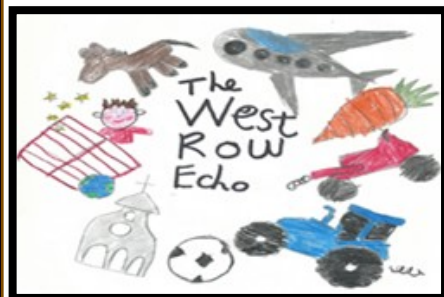


Issue 62

Oct 2026 — Nov 2026



West Row's War Horse "Joey" will be coming out of storage later this month

Keep an eye on the Church Green, for the Remembrance display, weather permitting it will be up later in October. See Page 26 for more details.



Scan to WEBSITE

Scan to EMAIL



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07860 358493
Email: clerk@westrow-pc.gov.uk

NEXT ISSUE:

Published June

**Our deadline for
December 2026/January 2027
is:
15th November 2026 Noon**

Please email Helen Webber at
helen.webber60@gmail.com

100 Club Winner

Congratulations to this time's
winner

Stuart Walker

£76.00

For Further information or to join,
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clerk@westrow-pc.gov.uk

The 100 Club helps support the
printing of the Parish Echo

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A note from the EDITOR

Dear Reader,

As usual there are interesting articles and reports in this edition of the Echo which I hope you will find time to read.

The West Row Parish Council report on pages 8 & 9 keeps us up to date with its activities and initiatives. Should you be interested in joining the Council with your ideas, there is a vacancy which needs to be filled. Application details can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

The report from the Shed on page 16 is, as always, an informative read. Volunteers are always welcome to assist in the many ongoing tasks.

The photographs of West Row bowlers on page 23 show that the sport is not just for 'older' people. Have you ever visited the Club to look at the facilities it offers? Why not make an appointment to have a look round? Contact details are on page 22.

Please make note of the dates of Harvest and Christmas events planned and endeavour to support these.

Will you enter the Quiz on page 29?

With very best wishes,

Peter Rolfe
Editor

Summer Quiz of 2026 answers

1. Monopoly 2. Cricket 3. Solo 4. Polo 5. Rummikub 6. Curling 7. Mexican Train 8. Rowing 9. Dressage
10. Point to Point 11. Chess 12. Tiddly Winks 13. Pole Vault 14. Dominoes 15. Fencing 16. Bridge 17. Marbles
18. Scrabble 19. Happy Families 20. Luge

There were 17 entries, 5 with all 20 correct answers, and the winner, drawn by lot, was Anna Hetherington, Ferry Lane, West Row.

The Parish Echo editorial team takes no responsibility for endorsements of, or statements made in published adverts which are accepted in good faith. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertisement, article, or item that we feel is considered inappropriate for publication.

DIARY DATES

October

Sun 4th	St Peter's Church	Harvest Festival	11.00 a.m.
Sun 4th	Baptist Chapel	Morning Worship & Sunday Club for Children	10.45 a.m
Sun 4th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Sat 10th	Baptist Chapel	Ladies Conference <i>www.westrowbaptist.org.uk</i>	
Sun 11th	St Peter's Church	Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Sun 11th	Baptist Chapel	Morning Worship & Sunday Club for Children	10.45 a.m
Sun 11th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Sun 18th	St Peter's Church	Sunday Celebration	11.00 a.m.
Sun 18th	Baptist Chapel	Morning Worship & Sunday Club for Children	10.45 a.m
Sun 18th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Tues 20th	Baptist Chapel	Community Lunch Contact Richard 07796 616679	12.30 p.m
Sun 25th	St Peter's Church	Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Sun 25th	Baptist Chapel	Morning Worship & Sunday Club for Children	10.45 a.m
Sun 25th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Sat 31st	Bowls Club	Bingo	7 p.m.

November

Sun 1st	St Peter's Church	Sunday Celebration	11.00 a.m.
Fri 6th	West Row Village Hall	Fish & Chip Lunch	12.30
Sun 8th	St Peter's Church	Remembrance	10.30 a.m.
Sun 8th	Baptist Chapel	Remembrance & Sunday Club for Children Followed by Fellowship lunch	10.45 a.m
Sun 8th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Sun 15th	St Peter's Church	Sunday Celebration	11.00 a.m.
Sun 15th	Baptist Chapel	Family Service	10.45 a.m
Sun 18th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Tues 17th	Baptist Chapel	Community Lunch Contact Richard 07796 616679	12.30 p.m
Sun 22nd	Baptist Chapel	Morning Worship & Sunday Club for Children	10.45 a.m
Sun 22nd	Baptist Chapel	Evening Service	6 p.m
Sun 22nd	St Peter's Church	Holy Communion	11.00 a.m.
Sat 28th	Bowls Club	Bingo	7 p.m
Sun 29th	Baptist Chapel	Morning Advent Service & Sunday Club for Children	10.45 a.m
Sun 29th	Baptist Chapel	Evening Advent Service	6 p.m

