

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Old Schoolroom on
Tuesday 28 May 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Joanna Rose, Catherine Rodnight, Wendy Kett, Sarah Gibbs, Judy Nagele, Mike Stevens, Colin Rose

Acting Chair and Minutes Secretary: Joanna Rose

1. **Receive Apologies:** Ruth Millard

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 May 2023**

The minutes of 23 May 2023 were agreed and signed. The signed version would be uploaded to the Weedon website to replace the draft.

3. **To receive a report from Chair of the Weedon Parish Council**

Chair of Weedon PC Cllr Joanna Rose presented the report from the Parish Council.

4. **To receive reports from other Weedon village organisations**

Reports were given by:

- Weedon Village Association – Catherine Rodnight, Chair
- Weedon Old Schoolroom – Joanna Rose, Chair of Trustees
- Weedon Charities (Dr John Bridle’s Charity & Lord Fortescue’s Charity) – Wendy Kett, Clerk
- Tuesday Club –Judy Nagele, Chair
- Weedon Methodist Chapel – Sarah Gibbs, Head Steward
- Weedon Wildlife Group (Wild Weedon) – Mike Stevens, Chair
- Weedon Golf Society – Colin Rose, Chair

Copies of reports are appended to these Minutes.

5. **Public Open Forum**

No issues raised.

6. **To agree the date of next meeting.** Tuesday 27 May 2025 to be held in the Old Schoolroom

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chair’s Signature

Date.....

Weedon Annual Parish Meeting 2024

28th May 2024

Report by Joanna Rose on the Parish Council April 2023 to March 2024

As with most public bodies, the Parish Council financial year runs from April to March. This is a report on the financial year April 2023 to March 2024.

Constitution and Meetings

In the year to March 24, six regular scheduled general meetings (every other month) plus two additional planning meetings were held in the Old Schoolroom.

The council was at its full strength of 7 councillors until the end of February 2024, when Cllr Poonam Gupta resigned. We thank her for her service. There is currently a casual vacancy, which can be filled by co-option. The next parish council elections are in May 2025.

The Council continues to be supported by our experienced and efficient Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Ruth Millard, who has been employed by Weedon PC since 2013.

The main part of Weedon Parish Council's work is looking after public areas of the village for the community

1. The Park and Play Area

The Park is owned by the Parish Council. We arranged for grass cutting, hedge pruning, path weedkilling, lawn improvement treatment, inspection and maintenance of the play equipment and emptying of the litter bin. To supplement the annual inspection by ROSPA, we were grateful to volunteers John and Frances Smith for checking the Park every week in the summer, as well as carrying out cleaning and re-coating to benches and seats. A new volunteer has now taken over for the new year.

The Park play equipment continues to be robust, requiring only minor repairs to bring it into compliance with the ROSPA recommendations. Works were carried out checking chains, tightening bolts and other fittings, reinforcing the two platforms of the climber challenge with additional coach bolts, replacing strimmer guards around the base of several posts, re-fitting bird spikes on the two swings, replacing a degraded timber post in the palisade and sanding some of the timber surfaces of the equipment and the fence. The PC was grateful to Gerry Millard for carrying out these repairs professionally at a competitive rate in a timely manner.

At Christmas, the PC again purchased a tree, which was placed on the Park. The previously purchased fairy lights were used again to great effect.

In January, the full complement of trees in the Park were professionally trimmed by South Bucks Tree Surgeons, raising the canopy to secure the future flourishing of the trees and avoid overhanging of the play equipment.

2. Weedon Graveyard and War Memorial

The PC manages the graveyard under a 99-year lease. We arranged for the maintenance of the grounds and handled the administration for new graves and memorials and plot reservations.

Tree surgery works were also carried out here on the bottom left and right of the graveyard by SBTS, to remove overhanging of large tree branches over the graves and reduce accident risk.

We were grateful to Paul Winrow, who continued his volunteer work checking the graveyard on a regular basis and carrying out clearing and tidying around the graves. A volunteer grounds blitz was also organised for May last year in advance of the Best Kept Village contest.

