



**A Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year  
to all our readers and contributors**



**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL  
7/8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Friends' Christmas Tree Festival in Westbury Church.**

**We made £1562.35.**

**This will be going straight into our Lights for Lights fund to improve the exterior lighting of the church.**

**Above all though, thank you for making it such a happy, community event.**



**T**he December meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee is always a jolly affair, with Christmas in the offing and the prospect of our Chairman's sausage rolls and mince pies, not to mention a festive glass of wine. The business, however, is pretty much unchanging, and Jan (that's the Chairman, for new readers), ran through the jobs still to be done. The P.I.R light on the patio still requires attention and the Football Club need to acquire an NVQ2 qualification for food hygiene if Clive Tempest is to continue providing post-match pizzas. Our Treasurer, Sarah Mitten, was away for this meeting, but Jan was able to report an unchanged bank balance. Unfortunately she had to add that Sarah would be standing down from her task as Booking Secretary, which she had combined with her role as Treasurer with exemplary efficiency for some time.

Jen went on to ask members to submit ideas for further improvements to the Hall facilities, adding her own suggestion that the ladies' loo serving the Hall side should be refurbished, and noting that the car park was a permanent project for incremental improvement.

Gen Riley proposed considering CCTV for security purposes, particularly in the interests of people locking up late at night. Nikki Edginton noted that good CCTVs could be expensive, but Jan agreed to revisit the idea. she went on to report that the new fire exits would be

fitted during the following week.

### **Severndipity Club (bar)**

Ken Boulton reported on a poorer than expected November, and indeed that the figures for the year to date were also down. He observed that people tended not to stay as long after games as they once did, and also noted rising wage bills. Gen added that the Severndipity Committee were also taking a look at stock control.

### **Fundraising**

Jan said that the Christmas Party at the Hall had been a great success, with very lively entertainment and audience participation. She thanked everyone who attended, but was too modest to mention the splendid meal that she and her usual band of helpers had prepared. She mentioned the money raised by the raffle and generous donations, but stressed that it was more about getting the community together than raising funds.

Nikki Edginton drew attention to details she had received from Chase Milk about the possibility of providing milk in glass bottles to the area. They did not have the capacity to offer a doorstep delivery, but proposed that a vending machine, holding 54 bottles in refrigerated storage, could possibly be sited at the Hall. Another suggestion was the use of a converted horse box to house the vending machine to offer two visits a week at a set location, requiring an electricity supply. The committee agreed to consider the proposal and a possible survey, if a way could be found to fund it. The milk would cost £1.20 a litre, and glass bottles would attract a deposit of £1 which is a one off if all bottles are returned. Lisa Bennett of Chase Farm offered to attend a meeting of the Committee to answer any questions. Clive Tempest considered it to be

a splendid idea, pointing out that the plastic recycling bin was overflowing, and that one use plastic bottles are environmentally damaging.

He then went on to lament the falling participation in football and the downside implications for bar takings.

Alan Hyett asked for the heating to be turned on earlier, as it took quite a long time to heat the hall.

Mark Brill wondered if the Severndipity Club might consider investing in a fancy coffee machine, and Gen Riley added that a fish and chip van once a week might be considered.

Jan reported that, with the help of a couple of members, she had completed a 'discretionary rate review', in order that the Hall be exempt from paying rates owing to its charitable status and role as a community asset. She also noted that she was in a conversation with Water Plus (Severn Trent) about their extortionate bill.

It seemed an appropriate moment to adjourn to the bar and enjoy the festive spirit, or whatever your tipples was. *Ed*



### Events for January

#### **Nosh & Natter**

Thursday 16 January from 12noon

#### **Parish Council**

20 January 7:00pm

#### **Parish Hall Management Committee**

14 January 8:00pm

#### **Regular Groups**

#### **Short Mat Bowls Club**

Every Monday 7:30pm, Weds 1:30pm

Zumba Gold Low Impact

Every Thursday 9:30am-10:30am

#### **Mother & Toddler**

Every Friday 9am-11pm

in the main hall

#### **Community Bar Open**

Tuesday from 8pm

Saturday from 5pm

#### **Westbury Football Club Training**

Every Weds *contact David D'Ambrogio*

*01452 760630*

#### **Westbury Rugby Club Training**

Every Tues *contact Ken Boulton 01452*

*760285*

Saturdays Match Day for our Rugby  
and Football clubs

*T: 01452 229570*

*e: info@WOSPH.co.uk*

[www.westburyonsevernparishhall.co.uk](http://www.westburyonsevernparishhall.co.uk)

To make a booking click on the link and  
complete the booking form [http://  
westburyonsevernparishhall.co.uk/  
bookings](http://westburyonsevernparishhall.co.uk/bookings)

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### On this day....