UPCOMING EVENTS

POSH PETALS

Christmas

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FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2026
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SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER, 2026
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31st
October

7:00 - 7:30pm start
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**BINGO
NIGHT**
WITH MERV & CO

**West Row
Bowls Club**
Saturday
28th
November

7:00 - 7:30pm start
Come along for a fun evening
CASH PRIZES TO BE WON
MUST BE 18+ TO PLAY
Licenced Bar - Raffle

Made with PosterMyWall.com

LAKENHEATH FEN RSPB

October is a great time to get closer to bats, which can be surprisingly common in gardens, even in urban areas- but they often go unnoticed due to their nocturnal nature, fast flight and quiet lives. In autumn, numbers are boosted by young bats following the past summer's breeding season. Female bats will make use of 'maternity roosts' where they give birth to and then nurse their 'pups', but there are also winter roosts of mixed males and females. House rooves, farm buildings, Churches and cavities in trees are common places to find roosts, but bats will also make use of man-made nestboxes if they are sited correctly.

There are 18 species of bat in the UK and they make up a quarter of our mammals. In our gardens, the Common Pipistrelle is usually the most often seen- they are small, fast and have a swooping flight with regular sudden changes of direction over open areas. Noctules are larger, but also common, and their wingspan can be almost double that of the Common Pipistrelle. They can weigh up to eight times as much, but the largest specimens still only tip the scales at 40g! Noctules tend to fly in straighter lines, and higher up, and may venture into wooded areas too. If you live near water, then you may find it easy to spot Daubenton's bats if there are any around- they fly very low over water, scooping up small insects with their large feet or in the cup made by the webbing that joins their tail to their legs.

On the reserve at Lakenheath Fen, we do sometimes pick up a couple of more unusual species, such as Brown Long-eared Bat and also Serotine, of which there is a roost in St. Peter's Church in Hockwold. These bats and our others- Daubenton's, Natterer's, Leisler's, Noctule, and the three types of pipistrelle- are attracted to areas with plenty of insects and the wetlands of the reserve draw them in readily!

The best time to look for bats is an hour or two before sunset, and as they are nocturnal you could see them right up until you can't see anything at all and it is fully dark. Bat detectors are available and these help to detect bats without you having to see them, or hear them- to our ears, bats are silent because they produce sound at a frequency too high for most of us to hear, in the ultrasonic range. They use sound to monitor the echo (returning sound waves) bouncing off objects (which helps them navigate) and to find food items like moths and beetles. The closer something is, the quicker the sound waves return, so bats can use echolocation to judge distance as well as the speed of potential prey and they form a mental 'map' of where things are, which is very useful given they have very poor eyesight!

Bats are in steep decline in the UK as they suffer from a variety of threats such as the loss of roosting sites, the fall in insect populations and pollution. If you'd like to do something to help bats where you live, there are a range of ideas on the Bat Conservation Trust's website: <https://www.bats.org.uk/advice/gardening-for-bats> which don't just cover the best plants to grow but about how we can reduce the light pollution we produce, and use fewer pesticides too.

With best wishes for October from the reserve, and we hope that bats put in an appearance in your autumn this year!

By Heidi Jones (Visitor Experience Officer, RSPB Lakenheath Fen).

Eptesicus Serotinus



LAKENHEATH FEN RSPB DIARY DATES

Places for all events need to be booked online- <https://bit.ly/LakenheathFenEvents> or in person at the Visitor Centre ahead of the event (not on the day, unless previously arranged with us).

Moth Mornings (Under 18's £2.50 - £3 / Adults £5 - £6)

Learn more about the amazing world of moths- join us to admire what we catch in our harmless trap.

30 October, 27 November, 26 February (10am to 11am)

Amazing Autumn Guided Walk (Under 18's £6 - £7.50 / Adults £12 - £15)

Join us for a tour to see the best that autumn has to offer on the reserve- ducks in their dazzling new plumages, the first migrant birds back for the winter but also a few late butterflies and dragonflies too.

