



*WELCOME*

## *Weston-sub-Edge*

Welcome to the village. Although the village is small with about 180 dwellings there is a lot going on and the area is rich in history.

The Village has its own website at [www.westonsubedge.com](http://www.westonsubedge.com) where all the latest information can be found. Please bookmark it for easy reference. If you are a Facebook user then please join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/westonsubedge/>.

## *History of Weston-sub-Edge*

**Weston-sub-edge** is a peaceful village with many historical buildings and lots of Cotswold charm. The village, recorded in Domesday, lies at the foot of Dovers Hill, and is located between the Vale of Evesham and Chipping Campden.

The hill is named after Robert Dover who organised his 'Olympick' Games there from 1612, it is a well-known beauty spot with extensive views over the surrounding countryside. The hill lies within the Cotswold AONB and was gifted to The National Trust in 1926.

Part of 'The Cotswold Way' footpath runs through Dover's Hill. This national footpath joins with 'Monarch's Way' and 'Heart of England' footpaths in Chipping Campden two miles away from Weston-sub-Edge.



'Buckle Street', a byway from Weston-sub-Edge to the top of Saintbury hill is an old

Roman road that has recently undergone major repairs and is now open to the public.

Numerous other footpaths link Weston-sub-Edge with Aston-sub-Edge to the east, Saintbury, Willersey and Broadway to the west and Honeybourne to the northwest.

The Romans occupied Weston from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD, a date based on coins and pottery found in the village. Their Ryknild Street (now called Buckle Street) forms the parish boundary with Saintbury and provided a link with Watling Street and The Fosse Way. Weston, said to have been a station for the Imperial Post, lies roughly halfway between Alcester and Slaughter Bridge, near Bourton on the Water, where Ryknild joins the Fosse. There are 3 listed Romano-British sites in the village, including one just below the Lynches Wood. It is said that the Romans grew their vines on the clearly defined terraces there, and walking along them on a fine sunny day this is easy to believe.

Not far from the hill is the Kiftsgate Stone, the stone pillar marking the Kiftsgate Hundred. Here in Saxon times, the Court of the Hundred met and public announcements were proclaimed. The Stone can be seen on the boundary of Weston Park, almost 200 acres of ancient woodland, first sold from the Giffard Estate in 1610. It still remains in private hands.

There are several listed buildings in the parish: Some are 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century houses built of the local honey-coloured Cotswold limestone. One of these is Latimers, which is a fine example of Jacobean architecture in the Cotswold style. A date stone indicates it was built around 1617, although it is thought that some parts of the building date back further. The house has a fascinating history, having been used at different times both as a theological college and as an inn. There are also several agricultural buildings and the school that have been converted to residential use. The school was closed in

1985, and the pub, Seagrave Arms, was refurbished and reopened in 2010.

The church is 13<sup>th</sup> century and despite some restoration in the 19th century, still retains a number of its original features, including the altar which is just one large piece of stone measuring almost a yard wide and 11 feet long. The church was built by Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester. Squires of the village for some 400 years, the Giffards lived in the castle near the church, of which only the moated site now remains. It is believed to have been sacked during the Civil War and later the stone was used to build the walls of the village.

The Lych Gate is a memorial to the men of the village who lost their lives in the last two wars. In the churchyard the inscriptions on tombstones were first recorded in 1893 by J.Bloom, inscriptions he described as being "chiefly remarkable for their poetical character". A later record was made in 1975 when his work was much valued due to the weathering of some stones in the interim.



The village hall, donated in 1930, was originally an old coach-house. It has since been extended. In 1981 during building alterations, what appeared to be a piece of old lead piping was found to contain a hoard of coins, 2 gold and 307 silver, the latest dated 1642. They can be seen in the Corinium Museum at Cirencester.

Farming was the main occupation until the Second World War during which an aerodrome was built on the lower fields. The countryside surrounding Weston-sub-Edge is still farmed land, largely sheep and cattle grazing with some arable areas, and is classified as predominantly grade 3 agricultural land. Much of the grazing land consists of mediaeval ridge and furrow pastures or non-productive orchards. Most fields are enclosed by hedges.

The aerodrome buildings are used for other purposes including a small industrial estate.

## *Leisure Activities*

### The Village Hall

The Village Hall and surrounding area was given, in trust, to the villagers by Katherine McCulloch in 1931. The trustees over the years have extended and modernised the building and many groups in the village use it regularly. You can hire the Village Hall for your own functions.

More details are available at <http://www.westonsubedge.com>

### Village Hall Bar

The comfortable bar offers you a warm welcome and sells a full range of beverages, sandwiches and hot food.

#### Bar Opening Times

Thursdays 4pm until 11pm  
Fridays 12pm until 11pm.  
Saturdays 12pm until 11pm  
Sundays 12pm until 7pm

Free wifi is available in the bar and surrounding areas. A computer can be made available by arrangement for those wishing to use the internet.

Upstairs there is a full sized Snooker table, pool table and a dart board.

