

## **Parish News – December 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](mailto: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](http://www.wwl-pc.org.uk) which is updated regularly by John Shepherd.

The first task of this newsletter is to thank Westonbirt School very much for generously including residents of our parishes on the guest list for their wonderful Bonfire and Fireworks Party – dry weather, great fireworks, huge, warming bonfire and plentiful mulled wine and food. A terrific way to start one of the gloomiest months of the year.

The last advertised meeting of the Westonbirt Society was supposed to be a talk by John Gingell on the history and manufacture of chocolate. Unfortunately that was postponed but, at short notice Lorraine Bradley of Godsell's Artisan Cheeses kindly stepped in to talk about the making of several multi award-winning cheeses at their small dairy farm at Leonard Stanley. Not only was the talk informative and entertaining but samples of the best sellers were available to sample. These include traditionally made Cheddar, Double and Single Gloucester, Holy Smoked, Village Gossip (named after Stanley Spencer's village painting) and a Cheshire type cheese called Three Virgins which they claim is made by three mature Gloucestershire virgins. (Where they found them is a bit of a mystery!) Their website [www.godsellscheese.com](http://www.godsellscheese.com)

(what a brilliant piece of PR!) gives all the necessary facts with the locations of shops and markets where the cheeses can be purchased.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Wednesday 10th January at 2pm. when John Gingell will be talking to us about the history and making of chocolate. Plentiful samples will be available to those who believe it is good for their well-being.

If you love singing carols you have three local opportunities this year to sing to the rooftops. The first is the Westonbirt School Community Carols service on Monday 4th. December at 6pm. and another at 8pm. (due to past popularity). This takes place in the Great Hall with amazing music and the majestic Christmas tree adding to the enjoyment. Tickets are £5 via eventbrite on <https://6pmcommunitycarols.eventbrite.co.uk> for 6pm or <https://8pmcommunitycarols.eventbrite.co.uk> for 8pm.

The second of our Carol Services will be held at St. Catherine's Westonbirt School at 6pm. on Sunday December 10th followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Walking home is advised. Our third and probably the most seasonal and relevant offering of carols is at Lasborough on Sunday 24th December at 6pm.

Included with this newsletter is a flyer from Westonbirt Arboretum (see below) seeking new volunteers to help out in many ways. It is to be hoped that as our neighbour provides us with so much joy throughout the year that some of our residents will wish to sign up to help at this very iconic venue.

G.F.

# Join our team!



Become part of Westonbirt's vibrant community of volunteers, helping to protect and enhance our landscape and welcome visitors to The National Arboretum.

## Volunteer Guides

Share your passion for Westonbirt and our world famous collection of trees by becoming a Volunteer Guide, and leading one of our popular guided walks around the arboretum.



If you are confident in engaging and communicating with all kinds of visitors, able to speak effectively to groups of people, whilst being reliable, positive, patient, and keen to share your enthusiasm for the arboretum with others – then we would like to hear from you!

Full training will be given which will include attending 5 sessions from 10am-4pm on the following days: Saturday 20 January 2018; Saturday 3 & 17 February 2018; and Saturday 3 & 17 March 2018. This will then be followed by a period of 'shadowing' experienced guides to ensure you feel confident in the role.

For further details of this role and other volunteering opportunities available, please either visit our website or contact Louise Amato (louise.amato@forestry.gov.uk) telephone 0300 067 4853.

[www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-volunteering)



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