

The WOODCHESTER Word

Issue 31 - August 2010

Village fails in bid to save replica pavement

As many of you will already know from the Woodchester Word and local press, the reconstruction of the Great Orpheus Pavement made by Bob and John Woodward was auctioned at Prinknash Abbey on 24th June. Owner Alec Lawless wanted to sell it because the lease to Prinknash Abbey, where it had been on display, ran out.

More than a hundred people crammed into the auctioneers and witnessed the rare piece open for bidding at £10,000. Sadly, despite many months of work and effort by a group of residents we were unable to raise sufficient funds to secure the replica, which was bought for £75,000 by a telephone bidder, acting on behalf of a private client who wants to remain anonymous.

Clearly the mystery buyer only wanted the pavement reconstruction itself, as all the supporting documents, including educational material and wall placards that go with the replica, were not sold. Time will tell if it ever again becomes available for the public to see.

"It's been such a huge part of our lives. I wanted it to go back to Woodchester, but it was always unlikely. In fact I would have jumped ten feet in the sky if they'd managed to pull it off" commented Bob Woodward after the sale. "Of course, we'd like to know who bought it and what they intend to do with it, where it's likely to go. We've no idea if it's going to stay in this country, whether it's going abroad or if it's going to be on public view."

The village plan, had it been successful, was to try and put it on public display as near to Woodchester as possible and to ensure that we could tell the story of the remarkable Villa and Roman community that we have in our midst.

One positive aspect of all the work that has been done in the run-up to the auction is the tremendous interest generated in the Villa. The original mosaic, which dates back to 325 AD, was last uncovered in Woodchester in 1973, attracting thousands of visitors. A number of people have asked whether the original site could be opened again. It has also been suggested that if the site is opened, it might be possible to create a scale reproduction of some kind which could be displayed near the site in future.

The Parish Council has initiated discussion about this possibility. "Although we were not successful in acquiring the replica, we've still got the original and maybe we can do something in opening that in the next couple of years" comments Parish Councillor Paul Syrett, who has long had an interest in the Villa and Pavement, and was one of the group who tried to acquire the replica for the village. "The first step is to talk to the various people and organisations who might be involved, from land owners through to other interested parties, to see if it is feasible."

Parish Council Chairman Rhiannon Wigzell confirmed that public consultation will take place on the issue. "Before any firm recommendations or decisions are made the matter will be fully discussed at a Parish Council meeting at which everyone will be welcome, as always, to attend."

If you are interested in getting involved in the project, contact Paul on 878553 or email him at paul@syrett.name





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Around the Village

Parish Council update

The 90th anniversary of the dedication and unveiling of the war memorial falls later this year. To commemorate the event there will be a ceremony at the War Memorial around 11a.m. on Thursday 11th November 2010. The Endowed School and St. Dominic's have agreed to participate. If anyone has any suggestions please contact Rhiannon Wigzell (Rhiannon.wigzell@woodchesterparish.org.uk) or the Clerk (clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk) and look out for further details on the noticeboards and website (www.woodchesterparish.org.uk). The Parish Council is also investigating how to refurbish the memorial as the names are becoming hard to decipher, and will produce a pamphlet about the Woodchester men remembered there.

The Parish Council had a useful meeting with Chris Riley of Gloucester Highways about the dangers of crossing the A46 from the bus stop on the far side to Frogmarsh Lane. It had been hoped that the track down the bank to the cycle track could have been improved by installing steps or a ramp so that the cycle track could then have been used as an underpass. As the estimate for the necessary work was about £50,000 this was not considered feasible. Various other ideas were also rejected for reasons of cost or considered not good practice, but Chris Riley did make several useful suggestions which together would improve safety, including cutting back the trees looking towards Stroud, putting up a "pedestrians" sign before the bend and making the safest crossing point (at the Nailsworth end of the bus stop) more pronounced with a drop kerb on both sides of the road, and more visible to traffic by installing bollards.

The noticeboard reorganisation mentioned in the last issue should soon take place as the new boards have been made. The Council is now investigating options for installing seats in a couple of the bus shelters as a pilot scheme. If anyone knows of a good design please tell us via the Clerk (clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk).

