NUMBER 1 - UNIQUE RE-LAUNCH ISSUE



SPECIAL HISTORIC CELEBRATORY

VILLAGE LIFE LIVES

Sponsored with kindness by Ash Bank Garage with special thanks to Carla Williams

Our thanks go to Werrington Primary School and Year 5 for organising our super new Village Life logo. Judges were particularly impressed with the use of colour alongside well-known Werrington landmarks. Congratulations to the design winner who was presented with a **£10** voucher.

Village Life is produced by the Werrington Community Volunteer Action Group and is delivered free to Werrington, Cellarhead and Wetley Rocks.

World-wide circulation thanks to Werrington Parish Council through - https://www.werringtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/ - so click to go and enjoy anywhere - tell your away friends.

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EDITOR AT LARGE

Village Life Rides Again



Remember me as I was!

So here we are and Village Life rides again and to make this possible we would like to thank all those who have helped. See **Roll of Honour** article inside for starters.

And now it is my pleasure to introduce **Hayley Goo**dwin with new ideas who will be Associate Editor in future as part of our long-term planning.

Hayley has already introduced something different as she is working with the **Primary School** where, as a project the pupils will be designing our front covers, so we are already developing into new areas. So welcome Hayley – we could become the **Dynamic Duo!!!**

Particularly pleasing is that we are back with the **Village Life Monthly Radio Show** on Moorlands Radio which lets us broadcast to the world and promote our village. Moorlands Radio and Village Life boost their strengths.as local media continues to diminish.

We have gone for long term pre-payment booking for advertising which cuts down volunteer time and **ensures financial stability**. By exploring the latest techniques, we have also been able to half production costs which with advance pre-payments guarantees our future.

You will also notice a change in page layout. This follows a straw poll amongst our older readers, and we have a large percentage, who wanted it to be **easier to read**.

So here we are with all bills paid and more as we have received will-wisher donations totalling **£910.00 and a bank account over £1,430** with more in the offering. With a percentage of this the Knit & Natter Ladies will be organising donations to local voluntary groups though our **Village Life Sunshine Fund.** For simple application form contact – 01782 302019 or david@dsaimaging.co.uk .

We have also been offered £1,000.00 of seed-corn money which we haven't taken up as Village Life is making a profit!!

The response to the Village Life re-launch has been quite remarkable so we hope you enjoy.

Just great to be back and in such an exciting way.

David

Special thanks for their help and positive support go to local volunteers Hayley Goodwin, Carla Willams, Gemma Keiher-Knapper, Trevor Latala and Kenn Griffiths plus Owen Bailey-Burne from Tableau Reproduction for making Village Life live on.

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Werrington Methodist Church

At last Spring has arrived! The dark nights of Winter seemed to be going on for ever but now, the days are longer, the daffodils, primulas and forsythia are all in flower. It's a new beginning for the world of nature.

But what about you, how are you feeling? Regenerated, refreshed, optimistic, happy. It's amazing the difference a bit of sunshine can make.

As I spend more time in my garden getting it ready for the summer, I feel pent-up stresses drain away. A feeling of calm satisfaction descends. It's the same feeling I have in church when I can leave my troubles, concerns and worries outside and simply relax in the knowledge that God is holding me in His love.

Our Sunday Service starts at 10.40am. There's nothing formal or scary about coming to church. We're just a bunch of ordinary people who believe that there is a God. If you're curious, come and see what goes on. The services last for about an hour and then we have a drink and a biscuit.

If you want to find out more, without actually coming to a service, why don't you visit the Ash Café open from 10am to 1pm on Thursdays and talk to one of the helpers or drop into the Knit and Natter group between 2pm and 4pm on Mondays. You'll always be welcome in our church.

John Smith

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At Willow Vets, we're dedicated to providing our clients and their pets with modern, high-quality, and up-to-date veterinary care. Alongside our primary vet services, we also offer advanced referral procedures and diagnostics.

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Thank you so much to all our clients for your continued support—we truly appreciate it.

St Philip, Werrington &
St John the Baptist, Wetley Rocks





The beginning of this year seemed to be a time of endless rain, mist, and fog. "Mizzle" is a word to describe this kind of weather, which of course is used mostly in the UK. It reminds me of my first few visits to Werrington when I didn't even realize that there's a whole city visible 'down bank'!

