



THE EARTH MOVES FOR THE CRICKET CLUB

Down at the Parish Hall playing fields, the ground is being prepared for the erection of an implement storage facility and nets for two 31 metre (approximately six rods) practise lanes. To make room, a hedge, containing quite a few old and rotting trees, has been removed and drainage pipes have been installed. Some landscaping has been necessary to level the ground, and the Cricket Club are indebted to Ken Boulton for removing the excavated soil.

A small committee, including Rich Eeles, was formed to oversee the project. Jason Saunders, CEO of Atlas Construction, confirmed that work is due to be completed by the end of October. Although this is a Cricket Club project, the work was welcomed by the Parish Hall Management Committee, who are keen to support all the sporting activities on its land. We are justifiably proud of our award winning sports facilities in Westbury, and this is yet one more improvement.

Parish Council

After the initial formalities, the September Parish Council meeting began with a short talk by Dr Gareth Parry, who is the Director for Nature's Recovery for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. He had come to explain what was involved in the upkeep of Poulton Wood and the reasons that the Parish Council has been asked to take this on. Briefly, it has been recognised that if nature reserves are to protect wildlife then they need to be bigger, better and more joined up, and as Poulton Wood is less than a hectare in area and some distance from other nature reserves,



Poulton Wood

it is better for it to be cared for by the local community. It is ancient woodland, but not particularly species rich, and it will require only minimal care. The Trust is prepared to hand over ownership to the Parish Council without any payment and our only responsibility will be to prevent any trees falling onto the road.

Following Dr Parry's talk, our Councillor Philip Robinson gave us an update on County Council matters. They had committed to help 35 Afghan interpreters and their families find refuge in Gloucestershire and GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) were also supporting the families. He also talked about the Build Back Better Scheme, a grant fund which is open to community groups across the county. Each County Councillor has £40,000 to

spend in their community over the next four years on projects which support the county's recovery from the pandemic.

The presence of our County Councillor is always a good opportunity for us to raise any problems regarding our roads and this month was no exception. At the corner of Goose Lane, which has a tendency to flood, the ditch had been cleared by the Internal Drainage Board but the drain has become blocked with a mixture of grit, hay and straw and needs a good clear out. However, we should ask the Highways Department to do this, although Councillor Robinson is happy to step in if this is not resolved satisfactorily. Chairman Simon Phelps also drew his attention to the drains or gratings through the village which are solid up to road level, and questioned the County Council's apparent policy of only clearing out alternate gratings each year. After Councillor Robinson had left, we moved on to planning matters.

Planning Applications for the erection of a single storey rear extension at Oak Barn, Poulton Court, a two-storey extension and associated works at Red Barn, Pound Farm and a single storey extension at Cornerways, Stantway Lane were all submitted and raised no objections. Fiona then updated us on the results of earlier applications. Our chairman Simon Phelps, who is also our District Councillor, then talked about the proposed development at Churcham, which the District Council were to discuss the next day. It seems that the general mood now is towards dispersed development with existing communities being enlarged rather than whole new settlements being built. The Grange Court 'eco-village' plan seems to have faded away, which is just as well as the new Environment Agency predicted future flood risk maps demonstrate that the area is unlikely to be exactly high and dry.

Finance Fiona reported that the audit had been completed satisfactorily.

Highways Requests for work to be carried out at Goose Lane (as previously mentioned) as well as drain clearance in the village, at Chaxhill and under Jordans Bridge would be sent to Highways. They are apparently already trying to sort out the flooding between Adsett Lane and Hunt Hill,



(pictured) but the pot holes on Hunt Hill were also mentioned. Another ongoing problem is the footways in the parish. These quickly become overgrown and then cause difficulties for pedestrians, especially with pushchairs or wheelchairs. It was agreed that we ask Councillor Robinson for help with this.

