



Oyez

Edition 77 Sep/Oct 2024

Village Website: www.west-stafford.com



Introduction:

Tim Pryce: We wish we could start this month's newsletter with happier news, but it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our friend, Tim Pryce. Many of you will have known Tim and be very aware of how active he was in and around the village. Tim could always be seen around West Stafford, either walking his dog Moley, enjoying a pint at the Wise Man or carrying out his work.

Tim was born in Cambridge and went to school on the Isle of Wight where he worked as a farmer initially and in 1980, he moved to Dorset. He met Jane whilst living in West Knighton and they married in 1990. Tim and Jane's two sons, Hugh and Edward, were born while they were in West Knighton. After a very short spell in Hampshire and six years at Lewell, Tim set-up "Pryce Countrywide Services" and moved to West Stafford at the end of 1999. You will have seen Tim in and around West Stafford, not only at work but also helping out many villagers, more often than not giving of his own time. I think many of us will particularly remember Tim's generosity and willingness to help. Tim was a very prominent and active member of the West Stafford Community including helping out at many Village Hall events and as Tree and Flood Warden. You will also see much of Tim's work in and around the village including our own properties and gardens. We, for one, have several pieces of Tim in our garden.

There will be a service celebrating Tim's life at St Andrew's on **Thursday, 26th September** at 2:00pm. Tim was a much loved and hugely popular member of the Village and his passing will be felt by us all.

Future Events:

Friday, 4th October – Bingo Evening: Starting at 19:00pm in the Village Hall, the evening will include a charcuterie board supper, with a licenced bar and raffle. Come and enjoy the fun whilst raising funds for the ongoing running of the Village Hall. Tickets are £10 per person available from Sian Edwards (The Gardens, Rectory Lane) or sian_edwards@btconnect.com. Availability is limited so please book soon.

Needle Felting Workshops – Dorset Falconry Park: A reminder of the Needle Felting Workshops being held by Coralie ("Cogs") McGown at Dorset Falconry Park. The themed workshops are priced at £60, available for over 14-year-olds and include a sandwich for lunch, drinks and access to the Park. The remaining dates and themes are:

- Halloween – Saturday, **19th October**; Christmas – Saturday, **26th October**.

For more details including how to book, please contact Cogs on cogs72@btinternet.co.uk or [07971 923396](tel:07971923396) or contact the Dorset Falconry Park at enquiries@xtremefalconry.co.uk or [01305 250710](tel:01305250710).

Change of Date:

West Stafford Village Meeting – now on Friday, 1st November (not 25th October as previously reported):

For those new to the village or may not be aware, a Parish Council precept is a local tax that Parish Councils in England and Wales charge their residents. This tax is added to the council tax bill and is used to fund the parish council's budget for providing various local services and facilities. Parish Councils do not receive direct funding from the central government, so they rely on the precept to cover expenses for services such as maintaining playing fields and open spaces. The amount of the precept is determined through a budgeting process that considers the council's financial needs for the upcoming year.

This Village meeting on 1st November, will allow residents the opportunity to discuss and agree next year's Precept money. All are welcome to attend.

West Stafford Christmas Party: Please hold **Saturday, 13th December** as the date for the Village Christmas Party. More details to follow in next month's Oyez.

Other news:

Your Village needs you:

- **Village Hall Management Committee:** There are still vacancies for a Chairperson and Vice Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee. If you are interested, please contact Karen Jones (kjones060@googlemail.com).
- **Village Hall Grass-cutting Rota:** the Village Hall Management Committee are looking for volunteers to join a rota to cut the grass to the right of the Village Hall. If you are interested, please contact Jim Chamberlain (jim.chamberlain10@outlook.com)
- **Refurbishment of Village Hall Kitchen:** In February 2024, the Village Hall Management Committee applied to the National Lottery community fund for a grant to refurbish the village hall kitchen. In June, they received the exciting news that they have been awarded £15,000. Taking on board the results of the feedback they received they are pleased to say that plans for the kitchen are well underway. It is hoped that the new kitchen will be installed during the first week of November this year.

Village Play Park repairs: A big “thank you” to Aubrey Cutler, Woodsman of this Parish and his apprentice Richard Foxell for their wonderful efforts and assistance to repair the climbing frame in the play park. We are lucky to have such a great play park and we are very grateful for all the help and time people volunteer to keep it safe and tidy.

A note from our very own George Quinney (the next Chris Packham!): “Did you know, there are 6 native reptiles in the UK? You can see all of them in or not very far from West Stafford and this summer I've put some reptile survey tins around the village to try and find some reptiles. So far, we've had some Common Lizards (*Lacerta vivipara*) and lots of Slow Worms (*Anguis fragilis*). We've also seen Grass Snakes (*Natrix natrix*) in West Stafford and some people have also seen Adders (*Vipera berus*) whilst others have even seen Smooth Snakes (*Coronella austriaca*) which are strictly protected and require a licence to handle or disturb!

If you would like to learn more about UK native and non-native reptiles, please come round to my house (2 Church Cottages, just opposite the church) or I could take you for a walk”.

Thanks, George, a lovely idea and hopefully you'll have lots of people interested!

St Andrew's Church news:

Saturday, 28th September – FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE CHURCH - A CONCERT performed by CLAPPER CHAOS: There will be a “magical performance” of handbell ringing by the much sought after band Clapper Chaos on Saturday, 28th September at **7.30pm in the Village Hall** (doors open at 7pm). Their versions of well-known musical pieces are unique as they create their own arrangements. They play a variety of music from classical to pop and Disney. **Tickets are on sale NOW in The Wise Man Inn priced at £10 (CASH ONLY)** to include interval refreshments. This is an unusual event not to be missed! Net proceeds will support the ongoing work at the village church.

Remembrance Sunday on 10th November - anyone wishing to be involved in the service by ‘laying the wreath’ and/or ‘reciting the exhortation’ will be most welcome. Please contact Janet in advance.

The “Ride & Stride” on Saturday 14th September raised £100 by the Scott Family so “a BIG Thank You” to Gordon, Gemma & Fraser. They visited a number of local churches and cycled 32 miles.

Forthcoming Church Services:

Coffee will be from 10:45am, with services starting 11:15am.

- **Sunday, 29th September** – No service, joint Service of Holy Communion at St George's Church, Fordington at 09:45am
- **Sunday, 6th October** - Matins
- **Sunday, 13th October** - Harvest Service & Holy Communion
- **Sunday, 20th October** - Matins
- **Sunday, 27th October** - Holy Communion

Home Communion: If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Rev. Cora Yarrien on 262421 or email revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com.

Morning Prayer: is every Tuesday at 9:30am. All are welcome.

Private Prayer & Reflection: the church is open every day from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Church Contacts: Team Vicar - Rev. Cora Yarrien (Tel: 262421), Secretary – Janet Ranger-Dennis (Tel: 07752 634773)

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