As usual, I find a sermon illustration in that. Sometimes the sun is hidden from our sight by clouds. But the sun is definitely still there. Just as we wonder where God is when life seems miserable and gloomy, we can remember that He's still there too.

After a busy start to the year with various events, we maintain our regular services (8:30 and 10 am at St Philip's, 11 am at St John's).

We mark Holy Week - the most important week of the Christian year - at St Philip's with a shared meal on Maundy Thursday (6 pm); then on Good Friday we have *Messy Church* at 10 am (for Primary school children, including an Easter Egg hunt). Then at 2 pm at both churches we pause to remember Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Whether you've ever been to church before or not, you're welcome to join us at any of the Werrington and Wetley Rocks churches (see wwrchurches.com for details of the Anglican ones).

God bless,

Revd. Michael Follin

WERRINGTON BOWLS CLUB 2000



The 2025 season proved once again to be very positive as, for the second year running, our Tuesday 'A' team won the Oakhill league.

Out of season, during the winter months we move to indoor short mat bowls played on Friday's from 1pm until 3 at Bagnall Village Hall where we have three mats. Anyone is welcome to pop along and 'have a go'!

We have continued to improve the Bowls Green and facilities at our ground in Meigh Road Park with help from Werrington Parish Council and our District Councillors plus a lot of hard work from the members.

Currently there is a need for the club to gain finances to improve disability access and the toilets, all of which will be discussed in the coming months.

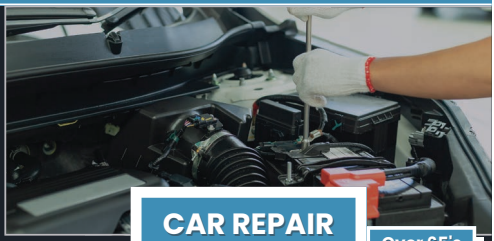
The 2026 season will be starting once the ground is suitable, usually around March, with our first official matches due to begin in early April. Monday afternoons and evenings the green will be open for practice and for newcomers to come along and 'try their hand'. We will be opening on the occasional Saturday morning to encourage young people to learn about Crown Green Bowls.

If you are interested in joining us or want more information please call Kenn Griffiths 07831 612688.

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The Werrington Community Volunteer Action Group

We have a Net Zero Cost Structure where partners, associates and contactscover our finances

GOOD – Re-launching **Village Life** community magazine and welcome to Hayley Goodwin who joins us at the helm– the only direct contact with our residents to improve lifestyle and help those less fortunate.Will also be transmitted globally. New format will create profits to develop local services.

GOOD–helping disadvantaged children and familiesthrough our special**Kidz2Kidz campaign**withgifts and dinner to have a happier Christmas. Partnering with County Council Family Practitioner Team Children and Families. For 2025 our increased total was to families with 172 kids and will be higher next year.

GOOD–creating Werrington's iconic**Dustbin Lids Trench Art Remembrance Display** which has maintained a unique local tradition.

GOOD–in partnership with the Patients Participation Group and Support Staffordshire **Revitalising Care at Home** in the Moorlands.

GOOD WCVAG has a full NatWest banking facility -and a state-of-the-art Constitution to provide a **correctly administered service**

GOOD – Working with the Parish Council we have proposed converting the **Red Cow into a Community Asset** and are looking to install a decommissioned small passenger aircraft to create a feature and extra space to expand the venue.

GOOD – WCVAG is currently exploring funding to enhance facilities in the **Meigh Road Community Playing Fields** in Werrington to improve intergenerational and lifestyle services for all residents.

GOOD PIPELINE PROJECTS – The WCVAG is working in partnership with Parish Plan, **(Meigh Road Playing Fields refurbishment)**, District & County Councils **(both with Care at Home)**, local Schools **(designing special Village Life covers, Village Shot based on Prince Williams Earth Shot & Bus Stop flower features),** Churches **(Kidz2Kidz)**, Police **(Possible new Friday Youth Club)** and Volunteer Support Organisations to develop all community services.

EXTRA GOOD- The group is **volunteer based, so we make every penny count, and we do not have any overheads.** If you would like to organise a fundraiser event, we would welcome your support if you would like to help.To donate – bank details are – **NatWest BusinessReserve Account 28513452 –Sort Code 60-24-77 or send cheque to below**-please indicate which activity youwish to support or if it is a general donation.

