# Westerfield Village News

From the Parish Council—October / November 2026

## LOOKING AHEAD – A STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR WESTERFIELD

By our Parish Chairman, Francis Street

The Parish Council is increasingly adopting a more strategic approach, to the future of Westerfield, adapting the way it responds to individual planning applications or local problems as they happen, to a position where it considers how decisions being made today will shape the character, economy, environment and quality of life of our village for years to come.

That means being prepared to say a "hard no" when proposals are fundamentally wrong for Westerfield, while also being willing to say a "qualified yes" to the right opportunities.

Whilst we wholeheartedly oppose the proposed quarry, we recognise that protecting our rural environment must go hand in hand with helping local landowners and farmers develop sustainable alternatives.

We are therefore engaging with Landowners, East Suffolk Coastal, Developers, The Rural Housing Team, Highways, Businesses etc' and, using the commercial skills within the team offering support for appropriate rural diversification (including opportunities such as a farm shop, cafés, small rural businesses and other enterprises which can generate long-term income) while keeping our countryside productive and connected to the community.

This more strategic thinking extends to infrastructure, housing, highways (20MPH limits), the railway crossing, station, frequency of stops, the impact, accessibility and opportunities that come with Henley Gate, and the future of our village facilities, including St Mary's Church which has the potential to become something very special within our community.

We want Westerfield to benefit from change rather than simply having change imposed upon us.

We are equally conscious that a successful village is about much more than planning and infrastructure. It is about community. Our village Fete was hugely successful attracting families across four generations, the environmental group curry night already has 24 people attending, and we hope this will be an opportunity for more residents to meet, enjoy one another's company and strengthen the community spirit which makes Westerfield special.

## LOOKING AHEAD – A STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR WESTERFIELD




Practical improvements include additional dog-waste bins and the clearing of land drains. We would ask all dog owners to use the bins, and land drains are cleared: a little maintenance will make a real difference to the homes that were flooded during storm Babet.

The Parish Council's ambition is straightforward: to protect what is special about Westerfield while helping to shape a positive and sustainable future for it. That requires the Parish Council to think beyond individual issues at times, to anticipate what is coming and, wherever possible, to influence the outcome rather than simply react to it.

We would encourage every resident to play their part. Come along to Parish Council meetings, support village events, share your ideas, report problems and engage with your Parish Councillors. The strongest villages are not simply those with good councils; they are those where residents, businesses, landowners and community organisations work together with a shared sense of purpose.

## STOP THE QUARRY

The planning hearing, originally scheduled for Tuesday 1st September, was changed to Tuesday 20th October, to ensure an independent Economic Impact Assessment was completed. Economic evidence is particularly important, because the potential impact of a quarry would extend well beyond the immediate site. The independent economic assessment will be an important opportunity, to ensure the wider consequences are properly understood and considered, as part of the planning process.

The planning hearing has again been postponed until …. Well, we are currently not sure when. The next Development & Regulation Committee will be on Tuesday 15th December and then Tuesday 02nd February 2027. The reason for the delay is to allow the applicant to finalise additional highways mitigation measures.

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.

# What is On — October / November 2026

## WESTERFIELD CHURCH—St. Mary Magdalene

Every Sunday at 11am there is a service at Westerfield church. All are welcome. These services are Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays, Morning prayer on the second Sunday and a short, relaxed service in the church room on the fourth Sunday.

On the third Sunday of the month, there is an 8am service, which lasts 45 minutes. This is very flexible and guided by what people would like from the service. 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.

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.



For more information: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/2345/ or speak with Mary (Churchwarden) on 07516-574738 or Rev'd Charlotte on 01473-903991.



## VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

This Christmas the Village Carol service will be on *Sunday 13th December* at 3.30pm. Traditional carols and followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

## ALL SOULS SERVICE



A service to be held on *Sunday 01st November* at 3pm, to remember those we love and who have departed. It is held the day following All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows, Hallowmas, and Feast of All Saints and celebrates all the Saints especially the Saints who are not honoured on other days of the year.




## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Service at St. Mary Magdalene on *Sunday 08th November* at 10:45, to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life, since the onset of World War I.

Westerfield have been lucky again this year to receive a bag of crocus bulbs from East Suffolk Council, which will be planted at the crossroads and along the verges so watch out for hosts of golden crocuses to spring up.

EAST SUFFOLK Blooms

# What is On – October / November 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.

The 2026 calendar for the club continues:

Nov 04 The Secret Life of Plants (Mr Jim Paine)

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

## WESTERFELDA



We practise through the winter to learn and rehearse our dances, ready for our summer dance-out season from May onward, when we perform at pubs, fetes, festivals and other events.

Practise Details: Monday nights at Westerfield Village Hall

## WESTERFIELD BEAVERS

The Beavers had Suffolk Fire and Rescue along last week, where they learnt a lot towards their Beavers Safety Activity badge.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

The EG regularly meet on the second Sunday of the month, to undertake various jobs around the village, with the next Sunday dates being *11th October, 15th November* and *13th December*. The next session will be focussing on:

- **Churchyard** Strim wildflower and ashes areas
- **Village Hall Border (below Joan Ventris room window)** Remove dead shrubs and prepare for new planting
- **Hedges** Continue removing brambles etc. growing over pavements and paths
- **Pavements** Sweep off conkers/acorns
- **Bus Shelter (crossroads)** Clean floor and notice board
- **Bus Shelter (station)** Sweep and wash
- **Village Hall Front Fence** Dig out ground-covering brambles



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)

Drop into the village hall, on a Wednesday morning, from 10am, for a natter and chinwag and maybe a coffee from The Coffee Van.

