Ambitious plans for Ram Inn unveiled - but will parking be a problem?

Plans to build two 3-bedroom houses and a coffee shop on the lower car park at the Ram Inn, alongside a major refurbishment of the pub, were discussed at a packed Parish Council Meeting in June - with the possible impact on parking in the village being a major concern.

Licensee Phil McAsey explained the need for the development. "It's a 400-year-old building which urgently needs a substantial investment if it is to stay open" Phil told local residents. "Apart from renovations and improvements to the existing building, we are going to build a new 'induction' kitchen and a new glass-covered restaurant and function room."

With 15 pubs a week still closing in the UK - 390 pubs were demolished or turned into homes or shops in just 6 months last year - Phil described how diversification is the only way forward for the pub. "The restaurant will offer cafe-style menus during the week and fine-dining at weekends. The new restaurant will allow us to have larger tables, with more space, and to offer a superior dining experience. We hope that the coffee shop will become a village focal point and an asset for the community. Coffee shops attached to other pubs in the area have been very successful and we hope this will appeal both to locals and to walkers and cyclists passing through the village."

Apart from concerns that the current designs of the proposed houses are not in character with the area, the main issue raised by residents was the loss of parking space, and that existing parking problems in the High Street and Station Road may be exacerbated by overflow from the reduced pub car park.

"It is difficult to see the logic in a proposal that aims to increase the use of the pub while more or less halving the car parking capacity. If the aim is successful, it seems likely that pressure on car parking spaces will inevitably lead to customers parking on the High Street or
Annual Parish Meeting
The Village Annual Parish Meeting took place on 10th May.

Much has been done by the Parish Council this year to look at traffic and road safety issues, led by Cllr. Dunbar and the Highways and Rights of Way (HROW) Committee. The full report can be found on the village website (www.woodchesterparish.org.uk) and is summarised in this issue of Woodchester Word.

Cllr. Warnes spoke about issues of Rights of Way, particularly the ‘cycle path’ which currently has no official designation. The Parish Council have heard rumours that a proposal to make the ‘cycle path’ a bridleway is being considered by Gloucestershire Rights of Way. The Parish Council have not yet been consulted, but have some concern that the status of a bridleway would see cyclists, who at the moment share the track on equal terms with other users, having to give way to horse riders and pedestrians. Residents will be informed when and if that consultation takes place.

A presentation was then given on the issue of plastic waste in the village (see separate report). The Parish Council were asked for their backing to support measures to reduce the amount of plastic waste by targeting various audiences such as schools, businesses, local groups and asking the Village Shop to help. The ideas were very much welcomed by those attending the meeting.

The Village Report (which can be found on the village website) contains a full report from the Parish Council as well as village groups and organisations. The draft minutes of that meeting giving all the details, can also be found on the website.

Lengthsmen Work
The Gloucestershire Highways Lengthsmen scheme allows each County Councillor a number of days to allocate to a ‘Lengthsmen’ team to carry out agreed work in their areas. The Lengthsmen will be clearing gullies in the High Street, Bospin Lane, Rooksmoor Hill, Convent Lane and Frogmarsh Lane.

Gloucestershire Highways will also jet the drain at the bottom of Bospin Lane as local residents have experienced problems with drainage for some time. If you notice that drains are blocked please contact the clerk, or contact Gloucestershire Highways directly. (See list of contacts on the back page of this issue).

A reminder to trim your hedges...
Please check hedges and trees on the boundary of your property. If they are obstructing pavements and footpaths or interfering with visibility at a road junction, please cut them back.

If you have opinions about any of the items in the Woodchester Word, just email them to woodchesterword@gmail.com

Local News
continued from page 1...... elsewhere in the village, which is already congested with parked cars” was one response to the plans. Other comments include “If the aim of the application is to increase the viability of the pub, then I cannot see how this can be done without maintaining both car parks” and “If the aim of the project is successful and the footfall in the pub returns to its former glory, 15 to 20 car spaces seems woefully inadequate.”

On this issue Phil commented that “The lower car park is not fully utilised by the pub these days, even when Sunday lunch is fully booked - although it is used by local residents! The current car park is simply too big for the pub.” Many were not convinced by this, believing that if the planned diversification is successful in increasing business, this will become a major problem.

Other comments on the SDC website include “I am concerned that this is the start of a process that may mean that the village will lose this community asset” and “This application relies on the claim that if money cannot be made from selling off bits of the property then the business will fail. This is a ridiculous argument as the existing pub facility has everything in its favour.”

Phil concluded by re-assuring people that he is here to stay, and that this is the only way to keep the pub open. “We want an honest and open dialogue with villagers on all aspects of the development, so that we can get this right for all parties concerned. This is a long-term commitment to the future of the pub and we intend to be here for many years to come”.

Please support our sponsors......

The Woodchester Word is an independent publication, produced by villagers for Woodchester residents, which is distributed free of charge to every household in Woodchester.

It would not be possible to produce this newsletter without the generous support of our sponsors, who advertise in each issue. Please mention the Woodchester Word when responding to adverts.
Rooksmoor Mills public meeting raises key issues

A well-attended public meeting was held in Woodchester Village Hall in April at which Tony Cooper and Alan Tyndall, Directors of Rooksmoor Mills Ltd, explained the latest plans for the construction phase of the development now that planning permission has been granted.

