

**Panto is
back—oh
yes, it is!**



**And it's
time to
Spring into
action!**

While we know that we still have to be careful, it does feel now as if social life is beginning to open up again, along with the primroses and daffodils. As the days lengthen, Spring always seems like a time for new beginnings and fresh ideas, and never more so than this year, after we have spent so long feeling stuck in a bit of a rut.

In Westbury, there are lots of activities to take part in and amateur dramatics is just one of them. With two performances of the pantomime *Snow White Goes West* already under their belt, Westbury Players are looking forward to the two remaining performances on 4th and 5th March. To avoid any spoilers, we'll leave the full report until next month.

The atmosphere in the Parish Hall for the opening night was full of excitement at the return of this much-missed event and the cheers began before the curtains even opened. With the alarming events that are happening on the world stage at the moment, I can assure the audiences who have booked tickets for this weekend's performances that the action on Westbury's stage will certainly cheer them up. New members are always welcome at Westbury Players, whether they want to act, dance or sing or whether they are interested in all the work that goes on behind the scenes—set building and painting, making costumes and props, sound and lighting, make up, cooking etc. You can get in touch through the website westburyplayers.com or by

emailing westburyplayers@gmail.com. A fresh start is also needed for the Parish Hall as we begin to look forward to being able to put on more events, which will



bring the community closer together and put the Hall on a firmer financial footing. So please come along to the Hall on Tuesday 8th March for our Annual General Meeting where you can share your ideas about what new events or activities could be introduced or just to generally offer your help. See page 6 for more about the Hall.

It's not long until the start of the cricket season and details of how both adults and children can join the Westbury teams are on page 11. Both the football and rugby clubs are keen to

bring the community closer together and put the Hall on a firmer financial footing.



recruit new players so get in touch now to find out more before the end of the season.



If wildlife gardening and local history



interest you, why not come and join the working parties in the closed churchyard

as we start the new season on Saturday 12th March. See page 8 for further details

And if the amount of rubbish that is again littering our lanes and roadside verges is driving you up the wall, please come and join us for our litter picking day on Saturday 26th March. Our fantastic volunteers cleared up all the mess last November but it is now looking awful again so please help if you can. More details on page 10.

Next month will see the start of rehearsals and planning for this year's Youth Project which begins on 7th April, so look out for more details about that in the next edition of WoSP and I'm sure there will be news of plenty of other Spring and Summer activities to keep us all busy.

So, while flopping in front of the TV or curling up with a good book have become the standard leisure time activities for many of us during the pandemic, perhaps it is time now to put a spring in our step and get out and about again.

Westbury Court Garden



Westbury Court Garden will reopen on Wednesday 2nd March. Open from 11am to 5pm, with last entry at 4pm. We look forward to welcoming you back to our beautiful garden. Please see the website for full opening times <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/westbury-court-garden>

Parish Council

After a week-end of storms, our February Parish Council meeting was a calm and peaceful event. Two parishioners joined us but our County Councillor Philip Robinson had sent his apologies. The public comment was very topical



in view of the flooding that had just threatened the area, as it concerned a drainage problem near the Parish Hall, where the two pipes that take the water under the road are too narrow to cope with the flow. Chairman Simon Phelps agreed to talk to the Highways team about this.

Planning There were five planning applications to discuss, the first being for consent to repairs to a listed building at Yew Tree Cottage in Flaxley. We decided to comment that we would agree to the Conservation Officer's recommendations on this matter. We then looked at two applications for extensions - one at 8, The Crescent in Northwood Green and another at Bojean in Grange Court Road - and we agreed that we had no objections to either of these. We also had no objections to the application to establish whether the residential use for two buildings at Pound Farm is lawful. There was also an application from Westbury Court Garden for a kerb to protect the gatepost when it is replaced following damage in an earlier accident.

