

WOODMANCOTE NEWS

Autumn 2026

Edition No. 192



Interpretation Board on Stockwell Common

Photo: Sarah West

WOODMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

www.woodmancoteparish.gov.uk

email: clerk@woodmancoteparish.gov.uk

Woodmancote Parish Council is not a wealthy parish council when compared with neighbouring parishes. We rely mainly on our precept for funding. This is largely because there has been no housing development within the parish to provide access to CIL or S106 funding.

Consequently, a considerable amount of time is spent identifying other sources of funding and making applications. The projects planned for the recreation ground are currently awaiting the outcome of this work.

The Council have decided on Lease Terms for the Village Hall which will provide the best outcome for the parish. At the end of the current lease term the Council will temporarily manage the business until a new Tenant comes forward. If you are interested in managing the hall on the Councils terms, then please get in touch.

There will be some tree work on the recreation ground in early September. This will mean that access to some areas will need to be restricted while the work is taking place.

Finally, the local Speedwatch group continues to provide a valuable service to the village. The verified data is sent direct to the police who then decided any next action. If any residents would like to join the group, please get in touch with Sarah West via email sarahawest@blueyonder.co.uk or on mobile: 07515 496197.

Cllr Nigel Adcock, Parish Council, Chair

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TREE WARDEN NEWS

Nigel | tel: 07903 880448

I am looking forward to the autumn and winter planting season. The last two summers have been exceptionally hot and dry, which has inevitably caused some consternation and prompted a rethink about tree planting, establishment and the ability of newly planted trees to cope with increasingly difficult conditions.

Tree planting remains an important part of improving the village environment, but we also need to be realistic about species selection, planting locations and the ability to establish trees successfully in hotter and drier conditions. The experience of the last couple of years will hopefully help inform what and where we plant in future.

I would again ask landowners who have suitable land and would be interested in having trees planted to come forward. Having suitable sites available is an important part of allowing us to continue with the planting programme.

FLOOD WARDEN NEWS

Nigel | tel: 07903 880448

The exceptionally dry and warm weather continues to be a concern from a flood risk perspective. The soil is currently very dry and, in places, compacted. Should we experience a sharp storm bringing heavy rainfall, there is likely to be limited initial infiltration and consequently an increased risk of surface water runoff.

Local streams are currently at very low levels. This means that any silt, leaves and other natural debris generated in the upstream sections of the watercourses can be carried downstream quickly when rainfall arrives, with some of this ultimately reaching Honeybourne Meadow.

Trash screens are being cleared regularly and in accordance with the landowner's instructions. The advice from Gloucestershire County Council and GRCC is essentially to prepare before an event rather than wait for flooding to occur. Residents who feel their homes may be susceptible to flash flooding should take the opportunity now to check drainage, gutters, gullies and other potential routes for water, and consider simple property flood resilience measures where appropriate. GCC also recommends having a household emergency plan and knowing what to do if flooding occurs.

In short, now is the time to fix anything that could cause a problem, rather than waiting for the rain to arrive.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Nigel Adcock - email: Councillor.adcock@teWKesbury.gov.uk | tel: 07356 120339

Cllr Cheryl Agg - email: Councillor.agg@teWKesbury.gov.uk | tel: 07356 120340

The big announcement recently was the decision on Local Government Reorganisation, with Gloucestershire moving towards a single unitary authority. This will obviously bring considerable change over the coming period, although there is still a lot of work to be done before the new arrangements are in place.

Being August, the Council has been a little quieter than in other months. Nigel attended the recent Flood Risk Management Working Group and the CNL Nature Recovery Working Group.

Casework continues over the summer and, once again, Councillor Agg and I are grateful to residents who continue to contact us with issues and situations affecting them. We are always happy to look into matters where we can and raise them with the relevant authority or organisation.

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Winchcombe & Woodmancote Division

Cllr Cheryl Agg | email: cheryl.agg@gloucestershire.gov.uk | tel: 07903 880402 |

Facebook: Cllr Cheryl Agg | Instagram: @CllrCherylAgg

As we move through another busy summer, I would like to thank everyone in Woodmancote who contributes to village life, whether through local groups, volunteering, supporting neighbours or helping organise community events. The strong community spirit in our village is one of its greatest strengths.

