



*Jeremy Coney, Jacob Brown, Jack Cook and Brett Pearson (Charlie's dad) with the 'Golden Moment' award*

## Cricket Club's Annual Night Out

The Annual Dinner celebrating the Summer Game took place at the Parish Hall on October 4<sup>th</sup> when all the great and the good on the Westbury cricket scene turned out in their finery to hear New Zealand international Jeremy Coney give the after dinner address. Known as the 'playing mantis' on account of his gangly frame, Coney drew on a wealth of cricketing memories to entertain and amuse his knowledgeable audience, before presenting the awards.

The evening was hosted by the inimitable Pete Wilson, renowned local broadcaster, who also provided the accompanying photograph. These dinners are always a feast for the senses, with a photo montage rolling on stage, engaging speeches from President Clive Tempest, a Chairman's report, delivered by Ian Martin on behalf of Ian Dunn, who was in Japan on World Cup duties, and a delicious meal provided by Sally Gardner and her team and a bar well stocked with some premium wines.

Of course, the focus of the evening is the eagerly anticipated awarding of the trophies, and the following were the deserving winners:

*First XI Batting*.....Ian Dunn

*Second XI Batting*.....Neil Wyman

*Alex Kinnear Award for Overall*

*Batting*.....Greg Artus

(Greg was also best batsman and bowler for the midweek XI)

*First XI Bowling*.....Ed Edginton

*Second XI Bowling*.....Jacob Brown

*George Sansom Award for Overall*

*Bowling*.....Ed Edginton

*Catches Award*

(13 catches).....Charlie Gayther

*Most improved player*.....Arron Leese

–Williams

*Best Individual performance*.....Fran

Stirrup

*Ben Nice Award for the Young Player*

*of the Year*.....Jacob

Brown

*Mens Players' Player of the*

*Year*.....Greg Artus

*Ladies Players' Player of the*

*Year*.....Lucy Edginton

*Pete Blease Spirit of Cricket*

*Award*.....Fran Stirrup

*Clubman of the*

*Year*.....Pete Wilson

Finally, and worth a glance at the citation, the award for the

*Golden Moment.*

....the award for the Golden Moment goes to three youngsters who each played their part in pulling off a victory against our old foe Ruardean Hill. It began in the first innings with a fabulous catch at square leg by Charlie Pearson. Things had been going well in the second innings until the usual Westbury collapse left us needing about 10 runs to win, with just two youngsters to bat. Ruardean Hill have a decent quick

opening bowler who was brought back to mop up the tail. These two lads however had other ideas and bravely fended him off for two overs while calmly collecting singles and the odd two from the the other end. It really was a coming of age for these three lads, and will hopefully give them the inspiration to go on to even better things in the years to come. Who are they?

They are: **Jack Cook, Charlie Pearson and Jacob Brown. Ed.**

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## Parish Council

**A**fter the usual formalities at the October Parish Council meeting, the 'public comment' part of the agenda was filled by Rev Steve Taylor's introduction to his initiative regarding climate change. (see p.6) Like many of us, he is concerned about how he will respond to his grandchildren in the future, when they ask what he did about climate change, and he left us with invitations to come together to explore the issues involved, with an initial meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Parish Hall.

### Planning

There was only one planning application on the agenda, which was for additional car parking and garden area for Ninnage Lodge Cottage and the construction of a new vehicular access. There were no objections to this and Fiona reported that all last month's applications had been granted by the District Council as well as two earlier applications.

### Financial Matters

It has been announced that both Yew Tree Brake and Mile End cemeteries will be increasing their burial fees by 5% from next April and so a review of

the fees for Westbury will be on next month's Parish Council agenda.

#### **Around the Parish**

**Play Area** The wooden stumps or stepping blocks in the play area have had their day and are now rotting, and so three of our councillors agreed to dig them out.

**Highways** As usual, there were numerous problems reported with the parish's roads, with flooding near Severn Wye Smokery, potholes and overhanging trees in Rodley, a sinking drain in the village and most of the footway between Broadoak and Westbury in a bad state. Added to this, the sign to Hunt Hill has been knocked sideways and the road is in a bad state, a water main has been leaking on to the bridge in Blaisdon Road and there have been several reports concerning the poor state of roads, verges and ditches following the work done by Complete Utilities for Gigaclear. The only good news is that all the drains in the village have been jet cleaned. Fiona will report all the other issues to the Highways department.

**Footpaths** Geoff Wheeler of Public Rights of Way has been with John Henry to look at various footpath problems south of the A48 and has given advice about how to tackle these.

**Burial Ground** We are now waiting to hear from the governors at Westbury School as to how much of the lower field they would like to rent for the new playing field.

