

Voice

of the villages

Hunningham, Offchurch, Weston, Wappenbury, Eathorpe

Newsletter

JUNE 2025



Probably my favourite month of the year, because it gives me an excuse to feature my favourite painting. You know its name!

Editor: David Wray (wraydj@gmail.com)

THE PINK FLAMINGO IN EATHORPE



The Pink Flamingo is now host to
2 regular social events.

Sunday Coffee Morning

The next Pink Flamingo coffee morning will take place on Sunday June 1st, where we serve the famous Eathorpe bacon sarni, plus coffees / teas / cakes etc. Open from 10am to 12 noon. Hopefully the patio will be open so we can sit in the sun and socialise.

The Pink Flamingo Pop-up Pub

The Pink Flamingo bar will open its doors in the Village hall on Thursday the 29th of May. Hopefully the patio will be open for drinks. Doors open at 6 and will close when the last person leaves! We can take card payment and we serve bottled beer and lager, wine, sparkling wine, a good selection of soft drinks and crisps. Very reasonable prices, we'd like you to come and try it, meet your neighbours and bring your friends!

MONDAY CLUB

Meeting May 12th

We had a very enjoyable afternoon by the invitation of Christine at Dunchurch Hall. When we arrived the table was beautifully set with vol au vents, sausage rolls, scones and cakes.

Jeff told us about his memories of VE Day, although he was not quite 6 years old. He told us about what his older siblings had been doing at that time in the army, navy and R.A.F. One of his sisters was at Bletchley Park, later moving to Columbo, although none of the family knew until the year 2000!

Stephen also told us of his memories as a young lad in Coventry. His house lost its roof!

During tea, Joan passed round the Leamington Courier which was published on the 50th anniversary of VE Day. We were interested to see all the damage in Lillington, Warwick and Coventry.

It was a lovely afternoon and thank you to all those who made cakes and Christine for your hospitality.



POETRY PAGE

I have a rather different poetry page this month. I thought I might look at a debate concerning poetry and its place in education. As a University language/literacy specialist, I was often asked whether I thought it was a useful activity to get children to learn poems off by heart at school. I always found this a difficult question to answer, even though I know myself that I have in my head lots of poems (or extracts of poems) that I learnt by heart in my own schooling. But there is some debate about whether teachers should encourage or insist on their pupils doing that. I've tried to take a balanced look at the **reasons for and against** it:

☒ **Reasons For Learning Poems by Heart**

1. Language Development

- Reciting poetry improves vocabulary, pronunciation, rhythm, and intonation.
- It exposes children to rich and varied language patterns, enhancing their literacy skills.

2. Memory and Cognitive Skills

- Memorisation strengthens memory, concentration, and mental discipline.
- This can help learning in all subjects.

3. Cultural and Literary Appreciation

- Poetry is a key part of literary heritage. Learning it by heart helps children appreciate the beauty and power of language.
- It connects children with historical and cultural traditions.

4. Confidence and Public Speaking

- Performing poems in front of others boosts self-esteem and oral presentation skills.

5. Emotional and Personal Expression

- Poems often express deep emotions. Learning and reciting them can help children connect with their own feelings and experiences.

✗ Reasons Against Learning Poems by Heart

1. Rote Learning vs. Understanding

- Focusing on memorisation might lead to shallow learning, where children can recite words without understanding meaning.

2. Stress and Anxiety

- Some students may feel anxiety about memorising and reciting in front of others, which can affect their overall attitude towards learning.

3. Time Constraints

- Time spent memorising could be used for creative writing, reading comprehension, or exploring poetry in a more analytical or personal way.

4. Lack of Relevance

- Some children might find the poems outdated or irrelevant, leading to disengagement rather than inspiration.

SO...

Learning poems by heart can enhance language skills, memory, and confidence, but maybe it should be balanced with approaches that foster comprehension, creativity, and inclusion. This is not a settled debate. So... What do you think?

