



The cast of Pandemonium singing the opening song - Shotgun

Pandemonium beats the Pandemic

The Kidz Night Out, entitled Pandemonium 2021, was held at the Parish Hall on 12th November, and it really reminded us of what we have been missing during the pandemic. An enthusiastic audience of families, friends and neighbours thoroughly enjoyed an evening of sketches, poems, jokes, songs and dances performed by fourteen children from Westbury Youth Project. The sketches covered a range of situations, including the all too familiar problems encountered during Zoom meetings and another showing a teenager's disbelief when, prior to the outbreak of Covid, a

fortune teller accurately predicts all the changes brought by the lockdown. It was wonderful to be in a Hall full of laughter again and to see the children's enjoyment as they danced and sang together, and to join in the enthusiastic applause at the end.

This year, rehearsals were unable to start until September instead of the usual April, and it can't have been easy to bring all these varied items together in the short time available, so congratulations to everyone involved in making it such a success. The Youth Project committee, chaired by Nicola Atkinson, made it hap-

pen in spite of all the difficulties, and they were greatly helped by their young volunteers Emily, Caitlin and Patience.



Amelie Hughes and Ted Barry in the sketch Petting Zoo

The technical expertise of Claire and Hannah McCartney overcame one or two problems caused by some ageing equipment which had not been used for two years and Jan D'Ambrogio provided us with a fine selection of refreshments. Thanks to everyone for a really enjoyable evening and we look forward to seeing all of those young faces on the stage again next year.

Di Landon

Parish Council

We were slightly down on numbers for our November Parish Council meeting as we had received apologies from John Henry, Alan Hyett and Peter Radley. Our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, had also been in touch to let us know that some of his Highways local money is to be allocated to road repairs on Hunt Hill, but that he was unable to attend the meeting. There were no members of the public there either, so we moved straight on to planning matters.

Planning First up was a formality regarding the change of use of a redundant agricultural building at Charlottes Farm, Chapel Lane, which was noted, followed

by an application for a single storey extension at Chaxhill Villas, to which there was no objection. A change to the planning application for glamping pods at Elton was noted and we were asked for our comments regarding an application to determine if prior approval was required for the change of use of an agricultural building off Goose Lane to a dwelling house. After some discussion, it was felt that this change of use was inappropriate. Our chairman Simon Phelps then updated us on the District Council's progress with finding an alternative to the Churcham development. Twenty four parish councils are now involved in ensuring that a better way is found to distribute housing development throughout the Forest area but it is no easy task and progress is very slow.

Finance After agreeing the accounts, we spent some time considering the budget that Fiona had drafted for 2022-23. This had been no easy task as the costs involved in preparing and fencing the burial ground extension, with its associated costs of drainage for the new school playing field, are still uncertain. With the cost of materials rising, it was agreed that updated estimates will need to be obtained and we will also need some clear idea of the total amount to be contributed by the County Council and the school. However, it is certain that there will need to be an increase next year in the precept for the parish.

Burial Ground Extension As reported last month, a further problem had arisen when it was found that the high voltage power cable runs right across the proposed extension, rather than under the access road to the lower field. Simon has since met with representatives of Western Power who accepted that this was a mistake and will dig out the cable and relay it as per the wayleave agreement.

Discussion regarding funding towards the project from the County Council has been delayed as the person responsible is currently on sick leave and the school governors ran out of time to discuss this at their last meeting. This all becomes more pressing as we learn that Yew Tree Brake has now run out of space, apart from plots that have already been booked, and work has to start on our extension by the end of May.

Highways As you will know, the footways along the A48 have gradually narrowed as the grass has grown over their edges, but this month the path alongside Wintles Hill has been cleared and further



The cleared path on Wintles Hill

stretches will probably be done in monthly instalments. The paths at Walmore Hill and Chaxhill are on the list so we hope that they will be done fairly soon. Network Rail have agreed to check the safety of the Jordans Hill bridge and cut back the vegetation while the railway line is closed. There has been no progress yet with the potholes on Hunt Hill and the Grange Court railway bridge, but Philip Robinson is chasing this up.

Play Area Mike Townsend has done a great job on filling the holes in the wet-pour underneath the swings and this has helped our budget as we had feared that it may all need to be replaced very soon. However, it now looks hopeful that its life can be extended for a few more years.