Fiona reported that applications for the erection of an agricultural storage building at Boseley Court, a commercial building and hardstanding for agricultural machinery sales next to Pound Farm and glamping pods at Sunnybank in Elton Lane had all been refused. However, applications for an agricultural building in Ley Lane and a replacement of an outbuilding at Yew Tree Cottage, Flaxley had been granted.

As far as future development plans for the Forest of Dean area are concerned, it appears that the plans for large development sites such as the Churcham development plan are now less likely to be adopted and instead each area will be set a target of new homes to be built during the next twenty years. Westbury's target will be 134 houses and several local sites have been put forward. (Please see page 4 if you wish to suggest a site)

Finance

After the month's accounts had been agreed, Chairman Simon was able to provide us with a list of the precepts set for 2022/23 by all the parish councils in the district. As we had received a few adverse comments about the increase that has been necessary for our parish, it was reassuring to see that eighteen councils in the area have set a higher figure than Westbury's £45.60 for a Band D property. The Newnham precept for a Band D property for example is £79.53, Churcham's is £46.11 and Huntley's is £48.88.

Highways

Several areas are badly in need of road repairs especially Rodley Road, Stantway Lane, Church Road and Hunt Hill. There had also been problems with flooding near Charlottes Farm, and at Adsett and Wintles Lane, Northwood Green. Most of these problems have already been reported but will be chased up. However, on a Sunday during the recent storms, a

willow tree fell on to the road between Boseley Court and Poulton Court and two men from Highways arrived to deal with it within an hour of Simon reporting it.

Burial Ground

A contractor has now been selected for the work on the school playing field and burial ground extension and will now be told to go ahead with the work. In view of the lack of burial spaces at Yew Tree Brake and the high cost of burial at Mile End cemetery (currently £1353 for a single plot) it was agreed that the charges for non-resident burials need to be set at a higher rate and this will be discussed further next month.

Play Area

Mike Townsend has replaced the net on the play equipment thus saving £452 on the original estimate for this work so we are all grateful to him for this saving.

Footpaths

There is a lot of work waiting to be done but no progress to report. Mike Townsend had been able to assist a parishioner with directions for how to find out the reference numbers of local footpaths.

Other matters

Our Spring litter pick will take place on Saturday 26th March and Richard Cook has kindly agreed to again supply the picker uppers and high viz jackets. If you are able to assist, please let me know (see page 10.)

Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be taking place in June and it was agreed that the Parish council would be giving commemorative mugs to the children of Westbury and Walmore Hill schools.

A request for dog waste bins in the village will be on the agenda for next month.

NB Our next meeting will be on Monday 14th March (a change from our usual 3rd Monday) at 7pm. *Di Landon*

District Council Land Appeal

Forest of Dean District Council is appealing to interested people, organisations, agents and/or land owners to suggest potential sites for housing or employment, or for a combination of both.

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Overall Strategy, Cllr Tim Gwilliam, said,

“ If you have land that you believe could potentially be developed in the future, either for housing or business purposes, this is your chance to submit it for consideration. By submitting your site for assessment, it does not necessarily mean that development will happen, but it is that important first step that puts it in front of the right people for consideration.”

This yearly study allows the council to keep its list of potential sites as up to date as possible and will be particularly important for this year, as suggested sites could help support the development of a new Local Plan, which will guide the development of future housing and employment up to the year 2041.

Forms are required to be returned by 31st March 2022 in order to be considered as part of the 2022 assessment.

If you wish to put forward a site(s) to be considered in this year's review, then proceed to download a form from the council's website at <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/shlaa> or email localplans@fdean.gov.uk for more information.

From letters to local councils (allegedly)

"Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now it is in three pieces."

"The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared."



In view of a few recent positive Covid tests, our February Parish Hall meeting was back to a Zoom meeting – just to be on the safe side. A dozen faces appeared on our screens and as we had all read the minutes regarding the rabbit problem, we were pleased to hear, under matters arising, that fourteen rabbits had been caught at the Hall and that further checks will be made in the near future.