Coffee Mornings are held the first Saturday of the month at 10.30am

### The Bowling Club

formed in 1987, has adopted certain features from the frontispiece to the "Annalia Dubrensia", a book of poems written in praise of Robert Dover and published in 1636. The blazer badge

is the silver castle (presented then as a prize in some events) while Robert Dover can



be seen on the men's ties.  
Recently the greens have been extended to

For more information please contact:  
Roy Clarke 01789 720340  
Marie Dow 01386 859258.

six rinks each way and an extension made to the pavilion.

Regular matches are played during the season and visitors are also welcome to come along to the practice sessions on Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons.

There is a good social calendar of events including a barbeque, a garden party and the Annual Presentation Evening in November at the end of the season.

## KEEP FIT GROUP

Monday afternoons in the village hall have been the scene of much activity with the new Keep Fit Group going through their paces has averaged 13 people each week, both men and women (although we would welcome a few more men!) and everyone has enjoyed this fun way of building up their fitness. Age is no barrier to these classes so do come along and exercise at a pace suitable for you. For more information please contact Danny on 841 595.

## WESTON SENIORS

A regular coffee morning in the village hall has now been running since December 2007 and is thoroughly enjoyed by those who attend. Volunteers host the monthly get-togethers in the Village Hall.



Coffee mornings are usually on the 2nd Monday of the month between 10.30am and 11.30am. Details appear in The Messenger. For further information contact Peter Welstead on 841451.

## ZUMBA

The latest dance craze takes place in the Village Hall on Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm. For more information call Rachel on 0794250616

## THE RURAL CINEMA

Films are shown in the Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. Tickets are £4.00. The Village Bar is open before and during the interval for drinks and food. Transport to and from the hall is available for Weston seniors on request. For more information, or to reserve tickets, contact Chris Rossington on 849316.

The Seagraves Arms has a pre-cinema menu at reasonable prices. Ring 840192 to reserve a table

## YOGA

Yoga and Pilates at the Village Hall Tuesday evenings at 7pm-8.30pm. Sophie Whitehouse can be contacted on 07964278424.

## U3A

**The History Group** meets from 10am to 12.00 noon on Tuesdays the 1st week of the month. If you are interested in joining please ring Marie Dow. 01386 859258.

**The Mixed Dancing Group** meets from 10am to 12.00 noon on Mondays on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month. It is a mixture of free dance, country dances and exercises to music. This group is full at the moment.

**The New Age Kurling Group** meet from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on the 4th Monday of the month. This is a sport that is played with 'stones' which have to be sent from one end of the court to a target at the other end. Scoring is determined by the number of stones closest to the centre of this target. It is usually played in teams of four, two teams to each set of stones. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Freda Canaan on 01386 701539.



## The Youth Group

Weston sub-Edge Youth Club now meets on the **first and third Thursdays** of each month between 7.00 and 9.00 p.m. Members enjoy a wide range of activities under the leadership of Sue Stanier from Young

Gloucestershire. **New members between 10 and 18 years both from the village and from the surrounding area are always welcome.**

Join the Club and make new friends.

Subscriptions are £1.00 per meeting and drinks and sweets are on sale. For more information, contact Chris Rossington on 849316

## The WsE Education Charity

### History

Weston-sub-Edge Educational Charity was set up in 1987 using funds from the sale of the village school. For the benefit of children and students under 25, who live or whose parents live in the village of Weston-sub-Edge or who attended or whose parents attended Weston-sub-Edge Church of England Primary School. (However, the youngest student that attended the school at the time of its closure is now over the age of 25)

### Type of grants

Grants range from £10 to £500. People at any stage of education who fit the criteria listed above (including people starting work) can be supported for books, equipment/instruments, fees, educational outings in the UK and study or travel abroad. Further and higher education may also be supported for maintenance/living expenses. In cases of special financial need grants can be for uniforms or other clothing for schoolchildren. Awards have been given for nursery fees, music, dance, drama and sports lessons, after school clubs and trips, residential trips, Brownies/Clubs, extra tuition, through to grants to university students.

Contact Rachel Hurley on 01386 841808

## *The Parish Church of Weston-sub-Edge*

After rededication in June 2012 the church became **St John the Baptist and St Lawrence**



The entrance to the church is through the Lych Gate, c.1920, which was designed by F L Griggs of Chipping Campden and is a memorial to the men of the village who died in both world wars.

In the churchyard there are two 17th century chest tombs and the oldest tombstone is Thomas Blackwell's. He died in 1675. The stone coffin on the south wall may have been in the church at one time, and could have contained the bones of Robert Giffard who, in his will of 1446, wished to be buried in the church. Four coffin lids, situated below Canon Bourne's memorial are thought to be over 700 years old.

A silver birch planted to commemorate King George VI's coronation and a copper beech commemorating George's Jubilee can be seen. A second copper beech was planted on the north side of the church during the 7th centenary celebrations in 1984. The 13th century church, with its 15th century tower, was much rebuilt during 1853-4. The architect was F Preedy, and Canon G D Bourne, Rector for 55 years (1846-1901), was responsible for the restoration. He removed the gallery, raised the roof, and paid for the stained glass windows in memory of his two wives. The beautiful stained glass is by Wailes and Preedy, 1854-1867.