Tony explained that they hope to start work on the site in July, although there is still a lot of detail to be agreed with Stroud District Council’s planning department. The first stage will be enabling works, including rebuilding or renewing the derelict river tunnels under the site (which could take three months) and enlargement of the old mill pond to about 5 times its current size. The housing at the southern end of the development (Block F) will be ready for occupation 12 months later, and the remainder of the development completed by the end of 2021.

Tony made it clear that many of the details of the design have been imposed on them by Stroud District Council and Heritage England, preventing them from implementing some features they would have preferred, but that they genuinely believe that the finished development will be “great looking buildings which we can all be proud of”.

The meeting was, for the most part, very constructive, and gave local residents an opportunity to ask questions and raise specific concerns about the impact of the development. These included:

- **Light pollution.** Residents raised concerns about light pollution from the site. Tony responded that they understand these concerns and that the designs (including the use of bollard lighting around Block F and the Mill Pond) ensure this will be kept to a minimum.

- **Flood risk.** Tony assured residents that comprehensive flood risk assessments are believed to have dealt with any possible flooding risk, including one of the river tunnels becoming blocked.

- **Noise pollution:** Tony confirmed that the new buildings will sit on 12-14m piles, and that the piling process will be inherently noisy, but that this should last only two weeks. Residents requested that we be given notice of this phase of the process.

- **Construction Traffic:** Tony confirmed that “special measures” will be implemented to allow construction traffic to access the site. Although not yet agreed with GCC Highways, these may include temporary traffic lights on the A46. There is understandable concern that this may result in traffic diverting through Woodchester, particularly Selsley Road. Chairman Gervase Hamilton confirmed that the Parish Council would carefully monitor this situation.

- **Materials:** The red brick finish on Block B specified by SDC has always been contentious, but the developers are currently looking at the possibility of changing this to stone facing, a move which was warmly welcomed by the meeting.

- **Parking:** Some concern was expressed that overflow parking from the finished development would spill into areas of the village, but Tony re-assured the meeting that there are 2.5 parking spaces for each of the 54 units.

- **Landscaping:** Tony explained that the detail of the landscaping, particularly around the pond and adjacent to the A46, have yet to be agreed, but that there will be “a variety of attractive planting in this area”.

- **Commercial Units:** Alan confirmed that the commercial element at the North end of the site still requires a detailed planning application to be submitted, and is under review depending on the commercial success of the rest of the site.

Gervase Hamilton also confirmed that a process will be put in place to ensure regular dialogue with the developers throughout the construction process, enabling local residents to be kept fully up to date with plans and developments. More details will follow as we near the start of the construction phase.
Road safety issues have been a high priority for residents of Woodchester for many years, highlighted in the 2005 Woodchester Parish Plan and the 2012 update to the Parish Plan, including speeding within the village, vehicles mounting the pavement near the Post Office pinch point, HGV’s exceeding the 17-tonne Selsley Road weight limit, the safety of pedestrians crossing Selsley Road to access the shop, ‘near misses’ on the narrow bends on Selsley Road near Church Road, the safety of pedestrians crossing the A46, increasing difficulty exiting feeder roads onto the A46, speeding on the A46, and inappropriate parking at Frogmarsh Mill.

In order to quantify these issues, a major traffic and road safety survey has been carried out by the Parish Council.

**A survey of traffic flow was carried out on Selsley Road**, with traffic surveyed over 12 hours in one hour periods between 07:00 and 19:00, mid-week during term time. The total number of vehicle movements was 2,745, with the peak period between 08:00 and 09:00 (466 vehicle movements). We estimate that around 3,500 vehicles use Selsley Road in a typical 24-hour period.

**A traffic speed survey was carried out on Selsley Road**, at three different points – at the junctions of Southfield Road, Lawns Park and Blacklow Close. Many drivers are keeping to below 24mph and many of those are respecting the 20mph ‘twenty is plenty’ limit. The majority of drivers are respecting the mandatory 30 mph speed limit. A small minority (7.4%, approximately 26 per day based on our traffic flow survey) are exceeding the mandatory speed limit, particularly on upper Selsley Road. Very few drivers are exceeding the APCO-specified speed threshold of 35mph, above which drivers can be reported to the Police for speeding.

**A pedestrian survey** was carried out on Selsley Road at the village Shop and Post Office. The average number of people accessing the shop per day is 168 and this number exceeds 200 on a busy day. Peak pedestrian flow is between 07:30 and 10:00. If 150 people a day access the shop on foot, this means 300 pedestrian crossings of Selsley Road in a single day at this point. A significant number of these are elderly, school children or mothers with young children, particularly at times of peak traffic flow. Cars traveling at 30 mph on this stretch represent a serious hazard to these pedestrians.

**A traffic flow survey was carried out on the A46.** An M500 Traffic Counter was installed on the A46 near the junction with Selsley Road, providing detailed traffic flow data in both directions over a seven day period between 15th and 22nd February 2018. Total traffic volume over the seven-day period was 89,154 vehicles, with weekday average traffic flow of 14,972 vehicles per day. Weekend traffic was almost half that volume at 7,148 vehicles per day. This equates to over 4.6 million vehicles travelling on the A46 through Woodchester each year.

Comparing this data to a smaller survey carried out by the Parish Council in 2012 suggests an increase in traffic flow of 22.1% in the last six years. However, the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit has dropped dramatically from 3.2% to 0.29%, perhaps due to increased traffic volume resulting in ‘grouping’ of vehicles (thus reducing the opportunity for exceeding the speed limit) and also the introduction of speed awareness and enforcement measures on nearby stretches of the A46.

