Westerfield Village News

From the Parish Council—August / September 2026

WESTERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – WORKING FOR THE VILLAGE

It has been a busy and productive period for Westerfield Parish Council, with a great deal of work taking place on behalf of the village. Our focus has been clear: to ensure that Westerfield's interests are properly represented, that infrastructure keeps pace with development, and that the character, safety and quality of village life are protected.

STOP THE QUARRY

The planning hearing, originally scheduled for Tuesday 1st September, has now been postponed until **Tuesday 20th October.** This follows the successful campaign to secure an independent Economic Impact Assessment, strongly supported by our County Councillor, Elaine Bryce.

Economic evidence is particularly important, because the potential impact of a quarry would extend well beyond the immediate site. As well as the potential loss of employment at Fynn Valley Golf Club, the £2m disinvestment, and the implications for our rural inns and tourism, there is a serious wider economic question surrounding the effect on local property values and the vitality of the village economy.

If properties, affected by the quarry, were to experience significant reductions in value, there could also be implications for the Council Tax base. Residents, whose properties are materially affected, may reasonably seek a reassessment of their Council Tax bands. A reduction in the local tax base could, in turn, place greater pressure on other residents and on the level of services that can be maintained.

The independent economic assessment will, therefore, be an important opportunity to ensure that these wider consequences are properly understood and considered as part of the planning process. If you think you will be affected economically by the quarry, please get in touch ASAP with your Parish Councillor.

On the planning hearing day itself, there will be a march from Alderman Park, to the council offices in Endeavour House. On arriving at the steps, there will be a number of speeches against the planning application to build the quarry, before a petition is handed in. The current focus is to finalise the details, for the different ways to sign the petition. As and when the details are finalised, further comms will be issued about how you can sign the petition.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS: SAFER ROADS AND BETTER CONNECTIONS

Building on the excellent work undertaken previously by Peter Miller, the Parish Council has continued to press for practical improvements to road safety and connectivity.

Provisional drawings have now been prepared for a legally enforceable 20 mph speed limit along Lower Road and Church Lane. We have also been working closely with Suffolk Highways on congestion, parking and safety around the railway level crossing and the entrance to the Country Park. Double yellow lines are expected to be introduced on either side of the crossing, adjacent to The Railway Inn, helping to reduce obstruction and improve visibility.

No-idling signs are now in place, while discussions continue on further measures to improve safety and accessibility around the station and its approaches, and to reduce the pressure created by visitor parking on Main Road and within the Business Centre.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS: WESTERFIELD RAILWAY STATION

There is significant new funding for improvements to the station's sheltered waiting area, together with additional cycle parking.

This is particularly welcome at a time when Westerfield is seeing increased rail services and growing passenger numbers. The station is an important gateway to our village, and our aim is for it to remain an attractive, practical and well-connected facility for residents, commuters and visitors alike.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS: DOG WALKING AND VILLAGE PATHS

As use of the new Country Park and surrounding paths continues to grow, the Parish Council is looking at ways of improving facilities on the routes used most frequently by local residents and dog walkers.

We are exploring the redeployment of dog-waste bins from the Country Park to local village paths, with particular attention being given to the routes around Fullers Field and Swan Lane, where increased pedestrian and dog-walking activity has created a greater need for provision. Signage is already being introduced to help encourage responsible use of these routes and keep our paths pleasant for everyone.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS: HENLEY GATE COUNTRY PARK

Following discussions with Crest Nicholson, we have secured a commitment that the important pedestrian link from Lower Road into Henley Gate Country Park will be completed, including provision for full wheelchair and disabled access.

There has been some misunderstanding locally about the removal of the gate. Contrary to rumours, it was not stolen; it was removed to facilitate improved disabled access. The Parish Council continues to engage with the relevant parties to ensure that accessibility, security and the needs of all users are properly balanced.

What is On — August / September 2026

WESTERFIELD CHURCH

On **Saturdays (from 9 to 12)** during term time, the kettle is on, and anyone can drop-in for a free cuppa and biscuits. There are toys, games and colouring-in for children and water for dogs.