The Governors of St Loe's Trust are inviting applications from those living within the parishes of Amberley and Woodchester who need financial assistance for further education, tools, instruments or books on leaving school or university to assist their entry into a profession or trade. The applicants have to demonstrate financial hardship and evidence of this is required by the Charity Commissioners. If you would like to apply in confidence then please send your request in the first instance to the Honorary Secretary of the St Loe's Trust, Newton Cottage, Watledge, Nailsworth, GL6 0AY.

The Parish Council was involved in assisting a consortium of villagers in putting together a bid to purchase the replica

Children's Playground in Woodchester?

The need for a children's playground in Woodchester was an action point arising from the Parish Plan and has been raised again during the Village Design Statement process. The South Woodchester Amenity Land Trust (SWALT) has offered to house a children's playground for Woodchester on Orchard Pastures. The Parish Council have agreed in principle to insure and maintain it if it is built. I thought it might be helpful to set out some of the problems and implications in the hope that it will help the project progress.

The first requirement is a suitable piece of land. The Parish Council doesn't own any land itself. The Parish is itself not blessed with many areas that could conceivably be suitable for the purpose even if the owners were willing. For example, it needs to be reasonably close to houses, accessible from all areas of the Parish, not so close that it would annoy nearby householders, and available. Affordability has also been a further issue, although theoretical as until Orchard Pastures was suggested no land owner had offered to sell, lend or rent land for the purpose.

There is a considerable cost implication, even though SWALT are offering to donate the land. The play equipment will need to be funded somehow, being too expensive to buy from Parish Council funds. Such projects have been done elsewhere so are clearly not impossible but there would need to be an enthusiastic group prepared to fund raise, find out about planning permission, research and project manage. There would then be the cost of insurance and maintenance which of themselves would probably necessitate an increase in the precept for the Parish Council to meet these responsibilities. In addition it would be an insurance requirement for the equipment to be checked weekly by a volunteer(s) and regularly by a professional and be annually inspected – more time and money.

None of the problems are insurmountable if people want it enough. I suggest that all the playground enthusiasts contact Kim Woodford or Jackie Waldron of SWALT (swalt.wire@hotmail.co.uk) or The Parish Council (clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk) to offer their time, energy and skill sets and make it happen. This is such a good opportunity that it would be a shame to lose it for lack of man/woman power. The basic building blocks are in place, now we need a team of enthusiastic people to help make this project reality. The more people we have involved, the more doable it becomes and the next step is a test of the level of enthusiasm for the project. Is it a 'nice to have' if someone else puts in the graft, or something the community feels sufficiently passionate about to bring it to fruition



Around the Village

Beating the Bounds

According to an obscure corner of the BBC website, 'The custom of 'Beating the Bounds' has taken place in a variety of forms in Britain for over 2000 years. Its origins have roots in many different cultures from across Europe and beyond. In essence it involves local inhabitants perambulating their farm, manorial, church or civic boundaries, pausing as they pass certain trees, walls and hedges that denote the extent of the boundary to exclaim, pray and ritually 'beat' particular landmarks (or even young boys) with sticks.'

In view of this, perhaps we should call the Historical Society excursion on a drizzly day in July, 'Walking the Parish Boundary'. We were certainly a group of local inhabitants, we could be said to have perambulated the old Saxon boundary (as closely as possible whilst avoiding swimming and walking along the white line in the middle of the road) and we paused at certain times to exclaim 'the boundary runs down there'. However, there were no beatings, ritual or otherwise, with or without sticks, of any landmarks or young boys.



We assembled at Paul's Rise, heading first for the northern boundary at Cholmeley's Drive, before climbing to Selsley Common and continuing via Penn Wood to Woodchester Park. The kennels provided a sheltered lunchstop, before we resumed and completed our walk through Inchbrook and then onto the cycle track to return to our starting point.

We had a pleasant day out with a walk of reasonable length (fortunately Woodchester is not enormous) under the capable leadership of John Cull. Most importantly, we have shared the knowledge of our boundary's location with a few others – perhaps next time we should take those young boys.