I continue to work on a range of local issues raised by residents. I am pleased that improvements have now been made to the road signage on Gambles Lane, helping to improve safety and clarity for motorists and visitors using this route.

I am also continuing to press for progress on repairs to New Road. Residents will be aware that work is required by Severn Trent, and I know many people are keen to see these repairs completed as soon as possible. I will continue to seek updates and push for progress on behalf of the community.

Looking ahead, residents should also be aware of the forthcoming cycle race that will take place on Bushcombe Lane scheduled for Saturday 19th September 2026. While it is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our beautiful local area, there may be some temporary disruption on the morning, and I would encourage residents to look out for any traffic management information issued in advance.

At county level, one of the most significant announcements has been confirmation that Gloucestershire will move to a single unitary council, replacing the current two-tier system. There will be no immediate changes to services, but councils across Gloucestershire are now working on transition arrangements. Elections to a shadow authority are planned for May 2027, with the new council expected to come into operation in April 2028.

Gloucestershire County Council has also launched "Ask Grace", a new WhatsApp-based service designed to help unpaid carers quickly access trusted information, advice and local support. Available 24 hours a day, it uses AI technology to answer questions and signpost carers to relevant services.

Support for vulnerable residents continues to be a priority. More than £2.2 million has been allocated to strengthen domestic abuse services across the county, while a new Safeguarding Adults Strategy has been approved to help protect adults with care and support needs.

There has also been further investment in children and young people, including renewed support for SEND provision in mainstream schools, the adoption of a new Youth Justice Plan, and the recommissioning of advocacy and healthy relationship support services.

On transport, the Council has agreed the next steps in developing improvements around M5 Junction 9 and the A46 at Ashchurch. The scheme aims to improve transport links, support economic growth and reduce congestion in the area.

The County Council is also consulting on proposals to review fire cover arrangements across Gloucestershire, with the aim of improving emergency response times, particularly in rural areas. Residents and stakeholders will have an opportunity to share their views as part of the consultation process.

Finally, Gloucestershire continues to invest in community resilience and the future economy. Local projects are benefiting from the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund, while the county's Green Skills Conference has brought together education providers, businesses and public sector organisations to help develop the workforce needed for the growing green economy.

As always, I welcome hearing from residents about issues that matter to them. Whether it is a highways concern, a community project or a question about council services, please do get in touch.



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WOODMANCOTE VILLAGE HALL

www.woodmancotevillagehall.org.uk

email: askwvh@gmail.com

By the time you receive your copy of the Woodmancote News, you will no doubt have heard about the potential closure of the Village Hall. This arises because the current lease between the Village Hall and WPC (Woodmancote Parish Council) expires on 31st October 2026 and after 48 years of working together, the parties have not been able to agree terms for a new lease thereafter. The lease term creates obligations on the outgoing tenant to remove all its equipment and give the hall back with vacant possession. That would mean that the hall would have to close at the start of September so the trustees of the Village Hall would have 2 months to carry out these works.

Despite the Village Hall's best efforts, the parties do not even seem to be able to agree a formal legal waiver and schedule of works to prevent closure.

It is important to note that the Parish Council agreed to help the Village Hall modernise its constitution in 2024 and paid a grant of £5000 of public money to the Village Hall to pay their lawyers. The next step in the process was to renew the lease.

From May 2025 until the end of July 2026 negotiations have taken place.

- The current lease terms mean that the Parish Council is responsible for the structure of the building and any additions as well as its fixtures and security. It is also responsible for the repair and improvements of the field. As at March 2026, the Parish Council had £27,000 of reserves set aside for this purpose. The Village Hall was responsible for routine day to day maintenance and redecoration.
- From May 2025 to December 2025, we thought the plan was simply to agree a renewal on broadly the same terms. The main exception was that the definition of routine maintenance was never formalised but there was a "settled" position and this was going to be written down clearly in the new lease. The Parish Council paid for its lawyers to prepare a new draft lease which was sent to us in August 2025.
- In Early 2026, the Parish Council changed its position and wanted the Village Hall to take over all the financial responsibilities of maintaining the hall buildings and refused to agree to rectify the current defects before the responsibilities were in force – mainly in the roof and the sewerage pipes.
- We tried to make this work, but in the absence of the Parish Council agreeing to take responsibility for the existing defects, we could not proceed.