Burial Ground Extension

Chairman Simon reported that he had, at last, been able to have a meeting with the headmaster and a school governor, although there was no representative of the County Council there, as had been hoped. This meeting was intended as a way to assess how much the school and the County Council would be able to contribute to the costs of the new playing field. However, it was not possible to get any clear commitment on this without County Council representation and, as Simon has since learned, the headmaster Mr Crunkhurn is leaving the school in December. This makes it very difficult to get a precise figure for how much will have to come from the parish precept. There is now time pressure as well, as work has to start by the end May 2022, and so there will be insufficient time for the full public

consultation that we had hoped for. Parishioners are, of course, welcome to attend our meetings or write to us to let us know their views on this.

Around the Parish

There is still some repair work to be done on the play area surface. Several footpath problems had been reported but there seemed to be little, if any, progress with these. Following Dr Parry's talk, it was agreed that we would take on the management and ownership of Poulton Wood. The litter around the parish seems to be building up again and so we agreed to organise another litterpick in November.

We have been informed that the Lower Severn Management Group are looking at the water quality of streams that flow into the Severn and Chairman Simon and Pam Ensor were due to attend a meeting regarding this. To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, each parish in Gloucestershire is being offered two English oaks for planting to commemorate this event.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 18th October at 7pm. *Di Landon*



Following the recent disruption caused by the pandemic, it was now deemed safe for the Parish Hall Management Committee to sit round a table at the Parish Hall to discuss the running of the Hall. There were no minutes from the August meeting, which had been abandoned owing to a lack of a quorum, prompting Clive Tempest to propose that

as it was a holiday month we should skip it altogether in future.

Rabbits are currently at the top of the matters arising as they keep popping up all over the hall grounds, and measures are still under way to control their numbers. As far as the inside of the hall is concerned, Jan confirmed that the fire extinguishers and fire blankets had been tested, but the fire risk assessment remains to be done. A new fire blanket has been installed in the kitchen, where the ovens will be serviced at a cost of £795 (down from £950 thanks to Jan's negotiating skills).

As the pandemic recedes, and following a survey by Jan of nearby halls, it was agreed to take a flexible view on the current permitted capacity of 80 people in the hall, possibly allowing 100, bearing in mind the relatively large size of our building.

Ventilation Tim Smith confirmed that no further guidelines had been issued. It was agreed that where possible doors and windows should be left open. Sarah Mitten proposed that we purchase a CO2 monitor, and Gen Riley agreed to research the issue.

Treasurer's Report

Sarah had circulated the figures, and gave details of grants received and funds in various accounts, including for the defibrillator, as replacement pads, needed after one use, cost £200. After discussion about the possibility of falling attendances, shrinking sports teams and related declining revenue, it was resolved to maintain a reserve of at least £10,000. It was agreed to review the financial situation after Christmas, including possible capital expenditure such as resurfacing the car park.

Severndipity Club (bar)

Gen Riley confirmed that there had been a resignation from the committee, and a

replacement would be sought. On the financial front, Gen declared that the Severndipity Club had received a 'bounceback' loan and grants, and the security that these provided meant that they could pass back rent and covenanted funds to the Hall. However some funds were being retained against the possible costs of terminating a card reader contract. The Severndipity committee had drawn up an expenditure plan which included a time clock for employees and new tills. Money for CCTV, a lone worker alarm or emergency button and an ice making machine would also be considered.

Gen confirmed that Caitlin Riley had accepted the role of bar manager until the end of January. Gen highlighted the difficulty of filling the post for which it was impossible to guarantee more than 5 hours of employment per week. Nevertheless the post would be readvertised. The possibility of employing temporary staff who could be contacted as and when needed is being explored.

Fundraising

Jan thanked everyone who helped at the Flower and Produce Show which raised



A fine display of produce at the Show

over £300. She added that it had been a lovely day, the first outing for some time, at which some people stayed all day. It did, however, highlight the need for new, lighter, easy to erect marquees. Mark Brill suggested that hiring might be a

cheaper and easier option. Jan thought that in future it might be a good idea to have the Flower and Produce Show on a separate day from the Summer Show.