Inishfree is looking for a farm/smallholding

Inishfree is a small residential charity based in Woodchester, providing an innovative and comprehensive programme of support and land-based activities for people in recovery from addiction. Inishfree has been running for 7 years on a smallholding (3 acres) providing a complete life changing experience for up to 2 years. The programme has proven very successful while pioneering an innovative approach engaging people in work rhythms and activities in horticulture, agriculture, DIY, education in healthy eating, diet and cooking from garden to kitchen and growing all our own organic vegetables.

Our client group, known as Trainees bake all their own bread, cakes and biscuits and create wonderful daily menus. We have a very small flock of sheep, 20 or so chickens, 4 ducks and 2 cats. This year our 4 ewes had 10 lambs between them which must be a record! Trainees were on a tight 3 hour schedule to bottle feed some of these lambs 24x7. This is where Inishfree is uniquely different to any other kind of rehabilitation process. Working with the needs of the smallholding puts their own life into a different perspective. It helps distract people from cravings, while gaining skills and positive life experiences.

The horticultural/agriculture element is fundamental to the ongoing success of Inishfree as a drug and alcohol free community, as well as the further development of Inishfree as a model of rural diversification in an area facing some agricultural and economic decline. For example, Trainees have supported local farmers with lambing and general labour, saving farmers money and giving Trainees real work experience.

The problem we face in our present location is twofold. The local communities need for our support has grown and our Trainee group is limited to 8/9 which means we can only offer one or two people, once they are stable and reliable, to take up placements on farms. Inishfree needs to find bigger premises with land and outbuildings to increase flexible accommodation and move on and develop its vision where there is more mutual benefits through a Community Farm and Social Enterprise. We want to set up workshops in carpentry, bakery, craft shop and cafe, as training facilities for both Trainees and the wider community. Trainees are themselves entrepreneurs when given time and scope to rediscover hidden passions and talents.

If you are a farmer/landowner and could provide land and buildings or possibilities of self build projects for agricultural use, or could be of any help please contact Lyn Townsend 01453873624 or email enquiries@inishfree.org.uk or visit our website www.inishfree.org.uk for more information on our programme.



Trainees at Inishfree erecting a new polytunnel

Around the Village

Woodchester Endowed School

By the time you read this we will have come to the end of another school year. Hopefully our staff and pupils will be enjoying the summer sun and a well deserved break. The year has ended on a real high with our junior children performing in another excellent Shakespeare production – The Tempest. Every child who took part can rightly feel very proud of their achievement.

We are saying goodbye to twenty Year 6 children who leave us having developed and achieved in every possible area. They are talented sports men and women, artists, designers, engineers of the future and are well equipped with the skills needed for the next stage of their life. Once again these children did us very proud in their end of year SATs test recording results well above the national and county averages.

In the last month we have received an 'Arts Mark' awarded by the Arts Council for England. Only 20% of schools in England have been awarded this and it recognises all that we do in the four areas of the arts – drama, music, art & dance. We have also received notification from Ofsted, the school inspectorate, that we have sustained the 'good' performance of the school in the three years since our last inspection. Both of these commendations are down to the hard work of the staff and pupils at the school along with the wonderful support we receive from parents and our community as a whole.

The enrichment of the curriculum is a really important feature of learning at the school and during the year we have great memories of space days, art sculptures in the woods and our wonderful Roman feast day last month to name but a few.

My thanks to all in the community who have supported our events during this year. Our PTA has been fantastic and was able to fund the installation of a great new play fort for the children earlier in the summer. I very much look forward to seeing many of you again next year in what will be, once again, a year of learning and enjoyment for all at the school. (Gordon Soutar, Headteacher)

Sir William Romney School

By the time you read this issue students will be well into their summer break. The summer term is always extremely busy: sports day, Year 5 experience days, work experience for Year 10 and activities for Key Stage 3. Our Year 11 students will, of course, be anxious to get their examination results, due on 24th August and we wish them all success.

During early July, as part of our initiative to give primary pupils an insight to "big school", we welcomed Year 5 pupils from Woodchester Endowed Church of England Primary School. They were able to experience lessons in Art, PE and Science, during which they made leaf collages in Art and thoroughly enjoyed the flame testing using Bunsen burners in Science.

