



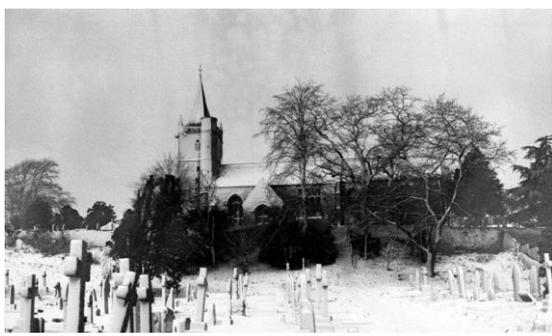
Above: Our Christmas Quiz in 2017



In the half light of Thursday morning Miss Mary Butterford digs her car out after it had become stuck opposite Worle's picturesque Magnolia Cottage. Picture: WESTON MERCURY



Above: Kewstoke Road under snow, and below, St. Martin's Church and Churchyard.



Welcome to our Christmas newsletter.

My first thought is that Christmas 2020 will be one we shall remember for years to come – probably with mixed feelings.

Many of us traditionally attend Carol Services and communion at St. Martin's Church. This year the church is restricted to 2 services.

Christmas Eve at 9.30 a.m. is a Communion service

Christmas Day at 10.30 a.m. will be Family Communion.

Numbers will be restricted, and anyone wishing to attend will need to phone the Parish Office on 515922 to book a place. You would also need to sign in on arrival.

The proposed re-organisation of the Parish has been postponed due to Covid 19, and we are unlikely to have a new vicar before the summer of 2021. In the meantime, Paul Elliott, the Church Warden is looking after things, and we must be grateful for his dedication.

The officers and committee of WHS will greatly miss our annual Quiz in December, and our New Year meeting at Worle Century Club.

A very happy, healthy Christmas to all of you, and we hope this newsletter will help to keep us all in touch.

Raye Green



Christmas Past in Worle

On a recent visit to the Parish Office Paul Elliott and I discussed the next article for the magazine, and Paul suggested Christmas in Worle. I was shocked to realise that our archives contained very few pictures and little information. I have decided to share what we have and plead for any memories and pictures you may have at home.

Luckily, the Kingsbury family evidently had a tradition of dressing in their Sunday best for Christmas, and they took this picture of Wilfred and Fred in 1914. That Christmas must have been a time of anxiety and prayer. Many young men would have been away at the front, and some of them would not return. Christmas spent with children, family and friends would be very precious in wartime.

Several young men did come home for the festive season and were photographed with mistletoe and bikes in the High Street. I wonder who took this treasured picture?





At the outset of World War 2 the people of Worle knew just how difficult life would be 'for the duration'. **In 1939** the Cricket Club decided to hold some celebrations to cheer folk up. The minutes tell us "*That a dance be held in the Church Hall on Friday, Dec. 10th & called Christmas Carnival Dance*". Pictures of this event would be wonderful to have in our archive.

Of course the Church bells were silenced across the nation, but they had some warning, so on Saturday 16th December the bells at St. Martin's Church rang for several hours when the bellringers had a special meeting.

There was also a whist drive at the Village Club in Mendip Avenue with generous Christmas fare as prizes.

The Mercury reported the Christmas festivities in Worle in some detail, which I think will take us back to those times:

"Christmas seems to have been a 'happy although quiet' festival in Worle. The children, including the numerous evacuees were well catered for, and this week many of the gifts the young people received were on view in the streets. An unusually large number of Cowboy and Red Indian outfits are to be seen....."

There were large congregations at the services in both the Parish and Methodist Churches. At the former place of worship a Christmas Crib was installed for the Festival and a special service, blessing it, was held before the early morning communion service. The crib, an electrically illuminated structure, with figures representing the stable at Bethlehem on the first Christmas morning, was made in Worle and the cost of the figures was defrayed by the Sunday School. The interior of the church was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens by a number of the ladies. The usual carol service was not held, but will take place on Sunday. The Methodist carol party raised a very satisfactory sum for church funds during their tour of the parish last week."