There is a monthly **8am service**, which lasts 45 minutes, is very flexible and guided by what people want. So sometimes it might be communion; other times it might be a talk; a traditional Book of Common Prayer service; or an exploration of Christianity. There are no fixed ideas. There is no singing, and the service is led by Revd. Charlotte. For more information: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2345/ or speak with Mary (Churchwarden) 07516 574738 or Rev'd Charlotte 01473 903991

PHOTO COMPETITION FOR 2026



The Parish Council will be running a Westerfield photo competition through the year, about people, places and communities that make Westerfield amazing. The best 12 of these photos would be used for a calendar, to raise funds for the church. The twelve winners would also receive a prize.

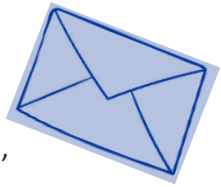
Please send any photos or questions to: Westerfield.Parish.Council@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

This service is run by local volunteers, who can officially monitor and report details of speeding vehicles to the police. For more information contact: Barry Reeve by email (barryreeve@gmail.com).

ROYAL MAIL HINTS & TIPS

- The name and address go on the bottom left corner of the front of the envelope or parcel.
- Town and postcode in CAPITALS
- Left align the text (no centred or 'stepped' lines).
- No commas or full stops.
- Write in black or blue pen, preferably on a white background.,



You can read the full article here:
https://help.royalmail.com/personal/s/article/How-to-address-your-mail-clear-addressing-tips

WESTERFIELD COFFEE MORNING

Just drop into the village hall, on a Wednesday morning, from 10am, for a natter and chinwag. Whilst there, pop along to the coffee station, for a drink & scrumptious goodies.

Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 23rd September**

What is On – August / September 2026

WESTERFIELD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, at 19:30, in the village hall. Visitors pay £4 on the door, which includes free draw ticket and refreshments.

Previous outings include,

A very successful visit to the RHS Sandringham Flower Show, on July 23rd. A coach -load thoroughly enjoyed a perfect day.

A group, from the gardening club, enjoyed a delightful evening visit to the trail gardens of Eazy Grow compost at The Blenheims in Little Finsborough. Each left with a free sample—result!!



The 2026 calendar for the club continues:

Sep 02	Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Jen Burlingham)
Oct 07	Climate Change Gardening and Us (Sue Boase)

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

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

A tennis session for Westerfield Residents will be held once a month over the Summer. The date is always the second Monday of the month, starting at 7pm.

Dates for the Diary:

August 10th @ The Croft Church Lane
September 14th @ The Croft Church Lane



Anyone in the village who can play tennis is welcome. Please contact Karen Davidson on 07769 650673 or krdavidson1@aol.com with any queries.

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 **16th August** and **13th September**. The next session will be focussing on:



- Village Hall Car Park Back Fence: Apply 2nd coat of preservative
- Westerfield Road Hedge: Continue removing brambles growing over path
- Footpath between Lower Road and Swan Lane: Remove overgrowth
- Village Hall Side Hedge: Continue cutting cuttings can be placed in Village Hall
- Village Hall Interior Walls: Touch up the damaged paintwork, if hall not I n use

If you would like to be involved, either meet outside the village hall at 9am on Sunday or contact the parish clerk:, Sophia (westerfieldpc@gmail.com)

What is On – August / September 2026

FUN AT THE RAILWAY INN



Summer holidays just got sweeter! Kids can enjoy a round of golf and receive a FREE ice cream or ice lolly! The perfect combination of fun, fresh air and a sweet treat!

Don't miss out this summer, come and enjoy a round of golf with us!

✨ PAMPER EVENING AT THE RAILWAY INN ✨

Treat yourself to an evening of beauty, relaxation & style in our function room!

Join us on **Thursday 24th September** at 7pm for Tropic Makeup, Temple Spa Skincare & Colour & Style advice.

Fizz on arrival and plenty of time for browsing & shopping!

£5 per ticket

Call us on 01473 252337 to book!

