

THE WOODCHESTER WORD

Issue 62 - Spring 2018

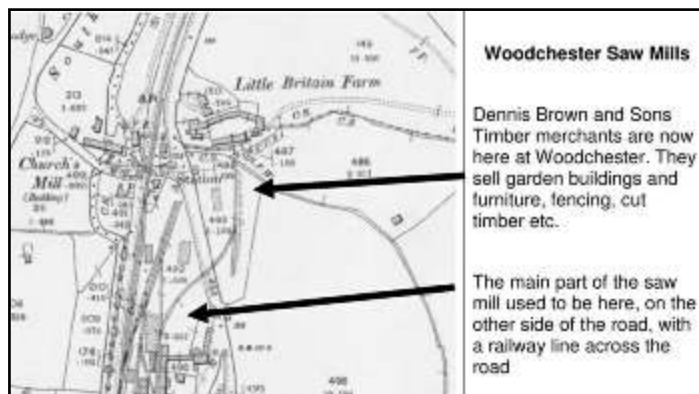
The Woodchester Saw Mill and the Burrell Engine No 4010

The following article was written by Edward Brown and is a fascinating insight into the original sawmill on the A46 and the Burrell Engine from the mill which has been restored.



The Burrell 4010 engine seen outside Henry Workman sawmill at Woodchester during the late 1920's

We have a strong connection to the sawmill, as my Grandfather Denis Brown hauled timber for the sawmill from the late 1920s until its closure in the late 50s. We have the timber yard on the opposite side of the road from where the main building was, our yard was used for the storage of timber.



Woodchester Saw Mills

Dennis Brown and Sons Timber merchants are now here at Woodchester. They sell garden buildings and furniture, fencing, cut timber etc.

The main part of the saw mill used to be here, on the other side of the road, with a railway line across the road

tractors for this timber work but as the work load increased in the 1930s, Denis with help from the sawmill invested in a more modern petrol Latil timber tractor along with matching pole trailer. These modern methods of haulage proved more than adequate for the supply of round timber for the sawmill and by January 1941 the out of date Burrell engine was sold on to Jesse Vines, the well know engine dealer from Gloucester. Jesse had the engine for only a short time, and in August 1941 the engine was sold on to agricultural contractor and dealer Murch Bros of Umberleigh, Devon. The engine was used by Murch for sawing and threshing.



Sawmill staff pose for the camera along with one of the two steam cranes on site. This an early photo that pre-dates the devastating fire of August 1911. The mill was rebuilt with improvements made, including the installation of a large Paxman-Lentz stationary steam engine, this drove line shafts to various saws in the main building.

We own and have recently finished restoring the steam traction engine that Workman's had from new in 1925 to 1941, as well as 2 diesel timber tractors that were owned by my Granddad, all of which delivered round timber to the mill.

It was during the late 1920s that my grandfather Denis Brown began hauling timber for the Henry Workman sawmill after relocating to Woodchester from Crowborough, Sussex. Initially Denis relied on steam

After a short time the engine was sold on again, going to Chapman Bros, an agricultural contractor of St Wenn, nr Bodmin, Cornwall. They traded a Marshal traction engine for the Burrell and used it for threshing through the war years and into the late 40s.

To carry out this work Chapman's removed the belly tanks and motion screens, as happened to a number of road locos. Also by this time the engine was fitted with much smaller diameter Marshall front wheels, the reason for this is unknown, although possibly as the result of an accident.

The Woodchester Sawmill (continued)

Burrell works No. 4010, a 5nhp 3-speed double crank road locomotive, was supplied new to Henry Workman sawmill of Woodchester, Gloucestershire in April 1925 and is believed to be the last new traction engine delivered to the county. The Burrell replaced a Garrett 4CD steam tractor; No 32775 that Workman's had new in 1915.



The engine was used by the mill for extracting and hauling round timber back to Woodchester for sawing. A large amount of this timber was felled on the Ebworth estate near Sheepscombe, as well as the Horsley and Kingscote Woods. These woodlands, all owned by the sawmill, were renowned for the quality of the Beech they produced, earning them many awards.



Chapman Bros would be 4010's last commercial operator and the engine was sold into preservation around the early 1950s to Reg Tonkin of St. Eval, Cornwall. Whilst in his ownership Reg Tonkin gave 4010 the name "Empress Of Cornwall" and added showman's fittings after he had acquired them from Burrell 3660 that had been cut up earlier.

Reg attended the early West of England steam rallies with the engine from 1956 but later 4010 would spend a number of years laid up in Cornwall needing a new fire box until 1977, when it was sold to Martin Burr from Sheffield. The engine by this time was terribly worn out, not only from the heavy timber work it had carried out commercially but also from the salty Cornish sea air. Martin soon began restoration work, fitting a new fire box, barrel, rebuilding the tender and other worn parts, but never completed the engine.

