

## What is On – April to May 2025

### WESTERFIELD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 19:30, in the village hall.  
The 2025 calendar for the club continues:

\***May 7th**\* - Epimediums - Hedgehog Nurseries

\***June 4th**\* - Salvias - Luci Skinner

\***June 14th** (Saturday)\* - Prospective day trip to BBC Gardeners' World Live, NEC, Birmingham



Please contact: **Michele** - 07889 904779 or **Yvonne** - 07736 660725

### MEMORIES OF WESTERFIELD STATION TO CELEBRATE 200 YEARS OF THE RAILWAY

People with fond memories of Westerfield rail station, Suffolk, are being asked to share their stories for a commemorative book.

Greater Anglia's station adopter volunteers at Westerfield station – Sandy Burn, Laura Hadgraft, Mary Pluquet and Yvonne Maynard – are carrying out the project as part of 'Rail 200', a national celebration taking place this year to celebrate 200 years of the modern railway in Britain.

They are aiming to compile a booklet of memories of Westerfield Station from local people who may have been involved with the station, or knew people who were, or people who have fond memories of travelling on the line between Ipswich and Lowestoft and between Ipswich and Felixstowe.

The book will be produced with the support of the East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership.

Sandy comments, "Westerfield is a charming station at the heart of its community. "As adopters we have spent many, many hours creating the wildlife gardens, involving the community in projects and making the station attractive to passengers. We feel the station is really special and hope other people do too.

"We hope that lots of people will come forward to share their happy memories of it." Stories can be sent in by email to [mary@jip.myzen.co.uk](mailto:mary@jip.myzen.co.uk) or by post to Westerfield Station Adopters, Collingwood, Westerfield Road, Westerfield Ipswich. IP6 9AJ  
A maximum of 500 words by **Friday 30th, May 2025**.

### ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

The EG regularly meet on the second Sunday of the month, to undertake various jobs around the village with the next two Sunday dates being **11th May and 8th June**. If you would like to be involved, either meet outside the village hall at 9am on Sunday or contact the parish clerk: David Gooch ([westerfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:westerfieldpc@gmail.com))



If you have anything you would like to include in the next or a future newsletter, such as an event coming up, please contact [Westerfield.Parish.Council@gmail.com](mailto:Westerfield.Parish.Council@gmail.com)

# Westerfield Village News

From the Parish Council—April / May 2025



## Neighbourhood Plan Update

The overall aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is:

- To preserve the rural feel of Westerfield; and
- To enhance the sense of community felt by residents

Modifications have been made to the NP, following on from the report by the examiner. The examiner has concluded that the Plan meets all the necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum. ESC are aiming to hold the **REFERENDUM ON THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY**, subject to them being able to meet certain targets before that date. All the relevant documents can be found, at the link, below:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-plans-in-the-area/westerfield-neighbourhood-area/>

There will be three ways to vote:

- 1) In person at the village hall (between 7am and 10pm) for which you will be sent a polling card,
- 2) By post. If you already have a postal vote, you will be sent a polling card or you can apply— read *Information for Voters* on the link above.
- 3) By proxy. If you already have a proxy vote, you will be sent a polling card or you can apply for a proxy vote, if you can not get to the polling station and do not wish to vote by post. This means allowing someone that you trust to vote on your behalf. To apply for a proxy vote, contact the electoral registration office ([//www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office](http://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office)).

### RAILWAY CROSSING

Commuters, impacted by the lack of a footbridge, have abandoned using the station. Emergency services on 'blue-light' duties are being detained at the level crossing, by the lengthy barrier down times. Resident Tony Cornell (AC) has requested our MP to ask Government to make the rail upgrade of Westerfield Junction a priority over Ely and Haughley, as it has more freight trains to and from Felixstowe than either of the other two. AC is also working on a submission to the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

### TRAFFIC AND SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE VILLAGE






Approaching the crossroads from Lower Road, the agreement is to refresh the existing SLOW road marking, while approaching from Church Lane, the existing 30mph repeater signs & post (by St Marys Way) will be replaced with a new more prominent sign installed. Closer to the crossroads the existing faded Give Way sign will be replaced with a new sign. Later on, in the medium term, Highways have said there is scope to tighten up the junction to reduce speeds in and out of the B1077 / Church Lane / Lower Road, noting that access is still required for local agricultural vehicles. There are no drawings or firm proposals for this yet.

## STOP THE QUARRY: Protect Our Roads, Homes & Health

The exhibition by TRU went ahead on February 21st, presenting to the community their proposal for an industrial pit right in the heart of our community, and amongst our beautiful countryside. A full planning application is expected to be submitted in Spring 2025.