Saturday 10 October, Sunday 8 November (9:30am-12:30pm)

Wetland Winter Guided Walk (Under 18's £6 - £7.50 / Adults £12 - £15)

Wrap up and experience this beautiful reserve and all that winter has to offer with our volunteer guides. We'll be looking for Whooper Swans, winter thrushes, Bearded Tits, a variety of ducks and more.

Saturday 9 January, Sunday 7 February (9:30am – 12:30pm)

Winter Walking Safari (Under 18's £10 - £12.50 / Adults £20 - £25)

Twice per year, our volunteer guides take their guests on a tour of the reserve, covering our full range of habitats and offering you the best chance of seeing a wide range of wildlife in this beautiful Fenland oasis. Our Cranes should be back, too!

Sunday 14 February (9:30am – 3:30pm)

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Parish Update - October 2026 - November 2026

What have we been up to ?

As usual the Councillors have been working on many issues in the background as part of our business as usual. For example:-

Planning for Christmas 2026, planning for November Memorial weekend, upkeep of village infrastructure such as street lights, street furniture, keeping the village clean and tidy and many more topics.

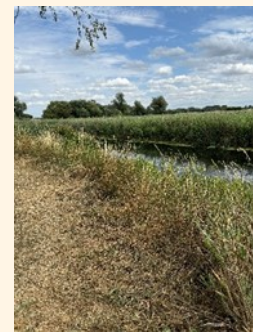
Possible Zebra Crossing and or lollipop person at the school and working closely with County and the builder of the new housing development.

Footpaths

Our Parish Keeper has been busy as ever litter picking grass cutting and clearing footpaths throughout the village.

One example was the footpath near the school that parents and children use to get to and from school.

Another is the footpath from the Ferry to the Staunch which is now clear to walk.



USAF Lakenheath

I had the honour of being invited by the 48th Fighter Wing to an event for Mayors and Chairs on Lakenheath base.

The day started with a buffet lunch and a presentation on the history of the air base and current operations that are carried out by the USAF personnel, this was very interesting and informative.

This was a wonderful event where we were all treated to a tour of the base which included a display of dog handling by the security team, a visit to the Radar building and a visit up the control tower where we were buzzed by many F15 and F35 planes.

We were also treated to a visit to a hangar where we got up close and personal to an F15 and a F35 and 2 pilots informed us all about the 2 planes they fly and the differences between them.

This was also a great opportunity to build relationships with other Parish and Town leaders to talk about issues that affect all of us who are neighbours of all USAF bases in our area.

Speed Sign Pott Hall Road

I am sorry to say that Highways don't see the moving of the SID post as a priority and have given us a date of late November to relocate the post.

In preparation for the moving of the post, our Parish Keeper has cut back the trees in the vicinity that would have affected the display unit and the solar panel.

Bus Stops



Some of you may be aware that for some time now I have been trying to formalise the positions of the Bus Stops and arrange for Bus Stop signs to be put up in the village.

Slowly this is happening and some have appeared recently.

This is something we will keep on top of to ensure all stops are signed and timetables displayed.

Clerk: Sharon Vale

Email : clerk@westrow-pc.gov.uk

Website : <https://westrow-pc.gov.uk>



Parish Update - October 2026 - November 2026

Cemetery

Update on our Non-Denomination Cemetery.

The provision of the village cemetery is well underway at last, some of you may have noticed posts have been erected to mark the boundary of the site.

Contractors have been engaged for fencing, ground works, water supply and landscaping.

The first works will be the fencing which should commence late September / October and other works will follow.

Remembrance day 2026

As is tradition in our village, we will be hosting 2 memorial services in the village to honour and remember the men of our village who gave their lives in WW1 and WW2

The first will be on Sunday 8th of November.

The second will be on the Wednesday 11th of November.

For Sunday 8th of November please assemble at the war Memorial at 12:30

For Wednesday 11th of November, please assemble at the War Memorial at 10:30

Christmas Tree Lighting Event

We have decided to make some changes this year to our tree lighting event.

It will be the Friday 4th of December, and we will be operating from the church hall to provide mulled wine and mince pies etc. instead of the gazebo.

Assemble at 18:30 for tree lighting and school children singing carols at 19:00.

More details will be published on Facebook nearer the time.

The Santa Sleigh tour around the village will not be taking place this year as storage issues has resulted in damage to the sleigh, decorations and lights and the turnout has been lower each year for the last couple of years.

