



**Help  
for  
Ukraine**

As we watch the news each evening, we see the suffering of those under attack in Ukraine. Whether they are sheltering from the bombs, fighting to defend their homeland or fleeing their homes for an uncertain future, most of us can only imagine what they are feeling. We cannot change the situation in Ukraine but our donations can help with some of the practical difficulties.

This huge carload of supplies was donated by the families of children at Westbury and Littledean schools and was taken by Claire McCartney to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester to help families during this horrific time.

Walmore Hill Primary School have also gathered donations and on 12th March, a truck from B.H.Cecil's in Blakeney loaded with these and other donations had arrived in Poland.



*B.H.Cecil's truck in Poland*

## Parish Council

There were three councillors unable to come to the March Parish Council meeting and we had no members of the public present, so we moved swiftly on to planning matters.

**Planning** There were no objections to plans for a first floor extension at 1, Denmark Villas or to the retrospective application for conversion of an outbuilding at Wintles House to a residential annex for dependent persons, and for various associated listed building consents. An application for the temporary siting of a static caravan at Belmont View was supported and there were no objections to the variation of the premises licence at Chaxhill Service Station. Fiona then updated us on planning decisions including the application for an agricultural building at Bagley Farm which has been granted.

**County Council report** Our County Councillor Philip Robinson then gave his report which included details of the recently approved County Council budget. This will mean an increase of £3.50 per annum on the Council Tax for a Band D property but this is still low in comparison to neighbouring counties. After agreeing to follow up various highways and footpath issues, he left us to attend the Mitcheldean Council meeting

**Finance** Moving on to financial matters, the monthly accounts were agreed including the regular annual donation to Lydcare. Fiona had circulated the current charges for burial at Mile End and Yew Tree Brake cemeteries so that we could compare these to our current charges. The cost of a non-resident burial there is now £1,353 for the purchase of the plot and the same again for the interment – a total of £2,706. There are concerns, therefore, that if we do not increase our burial fees for non-residents, the spaces will be taken up by people from outside the parish.

However, some people with strong ties to the parish have to move away to access care towards the end of their lives but would still want to be buried here. So it was suggested that we increase the burial fees for non-residents to four times the fee for residents, but that we include as residents anyone who has lived in the parish for 20 years but who has had to move away to access the care they need. This will be discussed further and a decision made at next month's meeting.

**Highways** Chairman Simon Phelps was due to go round the parish the following day with Nathan from Highways and so all the trouble spots were listed. Simon has since reported that it was a morning well spent and hopes that most of the work will be completed in the next few months. The resurfacing of Church Lane is certainly looking hopeful as we have received notification about its closure for this work, although this will not be until between 15<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Burial Ground Extension** All the contractor's plans are now being submitted to the District Council to show that they meet the planning conditions and then work can start on the new playing field.

**Around the Parish** The surface of the play area has a small damaged patch that



needs attention and some of the wooden balancing posts are so

rotten that they need removal so Peter Radley offered to deal with these. Regarding the parish's footpaths, we had received an update from Jeff Wheeler from Public Rights of Way regarding various footpath problems and Mike

Townsend will follow these up. I reported on the recent Climate Action Day which I had attended, where quite a lot of useful information had been shared particularly regarding insulation and heating of homes. Plans are well underway for the Queen's Platinum Celebrations with several events planned at the Parish Hall and a street party at Northwood Green on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

**Correspondence** Fiona had made some enquiries about Platinum Jubilee mugs for the primary school children but had also found some commemorative water bottles which we thought might be more popular with this age group so it was agreed to make further enquiries.

A couple of parishioners had requested the provision of dog waste bins in the village and at Stantway. At present, the District Council do not provide an emptying service for these and so, as well as the cost of purchasing the bins, there would be an ongoing cost of having them emptied. However, it appears that the District Council are considering providing this service free of charge in future, so it was agreed that we await the outcome of this decision.

A request had also been received that we support a campaign for reducing the 30mph speed limit on rural roads to 20mph but we were not convinced that this was practical and would rather focus on getting the 30mph zone through the village extended to include Jordans Hill railway bridge and the crossroads at the bottom of Wintles Hill.

