



All Heroes on the Night!

Westbury Youth Project chose as its theme for this year's show 'Heroes and Villains Through Time', and in a wide ranging and varied programme, took aim at the internet, fashion brands and a light hearted look at historical figures, the suffragette movement and superheroes. They had not forgotten their roots, how-

ever, and there was a liberal helping of song and dance numbers, not to mention cheesy topped cottage pie with carrots, peas and gravy.

Many of the sketches were scripted by the members and were striking for their maturity in dealing with serious subjects such as the green agenda, dependence on the internet and branding, in a



Isabelle Humphries, Ella Jones, Amelie Phillips, Hannah McCartney, Libby Pimm, Osho Carter, Patience Fawcett-Till, Caitlin Riley, Kirsty Ball and Clemmie Byrne. The programme was neatly arranged so that sketches were followed by musical numbers, and the instrumental contribution of Hannah McCartney and Libby Pimm, and Clemmie Byrne's beautifully lyrical delivery of Lady Gaga's 'Shallow' were outstanding.

humorous way. This joyful evening was hosted by seasoned campaigners, Louise Fransham and Tegan Bennett, whose burgeoning confidence and talent is much in evidence as the years go by. The show opened, as it closed, with a rousing anthem from the cast, starting with Katie Perry's 'Roar' and ending with 'A Million Dreams', from 'The Greatest Showman'. In between the audience was treated to an eclectic mix that we have come to expect of the Youth Project, which nurtures the plentiful young talent here in Westbury under the guidance of Nicola Atkinson. The cast included Evie Essex, Lyra Dawson, Yasmin Carter, Viki Simondou, Edward Rockley, Caitlin Bennett,

Not only were many of the sketches penned by cast members, but senior



members also took on stage direction and management, sound and lights, choreography, costumes, props and catering. Of course they had the support of the adults, Gemma Byrne, Trish Bennett, Jo Phillips, Gen Riley, Claire McCartney and Tanya Carter, and on the cooking, Jan D'Ambrogio.

The programme notes include a quote from Maya Angelou, "I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people". By that definition, this lot are all heroes.

Ed

Parish Council

After the minutes of the last meeting were checked and signed, the November Parish Council meeting got underway with public comment. This referred back to the September meeting at which it was reported that two Autograss meetings had been cancelled without notification to local residents, in spite of the Club's agreement at the beginning of the season to do this. The questioner asked if there had been any communication from the Club but Fiona reported that she had received no response.

Planning

There was only one planning application, which was for the installation of ground source heat pump infrastructure at Severn and Wye Smokery which we had discussed and agreed to support at an earlier meeting. However, it had apparently changed from a Lawful Development application to a Full application, so we had to vote to support it again.

It seems that the Forest of Dean District Council planning enforcement department is still short-staffed and Chairman Simon Phelps, having got no answer to numerous phone calls, has had to call in to the office in person to chase up an enforcement matter that has been outstanding for some time.

Financial Matters

The accounts were all in order and we were pleased to hear that the bus shelter (pictured) on the north side of the A48 at Six Bells has now



been repaired. As reported last month, both Yew Tree Brake and Mile End cemeteries will be increasing their burial fees next April and it was agreed that we discuss how this might affect the fees charged in this parish. The fee for a single burial at Yew Tree Brake will rise to £580, whereas the corresponding fee in Westbury is currently £315. However, it gets more complicated than that, with variations according to whether the person was a local resident and whether exclusive rights or the right to erect a memorial are required. Similar variations cover the interment of ashes. After some discussion, it was agreed that we need to set our fees in Westbury at a level that will encourage people to choose cremation rather than burial, and that will deter those who have no link to Westbury from choosing this as a cheaper alternative to Yew Tree Brake. However, we have not yet decided on the exact charges and Fiona is going to supply us with all the facts and figures that we need so that we can do so at the next meeting.

We also had a preliminary discussion about next year's budget, which will be discussed further next time.

Brian Robinson, our County Councillor, reported that he had attended a presentation by Stagecoach regarding the new bus routes in the Forest of Dean. It seems that passengers had indicated that they wanted more buses running between various destinations within the Forest of Dean, and this had been taken into account when planning the new routes but the down side has been that passengers from the Forest are having a longer journey if their destination is Gloucester.

