

WoSP



35P

ISSUE 235 MAY 2022



Cricket Club's Big Night

On Friday 22nd April, Westbury Cricket Club convened at the Parish Hall for their Annual Presentation evening. This was a chance for the club not only to get together prior to a new season and catch up with news and ideas for the coming season, but also to reflect on the achievements of the previous season. The 1st team maintained their status as top Forest team, playing in Division 1 of the Gloucestershire Country Cricket League (and that really is Div 1, no sneaky Premier divisions to confuse things). This is, frankly, an astonishing achievement bearing in mind that most of the teams in

that division are able to draw on a large population base and/or finance a playing professional in their ranks. Huge credit goes to all the players and the committee that supports and provides for them.

The seconds got relegated to the local league...er...Premier Division. This has the considerable merit of meaning less travel to the darkest reaches of the Cotswolds for away games and the team can look forward to games in Ayleburton, Highnam and Arcadians (Abbeymead) instead.

On to the awards, and there were many, and the highlight in terms (*cont on p11*)

Parish Council

The April Parish Council meeting (held a week earlier than usual due to the Easter Bank Holiday) covered all the usual subjects as well as the newer concerns regarding the proposed closure of Westbury Court Care Home.

However, after the usual formalities we began with public comment, in which we heard of the problems of a parishioner living close to the Jordan Hill railway bridge. After two vehicles had crashed into their garage within a couple of weeks, causing considerable damage, they would like to see the speed of traffic approaching the bridge monitored, as drivers are clearly unable to stop in time when they see a high vehicle coming towards them under the bridge in the middle of the road.



This is a problem that the Parish Council has wrestled

with for years but we have been unable to get the 30mph limit extended to beyond the bridge, in spite of the fact that there have been numerous collisions there and that we fear that one day there will be a fatal accident at this spot. Chairman Simon Phelps will contact the Highways Department and ask them to meet us at the site to discuss the problem again. As we have been advised that the railway line will be closed for a while later this summer, this will be a good opportunity to get the ground alongside the railway line, whose owner we have been unable to trace, cleared to improve visibility. The parishioner also asked if the long grass on the verges could be cut to improve access to the footpath.

Planning We then moved on to planning matters, with the first application concerning permission in principle to build three dwellings on land between The Pastrol and Whitegates on Wintles Hill. We had objected to a similar application some years ago but we agreed that, although we still had the same concerns about this development, we would not raise objections in view of the pressing need for housing, and would leave the decision to the District Council after they have heard the views of other consultees, such as Highways. An application for prior approval for the conversion of an agricultural building off Goose Lane to a dwelling was also similar to an earlier application and it was agreed that we still felt that this was an inappropriate development.

Fiona then updated us on the District council decisions on earlier applications including the fact that an application regarding Pound Farm had been withdrawn. Simon also updated us on forward planning by the District Council, progress on which is rather slow, but there is another meeting soon.

Finance The monthly accounts were agreed and the year end accounts will now be sent off for audit.

Burial Ground charges As mentioned last month, burial costs elsewhere are very high and if we do not increase our burial fees for non-residents, our burial ground will soon be taken up by those with no connection to the parish. It had been suggested that we increase the fees for non-residents to four times the fee for residents but that we include as 'residents' anyone who had lived in the parish for 20 years or more, but who has had to move away to access the care they need. After further discussion this was agreed, and it was also decided to no longer permit walled graves in the burial ground.

Highways Repairs to the pot holes on Rodley Road have been done and some work has been carried out at Grange Court. Flooding had been a problem at The Glen again and Simon will ask Highways to have another look at this.

Burial Ground Extension You may remember that last year, Western Power agreed to dig out the high voltage power cable which ran right across the burial ground extension, although the wayleave agreement showed that it should run under the access road to the lower field. Unfortunately the civil engineers who did the work damaged the sewer pipe, leading to blocked drains in the area. Simon visited the field and found a representative of the company already there and the company had accepted full responsibility and agreed to rectify the situation immediately. We have also been informed that the price of the new fencing for the field has increased.

Play Area There had been some damage done to the signage recently and some fence poles had been dumped nearby so the local police will be asked to keep a check on the area.

Footpaths Mike Townsend reported that a bridle path near Ley Park had been blocked by a fallen tree but was cleared by the following day. Two kissing gates have been installed on the Severn Way footpath which makes access a lot easier than clambering over stiles, especially if accompanied by a dog..