**Closed Churchyard** The grass in the closed churchyard has now all been cut and we are hoping to have constructed some compost heaps before the next growing season, so that not all the waste has to be completely removed. Some waste however does need to be taken away – and that is dog poo! Most peo-

ple now seem to pick it up and bag it, but in the absence of a bin specifically for dog poo, it is necessary to take it home for disposal, rather than leave it in the churchyard. So please come and



*Picture taken in Hull but we've had some of this here too.*

enjoy the churchyard, with or without your dog, but please leave no traces behind!

**Post Office** We had all been sad to hear that the Post Office had had to close, but understood that the re-negotiation of the terms under which Sarah and Matthew ran it had made it impossible for them to continue. It appears that the planners at the District Council had doubts about the sustainability of the Post Office being housed in a portakabin at the Parish Hall and so the planning application for this may well have been unsuccessful.

#### **Ley Park Woods**

Six areas of woodland of around five acres each have already been sold according to the woodland.co.uk website and another area is on the market. Concerns have been raised about tree felling and the use of road planings for paths, but this is not apparently a matter for local authority control, although the felling of trees near a goshawk's nest is being investigated.

#### **County and District Councillors' Reports**

Brian Robinson joined us and reported on the Local Transport Plan review which looks ahead now to 2044. The possibility of a new rail bridge over the

River Severn connecting Stroud and the Forest of Dean is being considered, which would also be for the use of walkers and cyclists. Simon Phelps reported that the Five Acres site has now been bought for the sum of £1 and will provide a new leisure centre for the Forest as well as some housing. A decision has also been made as to the site of the Forest's new community hospital which will be at Collingwood Field at Steam Mills.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7pm. *Di Landon*



**I**n these times of national and international turmoil, the proceedings of the Parish Hall Management Committee may seem a little inconsequential, and yet it appears from recent surveys that interest in finely focused local news is growing. Perhaps *because* of the national and international turmoil we draw some comfort from gentle rhythms of rural life, from recognising names of people familiar to us in our daily lives, even, perhaps, from drawing parallels between them and actors on the national and world stage.

Jan D'Ambrogio, leader of the Hall Committee, confirmed at the October meeting that the dodgy or absent posts around the playing field had been replaced and that she had been in touch with Mike Green, who assessed that the electrical circuits at the Hall were close

to their maximum loading.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Sarah Mitten had circulated the current figures, which demonstrated a healthy balance. She added that September had been a successful month financially, with income from the Summer Show, Severndipity Club and rental from the Doctors' surgery. There had been some expenditure on property maintenance, including the deposit paid for the new fire exit doors. She confirmed that it costs £116 per day to run the Hall. Her immaculately presented accounts have been submitted to the Charities Commission .

With her **Bookings Secretary** hat on, she noted that two weddings had been booked for 2020.

It was agreed unanimously to repay a £1,000 loan from the Short Mat Bowls Club. The contract with BT Sport for programmes in the lounge was up for renewal, and there was some debate about the cost effectiveness of providing this service, which would cost £117 per month.

#### **Odds and ends.**

There was further debate about the lighting in the lounge, with a number of differing but firmly held views expressed as to the optimum brightness of the ambient light. The quest goes on for the perfect light bulb (sorry Mattie!)

There was to be a fundraising meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Christmas party will be December 7<sup>h</sup>. In order to get in the mood early, we adjourned to the bar. *Ed*

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*A friend is someone who knows all about you and still likes you.*

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*The trouble with being in the rat race is that, even if you win, you're still a rat*

### Events for November

#### **Nosh & Natter**

Thurs 12 Nov from 12noon

#### **Westbury on Severn Age Concern Lunch Club**

Frid 27 Nov 11am-2:30pm

The group provides coffee/tea and lunch for Senior Citizens, as well as transport, if needed, all for £4.00

New diners are welcome - please contact Sarah 07554 996734 or Jane on 07789 128487 for more details.