Due to insurance issues and finding volunteers to prepare the sleigh and walk behind it as it tours the village has proved difficult.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

It is with regret that I have to report that one of our long standing Councillors has resigned due to ill health. Teresa Gooch Taylor-Balls who has given many years of service firstly to Mildenhall Parish Council as a representative for West Row, and then as a West Row Parish Councillor since we became a Parish in our own right in 2019, we thank her for the years of service she has given.

This has resulted in a vacancy on the Parish Council, and if anyone wishes to be considered for this position, can you please contact the Parish Clerk who can give you more details and supply you with the required forms etc. to apply

Parish Keeper

Our Parish Keeper has not needed to cut grass very often due to the very hot dry weather, but has still been kept very busy with trying to keep footpaths in the village open for all to walk.

If you have any areas in the village that require some TLC please contact The Parish Clerk or any Councillor.

Remember: Parish Councillors meet 3rd Wednesday 7pm in the Parish Office (the old Outdoor Bowls Club). Members of the public are most welcome.

Parish Surgeries are usually held in the Parish Office, 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am-11am. All are welcome to attend and to bring your

concerns to the Parish Councillors' attention. If you'd like clarification on anything the PC is involved in, just come along and ask.

Alan Fisher, Chair

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TUES 7-8pm

"Pilates for All" – Karen Peachey-Gallagher. All abilities & ages. Contact Karen (07554 119550)

THURS 6-6.45pm

"STEP AEROBICS" – Open to everyone! Booking essential. Contact Karen Peachey-Gallagher (07554 119550)

THURS 7.30-9.30pm

Jive Class – contact Caroline 07886 492772

FRI 12.30pm

Monthly Fish & Chip Lunch & Social— Contact Alan Fisher (07715 957292)
email: churchman14@btinternet.com

FRI 6.15 -7.30pm

Martial Arts Training with Darren Hart. Children & Adults welcome
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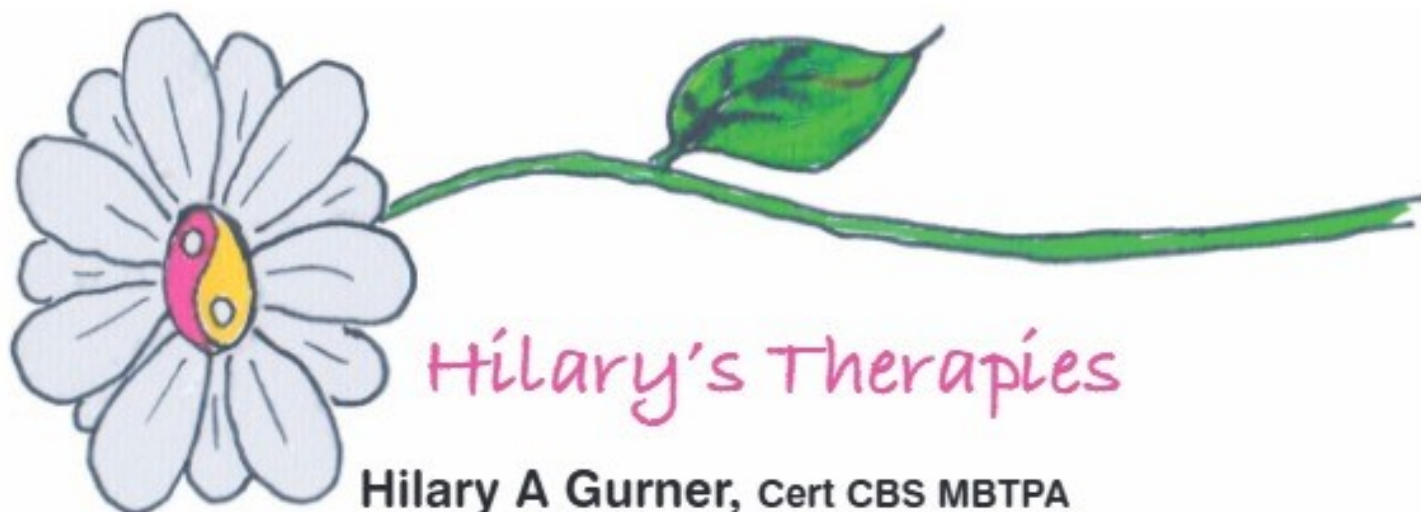
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- THURSDAYS 2PM- ST MARYS HOUSE, MILDENHALL.
- FRIDAY 11AM- PARKWAY HOUSE, BURY ST EDMUNDS.
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West Row Academy: A New Term and a Shared Commitment

As the new school year begins, the Governing Body of West Row Academy would like to extend a warm welcome to all pupils, families, staff, and members of our wider village community. The start of a new academic year always brings a sense of anticipation and renewed purpose. It also offers us a moment to pause, to look forward, and to reaffirm our shared commitment to the flourishing of the children and young people of West Row.

