



Pic: Pete Wilson

STUMPED!

...as are we all by this wretched virus masquerading as a crown. After months of lockdown, self isolation, face masks and nightly statistics of deaths and infections on the news, there is an understandable yearning for a return to normality. Westbury-on-Severn Cricket Club, obeying all the current rules, are edging towards this goal, with home fixtures on some Saturdays and Sundays. Ball sanitising is not an offence, unlike ball tampering, but rather an essential precaution, and spectators are actively discouraged from helping out by return-

ing balls that go over the boundary. They also have to complete a 'track & trace' form on arrival. A further faltering step towards service as usual is a makeshift bar set up by Joe Liddington in the patio doorway to the lounge, with signs to ensure the distancing rules are followed. The weather has been generally kind, and the company genial and knowledgeable...it's just a pity that the cricket season will soon be over (no pun intended).

See Mark Landon's Cricket Commentary pp11 & 12.

Parish Council

As several planning applications had been received, the Parish Council held an extra Zoom meeting in August to discuss these and other urgent matters. Unfortunately, Chairman Simon Phelps and three other councillors were unable to take part and had sent their apologies.

The applications for the construction of a balcony at the Nook in Popes Hill, and the erection of porches and installation of roller shutter garage doors to Fountain Cottage in Rock and Fountain Lane raised no objections. An application for the use of the groom's cottage at Ninnage Lodge as an independent dwelling and associated works also raised no objections as long as sufficient space was given to ensure easy access to the public right of way. We had also received prior notification for the change of use and conversion of an adjacent agricultural building to form one large dwelling at Crowgate Farm, to which we agreed to reply that we had no objections in principle to this.

Fiona then updated us on the results of earlier planning applications, all of which had been granted apart from the application for the conversion of a stable building into an extension to the existing annexe at Sunnybank in Elton, which had been refused.

Burial ground extension - it was agreed that Richard Williams be asked to represent us in future in order to move



this matter on. Regarding the removal of the churchyard hedge, Peter Radley will contact Chairman Simon to arrange a time to carry out this work.

Other matters – the state of the footpath on Wintle's Hill was again discussed as a resident had recently tripped on a pothole and fallen over. Fiona will report this to Highways and ask them to carry out repairs urgently. Potholes on Hunt Hill will also be reported together with the problem of litter being dumped on the verges and then chopped up when the verges are cut.

Financial matters – the payment for the RoSPA inspection of the play area and the fees for the grass cutting were agreed.

The possibility of meeting at the Hall in future rather than on Zoom was discussed and it was agreed that we meet on Zoom in September and decide each month on how we will meet the following month. Next month's Zoom meeting will be on Monday 21st Sept at 7pm.

Di Landon



I went into a bookshop and asked the sales assistant where the Self Help section was. She said if she told me it would defeat the purpose.

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



With little sign that the coronavirus is in retreat, the Parish Hall Management Committee continue to conduct its affairs through the medium of Zoom, which means that once a month (at least) Mrs Ed has to explain the procedure to me before we start, and again at various points during the meeting. Our chairman, Jan D'Ambrogio remarked at the outset that it still felt strange doing business on screen, but it seems to be working, and there is still some activity at the hall to be discussed.

The cricket, football and rugby clubs were still using the changing rooms, observing all the pandemic protocols, and Jan asked for feedback. Clive Tempest noted that the football club had been training for a month, with no problems. although at cricket matches the opposition did not always provide 'track & trace' forms. Nikki Edginton added that we were on a learning curve, and that Ed Edginton had done a good job on the track and trace sheets. She noted that Westbury seemed to be going 'above and beyond' what other clubs were doing in respect of coronavirus procedures.

Jan emphasised the need to keep on top of relevant risk assessments, noting that some organisations such as ours had a 'Covid-19 co-ordinator', which she was prepared to be, but asked for help. Mrs Ed volunteered. Nikki Edginton noted

that she had completed a risk assessment and would forward a copy to Jan, who added that she had lots of literature on the subject from various sources. At which point Mike Edginton's Alexa piped up "I'm sorry, I don't understand" On the subject of wearing protective face covering, Joe observed that this was now mandatory in certain situations. Alan Hyett noted that this was not possible for some people, and a lanyard or badge was available to let others know. Jan added that the police now have enforcement powers in this respect.