Westbury Court Care Home The proposal to close this home was discussed but unfortunately, our County Councillor was unable to attend our meeting and so we were unable to discuss this with him. The general feeling was that this care home was too good to lose and that the reasons given for the closure were very debatable. There has been significant opposition to the closure from both the

staff and the residents and their families, but whether this will be enough to convince the County Council to keep the home open remains to be seen. People who wish to comment on the proposal can do so via the Gloucestershire County Council website or can write to either our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, philip.robinson@gloucestershire.gov.uk or to the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care

kathy.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Other matters We ran through the list of events in the parish planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – see Pages 6 and 7.

Next meeting Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 16th May at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Council Meeting. All are welcome.

Closed Churchyard

The weather could not have been better for our April working party and we were able to clear a lot of ivy and nettles.



Our next session will be on Saturday 14th May between 10am and 1pm— all welcome.

Road Closures

Stantway Lane (on 31/5/22) and Church Lane Northwood Green (on 7/6/22) will be closed for testing BT poles.

The A48 will be closed overnight from 23/7/22 at 22.00 to 24/7/22 at 08.00 between Flaxley Road and Blaisdon Road to allow repair to chevrons on bridge for Network Rail.



There was a good turnout of committee members for the April Parish Hall meeting with fifteen present – almost back to pre-Covid numbers. Our Chair Jan D'Ambrogio set the ball rolling by bringing us up to date with progress with the alarm system and the rabbit problem (we now have a problem with mice as well!) The installation of a hearing loop has stalled as there is some difficulty with the speakers and microphones that are used at the Hall.

There had been some discussion about our constitution at last month's Annual General Meeting. Committee members either represent one of the Hall's user groups or they are classed as "elected representatives," although I don't think anyone can remember having enough candidates to need an election! However, our constitution says that we should have one more elected representative than user group reps but we have eleven of each so we need to address that and also decide on what number constitutes a quorum for meetings and notify the Charity Commission.

Treasurer's Report Sarah Mitten was unable to attend the meeting but had sent her report which showed that we are now facing a big increase in our utilities costs. It was suggested that we look at ways to reduce our costs with such measures as energy saving light bulbs. However, the cash flow remains good and so there is no immediate cause for alarm.

Severndipity (Bar) Report Gen Riley

updated us on the improvements to the Wi-fi, but explained that funds are dwindling. Some bar prices have had to be increased, but they are still very reasonable. She also advised us that the bar will now be open after Short Mat Bowls on Mondays, on Wednesday evenings from 8pm (or 6pm if there is a cricket match) and on Fridays from 6pm for Junior Cricket. The Severndipity Annual General Meeting will take place on 30th May. **Fundraising** The Platinum Jubilee weekend will be marked by numerous events at the Hall, although these are being organised more as a series of community celebrations rather than to raise funds. Jan, Gail and their team continue to provide excellent meals for the monthly Nosh and Natters and a Flower and Produce Show is planned for September.

Rent review The rent increases suggested at the rent review meeting were accepted. Rents have been marginally increased in accordance with rising costs and it was agreed that this must be closely monitored in future. The sports clubs representatives will be discussing these increases with their committees and it was pointed out that the changing rooms are in need of a freshen up and the showers need descaling.

Doctor's surgery A new lease is needed for the surgery building and the ground rent is due for a review. A meeting had been arranged with the Clinical Commissioning Group to discuss matters such as car parking, the possibility of the building needing to be enlarged and responsibility for the building should the surgery ever move to another location.

Any Other Business We were reminded that there is to be a Covid-19 Drop-in Vaccination Clinic at the Hall on Tues 24th May between 10.30am and 3.30pm (or until the supply is used) and with that, we adjourned to the bar. *Di Landon*

Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 12th May 2022

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

Tomato and basil soup

Quiche Lorraine with new potatoes and
salad

Rhubarb sponge 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.*

Café on the Green

EGGCELLENT



A huge thanks to
all the many helpers, bakers & supporters of the
Cafe on the

Green Coffee morning held on the 9th of April. In total £166.70 was raised for the Crohn's Society.

The team will be back in its regular slot next month, Saturday 7th May, 10.00 until 12, when will be supporting Gloucester Samaritans

See you there

Ann and team

Westbury Youth Project

Youth Project is up and running again with 13 new members making a total of 25 in the group. As well as drama, dance and singing, a puppeteer will be coming to do workshops with the children. The group meets every Thursday at 6pm, term time, until 7:45 at Westbury on Severn Parish Hall, but as it gets closer to the performance dates on 11th and 12th November, they will also meet on a few Sundays to finalise their show.