We made contact with Martin around 2008, explaining to him of our connection to the Henry Workman sawmill, and we were able to make a number visits to see 4010.

It was during August 2014 we received word from Martin that he was selling 4010, this an opportunity not to be missed and after negotiations we purchased the engine from Martin later that month and it returned to Woodchester after being away since the early 1940s (our premises occupies part of the old Henry Workman sawmill site).



The Burrell 4010 engine seen in the yard of its last commercial operator, threshing contractor 'Chapman Bros' of St Wenn, Cornwall . The picture dates from around the late 1940, the engine by this time had lost its belly tanks, motion screens and large front wheels, these being replaced by much smaller

We continued the restoration work over the next few years. Work completed includes making the correct large diameter 3' 10" Burrell front Wheels, new front axle, rear axle, restoration of the back wheels, new final drive and spur gears as well as full repaint and lining. The last major job was making belly tanks.

The engine has now been returned to steam and can be seen in public for the first time in many years.



With thanks to Edward Brown for permission to use this article.

Upcycling in your garden

Warren from Woodchester-based landscaping company Ambito, shares ideas on improving and making the most of your garden spaces.

With Spring hopefully just around the corner, it's a good time to look at the growing trend of 'up-cycling', the process of reusing old or discarded items and turning them into something of higher value than the original.

In the garden, this could relate to furniture, structures, planters, water features, storage, etc. Here are a few ideas to consider:-

- turn pallets into furniture, bin and tools storage, compost bins or planters by creating painted, fitted structures
- turn tyres or old luggage into planters with paint and lining
- turn jars or bottles into lights with bulb fittings and interesting cables
- turn tubs and pots into a water feature with waterproofing, pump and plumbing
- turn crockery into colourful mosaics by smashing it up and sticking it to pots or tiles
- turn garden furniture into funky furniture with paint effects and modifications

Ambito now offer an 'up-cycling' service from their Woodchester workshop with the help of expert Will who co-founded the hugely popular 'Up This Way' furniture store in Merrywalks, Stroud.

Whatever you choose to do, make something of what you already have, involve the children where possible, and have fun! And until next time, enjoy your great outdoors.

Contact Warren at Ambito: 07812 712830: w.abis@btinternet.com



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Around the Village

Parish Council update

Rooksmoor Mills Ltd has been approached to find out what their plans are now that Stroud District Council have recommended the development for approval. "It is our intention to commence work in late spring/early summer, with enabling works starting with enlargement of the pond area followed by the first houses at the southern end of the development" Tony Cooper, Director of Rooksmoor Mills Ltd, told the Word. "The derelict river tunnels under the site will be renewed early in the development as will the removal of deleterious materials. The intention is to build from south to north over a period of approximately 18–24 months". Tony also explained that the commercial element of the development, which is located at the north end of the site, will require a detailed planning application. He also made it clear that he is happy to meet with local residents. "We have suggested that if the local residents would like to have a constructive meeting to discuss our intentions for the project then we would be more than happy to oblige" he explained.

"We have invited Tony Cooper to meet with the Parish Council and interested residents at a special meeting in the Village Hall at 7pm on 3rd April" commented Chairman Gervase Hamilton. "This meeting will provide an opportunity to re-establish a relationship with the developers which has at times been strained. Ensuring the development goes ahead smoothly, respecting the rights of all the parties involved, seems the most sensible approach".

With **traffic issues** high on the local agenda, Woodchester Parish Council recently took the decision to form a new Highways, Rights of Ways & Environment committee, which met for the first time at the end of January. The remit of the new group includes monitoring issues relating to traffic, transport and road safety, as well as footpaths, the Cycle Track and watercourses, making recommendations on all these issues to the full Parish Council.

The committee discussed numerous issues relating to traffic in the Parish, including

- volume and speed of traffic on Selsley Road
- vehicles regularly mounting the pavements at various points on Selsley Road
- speed and volume of traffic on the A46 through the Parish and increasing difficulty of accessing A46 from village feeder roads
- the dangers for pedestrians crossing the A46 at Selsley Road, Station Road, Frogmarsh and Manor Drive
- the likely impact of the planned Rooksmoor development
- inappropriate parking at Frogmarsh Mill
- the suggestion of a 20mph speed limit on Selsley Road

The committee agreed that in order to make appropriate recommendations for action to the Parish Council, more data was needed to quantify the issues in each case. To augment the recent Selsley Road traffic volume survey, the committee decided to implement a program of surveys over the next two months, including speed surveys at upper and lower Selsley Road, traffic volume and speed surveys at key points on the A46, and pedestrian crossing numbers. As with all Parish Council committees, meetings are open to the public. For more information go to woodchesterparish.org.uk.