# What is On – October / November 2026

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SWAN




Quiz on *Thursday 22 October* for Alistair, a local man, who has just been diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease. Any donations are appreciated. //gofund.me/0adda8953




Sausage Week (26th October—1st November)

Game Week (8th—14th November)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE RAILWAY INN

Christmas themed afternoon tea (Saturday 12th December : 2pm—5pm)

Breakfast with Santa (Sunday 20th December)

Opening hours over Christmas are:

Christmas Eve (9am—10pm),

Christmas day (12pm—4pm) - fully booked for food so just drinks

Boxing Day (12pm—4pm) - no food service just bar service



## 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).

## RAILWAY STATION DECORATIONS

Come and join the Westerfield station adopters, decorate Christmas wooden ornaments: stars, reindeer, angels, snowmen and dwarves!



On: *Sunday 22nd November* (2-4pm) at Westerfield village hall. Refreshments & equipment provided.



Daylight saving time ends on *Sunday 25th October*, where the clocks go ack one hour so we get extra Zzzz time. There will be more light in the morning and less light in the evening.

| MONTH | DATE | DoW | EVENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| October | 11th | Sunday | Cogs & Tyres (9—11:15) The Swan |
| October | 11th | Sunday | Environmental Group |
| October | 13th | Tuesday | Informal Parish Council meeting |
| October | 16th | Friday | Battle of Fynn Valley Villages (Golf) |
| October | 17th<br>18th | Saturday<br>Sunday | Partridge Family Farm Pop-Up shop |
| October | 18th | Sunday | WTW Special Service Westerfield |
| October | 18th | Sunday | WTW Talk (3pm) Roy Tricker |
| October | 21st | Wednesday | Westerfield Church Open Meeting (7:30—9) |
| October | 22nd | Thursday | Quiz @ The Swan, in aid of a local man, who has just been diagnosed with MND |
| October | 25th | Sunday | Daylight savings time end. Clocks go back one hour |
| October | 26th | Monday | Start of sausage week @ The Swan |
| October | 31st | Saturday | Halloween |
| October | 31st | Saturday | WTW Book Sale (12—2) Village Hall |
| November | 01st | Sunday | All Soul's Service, St Mary Magdalene (3—4) |
| November | 04th | Wednesday | Gardening Club: The Secret Life of Plants (Mr Jim Paine) |
| November | 05th | Thursday | Guy Fawke's Bonfire Night |
| November | 07th | Saturday | Quiz in aid of FIND (Witnesham) |
| November | 08th | Sunday | Remembrance Sunday |
| November | 08th | Sunday | Start of game week @ The Swan |

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|---|---|---|---|
| November | 11th | Wednesday | Remembrance Day |
| November | 15th | Sunday | WTW Special Service Westerfield |
| November | 15th | Sunday | Environmental Group |
| November | 22nd | Sunday | Station Garden Christmas Decorating |
| November | 24th | Tuesday | Parish Council meeting |
| November | 29th | Sunday | Willow Workshop - Angels |
| | | | |
| December | 02nd | Wednesday | Gardening Club |
| December | 06th | Sunday | Willow Workshop—Stars |
| December | 12th | Saturday | Christmas themed afternoon tea @ The Railway Inn (2—5) |
| December | 13th | Sunday | Environmental Group |
| December | 13th | Sunday | Breakfast with Santa |
| December | 13th | Sunday | WTW Village Carol Service (3—4) Westerfield |
| December | 20th | Sunday | WTW Special Service Westerfield |
| December | 20th | Sunday | WTW Carol Service (3—4) Witnesham |
| December | 25th | Friday | WTW Christmas Day Service (11am) |
| December | 26th | Saturday | Boxing Day |
| December | 31st | Thursday | New Year's Eve |
| | | | |
| January | 01st | Friday | New Year's Day |
| January | 10th | Sunday | Environmental Group |

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.

## WESTERFIELD VILLAGE FETE

The village fête, which took place on Saturday 5th September, went really well and was enjoyed by many. The fete raised £1,884, with half going to the church and the other half to St. Elizabeth's Hospice.





This is a fantastic sum for a small village. Thank you to all who helped and supported the day.

## RIPARIAN OWNERSHIP

This relates to a home owner, when a property adjoins or contains a natural watercourse such as a river, stream, ditch, or culvert. The homeowner has the right to use the water, for agriculture or activities, etc. They are also responsible for maintaining the water course, preventing pollution, allowing natural flow ad managing vegetation.

Maintaining the water course protects properties and minimises the risk of flooding so ongoing maintenance will be important!

## 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 village calendar, to raise funds for the church. Please send any photos or questions to: Westerfield.Parish.Council@gmail.com

Just remember: not all dogs and cats like loud noises and bright lights so keep your pets safe during this Halloween period.





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