On the graveyard management side, the burial register and graveyard plans were reviewed and reconfirmed. Deposits made by residents in the past to reserve grave spaces were regularised into certificates of Exclusive Right of Burial (EROB) and issued to owners. The Schedule of Fees and Graveyard Regulations were reviewed and updated as usual in April. A continued annual donation towards the upkeep of the graveyard by a former Weedon resident was again most welcome.

3. Other public spaces

We had the grass cut and weeds controlled around the pond and on the village green triangle. Steve and Jayne Richards continued to care for and feed the ducks with grain paid for by the PC. The High Street Pump trough and the barrel on the Triangle were beautifully planted and maintained by Clare Macdonald (triangle), and Christine and Nic Nicolay (pump).

A very important public facility to keep the village clean and safe is the provision of dog bins. There are now 3 dog bins (purchased by the PC) spaced through the village, and the PC pays for them to be emptied regularly. There are also 7 litter bins – also provided at the PC's expense. One of these on the A413 at the Aylesbury-bound bus stop was replaced due to unrepairable damage.

4. Footpaths

The Council monitors footpaths to ensure landowners keep them clear and undertakes clearance itself on Footpath 12 from New Road to Lilies wood.

5. Streetlights

These are owned and maintained by the Parish Council, and the PC pays for the electricity to power them. The heritage-style lanterns were converted to LEDs in 2020, which reduced electricity usage and cost significantly. For 23-24 we were fortunate to be continuing in a fixed-price contract, so electricity expenditure was kept at a similar rate to last year.

6. Speed control

Community Speedwatch sessions continued over summer and autumn last year. We currently have 12 trained volunteers and are planning a week-long blitz of sessions in September.

We have 2 Mobile Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (MVAS), which are still being rotated around the 6 approved sites in the village. We decided to purchase another improved-specification MVAS – with solar power and red/green indicators of vehicles' actual speed. This will be installed soon on the Aston Abbots Road, as a technical issue with the pole size and location is being resolved.

We are always looking out for speed control measures we see in other villages which would be permitted by Highways legislation, and affordable for Weedon. I must stress that ANY speed control measure must be approved by Bucks Highways, as they have ultimate authority over all the roads, pavements, verges and signs throughout the county.

7. Highways

And so on to other Highways matters. We continued our Devolved Services contract from Buckinghamshire Council, for which we receive a grant.

Weedon PC arranges grass verge cutting within the 30mph limit, road and pavement weedkilling, sign cleaning, and monitoring of hedges bordering roads. These works are carried out for us by a local contractor. The wildflower verges on Aston Abbots Road are establishing well, with very encouraging signs of many native wildflowers and grasses, plus more bees, butterflies and other wildlife.

While New Road is not included in the Devolved Services contract, we are aware that the cuts carried out by Bucks Council are not sufficient to maintain good visibility for vehicles and accessibility for the footway. So, the PC pays for an additional two cuts of New Road verges.

8. Noticeboards, Newsletters and Website

The village website at www.weedonbucks.org.uk was maintained by the PC and hosted locally. Community organisations have access to their site areas and can update them.

Email has continued to be important. The Parish Magazine is now delivered digitally to the majority of households, but those not on email are provided with printed copies.

The annual Parish Council newsletter/update was published in September and hand-delivered free of charge to every home in the village.

Best Kept Village

We won the Tindall Cup in 2023 for category winners from the previous year. This was the first time we had won in that "cup-winners' cup" contest, so it was especially gratifying. This year we've entered again – back in our usual category of villages under 500 people. With the difficult weather, it's hard for the PC's contractors – and everyone else! – to keep on top of the weeds and grass, but I know everyone will do their very best again.

King's Coronation

The Parish Council has the power to spend some of its budget on items which are not otherwise allowed for in local government legislation. Following the success of the street party for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022, we decided to make a similar grant of £500 towards the celebration of the King's Coronation in 2023. Weedon Village Association was able to use these funds towards a fabulous free Celebration Picnic in the Park with a 20-piece Jazz Big Band.