We are currently holding our annual school production, which this year is a double bill 'Shakers' by John Godber & Jane Thornton and 'Bouncers' by John Godber. Martha

Furnival takes one of the leading roles, Martha has established a tradition of strong commitment to the Arts since joining SWR, taking on the role of Malcolm (& Apparition 3) in our abridged production of Macbeth.

'Shakers' will be Martha's second full production at Sir William Romney's, and this experience has set her in good stead for the future. She recently auditioned and secured the central female role in The Prince of Denmark for the Shakespeare Schools' Festival which is due to be performed at The Everyman, Cheltenham in October 2010. Martha has opted for Drama GCSE due to begin September 2010.



She has already been commended on, not only her skill as a performer, but also her natural flair as a director. Martha is considering working within the Arts as a future career.

Priory Church of the Annunciation

It is nearly twelve months since we lost our Parish Priest, Father Piers Linley, on retirement. This is the first time since the formation of the Parish in the 1840s, when the Italian Priest Dominic Barberi was Spiritual leader here, that there are no Priests resident at the Priory Church. You may be interested to hear that Dominic Barberi is being honoured by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict, when he comes to England, at a special Mass when Dominic will be recognised as being Blessed.

Fr. Bill Watson, Parish Priest of St. Joseph's, Stonehouse, has taken us under his wing as our 'Priest in Charge'. Father Bill has the responsibility of the two parishes and so when necessary Stonehouse and Woodchester share services. An example of this is the Vigil Mass at Easter, this year held at Stonehouse, which next year will be held in Woodchester. Socially we are also expanding our network by such events as a shared Summer Picnic held at the Convent. This was a great success.

Should you need to contact us the Parish Office is now at the Convent of Poor Clares, Convent Lane. A letter addressed in this way will be picked up by either our Secretary or Administrator. And so the Catholic Community continues in Woodchester.

Its your Word....

The next Woodchester Word will be the Christmas issue, due for publication at the end of November. The copy deadline for material to be included in that issue is the first week of November.

We are always seeking new contributors for articles or short reports about the village. If you would like to send a contribution, or a letter to be published in the Word, please contact the Editor at iaindunbar@btconnect.com, or on 872185. If you would like to advertise, please contact Peter Lead on 832383 for information and rates.

Village Produce and Craft Show 2010

The Woodchester Produce and Craft Show 2010 will be held at The Endowed School in North Woodchester on Saturday 11th September.

This is the second year of the show and the Committee hopes that the classes, slightly changed from last year (see list of classes opposite) will again tempt many people to enter.



In the competition there are categories for adults and children. For adults there are classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, cakes, jam, chutney, art, photography and craft items. Children's classes include a vegetable creature, a picture of an animal, decorated pebble, largest sunflower, miniature garden, fairy cake and vegetables.



Even if you have not tried your hand at exhibiting before please have a look at the programme and consider what you might be able to enter.

The hall will be open to the public from 1pm, with cream teas and produce stalls on the Village Green from 2pm. There will be an auction of produce at 3:30pm.

It's your show, so please support it. Every entry has a chance of winning, so good luck and we look forward to seeing you at the show!

Timetable

09:30 - 11:00	Exhibits delivered to the hall at Woodchester Endowed School.
11:00 - 12:30	Hall closed for judging
13:00 - 16:00	Open to public
14:00 - 15:30	Cream teas and ice creams
15:30	Presentation of trophies and auction of produce

Our Sponsors

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Nailsworth Garden Centre and The Little People Company for helping us with the Produce and Craft Show. The show is not financially supported in any other way, and the support of local companies is greatly appreciated.

"This is the second year we have supported the Woodchester Show and we are delighted that we are able to help with the event" said Kevin Brindley, Manager of Nailsworth Garden Centre. "The competition brings the local community together and also promotes gardening, so we were really keen to get involved."