The next meeting will be on Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April, which will again be a week earlier than our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, due to Easter.

*Di Landon*

*The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.*

## Council Tax

The Parish Council are aware of the increased financial burden placed upon parishioners by the increase in the Parish Precept for 2022/23 which is £8.55 pa for a band D dwelling. This increase will remain in place for 10 years, a total amount of £85, by which time the loan to cover the costs of extending the burial ground will have been paid off. We feel it is important to point out that without sufficient burial space, families of the deceased will be forced to look elsewhere to inter their loved ones, which will very probably result in an increase in costs of between £600 to £800 per funeral.

The Parish Council purchased this land from the County Council during the 1950s with the intention of eventually using the whole field for the Parish Burial Ground. However, during the late 1970s the County Council requested that a portion of the field be leased to the Primary School for use as a playing field, as it was considered unsafe to walk the children down to the Parish Hall Playing Field. The Parish Council agreed to this suggestion on the firm understanding that when the time came to extend the Burial Ground, the school would vacate. As every new lease has been granted this has remained as a condition.

The Parish Council was aware of opposition to the plan to extend the Burial Ground and move the School Playing Field and parishioners had the opportunity to express their views on the application to the Planning Committee. Sport England requested that certain conditions be laid down, ensuring that the new playing field will be of a very high standard. The Planning Committee agreed to these conditions and granted permission and when the work is completed, the school will have a larger and better playing field than that which exists at the present time.

## District Council Tax Rebate

Households in council tax bands A-D will be eligible to receive a non-repayable £150 Council Tax Rebate under the Government's Energy Bills Rebate scheme to help with rising energy bills. Payments will first be made to residents who pay their Council Tax by direct debit in late April 2022. This 'rebate' will not be taken off people's council tax bills when they are issued, but will be a separate payment.

Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Richard Leppington, said,

*"For those eligible, I encourage you to sign up to pay for your council tax via Direct Debit using our new online payment system, OpenPortal. This is the easiest way to set up and track your bill, and will also be the smoothest way to receive your £150 rebate in April as it can be paid directly into your bank account."*

Residents who are eligible but unable to set up an online account via OpenPortal will be contacted separately by the Council with information on how they will receive the rebate. The Council is currently working with providers to find a way to make payments to those not online and will be providing the information as soon as possible.

There will also be a discretionary fund set up to support households who may be in need of support from the Energy Bills Rebate but are not eligible.

OpenPortal is a new system set up where residents can view their bills and information online. The system also allows for Business Rates accounts to be viewed online, as well as any Benefits Claims. By signing up to OpenPortal, residents can move to a paperless system for their bills.

## Parish Council Mailing List

If you would like to hear about news and developments in and around the Parish of Westbury-on-Severn, just subscribe to our mailing list. Please go to the Parish Council website - <https://westburyonsevernpc.org.uk/> and then, under Council News, click to sign up to get news and updates straight to your inbox.

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## Parish Hall Spring Concert

From ribaldry, slapstick and a glut of wine the previous Panto weekend, Westbury Parish Hall changed gear on Sunday 13th March, culturally speaking, by hosting Richard Price, Marilyn Taylor and Tim Wilcox performing a selection of songs from a wide range of sources which, if you care to settle down and grab a cup of tea, I shall relate to you.



*Richard Price, Marilyn Taylor and Tim Wilcox performing*

This was proper singing, high notes, low notes, harmonising, the works - and in not one but THREE languages and was listened to in awed silence as the singers, accompanied by Richard Price on piano / harpsichord / organ - he had various settings from which to choose - went

through their repertoire. The opening song, racyly entitled “It Was A Lover and his Lass” was a celebration of Spring from the perspective of those who feel young and the audience were hooked from the first “Hey nonny no”. We moved swiftly through an array of compositions including by local hero Ivor Gurney, gassed in the First World War and later sadly blighted with mental health problems but not before he had penned the uplifting “Spring” and the more rueful “Desire in Spring”. At this point the more observant amongst you will have noticed a spring like theme emerging. Unfortunately the rain battering at the hall windows didn’t play ball but after hearing Silent Worship by Handel, Marilyn, Tim and Richard took a well deserved break whilst Jan D’Ambrogio and her team of Claire McCartney,



*Thank you gifts for Jan*

Gail Hyett and Jan’s mate Daphne delivered a magnificent collection of scones, cakes, sandwiches (crusts cut off, naturally) and a pot of tea. Whilst Burger King and McDonalds may offer free refills of sugar laden colas, Westbury Parish Hall are unique in offering free teapot refills!