Werrington Community Volunteers Action Group

c/o 5 Weston Close, Werrington, ST2 9QN

01782 302019/07778 439693 –david @dsaimaging.co.uk

WE HAVE A POLICY OF SHOWING OUR APPRICIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR AIMS

Our thanks for their support go to –Hayley Goodwin, Ross Ward, Revs Steve Parker and Michael Follin, Kenn Griffiths, Gemma Keiher-Knapper. Werrington Knit & Natter Ladies, Mark Deaville, Caroline Prince, David Gray, Michael Fair, Support Staffordshire, VAST and many others.

Werrington NHS Village Surgery
"GET-YOU-THERE"
MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS SERVICE



Werrington NHS Village Surgery is pleased to announce a tie-up with Moorlands Voluntary and Community Transport, a Registered Charity that aims to support residents of the Staffordshire Moorlands who are struggling to get out to attend medical appointments.

This special service will take you to your medical appointment, and the driver will stay with you and bring you safely home. Passengers need to be able to get in and out of a car on their own as our volunteer drivers are not able to offer physical assistance.

Contact Leek on 01538 386888 or Cheadle on 01538 750511. Please remember that this is a charity run service which depends on the goodwill of volunteers who will endeavour to meet your request.

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WERRINGTON VILLAGE PLAYERS

Following their successful 2025 season the Players are busy planning for their two productions this year. Dates for your diary are 17&18 July and 13 &14 November.



Keep a lookout on our Facebook page for more details as they are announced. Pictured above members reading through potential scripts

We are pleased to report that as a result of the raffle at our production last November, a donation of £163 was made to Animal Lifeline, Cellarhead.

Pictured below are Committee members Doreen Walton and Sue Hill presenting a cheque to Sydney the Dachshund!



It is the ethos of the Players to put something back into our community. If you are aware of a local community group which would benefit from a donation, please let us know.

As ever we are keen to welcome new members. It's not just actors were are looking for, there are many other roles to perform, front of house, backstage, sound and lighting. We also enjoy social evenings reading plays and visiting other productions locally.

So come along to the Village Hall on a Thursday evening you are sure of a warm welcome.

A LOCAL WERRINGTON VOLUNTARY GROUP HELPING MAKE CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND DISTRESSED FAMILIES +

Kidz2sbiK

Staffordshire Moorlands Fund

For many years the good folk of our area have been helping to making Christmas special for those less fortunate. We work with dedicated socialgroups, the County Council Family Unit and local refuges.

Special thanks go to Rev. Steve Parker whose contacts make this possible. Every year requests for our help grow bigger and last Christmas we provided help to 172 children.If you would like to donate or offer some toys please contact David on 01782 302019 or david@dsaimaging.co.uk.





LET THE SUNSHINE IN WITH WERRINGTONS SPECIAL VOLUNTEER FUND FOR LOCAL GROUPS

The Fund was set up following the successful re-launch of Village Life where a new organisational structure along with well-wisher donations and fundraising has resulted in a profit being made which will be used to help develop small local volunteer groups.

Village Life has joined forces with the Knit & Natter Ladies who will administer the awards.and present on behalf all who have helped.

There are no long-winded forms to fill in so it is easy to apply – up to 100 words giving a description of your good cause, contact details, location, number of volunteers and your aims. E-mail to david@dsaimaging.co.uk which will be passed onto the ladies.

This time we have £200 available and applicants up to an individual amount of £100 will be considered.

ALL MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR VILLAGE LIFE



Werrington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you very much to all the residents that last year completed the Neighbourhood Household Survey. Werrington Parish Council would like to share the findings with you but first want to remind everyone about the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan.

The plan is a community led framework for guiding the future development and growth of an area. It may contain vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area. It may contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area or providing new facilities, or allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

A Neighbourhood Plan relates to the use and development of land and associated social, economic and environmental issues. It may deal with a wide range of issues (like housing, employment, heritage and natural environment) or it may focus on one or two issues that are of particular importance in a local area.

