dong.



With apologies to local residents and thanks to all those helping me in my pursuit!  
Jan James

## **GREG TRUST**

The Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Willson as a new Trustee. For many years Stephen was a senior partner in a large City based law firm, before his retirement. Stephen has lived in Westmill for 35 years and his background and experience will be a great asset to the Trust.

The village hall continues to accommodate the popular daily Westmill Nursery and the Trust was pleased to play host to the annual Art Exhibition over the August Bank Holiday weekend, which was another successful village event.

The Trustees continue to manage and maintain the various Greg Trust owned properties, children's playground, recreation field, village allotments etc. Although the interior completion of the recreation field pavilion by Westmill Football Club has seemed to be never ending as a result of funding constraints, we are pleased, however, to report the end is in sight! WFC have held some funding events to enable the installation of showers, toilets including tiling, and a small kitchen has also been fitted.

Our tenant whose horses occupied the Trust's grazing field for several years, have now moved away from the area, so we are seeking a new tenant for this 2.3 acre grazing field. If you know of anyone interested, please contact our Trustee Michael McRae on 07788 721 789.

The Greg Trust looks forward to welcoming villagers in the village hall for a glass of mulled wine and mince pies, following the singing of Carols Round the Tree on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Thanks go to Ray & Olga Partridge for organising this village get together at Christmas time.

Mike McRae

## **WESTMILL PARISH COUNCIL**

At the last Parish Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, we welcomed two new Parish Councillors.

Our parish councillors are now as follows:-

Michael McRae (chairman)

Diane Bowtell

David House

Russell Phipps

Winston Pickup

Richard Wood



Our Parish Clerk, Melanie Mason, resigned her position at the end of September. Our new Parish Clerk is Marty Kilby, who took over as Clerk from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. If you need to contact Marty her email is: [marty@martykilby.co.uk](mailto:marty@martykilby.co.uk)

## 'Celebrate with Cake' Update

It really doesn't seem possible that it's a year ago since my first visit to Cake International at the NEC and the start of Celebrate with Cakes' journey.

After winning The Churches Conservation Trust/Waitrose 'Great Church Bake Off' with my St Mary's Church cake in July 2014, word of mouth has kindly been getting around about the cakes I've made and to date I have made bespoke cakes ranging from traditional birthday cakes with floral decoration to a Running shoe, a Go-Kart and a Routemaster Bus for 100!

Tickets to Cake International were part of the prize and I was amazed and inspired by the cake artists that exhibited/demonstrated at this show. We've just returned from the NEC and at this year's show there was so much to do, see and learn. I'm also now armed with some robot modelling skills from a demo we watched.

The cake business has taken itself along a path I wasn't envisaging but one which is both challenging and very enjoyable. My Home Economics background and food photography skills have been drawn upon and my opinion of a free tool to share pictures of my cakes, Facebook, has changed dramatically! It's been so useful and I've had quite a few orders placed on cake page and the pictures display very well.

Life can now get very hectic as in order to pay the bills I have returned to work part-time as a Teaching Assistant at a wonderful school in Histon. I also have the opportunity to teach these infant children cookery skills, something I had done for 9 years. I now teach one or two afternoons a week and love showing them what fun we can have with ingredients, watching them crack their first egg, teaching them such a vital life skill, all tying with their current topics.

I have been helping at the local Village College for the past year in their Food Technology lessons and as a result their Adult Learning team approached me to become one of their tutors. Following initial tutor training and safeguarding courses, I've now taught Showstopper Cupcakes, Basic Baking as part of a Family Learning day and Make Your Christmas Cake workshops. The team have been very supportive of Celebrate with Cake and have booked me to teach: Ice and Decorate Your Christmas Cake in November and Tasty Pastry, a Luxury Chocolate Cake, Get Ahead for Mother's Day and Easter cupcake decorating workshops next year!

If you need a cake for a forthcoming celebration, do get in touch, it's never too soon to make an enquiry.

