



Keep calm and sparkle

Unfortunately, rockets aren't the only things that are going sky high at the moment, and we now have a strange combination of a gradual return to normal while at the same time Covid19 cases are rising rapidly. In the Forest of Dean area, 684 people tested positive in the week up to 25th October, an increase of 14.8% from the previous week, and 41 people had been admitted to hospital with four on ventilators. However, no deaths were reported for this period and the local vaccination roll out continues at a phenomenal rate. You will see from this edition of WoSP

that many of our organisations and events are now back on track, so it seems that "Proceed with caution" may be the best advice at the moment.

The Young Farmers Bonfire Night celebrations, Westbury Players pantomime rehearsals and Box Office, Nosh'n'Natters, Playgroup for Grownups, Northwood Green Gardening Club, Short Mat Bowls, Rugby, Football and lots of other activities which make Westbury the vibrant village that it is, will all be happening this month, so let us do all we can to ensure that this can safely continue.

Parish Council

The October Parish Council meeting did not attract any members of the public, and there were also apologies from Debbie Hill and Peter Radley. Our County Councillor Philip Robinson was there and the meeting started with considerable appreciation that a couple of the issues that we had told him about last month had been swiftly dealt with. In fact the blocked drains in Goose Lane had been jettied within a few days of our last meeting and the footway between the village and Jordans Hill, having been on the Highways list for a long time, had now been cleared. However Philip, modestly, would not claim the honours for these successes as he had been very busy and was not sure whether it was down to his input or that it would have been done anyway. He also thanked Fiona for her very clear and detailed report as to the jobs that need doing in the parish.

There was County Council news that £300,000 has been awarded from the Woodland Trust for tree planting and landowners are invited to contact GCC's Climate Change team on glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk to offer land for planting. Also the Severn Edge nomination to develop the UK's first prototype nuclear fusion plant is now one of five sites through to the next phase of the national selection process. This process would support the UK's transformation to a low carbon economy, provide new jobs and regenerate the two former nuclear power sites at Oldbury and Berkeley, which might otherwise lie dormant for years. Applications for the Build Back Better funding have been coming in and a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner will be arranged shortly at Hartpury Village Hall.

Planning We then moved on to the only planning application - a discharge of conditions at Charlottes Farm - which was noted. Chairman Simon Phelps then updated us on developments regarding the District Council's local plan. The Leader of the Council has called for sessions at which evidence can be gathered from both communities and developers, after which there will be a further consultation programme. The current feeling is that new housing in villages and towns should be proportionate to their existing size and that infrastructure needs and flooding must be fully considered.

Finance The accounts were signed off, and after some discussion, an increase in our clerk's salary was agreed.

Highways We were pleased to see that hedges at the Dinney had been cut, repairs had been done to the wall in the village and, as mentioned above, the footway had been cleared. We asked that the Wintles Hill footway be next on the list and also will keep up the pressure for resurfacing along the lanes especially on Hunt Hill. As Network Rail are planning to close the line through Westbury for six weeks for repairs, it seems an ideal opportunity



for work to be carried out to clear the overgrown vegetation that blocks the view of motorists

approaching the Jordan Hill bridge. Fiona will write to Network Rail, Highways and Road Safety to request this.

Burial Ground A further issue has arisen regarding the position of the power cables as on a plan dated 2003 the cables are shown running under the trackway between the existing burial ground and the

school whereas the current plan supplied by Western Power shows them running straight through the proposed burial ground so we now have to get confirmation as to exactly where they run. In the meantime, the shortage of burial spaces in the Forest of Dean area is becoming a real problem.

Footpaths Mike Townsend reported a couple of issues with footpaths at Boseley and Northwood Green but there are long delays in getting repairs done. Apparently there are 400 jobs on the Public Rights of Way list awaiting work to be done and some have been on the list for two years or more.