Werrington Neighbourhood Plan Survey – What You Told Us

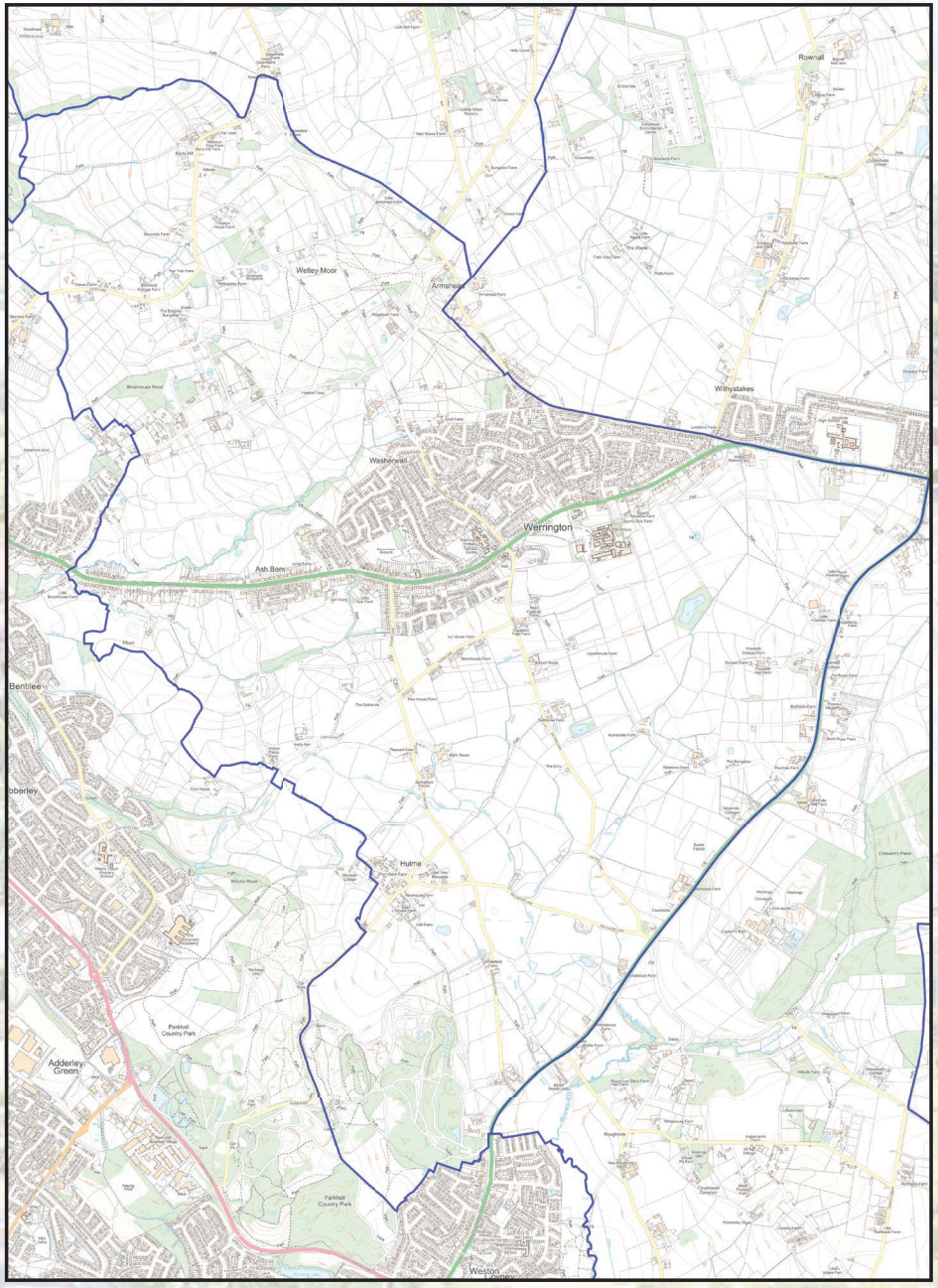
Thank you to everyone who took part in our Parish survey. With **222 responses**, we've had an excellent level of engagement. Here are some of the key findings' residents may find most interesting:

Who Responded?

- **40% of respondents are aged 65 or over** (90 residents)
- Strong representation also from residents aged 45–64
- Responses were received from across the Parish

This tells us we heard particularly strongly from long-standing members of the community, alongside working-age residents and families.