Village Produce and Craft Show 2010

List of Classes

Adult Classes

A. Vegetables

1. Potatoes 5 (any variety or shape)
2. Tomatoes 3 (any variety)
3. Onions, 3 (any variety)
4. Longest runner bean
5. Heaviest marrow or pumpkin
6. Most comical vegetable
7. Collection of herbs in a vase

B. Fruit

1. Bowl of any homegrown fruits
2. Basket of any wild fruits

C. Produce

1. Victoria Sandwich (using three eggs)
2. Jar of jam
3. Jar of marmalade
4. Jar of chutney
5. 3 decorated cup cakes
6. Bottle of cordial
7. Bottle of any alcoholic drink

D. Art

1. Picture of any animal (any medium)
2. Miniature painting (max size 7cm x 5cm)
3. An illustrated poem

E. Photography

1. Picture of Woodchester
2. A portrait
3. A happy picture

F. Craft

1. Any item made from recycled material
2. A knitted or crocheted article
3. An embroidered article
4. A hand or machine made fabric article
5. A soft toy

G. Flowers

1. Vase of garden flowers
2. A purple/mauve flower
3. Miniature flower arrangement
(overall height under 10cm)
4. A scented flower arrangement

Children's Classes

(age at date of show)

H. Under 5

1. Anything you have grown
2. A vegetable creature
3. A decorated pebble
4. A picture of an animal (any medium)
5. Miniature garden on a plate (max size 20cm)

I. 5 to 10 and 11 to 15

1. Largest sunflower head you have grown
2. Miniature garden on a side plate (max size 20cm)
3. Decorated fairy cake you have baked
4. A creature you have made from a vegetable
5. Any vegetable you have grown
6. Any flower you have grown
7. Matchbox (5.3 x 3.7cm max) filled with different items (not living) starting with 'R'

Rules

1. Entry will be open to anyone with a connection to Woodchester, and their families, e.g. residents, those working in the parish or attending either school in the parish, and anyone attending any of the churches, clubs, societies or organisations in the parish.
2. Entry forms must be returned to The Ram, North Woodchester Post Office, Woodchester Endowed Primary School, St Dominic's RC Primary School, by 4pm on Monday 6th September.
3. Exhibits must be delivered to Woodchester Endowed Primary School no later than 11:00am on Saturday 11th September.
4. Exhibits must be the work or creation of the exhibitor AND MUST NOT BE NAMED (you will be given an entry number when you pay on the day).
5. Entry 20p per adult, 10p per child entry (late entries 40p and 20p).
6. Only one entry per person per class.
7. Winning entries will be awarded points as follows:
 - 1st place 3 points
 - 2nd place 2 points
 - 3rd place 1 point
8. Judge's decision is final.
9. Organisers will not be responsible for loss or damage to the property of any exhibitor.
10. A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the adult with the most points overall.

Entry Forms are available from The Ram, North Woodchester Post Office, Woodchester Endowed Primary School and St Dominic's RC Primary School. They can be returned to the same locations by Monday 6th September. Late entries will be charged the late entry fee. Entry Fees should be paid on the day.

Junior Word

Recent questionnaires have given adults an opportunity to air their views about the village, but what do the younger members of our community think? A recent project about the village carried out by children at St Dominic's school produced some excellent work. We could not include it all but hope that these small snippets may provide an insight.....



Woodchester Mansion is a 19th century Victorian Gothic masterpiece half-built. Its supposed to be haunted and is full of bats. (Ann Naybour)



Woodchester Mansion is scary in the day but when night falls it turns into a gloomy terrifying haunted house. With a nice walk down to it, a visit turns a nice sunny day into an adventurous day! (Polly James)



If you ever want to find peace, this wonderful heaven-like palace of glory, then look no further than a sunny hot day, a clear sapphire sky and a little snooze by the lake where the ducks dabble. Woodchester is a wonderful place of bliss and jaw-dropping sites that are enough to satisfy anyone, and that's not opinion, that's fact. (Kieran Blair)

Woodchester is a beautiful place with many hidden lakes, valleys and springs. We know that people have been living in Woodchester since before Roman times, but what will the village be like in the next thousand years? (David Doherty)

Woodchester Priory is the catholic church in the village. When the church was built in the 19th century, the catholics were not popular and so the railway station was built far from the church to discourage people from going to mass. (Xavier Woodcock)



All in all this little village is a brilliant interesting and amazing place to live in, to work in and visit. (Andrew Wright)

There is nothing I can say bad about this outstanding place - even the air has a lovely scent. But there is certainly one thing I can say absolutely fantastic is the community spirit. No matter what the village has helped one another and cared about others St Dominic's has done the same for me, so thank you Woodchester! (Lucy Grace Craddock)

