

Westbury Court Care Home Closes



It has been a sad and difficult time for residents of Westbury Court Care Home, and for their families and the staff, as the home closes after more than fifty years providing care for those who have needed it. The last residents were moved last week to other care homes in the area following Gloucestershire County Council's decision to close the home along with three others in the county. It is also a sad day for the whole community as, although none of us relishes the thought of us or our family members going into a home, it was always reassuring to know that the necessary care could be provided on our doorstep and that that care would be provided with "kindness and compassion" as the CQC report showed.

Ever since residents from Westbury Hall (previously the workhouse) were transferred to Westbury Court in 1968, it has provided a comfortable and caring home for those no longer able to live independently. The closure proposal followed a review of care services in the county and feedback from the 'care market'. After some consultation, the decision was made to go ahead with the plan, and although challenged by opposition councillors, a call-in was rejected by five votes to four. The number of care homes owned by GCC will now have reduced from 21 to nine over recent years.

The Council claims that there are around 800 vacant care home beds across Gloucestershire, which seems to indicate that there is something very wrong with

the system, when we also hear so much about 'bed blocking' due to delays in finding suitable care for those medically fit for discharge from hospital. Cllr Allaway-Martin's statement that the cabinet's decision will help ensure the viability of the care home market does little to reassure those anxious about finding affordable care when they need it.

A recent report by The Health Foundation states that "the next decade will see increases in demand for services from rising levels of chronic disease and a rapidly ageing population" and notes that "How quickly patients can safely be discharged plays a major role in the number of extra beds the NHS will need. The pressures hospitals face are linked to a lack of capacity in social and community care, making it hard to discharge patients. Policymakers need to look at capacity inside and outside of hospital, and set out a realistic plan for how the NHS will meet rising demand over the long-term."

Less than three years ago, we wrote in the WoSP about how the rather overgrown garden at the home had been transformed by the team into a residents' haven. The Chief Executive of The Orders of St. Johns Care Trust, on awarding them the



Trust in Bloom best garden in the country award, said that it was "*abundantly clear that gardens and outside spaces have a special ability to change residents' lives.*"

One of the residents, Ron, an expert gardener, together with the Activities Coordinator, had encouraged others to be-

come green fingered too and the garden became a place full of joy, colour and good taste.



The vegetable patch that became known as 'Ron's little acre'

It seems so sad that a place that has provided this sort of thoughtful care with such enthusiasm should no longer be allowed to function. We are told that the home is at risk of flooding and that en suite facilities are not available in all the rooms, but these problems do not sound insurmountable. I spoke to a relative of one resident, who has now been moved to a care home with en suite facilities, who said that her husband was unable to make use of these as he could not get his wheelchair near enough to the washbasin as it had a built in cupboard under it, and could not use the toilet without a hoist.

The cabinet paper stated that "*The quality of care and the bonds between residents and staff at this home have never been in question ...*" Sadly, there is nothing we can do to change this decision. Relatives are deeply concerned that the upheaval caused by the closure will be detrimental to the mental and physical health of the residents, particularly those with dementia, and so our thoughts are with those who must be feeling anxious and confused by their change of surroundings and we wish them well.

Parish Council

There was no Parish Council meeting in August but two planning notifications were received which were dealt with via emails. One was the withdrawal of prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building at The Paddocks in Goose Lane, Rodley which was noted and the other was a re-application for the erection of a commercial building on land adjacent to Pound Farm at Elton. As we had previously supported this application, it was agreed that we should do so again. The only other news was that Forest of Dean District Council is consulting with residents about amendments to its Council Tax Support Scheme, which if agreed, would come into effect from April 2023. The Scheme supports working age people on low incomes by reducing their council tax payments. Currently residents in receipt of a state pension will not be impacted by any of the changes. The consultation is open to everyone and details can be found on

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/CouncilTaxSupportConsultation>

The consultation closes at midnight on 18 September 2022. A report will be considered by councillors in October and November 2022. Full details of the new scheme will then be published in early 2023 and will be ready to be launched on 1 April 2023

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 19th Sept at 7pm

Di Landon

A couple of Tommy Cooper jokes

Electricity is a wonderful thing. Do you realise that if we didn't have electricity we'd be watching television by candle light?