Highways We took advantage of Brian's presence to discuss the usual

significant number of highways issues. Severn Trent will be starting work at Stantway soon and although there are road closure notices, they have said that the road will, in fact, be open most of the time. Although this is bound to cause some inconvenience, the general feeling is that residents will just be glad that they are, at last, getting on with the job. Recent heavy rain has caused flooding in several places but near the Water Ski Centre at the Flat and in Chaxhill, the flood water has also contained sewage and so has needed to be reported to the Environmental Health department at the District Council. At Acres Corner in Northwood Green the storm water has been too much for the size of the drain pipe, which is a matter for Highways and Severn Trent, but drainage in Northwood Green has not been helped by someone dumping grass cuttings in the drain. There had been complaints that during the floods, the warning signs were often in the wrong place. Andrew Middlecote from Highways has been informed of all these issues.

Other problems were the culvert under the road near the Parish Hall gateway which is showing signs of collapsing, Church Lane is in a terrible state and Frowens Lane towards Huntley is no better.

Around the Parish

Play Area The area is quite deep in fallen leaves at the moment, but it was agreed that we wait until they are all down before we tackle them, in the hope that high winds may blow them all away!

Footpaths Geoff Wheeler and the Public Rights of Way team have been really busy in the parish and have cleared several footpaths and installed

new stiles and kissing gates near the Dinney and on the path between Gatwick and Cleeve Farm.

Burial Ground Westbury School have not yet made a definite decision about the size of the area required for the new playing field but a meeting is to be arranged very soon. Fiona is checking the number of spaces already booked for burials and will check if these are still required but it appears that there are now may be only four spaces left in the burial ground.

Closed Churchyard We now have a supply of pallets with which to build some compost heaps and we hope to do this soon after Christmas. We have decided to call a halt on the working parties until the second Saturday in February, as Christmas and the village pantomime are consuming a lot of time and energy.

We closed with Chairman Simon giving us the excellent news that two Westbury projects had won awards from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (see page 7). The church spire project was a massive undertaking for a small community, and the plaque received in recognition of the hard work and determination required to complete it successfully can be displayed with pride.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Mon 16th Dec at 7pm. *Di Landon*

Woman in clothes shop: "Could I try out that dress in the window?"

Shop assistant: "I'm sorry madam, you'll have to use the changing rooms like everyone else"

*What has one horn and gives milk?
A milk lorry*



Both our Secretary and her able deputy were unavoidably absent from the November meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee meeting, so it fell to your correspondent to take the minutes, from which I will attempt to distil the more exciting moments. Our Chair, Jan D'Ambrogio was pleased to announce that Mike Green would be attending to outstanding matters electrical, including the unpredictable security light on the patio. Following last month's discussions, it was agreed to make a charge for use of the bar at wakes, however parishioners would enjoy free use of the Hall.

Treasurer's Report.

Sarah Mitten had distributed the figures ahead of the meeting, and declared herself happy that the financial position was stable, and your Hall is operating at a profit.

Hall bookings.

Sarah advised that Jan is acting temporarily as Bookings Secretary.

Projects.

We, the Committee that is, have been operating a 'projects list' for a few years now, and it is part of our monthly routine to review it, add to it and celebrate the completion of more major enterprises. If anything it is symptomatic of the dynamism of this (relatively) young committee, it is this

list and its constant renewal, which is central to the continuing improvements you see at the Hall. Such as the new fire exits which will be installed at the beginning of December, and Mike Edginton filling in all the pot holes in the car park. The outstanding past project has been the redecoration of the lounge.

Severndipity Club (bar)

Gen Riley reported that, owing to other commitments, our new bar manager would be reducing her hours, and the Severndipity committee were seeking an additional staff member, principally to cover Fridays, Saturdays and holidays. The community bar would continue to operate on a Tuesday, provided volunteer staff could be found.

Fundraising

Jan announced that plans for exciting events had been proposed at the last meeting of the Fundraising committee, and urged members to invite family and friends to the Christmas Party on December 7th.

Odds and Ends

Both the Hall and Friday Luncheon Group had retained their food hygiene rating of 5, the highest possible.

Nikki Edginton noted that the tiles for repairs to the roof damaged by cricket balls had been received and would be fitted as soon as possible.

Mike Edginton asked if there could be a manual override to the computer controlled heating system in case of a failure.

Gen Riley asked for an eyewash to be included in the Hall first aid kit. She also thought the new doors to the table store were a great improvement.