West Row Academy is, at its heart, a community school. It sits at the centre of village life, and its strength is deeply connected to the support, encouragement, and involvement of the families and residents around it. As governors, we are continually struck by how much goodwill exists within our village—goodwill that is expressed in countless ways: through parents who volunteer their time, neighbours who attend school events, local organisations who partner with us, and the many individuals who simply speak positively about the school and its work. This partnership is not something we take for granted. It is one of the Academy's greatest assets.

Just before the children returned to school, staff worked with real dedication to prepare classrooms, refresh learning spaces, and plan for the year ahead. Governors have not yet had the opportunity to visit the school this term, but will be doing so in the coming weeks to meet with leaders, see the Academy in action, and review its priorities. We are encouraged by the clarity of vision and the commitment to ensuring that every child receives a high-quality education rooted in care, aspiration, and opportunity. The Academy continues to strengthen its curriculum, invest in staff development, and refine its pastoral provision so that pupils are supported not only academically but also emotionally and socially.

One of the Governing Body's central responsibilities is to ensure that the Academy remains a safe, nurturing, and well-led environment. Safeguarding remains a top priority, and governors will continue to monitor this closely throughout the year. We also recognise the importance of good communication. Families deserve to be well-informed about their children's learning, the school's expectations, and the opportunities available to them. Governors will continue to work with the leadership team to support clear, timely, and accessible communication with parents and carers.

This term also brings opportunities to celebrate the many strengths of West Row Academy. We look forward to seeing pupils settle into their new classes, embrace new challenges, and grow in confidence. We also look forward to school events that bring the community together—performances, assemblies, celebrations, and moments where the achievements of our children can be shared and enjoyed. These occasions remind us that education is not simply about academic progress; it is about shaping character, fostering curiosity, and helping children discover their gifts.

As governors, we remain committed to providing thoughtful, responsible, and transparent oversight. Our role is to support and challenge the school's leadership, ensuring that decisions are made in the best interests of pupils and that the Academy continues to move forward with stability and ambition. We are grateful for the professionalism of the staff team and for the leadership that guides the Academy day by day.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we would like to thank the entire West Row community for your ongoing partnership. Your encouragement, your involvement, and your belief in the school make a genuine difference. We look forward to a positive, purposeful, and fruitful term ahead, and we remain committed to working together for the good of every child who walks through the doors of West Row Academy.

We wish all pupils, staff, and families a confident and hopeful start to the new academic year. May it be a season of growth, joy, and achievement at the heart of our village.

Evan King

Chair of Governors - West Row Academy



It seems like only yesterday we were enjoying brilliant sunshine, spending our time seeking jobs to do in the shade, and drinking gallons of water. Now, in a blink of an eye, we face chilly mornings, foggy starts to the day, and turning out our thick warm jumpers and fleeces.



This Autumnal edition takes on a slightly different angle. Which will become obvious.

An edition acknowledging the fantastic team of volunteers we are so lucky to rely on during times of need. And proves exactly no one person is carrying the load, it is a team effort, and the machine keeps on turning when we all pull together.

Most of you now know I had two bouts of residence in WSH. The first and last weeks of August to be exact. And the day after I came home, Paul too returned from his hospital stay at the Nuffield, Ipswich, where he had his hip replacement. So we were two vulnerable soles, ridiculously tired, both sleeping umpteen hours each day, and no energy to do much.

But we could rest and recuperate knowing everyone was stepping up to the plate, pulling extra shifts and making additional collections, just to keep on top of the harvests and the food available to those most in need.

It's thanks to Jackie and Jan who rallied the troops, organised revised rotas, and ensured Little Shed was well stocked, and the fruit and vegetables were freshly picked.

Thanks also to those who offered their time with a simple text saying, "I'm available if you need me", instead of waiting to be asked.

So just as soon as I'm able, I will get with Jan to revise our collection schedule and trim off any that are too time consuming with little reward.

It's now time to clean up the garden furniture, for winter storage. Pick the final crops of fruit and clear the vegetable plots ready for winter rotovating. And so the cycle turns full circle.