WESTON BABIES and TODDLERS WEEKLY GROUP

EVERY FRIDAY 9.45am -11.15am in term time

VENUE: Weston Village Hall

**Come and let the little ones have fun and meet other
Mums, Dads, Grandparents, and Carers.**



Further information contact Hazel Taylor 01926 632428

OFFCHURCH FLOWER CLUB

We are a friendly bunch (excuse the pun! 😊) who meet at
Offchurch Village Hall
2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30 – 9.30pm



11th June



RECYCLED

What can you 'RE-USE'?



9th July

Pick a Colour

Just a single colour
Which will you choose

PINK? BLUE? RED? or PURPLE????



'Wannabe', Novice or Experienced arrangers welcome!
Help and advice always to hand.

'We learn from each other and embrace different styles'

FUTURE DATES / THEMES



August... no meeting
10th September ... tbc

Contact Maggie at mandhhar-tog@gmail.com
Or Pat - 07552 639008 patriciafollett@hotmail.com



The Community Café

Invites you to a.....



'Light Lunch'



Wednesday 28th May 2025

Offchurch Village Hall

From 12noon

(finishing around 2pm)

Our light lunches take place on the last Wednesday of the month
from Easter to September (excluding July).

Catch up with old friends and hopefully meet some new
acquaintances over a light sandwich lunch and
some sweet treats

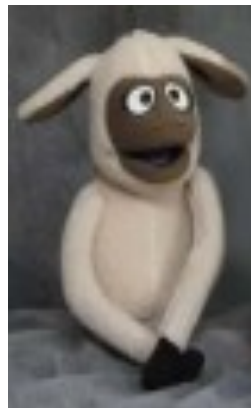
This is a FREE event to support local community and fellowship.

THE PILGRIM PUPPETS

Sunday 1st June Come 2 Worship
service at HUNNINGHAM Church
11.00am

Saturday 7th June MESSY CHURCH 3pm
Weston Village Hall

Sunday 6th July Come 2 Worship at
Hunningham Church 11.00am



Ring Hazel Taylor 01926 632428 if you are interested in
our Puppets being part of your events.

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CHURCH SERVICES JUNE 2025

Sunday 1st	11.00am – Come2Worship	St Margaret's (Hunningham)
Sunday 8th	10.00am – Holy Communion + Zoom	St Gregory's (Offchurch)
Sunday 15th	12 noon – Sunday Worship + Zoom	St Gregory's (Offchurch)
Sunday 15th	6.00pm – Evensong	St Michael's (Weston)
Sunday 22nd	10.00am – Holy Communion + Zoom	St Gregory's (Offchurch)
Sunday 29th	11.00am – Summer Praise	St John's (Wappenbury)

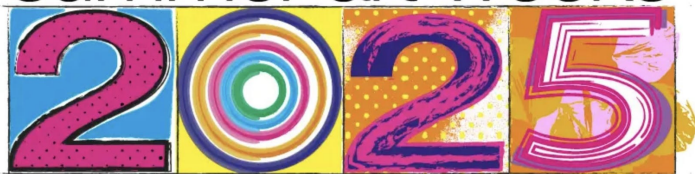
NB

**Please note the change of time of the service on
15 June – this is due to the closure of certain roads,
earlier in the day, for the Leamington Marathon**

**Don't forget Messy Church on 7 June.
Contact Jane Inman on 07850 444316
or email messy-offchurch@gmail.com**

Church Warden details are as follows:
Bill Weald 07950 196282 bill.weald@yahoo.com
Mandy Lewis 07864 359988 [aman-
da.e.lewis@btinternet.com](mailto:aman-da.e.lewis@btinternet.com)

summer art weeks



21 JUNE - 6 JULY

Summer Art Weeks come to Offchurch

This year, as part of the above event, ten talented artists will be showing their work in St. Gregory's Church, Offchurch. The exhibition runs from Saturday 21 June to Sunday 6 July - open every day - Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 5.00pm and Sundays 12.00 to 5.00pm.

Six of these exhibitors are taking part for the very first time this year. Several artists will be on hand every day to chat about their work or give live demonstrations. Work includes painting, photography, ceramics, patchwork and mixed media.

Please do call by - we are Venue 72 in the brochure, and we will be delighted to see you.

Also showing on selected dates - Eleanor Allitt and Colin Purdy on Village Street (Venue 73).