That, plus lashings of cakes left the audience fully sated before the second half commenced with Ich Denke Dein (I Think of You) by Schumann followed by four songs by Vaughan Williams, who hailed from Down Ampney and was

buddy with Gustav Holst. This included the well known “Whither Shall I Wander” which your editor nodded along with sympathetically. The Vaughan Williams part of the concert ended with ‘Dirge for Fidele’ which apparently considered the benefits of being dead, an ambitious proposition to pull off although I was launching into the last bit of lemon drizzle cake at the time so can’t comment on whether the benefits outweighed the disadvantages. Hopefully not.



Finally we ended the concert with “As Steals the Morn” by Handel and then a moving encore of “We’ll Gather Lilacs in the Spring” by Ivor Novello to round off a highly enjoyable afternoon in the company of excellent musicianship and some powerful singing voices.

The day ended in controversy, however, as Rev Sarah Hobbs and husband Quincy sprinted to the car park to get a quick getaway and nick my parking spot on Newnham High Street which, to be fair, is outside their house. The genteel, considered and musical atmosphere of Westbury Parish Hall shattered by the revving of engines and squealing of tyres as the Clergy raced\* the Press back down the A48 towards ‘Nam.

\*within all traffic regulations, of course.

*Mark Landon*

*What is Beethoven’s favourite fruit?  
Ba-na-na-naaaaa.*

*Why couldn’t the string quartet find their composer?  
He was Haydn.*

*How do you make a bandstand?  
Take away their chairs.*



**T**he recent rise in Covid numbers meant that the Parish Hall Annual General Meeting had to be split between those of us who had either recovered from or not caught Covid and were able to be at the Hall in person, and those who were self-isolating and who joined us on Zoom. Not the 'Fresh Start' gathering that we had hoped for but the best that could be managed in the circumstances.

**Chairman's Report** – Jan ran through what had been achieved since our previous AGM last July, with the return of events such as the Flower and Produce Show, the Parish Hall quiz and Nosh'n'Natter and the formation of a new group—Playgroup for Grownups - to help people get back into the way of meeting up to socialise and learn new skills. Various maintenance work and improvements had been carried out including the installation of 'Edna the extractor fan' which has made the kitchen a cooler place to cook. After so many Covid related cancellations and delays, Jan is hopeful that we can now look forward to more events and she thanked Severndipity, which is so central to the Hall's finances, for keeping the bar going. She also thanked Gill and Sarah and all the committee as well as David for keeping the place spic and span.

Treasurer Sarah Mitten had sent through her report, which showed that fundraising last year had generated just 10% of the funds raised in 2019 and explained that the Parish Hall had been kept afloat by the grants that had been received. How-

ever, there were sufficient funds to carry out current plans although, with rising energy prices, we will have to boost our income this year, so it is really important to get people back to events at the Hall. Chairman Jan D'Ambrogio said that this would be discussed at a special fundraising meeting the following week.

The annual report of the Severndipity Committee is to be given after they have held their AGM.

**Election of Members** A l a n Hyett announced that he would be standing down as the representative of the Short Mat Bowls Club but that he was happy to continue as a standing committee member and all the other standing committee members present were willing to continue.

**Election of Officers** Jan D'Ambrogio, Gill Smith and Sarah Mitten were willing to continue in their current roles but Andrew Landon wished to stand down as Vice Chairman and Jan thanked him for his support. The officers now are:- Chairman Jan D'Ambrogio, Vice Chair Helen Cracknell, Secretary Gill Smith and Treasurer Sarah Mitten. Jan was also willing to continue as booking secretary.