Map of Werrington Parish



🌳 Protecting Werrington's Identity

One of the clearest messages from the survey:

- **Over 80% of respondents said separation from the urban area of Stoke-on-Trent is important or very important**

Residents strongly value:

- Maintaining Werrington's distinct identity
- Protecting green spaces and countryside access
- Preserving rural character and village feel

This is one of the most consistent themes throughout the survey.

🏠 Housing – What's Needed?

When asked what types of housing are needed in the Parish:

- **80% supported more bungalows**
- **74% supported affordable housing**
- **73% supported starter homes**
- Strong support for smaller retirement housing

🌳 There is clear recognition that future housing should:

- Meet local needs
- Support older residents wishing to downsize
- Help younger people and families stay in the Parish

🚙 How We Travel

Travel responses show that Werrington remains largely car-dependent:

- **91% use a car**
- **75% walk regularly**
- Comments highlighted concerns about limited bus services

- Traffic congestion
- Rural transport challenges

Improving sustainable and safe transport options will be an important consideration.

🏘 Community Facilities & Village Centre

Residents placed high importance on:

- Protecting and enhancing the village centre
- Maintaining a mix of shops and local businesses
- Supporting community infrastructure alongside any new development

Many comments called for:

- Better local shops and services
- Protection of green spaces
- Improved transparency and communication

🌿 Open Space & Green Areas

There was strong support for:

- Protecting mature trees and hedgerows

- Easy access to countryside walking and cycling
- Safeguarding green spaces from development

This reinforces the message that environmental character is central to Werrington's future.

🔎 What This Means for the Neighbourhood Plan

The survey shows that residents want:

✓ Development that meets local needs
✓ Protection of green spaces and rural character
✓ Housing suitable for both older residents and young families
✓ Strong community facilities and village identity
✓ Careful planning that maintains separation from Stoke-on-Trent

These findings will directly inform the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan.

What's Next

The Parish Council will translate these findings into policies for the merging Neighbourhood Plan that protect rural character, natural and historic environment, safeguard our community facilities and services and seek to ensure the right types and mix of homes are delivered.

The Household Questionnaire also gave us further insight into other important community matters and concerns. The Parish Council will take these and seek to engage relevant bodies and organisations, raising awareness of locally important issues such as the lack of public transport, limited bus services and anti-social behaviour.

The Parish Council sincerely thank all those who participated.

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WERRINGTON KNIT & NATTER GROUP
RAISING FUNDS TO HELP GOOD CAUSES
- AND THE CAKES ARE GOOD TOO!!

The lovely Knit & Natter ladies do some wonderful for charity and they are raising funds or just doing good works all by selling their beautiful kids garments in Werrington Library. All organised by local knitter and lace maker Barbara Hughes.

Well over 550 Comfort Teddy Bears for the emergency services and Ukraine, Washerwall Lane Post Box toppers, chicks, rabbits and lams for Easter, blankets and beanie hats for hospitals, poppies and soldier displays and loads of Christmas decorations. All this plus jumpers and everyday items.

Currently the group is full and so the amount of quality knitted garments being produced is amazing, you won't find better value. They also knit garments to special order, just send details to - bh3490634@gmail.com





VILLAGE LIFE IS YOUR LOCAL LIFESTYLE PASSPORT

It just gets better as not only have we raised your special community magazine from the ashes but through this we can keep you posted with all the local news and also the Neighbourhood Plan which is being spearheaded by Werrington Parish Council.

This is one of the most important documents we will ever have particularly as we are about to embark on the Local Government Reorganisation Plan which will see Staffordshire Moorlands lose its individuality and become part of a much larger entity embracing Stoke-on-Trent.

Village Life will become even more important flagship as we strive to maintain our special characteristics. Our pages are yours to comment – send to david@dsaimaging.co.uk.



,

Werrington
Patients Participation Group

Chairman David Shaw, 5 Weston Close, Ash Bank, Werrington,
Staffordshire Moorlands, ST2 9QN.
Telephone – 01782 302019/07778 439693

Hello folks

As you know we have been working towards re-launching a proper Care at Home service in the Staffordshire Moorlands for nearly two years and were on the verge of bringing it about when there was an election and our planning bit the dust. But we carried on regardless and have now joined forces with Support Staffordshire with a plan which is detailed below. Big thanks to all the folks who have helped to move this on which can improve the lives of up to 20,000 who are home tied.