I met my wife at a dance. I thought she was at home with the kids.



There was no meeting of the Parish Hall committee in August but preparations for the Flower and Produce Show are well under way. The Nosh and Natter took place as usual in August and the food was delicious and much enjoyed by all.



Unfortunately, the Hall car park seems to have also been used as a meeting place for those trying to get high on nitrous



oxide as, when the hedge was cut, these canisters were found dumped in the undergrowth. The PCSO has been informed, as it is illegal and dangerous to drive under the influence of nitrous oxide.

WESTBURY ON SEVERN FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW



at the PARISH HALL

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

**The Hall will be open from 12 noon until 3pm
to display the exhibits**

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED 12 NOON TO 2PM

Pre-ordering necessary – call Jan 01452 760630

Choice of Salads £8.00 – ham, cheese, sausage plait or salmon (+£3)

COFFEE, TEA AND CAKES AVAILABLE FROM 11AM TO 3PM

Bar and live music from **Vanity Trap**



**If you have not yet got your Show Schedule please contact
info@wosph.co.uk**

Flower and Produce Show Instructions for entrants

Entry forms and fees should be returned to Gemma Byrne c/o Westbury-on-Severn Parish Hall, Rodley Road, Westbury-on-Severn, Glos, GL14 1PF (just put them through the letter box) or at her home address: 3 Denmark Villas, Crowgate Lane, Chaxhill, Westbury-on-Severn Glos, GL14 1QT - **NO LATER THAN 6PM FRIDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2022.**



Entries on display at last year's Show



Many of us enjoyed watching the Women's Cycle Race go through the parish in June but unfortunately Westbury is not on the route of the Tour of Britain.

However, for the first time, one stage of the race will take place in Gloucestershire on Friday 9th September. Starting in Gander Lane, Tewkesbury at 11am and travelling through the Cotswolds, the race is due to finish in Southgate St, Gloucester at 3.19pm.

Nosh and Natter

**Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 8th September 2022**

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

Soup of the day

Dish of the day

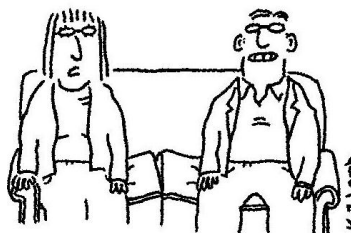
Pudding of the day

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three courses

We are going to see what we have left after the Flower and Produce Show and make up the menu accordingly – we should have devised the menu by the Monday of that week if you need to know what it is, otherwise come on the day and see what we have prepared.

**Call us to say that you are coming
and please let us know in advance if
you have any dietary requirements**

**Please either see in person or call
Gail on 760495/ Jan on 760630**



*'Norman, is there any chance
you could just bear it –
without the grinning?'*

Weather Report

We missed the weather report last month so here are the figures for both June and July.

The warmest day in June was 17th when the temperature reached 31c, and the warmest night was 23/24th when it was 23.5c. On the coldest night 1st/2nd, it was only 4C while the coldest day was 5th with a temperature of 11.5C. This was also the wettest day with 19mm of rainfall, one of 13 wet days in June with a total rainfall of 62mm. With southerly winds predominant, the average maximum temperature was 22c and the average minimum was 8.5C

In July, the warmest day was 18th when the temperature reached 36.5c, and the warmest night was 19th/20th when it was 16.5C, which was also the temperature on the coolest day which was 2nd. That night the temperature was 6C which was the coldest night of the month. Only 8mm rain fell on the wettest day of the month which was 2nd and the total rainfall in July was only 16.5mm, with rain on only 6 days. The wind was mostly westerly and the average maximum temperature was 25c and the average minimum was 11C. Thanks to Simon Phelps for these figures.

For our ancestors, July was a critical month, as the weather determined the success or the failure of the harvest. So the saying:-

*A shower of rain in July,
when the corn begins to fill,
Is worth a plough of oxen,
And all belongs theretill*

seems perfectly logical but these two:-
*As July, so the next January.
As August, so the next February* seem anything but - I can't see temperatures reaching 36.5C in January!