WW

Orchard Pastures

Our annual wassail has grown in popularity in the village, despite hot competition from the growing wassail festival in Stroud, which is claimed to be the biggest in the UK. Well, ours is the biggest in Woodchester!

It was wonderful to see so many of you turn out: it's truly an event for all ages. A small choir led the singing, and we were accompanied by Fran Wade and her daughter Ceri on fiddles.

The Ram was packed afterwards with wassailers supping mulled cider. Thanks to Phil for hosting us.

We can't wait for spring to see the beautiful apple blossom in the orchard.

Orchard Pastures is the land below The Ram owned by a group of villagers. For more information, please email: swalt.org@gmail.com or phone Bert or Glen Cossins on 872407.



Fran Wade and daughter Ceri lead the music. Enthusiastic raucousness to frighten away the spirits and ensure a good apple crop.

Around the Village

Woodchester WI – Christmas to Spring

Christmas brought us another opportunity for a party, enjoyed with home-made casseroles and mince pies in our Woodchester Village Hall venue. Members also enjoyed the Gloucestershire Federation WI Concert at Cheltenham Town Hall, both as WI choir members and as members of a large and appreciative audience.

The year has got off to an excellent start with our first speaker whose lively and positive presentation on her response to widowhood and on the challenges of breast cancer and reconstructive surgery was inspirational. Members were pleased to have the opportunity to support the local charity which Jacky Robertson now promotes with her talks. In February we have a more active and practical session as we experiment with making sugar paste icing flowers under the expert guidance of Christine Stuart. An expert from Wotton Auction House will share his experiences with us at our March meeting. Guests (who may attend up to three meetings before we ask them to join us officially) are always very welcome and you do not need to live in the village to join us.

The committee is keen to build on the range of activities open to our members and has recently started up two new groups. The reading group, meeting in a member's home, has had two evening sessions, including a discussion of Owen Shears *I Saw a Man*, the first book chosen, and the craft group has had its inaugural meeting in the Village Hall. The opportunity to set aside a couple of hours for a craft activity (crochet, knitting, patchwork, beading, card-making and sewing were all represented) was much appreciated and we have arranged a second meeting. We found that the craft activities did not too seriously get in the way of a little light conversation and it was interesting to see what others are making. After a hugely successful outing to Chavenage House last summer, we are in the process of choosing a destination for this year's outing and have realised how many possibilities there are in this area. Next we would very much like to set up a walking group and have plans to organise our own Saturday walks and lunch morning for other Federation WIs next year.

We are once again looking forward to a number of interesting Federation events, including a Saturday morning walk and lunch at Dymock and the Annual Council Meeting at Cheltenham where Adam Henson of BBC's *Countryfile* is the guest speaker. Programmes are available for inspection in the village shop and there are details on the village website. We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the village hall at 7.30. Ladies are certain of a warm welcome either as visiting guests or prospective members. Contact Sally Bull, Secretary, on 01453 873003.

Girlguiding Woodchester

Both Brownies and Guides have had a relatively quiet term so far, with both groups working hard towards badges, playing games and singing at the weekly meetings. Three new Brownies are preparing to make their Brownie Promise. Brownies and Guides were entertained by the Stanley Players, at their pantomime in Kings Stanley, early in the new year and the Guides have just recently enjoyed a sleepover with Nailsworth Guides at Go Bananas soft play. Anyone who would like to get involved in Girlguiding, either as a Brownie, Guide or Leader should contact Jackie on 01453 821258 or through one of the following websites: www.girlguiding.org.uk ; www.gqwoodchester.wordpress.com.

Coming soon to Boundary Court... The National Trust herd of Belted Galloways

Our conservation grazing herd of Belted Galloway cattle munch their way across many of our countryside sites including May Hill and Crickley Hill. We also work in partnership with others, such as Natural England and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, grazing their sites such as Cranham common. These native, pure-bred animals play an important role in the conservation of wildflower-rich Cotswold grasslands, which support an abundance of plants and insects. The 'Belties' grazing produces the best possible conditions to enable wildlife to flourish. This particular cattle breed is very tough and perfectly suited to spend the winter outside, thriving on these grasslands. In addition, the herd are accredited to the RSPCA Freedom Food Welfare scheme and are annually monitored by the RSPCA inspectors. By bringing some of our Belties to Boundary Court Farm we hope to improve the wildlife status of the site – where a carefully managed grazing system (alongside introducing additional wildflowers) will hopefully improve the habitat for all inhabitants.