Odds and Ends

Jan considered that it was not immediately necessary to paint the exterior of the Hall as Mike Edginton's anti fungal spraying had significantly improved its appearance.

Hearing loop.

After some discussion, Westbury Players agreed to investigate the costs, technicalities and benefits.

Peeling roof.

Jan noted that the state of the roof was worsening. Tim agreed to investigate .

Tree surgery

Nikki Edginton had received a quote of £800 to cut down the line of trees running north at the eastern side of the playing field. It was not known who was responsible for the line of trees down Wintles Hill.

Gen confirmed that the first meeting of the Youth Project had attracted some 15 members, which was considered a very good start.

As the meeting drew to a close, Clive Tempest stunned members by announcing that he had fantasies. We waited with mixed emotions as the master of stage timing paused dramatically. What secret yearning from the depths of his subconscious was he about to reveal? "Tennis courts!" he at last proclaimed, "at least two, between the Surgery and Madame Chairman's house, or somewhere else". On that dramatic note we adjourned to the bar to wonder if perhaps Clive had been watching the US Open. Ed

I'll have to think twice about it before I give it a second thought

A day without sunshine is like ... night

Chair, Jan D'Ambrogio adds

A big thank you to all those who supported the Flower and Produce Show on Sunday 5th September, we had plenty of



entries, the sun shone, there was live music and food culminating in a great day and for some a welcome back to a form of normality.

'Playgroup for grown ups' next session will be held on Wednesday 20th October 7.30pm (third Wednesday of each month). On 20th October the activity will be Pumpkin carving but please note it is a B.Y.O.P. (Bring your own pumpkin) Tea, coffee and snacks shared with chatter and laughter.

Thursday 11th November – Providing all things stay safe we are aiming to bring back Nosh n Natter in November so keep this date free, but we will be led by Government guidance, more info next month.

A Virtuous Man

I am described by my friends as an exemplary man. I do not drink, seldom smoke; do not go around with other women. I go to bed early and I get up early. I work long hours and I take exercise regularly every day. I get no financial reward for this self denial.

All this is going to change when I get out of prison.

A grave shock

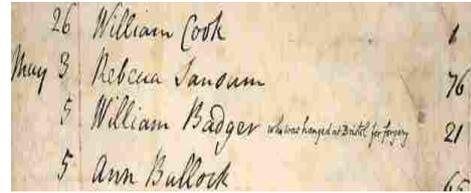
Di Landon

The closed churchyard is a place full of stories, with every grave representing a person or family who would have had tales to tell about the joys and sorrows of their lives. For me, this is part of the churchyard's charm and so, after cleaning up the tomb of the Badger family near the north porch at our last churchyard working party, I decided to see what I could find out about them.



The family seem to have been living in Westbury for a very long time. A survey in 1608 of those considered fit to serve King James I, mentioned 20 year old Giles Badger, who was a labourer of "lower stature, fit to serve with a caliver", which was a light musket. However, the family seems to have gradually gone up in the world as by 1776, a William Badger was listed in the Poll Book and Electoral Register as owning a house and land and by 1859, a Thomas Badger was listed under Nobility and Gentry in the Harrisons Directory.

Sadly, one member of the family appears to have gone badly astray. William Badger, who was baptised here on 27th June 1780 was buried in Westbury on 5th May 1802 after having been hanged at Bristol for the forgery of a promissory note. His was one of 110 hangings that



The burial register entry for William Badger

took place at Bristol that year (harsh times indeed). He was only 21 years old. The churchyard is full of such surprises.

Churchyard Working Parties

Our churchyard working parties at this time of year are particularly satisfying as you know that the growth that you cut back will not be back again by the next time. James Walkley-Cox is doing a fine job of strimming the long grass in manageable batches and this year it is being cleared away, which gives the wildflowers a better chance. We are also trying to tackle the ant hills, which are all over the churchyard. I'm afraid it looks a bit as if the wild boar have been in there at the moment where we have been breaking them up, but we hope that it will be an improvement in the long term.