As Jan pointed out later, this was the first time that we had elected all women officers which was very appropriate as our meeting took place on International Women's Day!

We then moved on to the business of the monthly meeting. Arising from last month's meeting, it was decided to stay with our current provider for our security system, and the rabbit problem has not gone away but is being closely monitored.

**Fundraising** A Spring Concert was to be held that week, the proceeds from

which were to be shared between the Parish Hall and Great Oaks Hospice, and a meeting devoted to fundraising was upcoming. Other plans include the Jubilee celebrations in June and the Flower and Produce Show in September.

**Rent review** Following the recent rent review meeting, proposals have been circulated to the committee and will be on the agenda for discussion next month. Current rental charges will continue for the time being.

**Doctor's Surgery** Patients of Newnham and Westbury surgery have received letters regarding future plans to close Newnham surgery. This will clearly have an impact on Westbury surgery and the Clinical Commissioning Group had asked to see the Parish Hall deeds, which had been supplied to them. However, it was felt that there should be discussion between the CCG, the surgery and the Parish Hall committee before any further decisions regarding the site are made.

**Next meeting** This will be on Tues 12<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm at the Hall. If you are interested in joining the Hall committee or helping in any way, please come along.

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## Playgroup

for Grown-Ups

Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm



Continuing our  
**PLANTERS PREPARATION**  
to make the hall and village  
welcoming.

Come along with your ideas and  
have a hot drink and cake.

£3 a session

## Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

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

Pea and mint soup

\*\*\*\*

Braised normandy style pork with apples  
New potatoes and vegetables

\*\*\*\*

Muscavado magic

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three courses

Please call us 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

Looking forward to seeing you all and of  
course if you have not been before we  
look forward to meeting you too

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## Litterpick



**A**nother big  
haul of  
litter collected  
by our fantastic  
volunteers on  
Sat 26<sup>th</sup>  
March. Driving

down our lanes, you are not always aware  
of how much rubbish is hidden in the  
hedges and grass but you really notice it  
when walking. We did not have quite so  
many volunteers this time but we still  
managed to collect a lot and the place  
looks a lot better for it.

**Thank you all so much.**

## Youth Project

Westbury on Severn Youth Project is starting a new year and is seeking members to join our fun team.



If you are aged between 8 and 18 years and enjoy drama, dance, singing or just like being part of a team to pull together a performance, then we would love to see you.

We meet every Thursday at 6pm, term time, until 7:45 at Westbury on Severn Parish Hall.

As we get closer to our annual performance in November we also meet on a few Sundays to finalise our show. This year the performance dates will be 11th and 12th November.

Annual fee is £20, and this includes workshops with a professional puppeteer, having fun with percussion and lots more. If you would like to know more please call Nicola on 01452 831218.

We look forward to seeing you on the 7th

April for our taster session where we can explore the aspects of drama.

*Nicola Atkinson Chairperson*

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## Cafe on the Green

Thanks to the Northwood Green committee who provided the cake and a splendid raffle, we were able to give £126.50 to the Hall fund. Once again the hall buzzed with chatter - a lovely sound. Next time it is for the Crohn's society so come and join us, see you there.

**Don't forget it is on 9th of April.**

*Ann and team*

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## Northwood Green Gardening Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th April, when Steve Mason will give a talk about butterflies. Steve's fascination with butterflies started when he was eight, with Red Admirals, and he now sets up Butterfly houses all over the UK. This is always a popular subject, and we can learn what plants to grow throughout the year to help encourage and preserve our butterflies.

On Thursday 12th May, Peter Holloway, a past President of the British Fuchsia Society, will give a talk and demonstration on Fuchsia growing.

Both meetings will take place at at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Visitors are welcome, entrance £3. Annual membership £12. Please contact [karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com) for more information.

Our annual plant sale will be held on Saturday 14th and Sunday May 15th. at The Glen, Adsett, Westbury on Severn, GL14 1PH. This year the stall will be manned on Saturday, with an honesty box operating on Sunday.