Our Treasurer was unable to join us but the end of year accounts have been done and we will have a full report next month. Jan D'Ambrogio reported that she had made more enquiries about the installation of a hearing loop and felt that, as we had been discussing this for a long time, we should now go ahead with this, at a cost of £847 plus VAT, and this was agreed. She also reported that the Cricket Club are intending to erect the large marquee in April and this will then enable us to go through the marquees that are in storage and assess what is needed. Mike Edginton had checked the guttering as far as possible, but will check again after heavy rain.

Severndipity Report (Bar)

Gen Riley reported on the recent Severndipity Committee meeting at which they had welcomed their new member, Tom Marshall-Andrews. Unfortunately it was reported that funds are limited after a period of low income from the bar over recent months, largely due to sports events being affected by Covid. At present, repayments of the Bounce Back loan

are interest only, but after six months this will increase and therefore there had been some discussion by the Severndipity Committee as to how to increase bar income. An application for a Hospitality grant is being prepared and Gen announced that Neil Wyman has now been employed as bar manager. After some discussion, it was agreed that the question of charges for the supply of bar facilities for Hall bookings should be discussed fully at the rent review meeting scheduled for 22nd February. The bar will be opening for Six Nations matches and it is hoped that this will boost sales.

The connection to the new broadband provider is now complete but speeds are not quite what was promised. This may be because it can take up to two weeks to get up to speed, but it appears that we may also need boosters so that both the Hall and lounge are within range.

Fundraising

The monthly Nosh'n'Natter lunches bring in a regular income for the Hall and a Spring Concert, with Cream Teas, is planned for **13th March**, the proceeds being shared between Great Oaks Hospice and the Parish Hall. Several events are planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and there will be a Flower and Produce Show in September.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 8th March following an Open Meeting at which we hope lots of people will come along with their ideas of what they would like to see happening at the Hall and events that they would be keen to support.

Any Other Business

The work on some of the Parish Hall trees is now complete and an energy audit is to be carried out shortly to see if there is anything that can be done to reduce running costs and carbon emissions. Several members of the committee have signed

up to a Food Hygiene course, Clive Tempest is fixing a broken louvre somewhere (I didn't catch where exactly!) and the immersion heater was due to be fixed the next day. In the world of sport, it was reported that football matches are all home games for the next four weeks and that the tradition of cricket teas has been ended. A new hinge is to be fitted to the kitchen door and this will be done in good time for the pantomime.

Annual General Meeting The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 8th March at 7.30pm – everyone very welcome.

OPEN MEETING FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 2022 7.30PM

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH HALL

This is your opportunity to learn about and voice your opinion on events at the Hall and its plans, especially after the last couple of years we have had, and to consider standing for membership of the Committee to ensure the smooth running of the hall for the future.

Please come along!



LIVE MUSIC **SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2022 at 3PM**
 Sung by Marilyn Taylor and Tim Wilcox, accompanied by Richard Price
TICKETS £12.00 pp includes a cream tea

SPRING Song Concert

This is a fundraising event, proceeds will go to the Great Oaks Hospice registered charity 1078186 and Westbury Parish Hall registered charity 301644

Featuring songs with a spring sentiment across the centuries, including songs by two Gloucestershire composers, Ivor Gurney and Ralph Vaughan Williams whose 150 anniversary is celebrated this year
 Contact Jan 01452 760630

AT WESTBURY ON SEVERN PARISH HALL
 Registered Charity No 301644

Please book your tickets with Jan on 01452 760630 by Thurs 10th March

The repertoire will be primarily themed around songs about or inspired by Spring. The songs will be selected from compositions by Gounod, Grieg, Gurney, Handel, Quilter, Pollard, Schumann and Vaughan Williams.

***Marilyn Taylor** has sung regularly in Cathedral and church choirs over the years as well as with the Cotswold Canal Singers in Stroud.*

***Timothy Wilcox** has appeared in New York, Berlin and Hong Kong with the Chorus of the Academy of St Martins in the Fields. They will be accompanied by **Richard Price** who is an experienced player of the piano and harpsichord based in Birmingham. He has been an accompanist for a Welsh Male Voice Choir and is currently with a choral society in Birmingham.*

Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall

Thursday 10th March 2022

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

Mushroom soup

Hunters chicken with new potatoes and
vegetables

Treacle tart with custard

£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.