I think the village is very quiet and would benefit from having a park to attract more children and give the locals a meeting point. The best thing about Woodchester is the fact that there are so many animals, but we are not too keen on the badgers that dig up our garden! (Natasha Holding)

So when you feel like being haunted, or want a drink, or see lovely views or attend a mass, there is only one place to go! (Issy Dawbarn)

It is a very historical area with the remains of a Roman pavement and old mills from its industrial past. Several are converted into houses like mine or into factories like Frogmarsh Mill. The old train track that linked the mills has been turned into a cycle path. I often ride along this on my bike. (Mary Cave)

Who could think of anything better than Woodchester? I know I can't! It is so beautiful with all the trees and things. The schools and the Church, it is so lovely! Very unique, very beautiful and very fun! (Rosalind Craddock)

When I think of Woodchester I smile. For me, Woodchester, a beautiful village at the heart of the Cotswolds, has many happy memories. Its scary to think that next year is my last year and that after that I'll be travelling out of the village to find a new school. Woodchester - a great place! (Esmé Barrett-Lamb)

Around the Village

Fourteen good years in the layby!

It was in November 1996 that Paul Holt 'set up shop' in Woodchester. Paul owns and runs the mobile snack bar in the lay-by at Frogmarsh. He had been made redundant as a long distance lorry driver and, with a young family, wanted a job which did not take him away from home. Within a month Paul had done his research, bought a van and begun to operate in the fast food market.

Trade was slow at the beginning but with persistence and an emphasis on quality food, fair prices and good service the business has grown and become established. Paul works from Monday to Saturday, 8am to 3pm every day, in all weathers - and its cold when the wind blows from the North down the A46! Most of his customers are regulars who really value the service he provides.

The van is regularly inspected by the District Council and Paul holds his 5H certificate for hygiene, and pays the Council a four-figure sum for the privilege of working on the site. An added benefit to the community is that Paul keeps the lay-by tidy - every morning he picks up other people's rubbish so that he can operate on a clean pitch! (John Cull)



Stroud Bee Keepers Association

The year got off to a good start for the bees and their foraging resulted in us being able to extract 40 pounds of honey during the end of May. The forage was a mix of rape, apple blossom and spring flowers.

Swarming is a natural behaviour of bees that, during the rapid build up of their colony during the Spring are often seen as a swarm flying to a new nesting site to naturally increase the number of colonies. The trigger for the bees to swarm will come from the Queen bee who will take with her the foraging bees leaving queen cells, worker bees, drones and brood that will form to establish a new young queen and colony of bees.

This year I have collected three swarms locally. Generally the beekeeper will try to prevent the bees from swarming by creating an artificial swarm within the beehive. If successful this will keep all the bees in the hive and result in a good crop of honey.

In August we will be extracting honey again and then start to prepare the bees for winter, marking the end of yet another summer.

During the winter we will be running another Beekeeping for Beginners Day Course - for details of this or to buy local honey please contact Peter Lead on 832383.

Oops - wrong turn that led to disaster.

The Woodchester History records that in 1833 when the Stroud Subscription Rooms were being built, a long inclined plane leading from the Swan Inn to the top of the building was used for carrying up materials. One market day, William Radcliffe of Woodchester being under the influence of liquor, mounted his horse in the Inn yard and taking the wrong turning, rode up to the top of the building. Becoming aware of his perilous position he dismounted and in attempting to reverse his horse down again it fell and was killed. Racliffe, however, managed to come down safely.