If approved, the Westerfield Quarry will result in 400 - 500 HGV lorry movements Monday - Saturday, every week for 16 years. We are told that most of the HGV's will turn left out of the quarry to go on through Westerfield, across the level crossing and onto Colchester Road, and then on to TRU7's headquarters at Kesgrave. We understand that about 10% of HGV's will turn right, to use other routes along roads through villages around the North of Ipswich. This could mean a significant increase in traffic, congestion, pollution, and disruption through our community for years to come. Suffolk already has enough sand and gravel reserves to meet demand, making this pit unnecessary and entirely out of place. Now is the time to raise your voice, protect our homes, and stop this proposal. Together, we can Stop the Quarry at Westerfield.

### How Will This Affect You?

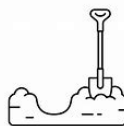
- Heavy traffic & congestion Large HGVs  could clog up Colchester Road and surrounding roads.
- Property value at risk  Homes near major HGV routes and industrial activity can drop in value.
- Road safety risks  Increased HGV traffic makes crossing roads more dangerous, especially for children, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- Air pollution from exhaust fumes & dust  Increased vehicle fumes and silica dust, which can worsen asthma, lung disease, and heart conditions.
- Once approved, this will last for at least 16 years. 

**THIS PIT IS LIKELY TO AFFECT EVERYONE IN THE AREA NORTH OF IPSWICH.** If the pit is approved, the damage will be done.

### COUNTRY PARK DRAINAGE SCHEME AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Riparian Owners (ie Crest Nicholson) have a legal obligation to "keep the banks clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase a flood risk, either on your land or downstream if it is washed away." The problem, with drainage, seems to have occurred as Crest Nicholson accidentally omitted the inclusion of maintenance of Land Drains in their contract of maintenance with Down to Earth (The company responsible for maintaining Henley Gate Country Park).

The two drainage systems overflow going into a stream that leads to Westerfield brook, and not the secondary ponds which just seem to be catching surface water. This was disappointing as Crest Nicholson had commenced work, to restore the original land drainage channel and protect the properties flooded during Storm Babet.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Annual Parish Council meeting (Tues 20th May) & Annual Parish meeting (Weds 14th May)

## What is On—April to May 2025

### LIVE MUSIC—SUFFOLK JAZZ BAND

Playing on 14th to 16th April, at the Railway Inn, come and listen to the Suffolk Jazz Band. For more details and to book, please contact The Railway on (01473)252337. Booking is essential.



### PSYCHIC NIGHT



On Tuesday 29th April at 7:30pm, join us at the Railway Inn, for an extraordinary evening with renowned medium Stephanie Carr. For more details and to book, please contact The Railway on (01473)252337. Booking is essential.

### COUNTRY NIGHT—PUB TAKEOVER

Yeehaw, cowboys and cowgirls! Join us Saturday 17th May for the ultimate country night where you can eat, drink & dance!

6:30PM - Arrival, Southern Style Sharing Platters, 7:00-8:30PM (90mins)  
Bottomless drinks, 7:30PM - Live country singer

Booking is essential & you can collect your tickets directly from the pub

So dust off those cowboy boots, throw on your best country outfit and get ready to two step the night away!



Big news for beer and dessert lovers, which started on April 1st, The Swan is proud to be the first pub in Ipswich to serve Ice Cream... ON TAP! I have not checked though I have presumed this is an April Fool's joke. I personally think it is a great idea.

### CHARITY LUNCH, IN AID OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, WESTERFIELD

Bank Holiday MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025 (12—2pm) At Westerfield Village Hall.

Choice of CURRY [Chicken or Vegetarian curry] or PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH [Cheese or Pate Ploughmans].

£12.00 to include Cake & Coffee/tea. Children under 12 will be £6.00

Raffle will be held throughout lunch. Places are limited, if possible reserve your Lunch by Phoning ; Anne Baker 01473 256991 or 07941433729 or Email [jbaker442@btinternet.com](mailto:jbaker442@btinternet.com)  
Please either pay beforehand, using a bank transfer or pay in cash, on the door.

\*\*\*\*\* Can any one spare half or so afterwards, to volunteer as a washer - upper \*\*\*\*\*

### VE Day (Thursday 8th May 1945)

'Victory in Europe Day' marks the day towards the end of WW2, when fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe came to an end. Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an announcement on the radio at 3pm that the war in Europe had come to an end, following Germany's surrender the day before.