*Karen Johnson*

## Snow White Goes West Pantomime Review 2022

First, thank goodness we are back to what passes for normality round these here parts.

Okay y'all, saddle up and hold on tight Pardners! Yeehah... Westbury Players' latest pantomime 'Snow White Goes West' featured a spectacular, role-defining performance from the beautiful, tone-perfect, high-octane Leanne Roseblade-Bargh as our heroine. But uh-



*Zoe Fransham and Leanne Roseblade-Bargh as young Jed and Snow White*

oh, balancing her (in the dramatic sense) was the not-quite-so-beautiful, arch-baddy Colin Cotterell as Evie McQueenie (best Hillbilly accent award). It was Good v. Bad in no uncertain terms and perhaps it would be a lesson for our times..

Penned and directed by Mark Landon (seemingly unfettered by the misery of his usual job reporting on village sport performances) the script delivered a

sweeping epic covering multiple generations, continents, species, heights, dancing abilities and clichés. All in all, a significant upgrade for those more used to watching lockdown box sets.

It was suggested that the additional material contributed by Landon's unassuming collaborator Adrian Crompton could be readily identified by the drum/cymbal combination following each punchline. Whether or not this was true, it did provide a sometimes very helpful cue for the audience who were in a good mood and ready to cooperate after a superb meal from Jan D'Ambrogio and her team.



*Jan D'Ambrogio and team*

Anyway, back to the plot. Evie is the second wife of the extremely shortsighted (Evie has a thick beard) bar owner MacGill (Tim Smith, reliably excellent) who is also the father of Snow White via his first marriage. Evie's magic mirror (George Ford, on reflection also excellent) suddenly became evasive with his always truthful answers and this led to Snow White being taken to the Rodley quicksands by Evie's wicked henchman Wyatt Twerp (a snarling Simon Roberts - or was he really as bad a boy as he seemed?)

Just prior to the kidnapping, Snow White had met Jed (the beguiling Zoe Fransham), a young cowboy, and sparks flew and it was love at first sight. Jed is the son of snake oil peddler Doc Buckeroo (the still-lovely Clive Tempest) who struggles to convince his customers of the

effectiveness of his brain tonic.....when he can remember what it is that he is selling.

Fortunately for Snow White, Daisy Crockett (David D'Ambrogio in Full Dame Mode) intervenes and Wyatt reveals his soft centre. Instead of drowning her, he allows Snow White to be taken to the politically correct environmental extraction community of Ruardean. Snow White then sets to work to manage the catering and cleaning efforts for an assortment of variously-challenged miners. Amongst this self-identifying group were Boss (Amelie Phillips - clear and line-perfect), Angry (Caitlin Bennett/Ted Barry - very funny), Gouty (Louise Fransham - also very funny), Farty (a typecast, unrepentant Andrew Landon) and Big Stretch (Adrian Crompton in distressingly soiled and ill-fitting long johns, perhaps not every woman's dream, but see below).

There were a number of twists and turns, some undoubtedly caused by Ms White's repeated inability to understand the clear instruction about not talking to strangers. But with pleasing inevitability the various threads of the

plot were expertly drawn to completion... Jed and Snow White have a bit of a tiff but become reconciled and then duet together melodiously. MacGill is reunited with his first wife - Daisy Crockett. The miners live happily in Ruardean (this is fiction remember).



*Clive Tempest and Adrian Crompton*

Wyatt Twerp slinks out of town whilst Doc Buckeroo and Big Stretch find a future together during a sensitive scene worthy of Brokeback Mountain or any contemporary banking advert. As for Evie, she gets her richly deserved come-

uppance and is sent to do community service in Newnham, not entirely good news for the picturesque riverside village where property prices had been rising in a satisfactory manner prior to this turn of



events.

Backstage the frenetic activity behind the curtain was betrayed only by the occasional clonk and muffled curse but the sets, costumes, continuity, lights, sounds (incl. Mr Landon's ripping renditions), make-up, props and organisation were all worthy of a much bigger theatre.