In the tower there is a single bell, hung in July 1817 at a cost of £30.12s. The clock was installed in 1892.

The large stone altar was consecrated in 1315, and is just one large piece of stone measuring almost a yard wide and 11 feet long. Behind the altar is an arched stone reredos. The Lord's Prayer and Ten Commandments were painted in 1849. In the chancel there are two carved stone figures under 14th century canopies. There is a fine Elizabethan brass memorial on the north wall to William Hodge who died in 1590. The hexagonal pulpit is late Jacobean and dates from about 1680. The choir stalls are Victorian.

A list of Rectors hangs on the north wall. Special note is made of Richard Giffard, appointed Rector in 1284, and Godfrey Giffard, Bishop of Worcester, who was responsible for the building of the church. The Giffards lived in the moated manor of Weston for 400 years until 1613

Services are conducted by the Priest-in-Charge or other licensed clergy throughout the benefice.

## Vale & Cotswold Edge Benefice

The Vale and Cotswold Edge Group includes the parishes of Willersey with Saintbury, Weston-sub-Edge and Aston-sub-Edge, Honeybourne, Pebworth and Dorsington. The parishes lie along the B4632 Cheltenham to Stratford road, just north of Chipping Campden and east of Broadway, and along Buckle Street through the Vale of Evesham. Before 2011, Saintbury was a separate ecclesiastical parish but St Nicholas is now no longer a parish church and is vested in the Churches Conservation Trust.

The four churches of St Peter, Willersey and St Nicholas, Saintbury, St Peter, Pebworth and St Ecgwin, Honeybourne are Grade 1 Listed buildings. St John the Baptist and St Lawrence, Weston-sub-Edge and St Andrew, Aston-sub-Edge are Grade 2\*. The church of St Peter in

Dorsington is unusual in being built of red brick. The benefice is in the Diocese of Gloucester, the archdeaconry of Cheltenham and the deanery of the North Cotswolds. Except for Saintbury and Dorsington, services are held in each of our churches on almost every Sunday of the year. On two Sundays each year, St Peter Willersey foregoes its own services to join in Methodist worship; on two others, the Methodists join us.

## THE MESSENGER

The Aston and Weston-sub-Edge Messenger is a monthly magazine for residents of the two parishes. It reports the social and official activities of the churches, clubs and organisations. It is also a source of local information for the many tourists that visit the area

## Benefice Services

The majority of our services are 'eucharistic' (i.e. Holy Communion) though there are three non-Communion services each month in the mornings, and three Book of Common Prayer

For further information please contact  
Curate: Rev'd Scott Watts Tel: 01386  
834946

[www.cotswoldedenorthbenefice.org](http://www.cotswoldedenorthbenefice.org)

Evensong services (evening services at Aston-sub-Edge). Our services generally alternate between BCP and Common Worship (CW), the majority being the latter. During the course of the year, a number of special services take place. St Andrew's, Aston-sub-Edge hosts services for Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, Lammas as well as Harvest, which all the churches observe. The Easter Ceremonies ('Dawn Mass') are celebrated, sometimes in the open on Dover's Hill, sometimes in St Lawrence, Weston-sub-Edge

Visitors are always welcome.

# *Useful Information*

## **Village Defibrillator**



The defibrillator is located on the wall at the junction of Church Street and Dovers View at Number 8 Dovers View. To unlock the cabinet you will need to dial 999 to get the code and call for an ambulance/paramedic. Do not leave the patient alone get help to bring the defibrillator to you. CPR should be administered until the defibrillator is ready for use.

## **Doctors**

There are two practices that serve Weston-sub-edge

Barn Close Surgery In Broadway  
38-40 High Street Broadway, Worcs, WR12 7DT  
Tel: 01386 853651

and

Campden Surgery in Chipping Campden  
Back Ends, Chipping Campden, Glos. GL55 6AU  
Tel: 01386 841894

Most information can be found on the respective websites.

Barn Close surgery have their own dispensary and Weston-sub-Edge villagers can use a drop box service located at Hartwell & Co. Ltd. for repeat prescriptions. Prescription items are

delivered Wednesday mornings for repeat prescriptions and repeat prescription requests are picked up at the same time. So if you leave a repeat prescription request at Hartwell & Co. Ltd. by Wednesday morning then you pick up the items the following Wednesday. If you order via the internet then this should be ordered by Thursday evening to be delivered the following Wednesday.

For both surgeries if you have difficulty getting to the surgery then you can request a car ferry service by phoning the surgery reception the day before your appointment.

## **Police**

The police non emergency number is 101. This is the number to call for all non urgent calls. In an emergency the number is 999. There is also a police information point at Malvern Strollers in the High Street, Chipping Campden where letters can be left. The nearest Gloucestershire police station is at Stow-on-the-Wold and is open to the public between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, tel: 01242 276637.

There is a mobile Police Station that visits surrounding villages once a month. Details can be found in the Chipping Campden Bulletin, which is delivered free to all villagers.