- We thought long and hard about what was being asked of us. Ultimately, we did not feel that the charity had either the financial resources, skills, or the volunteer time to take on those additional responsibilities AND we did not think that the resulting increases in hire charges that we would have to levy would be in the interests of the Community.
- Therefore, we asked the Parish Council to read out a statement in their June 2026 meeting to say that if a “full repairing lease was all that was on offer, we would have to very sadly decline the offer. However, if similar terms were available, we would like to continue to serve the community.”

The final directive from the WPC lawyers was received in August 2026 saying that as the Trustees do not accept the terms of the proposed lease, an alternative user will be found and in the interim the Parish Council will run the Village Hall themselves.

So, all the lovely users of the village hall may now have to remove all that belongs to them by in early September and stop their activities or find an alternative venue. There would be no happy children’s parties at the weekends.

The WPC will be left with stripped out halls, empty kitchens, no chairs – nothing.

We, the Trustees, urge you to ask questions of the Parish Councillors and demand answers to the key questions. What was wrong with the existing arrangements? And why has the Parish Council made such a major decision without consulting residents or having a single conversation about the subject in the monthly Parish Council meetings?

It has taken this management team 6 years to refine its systems and processes to enable it to run the hall with a very lean team of volunteers and sub-contracted support. It will not be easy for the Parish Council to just “run the hall themselves” and they are already saying that additional taxpayer money will need to be allocated to this work.

Why have the Parish Council done this and what do they intend for the future of YOUR village hall? You are encouraged to write to your Parish Council at:

clerk@woodmancoteparishcouncil.gov.uk
and
cllraddock@woodmancoteparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sally Ferrers, Secretary Woodmancote Village Hall
On behalf of the Trustees

WOODMANCOTE WALKING GROUP

Trevor Jeffery

The walking group has now been running for 6 months. We meet once per month, usually on a Sunday at 11am, for gentle walks in the local area of up to 3 miles in length. Everyone is welcome on the walks, including well behaved dogs on leads. Walks usually start at The Apple Tree car park and we return there for refreshments and chats after the walk. Each walk is announced on the community Facebook page. If you are interested in joining us, ask to join our Woodmancote Walking Group on Facebook or message me on 07984 145156 to join our WhatsApp group.





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COTSWOLD VOLUNTARY WARDENS

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cotswoldwardens/>

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens (CVW) have again been very busy in Woodmancote working on Stockwell Common. Lots of clearance work has also been undertaken to hopefully encourage the ancient limestone grassland to re-establish and grow back there.



The area that the interpretation board stands on is now framed with Cotswold stone chippings and edgings. The board simply helps you understand what you hear or see during visit to the common. There is parking in the lay-by just above the Common if you don't fancy the walk up from the village - it's well worth a visit!

Interested in becoming a Warden or joining one of their walks? Take a look on the Cotswolds National Landscape website for details: <https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/>.

Sarah West, Head Warden, Cotswold Voluntary Wardens



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NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Westaway and Rose Farm, Stockwell Lane

The owners of Westaway and Rose Farm would like to thank all the Woodmancote residents who visited their open gardens for the NGS scheme on Friday 5th June and Saturday 11th July.

Despite a weather forecast of rain in June and blistering heat in July over £1,500 was raised for the nursing and other charities supported by the NGS.

The gardens will be open again next year on 4th June. If anyone would like to join in by opening their garden on this or other dates, then please contact Liz Ramsay by email at liz.ramsay@ngs.org.uk. In addition, Westaway will be hosting, with a local artist, an en plein air painting day on Friday 18th June and details will be published on the NGS website in due course: www.ngs.org.