The Gap Field

Following the grant of planning permission for one house to the Palmer family for the left-hand half of the Aston Abbotts Road gap land, legal contracts are close to being finalised for the remaining gap field to pass into Weedon Parish Council ownership, with a long leaseback as a bio-diverse wildlife haven to Richard Bates. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Parish Council Vice Chair Sarah Gibbs, a practising solicitor, for all her legal work on a pro bono basis to finalise these agreements.

Clearing, fencing, hedging and wildflower planting have already been carried out at RB's expense, and the PC has authority over a public area on the pavement side of the fence. When the new house and landscaping are completed, a new public bench seat funded by RB and the Palmers will be installed on this land, ensuring the village has a place to sit and enjoy the stunning restored views across to the Chiltern Hills.

Another important element of the parish council's work is in liaising with outside organisations

Planning (Buckinghamshire Council)

The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application for building in Weedon. We can respond with No Objection, Support, Comment or Objection. We consider our response to every application at a public meeting. We also monitor tree works applications in the Conservation Area. There were relatively few planning applications in the year (4) and the PC had no comments or objections for them.

Highways and Waste (Buckinghamshire Council)

As outlined before, we continue to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council, who have responsibility for all the roads, footways and footpaths in the county, to try to speed up repairs and resurfacing of the roads and maintain safe visibility through verge cutting on main roads. In addition, we report fly-tipping and any issues with waste collection to the StreetScene waste department.

Other Organisations

Councillors attended meetings of the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board, a forum set up by Buckinghamshire Council to bring together parish and Buckinghamshire councillors and other local stakeholders in one relatively informal quarterly session. This forum helps us stay informed and linked into projects in the wider local area.

Thames Valley Police

The Neighbourhood Team are invited to come to Parish Council meetings periodically. The PC receives Police, Trading Standards and Neighbourhood Watch alerts, which we pass on to residents as appropriate.

Financial and Administrative

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 were audited and submitted last summer. The 2024 accounts have been finalised and will be submitted for audit by the end of June.

The PC's main income comes from the parish precept, funded by residents' Council Tax. In 23-24, the precept was £14,034, which meant that Weedon residents paid the same amount of village Council Tax as they had for the previous 13 years. We maintained services and covered our routine expenditure with the precept and budgeted income grants. Exceptional works and asset purchases (the new MVAS) came out of previous reserves.

Due to the effects of recent inflation, we have finally had to make a small increase of 2.95% in people's council tax for 24-25. But we still maintain a prudent level of contingency reserves.

2023-24 was another good one for Weedon Parish Council, winning the Tindall Cup in the Best Kept Village competition, confirming the agreements on the village gap, contributing to a memorable celebration of the King's Coronation, and continuing to invest in measures to improve road safety in our village. I'd like to thank sincerely all my fellow-councillors, the clerk, our contractors and volunteers, the other village organisations and certain key individual residents for making all of that happen.

Weedon Village Association Annual Report 2024

Review of the year February 2023 to January 2024

We represent the village association which organise events throughout the year making a profit where we can and re investing it into the village

Wendy Kett is our Treasurer and our committee, Catherine Rodnight, Mandie Fairhurst , Lizzy Birks, Lottie Holmes Sally Jones, Helen McIntyre and Penny Stevens.

We have had a successful year with our regular events and this year the Weedon Ball is back into our agenda for 2024.

The egg rolling event brings out a great variety of villagers, come rain or shine. The rain was threatening but we were fine until the rolling - Clare McDonald was a trooper and encouraged the eggs down Stockaway despite torrential rain at that point!! One to remember.

We did the clear up at the beginning of May 2023. We are always grateful to the village for the amount of people who turn up to this event as it makes it so much easier. Thank you to Joanna for providing the pickers and bags and organising the collection of the rubbish.

The Coronation last year on 7th May was a great event bringing all villagers out. We ran a free tea party on the playground and together with the excellent cake that Lizzy made and other delicious contributions from the committee, it brought us all together to mark a very special event. We were lucky with the weather and the Five Elms was very supportive.