The cows are checked once a day by dedicated staff and volunteers from the National Trust. We will be requiring additional cattle checkers to help us keep an eye on our herd at Boundary Court Farm. Volunteering with the National Trust is an exciting way to try new things, get outdoors and lend a hand to a great cause. If you are confident around cattle (or willing to learn the ropes) please get

involved to help us look after our herd of Belties. Training is provided to all cattle checkers. If you are interested please email Kate on kate.jones1@nationaltrust.org.uk



Woodchester Football Club - all to play for

With the end of the season not too far away, there's still much to play for at Woodchester FC. Our league position remains disappointing (currently bottom of Division 7), but with the potential to improve our points haul from both improving performances and games in hand we remain hopeful of dragging ourselves up the table. A storming second-half comeback against local rivals Horsley United Reserves, saw us emerge 3-2 victors in the quarter-final of the Bill Bick Cup. With the semi-final now set for 17th March, we're very much hoping to go on from there and repeat our success of two years ago and reclaim the trophy. Off the pitch we remain extremely grateful for the support we get from the local community, especially Renishaws for their ongoing sponsorship and Phil at The Ram for looking after us post-games, whether victorious or otherwise... As ever we'd welcome new players of any age and ability from the local area - for more information please email woodchesterfc@hotmail.com. James Collins, Secretary and Treasurer, Woodchester FC

Our Schools

Active Learning Opportunities at St Dominic's Catholic Primary School

At St Dominic's a key part of our school improvement programme is the development of a truly bespoke creative curriculum, where the pupils contribute their ideas to develop the Key Questions for investigation. This term's topic is '**One night at the Museum**'. Each class has chosen to focus on different aspects of history. Our youngest children wanted to learn more about dinosaurs and the natural world, Lower KS2 want have been discovering the Egyptians whereas in Upper Key Stage 2 they have been investigating the Romans. As part of this topic the whole school is planning an exciting trip to Oxford where they will explore the Ashmolean and Natural History Museums.

Active learning and pupil choice is a key ingredient of our curriculum design.



This term, the children have also very much enjoyed reflecting and contributing to a review of our whole school Mission Statement through lots of fun activities. This has included a whole school 'fact finding' treasure hunt around the school ground and art activities where each class has designed and

painted their own large canvas to capture our ethos and values.

However, it doesn't stop there; Mountain biking sessions for children in KS2 will commence again very soon and we are delighted to have permission to access Woodchester Park for this activity to provide even further challenge.

This summer we will have our very own trained Forest School leader who will take classes out each week into the great outdoors and assist teachers in planning outdoor learning opportunities across the curriculum. The PTA have kindly agreed to fund the acquisition of outdoor learning equipment for each class to support active learning opportunities. In addition to this we are developing the playground to enhance this space for children, including developing a large outdoor mud kitchen and new climbing apparatus for all ages.

In addition, we are very much looking forward to supporting the **Woodchester Produce Show** this year and developing our 'green fingers' through a whole school gardening club. We will be encouraging our pupils and families to get involved by entering the different classes, including growing the tallest Sunflower!

Jacqui Sollars (Headteacher)

Woodchester Endowed Primary School

During the last few weeks, it has been a privilege to join the Woodchester Endowed family as Headteacher and I am very much looking forward to working with the children and all members of the School community to support their development.

Our School Council are a very proactive and confident group of children and they recently planned and led Collective Worship. They encouraged us all to think about 'Recycling', making sure that we dispose of the different kinds of rubbish around school in the correct bins. To reinforce the message, the whole school sang a newly learned song about recycling.

Whilst we are very keen that our children develop excellent reading, writing and maths skills, the creative subjects and an appreciation of the importance of a healthy lifestyle are also held in high regard. This term, Beech Class have had weekly visits to the swimming pool and have worked hard to improve their fitness as well as improve their technique. Friday afternoons have echoed to the sound of violins and excited children, determined to learn a new musical skill. Shortly, Juniper Class will have an opportunity to perform to their parents and the rest of the school.



We were delighted to be able to send two teams to compete in the Riddiford Shield Football Tournament. Parents, staff and our football coach were all enormously proud of the boys who conducted themselves with determination and always with a sense of Woodchester sportsmanship. They were a credit to us and rightly deserved to go through to the finals in which they performed with courage and determination. Well done, teams!

Preparations are well under the way for World Book Day when we hope the school will be filled with children dressed as characters from books. There will be an opportunity to compete in a quiz, share a love of reading with a friend and take part in the PTA book swap.

May I wish you all a very happy Easter that is filled with love and happiness.