BISHOP'S CLEEVE GARDENERS' CLUB

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bishopscleevegardeners@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook 



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email: wccclubsecretary@gmail.com

As another cricket season draws towards a close, there is plenty to celebrate at Woodmancote Cricket Club, not least the incredible commitment of the volunteers, coaches, players and families who make the club what it is.

We start with a huge congratulations to one of our longest-standing volunteers, Janet Sawyer, who was recognised with the Lifetime Achiever Award at the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation Cricket Collective Awards.

Janet has been part of Woodmancote Cricket Club for an incredible 45 years. She first became involved back in 1981 when her husband, Steve, became an umpire and Janet took on the role of First Team scorer. Following the loss of her husband almost 20 years ago, Janet continued to score and has remained a constant and much-loved presence at the club ever since.



Over those years, Janet has watched generations of players grow up through Woodmancote Cricket Club. She has seen youngsters progress through the junior section and into senior cricket, and has been there through countless wins, losses, celebrations, and challenges. For many at the club, Janet is quite simply the heart of Woodmancote Cricket Club.

This year, despite facing serious health challenges, Janet has once again demonstrated her incredible commitment and dedication, continuing to give her time and support to the club. Her Lifetime Achiever Award is a wonderfully fitting recognition of everything she has contributed over almost half a century. Janet truly is the epitome of a club volunteer

— loyal, dedicated, generous with her time and always there for the club. We are incredibly lucky to have her.



We are also incredibly proud that Lucas Wichmann was shortlisted for the Young Cricket Collective Champion Award. Lucas has shown great leadership and enthusiasm through his involvement with our All Stars and Dynamos programme.

We are fortunate to have several young volunteers supporting our junior programmes, and their energy, commitment and enthusiasm make a real difference. It is fantastic to see our younger members developing as both cricketers and role models within the club.

As a show of our support for Janet, and to thank her for everything she has given to the club over the years, we have arranged two intra-club fundraising matches this year. The matches are raising money for the club and for Janet's chosen charity, FOCUS, which supports local people affected by cancer.

Senior and Junior Cricket

On the pitch, it has been a season of challenges for both our senior and junior sections. Wins may not have come as frequently as we would have hoped, but there is still plenty to be proud of.

Our senior section has continued to field three league teams every week, giving players across the club the opportunity to play competitive cricket. At the time of writing, with just three league games remaining, there is still plenty to play for, and all three teams will continue to give it everything right through to the end of the season.

Our regular Sunday and midweek friendlies have also provided valuable opportunities for those not playing league cricket to get out on the field, enjoy their cricket and represent Woodmancote.

Our U11 and U13 teams have worked incredibly hard throughout the season and have made significant improvements. It has been fantastic to see their skills, confidence and understanding of the game develop as the season has progressed.

Many of our juniors will move up an age group next year, and we are looking forward to returning to three junior age groups — U11, U13 and U15 — in 2027.

Our Ladies Softball team have taken part in several matches and continuing to represent the club with plenty of enthusiasm and team spirit. It has been great to see the team enjoying their games, supporting each other and making the most of every opportunity to get out on the field.

Bringing the Village Together

Our All Stars and Dynamos programme has once again been a huge success, with Friday nights bringing the recreation field to life. It has been fantastic to see so many young players and families enjoying cricket together. A huge thank you to Junior Coordinator Jacey Foster, along with all our coaches and volunteers, for making it possible.

Our summer cricket camps have also been a great success, giving young players the chance to develop their skills and, most importantly, have fun.

Cricket is about much more than the scoreboard. It is about development, friendships, teamwork and creating opportunities for everyone to get involved. Across the club, we continue to see players developing, young people progressing and new members getting involved and a strong sense of community.

As the season draws to a close, a huge thank you to every player, coach, volunteer, parent, committee member and supporter who has contributed to the club this year. We are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated community behind the club.

We are always keen to welcome new players to the club. If you are interested in finding out more about Woodmancote Cricket Club, or would like to get involved, please do get in touch — we would love to hear from you!