Other matters Concerns have been raised nationwide about large areas of woodland being sold off in small plots such as has happened with Ley Park Woods and Birdwood Coppice and Mark Harper MP is to be invited to visit these woods and discuss this.

The litterpick on the 30th October had cleared a lot of rubbish from the parish's roads and Chairman Simon thanked all those who helped, including Ben Stephens from Young Farmers who helped to collect the full bags and bring them to the Parish Hall.

The next meeting, which would normally be on the 3rd Monday of the month, has been brought forward to Monday 13th December at 7pm.

Litterpick

When I looked at the weather forecast on the eve of our litter pick, it predicted 100% chance of rain the next morning – a gloomy prospect. However, although there was a lot of water about and some of the litter was distinctly soggy, the sun shone on the wonderful Westbury residents who donned high viz jackets and set to work. Over forty volunteers were out and about collecting an amazing assortment of rubbish including a car bumper, some plastic roofing sheets



and the usual assortment of cans and fast food packaging.

Although we couldn't cover every inch of our miles of roadsides, especially as some of the lanes were flooded, the parish looked so much better afterwards.

So a big thank you to everyone who helped and to Rich Cook who again kindly supplied most of the kit.

Churchyard Working Party

The autumn clear up in the closed churchyard is well under way and all the grass has now been strimmed. At our November working party, we tackled the brambles, tidied the hedge and area around the war memorial in preparation for the Remembrance Service, raked up the cut grass and generally tidied up for the winter. It was a beautiful morning, and we were able to enjoy the ringing of the church bells as we worked. All around, the sun brought out the autumn colours of the trees nearby and by the end of the morning, we had almost filled Simon Phelps's trailer and were feeling very warm, considering that it was November.

There is a strong sense of history in the churchyard and, while most of this comes from the old stonework, the trees also play a part. Most of our churchyard trees are yews, which can live to a great age, and in some churchyards are even older than the church. Yews can also regenerate, and this 'immortality' led to them being regarded as sacred by the Druids and Celtic people, who saw them as symbols of life, death and rebirth. When St Augustine brought Christianity to England, the pope told him to incorporate the pagan places of worship with their yew trees into the Christian tradition, rather than destroy them, which may be why Britain has such a large collection of yews, half of which are in its churchyards.

However, back to the present day, our next working party will be on Saturday 11th December (weather permitting) between 10am and 1pm. All are welcome for however long you can spare at this busy time of year.

Di Landon 4



Having not been able to have a full meeting of the Parish Hall committee in October, it was good to have a round dozen at the November meeting. Going through the minutes from September brought up the subject of rabbits, and although less has been seen of these recently, this was considered to be due more to the shorter daylight hours than to the reduction in rabbit numbers, as they are still digging holes in the football pitch.

In September, Mark Brill and Ed. had been asked to carry out the regular fire assessment. This has now been done and Mark pointed out the importance of this, as committee members are all jointly responsible for the safety of hall users. He went through some of the issues that have arisen, a few of which stem from storage problems such as access to the main electrical consumer unit becoming obstructed by stored chairs. However, the fire extinguishers and most other aspects of the assessment were satisfactory so it was agreed that the assessment would be sent out to all committee members for discussion at the next meeting, when we would also consider the installation of a smoke alarm.

Treasurer's report. There had not been a lot of expenditure other than the cost of servicing the oven and so the Hall finances were all satisfactory. The previous gas supplier to the Hall has ceased trading and so this will necessitate a new supplier and a possible change in future gas costs.

Ongoing projects. The costings so far for

ventilation fans for the kitchen have been prohibitive so that is on hold. However, we have been talking about installing a hearing loop for about two years and it was decided to go ahead with this now, as we have some grant funding that can go towards the cost. Although the peeling roof doesn't look very good, it doesn't affect its main purpose so will be left alone, but the gutters need cleaning.

The question of the Hall's ventilation, which arose mainly in connection with Covid, may become more of a problem as winter approaches and open windows are less popular. Mark Landon, for Westbury Players, asked about the maximum number recommended for audiences but there is no guidance on this and it is for the hirer to decide.