Contact details are in the magazine or check out my cake page:

[www.facebook.com/wendyscelebratewithcake](http://www.facebook.com/wendyscelebratewithcake)

Best wishes to you all and thank you for your support.

Wendy Leaney



## How to make lard cakes for our garden birds:

In total you need to mix 1lb of the following ingredients to ½lb of lard as best you can.

Here is an example.

- 200 grams of bread - blended to crumbs
- 50 grams of nuts - blended to smaller pieces
- 50 grams of currants - left as they are
- 100 grams of wild bird seed
- 50 grams of oats
- Optional bacon fat



Place the slab of lard (½lb) into your pan and melt over a medium heat.

Once around two thirds of the lard has melted, slowly add your ingredients to the left side of the pan making sure that the rest of the lard is on the right side.

As the lard starts to completely melt stir in all the ingredients until all the lard is absorbed into the mixture. Turn off the heat.

Take a wooden spoon and add the mixture to plastic pots - small butter/margarine tubs or yoghurt pots work well. Flatten the mixture inside the pots with the wooden spoon so that the mixture is compacted and leave to cool.

You could pierce a small hole in the bottom and thread string through before putting the mixture into the pots if you want to hang the "cakes".

Finally place in the fridge overnight. Turn out and they are ready for the garden.



## Don't forget to provide clean water:

Water is particularly important during the winter when natural supplies may be frozen. Birds need water for drinking and bathing.

It is essential that they keep their feathers in good condition and bathing is an important part of feather maintenance.

Dampening the feathers loosens the dirt and makes their feathers easier to preen. When preening, birds carefully rearrange the feathers and spread oil from the preen gland so they remain waterproof and trap an insulating layer of air underneath to keep them warm.

The ideal birdbath needs to have shallow sloping sides so the water ranges from 1-4 inches deep to allow different species to bathe. The surface should be rough so birds can grip it with their claws and not slip.

Place a stone in the middle so they can hop out easily.



# ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTMILL

## Church Services

### JANUARY 2016

3rd January	9.30 am Morning Worship
10 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 am Sung Eucharist
17th January	NO SERVICE (Holy Communion services held at St Mary's Aspenden 9.30 am and St Peter's Buntingford 11.00 am)
24th January	9.30 am Sung Eucharist
31st January	9.30 am Sung Eucharist

### VILLAGE LOTTERY BE IN IT TO WIN IT!

Since it started, over £100 every month has come out in prize money with winners of £50, £30, £20 and £10

Ring Jan on 272217 or Liz on 272181 to join.

Monies are divided equally between Friends of Westmill Church and prizes with the exception of:

**DOUBLE MONEY PRIZES FOR CHRISTMAS DRAW**



If you'd like to write a short article or place an advertisement in the newsletter please either email or ring Jan James:-  
brinkman07@hotmail.co.uk or 272217



*Our grateful thanks to:  
Vision (Office Automation) Ltd who  
produce the Newsletter free of charge.*

# ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTMILL

## Church Services

### DECEMBER 2015



Sunday  
6<sup>th</sup> December  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

9.30 am Morning Worship

Sunday  
13<sup>th</sup> December  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

9.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday  
20<sup>th</sup> December  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**NO SERVICE** (9.30 Holy Communion at St Mary's Aspenden and 11 am Communion Service and 6.30 pm Carol Service at St Peter's Buntingford)

Monday  
21<sup>st</sup> December

7.30 pm Candlelight Service at St Mary's Aspenden

Thursday  
24<sup>th</sup> December  
*Christmas Eve*

5.30 pm Nativity Service at St Mary's Westmill  
***Services at St Peter's Buntingford on that day:***  
*2.30 pm Carols round the Crib*  
*4 pm Carols round the Crib*  
*11 pm Midnight Communion*

Friday  
25<sup>th</sup> December  
*Christmas Day*

10 am Family Communion at St Mary's Aspenden

Sunday  
27<sup>th</sup> December

11am Holy Communion at St Peter's Buntingford

**ALL VERY, VERY WELCOME**