New Care Scheme Launches in Staffordshire Moorlands

Werrington Patients Group is delighted to support the launch of an exciting new care initiative in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The project, **Local Help My Way**, has emerged as a perfect example of how local care and support can become more flexible, personal, and community-led. The scheme is being delivered by **Support Staffordshire**, with backing and funding from **Staffordshire County Council**, and aims to help people remain independent in their own homes for longer.

Local Help My Way is building a network of **Micro Providers** — self-employed individuals or small local businesses who can offer tailored support such as personal care, shopping, companionship, cooking, and practical help around the home.

We already have several providers across **Cheadle, Leek and Biddulph**, with more coming through the verification process all the time. The team is keen to hear from people who may be interested in offering some form of care and support on their own terms, as well as from those who are looking for a little extra help at home with the things that make life better.

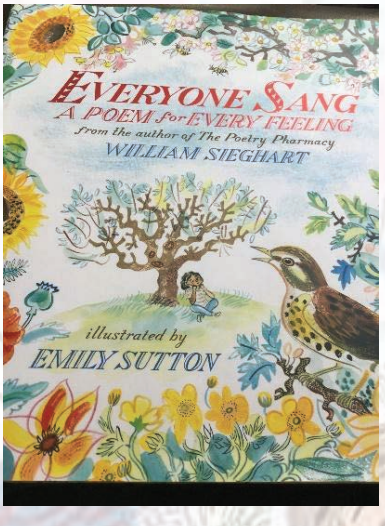
Werrington Patients Group is pleased to support the project and encourages local residents to find out more and get involved as the initiative develops.

This pilot in the Staffordshire Moorlands is the first of its kind in the county, with other districts expected to follow through 2026.

Find out more:
Sarah Roberts
– sarah.roberts@supportstaffordshire.org.uk
Esther Jones – esther.jones@supportstaffordshire.org.uk
Facebook: Local Help My Way
Website www.localhelpmyway.org.uk

David Shaw
Werrington Patients Group - david@dsaimaging.co.uk

SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE



Werrington Readers visit the Pharmacist.... (the Poetry Pharmacist that is)💊

In their conversations, Werrington Readers had shown an interest in the idea of poetry having healing powers....and furthermore, that there actually exists a Poetry Pharmacist. At the time we were intrigued and then, an opportunity arose.....

William Sieghart, the Poetry Pharmacist, was to appear (for one day only!) at the Buxton International Festival. An outing was arranged to find out what it was all about. (?)

There was a buzz in Buxton with glorious weather and lots of people enjoying various events and beautiful surroundings. After coffee outdoors, we made our way to the Pavilion Theatre full of anticipation.....and William Sieghart did not disappoint.

On stage, interviewed by a festival organiser, William told us about his life and, in particular, how the Poetry Pharmacy came about. We learned he had been an unhappy child at boarding-school, but found comfort in books; reading stories, learning poems off by heart and winning poetry-recitation competitions. His voice and story soon captured the audience, particularly when he read....we were treated to some lovely lines of verse. It was very moving.
William grew up to be a highly-successful publisher and founder of the National Poetry Day. Then, at a literary festival, the organiser (a friend of his), gave him a tent, two armchairs, a box of tissues and a prescription pad....and so it all began. The idea that solace can be found in simple lines of poetry.....to quote William,

A thought, which you had thought particular to you, is set down by someone else.... someone you have never met.....and.....it's as if a hand has come out and taken yours. W.Sieghart

It just makes you feel better.
Rumour has it that the film 'Notting Hill' was inspired by William. Why? He is a friend of the writer/director Richard Curtis and in his youth dated movie-star Uma Thurman. The film is about a bookseller and an American actress (??) But surely, that's just gossip!

Werrington Readers were very impressed and went on to buy a selection of anthologies which were duly signed by the Pharmacist himself. It was a lovely day out which gave us much to think about.

Pat Hughes

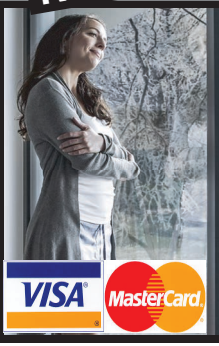
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