Odds and Ends

Clive Tempest announced that there were to be two practice football games in the coming weeks, but there was no official confirmation of the start of the football season. He asked if we could explore the possibility of moving the bar indoors, with suitable precautions. As yet, there is no definite date for the commencement of rugby matches for this season.

Jan confirmed that we had not received a booking from Wydean school for education classes, but the Short Mat Bowls Club had asked to restart in September. Alan Hyett added that the S.M.B.C would, of course, go along with any Hall Committee ruling. Mike Edginton observed that Yorkley S.M.B.C had restarted, and he had been impressed how it worked within the rules.

Jan noted that we had received a 10 week booking from Home Start from the end of September. The Committee would have to take a view on Covid security, taking a 'softly, softly', approach. User organisations would be asked to clean and sanitise where necessary after use. Replying to a question,

Jo Barry said that the organiser of Diddy Rugby thought it was permitted for the children to go indoors if necessary. Jan confirmed that we would provide paper towels in dispensers for those who chose not to use the air dryers.

Severndipity Club— Clive asked Gen Riley if there were plans to streamline the serving arrangements at cricket matches. She replied that the Severndipity committee were considering a workable system, and still needed to finalise a system for ordering and delivery. Clive suggested providing a table service, and allowing people to run a ‘tab’, although it was suggested that there might be problems with getting volunteers, and the risk of people leaving without paying. Sarah Mitten confirmed that there would be no further Community bars. Gen Riley added that the Severndipity committee would review how the bar would function for outside bookings. Jan noted that the Hall would purchase a plastic screen to protect bar staff. With continuing fixed costs and little income, Sarah suggested a rent holiday for the Severndipity Club. It was also proposed that Severndipity sought to pay their insurance premium in instalments, and share in the grant awarded to the Hall to alleviate the effects of the lockdown. These issues would be considered at the next meeting.

Sarah Mitten proposed allowing the sports clubs a rent holiday. Jan added that we need to seek an arrangement with the Short Mat Bowls Club.

It was agreed that Jan should order eight sets of LED signs for the emergency exits. She also confirmed that she had asked S.K Heating to check the lounge heating, as there had been com-

plaints that it takes too long to warm up. Gen asked if the roadside sign could be updated to reflect the increased activity, particularly on the playing fields. She also proposed that we establish a risk register, as a central record of the risk assessments from various organisations and users

Mike Edginton considered that the current health emergency highlighted the need to consider modernising the ventilation system in the main hall. Tim Smith concurred, adding that a ‘holistic’ approach to hall ventilation should be adopted.

Nikki Edginton noted that some of the posts to prevent people driving onto the playing fields had been dislodged, and it was agreed to replace them with creosoted posts, and prevail on a friendly farmer to provide the equipment for knocking them in.

Our water meter had been damaged, and it was agreed that it was in an inappropriate position. The water company had been advised of this, but to no avail. Mike Edginton suggested that Ken Boulton be deputed to contact Severn Trent.

On a happier note, Jan reported that a wedding had been booked for mid- October. There would be 30 guests and a bar was not required.

On that happy note, we all waved and shut down. Of course, we couldn’t repair to the bar, but the fridge was waiting... Ed

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Hall update August 2020

It is hard to believe that it is 5 months since the hall was closed due to Covid-19. However following our zoom meeting in August we have

that the hall will re-open in September so that, for example, short mat bowls can get their woods out again. We are taking a softly softly approach and looking at each booking as it comes in because there are still so many things to take into consideration.

The sports clubs are back in training and we have had cricket and friendly football matches played, with Covid-19 secure guidelines being followed, so changing rooms are still closed with only access to toilets and hand washing facilities. The guidelines seem to change weekly – from 8th August, if you enter either a community centre or social club you must wear a face covering by law, so please be aware of this if you are coming to the hall as we fall in to this category.

