

Our Towering Heritage



Heritage Open Days

Every September, thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. In Westbury, once again,



over two weekends, our historic parish church and, more particularly, the tower and spire, were open for the public to visit.

The tower was originally built in 1290 as a garrison to help defend the area from raids by the Welsh and the tall 160ft (49 m) broach spire was added during the 14th century. It is constructed entirely of wood, dressed by 35,000 wooden shingles, held in place by 10,000 copper nails and houses the heaviest peal of bells in Gloucestershire. It is a magnificent sight, inside and out, and when you look up at the interior structure of the building, you cannot fail to be amazed by the ingenuity of those who designed and constructed it at a time before machinery was invented.

The team of volunteers were delighted to welcome a large number of visitors to view the interior of the spire. Some of the parties were of the maximum size permitted to enter at any one time and some had

travelled a considerable distance to see the tower. Simon Phelps was on hand to give them lots of interesting information about its structure and history and the teas in the church were very successful as was the plant produce stall.

As an added attraction this year, Di Landon gave an illustrated talk on the history of Westbury Workhouse, a building once on the site of the present Colchester Close, which housed around 300 inmates and dominated the village scene back in the 19th century .



An aerial view of the old workhouse building taken in 1967

This talk was also well attended and was found to be very interesting by those who came, several of whom were descendants of people who had known the workhouse all too well, having fallen on hard times when there was no other help available.

It was a great pleasure to receive additional help from a number of new volunteers this year, who helped to make this such a successful event once again.

The PCC would like to express their thanks to all those who contributed towards making this event so successful once again.

*A generation which ignores history
has no past and no future.*

Robert Heinlein



The September Parish Hall meeting began with a minute's silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

Having not had a meeting in August, there were quite a few ongoing matters to catch up with and we started with the proposed improvements to the intruder alarm system. This is quite a complicated matter as we want a secure Hall and we want the bar staff to be safe when locking up at night, but we also don't want Matty being called out at night because the alarm has gone off unnecessarily. None of us really know enough about the various options to make a decision on this with confidence, but Max Skipsey (was) volunteered to do some research on this. Our Chairman, Jan D'Ambrogio, will also talk to Westbury Surgery regarding the possibility of CCTV being installed, to check whether they would have any problem with this.

Wifi - The Hall's broadband contract ends at the end of October, after which the Hall will share the Severndipity broadband. However, the cricket scoreboard will not work from this and boosters are needed.

The Treasurer's report had been circulated to the committee and there had been no major changes since the last meeting. Electricity costs have risen and all hall users are asked to be mindful of the electricity they use. User groups will be asked to take meter readings so that usage can be monitored, and it was suggested that we have signs to remind people to turn off lights.

Projects Several marquees that are currently stored at the Hall are past their best and are taking up a lot of storage space. These marquees were used for the Summer Show in the past but it is unclear who they belong to so Jan will talk to Joe Liddington to find out. The hall floor needs re-sealing and Jan has a quote for the work and this can be met out of project funding. Jan also has a quote for replastering work that is needed in the kitchen. The number of lights in the changing rooms is to be reduced and LED lights fitted and the light on the stairs will be mended. It appears that under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, those responsible for the maintenance of non-domestic premises have a 'duty to manage' the asbestos in them, to protect anyone using or working in the premises, so it was agreed that an asbestos survey should be arranged.

Severndipity Report

The Severndipity Committee had met in August. At a recent booking, there had been problems with underage drinking and people bringing alcoholic drinks on to the premises. Clarification is needed as to what area the licence covers, as there may have been underage drinking in the car park. How to deal with this situation in future was discussed and a substantial deposit that could be retained if the regulations concerning the booking were not observed was suggested. It was also felt that the bar could be closed and the guests asked to leave if the rules are broken.

The Community bar on Tuesday nights will be reviewed at the next meeting as there is not much trade. However the bar made a profit in July. It was agreed that Severndipity needs a Health and Safety Policy and that we need to check the Hall policy as well. Neil Wyman has noticed instances of rubbish dumping and drinking in the car park.

Fundraising

Jan reported that the Flower and Produce Show had been successful and thanked all those who had helped. It had made a profit of £402. A meeting to discuss future fund raising events was to be held the next day.