Further information, including a brochure and guide can be seen at www.wostudios.org

GOLF CROQUET

Golf croquet is a popular highly competitive game played on a lawn where the winner is the player that hits the ball through the most hoops. The game is fun and suitable for all ages and does not require any experience.

Why not come along to join in the fun with the Offchurch Croquet Club who meet on the village green at 5.00 pm on Friday evenings throughout the Summer months. The games played last between 1 to 2 hours and afterwards



there are drinks and nibbles for individuals to chat and enjoy the evening. There is no cost involved and you do not need to live in Offchurch to play - it is an opportunity for everyone to get together for an enjoyable time. Come along and join

us. You will be made very welcome.

If you have any queries or would like more information, please contact Helen Palmer on 07976 967173.

OFFCHURCH 100 CLUB

May Draw The Seventh Draw

The Winners are as follows

1st Prize Andy Liggins

2nd Prize Derek Ainscow

3rd Prize Moira Lawrance

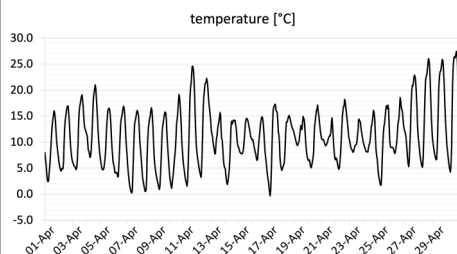
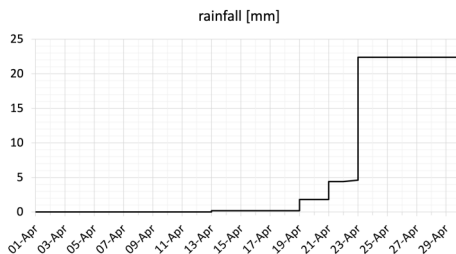
Congratulations to our winners.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

John Mander

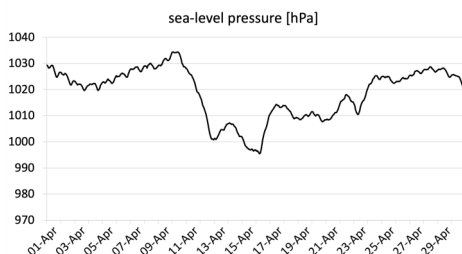
WEATHER WATCH: APRIL 2025

April is on average the driest month in our area, measuring 40.1 mm including this year. Of course, with only 30 days a slightly lower average might be expected, but it is still lower than even February, which averages 42.6 mm over its 28/29 days. This April continued the trend of below average rainfalls with just 22.4 mm of rain, which was 44 percent below average in this area. Had we not had heavy rainfall on the morning of 23rd, this April would have been very dry indeed, although not record-breaking. Actually, 2025 is turning out to be a dry year so far and concern is being expressed as to whether control of water usage may become necessary. There were 26 days with no measurable rainfall and no snow days.



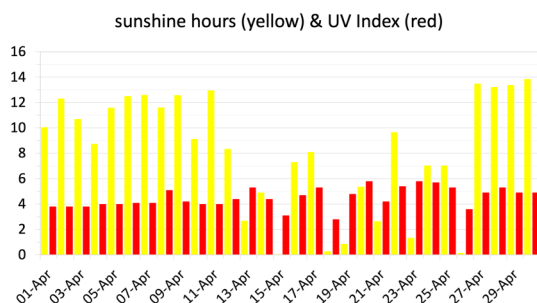
The average temperature was 11.4°C, which is 2.1°C above April's average for this area. There was just one air frost and 10 ground frosts. The 30th saw the highest temperature of 28.1°C.

Mainly easterly winds varied between light and moderate with a maximum gust of 31mph on the 16th. The atmospheric pressure was generally high, but dipped mid-month, averaging 1019hPa. The maximum pressure was 1032hPa with a minimum of 998hPa. Recurring anticyclones dominated either side of a



cold front (area of low-pressure) in the middle of the month.