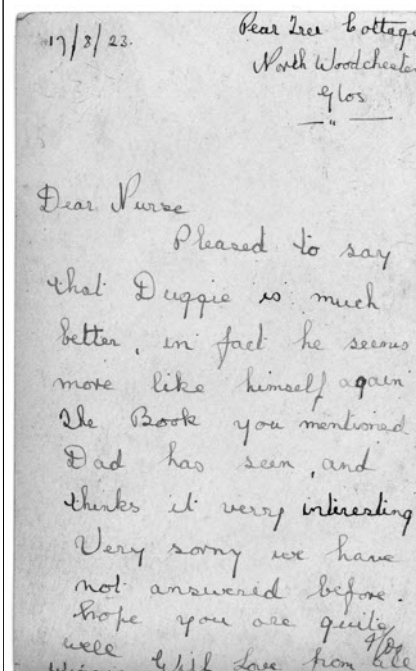
So who was William Radcliffe? Was he the same William Radcliffe (also known as Ratcliffe), farmer of Bownhill Farm? It seems likely. In which case, I believe he married Matilda Harris in Hardwicke 31 August 1822 and had nine children baptised in Woodchester. He was recorded at Bownhill on the tithe map of 1838 and in the censuses of 1841 and 1851 when the farm consisted of 270 acres. He died 7 March 1858 aged 73 and was buried in the old churchyard on 13 March. He is remembered on his daughter, Matilda's gravestone. The grave next to Matilda's is that of William's fourth son, Nathaniel. Members of the family continued at Bownhill until at least 1881.

Woodchester Through Time

A new book showing current and period images of Nailsworth and Woodchester is due to be published this autumn. *Nailsworth and Woodchester Through Time* is written by local author Howard Beard, who has published a number of books on local history.

During his research for the book, Howard unearthed the postcard below, sent from someone called Winnie, living at Peartree Cottage, to Purse, in August 1923. Who were Winnie and Purse, and was the picture of owls on the front of the card taken in the village?

Expect lots of interesting images of Woodchester in the book!



The postcard, with its picture of baby owls in a tree.

Around the Village

Open Garden at Atcombe Court.

We opened our garden this year on June 12th for charity under the National Gardens Scheme (NGS). It was a perfect summer's day; the sun shone, the peonies were out and 230 visitors came. This year an added attraction was the tea provided by the Woodchester W.I., who produced a dazzling array of delicious cakes. We raised nearly £1,000 for the NGS charities, such as Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

All of this would not have been possible without the help of many people: those helping on the gate, in the car park and selling plants, as well as the residents of Atcombe Road who very kindly arranged to leave the road free from parking for visitors leaving. Most importantly we are grateful to Woodchester W.I., especially Kath and Muriel, who masterminded the teas for us so efficiently.

Woodchester Football Club

We are pleased to announce that the club has recently been granted Community Amateur Sports Club Status, allowing tax deductible gifts and donations. We would like to express our gratitude to a very kind member of the Woodchester community who has anonymously made a charitable donation this week – we are most grateful.

Our pre-season training starts soon and we invite anyone over 16 to come along and have a run out with a view to playing for us this forthcoming season. We are a very friendly, sociable club and after promotion last year we finished this season in a very commendable 6th position in the Seventh Division. Currently our youngest player is 16 and the oldest is 52 – so everyone is welcome. Please contact the club captain Rob Prince on 07971 719110. We are still looking for a main shirt sponsor so would welcome any proposals from local businesses or private individuals.

WANTED! Hedgehog Wardens and Hedgehog-friendly carpenter

In 2008 Annie Parfitt set up a Hedgehog hospital near Brimscombe in response to news that hedgehogs are dying out at a rate of about a fifth of the population every four years - they are now so threatened that they are on the British wildlife endangered list. Annie and her team of volunteers have been raising money since then and have established a number of sheds to treat injured, sick, underweight and orphaned hedgehogs and hoglets. They have been able to save many hedgehogs before releasing them into the wild again. Now they want to raise more awareness locally and find out more about the local hedgehog populations. Annie is seeking a volunteer in each village to become a 'Hedgehog Warden' - please contact Annie if you are interested on 01453 886424. The Hedgehog Hospital would also love help from a volunteer carpenter with a few hours spare, as they have got so much more they want to do with their hospital. For more information see the website www.helpahedgehog.org.



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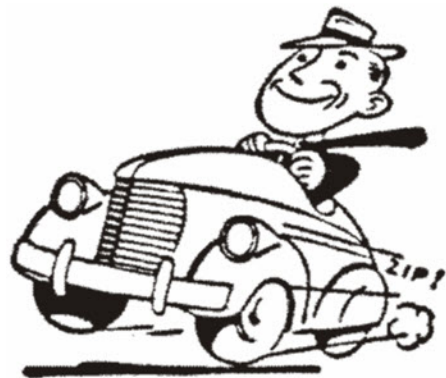
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Woodchester WI

Our willing and hard working members provided tea and cakes to over 200 visitors at the Atcombe Court Open Garden in June, the gardens were splendid to see and the weather very kind. Our June meeting took the form of a Garden Party at the home of our president, a very enjoyable and informal evening was enjoyed by all.