I mentioned how we are blessed to have loyal volunteers. But there is always a place for anyone who feels they could help. We do "stuff" most days of the week, although we concentrate the gardening on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Most other days we are out collection, displaying and rotating the fruit and veg. It is always helpful to have some back-up for those times when our regulars cannot complete their rota. As we've experienced, illnesses come unexpectedly and have a debilitating effect. Holidays and family commitments also need to be factored in.

So, please get in touch if you are slightly interested. Come visit if you've not ventured beyond the gate yet..... and who knows, we might tempt you into volunteering for a short or regular time.

If you can help – you will be made most welcome. (07887 668 145).

Email: theshedcharity@gmail.com





West Row Baptist Church



From the Pastor's Desk

evan@westrowbaptistchurch.org.uk

When the World Shakes, Christ Gives Peace

The Middle East has once again filled our news feeds. Tensions between Israel and Iran, naval confrontations near the Strait of Hormuz, and the ongoing instability across Syria and Lebanon remind us how fragile peace is in our world. Even from the quiet lanes of West Row, these headlines unsettle us. They remind us that the world is far more fragile than we like to imagine.

We long for peace, yet peace seems always under threat. We hope for stability, yet instability feels like the norm. But the Bible tells us that this has always been the story of humanity. Jesus Himself spoke of “wars and rumours of wars,” not to make us fearful, but to remind us that the world cannot give the peace our hearts crave.

The Christian faith teaches that the deepest conflict in the world is not political but spiritual. Our greatest unrest is not between nations, but between humanity and God. We have broken His law, rejected His authority, and tried to build peace on our own terms. The unrest we see in the Middle East is a reminder of the unrest within every human heart.

Yet into a world without peace, God sent His Son. Jesus Christ came not as a political strategist or military leader, but as the Saviour who brings true reconciliation. Through His death on the cross, He deals with the hostility caused by our sin. Through His resurrection, He offers a peace that does not depend on treaties, negotiations, or geopolitical stability. He offers peace with God—freely, fully, and forever.

This is the heart of the gospel: we cannot earn peace with God, but Christ has made peace for us. We cannot save ourselves, but He saves all who come to Him in repentance and faith.

As we watch the Middle East with concern, may we remember that the world's longing for peace is ultimately a longing for God Himself. And may many in our village and further afield, come to know the peace that Christ gives—the peace that remains when the world shakes, the peace that forgives the guilty, steadies the anxious, and gives hope beyond death.

That does not mean Christians look at the suffering of the world with indifference. Far from it. We are called to pray for rulers and nations, to grieve with those who suffer, and to ask the Lord to restrain evil and show mercy. The news should not simply make us shake our heads; it should send us to our knees. In times of uncertainty, prayer is not a small thing. It is the response of those who know that the living God reigns over kings, borders, armies, and history itself.

Nor does this peace make us passive. The peace of Christ changes the way we live in our homes, churches, and communities. It teaches us to forgive rather than retaliate, to speak truth with gentleness, to seek reconciliation where there has been bitterness, and to hold fast to hope when fear would otherwise take hold. A heart reconciled to God becomes, by His grace, a witness to the peace the world cannot manufacture for itself.

So let the headlines awaken compassion, not despair. Let them remind us that this world needs more than temporary calm; it needs the Prince of Peace. And let them press upon each one of us the most important question of all: do I know that peace for myself? The invitation of Christ still stands, and it is as urgent and gracious today as it has ever been.

Perhaps that is why moments like these are a mercy to us. They strip away the illusion that we are in control and remind us how deeply we need the Lord. They call us to look beyond human promises and to rest in the One whose kingdom cannot be shaken. In Christ, peace is not wishful thinking; it is a gift secured by His cross and held out to all who will receive Him.

If you have never turned to Christ, let me gently urge you to do so. No government can give you lasting peace. No leader can secure your eternity. But Jesus Christ can. He welcomes all who come to Him. He forgives all who trust Him. And He gives a peace that no conflict, no headline, and no future uncertainty can ever take away.

Evan Pastor - West Row Baptist Church



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Charity Number 219279

Please Contact

Poppy Appeal Organiser Marion on 07751 196867

Deputy Appeal Organiser Helen on 07309 114235

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Thursday 1st October
History of waterway transport in the
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Thursday 5th November
From Fig Leaves to Feather
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WEST ROW

BOWLS CLUB NEWS

The new indoor season starts in September and anyone who wishes to try out the sport should come along to the Club on a Wednesday evening, from 6.00 p.m. – 7.00p.m. The first five coaching sessions are offered free of charge and then anyone wishing to join is asked to pay a Beginner membership fee of £25.

