

# WESTMILL VILLAGE NEWS

Issue No. 1 July 2014



**The Village Green - we think in Victorian times  
but tell us if you know differently.**

# Welcome to Westmill Village News where, with your help, we'll try to keep everyone up-to-date with what's going on.

## Friends of Westmill Church

After several years of high impact fund raising FoWC is now ticking over quietly, ensuring it's still there ready to leap into action if needed for any necessary structural works that might arise.

**Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir** gave a concert in St Mary's at the beginning of June raising just over £460 which, together with around £120 per month from the Village Lottery, is held by FoWC specifically for this purpose. July Winners: Peter Brooke £50, Julie-Anne Pegram £30, Lisa Hills £20, Jenny James, Betsy Burrell and Colin Bull £10 each.



**Congratulations to Wendy Leaney**, wife of FoWC Secretary Nigel, who won the Great Church Bake off run by the Churches Conservation Trust. CCT Chairman and one of the judges, Lloyd Grossman, said "Wendy's cake was such a brilliant entry and the attention to detail was remarkable". **Fantastic!**

## Parochial Church Council

Notwithstanding the above, St Mary's has to find money for the day to day running costs of keeping the doors open to one and all; insurance cover, heating and lighting, servicing and maintenance of the organ and Churchyard for starters. To this end the PCC held the annual Daffodil Morning at Coles

Park in April and is organising an afternoon tea party on Sunday 21st September in the gardens of 'Sissons'.

Kindly hosted by Malcolm and Ana, in memory of his mother Betty Mildren, this promises to be a repeat of previous happy occasions; this time with the added entertainment of Freman College's "Big Band" playing traditional favourites. Everyone is very welcome and all the profits will go towards the PCC's sterling efforts to keep St Mary's at the heart of the Village.



## Bell ringers wanted

For many hundreds of year's bell ringing has been an old English tradition particularly in country Parishes. Now with Television and Computers taking over our leisure time the number of new ringers to carry on the tradition is getting to disturbingly low proportions.

Here in Westmill and Aspenden we are still able to muster a team of ringers for most Church Services and special occasions, but we are very anxious to add to our team and would welcome anybody who is willing to learn this centuries old tradition.



Bell ringing is a team effort, you do not have to be a music scholar to be able to ring. It is a good form of exercise.

If you are interested in finding out more about bell ringing, please let me know and you will be invited to one of our practice sessions when you will be able to see what we do and also “have a go” to see if you would like to proceed further.

Michael Thody

## NATURE NUTS!

1. Found in the vegetation at the south end of the Football Pitch last Autumn. Very large snails, three in all. Beautiful, completely creamy yellow shell, 4-4.50 cm. width. Couldn't identify on internet. Any ideas anyone?

2. How common are Bullfinches? Perhaps I had never noticed before. A pair nested in the garden, obviously having found a reliable food source. Probably our fruit trees! Thrilled to see such beautiful plumage. Never been lucky enough to observe at close quarters before.



3. The heron raided our gold fish stock long ago. So we thought, OK! wildlife pond then. Bumper crop of frogs, newts damsel and dragonflies. The heron returns and breakfasts on the frogs. Blackbirds stalk the newts. Didn't know they included amphibians in their diet. Very fat Aylesbury duck escapes the run finds the garden pond and has a whale of a time. She's so fat she can't dive, but proceeds to gobble something on the pond surface. Bless! she's having such a lovely time. Oh no, just remembered, whilst clearing surface weed a couple of days previously, lots of dragonfly nymphs were just about to emerge from the pond at the climax of their life cycle. The lot more or less gone in a flash of a yellow bill. I'm bereft. I think Miss Duck is now fat enough for the pot!



4. I've not been lucky enough to see a wild orchid before, and having a dangerous habit of gazing at the herbage on the side of roads and on roundabouts, whilst driving a couple of weeks ago I was excited to see a single bloom standing like a sentinel on the north side of the roundabout at the junction of the A10/A120. Rushed home to try and identify it. Looks like a fragrant orchid. Size, shape, colour (magenta), etc. Conditions, chalky, dry grass. Went around the roundabout twice to get another look. Hope they don't mow it before it seeds!

Di Bowtell

# DIARY DATES

## Village Lottery

1st Tuesday of every month  
8.30 p.m. Sword Inn Hand  
Ring Liz on 272181  
or Jan on 272217 to join.

## Tea Party at 'Sissons'

Sunday 21st September  
2.00 - 5.00 p.m.  
Everyone welcome

## Westmill Village News

[westmillvillagenews@outlook.com](mailto:westmillvillagenews@outlook.com)  
The next issue is planned for September  
deadline for copy August 31st

## Parish Council

The next Parish  
Council meeting will  
be on  
September 24th at  
7.30pm in the  
Village Hall.

## Westmill Art Exhibition

Saturday, Sunday &  
Monday  
23-25th August  
Open 10-5 each day

## **St Mary The Virgin Church Services:**

1st Sunday of Month 9.30 a.m. Morning Worship

2nd Sunday of Month 9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

4th Sunday of Month 9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Rector: Reverend Ian Hill: 274072

Church Office (Part time): 271552

Please let us know if you'd like to write a short, occasional article, promote something close to your heart or let the village know of a forthcoming event. Do you have any gardening tips, a favourite recipe or just something funny to share? All contributions will be very welcome.

### **NEWSLETTER TEAM:**

**JAN JAMES SUE PHIPPS MELANIE MASON**

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