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#### **Meetings**

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

Tues 12 Nov 8:00pm

#### **Parish Council**

Mon 18 Nov 7:00pm

#### **Climate Change Meeting**

Tues 19 Nov 7:30pm

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#### **Regular Groups**

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

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

#### **Zumba Gold Low Impact**

Every Thursday 9:30am-10:30am

#### **Youth Project**

Every Thursday in the Main Hall at 6pm

#### **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**

## Church Times

The season of Remembrance has come round once more, when we all have an opportunity to review the past. It isn't always a comfortable thing to do, but it seems to me it is necessary. Without doing so we could lose track of where we come from, and our precious memories might fade away more easily. We gather in the parish church at Westbury on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.00pm to give thanks for our nearest and dearest who have died. The following Sunday the focus turns to those who gave their lives for their country, as we gather again for thanksgiving and commemoration. At 10.45 am the following Sunday, 10.11.19, we are holding a joint service for Remembrance Sunday. We will be playing host to Royal British Legion members and others from Minsterworth, so it would be wonderful to have a good number there. *Rev Steve*



### **The Threat of Climate Change**

Everyone is invited to a meeting for the whole community at Westbury Parish Hall on 19th November at 7.30pm, to consider if there is anything we can do in our community to address the issue of climate change. This is not a church meeting, nor is there a political agenda. We will be exploring consensus, informed by local knowledge and experience. One or two expert speakers may be invited to assist by answering our questions. The aim will be to work towards a web presence or hard copy publicity, where we could all find encouragement towards local green initiatives. It should all be about nudges, not nagging. The Parish Council have been informed and invited to the meeting. *This meeting will be chaired by Steve Taylor, 01452 760756, stevewillstay@gmail.com*

Northwood Green Gardening Club  
Thursday 14th November  
at Northwood Green Social Hall  
at 7.30 pm  
AGM  
The Isles of Scilly  
A talk by Alan Clarke



*Enquiries: contact Sue Stephens  
760773*

Visitors welcome to any meetings, cost  
£3

It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt. *Mark Twain*

### **Affected by the Post Office closure?**

The sad news that our village Post Office and shop has had to close raises several concerns about those who may have depended on both the service and the extra support that Matthew and Sarah provided. The closure could cause real problems for anyone in the village who is unable to drive and who does not have supportive family or friends nearby.

The Forest of Dean Community Well-being Team is part of a countywide service that may be able to offer support and advice to those in this position. A chat with a member of the team may lead to some one-to-one support, or connection with others in your community or a group or organisation that can help.

To access this help, you can either ask to be referred by a health professional or you can *contact the team direct on 01594 812447 or 01594 812399.*

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### **Police and Crime**

#### **Commissioner's Report**

Gloucestershire County Council's Police and Crime Panel have asked for the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual report to be communicated and distributed as widely as possible. The report reflects on progress in delivering the Police and Crime Plan, between April 2018-March 2019. The report can be viewed via the link: <https://www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk/reports/> and hard copies are also available from the OPCC at [ppc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ppc@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk). The report highlights the challenge of dealing with a growing range and complexity of crimes, complicated by additional social issues around mental health and



lack of youth provision. It reflects on key announcements regarding collaboration with bordering forces and Gloucestershire's Fire and Rescue Service, budget details, award winning services and the continuing success of the Commissioner's Fund.

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## Walmore Hill School News

The first half of the Autumn Term is drawing to a close and we are all looking forward to a week's holiday! The Reception children have settled in to school life and are a pleasure to have in class. They have been taking part in phonics sessions every day and now they are ready to start taking books home to read with their parents. They have enjoyed listening to a variety of stories linked to our Space Topic 'Moon Zoom' and looking for a missing alien in school! They love singing Nursery Rhymes, including '5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer'.

The key Stage 1 and 2 children have also been working on a space topic, which has allowed them to find out lots of information about Space exploration. The children have had lots of opportunities to write imaginative stories based on space travel and aliens too.

We have been out and about this term...

Children in Swans Class visited 'We the Curious' in Bristol. All of our year groups visited The Festival of Literature in Cheltenham again this year. We have also welcomed several visitors into school such as The Crossroads Choir



and professional guitarists. The older children have been learning to play the trumpet and we now offer guitar lessons as well as drumming lessons by qualified tutors.

We celebrated Harvest Festival earlier in the month. Our families generously contributed to our Harvest collection for the local foodbank in Cinderford. The younger children shared poems and songs on the theme of bread. They enjoyed baking bread rolls and eating them too.

We have lots of exciting things to look forward to next term and before we know where we are it will be Christmas....

*Suzanne Loten, Cygnets Class Teacher*

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## Westbury Court

We are proud to announce we have attended the Trust in Bloom Award ceremony and were fortunate enough to receive not only one but four first place prizes and two runner up prizes.

Westbury Court would like to say a huge thank you to all that have contributed in any way and are very grateful for all support that has been shown, it's been a fantastic team effort.

A special thank you for our volunteers Josie and Terry as they have contributed greatly to this project and despite not being able to attend the ceremony we ensured they receive praise for all Westbury Court's achievements!

We have secured first place prizes for:

*Best vegetable patch*

*Best special theme in garden – upcycle plot*

*Best garden in Gloucestershire*

*Overall trust in bloom 2019 winners*

*and Runner up for:*

*Harvest festival bread plait and Best hanging basket.*

Again we thank everyone for their support and donations.