So, many congratulations to all those who came together, dug deep and persisted to deliver this wonderful, much-buffed, community effort:-

Sets and Design - Sue Pemberton

Costumes - May Brass

Backstage crew - Mike Edginton, Brian Wyman, Mike Matthews

Lights - Stuart Hawke

Sound - Claire McCartney

Make up - Nicola Atkinson and team

Props - Elke Landon, Di Landon

Prompt - Elke Landon

Catering - Jan D'Ambrogio, Gill Smith, Di Landon

Curtains - Gemma Byrne

*Paul Moscrop*

*WoSP Food and Theatre Critic*

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## Walmore Hill School



Walmore Hill School children created story jars for their World Book Day competition on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. They were all amazing and so creative. Well done to our winners who were able to choose a book as their prize. It was lovely to see all the children reading together at the end of the day too.

## February weather

With so much happening both at home and abroad, February seems a long way away now, but we probably all remember Storm Eunice. Thanks to Simon Phelps we also know that :-

The warmest day was the 1<sup>st</sup> at 15c and the coldest was 15<sup>th</sup> at 6c. The coldest night was 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> when it was -4.5C and there were 12 frosty nights during the month. The average maximum temperature was 10.4c and average minimum temperature was 1.2c

32.5mm of rain fell on the wettest day (13<sup>th</sup>) and the total rainfall for the month was 110.5mm, with sleet falling on 4 days between 18<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

There were very strong winds between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with a tidal surge in the river on 18<sup>th</sup>, which narrowly missed overtopping the flood defences.

Simon has found all sorts of old weather sayings for March, one of which is:

*If Lady Day (25th) be bright and clear,  
Fertile is said to be the year.*

(and I think it was, so that's hopeful)

Another is :-

*A bushel of March dust on the leaves is worth a king's ransom,* which apparently means that if it's dry enough in the month of March to get that much dust (and that's a lot of dust) things are going well, weather-wise.

*What is the opposite of a cold front?*

*A warm back.*



## GP Surgery

As most of you will know, there are going to be significant changes at Newnham and Westbury Surgeries. Dr Alder is retiring and, while Dr Lacey will remain, they both decided, following their experiences over the past two years, that the surgery building at Newnham is no longer fit for purpose in the long-term and that it should be sold. We now know that Newnham Surgery will be closed from 1<sup>st</sup> April and the Clinical Commissioning Group, which is the NHS organisation responsible for health and care services and ensuring they meet NHS standards, say that although they have attempted to identify suitable alternatives in Newnham, no such premises are available. However, the Westbury surgery has



proven to be both accessible and capable of providing capacity for all clinical services during the pandemic and is considered fit for purpose in the long-term. It will now be open from Monday to Friday. There is also difficulty in recruiting doctors to small, rural practices such as ours, as opposed to larger, better resourced, practices which may be better able to meet the needs of an aging population, who may require longer-term complex care.

Dr Alder and Dr Lacey are committed to a transfer to an alternative NHS provider

and feel that G DOC is a like-minded provider that could take over the service. G DOC is a limited company run as a not-for-profit organisation that was created by Gloucestershire GPs in 2012, with the aim of strengthening primary care services in Gloucestershire. All GP practices in Gloucestershire are shareholders and many local GPs sit on the G DOC Board of Directors. If G DOC takes over the Newnham and Westbury GP contract there will be a wider range of skills and expertise in the practice, with more secure staffing levels. Following the proposed transfer of the contract to G DOC, Dr Lacey intends to continue to work for the practice in a solely clinical role. She is hopeful that by relieving herself of managerial responsibility, she will be able to pursue her passion for delivering her own style of general practice.

However, if G DOC is unable to take over the contract, it appears that Newnham and Westbury Surgery would most likely be forced to close, which is an outcome that none of us want. This all seems to have come upon us very rapidly and people are understandably sceptical that their comments are going to make any difference to the outcome when the decision to close Newnham surgery has already been taken. While we welcome the fuller use of our surgery in Westbury, we would also like the Parish Hall Management Committee to be consulted regarding any plans for future extensions to the building.