Open gardens last year was a very successful event very well organised by Lizzy and it was so lovely to have some gardens open that we wouldn't normally be able to see. This time we did this end of the village with tea at Joanna and Colin Rose. Thank you so much to Joanna and Colin. Great tea – thank you to the committee for their baking skills and we raised a good sum of money which Wendy will go into shortly.

The barn dance was offered but not enough take up to run this event this year. Hopefully we manage to do this again another time.

The horticultural show is always a well attended village event and we had a great show this year. Lots of entries and a good turnout with a good auction at the end. Thank you to Clare McDonald for the organisation and it made a profit and there were some excellent entries in all categories.

We did the BBQ the week after, but didn't have the band this year. It wasn't as well attended but the experiment of a bank holiday Monday was partly to blame. We are going back to Sunday afternoon this year which will hopefully work well and will grab a local band.

There was a quiz in November with Bob Gregory and it was a great evening in the schoolroom. We get a good The committee did a great job of providing dinner instead of the usual fish and chips and it is in the calendar again for a couple of quizzes as usual.

The childrens parties were very well organised by Penny Stevens thank you so much . We don't have as many children attending now, but it is a lovely event with a lot of passion in it! Thank you to Penny.

January saw the usual over 65 knees up with great background jazz from Mike Stevens which was a lovely change. We didn't have as many people this year – a few last minutes fall outs, but we had over 40 which made a good party. The committee are excellent at creating a lovely meal and whilst we have to work hard, it is fun for us and the guests. We get extra helpers on the night including Shirley Bush and Beverley Green - thank you both.

I wanted to say a big thank you to the committee who are all going to be standing again. We all seem to dip in and out depending on our commitments and without them it wouldn't be the Committee it is. Thank you also to all of you for supporting our events. We are always open to new ideas so please let any one of us know if you would like to see a particular event this year or if you would like to join the committee – new members very welcome!

Chair's report WOS for APM April 24 re year 2023

Another successful but challenging year has gone by in Weedon Old Schoolroom. Despite the major concern for 2023 being energy prices and usage, we managed to find our way through the hugely hiked costs and the vicissitudes of the hall heating controllers to end the year in much better shape than when we started with a strong level of hirings.

LETTINGS

For the calendar year 2023, lettings continued to build back very strongly from the closures of the pandemic, ending up even higher than the last pre-Covid year of 2019. Yes, there are price rises in there, but there was also increased occupancy, including of the cottage upstairs room, which was hardly ever hired in the past.

We had no new grants to fall back on, but fortunately we had been able to preserve a fair percentage of the previous covid payments we received, and these helped to cushion some of the cost increases. That has meant we haven't had to raise prices again since April last year and we're still extremely competitive in the local area.

Our regular hirers are much appreciated – for the main hall Yoga with Paul, Body Tone with Tara, Tuesday Club, Art and Upholstery groups, as well as events from Weedon Village Association and the Parish Council. Taekwondo and a Hindu community group also booked most months in 2023. Private parties and ad hoc bookings are still infrequent, but there's nothing quite like being able to host a children's party for a Weedon resident to gladden the hearts of the trustees.

The Weedon resident who books the cottage upstairs room for her counselling sessions has been an absolute stalwart of hirings – by far the most hours of any hirer in 2023. That room works so well for her and we're delighted – particularly when we finally got to the bottom of how we could heat it economically!

THE CAFE

Need I say more about the popularity of the Schoolroom café than that we now have people popping in for takeaways? Last month there was practically a family party when a young couple from Rectory brought both sets of in-laws and their daughter! We love hosting this event, it's a highlight for the trustees and residents alike. And it contributes significantly to funds due to the generosity of the team of bakers and committee members.

EXPENDITURE

After 2022 being the year in which we invested in electrical items and their checking, in 2023 we had a dramatic increase in the cost of the electrical energy – mostly on heating.

For the first few months of the year, the prices were still discounted, but our usage was high, as we hadn't really realised how to heat the upstairs cottage room on its own, without the main hall system being on, too.