Mrs Pennington (Headteacher)

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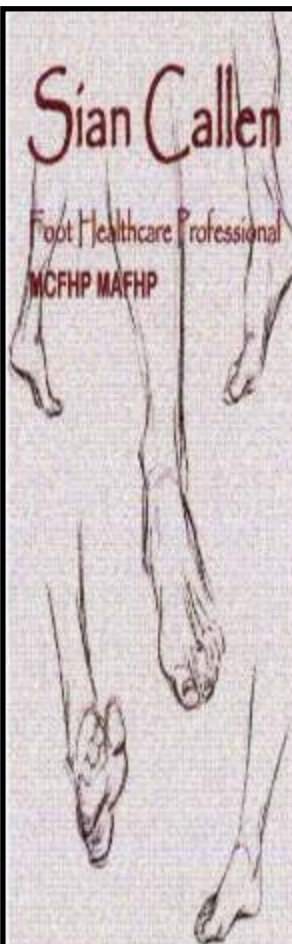
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Woodchester Produce & Craft Show

The popular Woodchester Produce and Craft Show will take place this year on **Saturday 8th September**. Don't worry if you are new to exhibiting, just have a go in any of the classes - you may be surprised how well your entries measure up to those of the regulars, they too had to start once! Entry Forms, with complete details for exhibitors, will be available from the Village Shop during the summer, but for now here is a list of this year's classes. There will also be a Fun Dog Show, as last year.

1. VEGETABLES

- a. Potatoes (3 any variety)
- b. Tomatoes (3 any variety)
- c. Longest runner bean
- d. Beetroot (3 any variety)
- e. Carrots (3 any variety)
- f. Courgettes (3 any variety)
- g. Onions (3 any variety)
- h. Heaviest Marrow
- i. Any 5 vegetables in a basket (Judged on quality and presentation)

2. FRUIT

- a. Pears (3 any variety)
- b. Dessert Apples (3 any variety)
- c. Raspberries (6 any variety)
- d. Blackberries (6 any variety)
- e. Figs (3 any variety)
- f. A bunch of grapes
- g. Any 5 fruits in a basket (Judged on quality and presentation)

3. PRODUCE

- a. 6 Hens eggs (any colour)
- b. 5 Fruit scones (recipe of your choice)
- c. Carrot cake (recipe of your choice)
- d. Loaf of oven baked bread
- e. Bottle of fruit infused spirit
- f. Jar of jam
- g. Jar of marmalade

- h. Jar of chutney

- i. 6 Pieces of chocolate fudge (recipe of your choice)

4. FLOWERS

- a. One specimen rose (any colour)
- b. One dahlia (any colour)
- c. An unusual container of mixed garden flowers
- d. Arrangement of foliage
- e. Hydrangea 3 blooms in a vase (any colour)

5. UNDER 5 (age at 8.09.18)

- a. Any vegetable you have grown
- b. A creature made entirely from vegetables
- c. A decorated biscuit you have baked
- d. A miniature garden on a plate or baking tray, max diameter 20cm

6. AGE 5 - 8 (age at 8.09.18)

- a. Largest sunflower head you have grown
- b. A creature made entirely from fruit and/or vegetables
- c. A set of 3 decorated biscuits you have baked
- d. A photo of an animal or bird
- e. Any vegetable you have grown
- f. A collage made from natural materials

7. AGE 9 - 13 (age at 8.09.18)

- a. Largest sunflower head you have grown
- b. A garden chime or mobile made using natural materials
- c. A plate of homemade biscuits you have baked
- d. A creature made entirely from fruit and/or vegetables
- e. Any vegetable you have grown
- f. A photo of a village scene in Woodchester
- g. A drawing of an animal or bird

8. PHOTOGRAPHY

- a. Holidays
- b. Beautiful Babies
- c. A silly selfie
- d. Chimneys
- e. Into the Woods

9. ARTS AND CRAFTS

- a. A tapestry or hand embroidered item
- b. A drawing in black and white
- c. A handmade item of clothing
- d. A soft toy
- e. A wooden item



Community Wellbeing Service - Stroud and Berkeley Vale

Many things affect our health and wellbeing, such as where we live, how we spend our time, our financial situation, and our relationship with friends and family. Sometimes we all need a helping hand, someone to listen to us when we are struggling, or perhaps someone to find out what help is available in our local community.

Independence Trust is proud to have been commissioned to deliver the new COMMUNITY WELLBEING SERVICE for residents of Stroud and Berkeley Vale. The Community Wellbeing Service has been commissioned by NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Gloucestershire County Council. It brings together Village and Community Agents and Social Prescribing in a new, exciting service for local people. There is a Community Wellbeing Agent local to you; and they will also become a familiar face at your local GP practice.

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Woodchester Mansion

Woodchester Mansion and The Crown

Anyone who watched the second series of the gripping Netflix historical drama "The Crown" may have recognised the exterior of Woodchester Mansion which doubled as Gordonstoun, the spartan public school where HRH Prince Charles spent five unhappy years. The location filming team, accompanied by actors Matt Smith and Clare Foy descended on the Mansion during the winter of 2016/17, and spent over a month filming episode nine of the award winning series. The mysterious gothic Victorian house, hidden away in its secluded valley played a convincing role, enhanced by its cold, damp location! And yes, the boy actors did actually swim in the lake by the boathouse.