These make rather more sense:-
*When the months of July, August and
September are unusually hot, January
will be the coldest month.*

*Dry August and warm,
Doth harvest no harm*

*After Lammas(1st Aug) corn ripens as
much by night as by day.*

*If the first week in August is unusually
warm, the winter will be white and long.*

Cafe on the Green

Many thanks to everyone who came along and supported Art Shape, we raised £131 for the charity. Special thanks to the helpers and bakers without whom it would not happen.

On that note, if you do want this community event to continue we are looking for helpers on an ad-hoc basis. You don't need to be a baker, but happy to give up an occasional Saturday morning to help in the kitchen or servery. If you want to know more, please get in touch or message me on Facebook.

The next Cafe will be on Saturday 3rd September and we will be supporting the Crohns Society.

Ann Manning

*The best career advice to give to the
young is, 'Find out what you like doing
best and get someone to pay you for doing it.'*

Katharine Whitehorn

*I don't run a car, have never run a car. I
could say that this is because I have this
extremely tender environmentalist conscience, but the fact is I hate driving.*

David Attenborough

Church News



I do hope you have all had the chance to take a break this summer, I'm certainly looking forward to mine!

Having explored God's extraordinary creation around our churchyard at our last service, our Family Service on Sunday 18th September discovers how 'one tiny seed becomes a very large tree'. It's an amazing thought that every tree starts life with a seed and ends up taller than us, or even taller than your house. The Reverend Clive Edmonds will be there to discover a bit more about God's part in that miracle. I do hope you can come.

Rev Sarah



Once again Westbury Church Tower and Spire will be open for visitors to view the magnificent interior timber



structure of the spire and also an opportunity to see the historic bells. As most of you will be aware this whole building is Grade One listed by Historic England, recognising the great historic value and

interest of this very unusual building. We intend to open the building for conducted tours on Saturday 10th September 11.00am to 3.00pm, Sunday 11th September 11.00am to 3.00pm, Saturday 17th September 11.00am to 1.00pm and Sunday 18th September 11.00am to 3.00pm, tours will start on the hour. Teas will also be served in the church. We would also like to request donations of cakes, jams, books and plants to offer for sale over the weekends. Please consider visiting this rare and unusual building, it is one of only 36 detached towers in England and is considered to be of almost unique construction. As an additional attraction, this year Di Landon has kindly agreed to give an illus-



Westbury's Union Workhouse

trated talk on the history of Westbury Workhouse and the Poor Law Union. There is no need to book for this event.

Light refreshments will be served, donations towards the upkeep of the church building gratefully received. For any further information please contact the church wardens, Simon Phelps 01452 760765 or Annette Ellis 01452 760232.

"Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow internet to see who they really are."

Will Ferrell

"Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves?"

Robin Williams

Northwood Green Gardening Club

In August, we enjoyed a day visit to two gardens near Winchcombe. The first was a large garden, divided into 'rooms' with different themes that included a dry gravelled garden, a formal pond, an espaliered lime avenue and a cosy summerhouse complete with log burner and armchairs - though the highlight for many was the model railway running around the property! After a pub lunch we went on to a small but very pretty garden in the next village, where the owner provided us with tea and home-made cakes on the lawn.

Our first meeting of the new season will be on Thursday 8th September, at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Pam Turner from Upleadon will give a talk on



"Alpines around the Garden", together with a practical demonstration of how to plant an alpine container.

Then, on Thursday 13th October, Gail Plant will be giving an interactive talk on "The Scented Garden", including the history and science behind the plants, and will also bring plants for us to see. This evening will also be our Cheese and Pickle evening, when members bring along their homemade pickles with recipes for us all to sample, along with delicious bread and cheese. This evening is a perennial favourite in our Gardening Club calendar.

Non-members are always welcome. Non-members £3, annual membership £12. Please contact karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com or call 01452 760970 for more information.

Northwood Green Social Hall

Bank Holiday Monday saw a fine array of plants, books and cakes for sale at the roadside stall in Westbury. Proceeds from the sale go to the upkeep of the Social Hall.



Fixed at last



surfaced.

Hunt Hill residents—take heart! It may be your turn soon.