We are trying to bring back some normality but it is hard and full of guidelines and bureaucracy – bear with us and hopefully by 2021 we will see more positive changes. Keep safe *Jan D'Ambrogio*

Dear Friends,

A number of months ago I was pleased to attend a meeting at the Parish Hall about the plan for an eco-village in the eastern part of our parish. I am no expert in planning or farming matters at all, but I have an opinion perhaps worth hearing, which was not offered at that meeting. I agree strongly with the majority there, that the plan for so many houses in one location is a really bad idea. My particular reason for saying this is that our parish contains some of the very best quality agricultural land in the district, and that this should be kept as far as possible for farming. Although most of us don't work on the land, ours is a farming community, and that status should be cherished. I do agree that houses, particularly affordable ones, may well be needed, but these would surely be best built in small groups across the district, and on lower quality land? This opinion is my own personal view, and is in no sense an official view of the church. I offer it now, as I will not have many further opportunities so to do, and it relates very much to the welfare of the community I care most about. Please forgive me this small piece of self-indulgence. *Rev. Steve.*

Church Times

Harvest services for 2020

Flaxley	20.9.20, 6pm
N'wood Green	27.9.20, 11am
Blaisdon	4.10.20, 9.30am
Minsterworth	4.10.20, 11am
	and /or 5pm
Rodley	4.10.20, 6.30pm
Westbury	18.10.20, 11am

Services in Westbury Parish in September 2020

6th Sept	N'woodGreen
9.45am	Morning Service
6th Sept	Westbury
6.30pm	Holy Communion
27th Sept	N'wood Green
11.am	Holy Communion (Harvest)

Oxymorons

Act naturally
New classic
Child proof
“Now, then”
Clearly misunderstood
Plastic glasses
Pretty ugly

Churchyard Working Group

Our August churchyard working party turned out to be on one of the hottest days of the year, but fortunately there are a lot of cool, shady places where you can get out of the sun and so our work continued regardless. Paths and hedges were trimmed and tidied, and the constant battle with brambles, nettles and ivy continued. The contractors had done an excellent job on mowing the paths and so we hope that it will all be looking reasonable tidy for the Heritage Open Days in September. Our September working party will be earlier in the month - on Saturday 5th September - weather permitting, in order to get the churchyard looking good for the first Heritage Day the following weekend. We will be there from 10am to 1pm if you would like to join us – please bring your own tools and refreshments.



Neither Mrs Ed nor I have any religious conviction, yet there are two compelling reasons why we turn out once a month to do battle with nature in the churchyard. The closed churchyard is the responsibility of the Parish Council, of which Mrs Ed is a member, but more importantly the church and its surroundings have great historical significance locally, and the church itself is a jewel at the heart of the village .

Heritage Open Weekends

Westbury on Severn Church
Tower Tours

September 2020

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20

From 10am to 4pm

Refreshments to be served in the
Church

*Please telephone 01594 836469 to
arrange your tour.*

NEW EVENT

Guided Tour of Walmore Common
Come and visit this unique place
and discover the
History of the Area.

Tours Saturday 12th and Satur-
day 19th Sept

Tours to start at 2pm.

*Please telephone 01594 836469 to
arrange your tour.*

Please note these tour arrangements are
susceptible to Government Guidance
on the day.

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Owing to the current public health
regulations, there will be no
meetings until further notice.



Weather Report

It is a truth universally acknowledged that when two or more English people meet, their conversation turns first to the weather. Such is the interest in our changeable climate, that some can recall (or think they can) the weather on the same day twelve months previously. Simon Phelps has a more scientific take in the vagaries of the weather locally, and provides us with a handy record of the extremes from the past couple of months. So if you think you can recall what happened in June and July, here's a handy check.

June

Warmest day: Thursday 25th (31.5c)
Coolest day: Thursday 18th (15c)
Warmest night: Thursday/Friday
25th/26th (15.5c)
Coolest nights: Friday/Saturday/Sunday
5th/6th/7th, Monday/Tuesday 8th,9th
Wettest day :Thursday 18th 35mm
Total rainfall: 90.5mm
Thunder Tuesday 16th.
Average max temp. 21.7c
Average min temp 9.8c
Predominant wind direction: South
westerly for 10 days.