All the VIP tickets for Katie Hyett's Burlesque Night on 19th November have now been sold but other tickets are still available.

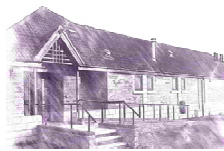
GP Surgery

Discussions are ongoing regarding rent and the tenancy and ownership of the surgery building. The surveyor representing the Hall will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss these matters with the Parish Hall committee.

Due to another booking at the Hall, **the next meeting will now be on Thursday 6th October 2022 at 8pm.**

Di Landon

Letter from Jan



Thank you to everyone involved in the Flower and Produce Show. The number of entries surpassed our

expectations in view of the dry summer we have had, and there was a healthy number in the lounge enjoying the food and music from Vanity Trap.

We will be holding a good old-fashioned Jumble Sale on Sunday October 23rd from 2.30pm and there will be a number of table tops available at £5 for private second hand sale opportunities. Free entry and refreshments will be on sale. Donations of jumble are welcome at the hall from 10am.

On Saturday November 19th there is a burlesque night, Kebabaret, at the hall and on Saturday November 26th the Steel

Weasels are playing, with our very own Stuart Hawke. He is one of the four members of the experienced Rock Pop, Rock n Roll party covers band.

In 2015 Stuart was in a different band and they played to raise funds for the defibrillator and as this needs maintenance, funds will go towards this. More details will follow next month.

Finally, another date for the diary is Saturday 10th December when we will have the Christmas Parish Party - again more details to follow.

Looking forward to seeing you at one, if not all, of the above. We will be keeping the costs down as much as possible as we think it important for the community to have the opportunity to socialise in difficult times, whilst ensuring the running costs of the hall and the events are covered.

Jan D'Ambrogio

Nosh and Natter

**Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 13th October 2022**

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

**Soup of the Day

**Chicken Myers

Apple and Blackberry Crumble

£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

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

Good Old Fashioned
JUMBLE
Sale Charity Reg No 301644
FREE ENTRY

A fundraising event for the Parish Hall
Jumble donations required
Call to donate your jumble
Some tables available
for private sellers, £5 per table
CALL 01452 229570

**SUNDAY
23 OCT FROM 2:30PM**
Refreshments Available

**WESTBURY ON
SEVERN PARISH HALL**

TITSALINA BUMSQUASH PRESENTS...
A FUNDRAISER FOR WESTBURY PARISH HALL

**BURLESQUE COMEDY
CABARET KEBABS!**

Kebabaret

**SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER
WESTBURY PARISH HALL
DOORS 7:30pm**

BONNIE BUCKERS
KECE SINCLAIR
LOVE BOOB JIMMY
WILL LOVECHILD
JAMIE LA ROUSE

18

TICKETS
VIP £25
STANDARD £18

WWW.BUMSQUASH.COM

**GAMES
RAFFLE
BEST DRESSED CONTEST**

Parish Council

With no meeting in August and the September meeting later than usual due to the Queen's funeral, it is fortunate that our hard-working clerk, Fiona, keeps us up to date with various ongoing matters by e-mail, and so there was not too much to catch up on.

We began the meeting with a minute's silence in memory of the late Queen, and then, after the usual formalities, our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, gave his report. As the Gloucestershire stage of the Tour of Britain cycle race was due to take place just the day after the Queen's death, this and two later stages of the race were cancelled. This was disappointing for those involved but local residents were still able to appreciate the benefits of the road repairs that had been carried out in preparation for the event. Philip reported that the reading of the Proclamation of King Charles III from the steps of Shire Hall was attended by many.

Philip was pleased to say that 1,680 Ukrainian refugees are now safe in Gloucestershire, with 260 in the Forest of Dean, and 319 Ukrainian children now have places in Gloucestershire schools. He was



also pleased to report that the County Council has received £2.7 million from the UK Share Prosperity Fund for a programme to improve adult numeracy, using all sorts of new ways of teaching.

After thanking Philip Robinson for his report and for his support with local issues, Chairman Simon Phelps moved on to the rest of the agenda. Fiona had not received any response to the invitation to local residents to join the Parish Council, following John Henry's departure, but Ben Stephens' name had now been put

forward as willing to serve and it was agreed that he would now be co-opted. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend this meeting but he will be very welcome at future meetings.