The local papers also tell us that a Monster Christmas Party for the children was held at the Church Hall during the following week, with all the evacuee children invited as well as the children of Worle.

The pandemic, lockdown and the loss of loved ones in 2020 helps us to understand what the people of Worle went through in two world wars.



Some of you may remember **Len Lippyatt**, who lived at **Number 1 Hill Road East**. Len had worked for **Fussells Rubber Co. Ltd**. He was a meticulous gentleman. In his retirement he made notes of things which were going on in the vicinity. His notes, from April 1972 to Feb 1985 were made on scraps of paper. They may jog our memories and start a conversation. The pictures were inspired by Len's notes.

- 20/4/72 Started clearing health centre ground
- 14/4/72 School meals at Church Hall end
- 11/9/72 Health centre roof started
- 18/9/72 Monday
- 2/10/72 Felting
- 30/10/72 Tiles
- 14/3/73 Trees Planted
- 18/2/79 Heavy snow fall
- 12/3/79 Very cold from snow to mid march
- 12/3/79 Pedlar left the shop. Maundy Thursday.
- 8/8/83 Coffee Garden open
- 7/11/83 Neathway's ground. Started on site.
- 21/11/83 Neathways – cabins brought
- 3/1/84 Neathways – start to site
- 12/1/84 JCB
- 19/1/84 Scaper?
- 30/1/84 Hymac
- 20/2/84 Seaward Road half finished?
- 21/2/84 Cabins moved
- 22/2/84 Foundations
- 25/2/84 Started building
- 8/3/84 Church path finished
- 13/3/84 Neathway wall finished
- 24/3/84 Building [Neathway]
- 18/5/84 Hymac left
- 18/6/84 Roof started
- 27,28/6/84 Concrete health centre floor
- 24/9/84 Greenwood Road flats Roof timbers
- 1/10/84 Slates on Greenwood flats roof
- 27/10/84 Slated and Fin???
- 15/2/85 Play School closed Friday morning



Above: Neathways demolition. Below: Outside the Church Hall



Len was cared for by two of his immediate neighbours until his death in 1990.



All the latest!

The changes around the top of Hill Road, and Worle Village Primary know no bounds. I see this morning, 4th December, that Hill Road is to become a one way street with no access from Church Road. A picture saves 1000 words so here are several grand!



Above: Courtesy of John McCreadie 2020



Raye Green 2017



Road Widening 1966



1886, and all is serenity!



Quiz Questions for Boxing Day from Bob Champ!

Roads near Worle High Street

1. Authors D.H. and T.E. both share their surname with this road.
2. What did we see on the doors in the Generation Game?
3. There is a boy's name and a girl's name in this tree lined road.
4. An ingredient in beer, whisky or even Horlicks could have been produced here.
5. This shady road has the same name as a man who according to legend cut his cloak in half and gave it to a beggar.

Local Schools

6. A verdant range of hills.
7. An Archbishop of Canterbury
8. Named after Walter of Douai's motte which is nearby
9. A drink behind this one?
10. The emblem of this evangelist is a winged lion.

Answers to raye.worle@gmail.com Closing date: Boxing Day

One Summer in Somerset

Member John Durston thought that readers might like to know about a rather jolly old film from the sixties that he has unearthed.

It is called "One Summer in Somerset" and there's a chance that some of you will have seen it. Nevertheless it's a nice frothy travelogue and a welcome reminder of summer days and no concerns about social distancing. I was a little bit mystified by the end though. What do you think?

But more to the point it was shot around Weston. Look out for the old forge that used to stand at the top of Hollow Lane (though blink and you might miss it!) and other familiar glimpses of a bygone age.

The film can be seen on YouTube and the link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5l6wa4rSpBA&t=73s>

Alternatively just go to YouTube and enter "One Summer in Somerset" in the search box.

Do let us know if you have any similar treasures that you would like to share through the Newsletter.

Website: www.worlehistorysociety.net

Email: raye.worle@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WorleHistorySociety>

A very happy Christmas to everyone