Looking forward to warmer days, the Mansion will open for the season on Good Friday 30th March, and will be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11am to 4.15pm until 30th October. Guided tours and refreshments are available on open days, and a mini bus runs from the steps at the bottom of the National Trust Car Park every hour, on the hour.

Much of the scaffolding in the chapel was removed during the winter allowing the visitor to get a better view of the beautiful ribbed vaulted ceilings with their carved ceiling bosses. Each hand carved boss represents some of the flowers and plants that grow in the Woodchester Valley including ivy, acorns and wild strawberries.

Entry to the Mansion, including an optional guided tour is £ 8.50/£7.50 concessions and children under 14 are free. Sorry, but dogs are not allowed in the Mansion. The Mansion is run by volunteers, and we always need helpers to sell tickets, drive the mini bus, take guided tours and help in the café. Phone Katharine on 873814 for a chat if you are interested in volunteering. For further information about the history of the Mansion visit the website www.woodchestermansion.org or look up Woodchester Mansion on facebook.

Visit for a fiver on Fridays! On Fridays during May 2018, admission to Woodchester Mansion will only cost £5.00 for residents of GL5, GL6, GL10 and GL11 post codes. Please bring proof of address with you to obtain this discount admission. Bring your neighbours too!

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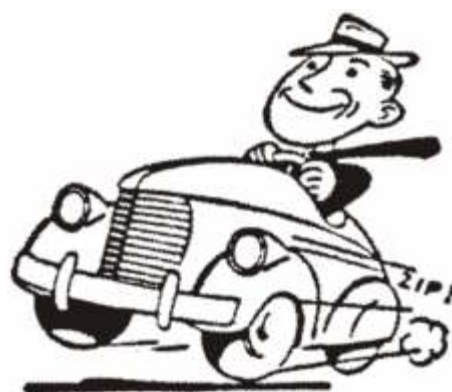
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Our Churches

We want to use this issue of Woodchester Word to update you on two important things – both of them GOOD NEWS...

Firstly our big project: 'A Building for Everyone'. After much careful planning, we've finally been given official permission to update facilities inside the church. With the village hall already oversubscribed, the aim of the 'Building for Everyone' project is to make St Mary's a really useful additional Woodchester venue for school and village events. It's exciting but daunting at the same time because we need to raise over **£200,000** for Phase 1: which includes accessible toilets, an open-plan kitchen and draught-proofing. Leaflets are being circulated to everyone in the village giving more information and more copies are available at the back of the church. Church-goers or not, most local people value St Mary's being there as a symbol of continuity, hope and community. These changes will help secure the long-term future, but without detracting from the peace and beauty of this lovely Woodchester place. Please dig deep to support this great cause and send your donations to Mrs J Tocknell, Pendaleon House, Selsley Rd, North Woodchester, Stroud GL5 5PH using the enclosed payment form and/or call in at the village shop.



We're also arranging a series of **community events** as part of our fund-raising campaign:

- A series of **supper quizzes** – kicking off at 7pm on Saturday March 3rd in the village hall. Don't worry if you've missed this one – join in next time! Teams of 4-6. Tickets £10/head, includes supper.
- On Saturday March 24th St Mary's is transforming into the **Spire Cinema** with three feature films, plus drinks & food available. Seating is limited so buy your tickets in advance from the village shop and remember to bring a cushion! Schedule: Paddington 2 (1:45), Risen (4:45) and Mamma Mia (7:45).
- Friday April 27th we are hosting a major '**Auction of promises**' with 3-course dinner at The Bear at Rodborough. Tickets are from £32.50/head and there are some fantastic lots – bring your friends and have a great evening while supporting this important community project.
- Other tentative plans include a **village tea party** on Church Green (probably Sunday June 10th) to celebrate the Queen's birthday, a **Summer barn dance and hog roast** around the middle of July and a **fish & chip supper with comedy bingo** later in the year. Watch this space for more details.

We've already raised over £60,000 courtesy of kind donations from local residents and businesses and will be applying for grant funding. We'll keep you updated with notices at the back of church (always open) and on the village notice boards as the fund-raising progresses. **PLEASE HELP US AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.**

In other news we are delighted to announce that the three parishes of Woodchester, Rodborough and Brimscombe are being formally merged into one benefice under the leadership of Rector Peter Francis. And to help him in his newly expanded role we are also thrilled to welcome Rev. Deborah Curram as part-time curate. Deborah (55) knows the area well having lived in Amberley with her husband and three sons for 15 years. She took up running last year, has a green belt in tae kwon-do and worked in marketing and bookkeeping before joining the church. She is really looking forward to meeting you all over the coming months and years and can be reached on: 01453 872456.