So if you want to join us, we will be there again on Saturday 9th October from 10am until 1pm. We always welcome new faces, but please bring your own tools and refreshments. *Di Landon*

Church notices

At the evening service tonight, the topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.



Our Playgroup for Grown Ups got off to a promising start this month and we are looking forward now to our next session which will be on Wednesday 20th October at 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. What was most encouraging was the presence of some new faces and the abundance of ideas of what we may be able to do. We weren't too ambitious for our first session, as this was mainly to find out what people wanted from the group, but we had a few laughs playing Bird Bingo and enjoyed tucking in to Jan's cookies and flapjack.

Suggestion for future activities ranged from tennis to cribbage, folk dancing to bee keeping, gardening to cocktail making, rag rug making to calligraphy, as well as First Aid and CPR, IT skills and many more. One plan is to make some planters which we can fill with flowers next summer to brighten up the hall and possibly the village. This was mentioned to our County Councillor who feels it is a project which would qualify for funding by his Build Back Better fund, so this was encouraging. With Hallowe'en approaching, one of our activities for October will be lantern carving, so if you fancy that, please bring a marrow or pumpkin with you. And if you don't fancy that, please come along anyway and see what else is on hand.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Our October meeting is the annual Cheese & Chutney evening, when members bring along their home-made preserves for us to sample. Bread and cheese will be provided. There will also be a talk on the Cutting Garden, by Julie Bircher. Julie will talk briefly about her business and the progression of flowers through the year, before demonstrating a hand-tied bouquet, which will be donated as a raffle prize. The meeting is in the Northwood Green Social Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 October. Non-members £3, annual membership £12. *Contact karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com for more information.*

Kit out the Nation (but you'll have to be quick!)

Unfortunately, we did not hear about this in time for the September edition but Freedom Leisure in both Cinderford and Lydney are in partnership with BBC Radio Gloucestershire to support Kit out the Nation, a national campaign helping to provide sports equipment to children and young people who need it most.

The campaign only runs until 2nd October as a 'Make a Difference' campaign by the BBC. Lydney and Cinderford leisure centres are encouraging people to donate unwanted, good condition sports kit and



equipment that will be distributed to children and young people in the area who might otherwise lose out.

This campaign aims to get more young people active, following a report issued on the 29th July 2021 by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee which found that there were 100,000 fewer children meeting the recommended level of physical activity in 2020 compared to 2019..

Residents who have unwanted, good condition sports kit or equipment can make donations directly to Freedom Leisure Cinderford and Freedom Leisure Lydney. Full details of addresses and opening hours are available on the following websites:

Lydney – <https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/freedom-leisure-lydney/>

Cinderford – <https://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/freedom-leisure-cinderford/>



Westbury Players have commenced rehearsals for their traditional January Pantomime. This season's production is 'Snow White Goes West' which promises to deliver a wide array of American accents, energetic songs and dances and, of course, a rollercoaster tale of vanity, jeopardy, treachery and some very poor choices which are all resolved by an unlikely ending as is tradition. Performances will be 21st/22nd/23rd and 28th/29th January 2022. Hall capacity is now restricted somewhat so get your tickets at the

Box Office, at the Parish Hall on Nov 14th at 11am.