What was exceptional was the number of sunshine hours measured. With 245 hours recorded this was the highest in our area since 1895, when measurements were first taken. Furthermore, the 30th was the sunniest April day ever recorded. There was not a single day when the sun did not shine. Note that the Ultraviolet Index (UVI) becomes high at this time of the year even though the days may feel cool. Protection from the sun



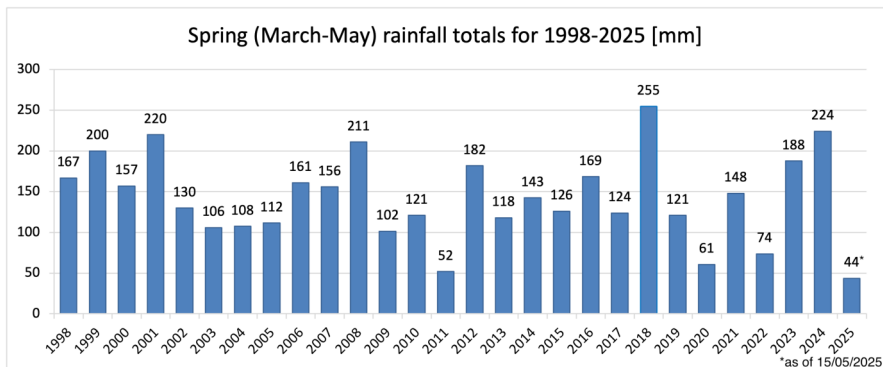
between 11 am and 3 pm is essential as unprotected skin will be damaged by the UV content of sunshine between the months of April and September, when the UVI regularly exceeds three, as shown

on the chart for sunshine and UVI levels.

Where has the rain gone?

We are currently experiencing one of the driest meteorological spring periods, ie March to May, since records began according to the Met Office [1]. As I write this article there are still two weeks until the start of meteorological summer on 1st June, so plenty of time for rainfall especially as school half-terms and a bank holiday approach! In the light of this announcement by the Met Office I looked up the rainfall data in Offchurch collected over the past 28 years, see chart below. If the rainfall for the remainder of May follows the current trend this will be our driest spring with just 44 mm of rainfall from 1st March to 15th May. However, 2011 will run this spring a close second at 52 mm and may still be the driest if we have more than 8 mm of precipitation in the next two weeks. Looking across the whole of the UK the rainfall for this spring needs to be under the 100.7 mm recorded in 1852, which is

currently the lowest spring rainfall. Note the considerable difference between the total UK measurements and those from our area due to different climatic conditions across our land.



Spring's UK wide sunshine record of 626 hours may also be broken. Currently, we have had 554 hours of spring sunshine here in Offchurch, which is still some way behind the current record for our area of 663 hours recorded in 1990 [2].

The reason for this settled period of weather is that the jet stream has taken a more northerly path than usual allowing high pressure systems emanating from the Azores and mainland Europe to dominate the UK, blocking the flow of the more typical unsettled weather from the Atlantic. Cool northeasterly winds have brought dry and mostly sunny conditions since early February. However, there may be a change to the wetter southwesterlies before long...

[1] <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/blog/2025/how-close-are-we-to-breaking-spring-records>, accessed 15/05/2025

[2] Burt, S. & Burt, T., 2019, Oxford weather and climate science since 1767, Oxford, OUP, p226

For local weather details and forecasts please go to: <https://offweather.hopto.org>

Richard Seaton
rkseaton@outlook.com



Saturday 7 June
Weston under Wetherley
Village Hall.
3.00pm- 4.30pm

Messy Church in June

All the usual crafts, stories, songs and fun on
the theme of God, Our Father

Let us know you can
come by emailing
[messyoff-
church@gmail.com](mailto:messyoff-church@gmail.com) or
text Jane on 07850
444316