We all look forward to a good evening's entertainment at their show in November.

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall, when Peter Holloway, a past President of the British Fuchsia Society, will give a talk and demonstration on Fuchsia growing. Visitors are welcome, entrance £3.

Annual membership £12. Please contact karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com or call 01452 760970 for more information. This will be our last meeting for the season - our programme of talks will start again in September. Through the summer we have a number of garden visits planned, and non-members are welcome to join us. An entrance fee is payable for these.

Our annual plant sale will be held from 10am on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May 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





Friday 3rd June

The fun starts between 11am and 2pm with the Treasure Trail, family quiz and a Teddy Bears Picnic. There is also a competition for the best home-made crown, with classes for under 16s and over 16s. The evening starts with a barbecue which will be serving between 6.30 and 8.30pm and this will be followed from 9pm by:-

Live music from Steal Weasel

Admission is £6 including the barbecue and the bar will be open.

Saturday 4th June

An afternoon tea at 3pm for all those who can remember the Queen's Coronation. If you would care to share your memories, please either send them to us beforehand or bring them with you, as we would like to include them all in a book commemorating the occasion. In the evening, come along and watch the live stream of music from Buckingham Palace and enjoy a variety of kebabs at our 'posh' barbecue.

**Sunday 5th June
Celebration Service at Westbury
Parish Church at 10am
followed by
The Big Jubilee Lunch
at the Parish Hall**

from 12.30pm with Coronation Chicken and jacket potatoes and a vegetarian option for £6 per person. This is also the day to enter the great Pudding Competition. Bring along a pudding for 6, ready for judging at 1.45pm and then to be shared. We will be sending out more details nearer the time but if you have any questions please ring 01452 229570 or email info@wosph.co.uk. Please could you also let us know if you intend to come to any of the events so we have an idea of numbers to cater for?



**Sunday 5th June at 10.00 am
Westbury Parish Church
Celebration all-age service**

On 6 February this year, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this landmark anniversary, you are warmly invited to our all-age service, a time for all our community to come together in thanks to God for 70 years of loyal service from our Queen. There will be traditional hymns, poems

written by children from our schools, organ music and a time to gather over refreshments afterwards. Queen Elizabeth II has a strong Christian faith that has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions and holds the formal role of 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England'.

'Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.' That was the prayer request made by our Queen in her first Christmas broadcast in 1952. Her father, King George VI, had died on 6 February 1952. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were in Kenya as she acceded to the throne. She was crowned Queen 18 months later on 2 June 1953 at Westminster Abbey, London.

**The Queen's
Platinum Jubilee
Celebration all age
Service**

CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?

Westbury PCC would like suggestions of hymns/ readings/ reflections to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee from you to be included in the service on:

SUNDAY 5th JUNE, 10am

Please contact either Sarah Hobbs (shobbs001@btinternet.com) or Simon Phelps (simon-phelps@hotmail.co.uk) or Annette Ellis (adtellis@btinternet.com) and come and join in on the celebrations on the day!

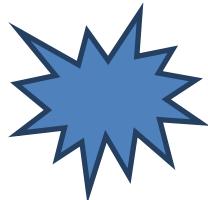
Westbury-on-Severn Parish

Church Friends

100 CLUB

APRIL 2022

DRAW RESULTS



1st: 45 Joyce Ferson £50

2nd: 26 Lily Hewlett £20

3rd: 73 Camilla Down £10

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

Frances Down (760270).

The next draw is in July 2022. There are a few numbers available for new subscribers.

Cost: £12 for the year

Riding for the Disabled



Huge thank you to everyone who came along to the coffee morning, baked, helped serve, wash up, made chutneys, marmalade etc. painted and decorated horse shoes, with everyone's kind help and donations we made £513.83

March Weather

The UK as a whole had its sunniest March since 1929 and its second sunniest since records began in 1919. Here in Westbury the temperature reached 20C on 22nd although on 31st it had dropped to 6C and there was some snow. On the three coldest nights, it dropped to -3C. We had rain on 13 days, the wettest being Weds 16th March. The average maximum temperature was 12.5C and the minimum was 1.4C.

Thanks to Simon Phelps for supplying these figures and also these sayings about April weather, which do not bode well considering how little rain we have had lately.