The finale scene from "Hansel and Gretel" in 2020

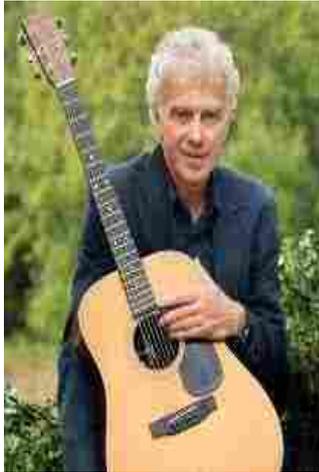
August Weather Report from Simon Phelps

Warmest Days. 4th and 10th. 26c
 Warmest Night. 14/15th. 14c
 Coldest Day. 30th. 15c
 Coldest Nights. 11/12th and 26/27th. 7c
 Wettest Day. 6th. 11mm

Total Rain. 40.5mm
 Number of Days with Rain. 9
 Thunder on the 2nd
 Predominant Wind Direction. SW, but for the last week becoming NE.
 Average Maximum Temperature 20.7c
 Average Minimum Temperature 10.8c

*We are happy to publicise events in our
neighbouring villages*

**NOT LONG TO GO NOW –
DON'T MISS OUT!**



**We are delighted to announce
another visit to Minsterworth by
the accomplished Gloucester-
shire folk musician**

JOHNNY COPPIN

along with Paul Burgess

on SATURDAY OCTOBER

23rd 2021

**at Minsterworth Village Hall
(GL2 8JH)**

Starting at 7.30 p.m.

**“One of the land's finest singer-
songwriters....his music is as
natural as the sun on the hills or
the fresh waters of the streams”
Tickets Price £15 (to incl. re-
freshments). For more informa-
tion contact Terry on 01452
750160 or Joanna on 01452
750709.**

**(This event is being organised jointly
by the church and village hall)**

A HARVEST SUPPER



**Saturday 2nd October,
7.00pm in
Minsterworth Village Hall**

**Including a Talk by
Pete Wilson**

**Radio Gloucestershire
Presenter**

**On his life in radio and other
stories**



**Ploughman's Supper - £10
BYOD**

Tickets from

**Jo 01452 750709, Anne 01452
751295**

or Liz 01452 750401

**Proceeds to Minsterworth Church
and Village Hall**

**Reminder
(and you'll have to be
quick)**

**BEN WATERS
ROCK N ROLL PARTY**
Westbury on Severn Parish Hall
Friday 1st October
Tickets from his website
<https://www.benwaters.com>.
£14 each



Some actual headlines

Safety experts say school bus passengers should be belted.

Shot off woman's leg helps Nicklaus to 66

Enraged cow injures farmer with axe

Plane too close to ground, crash probe told

Golf story

A rich elderly golfer was having an appalling round at his exclusive club. By the eighteenth hole he was seventy over par. Seeing a water hazard near the eighteenth green the old fellow joked to his caddy, "The way I'm playing today, I'd probably be better off going and drowning myself in that pond!" The caddy regarded him coolly and said "Frankly I doubt sir could keep his head down long enough to drown".

Letter to the Editor

I am told that you have compared Common Buzzards and Red Kites. Most sources give slightly different statistics, but kites are a little lighter than a buzzard, around 1.1 -1.2 vs 1.3 -1.4 kg (for the larger females). But they have a greater wingspan, 1.8 against 1.3 m. This gives a lower wing loading, enabling them to fly slower than a buzzard, This is often very noticeable, especially when together.

Regards.

Neil Tappin

We don't get many such letters so perhaps this will start a trend—we could do with more.

**Westbury on Severn
Baby and Toddler Group**

The group is back up and running every Friday morning in term time from 9.30—11.30 at Westbury Parish Hall. It is £3 per family, which includes snacks for the little ones and tea and coffee for the grown ups.

WESTBURY SPORTS

Cricket

Westbury in County Final

On September 12th Westbury CC travelled to the pleasant village cricket club at Coalpit Heath near Bristol to play Langford CC in the final (repeat FINAL) of the Gloucestershire Country Trophy competition. En route to the final Westbury had despatch no less a team than Tewksbury CC which is no small achievement. Beating any club who can boast their own Abbey is always an accomplishment.

It fell to your correspondent to transport Westbury Club President Tempest to the game - in exchange for him providing all the food. Little did I know that the majority of the delicacies on offer were radishes - the worst of all root vegetables.