**A traffic speed survey was also carried out on the A46.** Over 5,500 vehicles were speed checked between 07:00 and 18:00, with 97.1% of vehicles observing the 40mph speed limit. 2.6% were travelling between 40 and 45mph and 0.3% exceeded the ACPO threshold speed of 46mph. During the eleven hours of the survey, only one vehicle was observed exceeding 50mph (51mph).

The results of these surveys were presented and discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting, and as a result the Parish Council has adopted a five-part Road Safety Initiative:

1. **The Parish Council will seek to reduce the speed limit in the village to 20mph**

2. **The Parish Council will seek to have the 30mph speed limit on the A46 extended from Rodborough throughout the Woodchester section of the A46.**

3. **A Road Safety Enforcement program will be implemented, with a Community Speed Watch program, installation of an ANPR Speed Camera on the A46 and installation of Radar Speed Signs in the village all being considered.**

4. **The Parish Council will send letters regarding the parking issues to all business at Frogmarsh Mill, signs will be placed on windscreens of offending vehicles, and the Neighbourhood Warden and P.C.S.O. will be involved**

5. **The Parish Council will seek to have upgraded HGV signage installed at the bottom of Selsley Road**

The next step will be a consultation period and feasibility study, looking at the procedures required to implement each of these initiatives, and the costs associated with each one.

If you have opinions about any of these recommendations, please email your views to the Parish Clerk at woodchesterparish@gmail.com.
Plastic Waste - have we stopped seeing the wood for the trees?

Over the last three or four decades something drastic has changed in our environment and strangely we haven't really noticed it or if we have, it doesn't provoke a reaction. We see it every day but no longer acknowledge it. As a young child walking home from school a piece of plastic litter on the verge would have been a rare and strange occurrence and as an inquisitive child I would have crossed the road to find out what the object was but now I have become blind to it, I have walked, run, driven, cycled passed plastic every single day and done nothing about it.

This plastic litter is on the road side, outside your house, it’s in the fields, woods, lakes and streams.

The village litter pick is an annual ritual when a small number of villagers enjoy an afternoon collecting the litter around the village but if this event could take place every month it would begin to tackle the problem. It shouldn't need to happen every month if we all took part. We don’t need to wander far until we discover some litter, we just need to refresh our vision of where we live, to retrain our eyes to the problem.

Sometimes we give ourselves an excuse not to act when seeing some litter, to rationalise to ourselves that we weren’t responsible for it, to blame someone else, but if we have the ability to see and do nothing is that as bad as dropping it? What if it had been dropped by accident and we leave it? If it has been dropped on purpose then picking it up is a good action negating a bad action. What is there too lose? There will always be a tangle of emotions when picking up litter, the frustration about how it got there, in some cases the dissatisfaction with the manufacture, but the sense of satisfaction in tidying it up and making the environment a better place is worth it.

Finishing on a high point as a non-dog owner the sense of achievement when binning an abandoned dog poo bag is for me, a small victory.

For a very charming and insightful programme on picking up litter I recommend the following radio 4 programme David Sedaris and Clare Balding Ramblings 23 https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01r11wc

Jen Whiskeard

Editors Note: This is a growing problem which is everyone’s responsibility. What do YOU think we can do to reduce the amount of plastic waste in Woodchester and generally to reduce litter in our village?

Street Lighting

The County Council has been undertaking a major project to upgrade streetlighting, with the main aim being to meet its carbon reduction target of 60% by 2020. Having completed the LED lighting upgrade in Lawns Park some while ago, GCC will be returning to Woodchester in June to complete these conversions. GCC advise that work may necessitate the need to temporarily reduce the pavement width and to use barriers to ensure safe working. During this period, on-street parking may be affected. Residents and pedestrians are asked to be patient. The final phase of the work in Woodchester will be on the A46 and this is expected to be completed in November.

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 tenth article for Woodchester.

Edwin John Clift

Edwin John Clift was born 6 June 1899 in Woodchester, the son of John William Clift, a wood machinist, and his second wife, Margaret Elizabeth née Herbert. He was baptised at St Mary’s Church on 3 September of the same year. The family lived in the High Street in South Woodchester.

Edwin enlisted as a private in the Hampshire Regiment and was transferred to the 8th Battalion of Princess Charlotte of Wales’ Royal Berkshire Regiment. He died of wounds on 1 September 1918, aged 19 and is buried at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L’Abbe, France.

The Clift family were heavily involved in the war, Edwin’s brother, George Herbert William and his half brothers, John William and Henry Harold (or Harold Harry) are also known to have served. His cousin, Arthur Kirby, died of wounds 11 December 1917.

Background

In February 1918, the 8th Bn Royal Berkshires became part of the 18th (Eastern Division). In August they took part in the 2nd Battles of the Somme including the Battle of Albert (21 - 23 Aug) when they captured the Tara and Usna hills near La Boiselle and went on to retake Trones Wood (27 Aug). They were then involved in the 2nd Battle of Bapaume (31 Aug - 3 Sep). The Royal Berkshires suffered losses on 27 August with a few killed in action on the 28th, so it would appear likely that Edwin was wounded at Trones Wood and taken to hospital (20th Casualty Clearing Station) where he later died. Heilly Station was used for hospital burials in August and September.

Barbara Warnes
Yes; the St Mary’s ‘Building for Everyone’ project, announced in the previous issue of Woodchester Word, has got off to a great start.