News from the Priory Church

Last Autumn we were granted a faculty to remove the pipe organ from the back of the church which had been blocking access to the west door for almost thirty years. It had replaced the original two manual organ whose larger pipes remain in situ in the organ loft; this larger one was given to us by the Poor Clares from Convent Lane. Now this has been found a new home in a large Catholic church which, from google images, appears to have a baroque interior and is situated in Sulekova, a rural area in Eastern Slovakia. The vacant space is currently being used for refreshments after the 11 o'clock Mass, which is proving very popular as people stop to chat and make new friends. Photos available. We have also found someone to convert the video made of the Convent into a DVD. This was filmed just after the guided tours we organised when the Sisters had already departed for Arundel.

Lest we forget

Several parishes in the Stroud and Nailsworth area are remembering the fallen of the Great War in their respective local magazines and newsletters, around the hundredth anniversary of their death. This is the ninth article for Woodchester. **Henry John Wager** was born 3 May 1892 in Ebley, the son of Alfred Wager, an Iron Moulder, and his wife Emily Amelia nee Chapman. He was baptised at Cainscross 3 July 1892. By 1901, the family had moved to Woodchester and were living in Berrymore Cottages. In 1911, their address was Church Road and Henry was a baker. He enlisted first in the Royal Army Service Corps where his service number of S4/042041 suggests he was engaged in 'Supply' in a labouring capacity - possibly moving stores. He was transferred to the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as a Rifleman. He arrived in France on 28 July 1915 where he may have been part of the draft of 6 officers and 227 'Other Ranks' who joined the battalion at Forceville in the Somme. The new soldiers were much needed as the trenches 'required an enormous amount of work'. He died of wounds, probably incurred during the Battle of Bethune, on 25 April 1918, aged 25. He is buried in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery. Henry is also remembered on the gravestone of his parents and sister, Evelyn May, in St Mary's Churchyard, Woodchester (on the right hand side of the path going from the west end of the church to Church Road).

Around the village

Village Shop Update

We have recently started stocking **Lodge Farm Kitchen** frozen ready meals with really great feedback.

Lodge Farm Kitchen is a family business that began on their farm in Herefordshire. They are committed to sourcing and using the best local fresh ingredients using Herefordshire beef, vegetables and herbs to create tasty and nutritious meals that have no added preservatives or colouring. Doing their bit for the planet is important to them too. They have massive compost bins and a wormery at the farm for all green and brown waste. They recycle all tins, card, glass and plastic. Their packaging can be re-used, a lot of it can be composted and the last little bit can be recycled.

Lodge Farm Kitchen say their mission is to provide their customers with convenient, tasty, nutritious frozen meals made from fresh ingredients sourced locally whenever they can – all hand prepared with pride, passion & integrity. Come and have a look in the freezer!

Don't forget that in addition to on street parking outside the shop, during opening hours we have two off-street two parking spaces in the car park next to the Post Office.

Did you know? A survey carried out by shop volunteers as part of the Woodchester Parish Council Road Safety Survey shows that the average number of people accessing the shop per day is 168, although this can rise to over 200 on a busy day!

**Special Offer: for the month of March we
are offering 10% of all Lodge Farm
Kitchen meals - so why not try one today!**

**Also:
20% off Faith in Nature Shampoo and
Conditioner (SLS Free) – while stocks last**

North Woodchester Post Office

North Woodchester Post Office is the obvious place for all your postage requirements but did you know about other services on offer?

Banking, bill payment and currency

You can use the Post Office to withdraw cash and deposit both cash and cheques with all major banks, and many bills, including utility and council tax, can be paid. The Post Office stocks Euros on demand and offers a pre-order service for other currencies. Orders placed prior to 12 noon are normally available for collection the following day.

Lottery

The shop sells National Lottery and scratch card tickets, and the Post Office can pay out on National Lottery wins up to a maximum of £50,000. Customers can also play the Health Lottery (Tuesday through to Saturday) at £1.00 per ticket. Prizes are more modest than the National Lottery - details in store and online at www.healthlottery.co.uk.

New Bike Trail Logo

The Woodchester Mountain Bike Trail has a new logo. Poppy Davis was the winner of a competition run by the local primary schools to design a logo for the track and is seen here next to the new sign. The popular Mountain Bike Trail is featured on the 'ibikeride' and 'moredirt' websites, and has had a lot of publicity on social media, with 5-star reviews on Google. "Literally the best place, it's free, well built and suitable for all types of skill, certainly would recommend" posted Ed.



Did you know you live in Uduceaster ?

In the 6th Century Saxons plundered our roman villa to build a village which they called Uduceaster - "Fortress in the wood". By the time of King Athelbald (716-743) Uduceaster was of Part of the Kingdom of Mercia and when the Normans arrived in 1066, according to the Domesday Book, Woodchester belonged to Britric, and was part of the Longtree Hundred in the lands of the Earl of Gloucester.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOP AND POST OFFICE!