Severndipity. Gen Riley reported on the ongoing dispute regarding the card machine contract, for which legal advice is being taken, and that the Tuesday evening community bars have been discontinued for now as they were a financial loss. The community bars will still open once a month on Tuesdays on the Parish Hall Management Committee meeting nights (the second Tuesday of every month) as we have greater numbers, so please come in and use the facilities. Severndipity are advertising for a new bar manager to take over when our current one leaves at the end of January. The bar is crucial to the financial stability of the Hall as well as making it a valued venue for community events and private hire but it involves a lot of work, and any help from members of the community would be welcome, either as volunteer bar staff or to spread the word that we are looking for a new bar manager. The Severndipity committee is also looking for new members. They meet once a month and help run all matters relating to managing the bar on behalf of the hall - contact Gen if you want more information about what is

involved (genfro@outlook.com)

Any other business. A rent review will be carried out next year and Jan has agreed to decorate a Xmas Tree for the Festival at the Church. An application for funding for planters for the Hall entrance and at either end of the village is being prepared by the Playgroup for Grownups and Jan, in her capacity as both chair and booking secretary, put out a plea to all regular hall users not to assume that the hall will be available if they need it for additional periods – they do need to check with her first. On that note, we adjourned to the bar. *Di Landon*

Playgroup for Grown Ups



This month our main activity was decorating flower pots, with a Christmas

theme, although other games and crafts were also available. There were twice as many of us present as last month, which was encouraging, and we produced some



interesting results, amidst a lot of laughter. We also decorated a lot of small glass pots which will be used to hold lights to decorate the tables at future Parish Hall events.

Our next session will be on Weds

15th December at 7.30pm when we will be making Christmas cocktails, mocktails and nibbles for those up for it.

Come along to discuss what we need to be doing in 2022. All over 18s welcome.

BAR MANAGER REQUIRED

£12 per hour
for

Westbury on Severn Parish Hall

Hours are variable due to a range of bookings from sports bars to weddings, parties & other social events but with a minimum five hours per week guaranteed

Bar management experience is preferred but not essential as training will be provided.

If you have a friendly attitude, love a mix of busy & steady bars & want to help keep our community bar running please email for further information to Severndipityclub@outlook.com
Closing Date 18.12.21.

**Christmas Nosh 'n Natter
Thursday 9th December at
Westbury Parish Hall**

**Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm**

Broccoli and Stilton soup
**

**Mustard glazed gammon
with Dauphinoise potatoes, red cabbage, peas and carrots**
**

Salted caramel cheesecake
**

Coffee and mince pies

**£10.00 two courses: £12.00 three
courses
All ages welcome**

**Please let us know in advance if you
have any dietary requirements other
than the above**

**See in person or call
Gail on 760495 or Jan on 760630 to
book**

**There is a slight increase for our
Christmas menu and we will have a
raffle on the day and the bar will be
open**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
WESTBURY PHMC**

Friends of Westbury School
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE
 on **Sat 4th December**
 10am—2.30pm
 at
Westbury Parish Hall
 Craft Stalls
 Food stalls
 Games for children
 Refreshments, bacon rolls etc
 School Choir 1—2pm
 Visit from Santa at 1pm
 Grand Raffle Draw at 1.30pm
 Adults £1 Children Free

Westbury Church
 invites you and your families to a
FAMILY SERVICE
 at **10am**
 Led by Mr David
 Crunkhurn and members of the
 Worship Team of Westbury
 School
 on
SUNDAY
12th December
 Please bring all the family, old and
 young, & support our new, all age
 worship initiative.
Refreshments afterwards
 This is also an opportunity to say
 goodbye to David as he leaves
 Westbury at the end of this term.

Westbury School

At the end of this term, we wave a sad goodbye to David Crunkhurn as he leaves Westbury School. He has been an inspirational headteacher, leading by example in his buoyant and inimitable way. Music and Drama have especially flourished with Mr C often taking part in plays and shows with characteristic gusto. Amongst many other achievements, Forest School has become a set part of the curriculum, he has nurtured an innovative pastoral suite into the school and, during lockdown, planned and then executed the opening of a Pre-School. The Christian Distinctiveness of the school under his leadership has been greatly evident creating the wonderful, all embracing Westbury Family. He will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his new life as Minister and Community Development Leader at his Baptist church in Gloucester.

Frances Down

Northwood Green Gardening Club



Our members' Christmas social takes place on **Thursday 9 December**. The next club meeting will be at 7.30pm on **Thursday 13 January** in the Northwood Green Social Hall, when Matt Smith of Forest Edge Landscape Services will give a talk on garden landscape and design. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Visitors £3, annual membership £12. Please contact karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com for more information.