*A dry April, not the farmer's will,
April wet, is what he would get.*

April showers bring summer flowers.

April cold and wet fills barn and barrel.

April moist and warm makes the farmer sing like a nightingale.

However I found a German proverb that says it all – *April does what it wants.*

Walmore Hill School

As the weather went from beautiful, spring sunshine to cold winds and sleet at the beginning of April, the art club at Walmore Hill School created umbrella pictures to match the change in the weather.





Westbury Players will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Parish Hall Lounge on May 19th at 8pm.

We hope to see members and those interested in joining us, either on stage or behind the scenes, so that we can discuss upcoming projects and share ideas for the future.

If you wish to see copies of previous minutes and receive an agenda, please contact westburyplayers@gmail.com or may brass@btinternet.com.

The Westbury Bunch (formerly Playgroup for Grown ups)

We decided at our last session to change our name to The Westbury Bunch as it seems like a catchier title.

Our April session was spent filling our new planters at the Parish Hall. These have been kindly donated by Severn Valley Woodworks and will brighten up the entrance.

Our next session is on Tuesday 17th May at 7.30pm, when we will be making crowns for the Jubilee competition.

All are welcome to join us.

The early bird may get the worm, but it's the second mouse that gets the cheese.

As the batsman passed the man in the white coat, he said, "That was never LBW – you need glasses."

To which the man in the white coat replied, "So do you mate, I'm selling ice-cream."

Sport

Football

Mushet and Coalway 1-1 Westbury
(Mushet win 6-5 on penalties)

The nature of this game is slightly complicated, but it was described as a cup game - but in a league format - and, in the event of a draw, penalties decide the winner, except the loser could still qualify for the final. If, like me, you find this somewhat confusing then take comfort that Westbury management and the linesman spent the bulk of the second half arguing about whether there would be a penalty shootout or not.

Nevertheless, Westbury fielded a full strength side and started brightly. However, Mushet are title favourites and began to impose themselves, pinning Westbury in their own half. However, goalkeeper Jay Brown pulled off a string of remarkable saves and when not employing the gloves showed remarkable foot skills dribbling the ball away from the hungry Mushet forwards on several occasions.

The game was briefly held up when the referee spotted dog poo in the centre circle, which led to much touchline tutting and the frantic search for a shovel.

The game restarted and, whilst never cheering an injury, the Westbury fans cheered the departure of the legendary, albeit skeletally framed, Mushet centre forward, with a pulled hamstring and the game settled into a more balanced affair. In midfield, Anthony Owens, playing possibly his last game for Westbury after a heroic career spanning 20+ years, was excellent in snuffing out attacks and setting the forwards running. Akeen, Westbury's prolific centre forward proved himself quicker than the otherwise strong central defenders and forced a fine save from a thumping volley. Lewis, playing

in an advanced position on the right, continually threatened and eventually after a rapid sweeping move was scythed down (possibly) in the box and the referee pointed to the proverbial spot and Jamie Ward confidently slotted the penalty on the cusp of half time. 0-1 HT

The second half was always likely to be



an uphill battle as Westbury had to play up the hill. Garry 'Boulder' Morgan at left back put in a series of

thumping blocks to keep the Mushet hoards at bay. "Good Uppy, Boulder" yelled the Chairman Emeritus Tempest although, under press scrutiny he wilted and admitted he didn't know what that meant.

Sadly Westbury and the unfortunate Keeper Brown were unable to hold out and Mushet scored to bring the game to 1-1 and the prospect of penalties. Young Andrew Cueto was champing at the bit on the bench, but the team held out. Ciaran in midfield was left nursing a sore shoulder and eventually Chubbs entered the fray. As he isn't especially chubby and doesn't look like a key, I'm not sure of the reason he's called Chubbs, but he provided a very tidy link in midfield and Westbury continued to push for a winner whilst Tempest strode the touchline anxiously. Above the clouds gathered and sleet began to fall ominously.

Alas, the game finished 1-1 and penalties ensued, Jamie Ward had his effort saved but Lewis, Akeen, Owens, AN Other and Brown scored theirs whilst Mushet also bloated one over the bar. At 5-5 Boulder stepped up and sent the keeper the wrong way but sadly hit the post. With

the Mushet penalty bulging the net Westbury were left wondering what might have been, due to the complex rules of this competition.

The season concluded with Westbury not progressing in their Cup competition and closing in 5th place in the Premier Division of the Forest League which is above the expectations at the beginning of the season. They have developed a free flowing, exciting style of play that rewards the spectators who brave the wintery weather in the depths of the season.