Climate Change I asked whether other people have received phone calls from companies wanting to install loft insulation and air or ground source heating. Having taken up one of these offers of a survey of our loft, I was concerned that some of these companies are not reputable, and are putting undue pressure on people to have this sort of work done. The man who came to us was distinctly angry and rude when we refused to sign a request for £6000 worth of work to be done the following week! I have contacted the Forest Climate Group to suggest that a local advice centre should be set up so that people can find approved local companies to carry out this work and also establish whether they are entitled to any government funding for the work. If everyone is to be encouraged to use environmentally friendly methods to heat their homes, it is important that they are not anxious about being ripped off.

Pollution

Chairman Simon and Pam Ensor had attended a meeting about the poor quality of the water in Westbury and Longhope Brooks, the latter apparently being one of the most polluted watercourses in Gloucestershire. Natural England are now funding a project to investigate this, and

much of the pollution appears to be due to untreated sewage being discharged into the streams.

Odds and Ends

Many of us had been concerned to see the notices regarding 28 weeks of road works to be carried out on the A48 at Minsterworth. At a recent information session, it was explained that the water main between Watery Lane and the Highnam roundabout had to be replaced in view of increasing bursts and leaks. However, a very high tech traffic light system is in place which will adjust in accordance with the varying traffic flow so we will wait and see how that works.

Severn Trent have also announced a fund of £200,000 which they will be giving in grants to biodiversity projects. This was met with some scepticism in view of the current pollution which many feel is due to under investment.

The litter pick planned for November was brought forward and will now be taking place on Saturday 30th October.

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th November at 7pm. *Di Landon*

**WEST GLOS NEIGHBOURHOOD
WATCH ASSOCIATION
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
TO BE HELD AT
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB,
COLEFORD
ON SAT 27 NOVEMBER 2021
STARTING AT 10.30AM**

Everyone welcome. Find out what we do and the role we play in crime prevention and liaison with the Police. Guest speakers from the Air Ambulance Service and Forest and Gloucester Local Policing Area who will hold a Q & A session.



The October meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee was called off owing to the unavailability of a number of key figures, However, Chair, Jan D'Ambrogio has sent us the following update on Hall affairs

Nosh 'n' Natter is coming back on Thursday 11th November, so it will be Remembrance Day in more ways than one.

Playgroup for Grown-ups continues on Wednesday 17th November. The activity is to decorate a flower pot, if you can bring your pot we will supply the rest, so see you there for a coffee and a chat and there are loads of other things to do if decorating a pot is not your lot.

Please watch out for an open meeting that we will be holding on a Saturday afternoon as we want to invite all to come along and express their views on how we see the hall being used in the future. There will be sandwiches and cake and we will open the bar as an incentive to get some of you there. Any ideas that you wish to share before then will be very welcome.

If you are interested in any of the above then send an e-mail to: info@wosph.co.uk Jan D'Ambrogio,

The evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

Ben Waters

“Oh what a night it was, it really was such a night!” Although Ben Waters did not sing Elvis’s hit, the lyrics are apposite. Friday 1st October was Ben’s third visit to Westbury and, for context, he has appeared at the Sydney Opera House and the Albert Hall and played with such musical luminaries as Ray Davies, Ronnie Wood, Jools Holland, Dave Stewart and Mick Hucknall. Here he was, his personality filling the Parish Hall lounge, belting out boogie woogie hits of, among others, his hero Fats Domino on his keyboard.



It was an electrifying evening, at times quite raucous as Ben invited the audience to join in. These visits by such an accomplished professional musician are always welcome, but more so as we emerge from a period of isolation and lockdown. The intimate and familiar surroundings of the Hall lounge served to heighten the enjoyment, and thanks go to Caitlin Riley for opening the bar. We suspect that Ben will be back...try not to miss him!

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Everyone can do one thing better than everybody else..... It's usually reading their own handwriting.

Playgroup for Grown Ups



On a dark evening with the rain lashing down and the news full of depressing facts about rising Covid numbers, it was no surprise that attendance at the October Playgroup for Grown Ups was a little thin. However, I have now learned the rudiments of backgammon – a game I wish I had mastered earlier in my life. Unfortunately, there were not enough people to eat my apple cake and flapjack and so Andrew and I have gained a pound or two!