Due to a number of cases of Covid and the isolation period we had to postpone our fundraising meeting in February and have rescheduled it for Tuesday 15th March at 8pm at the Parish Hall. If you have any ideas or would just like to be involved, then please come along

Recycling Advice

Recycling may have become confusing, so here's the latest advice for our area.

Food Waste

All types of food waste can be recycled using the kerbside service.

Paper and Cardboard

Use the blue recycling bag and please flatten your cardboard and reduce larger pieces so they fit inside. Cardboard too large for the bag cannot be collected as it will not fit in the vehicle

- Newspapers and magazines
- Telephone directories and catalogues
- Paper and envelopes
- Junk mail and leaflets
- Brown corrugated cardboard
- Grey card egg cereal boxes, egg boxes
- White/coloured card
- Plain greetings cards No foil, glitter or ribbons
- Plain wrapping paper Remove tape

Tins/cans/aerosols + Plastic bottles

Use one of the green recycling boxes for:-

- Food/pet food tins *Please rinse*
- Drinks cans
- Empty aerosols
- Aluminium foil *Please rinse*
- Metal chocolate/biscuit tins and lids
- Plastic milk bottles
- Squash, pop and water bottles
- Shampoo and conditioner bottles
- Detergent and softener bottles
- Empty bleach bottles

Glass + Textiles

Use second green recycling box for:-

- Glass bottles and jars (*without lids, corks etc and please rinse*)
- Clothing and paired shoes
- Hats, gloves, belts, scarves and hand-bags

Closed Churchyard

With a rush of Spring energy and enthusiasm, we will be back to our normal second Saturday of the month working party on 12th March. We shall be in



A bank of primroses in the churchyard

the closed churchyard from 10am until 1pm (weather permitting) and I think we can now safely go back to providing refreshments in the church mid-morning for all our volunteers. Please bring your own tools and if you want to take away some of our rather grass-heavy compost for your own garden, you will have certainly earned it! We always have a satisfying and enjoyable morning so do come and join us if you can.

If anyone else would like to come along and collect some of the compost, we would be happy to let you have it in exchange for a £1 per bag donation to the funds.

Playgroup for Grown-Ups

Wednesday March 16th
7.30pm

PLANTERS NIGHT

In March we will start to put together our planters for the village and Parish Hall and any help and advice would be welcome.

We are applying for a grant to help us with this project.



Church Notices

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.



Westbury-on-Severn Lunch Club runs on the last Friday of the month from 11.30am to 2.30pm at the Parish Hall. Morning coffee and biscuits are available, and lunch is served around 12:30pm.

Come and join us for freshly cooked food, friendly chat and fun. Please ring for further information, or to let us know that you would like to come along so that we can include you in the numbers for lunch. **Telephone:** 07554 996734 or 07789128487. There is a charge of £4.00 per

person and we may be able to arrange transport to and from the venue for you, subject to availability. Please contact us to discuss. The venue is wheelchair accessible and has a disabled toilet. We welcome volunteers to help with driving, cooking etc. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering with us.

Café on the Green



Many thanks to the many of you that came along to the Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th Feb. The hall was buzzing with chatter and together with the bakers, helpers and the team from Riding for the Disabled, a total of £222 was raised.

Next month on Saturday 5th March the money raised will go towards the upkeep of the hall. This is an excellent facility for the community, so let's support the Coffee Morning and keep all the activities running in this great venue.

While you have your diaries out please note that the April Coffee morning has moved to Saturday 9th April, which is a week later than normal.

Ann Manning

Westbury Baby and Toddlers Group



**Meets at the Parish Hall on
Fridays at 9.30am**

January weather report

Thanks to Simon Phelps for these figures.