Bring your friends and enjoy a lovely evening of pampering!

MAMMA MIA!

Join us for a night of ABBA classics, Greek food, bottomless drinks and dancing at The Railway Inn!

Friday 2nd October 2026

£45pp

Call 01473 252337 to book your tickets now!

Here we go again... who's coming?

Date for the Diary:
Comedy Night on **Friday 18th September**. Details to follow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SWAN

Thursday 13th August	National Prosecco Day
Monday 24th August	National Burger Week
Monday 26th October	National Sausage Week
Friday 30th October	Pumpkin Judging
Monday 8th November	Game Week



On Monday and Tuesday, in August, September and October, The Swan are doing 33% off food from 4pm. Terms and conditions apply.

MONTH	DATE	DoW	EVENT
August	10th	Monday	Westerfield Tennis (7pm)
August	16th	Sunday	Environmental Group
August	31st	Monday	Bank Holiday
September	02nd	Wednesday	Gardening Club: Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Jen Burlingham)
September	05th	Saturday	Village Fete (Linda Willimott / Yvonne Maynard)
September	12th	Saturday	WTW Ride and Stride
September	12th	Saturday	Ballet classes start again (08:15-14:30) as will the Saturday coffee morning in the church room
September	13th	Sunday	Environmental Group
September	14th	Monday	Westerfield Tennis (7pm)
September	16th	Sunday	Informal church service, Westerfield
September	19th	Saturday	WTW Talk—Orwell Singers
September	22nd	Tuesday	Parish Council meeting
September	23rd	Wednesday	Macmillan Coffee Morning
September	26th	Saturday	WTW Churchyard tidy up
October	04th	Sunday	Harvest Festival
October	07th	Wednesday	Gardening Club: Climate Change Gardening and Us (Sue Boase)
October	11th	Sunday	Environmental Group
October	25th	Sunday	Daylight savings time end. Clocks go back one hour

MONTH	DATE	DoW	EVENT
October	31st	Saturday	Halloween
November	01st	Sunday	All Soul's Service, St Mary Magdalen
November	04th	Wednesday	Gardening Club
November	05th	Thursday	Guy Fawke's Bonfire Night
November	08th	Sunday	Remembrance Sunday
November	08th	Sunday	Environmental Group (Under review)
November	11th	Wednesday	Remembrance Day
November	24th	Tuesday	Parish Council meeting
November	28th	Saturday	Station Garden Christmas Decorating
December	02nd	Wednesday	Gardening Club
December	05th	Saturday	Willow Workshop
December	13th	Sunday	Environmental Group
December	25th	Friday	Christmas Day
December	26th	Saturday	Boxing Day
December	31st	Thursday	New Year's Eve

These are the events with dates known today. An update will still be sent out via email and added to Facebook, if there are any changes and as a reminder nearer the time.

What is On – August / September 2026

Stop The Quarry

A little poem by Martin Creasey

Shout it from the house-tops, "Stop the quarry!"
We do not want to share our homes with even one more lorry.
This is surely the wrong place for even more pollution,
Stop and think, and get it right, this is no solution.

Tell the word to far and near, "Stop the quarry!"
Better to prevent it now than live forever sorry.
Why take work from other sites already up and running?
It doesn't take a lot of brain or convoluted cunning.

Make your protest loud and clear, "Stop the quarry!"
This is not political; no Labour here, nor Tory!
Our area is residential, and neither rich nor poor,
It really wouldn't be a good idea to drive us to the law.

STOP THE QUARRY

www.stopthequarry.info

BRIDGETT COLLET TRUST

This is a local charity providing grants for the education of young people in the parishes of Westerfield, Akenham, Henley, Tuddenham St. Martin, and Witnesham.

Grants are available to support the educational needs of children under the age of 16, when there is a financial need – parents, carers and schools can apply on their behalf.

Grants are also available to students over the age of 18, who are in education be it university, college, or an apprenticeship. Young people can apply in their own right.

Organisations and groups can also apply.

Full details can be found on www.bridgetcollett.org.uk

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