We would also like to announce to the community we have a Halloween raffle starting and would be grateful for any donation for prizes or purchasing of raffle tickets open to all in community so come in and say hello. *Sarah Taylor Activities Coordinator*



## **NOSH AND NATTER**

at

**WESTBURY PARISH HALL  
THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

*FOOD SERVED BETWEEN  
NOON AND 1.30PM*

**CARROT AND CORIANDER SOUP  
CHICKEN AND LEEK PIE  
APPLE CRUMBLE**

**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*



**It's Panto Time!**



## **HANSEL AND GRETEL**

**BOX OFFICE**

**SUN 17<sup>TH</sup> NOV**

at the Parish Hall

**Performance dates**

**Friday 10th Jan without meal**

**Sat 11th Jan with meal**

**Sun 12th Jan Matinee**

**Frid 17th Jan and Sat 18<sup>th</sup> Jan with  
meal**

## **Great Oaks Events Calendar**

**November & December**

9th Nov—Christmas Bazaar at Great Oaks Hospice

16th Nov—Gala Dinner at Speech House—Theme 007 Dressed to Thrill

23rd Nov—50s/60s Night at Bishopswood Village Hall

7th Dec—Ho Ho Hospice Walk from Coleford Clock Tower

20th Dec—Christmas Party at Forest Hills

The fellow who laughs last may laugh longest, but he gets a reputation for being very slow witted. *Leo Roston*



## Stagecoach's timetable problems

The recent changes to the bus timetable have caused some problems and the Parish Council have been copied in to a response from Stagecoach to an e-mail sent from the Forest of Dean District Council regarding these issues.

In it, the Commercial Manager explained that *“the revised network followed our five week public consultation held earlier this year (throughout March) within which we outlined the difficult financial position of the network at that time.*

*The majority of our buses run on a commercial basis, paid for only by customer revenue, and have been experiencing patronage decline for several years. There are several factors contributing to this issue, including reduced numbers of resident young people (fewer students travelling to school/college) and the rising age of eligibility for a concessionary bus pass. These problems mean that we've been faced with an unsustainable financial shortfall of more than £100,000 per annum.*

*We received over 300 detailed responses to our consultation, from customers of all ages across the district. We also spent time liaising with schools and colleges to understand how best to accommodate core students flows. The outcome is a network that aims to improve overall connectivity by incorporating at least two Forest towns on every route. While “some communities see an improvement in services, inevitably there are places with service reduction, but we've attempted to contain this to those areas where we've historically seen the least demand and*

*fewest passengers.”*

Cllr. Paul Hiatt, Joint Deputy Leader of Forest of Dean District Council suggests that residents with concerns contact Stagecoach at [James.ONeill@stagecoachbus.com](mailto:James.ONeill@stagecoachbus.com) so they can see the extent of the problem.

### REMINDER

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church

Friends will be presenting

**A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Sat 7th – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

10am – 4pm



in Westbury Church

**SPONSOR & DECORATE A TREE**

as an individual, business, society, club or charity.

(For more information: contact Frances Down: 760270)



*“They come down here for a smoke”*

## 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.*



*Alice in Cineworld*

## Westbury Football

*By Mark Landon*

### Redbrook Rovers 0-0 Westbury Utd

Westbury travelled to Redbrook on Sept 28th hopeful of capitalising on the previous week's victory over Ruardean Hill Rangers (3-0 now you mention it) but instead battled out a sterile 0-0 draw.

Your correspondent was a little late arriving at the match having diverted through Monmouth but was instantly struck by two things. Firstly the pitch itself was no more than half the size of the Westbury pitch, more of a tennis court on steroids rather than a full pitch, which led to the impression of 22 footballers virtually holding hands in order to fit onto the playing surface.

Secondly, the idyllic setting of the pretty village, sat alongside the banks of the softly flowing River Wye and nestled in a leafy valley under a cloudless sky, led to a sense of calm and wellbeing. "Bloody Redbrook!" growled Director of Football Tempest as he patrolled the touchline anxiously and moodily. Unable to appreciate the finer aspects of life, his concern centred around the ball being repeatedly hoofed straight into the car parks located at either end of the pitch.