Westbury-on-Severn Parish
Church Friends
present

**A CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th De-
cember 2021
10am – 4pm**



In Westbury Church

For more information: contact Frances
Down: 01452-760270

Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Sunday service was held at Westbury Church this year with Rev Sarah Hobbs officiating. A serving officer, Lt Harry Brunskill from Adsett Court, read the exhortation during the service, at which both Westbury and Minsterworth parishes were represented. Malcolm Pobjoy read out the list



of the fallen from Minsterworth and Simon Phelps read out the list of those from Westbury who had died for their country.

Walmore Hill School

Is your child due to start school in September 2022? Are you looking for a small school with a family feel? We can offer a kind, caring and nurturing approach. Why not give us a call and book an appointment to have a look around. Come and see our Early Years class in action and see what we can offer. Bring your little one along with you; they can have a play in our pre-school whilst you have a look around.

Call the office on 01452 750373 or email admin@walmorehill.gloucs.sch.uk



Apology and correction

We would like to apologise profusely for an error in some of the November editions of WoSP in which we referred to the passing of Peggy Swinley. This was the result of a misheard communication and should have referred to Pat Swinley. We are so sorry for this and regret any harm that this may have caused.



Poppy Collection



This year, members of the Royal British Legion's Westbury Branch were again able to call on households in the Parish. Collection boxes

were also placed in various locations around the parish. As a result, the sum of £2359.95 was collected in Westbury and another £1403.24 in Minsterworth. So many thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

Unfortunately, the collecting box in the church was stolen at some point during the twenty four hours after the service, which is a sad follow up to everyone else's hard work and generosity.

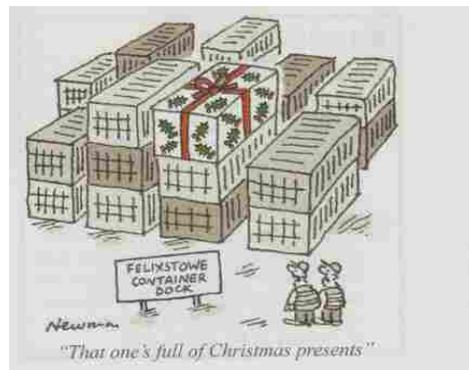


Rehearsals for Snow White Goes West are well underway and tickets are still available for 21/22/23rd Jan and 28th Jan. The final Saturday is now sold out. Please get your tickets now as distancing requirements at the hall mean capacity is reduced to 90. Please contact David D'Ambrogio by email (david.dambrogio@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01452 760630 for more information.

We now have a Westbury Players website so please check it out at www.westburyplayers.com and if you are interested in joining us, please register as a member.

The Spring Production is now on our list of things to do and we are looking for cast members. Those involved in Panto are generally physically, mentally and creatively drained (thespians like to overdramatize it !) so we need some new faces for the next production. Please let me know if you are interested.

Mark Landon westburyplayers@gmail.com



October Weather

This autumn seems to have been considerably milder than most and gardeners have noticed that many plants have gone on flowering well into November. As usual, Simon Phelps has kept a record of the weather, and so we can see from his report that we have the southerly winds to thank for our colourful autumn gardens and trees.

Warmest Day,	9/10/21.	19.5c
Warmest Night	18-19/10/21.	14c
Coldest Day	31/10/21.	10.5c
Coldest Night	30-31/10/21.	2c
Wettest Days	5/10/21	25mm
	30/10/21	23mm
	31/10/21	20mm

Total Rainfall for October 162.5mm
Number of Days with Rain 17.
The wind for the whole month was from a general Southerly direction, mainly slight to light in strength.
Average Max Temperature for Oct 14.7c
Average Min Temperature for Oct 7.2c
October was quite notable for the southerly winds for the whole month.

Damage at Westbury Court



On 4th November, a vehicle reversed into the pillar in the gateway to Westbury Court. The structure was made secure afterwards and the lion on the top has been rescued and appears undamaged.



Bikes for Sale for Great Oaks Hospice

It's really simple. People generously give us bikes they don't need—big bikes, little bikes, mountain bikes, road bikes. They are all donated. We repair the bike if necessary, but if we can't repair it, we take off any good spare parts and the rest is sold as scrap metal, so nothing is wasted.

We sell the bikes at reasonable prices and every last penny of the proceeds is given to Great Oaks Hospice.

We do this as a hobby in our spare time to raise money for the Hospice, so we aren't a shop, we don't have opening hours and we can't be here all of the time.

