

Parish News – August 2017

Editor this month: Geoffrey Fitch

If you have any news you would like included in the monthly newsletter please send your copy to geoffreyfitch@hotmail.co.uk

Also note that if your paper copy of the newsletter has disappeared you can always find it on the parish website www.wwl-pc.org.uk which is updated regularly by John Shepherd.

James Henderson, the much missed Consort of Headmistress Mary has written (without any mention of his cats) to suggest that those who have lived in Westonbirt for more than five years should search out the biography of Michael Kidson our late, unusual, fellow parishioner. The book is published by Quiller for £25 and is titled "The Enigma of Kidson" - The portrait of an Eton Schoolmaster. June and Geoff Goatley are mentioned several times and there is reference to Michael being found lying in the village street by the Headmistress of Westonbirt School with a gash to his head - to be fair this was just after his 80th birthday party so he probably could not blame anybody else on that occasion.

The Westonbirt Society held its second meeting on 5th July when Dr Tony Walsh gave a most interesting talk on the Tetbury Feoffees of whom he is one. He explained the origins which go back to the 16th century and set out their present purpose. They own the Market Hall and the Chipping car park from which they derive handsome income which is then distributed to many worthwhile causes in Tetbury (but unfortunately not to the

neighbouring villages!) The next meeting is on 9th August at 7pm. when Mary Hinton of Help a Hedgehog Hospital will give a talk on the work of the charity.

On the 13th July the Mystery Village Walk took place. Apologies are due to those who were unaware of the event but the planning had not been concluded before publication of the last newsletter. This year 25 walkers and only one dog were guided by Paul Giddings around the springs of Lasborough Valley (from where all the water for Westonbirt was once sourced). Paul who has known the valley all his life, and still owns part of the woodland, conducted a most interesting walk and then those hungry and deserving participants joined an equal number of far from active villagers who by then had started to make serious inroads into the sausage and beef burger barbecue so expertly laid on by the Hewett family. Once again we were lucky with the weather at the end of a changeable day and all agreed that it was a lovely evening to which every resident should endeavour to come next year. The newsletter will try harder to give better notice.

Not only is Natasha Dangerfield the hard working and vivacious Head of Westonbirt School, she is also the Chair of Governors of Leighterton School. Where does she find the time? She is keen to hear from anybody in the area who would be willing to become a Governor of this excellent, highly regarded school. Telephone Natasha on 01666 880121 to discuss the opportunities.

Don't forget to diarise the Hawkesbury Upton Horticultural Show on Saturday 26th August and Salieri's 'The School of Jealousy' at Westonbirt School on Monday 28th August.

Julian Wilson of Elmstree at Doughton, who has occasionally conducted services for us at Lasborough, was ordained as a Deacon on July 16th by Bishop Rachel at Gloucester Cathedral. Congratulations to him for completing the gruelling preparation- we hope to continue to welcome him in Lasborough if he can accommodate us in addition to his being a curate in Cirencester.

G.F.