Bread, cakes, milk, cheese, sausages, ham, bacon, eggs, honey, ready meals, ice cream, cordials, wine, beer and chocolates, organic and gluten free products **all from local suppliers.**

Plus groceries, home essentials, stationery, news and magazines, greetings cards etc. Post Office services include all your postage requirements as well as banking, bill payments, currency, National Lottery payouts, and Health Lottery.

Shop opening hours:

Monday-Friday 07:30-17:30, Saturday 08:30-12:30

Post Office Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 09:00-17:30, Saturday 09:00-12:30

Parking:

Two off-street parking spaces next to shop

**Woodchester Post Office and
Community Shop**

What's on in the Village

Rooksmoor Mills Meeting

Plans were approved in January for the development of 54 residential units of accommodation and 1,300sqm of commercial floorspace at Rooksmoor Mills.

To find out about the proposed timescales for the development phase and its local impact, a public meeting will be held with the developers on **Tuesday 3rd April at 7pm** in the Village Hall.

There will be an opportunity to hear from the developers and for local residents to put forward questions.

Defibrillator in North Woodchester

Some of you may have noticed the appearance of a yellow box with a green light in the old phone box in North Woodchester (at the end of Southfield Road). This is a defibrillator, which has been installed by the Community Heartbeat Trust and is now available for use by any member of the public.

Statistics show that early defibrillation can increase the survival chances of a person who has suffered a Sudden Cardiac Arrest by as much as 50%. In the event of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest the guidance is to call 999 immediately and start chest compressions. You should remain with the patient, but if there is another person present they can retrieve the defibrillator and start to use it.

The 999 service will give you a code to open the defibrillator cabinet. The defibrillator is equipped with a video screen which gives full instructions for use and is designed so that any untrained person can use it.

However, as people will no doubt wish to have more information a familiarisation session will be arranged in the next few months. If there are any questions or concerns do please contact Nigel Brooke-Smith 872586.

Bring and Share Newcomers Lunch

Have you moved to Woodchester within the past year? Would you like to get to know a few more people? Come along to a 'bring-and-share' Newcomers Lunch for food, drink, chat and music with some of your new neighbours.

**Woodchester Village Hall,
Saturday March 17th, 2018, 12-2pm.**

Contact Katharine McNealey on 873814 to book a place or email kathinwoodchester@gmail.com

Made in Woodchester

Are you a local artist, crafter or produce maker? Would you be interested in taking part in a 'Made in Woodchester' event this summer to showcase and sell your wares? If so please contact iaindunbar29@gmail.com to register your interest and get more details.

Letters, articles and items for publication should be sent to the editor, Rod Harris, at woodchesterword@gmail.com. The deadline for the next edition is May 28th 2018. The Woodchester Word is an independent publication and is funded by advertisers. Please mention the Woodchester Word when replying to the adverts in this edition. The views expressed in this publication are those of the editorial team. We reserve the right to edit or omit any material submitted for publication. No liability is accepted for loss or damage arising from any omission of copy or advertising.

St. Mary's Church

Services every Sunday at 11.00 a.m. See notice boards or web site for times and details of other services: www.stmaryswoodchester.org.uk

Church of the Annunciation

On Saturday April 21st, we are planning to have a Parish Walk from the Church of the Annunciation, (Woodchester Priory Church St. Mary's Hill) to Woodchester Mansion and back, as part of CAFOD'S 'Share the Journey' campaign. More details to follow. Contact Angela Middleditch 01453 832911. See the notice board or web site for details of services. www.woodchesterpriory.org.uk

Messy Church at St. Mary's

Wednesdays, monthly, at 3.15 p.m. in the church (details from Liz Hale 765422)

Lunch-with-friends

at St. Mary's Church on third Friday of the month (usually) at 12 noon. Liz on 872287 or Christina on 873481 for details.

Saturday Coffee Mornings

First Saturday in each month, in the Undercroft Room at St Mary's, entrance near main gate. 10.30 a.m. All welcome for coffee, biscuits and a chat.

Historical Society

Tuesday 5th June, Gloucester City Tour with Gloucester Civic Trust. Meet at St Michael's Tower by the Cross at 2pm. Cost £5 per head payable on the day. See Parish Website for details of meetings in 2018. Meetings are held in the Undercroft of St Mary's church.

Parish Council Meetings

Next meeting May 10th, in the village hall at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. See the Parish website for more information. The agenda is posted on village notice boards.

2018 Annual Parish Meeting

**7pm, Thursday 10th May
Woodchester Village Hall**

Including:

- Reducing plastic waste in the village
- Rooksmoor Mills development update
- 2018 Village Road Safety Survey and plans

All Welcome.

The Woodchester Parish Website

The Woodchester Parish website is full of useful information about the village, including parish news, maps & local walks, local services, village clubs, Parish Councillors, events and activities, and Woodchester Word. Visit www.woodchesterparish.org.uk for more information.