The project aims to improve the interior of the church, making it a warm and welcoming venue for school & community events as well as being a beautiful and peaceful place of worship. We’ve had some very generous donations from local residents and businesses – THANK YOU – and are grateful to everyone who has supported our first fund-raising events.

Despite the ‘Beast from the East’ delaying the start, this Spring has seen two great quiz evenings, with the best brains in Woodchester testing their metal (aided by a glass of wine), and an excellent Woodchester cinema day where the church was transformed into our very own ‘Spire’ Cinema. It was so popular we’ll be running it again in the Autumn – watch for details later in the year. We’ve also hosted a very successful ‘auction of promises’ to a packed house up at The Bear!!

Momentum is growing and we can’t afford to sit on any laurels as we still have another £100,000 to raise for Phase 1 plus a further £250,000 for Phase 2. We have an exciting programme of community events throughout the Summer and are counting on your support.

There should be something for everyone in this selection of events and we are looking forward to seeing you during the summer!

Hold the front page...

…….We’ve already raised the wonderful total of £100,000 and are half way to our Phase 1 target

‘Bring & Buy’ Sale
Saturday 7th July, 10.30am - 12 noon bring your friends to St Mary’s for a coffee morning with sale. There will be home-made cakes and other edible delights plus plants, books.

Barn dance at Woodchester House Barn
Saturday 14th July, *. Hosted by popular local band ‘The Downfielders’, and accompanied by a pulled pork supper, choice of home-made desserts and a well-stocked bar. You can’t miss this.

Wonderful Woodchester Garden Party
Bank Holiday Monday 27th August – a busy afternoon of family fun hosted in the grounds of The Old Priory in North Woodchester*. Cream teas, games, beer tent and all the usual attractions – plenty of parking provided.

Harvest supper in the church
Saturday 29th September – A time to be thankful for everything we have in our community.

St Mary’s Church

CAN YOU HELP?
St Mary’s Church
Woodchester

Fancy getting involved with any of our wonderful Community / Fundraising Events?
It’s a great way to meet and work with neighbours, make new friends and help shape events.
We would love you to join us and we are particularly looking for help with:

COOKING / FOOD PREPARATION
DECORATING VENUES
SETTING UP / CLEARING UP
SERVING FOOD

If you would like to help in any of these areas, or to volunteer in any other capacity, please contact Andrew 872813 or Christina 872801 and let us know how you would like to be involved.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have some fabulous community events planned for the months ahead! Here are a few, so keep the dates:

14 JULY
BARN DANCE
AT WOODCHESTER HOUSE BARN

27 AUG
WOODCHESTER GARDEN PARTY
CREAM TEAS, RACES, TEDDY BEARS PICNIC AND MORE

29 SEP
HARVEST Supper
Check local notice boards and The Village Shop for details and tickets.
**Girlguiding Woodchester**

Both Brownies and Guides in Woodchester have spent an evening discussing safety and what to do in emergency situations and suggestions were made by girls for activities for the following term. Normal weekly meetings have included singing and games as part of the usual Girlguiding activities for both groups. Some new Brownies have made their Brownie Promise and their parents were entertained by other girls working towards their hostess badge. The Brownies have also enjoyed making mini pizzas and a fruit and vegetable themed evening. Some Woodchester Brownies are going to join a County camp in July.

Woodchester Guides took part in the parish annual litter pick and were amazed at the amount of litter they picked up and what it consisted of! The Guides also spent a couple of fun hours on Rodborough Common having an ice cream and exploring the woods. At the weekly meetings the Guides have made mini pizzas, in a “Ready, Steady, Cook” competition and completed many challenges as individuals and in teams in a challenge evening. Two girls made their Guide Promise out of doors as they continued completing challenges from the previous week. Some Woodchester Guides will be joining Nailsworth Guides for a summer camp in August.

Anyone who would like to get involved in Girlguiding, as a Brownie, Guide or Leader should contact Jackie on 01453 821258 or at www.girlguiding.org.uk, or www.ggwoodchester.wordpress.com

**St. Mary’s Church Men’s Weekend**

Nineteen men of various ages, fitness and sizes spent a wonderful weekend in the Welsh Marches earlier in May. Staying at Clun Youth Hostel, an old mill on the edge of the village of Clun, a village with an ancient history and many fine, fascinating listed buildings, and blessed with fine weather, the weekend was spent on a mixture of walks, visits to Bishop’s Castle, the Six Bells Brewery or to the Antiques Fair at Ludlow. The walks encompassed some beautiful countryside, historic castles and stunning Shropshire scenery. One highlight of the fourteen mile Saturday walk was turning a corner and finding Sue and Penny with tea and cakes awaiting the walkers!! A service of communion was held on the Saturday evening in the chapel of Trinity Hospital, a chapel for the almshouses built in 1618, before the men returned to the hostel for a meal and quiz evening. Thanks must go to Sue and David Pouncey for the organisation of the weekend and to Penny for her help with the catering. Anyone who hasn’t visited Clun or stayed in the old mill youth hostel there will find it a worthwhile visit.