OFFCHURCH GARDEN CLUB

Monday 30th June

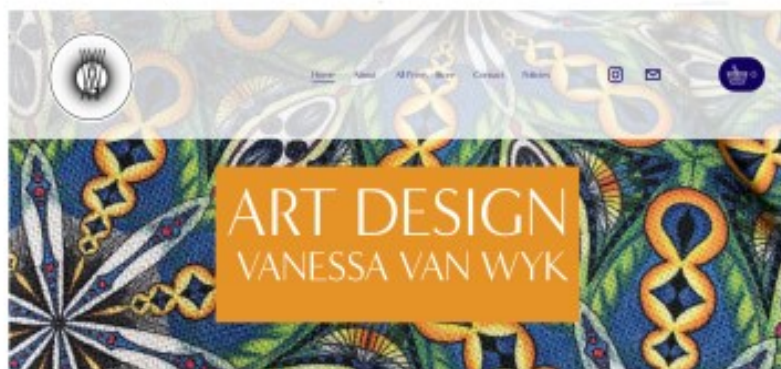
2.30pm meeting at Guy's Cliffe Walled Gardens for a
guided tour around the gardens

£5.00 per person, refreshments available at £3.50.

We require numbers so can all members contact
Heather or Val to confirm they are coming and if they
require refreshments.

Looking forward to a very interesting afternoon.

Contacts Heather 07780 999420 or Val 07895 032189.



MOBILE NO: 07523 656 614



Vanessa van Wyk

@VANESSA_V_WYKART

ARTDESIGNBYVANESSAVANWYK.CO.UK

*HI I'M A LOCAL RESIDENT OF WESTON UNDER WETHERLEY, I AM AN INTERIOR DESIGNER AND ARTIST.

FEEL FREE TO SCROLL THROUGH MY WEBSITE AND INSTAGRAM PROFILE FOR ALL THAT I OFFER.

IF YOU NEED SOME CUSTOM DESIGNS, THATS WHAT I LOVE DOING.

LETS COLLABORATE AND DEVELOPE A PATTERN OR IMAGE THAT IS UNIQUE TO YOUR ROOM OR REQUIREMENT*.



Joint Parish Council

Eathorpe, Hunningham, Offchurch & Wappenbury JPC

Working Together as a Community

Joint Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council has a new website which can be found at

www.ehow-jpc.gov.uk

Our next meeting is scheduled for 15th July at 7:30pm and is being held at Offchurch Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings. Residents can email or phone Parish Councillors if they have issues to raise.

For further information or an emailed copy of the meeting Agenda or minutes please contact the Clerk on

Clerk.jpcehow@outlook.com

The meeting dates for 2025

The dates below follow the usual JPC pattern of meetings.

January	21 st January
March	18 th March
May	20 th May
July	15th July
September	16 th September
November	18 th November

All welcome

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07523656614

soletruthreflexology@outlook.com

you can DM me on Instagram too:

[@soletruthreflexology](https://www.instagram.com/soletruthreflexology)

Responding to your concerns about anti-social behaviour in Warwick

You may have seen us patrolling at St Nicholas Park and a few other areas in Warwick over the past few weeks. That's because we've received reports from you of concerns about antisocial behaviour in those areas.

While out and about, we've seized multiple electric scooters and off-road bikes that were being used unlawfully and have

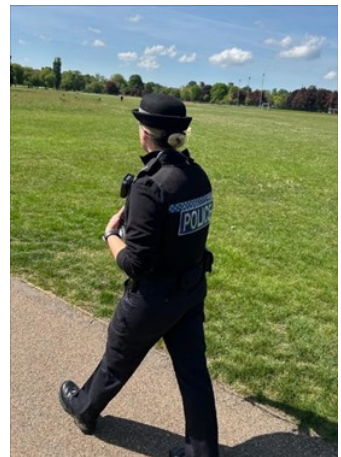
confiscated drugs from those we've met during patrols.

As well as this, we've responded to a variety of incidents - including reports of young people on the roof of a building, entering an abandoned property, and a suspected drug driver.



Warwick Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sergeant Ben Brewster said: "These patrols have hopefully provided a visible and reassuring police presence for Warwick residents, while acting as a deterrent to those who may be engaging in disruptive or criminal activity.

"If you have any specific concerns, please do come and speak to one of our officers. Through continued proactive



enforcement and engagement, we remain committed to reducing the impact of antisocial behaviour and criminality, and making sure you – our communities – stay safe and well.”

With the school half term break coming up, we'll continue to be out and about in town so please come and say hello!