Jan proposed that helium balloons should not be permitted in the Hall, as they frequently escaped to the upper reaches where they remained until the gas leaked out, at which point they sank

to the ground, often in the dead of night, and set off the alarm.
On that deflationary note we repaired to the bar for a pick-me-up. *Ed*

Events this month

Parish Xmas Party

Saturday 7 December
Contact Jan to make a booking on
01452 229570 or info@wosph.co.uk

Nosh & Natter

19 December - Food served between
12noon-1:30pm
Contact Jan 01452 760630 or Gail
01452 760495 to book a seat
Two courses £8.00 or Three courses
£10.00

Age Concern

20 December 11am-2:30pm
Westbury on Severn Age
Concern Lunch Club .The group pro-
vides coffee/tea and lunch for Senior
Citizens, as well as transport, if needed,
all for £4.00
New diners are welcome, in fact en-
couraged!
Please contact Sarah 07554
996734 or Jane on 07789 128487 for
more details.

Meetings

Parish Hall Management Com- mittee

10 December 8pm

Parish Council Meeting

16 December 7pm

Regular Groups

Short Mat Bowls

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

Zumba Gold Low Impact

Every Thursday 9:30am-10:30am

Westbury Rugby Club Training

Every Tues from 7pm contact Ken
Boulton 01452 760285

Mother & Toddler

Every Friday 9am-11pm in the main
hall

Community Bar Open

Tuesday from 8pm
Saturday from 5pm

Future Events - Watch this space

	Don't forget	
	to vote	
	on	
	December 12th	



*Dick Whittington seeks technical
support*

If your parents never had children,
chances are you won't either

Church Times

Christmas Services in the Benefice

Blaisdon

Dec.15th, 6.00pm, Carol Service
at the Village Hall.

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

Flaxley

Dec.22nd, 6.00pm, Carol Service.

Minsterworth

Dec.15th, 4.00pm, Family Advent
Carols

Dec.24th, 11.30pm, Christmas
Communion.

Dec.25th, 10.30am, Family Carols.

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

Northwood Green

Dec.15th, 3.00pm, Readings and
Carols.

Dec.25th, 8.30am, Christmas
Communion.

Rodley

Dec.22nd, 3.00pm, Carol Service.

Westbury

Dec.15th, 11.00am, Christmas Family
Service.

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.

“Church is where you go to find out
what your neighbours should do to lead
better lives.”

CPRE Award for Spire Restoration

The Gloucestershire branch of the
Council for the Preservation of
Rural England presents awards
annually which recognise and celebrate
local projects which are considered
really outstanding in their contribution
to the environment or to the local com-
munity. The projects have to demon-
strate sustainability, involve improve-
ments to the environment, whether
natural or built, and be visible from
public places.

This year, our parish had the distinction
of receiving two awards from the inde-
pendent panel of judges, at a recent
ceremony at the Gambier Parry Hall at
Highnam. Each project was awarded a
plaque for permanent display while
certificates were awarded to all the key
players.

The citation for the Barn at Severn and
Wye at Chaxhill described the project
as “*a thoughtful and well-designed res-
toration of traditional farm buildings to
accommodate an elegant contemporary
setting for the Smokery’s new restau-
rant and retail activities.*” The building
had been carefully renovated by a team
of artisan craftsmen, Preece Brothers,
and Richard Cook praised them saying
“*This was a truly sustainable building;
stone was dug from the ground beside
the barn as would have happened in the
past.*”

The citation for the re-shingling of the
Westbury on Severn church spire de-
scribed how the oak shingles had last
been renewed in 1938, and had reached
the end of their life in 2008. The spire
is thought to date back to the 1300s and
is the second highest in the South West



after Salisbury Cathedral, and it was pointed out that it had taken 10 years of tireless fund raising to get the necessary repairs completed and that these were substantially more extensive than anticipated at an eventual cost of £1 million. The new shingles had been locally sourced from the Forest of Dean. It was good to see that the judges had recognised *“the determination to complete a daunting conservation and repair project, bringing new life to this Westbury landmark, better management to the Church’s setting, and securing stronger links to the local community.”* Congratulations to all involved in these two excellent projects.

Gordon Mortimer

On Sunday 24th November Gordon Mortimer died at home aged 93. Gordon was something of a local legend, as was his late wife, Christabel. They were always a pleasure to meet, Gordon twinkly and mischievous, Christabel a fund of funny stories. Gordon’s funeral will be held at the forest Crematorium on Monday 9th December at 12.30pm. Next month we hope to publish a longer tribute to

Gordon. In the meanwhile here is a piece we published some years ago.

“A few years back we carried a profile of the Mortimers, doughty doyens of Westbury life. In it we mentioned that Gordon had been a ‘Bevan Boy’, recruited during the war to mine coal to keep the was effort on track. You were not given the choice, as candidates were selected by a ballot based on your ID card number. Gordon served at the Risca pit near Crosskeys, Newport between 1944 and 1948. You may have read that rather belatedly the contribution of these conscript miners has been recognized by the award of a small badge, and their participation in the Remembrance Day parade at the Cenotaph.”