Church Lane and its pot holes have been an issue, especially for Northwood Green residents, for ages but now, at last, the whole length of the road has been re-



As summer draws to a close, it is time for preparations to begin for our annual pantomime. The performance dates are booked for 20th/21st/22nd January and 27th/28th January 2023 and we now have a scheduled date for our **first read through:- Thurs 1st Sept at 7pm** in the Parish Hall lounge. Rehearsals will start in October and will be on Sundays from 6-9pm. The script is written and most of last year's cast are on board, but we are always looking for new and old talent, both for onstage and behind the scenes, so if you are interested in joining in, please contact us at westbury-players@gmail.com to give us some idea of what you are interested in so that we can bring you onto the team.

In terms of age, we aim for 14 plus as Westbury Pantomimes are targeted at an adult audience, although the kids enjoy the Sunday matinee, and that remains an important part of the January performances.

Mark Landon



ELTON GIANT MAZES
MAZES BY TORCHLIGHT

BRING A TORCH
MAZES BY TORCHLIGHT

MUSIC BY BANSHEE

Friday Sep. 2nd
7:00pm - 11:00pm
Buy Tickets from the web site

Mazes are also open:
10:30 to 17:30 every day
UNTIL 4th SEPTEMBER

BONFIRE & BBQ

Elton Giant Mazes,
Littledean Road,
Newnham-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire
GL14 1JU
01594 827 007
eltonmazes@gmail.com
eltonmazes.co.uk

Live music from Banshee
Glow Sticks, Bonfire, BBQ, Pop-Up Bar
Access to the 3 Maize Mazes
Great Fun for the whole family
Dog friendly



As well as the events in Westbury, there are many other talks and events taking place in the Forest of Dean area during the Heritage Open Days. Littledean Temple Archaeological site, Coleford GWR Railway Museum, Gunns Mill, St Andrews Church Awre and talks about Robert Mushet, the Coleford-born British steelmaker, and the The Deputy Gaveller's role are just some of the things on offer. All these events in the Forest of Dean are organised and run by volunteers with help from the Coleford Area Partnership, who coordinate and sponsor the event.

There are lots more listed on the website at :- <https://www.forestofdeanheritageopendays.org.uk/all-events/>

River Severn—then and now

We have been short of news this month, so as the low level of water in the River Severn has become a hot topic, I thought I might fill this column with a bit of river history that was originally in the WoSP in 1993.

I had been wondering what our ancestors would find most shocking about modern life and thought that if one of them stood on the side of the A48 in the rush hour, he would soon hurry back to his grave. Equally, if he stood on the river bank, he would be amazed to find it so quiet and deserted, if the following stories are accurate.

From the 16th Century there are records of goods being transported down the river to the markets of Bristol and even of a Westbury ship trading with Ireland. Rodley manor claimed keelage from ships loading or unloading goods between Newnham Pill and Garden Cliff, and these were not small craft but 3-masted barques, which must have been a magnificent sight.

According to the people of Tewkesbury, river trading had its perils, and grave complaints were laid at the door of the people of Bledisloe and Westbury. It was said that they attacked the passing vessels “with great riot and force, in manner of war, as enemies of a strange land.” They stole the goods and threatened any protesters with death. A public proclamation was made that no-one should disturb the river traffic, but it had no effect, and “the trespassers came to the river with more greater routs and riots than ever they did before.” They spoiled the cargoes, threw the people on the trows overboard, some of whom drowned, and threatened to “hew the boats to pieces” if they came again. So Tewkesbury people dared not carry goods on the river because “the Forest of Dean be very large and the peo-

ple resident there be very wild.”

In comparison with these tales, life in Westbury now seems very civilised!

Di Landon

Westbury-on-Severn RFC Seniors

Building on a successful 2021/22 campaign Westbury on Severn RFC is seeking players of all abilities - new, returning, experienced and those that fancy giving rugby a go!

You are assured a warm welcome at our family orientated Club, along with top class coaching led by Rych McKenzie (RFU Level 2 qualified Coach), & of course a vibrant social calendar!

Our first league games are now just around the corner. Training at Westbury Parish Hall every Tuesday from 7pm - come on down, drop us a message or call - 07450015368 if you have any questions.

Football

Westbury AFC have been busy with preseason cup competitions and have successfully exited all of them by the end of August.

A 3-3 draw against Blakeney provided the most positive result with losses to Harrow Hill and English Bicknor making up the other results.