Katie Medhurst, WCC Club Safeguarding tel: 07854 907725



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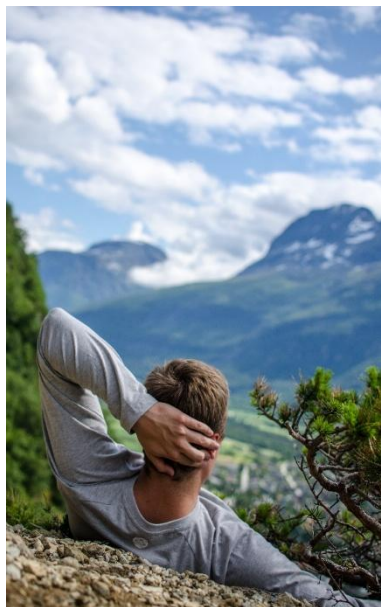
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Christian belief is a delusion...

At least, that's what celebrity atheist Professor Richard Dawkins thinks.



We, of course, are sure he's wrong. We reckon Christianity is more true even than scientific reality. But what do you think?

If you're interested in knowing about Christian belief and how it can impact your life, then our 'Christianity Explored' sessions this autumn may be right for you.

Friendly, low-key and unpressured, the sessions will be open to all – enquirers and doubters alike - who may be interested.

We intend to have two groups starting in mid-September, one for men and the other for women. If you would like to know more, call us or email us – contact details above.

In your dreams

Our church supports an orphanage In Freetown, Sierra Leone, where life for all, especially orphans, is scarred by drugs, corruption, abuse and gang-based violence.

In response to a request, early this year we decided to supply shoe bags full of necessities for the children, such as clothes, toiletries, stationery and toys.

How many bags shall we fill? was the first question. “A hundred,” said one church member. “Yeah, in your dreams,” muttered another doubtfully.

In the end we settled on that ambitious target, and asked church member Karen to head up the project. By God’s grace and the wonderful support of many Woodmancote neighbours, including our monthly coffee morning guests, local quilters, and generous individuals, we achieved the dream by June.



Karen with the 100 bags, which are now on their way to Sierra Leone

Talented local sewers also stitched essential sanitary products to enable the older girls to continue their education uninterrupted each month. Those too are on their way to Sierra Leone.

Many many thanks to everyone involved.

A Woodmancote wedding

For the first time in many years, we will be celebrating a Woodmancote wedding in the chapel in October.

Locals Marc and Roz are the happy couple. As our bell is still out of action awaiting restoration, they plan to borrow a friend's acoustic equipment to



provide the peal of wedding bells that will ring out across the village as the service ends.

Our attractive Grade II-listed chapel is available for a Christian wedding ceremony to anyone with strong Woodmancote connections. Please just get in touch.

Alan Craig, Church Leadership team

Woodmancote Church - All are welcome!

Weekly **Sunday Service** at 10.30am followed by coffee, cakes and chat.

We hold a popular **Neighbourhood Coffee Morning** at 10.30am on the first Thursday of every month (except August) at the chapel.

Free, including delicious home bakes.

Come along and try them!



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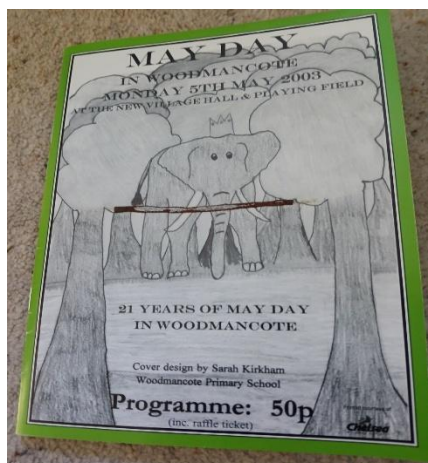
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May Day in Woodmancote 2027 – Monday May 3rd

Phew it's been hot! That started me thinking about previous heatwaves, 1976 is the one everyone references but May Day didn't start until 1983 so there are no photos from then!

Instead, I've dug out some photos from the May Day 2003 another year of heat waves, who do you know in these pictures? The May Queen and attendants will all be in their 30's now so probably bringing their own families to May Day.