Then, due to the government's withdrawal of energy price discounts, our long-time supplier of renewable electricity Ecotricity increased its prices substantially.

We've taken the steps we need to put this right now, but of course they happened in 2023, and that's why the cost was so high.

Those improvements are already showing in reduced costs in the early part of 2024:

- We have now changed our electricity supplier, with significantly cheaper rates
- We installed a new stand-alone heater in the upstairs room so that can be heated independently
- We introduced a more economical timer control regime for the main hall, which saves a lot on usage
- We've had the loft insulation over the kitchen and the upstairs room increased substantially

OTHER REPAIR WORKS

Other long-planned repair works show up in last year's figures, too.

- Repair of the cottage windows
- Full re-staining of the outside of the front doors and noticeboard, plus interior decoration of the chimney wall

ADMIN

As we do every year, we reviewed all our policies in November and published revised versions on the website. These include the Fire and Safety Risk Assessment, General Risk Management Assessment, Privacy Policy (and attendant GDPR inventory documents), Safeguarding Policy, and Complaints Policy.

We also reviewed and updated our Hiring Agreement root and branch to bring it into line with new iterations of the recommended template published by ACRE, plus we introduced a new Hiring Policy, also at ACRE's recommendation. We haven't changed what we do and how we treat hirers – we've just written it down in a policy!

TRUSTEES

I'd like to thank the trustees of the Old Schoolroom for all their work during a difficult year for finances. Particularly Alan Askew, as Treasurer, who has masterminded the switch to the new electricity supplier, and done many calculations to help us see how to move forward on the energy challenge. But all the trustees have done more than their bit.

Margaret Askew, Secretary, Penny Stevens, Judy Nagele, Anne Redstone, Lizzy Birks, Beverley Jones and Shirley Bush

Jill Lynch cleaned the hall each week, for many years. We thought she was impossible to replace, when she retired in September. But luckily we found a Buckingham Park lady who cleans for other villagers, and she has taken over seamlessly. Thank you to them both.

I've mentioned Shirley Bush in her role as Trustee. But of course, she and husband John are the long-standing and incredibly hard-working unpaid Bookings Secretaries and Building Supervisors. Their work on handling the heating issues was unstinting – thank you both so much.

I'll be honest, there were some worrying times last year when we read the shocking electricity bills! But the team of trustees were there to work together, and we've come through, thanks to them.

Joanna Rose, Chair of Trustees, Weedon Old Schoolroom, 10th April 2024

Dr. John Bridle's & Lord Fortescue's Charities 2023

Dr John Bridle's Charity provides grants to applicants living in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hardwick, which covers Weedon, Hardwick and the south side of Bushmead Road, Whitchurch. Grants are either for people in need or for those in education, and are not means tested. Lord Fortescue's Charity provides grants to residents of Weedon who are in need and can also give grants for the general benefit of the residents of the village.

Dr John Bridle's Charity

About half the income of the charity comes from agricultural rents and half from investments. A small increase in investment income resulted in a 1.5% increase in total income.

During 2023 grants totalling £5,700 were awarded to 19 residents of Weedon & Hardwick (21 in 2022), 8 as Educational grants and 11 as Need grants.

Lord Fortescue's Charity

Over 90% of the income of the charity comes from agricultural rents with the remainder from investments. Income for the year was 19% up on the previous year.

In 2023 Need grants totalling £3525 were made to 8 residents of Weedon.

Leaflets for both charities were printed and delivered to all households in their respective areas of eligibility. Each leaflet provides details of the sort of expenditure for which the charity can provide assistance and includes an application form. Application forms and information about both charities is also available on Weedon village website www.weedonbucks.org.uk and for Dr John Bridle's charity on Hardwick Village Association website www.hardwick-village.co.uk

Tuesday Club Annual Report - 2023/24

In April 2023, we started our 47th year with a healthy membership. We have 12 meetings a year and many of our meetings are open to non-members at a small cost. Our membership subscription had to be increased to £15 annually which still covers the 12 meetings.