Hopefully next month there will be a few more present as we will be decorating flower pots on Weds 17th November at 7.30pm. Please bring along any pots that you want to decorate and there will be other things to do as well. Hope to see you there.

Di Landon



Nosh and Natter is coming back

**Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 11th November 2021**

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm
(please note change of time)

Carrot and coriander soup

Cottage pie with vegetables and
gravy

Bread and butter pudding

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three
courses

As we have had such a long break, we would like a call to say that you are coming and please let us know in advance if you have any dietary requirements other than the above

*Please either see in person or
call*

Gail on 760495/ Jan on 760630

Northwood Green Gardening Club

The November meeting is our AGM, and will be followed by a talk on **The History of Vegetables** by **Jerry Green, the Head Gardener at Westbury Court Gardens.**

This will be held at 7.30pm on Thurs 11 November in the Social Hall. Visitors £3, annual membership £12. Please contact karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com or telephone 01452 760970 for more information.

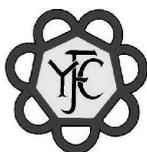
Westbury on Severn Young Farmers



are holding their annual
Bonfire & Fireworks Night
 at the
Red Hart Inn, Blaisdon
 on

Friday 5th November.

All profits to charity - We are Farming Minds & club funds.
 Entry £5 pp £1 under 10's
 Hog roast, hot dogs & burgers for sale
 Gates open at 6pm /fireworks display at 7pm.
 Free parking
 Pub open as usual & outside bar
 Mulled cider CASH ONLY for outside



Westbury YFC meet every Monday evening at Flaxley School Rooms at 7.45pm. Come along for an evening of fun and games. Everyone welcome between ages 10—28 years whether you are a farmer or not.

Please contact Emma (07948085454) or Matt (07854794539) for more information.

Churchyard Working Party

Our autumn working parties in the churchyard always seem to make a big difference, possibly because the vegetation hasn't all grown back by the time we meet again! James Walkley-Cox was busy with the strimming,



while we raked up and cleared the grass and also cleared some of

the graves that had become overgrown. At this time of year, the aim is to cut all the grass short and clear the cut grass away so that wildflowers will have a better chance in the spring. James has seen

this kestrel in the churchyard on a number of occasions and had also found an



Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar by the churchyard wall, so these are welcome signs that the churchyard is proving a haven for wildlife.

Our next working party will be on Saturday 13th November from 10am and we welcome volunteers, even if they can only spare an hour or so. Please bring whatever garden tools and refreshments you might need.

Rodley News



Harvest has been well and truly celebrated in Rodley. On September 19th Rev. Sarah Hobbs took the Harvest Festival service in our church. Afterwards, three carrier bags of food items – tins & packets – were collected and distributed to the Food Bank.

On October 9th a group of 27 locals gathered at the church for Harvest Supper. Everyone brings their own cutlery, plates and drink etc and a hot meal is provided. This year, it was a delicious beef casserole cooked by Tracey & Jason (beef kindly supplied by the Hewletts) and various people turned up with an amazing array of puddings and cheese. A very convivial evening was had by all. The donations pot is handed around at the end, after everyone has heavily imbibed. This year we raised £285 for the church.

Since our last edition we have lost three notable ladies of the Parish, Kath Crompton, Sue Dunning and Peggy Swinley, each of whom in their own way made a difference for the better to the lives of those around them and to life in our parish. We do not have enough space to pay the tribute that each of these ladies truly merit, but wanted to let our readers, and those who knew and loved them, know that they are in our thoughts.

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church Friends 100 CLUB



1st Mary Fear £50
2nd Andrew Landon
£20
3rd David Hewlett
£10

OCTOBER 2021 DRAW RESULTS

If you would like a chance of winning in our quarterly draw, please contact:

Frances Down (760270).

The next draw is in January 2022.

There are numbers available for new subscribers.

Cost: £12 for the year, starting from October 2021.





We are now rehearsing for our January pantomime, Snow White Goes West. We will be running our

**Pantomime Box Office
at the Parish Hall
at 11am on
Sunday 14th November.**

Tickets are limited this year so we look forward to seeing you there.