July

Warmest day: Friday 31st 33.5c
Coolest day Wednesday 8th 16.5c
Warmest night: Saturday/Sunday 4th/5th.
14.5c
Coolest night : Monday/Tuesday
20th/21st
Wettest day: Sunday 19th 9mm
Total rainfall: 42mm
Predominant wind direction: South west
Average max temp: 22c
Average min temp: 10c

Judging by the howling gale outside my window, August's figures should make interesting reading. Ed.



Traditionally Westbury Players have performed their annual Pantomime in January, since the early 1980's if memory serves, but sadly the 2021 version will have to be put on hold.

We have considered various solutions to the problems associated with performing that are currently all too obvious, but a combination of restrictions on rehearsal protocol, social distancing on and around the stage, restrictions on singing (some may say that's a good thing) and of course concerns regarding the welfare of the audience make any meaningful performance impossible at the moment.



Sleeping Beauty 2013

This is a sad situation as traditionally the Panto has brought young and old from the community together in a celebration of traditional and not so traditional knockabout melodrama / comedy / song and dance all supplemented with plentiful supplies of food and

Drink, but we hope we are now nearer the end of the current restrictions than the beginning and we are building up a long list of things we plan to do once we can.

Bear with us and we hope to see you all as soon as possible.

Mark Landon

Roadside Stalls

Sunday 30th August
10am – 4pm

In aid of Westbury Church
In the layby in front of the church
cakes plants
seasonal goods

Refreshments available in the church
Please come and support.
Any donations most gratefully received.
Thank you. Westbury PCC

Some philosophical quotations

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE; God is dead, but considering the state the species of man is in, there will perhaps be caves, for ages yet, in which his shadow will be shown..

THOMAS AQUINAS: Man has free choice, or otherwise counsels, exhortations, commands, prohibitions, rewards and punishments would be in vain.

SOCRATES; The unexamined life is not worth living.

BERTRAND RUSSELL: If one man offers you democracy and another offers you a bag of grain, at what stage of starvation will you prefer the grain to the vote?

BLAISE PASCAL: I lay it down as a fact that if all men knew what others say of them, there would not be four friends in the world.

Dean Radio

With only one newspaper in the Forest of Dean at the present time, sometimes news and events can get missed. Dean Radio covers the Forest of Dean and beyond, with people able to listen either to their good old radio, or by downloading an app or by listening online or via smart speakers (Alexa or google assistant).

Dean Radio is your local community radio station, and is made up of volunteers within the local communities and serves as a platform for community groups and parish and town councils. If you wish any further information or have information you would like to share with the communities, then please email info@deanradio.co.uk

There is a Dean Magazine Show every Friday evening 6-8pm which covers what's on locally, local news and events and any other information for communities. *The website*



*Television has been a great teacher—
it taught a lot of people to turn to the
radio*

Bygone Westbury

Normally, at this time of year, in many a Westbury household, there would be a flurry of activity as preparations are made for the Summer Show. Sadly this year, this is not to be, (especially disappointing as I've grown my best ever onions this year!) but looking back over the parish's past, the Show is clearly such a well-established tradition that it is bound to resume as soon as this pandemic is behind us.

Back in the mid 18th century, Walmore Common was the site for the annual revel, which was held in July. This was before the Common was enclosed and it appears to have been used to the full on these occasions, for this was a bawdy and riotous age, and I've got a feeling that their idea of revelling may have made our Summer Show look like a vicarage tea party. However, the lawlessness and drunkenness of those days eventually gave way to the Victorian era and there was no more cavorting on Walmore Common.

By the middle of the 19th Century, the parade of the local Friendly Society seems to have been an important annual celebration, with the members parading through the village led by Newnham or Blakeney Brass Band, followed by a service in the church and dinner at what was then the Red Lion. At this time, Westbury does not seem to have had a Flower Show but "cottagers only" were permitted to enter the Flower Show at Newnham, which was a very big affair. Nearly 4,000 people attended the show held on August Bank Holiday in 1885 and the big attraction was the horse racing. The first race, run over a mile and a half, was the Westbury Stakes,

with five sovereigns going to the winner and a pair of spurs to the runner up.