Gordon in 1944

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



The Royal British Legion Poppy collection in Westbury raised over £2,100, and when proceeds from the Legion lunch and sale of wreaths is added, the total raised climbs to over £2,900. These amounts are a tribute to the generosity of the community and the hard work of the Branch, in particular to Sue and Ernie Pemberton, who also collected the largest contribution.

Talking Point

An informal public gathering was held at Westbury Parish Hall on 19th November to consider the issue of climate change. Between 25 and 30 local residents gathered to explore a number of themes. Many helpful and informative comments were made, leading to the choice of four themes for possible further consideration. These were:- solar panels and power; shopping habits; waste food; building and domestic heating. A number of people volunteered to meet to consider these issues in more detail, which may well lead to suggestions for consideration at further public meetings in the New Year. Local Parish Councils were included in the publicity for this meeting. Anyone interested to find out more is welcome to *contact Steve Taylor on 760756 or stevewill-*

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church Friends

100 CLUB
OCTOBER 2019 DRAW
RESULTS

1st: 49 Gemma Sterry £50
2nd: 69 Phil Woodman £20
3rd: 24 Andy Williams £10

If you would like a chance of winning in our quarterly draw, please contact:
Frances Down (760270).

A new "year" of quarterly draws starts in October, then January '20, April and July. There are numbers available for new subscribers.

Cost: £12 for the year.

Apply now for £9, for the remaining three draws of the "year".

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Meetings held at Northwood Green Social Hall, GL 14 1NB, at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Enquiries: contact *Sue Stephens 01452 760773*
Visitors welcome to any meetings, cost £3
Thursday 12 December Christmas Party with a gardening theme

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

Football Roundup

Mark Landon

A grim month indeed for Westbury United FC saw them shipping in 13 goals (including the Cup defeat) to a solitary Manu Adebayor goal in the plus column. A fine 1-0 victory over Redmarley featuring the above mentioned excellent 25 yard lifted shot over a stranded goalkeeper was the only high point in a month where the drama surrounding firstly selecting 11 players and then getting them all to the same place at roughly the same time proved almost as compelling as the action on the pitch.

A defeat to league leaders Mushet and Coalway was no disgrace although three players turning up 10 minutes after kick off hampered pre-match preparation somewhat. Ironically, the team was playing quite well up to that point and passing the ball around confidently although in truth Mushet's rather speedy and prolific front line were a little too much to handle and they struck three high quality finishes whereas Westbury struggled to get a shot on target.

Against Howle Hill matters failed to improve as again the team failed to get a shot on target in a 4-0 loss, although a long range effort from young Alfie, coming on as sub, clipped the bar. Their Scouser proved a tricky proposition again, scoring as usual, although possibly he has lost a yard of pace on account of adding about a stone of muscle. Tom Landon in defence had a busy game and was left bereft at the final whistle as the front line and midfield showed a hitherto hidden turn of pace as they headed off to the changing room, leaving the back four and lines-

man to put the nets away.

Director of Football Tempest was prickly in the post match press conference, doggedly defending the dubious strategy of abandoning training sessions in favour of...er....at this point a stream of expletives were aimed at the assembled press representatives and a hail of extremely low quality pizzas were hurled in our direction, to the horror of the newly qualified food hygiene specialist, also known as the club secretary, who was left shaking his head and muttering that they were not thrown at the correct temperature of 63 degrees Fahrenheit.

Westbury United are now 8th in the division and mid-table mediocrity is now an aspiration rather than a threat.

If you're in the penalty area and don't know what to do with the ball, put it in the back of the net and we'll discuss the options later

Bob Paisley

I wouldn't be bothered if we lost every game, as long as we won the league

Mark Viduka



"I find it very useful having a mobile phone"



as a thank you for all your support this



year come join us 7:00pm
for supper and entertainment



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- 9th November - Christmas Bazaar at Great Oaks Hospice
- 16th November - Gala Dinner at Speech Hosue - Theme 007 Dressed To Thrill
- 23rd November - 50s/60s Night at Bishopswood Village Hall
- 7th December - Ho Ho Hospice Walk from Coleford Clock Tower
- 20th December - Christmas Party at Forest Hills

Hansel and Gretel
 Written by Adrian Crompton & Mark Landon
 Directed by Mark Landon

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
 Matinee: £5
 £3 child under 16
(Valid from with every young adult)

Summer holidays are times when parents realise that teachers are grossly underpaid.

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