From 15th November we will accept telephone/email bookings subject to availability.

Performance dates :

21st/22nd January – Evening performances

23rd January – Sunday matinee

28th/29th January – Evening performances

Before pantomime rehearsals commenced, we started to check and record our vast selection of costumes, which are stored in the container next to the surgery. We caught this tiger by the tail!



Forest Hospital plans

On 8th October, Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust submitted a full planning application for a new community hospital for the Forest of Dean. This follows feedback from the Forest of Dean community and colleagues across the NHS as well as ongoing discussion with site neighbours and further work on the design and materials. The ward is made up of single rooms with en suite facilities to minimise the risk of cross-infection and maintain infection control standards, and there is a purpose-built therapy gym for rehabilitation. The design also includes a Minor Injuries unit with separate adult and children waiting areas, x-ray, radiology and ultrasound services, consulting and treatment rooms for outpatient clinics, a children's clinic area, endoscopy suite and clinic space for dentistry and podiatry. The hospital is also being designed with a focus on sustainability to help reduce energy consumption and support an NHS ambition of net zero carbon emissions.





September weather report

The average maximum temperature for September was 0.4C higher than that of August with the temperature on the warmest two days reaching 30C. The coldest night was 28th/29th when the temperature dropped to 3.5C, which was followed by the coldest day at 15C.

The wettest days were the 9th with 27mm and 28th with 25mm and the total rainfall for the month was 83.5 mm over 10 days. The predominant wind direction was south westerly and the average max temp was 21.1c with the average minimum temp 9.8c. *Thanks to Simon Phelps*

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Westbury-on-Severn Cof E Primary School Preschool

We currently have spaces at our Preschool and would be delighted to show you around our setting. Our sessions are run to fit in with the times of our school day. Sessions are available Monday-Friday term time only, for children aged 3 years and over.

We have a flexible approach to our sessions, offering mornings, afternoons or a combination of both. Morning session run from 8.45am to 12pm, and afternoon sessions run from 12pm to 3pm. Full days are from 8.45am until 3pm. Children can bring a packed lunch or enjoy a hot school meal at a cost of £2.34 per meal. As well as offering 15 hours fully-funded provision, we also offer 30 hours fully-funded provision for those children whose parents or carers are eligible.

Children attending our Preschool also have access to Forest School sessions on a Monday and Wednesday and to PE sessions with qualified sports coaches on a Friday.

Run by caring and qualified staff, our Preschool children benefit from the close working relationship with the Reception children, staff and the wider school community. All learning is founded on our school's Christian Vision and Values, which celebrates each and every individual's uniqueness.

If you would like more information, please contact Mrs Cox our Administrator on 01452 760303 or admin@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk

Westbury-on-Severn Parish
 Church Friends
 present
A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
 Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th
 December 2021
 10am – 4pm



In Westbury Church
SPONSOR & DECORATE A
TREE

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

*(For more information: contact
 Frances Down: 01452-760270)*

Please would you:

Provide your own tree, stand,
 lights (battery operated only
 please) & decorations.

You may also wish to display
 literature, advertising for your
 club/ business.

Advertising available in the pro-
 gramme.

**A Special Private Viewing Evening
 for all exhibitors & advertisers:
 FRIDAY 3rd from 7.30-9pm.**



November is the month when we commemorate the fallen in two world wars and many conflicts since. Last year, collectors were unable to carry out face to face collections but in this, our centenary year, members of the Royal British Legion's Westbury Branch will again be able to call on households in the Parish. Collection boxes have also been placed in various locations including Chaxhill and Elton Garages, the Parish Church, the Parish Hall, the Lyon and the Severn Bore, Severn and Wye Smokery and Farm and Country.

The RBL is there to provide care homes for older veterans, to give support to carers, to provide expert rehabilitation and to ensure that the Armed Forces community can access the help they need. So please have some cash on hand to support the their work.



Westbury Sport Football

Westbury Utd XI travelled to unbeaten Blakeney with a youthful squad, accompanied by their aging supporters hoping to add to their three victories already this season.