As the ball ping ponged around in the congested midfield, frustrations were evident all around. "Gah, this is hopeless" grumbled Tempest as Sean the Keep's punt upfield bounced once before being fielded by his opposite number, who promptly punted the ball back downfield and one bounce later back into Sean's hands. Westbury's efforts at a short passing game continued to flounder and even their master of close control and fancy footwork Reagan Warrington was losing patience, and having been dispossessed for the nth time,

resorted to flapping his arms in frustration in the manner of the Canada Geese flying overhead off to warmer climes. At half time Tempest stomped off to discuss tactics with Manager Palmer, kicking a small child into a nearby garden on the way, evidently displeased. In the second half there was little improvement. Anthony Owens was despatched to the sin bin for having the temerity to argue the point regarding the opposing centre forward kicking him 5ft in the air when the ball was 10 yards away. In the closing minutes, Skipper Tom Landon stepped forward to take a free kick from 30 yards out and launched the ball with all the power and aplomb of a Jonny Wilkinson drop goal which unfortunately followed the same trajectory, miles over the bar towards parked cars in the distance. As the other 21 players stared at him quizzically he trotted back to his position avoiding all eye contact whilst an enraged Tempest strangled a small white dove which had unwisely chosen to stand next to him to watch the game.

Matt Ridler was unlucky to be substituted as he was having a good game but it made little difference. Junior Miki wriggled and writhed but couldn't get past a doughty Redbrook back line and the referee eventually brought proceedings to a close. The crowd drifted off to a nearby pub with Tempest left disconsolate, only cheered by the sight of a local granny tripping over her Zimmer frame and falling into the softly flowing river.

**Viney St Swithins FC 0-1 Westbury Utd**  
Westbury posted a valuable and slightly unexpected win against high flying Viney St Swithins FC (basically Viney Hill) in a hard fought encounter. In truth

Westbury were on the back foot for most of the game but a fine rearguard action by the four man defence of Ivaypo Ivanov, Tom Landon, Anthony Owens and Webby Son of Webby, prevented the opposition creating any shots on target apart from, remarkably, at least four corner kicks which all were dipping into the goal before being parried away by Sean the 'Keep.

In the second half Westbury managed to take the lead following a well worked corner and Manu Adebayo expertly placed a right footed volley into the bottom right hand corner, threaded through a packed goal mouth. Manager Derek Palmer, relished a week without Director of Football Tempest breathing down his neck. Tempest was instead engaged at the Parish Hall ground mastering an 0-8 defeat for the 2nds at the merciless hands (and feet) of Milkwall FC. It was not all good news for Manager Palmer however who was nursing a curious facial injury which caused him to resemble the Joker, currently featuring at most leading cinemas.

Anyway, a fine victory which surges the 1st X1 into the top half of the table.

### **Ruardean Hill 0—3 Westbury Firsts**

*By Clive Tempest*

**A**s our normal football correspondent was away, again, eating out of date pie and mash and drinking subsidised beer at Westbury Rugby, your doughty Chairman of football substituted, again, at Ruardean Hill. A curious first half saw Westbury dominate with some pretty football but fail to score. Reagan seemed at his listless best and the Ruardean defence kept booting it long when menaced by Junior.

In the second half all was redeemed when Junior slotted home two goals and substitute Emmanuel Adebayo had a superb solo effort converted. Reagan's quick feet caught the eye but the man of the match was Sal with a dominant display of defending that (another) Hill could not penetrate. Kuman also had his best game this season. We then repaired to the fabled Ruardean Hill tea and then home to find a befuddled correspondent still eating pie and mash.

notes here but it was heartening to see the game played in good spirit and this is likely to be the strongest side they face this season so we hope for some better results in the upcoming weeks. But in better news, our intrepid 1st XV travelled to Cainscross on 5th Oct and came away winners 27-38 - congratulations on bouncing back, onwards and upwards !  
*Mark Landon*

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## Westbury Rugby

In a rare departure from football, your correspondent elected to watch Westbury RFC face Brockworth RFC in their first game of the season at the Parish Hall on 21st September. In truth, the match was a tremendous success for Westbury RFC in the context of a series of crisis meetings in the lead up to address the problem of a chronic lack of players available, not just for this game but for the upcoming season.

On arriving I was astonished to see on the touchline the svelte figure of Nick Tydeman, star of Westbury RFC in the 1990s, fully kitted up and ready to play. He was however not needed as substitute, as indeed neither was stalwart pensioner Ken Boulton who instead manned the scoreboard which was a task in itself as a fit, strong, well drilled, aggressive, fit (have I mentioned that already ?) Brockworth tore Westbury's plucky defence into shreds and ran out (and there is no easy way to say this) 81-0 winners.

For Westbury, highlights were...er...um....I seem to have lost my



*Ken Boulton trudges across to once again change the score board, already groaning under the weight of the away tally.*

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A couple of oxymorons in common use

*Act naturally*

Found missing

*Good grief*

Government Organisation

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