We aim to provide varied and interesting talks with good speakers in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Some of our speakers have been coming to Weedon for many years and it is always a pleasure to meet up with them again.

In August 2023, we had a coffee morning for the Florence Nightingale Hospice and raised £511 thanks to the hard work of the Committee and with the generosity of all those who attended.

At Christmas, we had light refreshments in good company followed by an enjoyable evening of entertainment consisting of music and humour from Colin Rose and Steve Hunt.

It must be said that we have a very hard working and dedicated Committee who get things done in a relaxed and convivial environment, as well as a loyal and supportive membership.

It has been a very enjoyable and fun 12 months, and we very much look forward to 2024/25.

Report relating to Weedon Methodist Chapel for the Annual Parish Meeting 28th May 2024

The year to end March 2024 has been – for once - a normal year in the Chapel's calendar.

The local ecumenical partnership between the Methodists at the Chapel and the Anglican St Mary's in Hardwick is governed by a joint committee which oversees all aspects of church services, buildings, policies, finances and events. It meets every two months and there were 6 meetings during the year.

Sarah Gibbs is Chapel Steward and maintains the links with the Aylesbury Methodist Circuit for the planning of all church services and Methodist policies such as safeguarding and data protection. She attends the regular Circuit meetings. Facilities and maintenance of the Chapel are carried out by Sarah with the help of Paul Winrow, Graham Delaney and, as required, John Jones to all whom the committee is very grateful. John spent a whole day chopping foliage from the Chapel building and immediate surrounds and we also had a successful clear up from a volunteer team of residents during the year (recently repeated with a Community Payback Team from the Aylesbury probation office).

The monthly family services at the Chapel continue to take place on the second Sunday of the month led by ministers from the Methodist Circuit and have been pretty well attended. We held a special Christingle service in December and a very successful Christmas Event which involved some songs, readings and refreshments thanks to all involved with participating – and to Saskia Welman for helping to organise, Steve Hunt for his musical skills and to Clare Macdonald for her support.

The November remembrance event also took place in the Chapel grounds and we had a selection of new readers and a very good turnout for what has proved to be a distinct act of respect in the village. Thank you to Stevie Ashurst for being the Standard-bearer.

A couple of funerals have occurred at the Chapel over the year and one baptism, but no weddings during the period. The building has been used for various other activities such as Lent walk teas and occasionally the Art Club and Parish Council meetings when the Weedon Old Schoolroom is otherwise occupied.

Outreach has continued from the Chapel with regular foodbank collections organised in favour of the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse, a Christian body which serves the Aylesbury area. These collections have been very well supported by the village and are gratefully received by the Vineyard.

The Chapel building has been made watertight with new roof tiles and guttering to prevent further ingress and the interior – particularly the schoolroom end - is now in need of repair and redecoration. We are looking at getting a scaffolding platform to have the ceiling and walls repainted so that we can make some more use of this space and are still

investigating ways of using it for purposes other than just the services and considering what updates the building will need to accommodate any new activities there.

The Chapel funds are now back to pre-Covid levels, thanks largely to the ongoing standing orders from residents and also due to the Methodist Circuit agreeing to accept a reduced Circuit Share (the contribution towards Ministerial costs) for another year – the goodwill is unlikely to extend much longer so we will be looking at ways of bolstering funds. Joint fundraising activities with St Mary's included a cream tea, Remembrance concert and Easter events.

Sarah Gibbs
Chapel Steward
27 May 2024

Weedon Wildlife Group – Report to Parish Meeting – May 2024

This Group was formed early in 2020 following a combined initiative by the Parish Council and BBOWT (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust). Although named after Weedon village, we are also recognised by Hardwick as their own local wildlife group, and we encourage members of both villages to participate in our events. Membership is open to all and there is currently no membership fee. Activities are funded by voluntary donations. This is our fourth report to the Parish Meeting. We continue to be very active and we are delighted to report that our events are well supported by villagers of all ages.