On a pitch with an ample covering of grass, Westbury had to adapt from the snooker table quality surface they play on at home but adapt they did and after going a goal down courtesy of a fine volley that curved into the bottom corner leaving Ivan the Keeper stranded on his line and hoping that the ball would sneak past the post - it didn't.

However, Westbury fought back and could be described as having the better of the first half culminating in Akeen bursting through and finishing clinically to level the scores.



The half time break saw the teams at 1-1 but again the lack of half time oranges seemed to play on the minds of the team as in the second half the performance levels dropped a little, due to a lack of Vitamin C probably, and Blakeney started to turn the screws. Eventually after a goal line scramble, Blakeney forced the ball home. A brief moment of hope with the linesman unsure whether the ball had crossed the line, was extin-

guished by the referee who unfortunately had noticed that the ball had hit the net, which was a little highly strung, and boinged back into play. As Westbury pressed forward they earned a free kick which was taken by Jamie's Dad (I do



need to research the team sheet a bit more) which arced towards the top left corner but cannoned off the bar. Blakeney soon surged forwards again via their nippy left winger who beat several players and rifled home to score the final and decisive goal with five minutes to spare.

The aging supporters were told off by the referee for bemoaning a series of injustices although the actual culprit was Andrew Cueto who is barely eighteen! That was added to the list of injustices as they decamped to the Cock Inn to analyse the match in forensic detail. Chairman Emeritus Tempest rallied the team in a rousing speech where he declared himself profoundly depressed about everything so we expect great things next week.

The team stand 5th in the division and travel to Harrow Hill Reserves who are level with them on points in a crucial game that could decide who ends up mid table at the end of the season.

Harrow Hill Reserves 2 - 4 Westbury 1st XI

On Sat 23rd October, Westbury surged to 4th in the North Gloucestershire Premier Division with an impressive 4-2

win against a combative Harrow Hill team that could never be accused of failing to engage with the elderly, as they peppered the ageing Westbury supporters with a few choice words during a reasonably good natured on field battle. The first half was viewed from a warm bar at the Larksfield Rd ground, overlooking the pitch from altitude which is a wonderfully civilised way of watching football.

After being under the cosh at the outset, Westbury proved more clinical in front of goal as first Harry Howell lashed in a close range effort into the top of the net and then the Harrow Hill defence coughed up an own goal - a curiously clinical finish into the bottom corner from 12 yards out which presumably was an attempted clearance.

Harrow Hill bounced back after Westbury failed to clear a corner and a bit of ping pong led to the ball eventually being stabbed home to the despair of the greying band of travelling Ultras.

In the second half Westbury brought on a certain...checks notes...J Iscariot... who sat in midfield and walked around a bit but the second half remained goalless with more action on the touchline, debating various offside decisions in increasingly unchurch-like language with the Harrow Hill players, who robustly defended their claims.

The nerves were settled in the final 5 minutes as Akeen, who had a fine game running the Harrow Hill defence ragged all afternoon, first rifled in from a seemingly impossible angle and then, even more outrageously lobbing the enormous goalkeeper from a full 40 yards out, punishing a poor goal kick with a disdainful punt back over his head on the volley in the dying minutes. *Mark Landon*

Rugby News



At our recent AGM the players and Committee of WOS RFC agreed to withdraw from Gloucestershire 2 North forthwith - The Club will continue to play regular fixtures against local opposition outside of the league structure.

Whilst a difficult decision to make, the challenges we have faced regarding squad numbers has impacted our ability to be competitive in Gloucestershire 2 North division & regrettably this has resulted in the need to concede two league fixtures. Our absolute priority is ensuring the continuation of enjoyable and competitive rugby at WOS RFC.

We believe our decision to withdraw from the league structure enables us to do this whilst affording the opportunity to regroup & rebuild our playing squad, & we are fully committed to returning to the league structure in the future.

Lastly we are still looking for a Coach and welcome any old new or returning players – we train on a Tuesday at 6.45 & will have regular fixtures on Saturdays - Anyone wanting to get involved (either on or off the field) please don't hesitate to message on the Facebook

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