Next year should see the team progress further given their relative youth, and hopes live on that a second team will come back into being - fingers crossed.

Chairman Emeritus Clive Tempest pronounced himself happy with the seasons achievement although, when told of the Gloucestershire North Minor Cup triumph of Gloucester Athletic FC, captained by Tom Landon, his mood darkened considerably and he left the press conference muttering something about Judas Iscariot and 20 pieces of silver, although in truth one piece was all it took - in the shape of a cup. *Mark Landon*

Rugby

Westbury RFC's AGM went well with a determined commitment to build on a difficult season. The club will be looking to enter the merit table leagues next season. Special mention to Cheltenham Civil Service RFC, Smiths Rugby and Cheltenham Saracens RFC for all their support this season.

End of season Presentation

Evening

Friday 6th of May at 7.30pm

An informal do this year with a basket meal £5 (payment on the night).

All welcome but please let Simon Roberts, Matt Hart or Robbie Pritchard know if you're a definite.

(Cont from Page 1) of achievement has to go to young Alex Gray who had a stupendous season with the bat amassing about a million runs at an average of 42. On account of his age he won not only all the batting awards but also Young Player of the Season award so congratulations to him.

From memory, Dan Hockaday won the first team bowling award for a stream of wickets from his off spin and Karl George picked up the overall bowling and second team bowling award for claiming over 30 wickets including a purple patch of 5 for and 6 for in consecutive weeks.

Fran Stirrup curiously won Most Improved Player, although I distinctly remember him scoring a century the year before, but if nothing else it was merited for his ceaseless and efficient hard work as Secretary and good humour around the Club. The Golden Moment went to Ian Dunn and Glyn Bayley for their 250-run partnership which is a remarkable achievement.

The highlight of the evening was a heartfelt congratulations from Life Member Mike Edginton in awarding Life Membership to Rich Eeles who has put in hours/days/weeks of work into the club and the wicket for many a year and is one of the most steadfast supporters of the club. Well deserved and he joins a pantheon of local cricketing heroes as an Honorary Life Member.

The evening was superbly hosted by Club Chairman Ian Dunn and Pete Wilson was an excellent and amusing MC whilst doubling up as official photographer - the man's talents are unlimited !

So onwards to the next season, Dan Hockaday leads the 1st XI and Glyn Bayley takes over 2nd XI captaincy. We wish them all luck.

Lastly thanks to Jan D'Ambrogio and her team for providing excellent food all evening as usual.

Cricket

Those who are regularly passing by the playing fields would have noticed a large erection developing on the far corner. This magnificent edifice is the new cricket club storage facility that accompanies the superb new nets facility located next to it that is now in full use. This is twice as wide as the previous net which I immediately identified as an advantage given my wayward bowling of late, but in fact it allows two batting strips instead of one.

Therefore Westbury CC are in great shape to face the coming season and, with the addition of a veranda on the new building, the club ancients will be able to idle away the afternoon sitting watching the young Turks of Westbury flaying the bowling to all corners, whilst sipping on a cool beer and recalling tales of yesteryear although the details, as ever, will be a little fuzzy.

Great credit should be given to Club Chairman Ian Dunn and the whole group of cricket club movers and do-ers to get everything done in the close season.

Overleaf are the details for the upcoming season. New players welcome, also decent Umpires otherwise I have to do it, and supporters are also welcome of course.

Mark Landon



Mike Edginton presenting Richard Eeles with Life Membership at the Cricket Club Dinner



Westbury-on-Severn Cricket Club

Come and join us for cricketing fun

JUNIORS

Friday evenings from 6pm

All ages from 5- to 15-year-olds are welcome



We have All Stars for our youngest members and play in the U11, U13 and U15 Leadon Vale leagues



This year we are teaming with Newnham-on-Severn cricket club for our U15 side.

Our outdoor sessions start on the 29th April at 6pm

For more information please email: juniorcricket@woscc.org.uk

ADULTS

Mens & Ladies

Thursday evening practise from 6pm

Saturday, Sunday & Wednesday matches

Everyone Welcome

Join us with a picnic on a matchday at the Village Hall. The kettle is always on, plenty of room for the Children to play and the bar open in the evening

If you have purchased a paper copy of WoSP but would prefer to receive it by email free of charge, please let us know by emailing diana.landon12@gmail.com. Read on screen or printable versions are available.

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