Warmest Day 29th 15c

Warmest Night 31st Dec./ 1st Jan. 8c

Coldest Day 15th 1.5c

Coldest Night 20/21st -7c

There were 20 nights with frost during the month.

Wettest Day 8th 5mm

Total Rainfall 25mm

Number of Days with Rain 11, all but one during first half of month.

Fog on 13th, 14th, 15th

Predominant Wind Direction, mainly

Westerlies, and all slight or very slight.

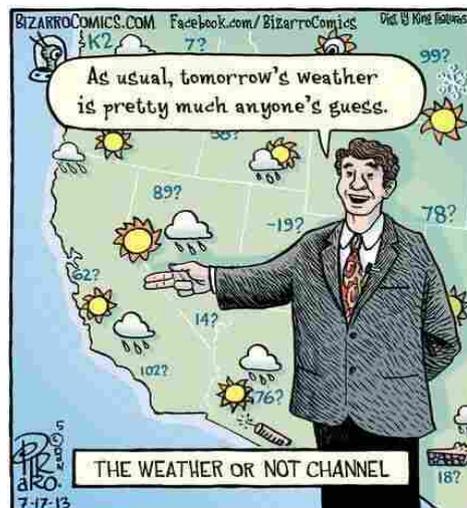
Average Maximum Temperature = 6.8c

Average Minimum Temperature = -0.45c

*If Candlemas Day be fair and clear,
Corn and fruits will be dear.*

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight.*

Simon has reminded us of this old weather saying about Candlemas (2nd February) and points out that this year Candlemas proved to be a mainly bright and sunny day. So be warned!



Spring Litter Pick

As you will have noticed, our lanes and the A48 verges have become strewn with rubbish again and so we are planning another litter pick on Saturday 26th March. I wish we could think



Last year's haul of litter

of some way to deter people from throwing litter out of their car windows but, as this seems unlikely, the only solution is for us to clear it up! If you can help, please let me know (diana.landon12@gmail.com).

Richard Cook has again kindly agreed to lend us high viz jackets and picker uppers and the Forest of Dean District Council will supply the blue bags.

If there is a particular stretch of road that you would like to clear, please let me know and I will be in touch nearer the time regarding collecting the necessary kit.



Good news! I've just finished paying all the bills.

Junior Cricket

We would like to start by saying a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2021 season. It was a strange season but we made the best of it and hopefully the juniors all enjoyed the cricket we managed to play.

2022 is going to be an exciting year with more dedicated league cricket and festivals being planned to ensure the juniors get exposure to as much competitive cricket as possible after 2 years of limited opportunities. We are planning on entering U11, U13 and U15 league teams this year and there will be games or festivals most weeks for the juniors to get involved with.

We are very pleased to announce that we are collaborating with Newnham cricket club ready for the 2022 season to develop a combined Under 15's team. This is a great step forward for both clubs and enables us to develop U15's cricket with a dedicated coach, Martin Spoor. The U15's will train on a Friday evening at the Westbury ground with the majority of matches being played on the Newnham ground. We are really excited to be working together to ensure Westbury and Newnham U15's have the opportunity to play league cricket on a regular basis.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been helping to re-establish the Newnham pitch and all the hard work you are doing to get the ground ready for U15 league cricket next year.

One of the aims of this season is to further establish transition cricket to enable more of our young players to participate in adult forms of the game. We will be looking to play some transition games on a Sunday against

teams from across the Forest. Transition cricket will be a mix of adults and juniors over the age of 14 years and we would love for some parents and carers to get involved as well.