In terms of the match, Westbury took to the field as the autumnal mists cleared and the sun broke through. As the crowd settled in opening bowlers Jim Walkley Cox and Arron Brown kept the opposition down to a modest run rate but were unable to make a breakthrough.

Langford started to up the run rate despite the spin trio of Ted Edginton, Dan Hockaday and Alex Gray attempting to put the brakes on. Fortunately fellow supporter Rich Edginton had packed some remarkably juicy strawberries and so whilst Tempest was left in solitude sitting in his deckchair, thoughtfully munching on root veg, I filled up on the strawbs.

Meanwhile Langford were beginning to motor along and Tom Landon was brought into the attack. Normally this would be a cause for concern as his brand of "all of nothing" bowling can be expensive so imagine our glee when his first ball, which not surprisingly (given his heritage) pitched halfway down the

wicket, climbed on the batsman more than expected and the pull shot spooned up in the air to be caught by Charlie Gayther. The glee intensified when two balls later the new batsman was comprehensively bowled out and the game was again afoot.

Sadly Landon's tactic of 'back of a length' bowling interspersed with bouncers and yorkers was stymied by his bouncers and yorkers also landing in the back of a length area. Once this was noticed the Langford batsmen managed to whack a few for six.

Meanwhile Edginton was making progress but the runs were also flowing and Langford ended their innings at 230+ which was a challenging total.

Ed Edginton was Westbury's leading bowler with a return of 3-42 from eight overs with Tom Landon capturing 2-26 from less than eight overs.

In reply, Westbury made a steady start with Arron Brown looking particularly menacing. However the middle part of the innings slipped from 72-2 to 157-7 and then 160 all out as Langford turned the screw.

Charlie Gayther (37), Danny Anderson (30) and Aaron Brown (29) all managed to establish themselves for Westbury but sadly no one was able to go on to make a match winning score.

Nevertheless, it was an extremely pleasant day for the crowd and a fine achievement to reach the final.

Rugby

If you're over 18, at a loose end or need to get fit, Westbury-on-Severn RFC is looking to recruit players old, new and willing. Training is on Tuesdays at 6.45pm for 7 at Westbury Parish Hall ground and a warm welcome is guaranteed. Why not follow us on twitter at @WOSRFC

Football

Westbury Utd 2-1 Bream Amts

Westbury's first league game of the season saw Westbury Utd overcome a physically imposing Bream side 2-1. Westbury built a 2-0 lead with goals from Ackeen and Andrew Cueto. Bream pulled a goal back but Westbury's defence held firm against a final onslaught.

Westbury Utd 3-0 Whitecroft Reserves

Westbury continued their winning start to the league campaign with a 3-0 win over Whitecroft Reserves with fine goals from Ackeen, Ben and Harry.



Westbury's promising new signing, Ciaran, launching an attack

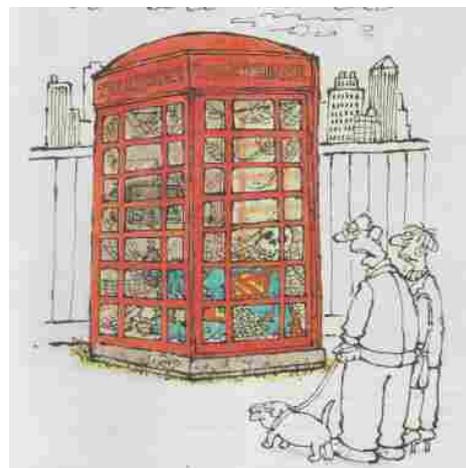


Sign over a Gynaecologist's Office - "Dr Jones, at your cervix"

Honesty is the best policy. But insanity is a better defence



Director of Football, Clive Tempest, demonstrating how to do the Hokey Cokey whilst trying to control a football



"Isn't it time they got rid of this old phone box?"

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