We've started planning for next year's event and we have a theme – WOODLANDS – so as well as news about our woodland trees, we'd like info about woodland creatures – bats, owls, badgers, bird boxes and how we can help conserve these precious spaces – do you have any contacts or suggestions?



As always there will be dancing, Punch & Judy, hot food, a bar, rides, a packed field of stalls & games, craft fair in the hall, our amazing raffle and May Day teas and home-made cakes. In fact, all the things that make May Day your favourite community event.

None of this would be possible without your help, we need lots of help on the day, setting up, taking down, selling programmes and raffle tickets. If you can help or would like a stall on the field or a craft stall in the hall or can provide a raffle prize, please get in touch – details above.

Look out for information on our Easter Trail in the Spring edition of Woodmancote news. And do follow us on Facebook.

Finally, do hope you enjoy the following photos from the 2003 May Day – 23 years ago!





BISHOPS CLEEVE u3a

www.cleeve-u3a.org.uk

Vivien Paxford | email: vixenpax@gmail.com

Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 2.30pm in the Tithe Barn, Bishops Cleeve. You can expect a warm welcome. Monthly meetings include a talk by an interesting speaker followed by refreshments and an opportunity to mingle and chat with friends, both old and new. You are most welcome to come along and discover what the u3a can do for you and find out which interest groups may appeal. Prospective members may attend one 'taster' meeting prior to joining.

Cotswold Link Special Interest Day. On June 2nd along with other members of Bishops Cleeve u3a I attended a most interesting and enjoyable day in Cheltenham organised by Cotswold Link. The theme of the various talks was 'From pen to reader' which I found informative and sometimes amusing! Coffee breaks and lunch gave us time to mingle with other attendees, and we learned a lot about the world of publishing.



Special Interest Group: The Ramblers

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 8th September - the speaker will be David Elder talking about 'Cheltenham's Remarkable Buildings.'

Tuesday 13th October – 2.30pm - will be The Groups' Showcase at The Tithe Barn, the chance to discover which groups may hold interest for you plus tea and (usually) cake! Group Leaders will be on hand to chat and answer any questions you may have. If you have a suggestion for a new interest group – maybe a hobby of yours – do bring your idea along.



*Members of the Play
Reading Group*



We collect greetings cards (not Christmas cards) for the Cobalt Unit to recycle. These efforts help to fund diagnostic equipment, research and specialist nurses. If you have some of these please bring them along to any open meeting.

If you wish to discover more about these or any of our groups, please email our Groups' Coordinator at groups@cleve-u3a.org.uk.

Would you like to be involved in a Pantomime?

The Dramatic Villagers are looking for cast and crew members for their 2027 performance of "Cinderella". They are an amateur, charity pantomime whose aims are to raise money for the James Hopkins trust and to bring the magic of pantomime to all.

A whimsical, storybook-style illustration for a Cinderella auditions poster. The scene is set in a rustic, dimly lit room. In the center, a large, ornate, glowing pumpkin carriage is the focal point. To the right, a large, friendly-looking horse with a white blaze and a red collar stands. Several anthropomorphic mice are dressed in various costumes: one in a blue uniform and cap, another in a red hat and brown coat, a third in a pink dress and bonnet, and a fourth in a green outfit and hat. They are all holding lit candles, creating a warm, magical atmosphere. The background features a large, arched doorway and various household items like a teapot and a bowl. The overall style is reminiscent of classic children's book illustrations.

Cinderella AUDITIONS

Performances are
February 5th - 7th 2027
Prestbury Hall

Auditions:
Ellenborough Park Hotel Chapel
GL52 3NJ

Monday 7th September &
Monday 14th September
6:30 - 8:30pm

For info, email:
dramaticvillagerspantomime@hotmail.com

CLEEVE COMMON TRUST

www.cleevecommon.org.uk

Cleeve Common Trust Events Autumn 2026



Our Events listings can be found on www.cleevecommon.org.uk/events-calendar or follow us on Eventbrite, Facebook or Instagram. Please remember to book on if any of these take your fancy!

Heritage Open Days - Creative Connections Wellbeing Walk

Friday 11th September 1pm-3pm Join us for an adventure that's all about connecting creativity and wellbeing! This relaxed walk is perfect for meeting new people, enjoying fresh air, and connecting to nature and the special place that is Cleeve Common.