This entitles a Beginner member to practise at any time the Club is open and a rink is free and enter club competitions. A rink fee of £2.00 per hour is charged. All bowling equipment is provided at the Club. Flat soled shoes that have only been worn indoors are required but the club also has a selection of shoes that can be borrowed.

Once a Beginner member feels ready for some more formal competitive games, a Bowls Drive is held every Wednesday 7.15 p.m. 9.00 p.m. with members expected to wear approved bowls clothing, details of which are posted on club notice boards.

Also as a reminder, the Club holds monthly Bingo sessions on a Saturday and the Club also runs a Ladies Darts team and a Dominoes team.

The outdoor season concluded with a very successful finals days and three cup finals, unfortunately we were only triumphant in one, but it was great to retain the Graves Cup for a second year.



The Club is open most evenings so why not drop in to see what the Club has on offer and maybe give bowls a try!

For more information regarding any aspect of the Club
please contact Club Coach, Peter Rolfe, tel: 07501 640328 or
email: peter.rolfe3@btopenworld.com

WEST ROW FINALS DAY



Photos of the Winners and the Runner-ups.

Great to see both New and Old members



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St Peter's Church West Row



Churchwardens: Beryl Austin 01638 712708 - Debbie Eaglen
Elders: Tricia Leverington

CONTACT:

Vicar: Rev'd Mark McCaghrey
Tel.: 01638 495001

"We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land..." goes the old Harvest Hymn. Only most of us don't plough fields or scatter seed anymore, even in our village.

But that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the wonderful history of farming and horticulture in West Row and that's what we are going to do this **Harvest Service on Sunday 4th October at 11:00am.**

And we are going to do it with tractors, like these ones here.

This year, to celebrate Harvest, there will be a Tractor Run through the village - with all kinds of tractors old and new.



We will be starting from Trevor Norman's Yard, Fen Gate Farm, Chapel Road at **9:45am** (assemble from **9:15am**).

The run will then travel through the village, past the village hall and bowling club and school, out onto Hurdle Drove, and Weston Ditch.

Then we will come into the body of the village, onto the

Green, travelling down Friday St, Church Road, Cricks Road and Pott Hill Road, joining Bargate Road, Eldo Road and then finishing at St. Peter's Church at 10:40am ready for the service at **11:00am.**



Why are we doing this? Harvest is the traditional time

when the village would come together to celebrate the harvest, all the hard work that produced it and to give thanks to God, and to seek his will for the future.

Having the tractors go through the village reminds us of our heritage and this history of harvest celebration. But even if we don't plough ourselves, the tractors remind us that others have done that for us to be able to have the food we eat.

So we hope that you will join us – firstly by coming and joining in the tractor run if you would like to take part (contact Mark Garrard on 07889 103404 or Steve MacKenzie on 07784490795), or by watching it travel past your street, and then by coming to the Harvest Celebration service itself. If it's good weather we will be doing it amongst the tractors, and inside the church if it rains!

Remembrance Tribute

West Row's Remembrance Tribute will be assembled late in October.

The Knit and Natter ladies have spent the year, re-doing the waterfall, with a stronger net and more poppies, so look out for the new display.

After the success of last year with our very own War Horse "Joey" and all the positive feed back that was received, we have spoken to Mildenhall RBL Poppy Appeal, and if anybody would like to donate, please scan the code below.



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Autumn on the Allotment – Making the Most of October and November

This year has been a challenging one for many allotment holders. The prolonged dry spells and summer heatwaves have left crops struggling for moisture, with many gardeners spending countless hours watering just to keep plants alive. Some crops, particularly beans, lettuce and brassicas, have suffered in the hot conditions, while others such as tomatoes, courgettes and sweetcorn have thrived. One notable feature of the 2026 growing season has been how early some crops matured. Many allotment holders were harvesting pumpkins and winter squash as early as August, several weeks ahead of their usual schedule. While the warm weather has brought some impressive harvests, it has also highlighted the importance of conserving water and improving soil with organic matter to help retain moisture during increasingly hot summers.

As the days become shorter and the temperatures begin to drop, many people think the allotment season is coming to an end. In reality, October and November are some of the most important months in the gardening calendar. A little effort now will help ensure a productive and successful growing season next year.

Harvest the Last of Your Crops

October is often the final opportunity to harvest many summer crops. Late potatoes should be lifted before the ground becomes too wet or frosty. Green tomatoes can be picked and ripened indoors on a sunny windowsill.