On December 22nd 1989 the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin was opened for the first time in thirty years.

On December 24th 1903 England issued the first licence plate, A1 to the Earl Russel

## Parish Council

The December Parish Council meeting always has a special Christmas feel to it, with mince pies and other goodies to nibble, but this December we had the added treat of being able to welcome a fully restored Debbie Green back to the table after many months absence.

### Planning

So after the usual formalities, we dealt with just three planning applications, the first being an application to establish an annexe as a separate single dwelling house. Our understanding is that this classes as a development outside the settlement boundary and we therefore objected to it so that there is consistency with the outcome of other similar applications. The second was the construction of a new vehicle access and wall at a house in Broadoak and the third was a listed building consent application to replace windows and doors, to which we raised no objections. Fiona then gave us the results of some earlier applications and Chairman Simon Phelps reported that he had again spoken to the District Council about enforcement of planning law and had been reassured that even if the District Council was slow to take action against breaches of the law, there was no time limit on enforcement action.

### Finance

Following some discussion last month, Fiona had supplied us all with a spreadsheet giving the burial charges at various local cemeteries. Regular readers may recall that this had been prompted by increases in charges at Yew Tree Brake which raised concerns that there could be increased demand for space in Westbury's burial ground which is al-

ready close to its capacity. It was agreed that all our charges should be increased somewhat to bring us on to a similar level to Littledean, Blakeney and Newnham. We recognised that Yew Tree Brake's much higher charges were justified by the higher standard of maintenance that they are able to provide.

Moving on to next year's budget, it was agreed that the parish precept should be increased by around 7%. This will mean an increase of £1.60 per year on Council Tax for a Band D property and was felt to be reasonable in view of the rising cost of grass cutting, maintenance work, and the fees and costs associated with the burial ground extension.

#### **Around the Parish**

There has still been no decision by Westbury School on the amount of land that they would like to rent for their new playing field but they have agreed to let us know by January and Fiona will write to confirm that we need to have a decision as soon as possible.

One or two contractors have shown an interest in looking after the churchyard and we will be meeting them in the New Year to discuss this, and also talking to the existing contractors about what we require in the coming season.

We will also be doing a survey of milestones within our parish and plan to build some compost heaps in the closed churchyard when we meet for our next working party on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

So after a shorter than usual meeting, we were able to enlist Joe Liddington to open the bar and enjoyed a festive drink courtesy of Chairman Simon.

Our next meeting in on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January.

*Di Landon*

## **Nosh and Natter** at **Westbury Parish Hall** **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020** Food served between noon and 1.30pm

Carrot and coriander soup  
Chicken and leek pie with chunky  
potato topping  
Apple crumble and custard  
Vegetarian option available on the  
day

£8.00 two courses: £10.00 three  
courses

Come along for a natter and some  
home- made food

*Either see in person or call  
Gail on 760495/Jan on 760630 to  
book a seat  
so we can cater accordingly  
Thank you*

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A Christmas Pudding



## Westbury Court

This festive month has been very busy here at Westbury Court – Orders of St. John’s Care Trust.

We have been busy helping in Westbury on Severn Church with the recent tree festival and helped raise money for internal lighting at the church. The residents had great fun preparing a tree to go on display and wrote messages to loved ones to hang on it.

We have entered our beautiful chicken Peri-Peri into our ‘Star pets photo’ contest and awaiting to here the results, Peri-Peri wore a festive hat and scarf to get into the Christmas spirit.

If you have been visiting or passing by you may have noticed a few additions to our grounds, a resident’s husband has kindly made and donated a sleigh with accompanying reindeer to our home! Making it quite magical I think you will agree.