Since the last Parish Meeting, we have achieved the following:

- Maintained control of our finances
- Held our third Annual General Meeting during which membership of the committee was confirmed: Mike Stevens (Chair); Sally Jones (Secretary); Wendy Kett (Treasurer); Martin Routledge (Conservation and Survey Officer); Saskia Welman (Social Media and Communications); Penny Stevens (Education and Engagement), Jackie Brett (Hardwick Liaison). Although each committee member has a stated 'role' we operate very much as a team
- Continued to hold regular committee meetings which are always well attended, lively and convivial.
- Since September 2022 we have been supporting the River Thame Conservation Trust (RTCT) through their 'Citizen Science' initiative - engaging local people to assist in monitoring the quality of water flowing towards the River Thame. This catchment which includes the brook between Weedon and Hardwick. Of the 35 identified test sites, Wild Weedon has responsibility for regular monitoring of three ('Hardwick All'; 'Fleet Marston, Denham, Pitchcott ALL'; and 'Upper Thame ALL'). This is an exciting activity providing evidence for RTCT to inform businesses, landowners and water treatment authorities regarding the impact their activities may be having on the waterways forming the river Thame catchment. The tests take place monthly and cover: Nitrates; Phosphates; Turbidity; Ammonia; Temperature; pH – Acidity. We have successfully completed our nominated tests every month apart from when a test site has been inaccessible due to flooding of the access route.
- Supported the Parish Council in their initiative to re-wild roadside verges around the village
- Submitted regular articles for the Parish Magazine
- Continued to encourage use of the moth trap, kindly on loan from BBOWT, enabling villagers to gain an insight into the variety of these fascinating creatures near the bottom of the food chain.
- Collaborated with the Weedon Open Gardens event to highlight wildlife-friendly features incorporated into their designs, with a view to encouraging such features in visitors' own gardens. Continued to arrange talks, including an excellent presentation by John Catton from the Bee Conservation Society on Bees, Pollinators and Climate Change which preceded our third AGM in September.
- Published our third Wildlife Calendar, featuring photographs taken in and around Weedon and Hardwick.
- Continued to arrange 'Wildlife Trails' which have attracted participants from all age groups
- Continued to monitor the progress of elm trees planted in our first year. One the three saplings planted in Fortescue field seems to be struggling but we are delighted that the centrepiece planting of five elms in the field behind the chapel (a contribution to Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy initiative) have survived and appear to be doing well
- Maintained our website at www.wildweedon.org.uk (120 visitors / 180 sessions in the last year). 29 villagers have 'signed in' to the site, giving them access to the Members' page where a copy of all the presentations made to date can be viewed. The website is a good source of information for anyone interested in supporting wildlife, whether new to the subject or more experienced. We aim for it to be accessible for all ages, informative, educational and fun.
- Under the banner of 'Wild Weedon', our social media platforms on Facebook and Instagram attract modest numbers of visitors. Our Facebook page has 89 members and Instagram has 70 Followers.
- We have finally decided on the design of our logo, which now features on all our advertising material.

- After many iterations, the design for the Information Board intended for Stockaway pond is virtually complete. This is intended primarily as an illustrated guide to some of the plants and wildlife that may be spotted during the year.

All in all, a busy and exciting year and we look forward to a growing engagement with villagers of all ages in both Weedon and Hardwick.

Ideas for future projects and original ideas for activities are always welcome!

Mike Stevens

Chair – Weedon Wildlife Group (Wild Weedon)

Weedon Golf Society Report

The Weedon Gold Society is enjoying a full and successful season with 9 fixtures and has recently welcomed several new members.

The handicap Secretary, John Jones, has designed dual competitions for each outing – an individual competition and a parallel team competition. This means that players of all levels can thoroughly enjoy their day out.

The fixtures are booked now by Jill Mitchell and John Jones and the Treasurer is Joe Ward, with Margaret Askew as Ladies Captain. Thanks to all for their hard work.

We play nine different courses and will have our annual dinner in October. If you are interested to join, please contact Clin Rose on 0788 520 1150.

The Golf Society's after match dinners have now become a once-a-quarter dinner event, open to villagers generally, with the first dinner voted as a fun, happy event.