Whatever our views, I think we need to stress how much we appreciate the work of our doctors and all the staff at the surgeries, who have had such a difficult time over the last two years, but have kept up their good work. We wish Dr Alder a happy retirement and thank our lucky stars that Dr Lacey is staying with us.

*Di Landon*

## WESTBURY CHURCH TEAS – help needed

Can you make tea, bake a cake, wash up, chat to our visitors?



We would love to hear from you if you would be able to help a small group of us serve afternoon tea to visitors to the church, tower and

local area while raising funds for Westbury Church.

Tea is served from 2 – 4 pm in the Church and on the grass outside the West door to make the most of sunny afternoons.

We hope to start serving teas from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May and continue until the August Bank Holiday.

If you would be willing to join us for one afternoon during the summer or bake a cake, we would love to hear from you.

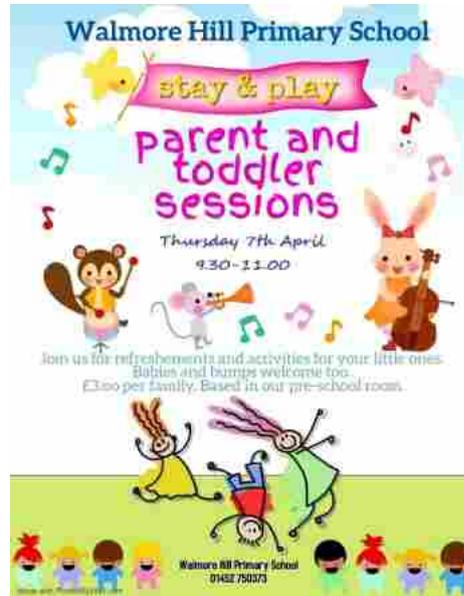
*Please call Caroline Phelps (760765) or Annette Ellis (760232)*

## Closed Churchyard

We had our first working party of the year on 12th March, which was a lovely sunny morning. The primroses looked so beautiful in the sunshine and it was a pleasure to be there. Our



next session will be on Sat 9th April so do come along—or just take a walk through at any time and enjoy the wildflowers.



## Proposal to Close Westbury Court

The County Council's proposal to close what has been described as "a brilliant care / nursing home with dedicated professional staff in a well appointed environment in a lovely setting" has come as a shock to both residents, their relatives and the community in general.

A confusing number of reasons have been given for this proposal including empty beds, a drop in demand and income, staff shortages, out-dated facilities and the result of a recent survey showing that 99% of the population would prefer to be cared for at home. Well, of course – we all would! But that does not mean that this is always possible. Families may not be able to provide the necessary care and support and the shortage of care staff will affect those needing care at home just as much as those in care homes.

*So please come along to the meeting on Tuesday 5th April at 5pm at the Parish Hall to find out more and have your say.*


**THE BIG JUBILEE WEEKEND**  
 at Westbury on Severn Parish Hall  
 info@wosph.co.uk 01452 229570

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**FRIDAY 3RD JUNE**

**Evening Pig Roast**  
 With Live Music

**Afternoon Fun & Games**  
 Teddy Bears Picnic  
 Crown Competition  
 Treasure Trail  
 Family Quiz

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**SATURDAY 4TH JUNE**

Do you remember the Queen's Coronation?  
 We'd like to invite you to a special Afternoon tea!  
 Come along to share your memories.

**Evening Live stream from Buckingham Palace**

**BBQ**

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**SUNDAY 5TH JUNE**

**The Big Jubilee Lunch**

**Evening Live stream from Buckingham Palace**

**The Great & Pudding Competition**




**Public Meeting**  
**Regarding the Future of**  
**Westbury Court Care**  
**Home at**  
**Westbury Parish Hall**  
**Tues 5th April at 5pm**

**Please come along**

## Westbury Sports

Sports Editor Mark Landon

### Football

Westbury 4 Broadwell 0

Scorers: Morgan Shellan x2,

Akeen Wright x2

Assisters: Harry Howells, Kyran Hale x2

On Saturday 19th March, Westbury played Broadwell A in the Hospitals Cup. A beautiful sunny day was ahead and with the first kick of the ball, Broadwell went on the attack but a great defensive tackle saw Westbury break, and a great piece of skill and a through ball from Harry Howells found Morgan on the edge of the box. He shrugged off his man and planted it perfectly into the top right corner and already it was 1-0. The game had barely even started.