We have had the local Westbury on



Severn Primary school visit to perform a fantastic nativity, and the resi-

dents thought it was amazing, We were lucky enough to have a full costumed show, and residents loved the baby in a manger and couldn’t praise the singing enough. One resident even said she thought she was at church as they sang so beautifully.

We still continue to have our Christmas

raffle tickets for sale – so for the chance to win hampers and more prizes, please do buy tickets, all money raised will go towards activities here at Westbury Court.



Thank you all for you support, Merry Christmas from everyone here at Westbury Court and a Happy New Year.

### *Westbury-on-Severn Calendar 2020*

*Throughout the year, enjoy locally taken photos by Liz Perry of different areas and aspects of our scenic parish.*



£5

*Limited print run only. Available from all members of the PCC: Rev Steve Taylor, Simon Phelps, Annette Ellis, Alison Edginton, Frances Down, Joyce Ferson & Mary Fear. Also available from the Severn and Wye Smokery*



### **World Record Smashed !!**

**O**n the 7th December an audience assembled at Westbury Parish Hall to celebrate the upcoming Christmas festivities and also to witness Westbury Players launch their second assault on a world record. As the Director of the event Andrew Landon explained diligently and at length what was about to occur, having first studiously and thoroughly thanked Jan D'Ambrogio for all her work as Chairman (hear hear) there was a suspicion that the record to be attempted was that of Fidel Castro's astonishing 7hr 10 min longest ever speech.

However in fact we were about to witness Westbury Players performance of the World's Fastest Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, performed by Ben Evans as the Dame, Sally Church as Jack, and featuring Arthur Poole as the Old Man and Caitlin and Tegan Bennett as Auntie Di the Cow whilst yours truly hid behind a curtain and handled the Fe Fi Fo Fumming and also the technical matter of managing the chicken and the golden egg operations.



The time to beat was 5 minutes 50 seconds and Ben and Sally launched into the story with tremendous gusto, ticking off Pantomime requirements almost every second. Songs were sung, thighs were slapped, double entendres slipped in, and before we knew it Jack was up the Beanstalk but with the seconds ticking down playwright Adrian Crompton had built in one last piece of suspense as Jack was struck with a nasty bout of vertigo.

With only seconds to go and encouraged by a supportive and vocal audience Sally at last reached terra firma and the Beanstalk was cut down and the giant crashed to the ground (behind the curtains) with a bang provided by Hannah and her drum set.

The clock stopped at 5 minutes and 34 seconds to the delight of everyone attending. Thanks go out to Brian Evans for doing the lighting at short notice and Nicola Atkinson for handling the make up at even shorter notice.

We now move on to the matter of Hansel and Gretel in January. Buy your tickets now, it is considerably longer and much more absorbing !!

## Westbury Football



Only two matches to report this month which many would consider a blessing. A disappointing 2-1 loss to Huntley was followed by an even more disappointing 3-1 defeat to Bream in the Cup. There seems to be a never ending stream of cup matches but surely Westbury are now out of all of them. This dismal run of defeats was arrested by the Chairman of Football cancelling the game scheduled for 14th December as a dubious looking puddle had appeared near the halfway line and thus the pitch was “protected” from the damage that could be caused, not by the players but by the supporters jumping up and down in frustration.

This is certainly a strange team to watch. At times free flowing with silky moves and tricks as one may see on Match of the Day but at other times more resembling a frenetic group of knitwear characters that one used to see on The Clangers.

Matters aren't helped by the lamentable post match pizzas served up by the Director of Football which frankly are so thin, dry and often burnt that, whilst they would be lethal weapons in the hands of OddJob, they are not a patch on cheesy chips which would, in my view, change the team's fortunes considerably.

In other news, young Ismael (and he

said I could call him that) made a strong debut for the club against Huntley and young Alfie scored a fine goal with the outside of his foot, deliberately I hasten to add. Junior Mbika scored against Bream but apart from that not much else. Doudou was banished to the sin bin for dissent despite cries of “Doudou, don't don't !!” from the crowd. The Club Secretary may have mentioned he has been Club Secretary for 40 years and also marked out the pitch, my match notes are unclear but let's assume he did.