A few years later in 1889, Westbury had its own show at Westbury Court Gardens, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Colchester Wemyss. This was intended to encourage gardening and about 50 prizes were on offer, about half of which were limited to 'cottagers'. Fruit, flowers and vegetables were on display and all competitors had to reside in or occupy land in the parish. Unfortunately, it rained on this new venture but about 500 people braved the weather to see the exhibits and listen to the band. There was also a fete run by the Loyal Sabrina Lodge of Oddfellows, with a procession, a public dinner and athletic sports in the afternoon. This took place in a field near the King's Head Inn, near Minsterworth Butchers at the Flat. Nearly 1000 people took part and the report says that "*the foot races naturally caused a good deal of excitement, and half a dozen or so somewhat noisy athletes (hailing we think from the Forest) taxed the energies of the Committee rather severely.*"

Between 1920 and 1932, Horse Shows were held every year on Powmeads Meadow, opposite Ardens Farm. There was a large marquee for the horticultural, dairy and poultry classes, and competitors came from far and wide for the equestrian events. These were hotly contested and in 1932 the horse from Cirencester that was first past the post in the Open Horse Race had to be disqualified for "boring", and the race was won instead by an entrant from Hereford. There were also jumping and gymkhana events, a prize for the best turned out pony and trap and a donkey race. Cinderford Town Band came along to provide the music.

The Show in Westbury Court Gardens also seems to have continued into the 1930s, although the weather did not always smile on it. In 1936, it had to be postponed for a week because of the weather, and when it eventually took place, the rain started as soon as the opening ceremony was over and continued all afternoon.

In the 1950s, a Country Fayre and Flower Show was held annually at Ad-



Adsett Court

sett Court. Although there was a bar for the Fayre itself, in 1958 it was agreed that this would be closed for the dance in the evening, which ran until 1 am. The Fayre made a profit of about £165 towards the costs of the new Parish Hall, which was completed in 1957. In 1960, Tom Forrest of the Archers came to open the Fayre. There were 330 entries in the Flower Show and the whole event was very successful, although the Hall minutes say "more help was needed in all directions."

In 1961 the Country Fayre was held on the Parish Hall grounds for the first time and extra work was put in to compensate for the lack of Adsett Court's advantages. There were sports, a band, a mystery man and a bar until 10 pm. It was very successful and made a profit of about £149.

In the 1970s, the current series of successful shows at the Parish Hall began,

often accompanied by carnival processions and various themed attractions such as the Wild West Show in 1975.

The success has always been due to a lot of hard work and forward planning – so let's enjoy the break this year and look forward to September 2021.

Di Landon

Apologies

Thank you for your patience if you were held up at all on Friday 21st August on Rodley Road. We were having some trees felled so apologies if you were delayed.

Jan and David

While we're on the subject of apologies we've got one as well.

Our more astute readers (we know you are all pretty astute) will have noticed a slight typographical error on page one of last month's edition. Believe it or not, we were aware of this problem before we printed, collated, stapled and distributed the WoSP. However, we were under a certain amount of time pressure, and our computer was concealing the problem on screen, and it did not emerge until we proofed the page. From then on the computer played cat and mouse with us (or rather Di), appearing to accept the correction, and then, having lulled us into a sense of false security that all was well, popping the error back into the text. At our wits' end, we eventually opted for sending out the WoSP with the error included. Except that it does not appear in them all.....

Ed & Mrs Ed

Cricket Report

Westbury CC 1sts 212-7 bt Kingsholm CC 1sts 171 all out

Kingsholm CC 2nds 146 all out lost to Westbury CC 2nds 195-7

Westbury CC both hosted and travelled to Kingsholm CC on Sat 8th August as the 1sts and 2nds took on their respective opponents. The 1sts won comfortably, batting first and led by skipper Greg Artus (50) supported by Charlie Gayther (37), Alex Grey (29), Dan Hockaday (25) and finished off with a sprightly 29 from Jack Weaving. Kingsholm's run chase started off in lively fashion with Weaving being forced to give back the lion's share of the runs he made although Jim Walkley Cox (8 overs 0-18) plugged his end up, in cricketing rather than medical terms, before Charlie Gayther (3-34) made the breakthrough and then Dan Hockaday (4-43) and Ted Edginton (2-34) span their webs of spinny stuff and worked their way through the batting order. Meanwhile Tom Landon and Andrew Cueto spent the afternoon fielding in the 80 degree sun and looking forward to the football season.