You'll find us at Fieldway, Lydney Road, Yorkley GL15 4RR, at 'The Bailey' end of the lay-by opposite the school. If there is no one at home, and you would like to donate a bike, please leave it inside the driveway near our shed.

If you would like to buy a bike, just call in or ring 01594 563664 or 07854842424.

Road closure

Grange Court Road at Adsett will be closed from its junction with Church Lane to outside The Vicarage for approximately 50 metres from 08:00 on the 6th Dec until 18:00 on the 8th Dec or until the works have been completed.

Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory

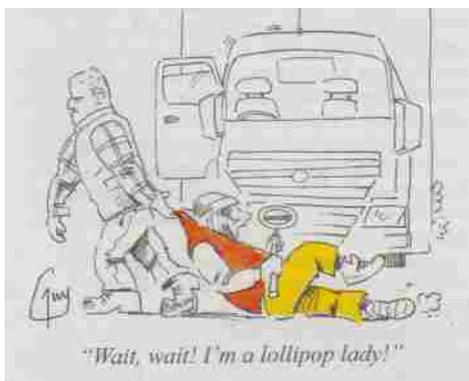
Albert Schweizer


Westbury Young Farmers Club raised a record breaking £5,540 at their Bonfire Night on 5th November and would like to thank all their supporters. This was a fantastic effort by our young farming community which raised funds for the club and for 'We are Farming Minds', a mental health charity started by farmers, for farmers, to challenge and change the overwhelming statistics relating to suicide and mental health in the farming community.



Westbury Parish Hall Quiz

It's back!
Sunday 5th Dec
at 8pm
Teams of 4
Entry £3 per person
Refreshments Bar



WESTBURY SPORTS

Sports Editor Mark Landon

FOOTBALL

30th Oct

Westbury Utd 2:2 English Bicknor Res

Firstly an apology to Andrew Cueto whom I referred to previously as 18 years old but is, in fact, 20 years old. From my perspective it's all the same really but I acknowledge that these things should be correct.

Back to the game, and Westbury surged back from a halftime deficit in a pulsating second half to take a 2:1 lead before Bicknor scored with a last minute free kick from the edge of the penalty box. Details of the first half are sketchy as I was at home watching the end of the South Africa VS Sri Lanka T20 match so only arrived at half time but that was enough to see firstly Mason burst through and lash an equaliser just inside the post and then Alex Wyman, back from suspension from a red card for a bout of fist-cuffs, rifle a tremendous shot past the extremely tall keeper (why does everyone have a tall keeper except us ?) and bulged the net inside the left post. With the clock ticking down Westbury continued to control the match with Ciaran and Gary Morgan holding the line at the back and Akeen popping up everywhere to assist.

However in the dying seconds a free kick conceded outside the box was curled magnificently over our not very tall keeper and into the top corner to leave Westbury somewhat disconsolate, especially 20* year old Andrew who was waiting patiently** to come on as a substitute when the final whistle blew.

* nearly 21

**not at all patiently.

Cricket

Having begun early in 2020, at the start of the pandemic, there must have been many difficulties to overcome since the decision was made to build a new storage building and relocate the practice nets for Westbury's Cricket Club. However, despite the recent weather challenges the project has made huge leaps towards completion in the last week or so. The roof is on the building and the new nets are up and looking fantastic. As always the Cricket club thanks the Parish Hall and the Sports Clubs for their support.



Work in progress (above) and the completed nets (below)



*'You're looking glum'.
'Yes. My doctor says I can't play cricket.'
'Really? I didn't know he'd ever seen you play!'*

Westbury RFC



On 20th November, Westbury 1st XV welcomed a Cheltenham North side to the Ken Boulton 'Stadium of Light' adjacent to the

Parish Hall playing fields. Some excellent skills were on display in a fine example of open rugby with Cheltenham North emerging winners 29 to 19. There were some excellent shifts put in from a smattering of vets - the man of the match for Westbury was Jim (The Barber) Clarkson who made some powerful yards and ended the game with the quote of the week "My boots were older than the prop I played against."

A special mention goes to our Director of Rugby Matt Hart, aka the Funky Ferret Hooker, for bagging his first meat pie (try) for the blue and whites. It was an excellent day when rugby was the winner. A special thanks to Cheltenham North who lent us a couple of players.

Training is every Tuesday at the Parish Hall, 6.45 for 7pm start, - new players very welcome.



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