**Woodchester WI – from Spring to Summer**

Meetings have been well attended and we have been delighted to welcome two new members to our group. Members and visitors particularly enjoyed a talk from Philip Taubenheim, an auctioneer from Wotton-under-Edge auction house, who spoke engagingly about his interesting childhood and entry into the world auctions as a young man, a choice which has led to a life-long passion for antiques and an impressive range of knowledge. He explored and valued a range of objects brought along by members, from Beatles posters to a button hook. April’s meeting offered very different entertainment in the form of Spectrum, a group of enthusiastic singers with a pianist, who sang a range of songs from the traditional to the less well-known. Between the songs, many inviting audience participation, there were comic readings. Singers seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as their appreciative audience! A rather more serious May meeting, in which we discussed the resolution on mental health services (to be adopted, we hope, by the national WI as their campaigning focus, at the June conference), finished on a lighter note with a game of bingo. In June we welcome Celia Hargrave who will talk to us about her life as a magistrate.

Beyond Woodchester’s monthly meetings, membership of the WI has offered the opportunity to enjoy a shared meeting with our local group of WIs where we heard a speaker from the local hedgehog hospital who explained the hazards (not just cars but elastic bands) which have decimated the population and gave advice on hedgehog friendly gardens. Several of us really enjoyed a walk arranged by the WI at Dymock when, despite driving late spring snow, we strode through the landscape, saw the beginnings of the daffodil blooms and visited the Dymock poets exhibition in the local church. *Countryfile’s* Adam Henson spoke at the Gloucester Federation Annual Council Meeting in Cheltenham in March, braving an entirely female audience whom he both moved and made laugh with tales of his life in farming and of his family and dogs. Our newly founded craft and book clubs are flourishing. The book club has met to discuss Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner* and Elizabeth Strout’s *Anything is Possible* and will meet again in early July to consider Ian McEwan’s *Nutshell*. The expanding craft group has also met twice in the village hall with an impressive range of crafts represented.

We are looking forward to a trip in late June to Rodmarton Manor when we hope to explore both the house and gardens and perhaps to enjoy a little light refreshment too.

Programmes are available for inspection in the village shop and there are details of our meetings 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 at our meetings, either as visiting guests or prospective members, and will be astonished by the range of activities open to WI members in Gloucestershire and beyond!

Sally Bull  Secretary  01453 873003
2018 Village Show promises to be biggest and best so far!

This year’s Village Show promises to be bigger and better than ever, with something that will appeal to the whole family.

The **Produce and Craft Show** in the Endowed School hall has been running for many years and will again feature homegrown fruit and vegetables, flowers, homemade jams, cakes and bread, as well as classes for arts and crafts and photography. Children aged under 5, 5 to 8 and 9 to 13 will be entering a range of classes including the ever-popular ‘vegetable creatures’. As usual, much of the produce will be auctioned off for charity at the end of the day.

The recently introduced **Fun Dog Show** on the Village Green will again feature classes for all our ‘best friends’, including a new ‘Waggiest Tail’ category, as well as the very popular ‘six-legged fancy dress’ class, along with ‘most handsome dog’, ‘prettiest bitch’, ‘golden oldie’, and ‘sit & stay’.

**Woodchester Historical Society** will be mounting a display of fascinating local history information.

New for this year will be ‘**Made in Woodchester**’, a display of arts and crafts all produced in Woodchester, from ceramics and jewellery, to woodturning, paintings and bookbinding. Some of the items on display will be available for sale - an ideal opportunity to buy some early Christmas presents.

After closed judging of the Produce and Crafts entries during the morning, the show opens to the public at **1pm on Saturday 8th September**, with the Fun Dog Show starting at 2pm, Produce and Craft Show prize-giving and raffle at 3pm and auction of produce at 3:30pm.

**Bring the whole family - its going to be a great village afternoon out.**

---

**Woodchester in old photos**

The photograph below depicts the view from the War Memorial looking down Station Road towards the A46. It is thought to have been taken in the 1920’s. Goods trucks can clearly be seen at Woodchester Station which closed to passenger traffic in June 1947 and some years later to goods traffic. The cottage shown is The Nook, a typical four gabled Tudor cottage originally constructed c1690 as a pair of semi-detached weavers cottages. The postcard below shows King George III passing the cottage, accompanied by Queen Charlotte in the following carriage, during their visit to the Stroud Valley cloth mills in 1788.

The Nook became unoccupied in 1961 and lay empty for several years by which time it was in danger of being demolished when in 1969 it was acquired by the Period Cottages Improvement Society who carefully converted and renovated it into a single dwelling thus saving another part of the village’s heritage. It is now Grade II Listed. The PCIS was formed in 1961 by Mrs Enid Airy, who lived at South Mill, originally to oppose the District Council who wanted to demolish a row of c18 cottages in the High Street and replace them with modern structures. After a protracted battle the District Council was defeated and during the 1960’s the Society went on to acquire and renovate a number of original stone cottages in and around Woodchester always utilising the skills of local builders and craftsmen.
Entry Forms for the **Produce and Craft Show** will be available from the Post Office and both village schools from early August.

Please return your completed Entry Forms to the Post Office by Thursday 6th September. You can enter on the day, but the late entry fee is higher. Entries must be delivered to the Endowed School between 09:30 and 11:00.

The hall will be closed from 11:00 for judging.

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

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

Entries for the **Fun Dog Show** can only be made on the day. The Dog Show starts at 2pm, so please arrive before then to make sure you are entered in time. Classes include:

1. Most Handsome Dog
2. Prettiest Bitch
3. Golden Oldie (over 10)
4. Sit and Stay
5. Waggiest Tail
6. Six-Legged Fancy Dress

Are you a local artist, crafter or produce maker? If you would like to take part in the 'Made in Woodchester' exhibition to showcase and sell your wares, please contact iaindunbar29@gmail.com for more details.