*Mark Landon*

## Gordon Mortimer

On Monday December 9th we said our last farewells to Gordon Mortimer at the Forest Crematorium. There was, of course, standing room only for the final tributes to this well known, well loved local figure. His coffin was borne in on the shoulders of his grandsons, and his daughter Julia delivered a moving eulogy which was not without its humorous anecdotes about this good natured man whom I never heard speak ill of anyone. We make no apology for this, our fourth mention of Gordon in the WoSP. His was a presence which illuminated many a gathering at the Parish Hall. He will be greatly missed. *Ed*



Wyedean

School and Sixth Form Centre  
Water together, advice together  
advice together, advice together

**ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING @  
WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN**

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## **Italian Intermediate**

This course is suitable for students who have studied Italian for 2/3 years and can hold a conversation using: present, future and past tenses.

**Start:** 23 January **Length:** 8 wks **Thurs:** 10.30-12.15

**Cost:** £80

**Venue:** Westbury-on-Severn Parish Hall, Rodley Rd, Westbury

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## **Painting and Drawing**

Suitable for beginners to advanced. Starting with some basic drawing, you will move on to develop your Watercolour and Acrylic painting techniques. (Advice on buying materials/materials supplied for first session or, bring what you have).

**Start:** 20 January **Length:** 9 wks **Mon:** 10-12 **Cost:** £80

**Venue:** Westbury-on-Severn Parish Hall, Rodley Rd, Westbury

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*Download the Wyedean School Spring Term brochure and enrolment form from:*

[www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.wyedean.gloucs.sch.uk)

*(then go to 'Community' then 'Adult Learning' then 'Courses available')*

*Or: <http://wyedean.gloucs.greenschoolsonline.co.uk/Community/Adult-Learning/>*

*For further information, please ring the school office on*

**01291 625340**

*(You can now enrol by email and pay online – see the ACL brochure)*

*(Please leave a message on the answerphone during the School Holidays: The office will re-open from Tuesday 7 January.)*



*There's always one misery guts*

# Hansel and Gretel

Written by Adrian Crompton & Mark London  
Directed by Mark London

## Westbury Parish Hall

For tickets, please call David D'Ambrogio

01452 760630

### Performances:

Friday 10th January (NON MEAL)  
Saturday 11th January (INCLUDES MEAL)  
Sunday 12th January (NON MEAL MATINEE)  
Friday 17th January (INCLUDES MEAL)  
Saturday 18th January (INCLUDES MEAL)

### Tickets:

Meal night: £15  
Non-meal night: £5  
Matinée: £5  
£3 child under 16  
(to be paid with non-meal night)



Rehearsals for the Westbury Players production of locally written Hansel and Gretel are proceeding apace and, all over the parish, people are frantically learning lines, practising songs, sewing and painting in order to be ready for the technical and dress rehearsals soon after Christmas. This year we are lucky to have a great mixture of wonderfully seasoned Players who will be familiar to all our regular audiences, as well as some great new young Players who are showing exceptional talent. So if you haven't yet booked your tickets, do so now by calling *David D'Ambrogio* on 01452 760630.



*George Ford and Amelie Phillips as Hansel and Gretel, clearly enjoying rehearsals*

## Christmas Services in the Benefice

### **Blaisdon**

Dec.25th, 9.30am,  
Christmas Family Communion.

### **Flaxley**

Dec.22nd, 6.00pm,  
Carol Service.

### **Minsterworth**

Dec.24th, 11.30pm,  
Christmas Communion.  
Dec.25th, 10.30am, Family Carols.

Dec.29th, 5.00pm,  
Candlelit Carol Service.

### **Northwood Green**

Dec.25th, 8.30am,  
Christmas Communion.

### **Rodley**

Dec.22nd, 3.00pm,  
Carol Service.

### **Westbury**

Dec.24th, 6.00pm,  
Christingle Service.  
Dec.24th, 11.30pm,  
Christmas Communion.

### **School**

Dec. 20th, 2pm,  
Westbury School Christingle  
Service in church.

*Everyone is warmly welcome to all our services at Christmas time, to gather in worship and celebration of God's great gift to us all.* Rev Steve.



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