However, Westbury are famously better when the going is soft so hope springs eternal that their fortunes will improve.

In other developments, Ex Chairman Tempest has re-emerged with a new title - Club President ! Whether he will be sporting a row of gongs for great achievements such as singing Allouette whilst standing on a chair remains to be seen.

More detailed reports to follow when I actually get to watch a match.

Mark Landon

Cricket

Well I spoke a little too soon last month regarding Westbury 1sts banishing fears of relegation as a month of odd results led to five teams, including our own flannelled heroes, being dragged into a close scuffle at the bottom half of Division 1 in the County League. A fine 5 wicket win against Aston Ingham on 27th August has meant that Thornbury are for the chop, as I understand it anyway, but now the last game next week will decide whether Chipping Campden or Westbury join them - yikes !

Highlight achievements this month from the 1sts on the batting front have been mainly led by the consistent Devin Rogers who posted 32 against Cheltenham Civil Service, 40 against Chipping Camden, 34 against Poulton and 52 not out against Aston Ingham. Greg Artus also chipped in with a fine 56 against Poulton. However, apart from Aston Ingham, the opposition prevailed unfortunately.

In terms of bowling, let's not forget it was a month of searing heat and so not surprisingly the seamers struggled somewhat. However the spinners, led by Ted Edginton's 9 wickets in the month picked up the lion's share of the wickets. Dan Hockaday and Devin Rogers (him again !) twirled away in the sun as well to good effect.

As the editor is struggling for material this month and the season is almost over, I can also report that Alex Wyman currently tops the run scoring for the firsts with 377, with Devin Rodgers and Jake Bonser also scoring well over 300 runs apiece. Meanwhile Dan Hockaday remains top wicket taker with 31, whilst Ted Edginton has claimed 26 and Greg Artus a creditable 19, which is a top ef-

fort as he has to charge in, it's been one of the hottest summers on record and he's a ginger, mind you so is Ben Stokes and he has done OK as well.

The 2nds have solidified their place in the Premier Division of the CGF League with thumping wins against Highnam Court and Eldersfield offsetting losses against perennial bogie side Forest Exiles and Stanway. Top batting performances came from Fran Stirrup, lashing 92 against Highnam Court, the ever reliable club Chairman Ian Dunn with 41, 70 not out and 53 in the month. Glyn Bayley with 61 and Richard Poole with 56 also did well.

Best bowling came from the grizzled mitts of Rich Edginton with a magnificent 5-19 haul against Highnam Court in 6.2 overs. Considering the postage stamp size of the outfield, this may well be the bowling performance of the season from the old warhorse, although he then followed it up with 4-18 from 7 overs against Eldersfield. When he said he was busy harvesting, who knew it would be of opposition batsmen !

In a productive month for House Edginton, niece of Ted and daughter of Nicki,



Talia Scott celebrates hat trick with Great Uncle Rich and team!

Talia Scott claimed a hat trick against Woodpeckers to the delight of the crowd and team mates alike. Something to be

celebrated using the much discussed glass boot now residing next to the other boot behind the bar at the Parish Hall. Which one is the left and which is the right shall no doubt be argued about vigorously at the next Severndipity meeting.

The 2nds batting has been led admirably this season by skipper Glyn Bayley with 363 runs so far (one game to go) with Will Hargreaves, Ian Dunn and Fran Stirrup all posting 300+ run efforts.

Fran would, I imagine, also want it mentioned that he has managed another 77 runs for the 1sts but sadly there isn't enough space to add this critical piece of info!

The bowling attack has been a little varied with availability issues but again Glyn Bayley has led from the front with 23 wickets supported by man of the moment Rich Edginton's 20.

I am now off to buy myself a boot of beer to celebrate spelling Edginton correctly multiple times (I think). Onwards to the football season and congratulations to both teams making it through the season and, fingers crossed and results next week permitting, maintaining their spots in their respective divisions! *Mark Landon*

Vice Presidents Day

Lovely to see so many Life Members, Vice Presidents and Sponsors at our annual VP day. Huge thank you to The Lyon Inn for a superb afternoon tea.



Ladies Cricket

On 31st July, the Westbury-on-Severn Ladies Cricket Festival took place and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Pete Wilson for the photos.



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