Can you help out on the day? We need volunteers to help run the Produce and Crafts Show and the Fun Dog Show. If you can give an hour of your time on Saturday 8th September to help out, please contact Katharine McNealey on kathinny@hotmail.com.
In previous articles, I have discussed routes which I believe were associated with the Roman occupation of Woodchester and specifically the Roman Villa. In this article, I am looking at other routes which I believe to be old because of the places they connect and because they lie, at least partly, on current footpaths, tracks and roads.

The map below shows these and also includes the following previously discussed routes:

a) from the Bell at Selsley to the Roman Villa and then down Southfield Road to cross the Nailsworth Steam at a presumed 'Roman Bridge' near Birds Crossing.

b) from the 'Roman Bridge' to a second bridge where Gydynapp Lane and St Mary's Hill crossed the stream.

Modern maps show another path (not a public right of way) which descends steeply through the wood from Boundary Court to the side valley below Dingle Wood and Dark Wood. Here forking right takes you on to Laggar Lane and South Woodchester. Whereas forking left takes you below Dark Wood to emerge on to modern Selsley Road at the bend above Blacklow Close. Continuing in the same direction down the hillside heads directly towards Rooksmoor, at first on Selsley Road. Today Lawns Park (once the grounds of The Lawn) and the Old Rectory block the way, but if they were not there you would continue to and along the current line of trees at the edge of Villa Field and on to Rooksmoor. I suspect that the land acquired for these two large properties straddled an old route from Rooksmoor to Selsley Common, forcing the ancient route to be diverted. Still a problem today with landowners and councils believing our heritage is not important.

The route taken by Water Lane is odd because of the large bend it has half way along which does not seem to be required by the terrain. The best explanation seems to be that there was an old track heading up from the bottom of Bear Hill to go round the 'nose' of Selsley Common at half height on the modern day road 'The Grove'. Looking in more detail, this assumed track started at the bottom of Bear Hill and headed up the hillside in a NW direction through Pauls Rise to Selsley Road. It then crossed the field on the modern footpath, passing the pond in Lawns Park and continued up to the modern Water Lane joining it just below Water Lane Farm. I surmise that when the land for The Lawn was acquired the old track was split with two branches forming. One branch went to the right, following the modern footpath between Lawns Park and the Old Priory and diagonally across field, over the stream and on to Water Lane. The left branch first followed the previously mentioned track up to Boundary Court then turned sharply right along Water Lane (the western boundary of The Lawn) to head directly to The Grove via a bridge over the stream. Later perhaps the bridge collapsed, so travellers and merchants had to travel upstream to find a convenient crossing place before they headed back to the old track. Presumably the bridge was never rebuilt and Water Lane follows this diverted route today. The stream still crosses over and under the road!

For completeness I have also shown the route between North and South Woodchester which I will discuss this in the next article.
St Dominic’s Catholic Primary School
By the time you read this, we will already have had the Duck Races as part of the Nailsworth Festival, both of which are wonderful events. The PTA is very grateful to the many local sponsors of our races, without whom they wouldn’t have been able to offer so many wonderful prizes.

The Y2 and Y6 children will have finished their key stage SATs tests and our hope is that they were able to do their best and that the outcome reflects their hard work. We can ask no more!

We are looking forward to developing the outdoor area for Forest School within our site. This term, each of our classes will have the opportunity to go to Copsegrove Farm in Stroud for a whole day of Forest School education, having fun cooking, exploring and learning about the countryside. Class 4 will also be going on their residential trip to Viney Hill in the Forest of Dean, where lots of activities and adventures await!

Our classes have already enjoyed a range of exciting activities this term as part of our summer topic “Vive la France.” This has included many opportunities to work together across the school and it has been lovely to see the social cohesion of staff and children.

Mrs. Sollars, Headteacher, will be absent from school to have an important operation this term and she has arranged for Mrs Rose Savoury, the Head of the Rosary School in Stroud, to act as temporary Executive Head during her absence. (We wish her well and a speedy recovery. Ed)

This article has been based on the one in the June ’Nailsworth News.

Woodchester Endowed Church of England Primary School
Sitting here, enjoying the glorious bank holiday weather it seems incredible that only a few weeks ago our World Book Day had to be cancelled due to snow. Nevertheless, such an exciting occasion and excuse to dress up could not be missed and it was hastily rearranged. Here at Woodchester Endowed, on the final day of the Easter term, staff and children entered wholeheartedly into the spirit and the school was filled with an array of different book characters from Mr Bump to Harry Potter. The children took part in a Bumper World Book Day quiz. This was incredibly exciting and everyone was very impressed with the knowledge of books our children possessed.

A second opportunity for dressing up came in the form of our ‘Step up for Sports Relief’ when children were invited to dress as a favourite sporting personality. This was a wonderful day of sporting activity and raising money for others. A sponsored mile run was organised along the village cycle track and in total we contributed 320 000 steps to the UK total. Almost £2000 was raised for charity, a phenomenal amount. The children in Willow Class organised a range of fun stalls and activities in the hall for everyone to enjoy. In doing so, they used their initiative, creative and organisational skills, as well as bucket loads of enthusiasm to provide fun, games and prizes for the younger children.

The day ended with an assembly to celebrate everyone’s achievement. During this, we were visited by the manager of Forest Green Rovers, Mr Mark Cooper, who was presented with a wide variety of children’s questions to answer.