The 2nds match was a strange affair. Kingsholm 2nds normally occupy a league place two divisions higher than the 2nds and the Westbury high command were somewhat cautious in their

optimism towards the upcoming contest ("we've got no bowlers, "half their firsts are playing" etc etc). However, young Ian Dunn and young Neil Wyman (from my perspective anyway) opened the batting and frankly blunted every effort their vaunted bowling attack could throw at them. Dunn (22 in...er...there's no easy way to say this...85 balls) was typically doughty in defence whereas Wyman took a more aggressive and indeed aerial approach to the task. Batting on a wicket with variable bounce Wyman decided to chance his arm and struck a series of 6's into the garden by the churchyard and, when occasionally he was undone by the bounce and his towering efforts fell short of the boundary, the Kingsholm fielders obliged



him by spilling the catch - five times apparently. Anyway, who cares, as he racked up 90 in 80 balls before eventually he was caught out.

Dan Jarvis hit a quick fire 27, but the rest of the innings subsided somewhat.

Rich Edginton made a welcome return and announced himself with a sweetly timed 6 over midwicket before departing for...er...(checks notes)..six.

Ian Nice was desperately unlucky to be caught out by a world class one handed catch taken on the run about 3 inches off the ground to everyone's disbelief - including the fielder's. Sooty Coleman lobbed up the simplest of dollies to midwicket which was dropped and was so lulled into a sense of false security that he lobbed up another one, this time to point, next ball which WAS caught.

However, one of our number bewailed the difficulty of the situation. "It's difficult when you're a batsman, you're supposed to just go out there and score runs and I can't do that." As his team mates absorbed the significance of this conundrum, yours truly swished and missed a few times and Jason Chipper Saunders applied a couple of lusty blows at the end to leave us on 195-7 - surely not enough against a vaunted batting attack with no bowlers.

Sadly (for me) Kingsholm launched into the opening bowling which was of an immaculate length but a wider array of lines than your average angling competition, racing to 30-odd in a handful of overs before Jacob Brown (3-29) entered the attack and, almost instantly, the over confident opener smashed the ball into the stratosphere (or possibly the ..osphere above that one) and as it re-entered Staverton airspace it homed in on Wyman who was moving around in circles trying to get under it. Hopes were not high but with a reassuring thwack against the palms the ball stuck, to general glee and relief. From there wickets began to tumble although the score advanced pretty quickly as well. Rich Edginton's return to bowling started with some range finding issues but once his complexion got up to its operating temperature of boiling point (after a top edged six) he started to make progress taking a fierce return catch to grab his first wicket of the season.

Meanwhile Jason Saunders picked up wickets bowling some accurate seam and their star middle order batsman was run out when they foolishly took on our only fielder who could both run AND throw as Dan Jarvis swooped on their quick single effort and fired the ball

into Dunn's gloves and off came the bails.

Your correspondent was cruelly denied a plumb LBW decision by the opposition skipper standing at umpire earlier in the innings - who responded to the appeal with the classic 1000 yard stare when asked to give his star batsman out 2nd ball - but revenge was a dish served cold, inasmuch as that's possible on a boiling hot day, as he came out to bat and smashed the ball at my head. To the astonishment of everyone it stuck in the hands being used primarily for self defence, unlike the previous week where it had gone through the hands and bounced off the top of the proverbial noggin, to the barely suppressed sniggers of the other fielders. After that Saunders (4-30) mopped up rest of the tail and Westbury emerged surprisingly comfortable winners by 50-odd runs and socially distanced celebrations ensued. Not a single catch dropped - something of a first for the seconds. Catches win matches - happy days !

Mark Landon



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