Heritage Open Day Foraging Walk

Wednesday 16th September 5:30pm-7:30pm Join Rob Gould, aka Cotswold Forager, and Nicole Dawe of Cleeve Common Trust for an explore of the tasty treats growing in and around Wardens' Wood and West Down.

Heritage Open Day Walk - The Forgotten Past of Cleeve Common

Friday 18th September 10am-12pm A strenuous walk over Cleeve Common with local historian David Aldred. Unveiling the everyday histories of ancient and modern life.

Ranger for the Day

Saturday 17th October 10am-2pm Learn some practical conservation skills before breaking for lunch and spending a bit of time building dens in the woods. Suitable for primary aged children and above.

Booking will be available soon for the following:

Family Fun Friday

Friday 30th October - during half term Pumpkin Trail - Follow the clues round the Cleeve Common Trail to find a pumpkin. Bring it back to carve ready for Halloween.

Fungi Walk with Joe McSorley

Saturday 7th November

Lino Print Christmas Cards with Gemma Hastilow

Saturday 14th November

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S GOT EVEN MORE TALENT

Lindsey Draper

I am always interested to find out about what Gloucestershire has given the world through the people who were born here, to date the gifts have been as varied as the lawnmower, the first successful vaccination programme - and custard powder! Here's another to add to the list.

In Syde, a tiny village in Gloucestershire is the grave of a man called Frederick Sanger. Sanger was christened and married in St Mary the Virgin Church in the village which is just a few miles south of Cheltenham. Frederick Sanger made truly groundbreaking discoveries, but you would never guess it from his memorial. On seeking out more information I found out just how exceptional Sanger's achievements were.

Frederick Sanger was born on August 13, 1918, in Rendcombe, Gloucestershire. In 1936, he went to Cambridge University and graduated in 1939 with a BA degree in natural science. Sanger remained at Cambridge University and in 1943 received a PhD degree in biochemistry. In 1951 Sanger joined the staff of the British Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge University and remained there until his retirement.

Frederick Sanger is the only Briton to have won two Nobel prizes and the only scientist to have been awarded the Nobel prize for Chemistry twice. The first came in 1958 for developing techniques to work out the precise chemical structure of proteins. Proteins are made up of amino-acids. Dr Sanger was able to determine which amino-acids and in what order are used to build the hormone insulin. The second Nobel prize came in 1980 for Dr Sanger's work on the building blocks of DNA. Sanger Sequencing, a process for reading the sequence of targeted parts of the human genome is still widely used today. Applications for the use of Sanger Sequencing include testing for family members at risk of certain diseases such as breast cancer and carrier testing for parents of children with conditions such as cystic fibrosis.

Here are two of the tributes to Dr Frederick Sanger after his death in 2013:

Dr Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust:

"Fred can fairly be called the father of the genomic era. His work laid the foundations of humanity's ability to read and understand the genetic code, which has revolutionised biology and is today contributing to transformative improvements in healthcare."

Prof Colin Blakemore, the former chief executive of the UK Medical Research Council:

"The death of a great person usually provokes hyperbole, but it is impossible to exaggerate the impact of Fred Sanger's work on modern biomedical science."

In 1992, the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council established the Sanger Centre, a research centre for furthering the knowledge of genomes. The Sanger Centre was one of the main sequencing centres of the Human Genome Sequencing Project.

Sources: www.genomiceducation.nhs.uk
www.guinnessworldrecords.com
www.dnaffb.org www.nobelprize.org



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Bishops Cleeve Tithe Barn

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www.woodmancoteshortmatbowls.com

Contact: Secretary Clive O'Gorman email: cliveogorman@hotmail.com

tel: 01242 693718 or 07810 333628

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Name	Contact Details
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Cheryl Agg	Email: cheryl.agg@gloucestershire.gov.uk Tel: 07903 880402
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The next edition of Woodmancote News will be published in December 2026. Please send your contributions to arrive with the editor by **Thursday 12th November 2026**.

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