Clear and Tidy Beds

Once crops have finished, remove spent plants, weeds and any diseased material. Healthy plant material can be added to the compost heap, but diseased plants should be disposed of to prevent problems returning next year.

Feed the Soil

Autumn is the ideal time to improve your soil. Spread well-rotted manure or garden compost over empty beds and allow the winter weather and worms to work it into the ground naturally. Avoid digging heavy clay soils if they are wet, as this can damage their structure.

Healthy soil is the key to healthy crops, and a little attention now will be rewarded next season.

Plant for Next Year

October and November are excellent months for planting:

- Garlic
- Autumn onion sets
- Broad beans

Fruit trees and bushes

Planting now allows roots to establish before spring, giving plants a head start when warmer weather arrives.

Maintain Tools and Equipment

Winter is the perfect time to clean, sharpen and oil garden tools. Empty and tidy sheds, repair broken handles, clean pots and seed trays, and make a note of any equipment that may need replacing before next season.

Plan Ahead

With fewer gardening jobs demanding attention, autumn provides an opportunity to review what worked well this year and what didn't. Make notes, plan crop rotations and browse seed catalogues for inspiration. Good planning now can help avoid problems and improve harvests next year.

Although the allotment may appear quieter during October and November, these months are far from dormant. A few hours spent harvesting, tidying and preparing will ensure your plot is ready to burst back into life when spring arrives.

Autumn Quiz of 2026

All answers are TOWNS / CITIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| e.g. Explosive device at the front (8) | ANS MINEHEAD |
| 1. Inter with a saint (4,2,7) | ANS..... |
| 2. England's hat trick hero (5) | ANS..... |
| 3. Sounds as if no food was consumed (8) | ANS..... |
| 4. Vital part of a candle (4) | ANS..... |
| 5. Dark pond (9) | ANS..... |
| 6. Sounding device before a worshipping venue (10) | ANS..... |
| 7. Water providers (5) | ANS..... |
| 8. Prime Minister? (7) | ANS..... |
| 9. Could be fast moving cereal (7) | ANS..... |
| 10. These sweet 'cakes' are from here (10) | ANS..... |
| 11. You should find otters here (4) | ANS..... |
| 12. Found in the mouth (6) | ANS..... |
| 13. Robin's coloured clothes (7) | ANS..... |
| 14. Put this on if it's chilly? (8) | ANS..... |
| 15. Oliver's partner is fine (8) | ANS..... |
| 16. Fourteen pounder server transposed (9) | ANS..... |
| 17. 'Primary' amount of trees (9) | ANS..... |
| 18. Sounds as if you should do this after computer work (5) | ANS..... |
| 19. Head of hair from London? (6) | ANS..... |
| 20. Adam's wife's cooked pig (7) | ANS..... |

NAME OF ENTRANT.....

ADDRESS.....

Contact tel. no

**N.B. PLEASE POST YOUR ENTRY IN THE BOWLS CLUB SILVER LETTER BOX
SITUATED ON THE FENCE BY 17th October 2026**



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Tasks For Autumn for the Children— Happy Autumn

Can You Find These Autumn Treasures?

Tick them off when you spot them!

- A red leaf
- A squirrel
- An acorn
- A spider's web
- A pumpkin
- A flock of birds flying south
- A conker
- A mushroom

November Nature Challenge

How many different coloured leaves can you collect?

Red: _____

Yellow: _____

Orange: _____

Brown: _____

Can you make a leaf picture or collage at home?

Have fun exploring the village this autumn!

AUTUMN WORD SEARCH

Can you find all 12 autumn words?

Words can run across, down or diagonally.

A P P L E T R E E S
L E A F C O B N M P
P U M P K I N A T O
A C O R N F I R E O
R S C A R E C R O W
T U M N S Q U I R R
S E P T E M B E R D
C O N K E R F O G E
H A R V E S T L E A
W O O D L A N D S K

FIND THESE AUTUMN WORDS:

APPLE • LEAF • PUMPKIN • CORN • FIRE • CROW • SQUIRREL • AUTUMN
SEPTEMBER • CONKER • FOG • HARVEST

LOVE OUR VILLAGE?



THEN PLEASE CLEAN UP!

Dog poo is not just unsightly – it's unhygienic, unpleasant and shows a lack of respect for our village and our community.



BAG IT

Always carry poo bags with you.



TIE IT

Tie the bag securely.



BIN IT

Use any public bin or take it home.



IT'S THE LAW

You can be fined if you don't.



**BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER
AND KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN AND ENJOYABLE
FOR EVERYONE.**



Thank you for doing the right thing.