Residential Burglary - Unconnected building - Weston Under Wetherley

We want to let you know about the following crime that's taken place near you.

Incident Reference: 23/18806/25

Date and time of incident: between 17:00 hours 03/05/25 - 12:00 hours 05/05/25

Location of incident: Rugby Rd, Weston Under Wetherley

Unknown offender(s) have approached a locked stable block and forced entry. They have made an untidy search and removed a red walk along mower.

If you noticed anything suspicious in this area around the time of the incident, please contact [Warwickshire Police online](#) or call us on 101.

Stolen Vehicle Alert - Offchurch Lane - Radford Semele

We also want to let you know about the following vehicle crime that's taken place near you. You're receiving this alert because you've told us you want to know about crime and incidents in your area.

Incident number:23/17600/25

Date and time of incident: between 08/04/25 at 16:00 hrs - 27/04/25 at 15:00 hrs.

Location of incident: Offchurch Lane, Radford Semele.

Unknown suspect(s) gained entry into the victims garage by an unknown means and removed the victims vehicle a Audi S6 without the keys. The suspect(s) made off with the victims vehicle in an unknown direction

If you noticed anything suspicious in this area around the time of the incident, please contact [Warwickshire Police online](#) or call us on 101 .

Please also be increasingly vigilant:

Please make sure that you remove anything of value from your car/van when you leave it unattended or overnight. Please also check that you've locked and secured your vehicle before leaving it.

For further advice on how to keep your vehicle safe, [visit our website](#).

Remember to always call 999 in an emergency. There are also a number of other ways you can get in touch such as by [reporting online](#) or calling 101. You can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Thank you for your support in keeping our neighbourhoods safe.



THE GREEN CORNER

The Reflections and Stories of Wendy Green

HOLIDAYS IN MALTA

We did succumb to buying a Time Share, but choosing Malta as our destination. We had one week per year for over 20 years. Brian loves Malta because he served there in the Navy, and I love it because I went on a wonderful Singing Tour there, with concerts in Cathedrals and Churches, in Hotels by a swimming pool, and on the beach.

Our family sometimes came with us, or went in our place, and loved it too! One year we took our first grandchild Joseph who swam like a fish when he was about 3 years old. The buses were very old, and generally didn't have a door, were very noisy and smelt strongly of petrol fumes so I opened a window. As we journeyed through the dry countryside my large straw hat flew right out of the window - and we laughed so much he remembers it to this day at nearly 30!

Brian and I always tried to arrange to go to Malta near our Wedding Anniversary in September. We booked a table in the evening for 7.30 at a local restaurant, and when we arrived the table was bedecked with flowers and candles and a bottle of ice-cold sparkling wine incidentally the road was very narrow, and as we enjoyed our delightful meal, two local buses, one coming up and one going down, got locked together!! It was a real drama - nobody was hurt, it was a very warm night, and proved to be a very entertaining evening - all our fellow diners swiftly made a party of it

Our hotel somehow heard about it too and there was a lovely cake and cards for us the next morning.

Wendy



Enjoy Life

Have Fun

Stay Active

Cubbington Seniors Association is a registered charity

Our focus is to promote the welfare and quality of Seniors' lives through the provision of a range of social and recreational activities and outings for our members. There are no membership fees and many activities are free or subsidised.



Membership is open to anyone aged 60 and above living in the villages of Cubbington, Offchurch, Weston-under-Wetherley, Eathorpe, Hunningham and Wappenbury. A younger spouse or partner, living at the same address, is also very welcome to join.

For information about joining us, please see our website

www.cubbingtonseniors.org

OR contact one of our Committee

Liz	chair@cubbingtonseniors.org	07857 416215
Jane	vice.chair@cubbingtonseniors.org	07906 543847
Frances	secretary@cubbingtonseniors.org	07854 483975
Colin	treasurer@cubbingtonseniors.org	07860 667669
Caroline	caroline.m@cubbingtonseniors.org	01926 831692
Ann	ann.k@cubbingtonseniors.org	07759 934052

Charity Number: 516878

EATHORPE VILLAGE HALL



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