Following the success of the sponsored mile, all our children are now taking part in the ‘Old Spot Trail’ which is a daily mile run around the school grounds. This is a wonderful opportunity to shake off the cobwebs, enjoy the fresh air and improve our fitness levels. Our children are very much enjoying the experience and we have received great support and encouragement for this new venture from our parents. Even the Headteacher has been spotted breaking into a trot!

This article has been based on the one in the June ‘Nailsworth News.’
WOODCHESTER MOT CENTRE

MOT’s, tyres, repairs and servicing. Friendly service and competitive prices.

Call Tony for information or to book an appointment.

Unit B, Woodchester Industrial Estate, Station Road, Woodchester, GL5 5EQ.

01453 873355
07778 334611

Woodchester Cabinet Makers

Hand made Bespoke Kitchens and interiors

Unit N6A Inchbrook Trading Estate, Woodchester, Gloucestershire, GL5 5EY. Tel 01453 835580
www.Woodchestercabinetmakers.co.uk

LEOPARDPRESS.com

Re-opened in Nailsworth town centre
Tel: 01453 832259

- Large & short print runs
- Full colour printing
- Glossy Leaflets
- Design
- Folders
- Wiro binding
- Posters & Banners
- NCR Forms, Invoices
- Stationery - Letterheads, Business Cards
- Pens, mugs etc
- Brochures, Repairs
- Magazines, Periodicals
- Laminating

Chicken Shack
Boundary Court
Selsley Common
Glos. GL5 5PL
Tel 01453 972123
stroud@leopardpress.com

Sian Callen Feet First
Professional foot care in the comfort of your own home

Phone: 01453 882798
Mobile: 07834 462594
cemail: c.callen49@yahoo.co.uk
LOCAL BUSINESSES

COMPLET TIMBER SPECIALISTS
Denis Brown & Son Ltd

Broadmead Timber Yard, Woodchester, Stroud, Glos GL5 SEG

Tel: 01453 873516 Fax: 01453 873333
www.timber-yard.co.uk • email: enquiries@timber-yard.co.uk


Call Now 07470 224214/01453 763755
For 12 Years we have been putting backs right.

“Amazing, very helpful, and brilliant treatment” Sue I.

“Very helpful and caring. Seemed to want to help, and actually listened.”
Carol S.

“Easy to find and nice surroundings. Very nice chiropractor.”
Carol E.

I would love to help you too.
Quote this code for a discount. Instead of £50 you pay £40 for the initial visit which includes an examination, report of findings. Discount Code: CHIRO2
andrew.evans@stroudchiropractor.co.uk
Www.StroudChiropractor.co.uk
53 Cainscross Road. Stroud, GL5 4EX.

5 reasons to choose a coach holiday this year!

Let us take the strain out of getting there, we do all the driving for you and Rover European will even pick you up from home.

You can relax from the very first moment of your holiday. Sit back and take time to really enjoy the views.

No need to find out about day trips out whilst you are away the best are already organised for you.

With Rover European you are looked after from the moment you leave home to the moment you get back.

And... just in case you get bored of talking to your husband or wife there will be plenty more people to chat to!

We guarantee you will want to book another holiday as soon as you are home!

Call Today for your FREE Holiday Brochure
01453 832121
www.rovereuropean.co.uk

Coach Hire needed for a special occasion?
We can help with that too. For all your coach hire needs, Call us today for a no obligation quotation!

N. Scotford Ltd.

Your local garage for services and all classes of vehicle MOTs.
A personal and caring service.

Station Road
South Woodchester
Tel 01453 873787
Thistledown Café  woodfired food, homemade cakes
gourmet coffee & stunning views

Wood-fired sourdough pizzas now back on Fri & Sat eve!

Our café is set in 75 acres of beautiful meadow and woodland overlooking Woodchester Park. We serve lunch from our wood-fired clay oven & charcoal BBQ Weds to Sun, Brunch Sat & Sun and wood-fired pizzas on Fri & Sat nights throughout the summer. We use local, free range, foraged and Organic produce where possible, we always have multiple vegan and gluten free options and almost everything we serve is made in-house. Booking is highly recommended. Fine teas, coffees & delicious homemade cakes are served 9am to 4:30pm and we donate 5% of all hot drinks sales to Stroud Valleys Project to fund tree planting in the area. Join our mailing list for details of events such as vegan tapas nights, wood-fired sourdough pizzas, storytelling sessions and foraging walks! We also stock delicious sourdough bread, our own preserves, local alcohols, Organic milk and more.

thistledown.org.uk  01453 660420  thistledown, tinkley lane, nympsfield, GL10 3OH
We are constantly increasing our stock of Essentials products - this is a Cooperative that is ahead of the game in stocking environmentally positive products and they recently updated us on their position on plastic packaging, showing that they are actively trying to solve the problem.

“We’re deeply concerned by the scourge of plastic and we’re taking as many steps as we can to reduce our use of it as a business. Unfortunately this is easier said than done in a supply chain that isn’t set up for those changes (yet).

Our toilet paper wrapping is fully compostable and our teabags are plastic-free, unlike some others on the market, as recently highlighted in the news. As for our food packaging, we’ve been looking for an alternative to the plastic-wrapping that our shelf packs of commodities currently come in, but so far we’ve not found a suitable alternative.