Our next community project will be a produce stall at the village fete in September and also the Church Flower Festival the same weekend. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Muriel McTiffin on 873314 or Fleur Vallender on 766038.

Woodchester Historical Society

The next meeting of the society will be on Tuesday 7 September at 7:30pm in the Undercroft of St Mary's Church, North Woodchester. Arthur Price will give a talk entitled 'The Building Stones of Woodchester Mansion'. Admission is £2 for members, £3 for non members. All Welcome.

Our AGM will take place on Tuesday 2 October at 7:30pm in the Undercroft. It will be followed by 'Woodchester in World War II' – a meeting to gather information on life in the village from 1939 to 1945. If anyone can help with information on prisoners of war, evacuees or just life in general, please contact Barbara Warnes on 872181, or email barbara.warnes@tiscali.co.uk

Village Christmas Concert

The 22nd Village Christmas Concert will be held on Friday 17th December at 7.30 p.m. in Woodchester Village Hall.

Do you have a talent you wish to share with an enthusiastic audience? We welcome our regular and any new performers to participate in a fun and worthwhile evening, no audition necessary! Your contribution does not have to be based on a Christmas theme. All monies raised go to charity.

Contact Muriel on 873314 or Kath on 873348 for more information.

Woodchester Girlguiding

Having had a very busy summer term, 1st Woodchester Brownies and Guides will be starting back in September, and we will be rounding off the Girlguiding UK Centenary year in October.

Due to the number of Brownies in our Pack and the number of adult leaders, we will once again be operating a waiting list for places; so any girl aged 6 years old and thinking about becoming a Brownie should ensure that their name is added to our list.

Woodchester Guides would be pleased to welcome some new faces, and places are available for girls aged 10 -13 years.

Anyone interested in joining Girlguiding in Woodchester should contact Jackie on 01453 821258 or Louise (District Commissioner) on 01453 832025.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11th September

Woodchester Produce and Craft Show at the Endowed School, 1pm - 4:30pm.

Saturday 11th Sunday 12th September

Flower Festival at St Mary's Church on the theme of 'Creation'.

Sunday 12th September

Songs of Praise on the Green with The Beacon Gospel Choir at 4pm.

Wednesday 15th September

Messy Church at St Mary's for youngsters up to year 6, accompanied by an adult – a free, activity-filled session including refreshments, crafts, music and stories (3.20-5.00pm).

Sunday 26th September

Harvest Festival and Back to Church Sunday at St Mary's, with coffee and cakes.

Sat 9th October

Men's Breakfast with speaker Revd Josh Maynard, 8am at The Royal Oak, North Woodchester.

Sat 9th October

Antiques Evening at St Mary's Church with Revd Mick Wright speaking on 'Think twice about what you throw away!' – bring your antiques (7.30pm)

Friday 17th December

Village Carol Concert in the Village Hall (7:30)

Village Hall Programme

Monday

1000-1200 Short Mat Bowls (01453 872340)
1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

Tuesday

1000-1200 Art Group (01453 873689)
1400-1630 Friendly Circle - alternate weeks (873566)
1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

Wednesday

1000-1600 Calligraphy- alternate weeks (387768)
1830-1930 Movement to Music. New members are welcome to this very friendly group, come along and have fun and keep fit. Tel: Clare Bader 01453 886953.

Thursday

1000-1200 Healthy Lifestyles (01453 885766)
1615-1715 Adult Ballet (0788 767 1956)
1830-2130 Parish Council (1st in month)
1930-2130 Women's Institute (3rd in month 873314)
1930-2130 Morris Dancing (2nd, 4th, 5th, 759150)

Friday

1000-1200 Art Class U3A (01453 872044)
1500-1700 Ballet (01453 834356)
1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

For all bookings, including weekend bookings, please contact Mrs Kath Gay on 01453 873348.