Advantage Westbury.

Then another goal for Westbury! Morgan Shellan at the double after a goal mouth mixup following a great ball from Kyran Hale, as he collided with the keeper and the ball rolled into the net, and with only 12 minutes played, Westbury were two up. Some chances fell either way, but no more goals or standout opportunities for either side.

Half time 2-0

The second half had only just begun and already Westbury had another chance. A perfect layoff to Anthony Owen saw him hit it on the half volley, but it was miles too high, and almost went out for a throw in. *So in fact, it was rubbish* (Sports Ed). Chance after chance fell to Westbury but no end product resulted, until Akeen Wright finally scored. Or had he? In fact it was disallowed for hand ball in the build up - controversial to say the least. Following this, Akeen looked like

he was hungry for a goal, and minutes later he slotted it into the bottom right corner; this time there was no reprieve from the referee. 3-0.

Westbury looked dominant during this exciting contest. Great goalkeeping from Jay Brown with multiple brilliant saves kept Westbury's clean sheet, and made sure the game was well and truly out of reach for Broadwell. On the other hand, the score line was perhaps not as fair as it seemed, as Jay Brown really kept Broadwell out and although Westbury continued to look the better side the game entered a spell of stuttering incoherence.

Another Westbury goal followed, an 'over the top' ball, and Akeen Wright scored for the second time. Westbury saw themselves four goals ahead. At last, the final whistle went. It was safe to say 4-0 was slightly flattering to the home side, but a good Westbury win nonetheless. Man of the match was Westbury's keeper, Jay Brown, after many outstanding and goal stopping saves.

*George Ford*

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## Junior Cricket



*The Junior Cricket team having a big sort out of the equipment ready for all their exciting plans for this summer.*

## Cricket

In another welcome sign of a return to normality, Westbury Cricket Club feel comfortable enough to encourage everyone associated with the club to get back together ahead of the new season. This means that they will be hosting a Presentation Evening on Friday 22 April at Westbury on Severn Parish Hall. An opportunity for players past and present, as well as supporters, to celebrate the achievements on the field last season. Potential new players are also welcome. The evening is seen it as a chance to get back together as a club, enjoy each other's company after all the restrictions and look forward to the season ahead. Unlike previous years there won't be a guest speaker, which allows our in-house speakers full rein to express themselves across a range of themes and topics, and goes some way to addressing the cost of living crisis by hugely reducing ticket prices. There will be all the usual awards and plenty of time for socializing, reminiscing and comparing injuries.



*Westbury's Cup Final team 2021*

The evening will start at 7pm with food from 7.30pm and the dress code will be smart casual.

The club can be contacted through their Facebook page for tickets or email [iandunn10@sky.com](mailto:iandunn10@sky.com). These will be very reasonably priced at £15 per head for a 2-course meal and the bar will be open.

## Rugby News

On 12th March, WoS RFC were away to Newent 2's in the FOD Combination Cup at Newent Rec.

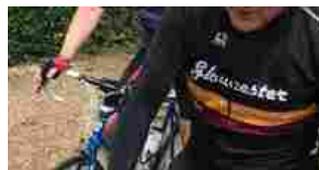


But the cup run wasn't to be....

It was a good hard fought game for the blue & whites of WoS but they were eventually outgunned by a well drilled Newent RFC 2's - scores

were close at half time at 24-12 .....once again the second half pace was WoS's downfall, Newent finishing the game at 44-12. A valiant effort from the boys with many, many performance to note. So, well done Newent—go well in the final boys.

Also, on Sunday 29th May, Pete Miles and Simon Roberts from the club will be taking part in the Ride London 100 challenge whilst hopefully raising ££ for Headway Gloucestershire, a



charity that works to improve life after brain injury by providing vital support and information services. So please give what you can — thanks

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