We also looked into cornstarch alternatives to plastic, but unfortunately the cornstarch used is genetically modified - a big no-no for us - and still uses plastic in its sealed edges. Interestingly, Riverford Organics worked with Exeter University to undertake research into packaging and found that starch-based plastics are actually worse for the environment than normal plastic. Also, recycling plastic becomes impossible when cornstarch plastic is added into the mix. We know that things can’t continue in the same way and we are very much on the lookout for change.”

We are hoping that that there will be more innovation in the plastic-alternatives sector now that people are starting to pay attention to how terrible it is for the environment, and as viable alternatives come along we will try to stock these.

We have recently brought on Laurens Catering as new suppliers who stock us with sandwiches, pasties and sausage rolls. The sandwiches are packaged in recyclable cardboard which is a positive change from the plastic that Kerrys sandwiches were in.

When the stock of new carrier bags run out they are being replaced by handled paper bags and we also use recycled carriers in the shop. There is also a stock of cloth reusable bags available in the shop.

We have been looking at the way some green shops are working with refillables, which require a lot of storage space and also a bigger commitment to environmental health and training. Other businesses that have already done this are reporting rather disappointing results from customers.

This may be something for the future - when laws on plastic use and available alternatives have caught up this could be revisited.

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

We Need YOU!

The Village Shop is run entirely by volunteers, and we are currently looking for local people to join the team. Its great fun, very sociable, and you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to keep a valuable community asset going. Full training is given. Shifts are 2.5 hours, and you can book regular shifts or just work when you are able. If you think you can help, please email the Shop Manager Christian Dannemann at christian@dannemann.org or register at register at woodchestervillageshop.org.uk/volunteers/

We Need YOU!

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

Special Offer

Noel Tatt 'Just to Say' and 'Thank you' cards - 3 packs for £2 (normally 99p a pack)

Remember Woodchester Meats from the shop when you have a BBQ this summer!

Follow Woodchester Village Shop on Facebook to hear about our special offers.
Open Gardens at Woodchester Valley Village
Come and see the lovely Gardens at Woodchester Valley Village supported by Information displays from Nailsworth in Bloom and Down to Earth.

Saturday 28th July, 2-5pm
Entrance Charge of £5 will include tea/coffee and a piece of homemade cake. Parking at Renishaw, Inchbrook. All net proceeds to Nailsworth in Bloom.

Dates for your diary
Saturday 9th June, 7.30 pm Songs for a Summer Evening at St Mary’s Church

Saturday 7th July, 10.30am Bring & Buy Sale at St Mary’s Church

Saturday 14th July, Barn dance at Woodchester House Barn.

Bank Holiday Monday 27th August, Wonderful Woodchester Garden Party at The Old Priory

Saturday 29th September, Harvest supper in St Mary’s Church.

Useful Village Contacts

PCSO: Steven Phillipson
Tel: 101 or visit www.gloucestershire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Warden: Dominic Everiss
Email: dominic.everiss@stroud.gov.uk
Tel: 01453 754514
Mobile: 07753 725185

District Councillor: Philip McAsey
Email: Cllr.philip.mcasey@stroud.gov.uk
Telephone: 01453 873329

County Councillor: Steve Robinson
Email: steve.robinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01453 834270

Village Hall: Mrs. Kath Gay
Email: wvh888@btinternet.com
Telephone: 01453 873348

Parish Council: Ann Bijkerk
Email: woodchesterparish@gmail.com
Telephone: 01453 873456

Gloucestershire Highways
Website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/
Telephone: 08000 514514
Email: gcchighways@amey.co.uk

Woodchester Village Hall

Monday  Circle Dancing: 11.00 – 13.00
Weekly, (Chrssie Grice: 07814 011980)
Circle Dancing: 14.00 – 16.00
Fortnightly
Table Tennis: 19.15 – 23.00
Sept – March
(John Bunn: 07702 058754)

Tuesday  Art Group: 10.00 – 12.00
(Vera Naumann: 01453 873689)
Dru Yoga 13.30 – 14.45
(Elisabeth Noblet: 07973 877029)
Table Tennis: 19.15 – 23.00
Sept. – March

Weds  Calligraphy: 10.00 – 16.00
Fortnightly
(Josie Brown: 01452 387768)
Creative Sewing: 10.00 – 17.00
Monthly
(Catherine Kingzett: 07786 547820)
FMC Dance Academy: 17.00 – 19.45
Subject to Sewing
(Fay Cottrell: 07931 253116)

Thursday  Senior Health & Fitness: 10.00–12.00
(Dorothy Turner: 01285 885766)
FMC Dance Academy: 16.30 – 20.30
Subject to PC & WI
Parish Council: 19.00 – 21.00
1st in alternate months
WI: 19.30 – 21.30
3rd in month
(Gail Birch: 01453 873692)

Friday  Nia Dance: 11.15 – 12.15
(Petro-Nelise Solle: 07904 009909)
Circle Dancing: 14.00 – 16.00
Monthly
Available for Private functions

Weekends  Woodchester Endowed School
Thursday Dancercise: 7-8 pm
Weekly
Tricia Dunbar (07400 433536)

Woodchester Mansion is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the end of October. The mini bus runs on the hour every hour from 11am to 4pm from the steps at the bottom of the National Trust Car Park. Do come and visit this beautiful Gothic Revival building which was abandoned halfway through construction.

Letters, articles and items for publication should be sent to the editor, Rod Harris, at woodchesterword@gmail.com Production: Iain Dunbar. Advertising: Ann Bijkerk. Printed by Leopard Press. 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.