Indoor nets start on Friday 4th March at Dene Magna school sports hall - 6.30pm-7.20pm for the U11's, 7.30pm-8.20pm for the U13's and U15's - £2 per junior and league cricket starts at the end April/early May and we are looking forward to seeing all of our juniors when outdoor full junior sessions commence on the 29th April. *The WOS Junior cricket coaches*

**WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN CRICKET CLUB
PRE-SEASON NETS 2022**

ALL NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY
SUNDAY 6TH MARCH
SUNDAY 13TH MARCH
SUNDAY 20TH MARCH
SUNDAY 27TH MARCH

11.15-1.15
SEVERN VALE SCHOOL
GL24PR

Proudly sponsored by: **alpha colour printers** **Gillman's**

Rugby

The WoSRFC Barbarians/Vets XV travelled the short distance into the big city of Gloucester on 5th February to play a Gloucester Old-Boys 2's & Vets. It



was a great contest worthy of a six nations weekend with some real end to end flowing rugby (well, vets speed flowing.)

The Westbury Front row at one stage had a combined age of 120thank god for the 19 year old prop!

On 26th Feb it was a game of two halves at sunny spring-like Gordon League for the WoS & Spares XV. A good hard scrummaging first half saw WoS crossing the white wash with Robbie Pritchard bagging two meat pies closely followed by Adam Clarkson who cut an excellent



line to get on the scoreboard ...15-15 saw honours even at the half time whistle. The second half saw the WoS's ramparts under constant attack...with some excellent defence holding back the attackGL then upped the tempo by making some key position changes that lowered the age demographic some 20 years! A tactic that ultimately changed the shape of the game for the remaining 40. An early second half burst saw the League inside centre making an excellent solo run out of his own 22 to score a sublime try...from then on the writing was on the wall for a tired besieged WoS XV - Gordon League running in a brace of excellent tries that took the game way out of WoS's reach. Some efforts worthy of note from WoS veterans Matt Hart, Andy Backman & Arron ...all ever present in the breakdown. The man of the match for WoS went to guest player Simba who managed to win the MOTM 'pint' race by a country mile.

All in all an excellent afternoon of rugby - a massive 'Well done' to all who playedbeaten by the fitter squad in the second half would be a fair summation.

Football



Westbury v Harrow Hill

On Saturday 5th February, Westbury United kicked off against Harrow Hill. They looked to continue their good run of form, and started the game fairly well, and seemed to have set up camp in the opposition's half, with two post hits from Lewis Cromwell and Harry Howells. Other than that, and a free kick easily saved by the keeper, nothing seemed to be coming for either side. More shots let off on the edge of the box saw Westbury almost take the lead, but corner after corner and goal kick after goal kick still didn't render an opening. The Harrow Hill keeper seemed to be having the game of his life, as Westbury continued to dominate. As each minute ticked by the game looked more like rugby than football, as the physical aspect of the game seemed prevalent. The first proper Harrow attack resulted in a "scrum" in Westbury's penalty area, with almost every angle blocked by someone, but Westbury managed to escape with a free kick, to signal the half time whistle. At the start of the second half Harrow seemed to be looking like they really had a chance in the game, with Westbury attacks disappointing on the whole. A brilliant save from Jay Brown kept the game level, as both sides looked vulnerable to breakaways. Finally Westbury were the first team to crack. A through ball made Harrow Hill's striker Levi Duff one on one with the keeper, which was finished into the bottom corner. 1-0 Harrow. However, their sloppy defending

should have put a stop to their clean sheet, but it wasn't finished once again. Not much seemed to be coming either way for the next few minutes, and Westbury didn't have long to muster up an equaliser. Harrow were almost in again after a defensive error, but Westbury were lucky to only be down by one. A final chance with only five minutes left of the game. A free kick for



Westbury right on the edge of the box, the amounts of tension immense, but it was skied over the bar. 1-0 Harrow Hill and Westbury's five game winning run came to an end with a disappointing performance, as they were man marked impossibly from start to finish.

George Ford



Westbury v Huntley

Since then, Westbury has played Huntley on 12th Feb and

lost 0 - 2 and on 26th Feb they lost again 0 - 4 to Blakeney.

Editor: Andrew Landon
Everything else: Di Landon
diana.landon12@gmail.com
Hayden Farm, Rodley, Westbury-on-Severn
GL14 1RE
01452 760531