Also unable to attend was Jeff Wheeler from the Public Rights of Way team, who we were hoping would be there to discuss a footpath access problem that has been going on for years. He had phoned, however, and a future date to meet him on site is to be arranged.

There were no members of the public present so we then moved on to planning, but there was only one application which was for Listed Building Consent for alterations at Ninnage Lodge which we noted. More complicated was the response to the consultation by Forest of Dean District council about their Second Preferred Options Strategy. This is a plan to provide for the needs of the district over the next 20 years and includes how the environment will be protected, how the impacts of climate change will be reduced and how and where new development will be expected to take place. The first Strategy proposed a new settlement at Churcham whereas this one proposes major development at Lydney as a focal point for the Forest of Dean District, development of land at Newent, redevelopment and regeneration of land at Beachley Camp and the support of mixed use developments at major villages and towns as well as sustainable development at some smaller villages.

Finance The accounts were agreed and had been passed by the external auditors. The first stage of work on the school playing field has now been completed and paid for out of existing funds, and Fiona had done considerable work on finding the best way to pay for the remaining fencing work. It was agreed that there was merit in delaying the next stage of

the work, as the school will still have the existing playing field and it would give the new grass time to gain some strength before being used by the school children. This would then bring us to a time when we will also have next year's precept, and could therefore reduce the amount we need to borrow to £25,000 over 10 years, which can then be repaid without having to increase the precept.

Highways We had hoped that Network Rail would, by now, have cleared the scrub from their land alongside the railway track at Jordans Hill to improve visibility for drivers, but they have not yet done so and Simon has written to them to chase them up. Fiona had got our application for new vehicle activated speed signs in to the County Council with appropriate speed but we will need to give further



consideration to what type of signs we agree to. Any of the alternatives will be lighter and easier to handle than the

existing ones, which Peter Radley has been moving and recharging for four years now, but there is a possibility that the Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras will be costly in that the Parish Council would have to pay to send out letters to any drivers who have exceeded the speed limit. Fiona will make further enquiries about this.

Burial Ground Extension and School Playing Field A surveyor will be valuing the land to be leased to the school and a solicitor will be appointed to draw up a new lease and negotiate the rent.

Play Area Mike Townsend requested some materials so that he can carry out some more repairs to the Wetspour surface. The repairs that he has done previ-

ously have been very successful and all agree that this work is prolonging the life of the play surface.



Around the Parish A request to place a memorial bench in the burial ground was agreed. The problem of parking for home-

owners in the village had been raised and was discussed, but as a Parish Council it was felt that we were not in a position to solve this.

The amount of litter around the area has built up again and it was agreed to organise another litterpick on 22nd October. It was acknowledged that some of the problem is due to the recycling bin lorries not closing their doors as they travel between pick ups and Simon has reported this. If you have evidence of this happening, we would ask that you share it with us.

Our next meeting is on Monday 17th October at 7pm.

Di Landon

Churchyard Working Party

We were a little thin on the ground for helpers at our September working party in the churchyard, partly due to me forgetting to put a reminder in the WoSP and partly due to it being a weekend of Heritage events, including tours of the bell tower. This, of course, meant that some of our usual helpers were otherwise engaged in serving refreshments, but there was an up-side to this in that we had some excellent cake during our mid-morning break! There is a lot to do before the winter, as the long grass all has to be raked up after it has been cut, so if you can spare some time on the 2nd Saturday of each month, we would love to see you. Our next session is on Sat 8th October between 10am and 1pm.

A Visit from the Bishop

Westbury-on-Severn CofE School were privileged to have a visit from the Bishop of Tewkesbury during his visit to the parish ahead of the Queen's funeral service.



Bishop Robert toured the school, greeting the children in classes, and later joined our worship. He spoke about how we all might be feeling the grief of the nation and how we could celebrate the life and service of Her Majesty.



Cafe on the Green

What a great morning! If you were unable to make it, you missed a treat. The many supporters raised a record-breaking £191 for the Crohn's Society. The team would like to thank all those who helped, by baking, setting up, clearing away, and most importantly those who came along. This is a lovely way to spend an hour or so, meeting friends old & new and having a cuppa & cake. What could be better? And no parking fees!

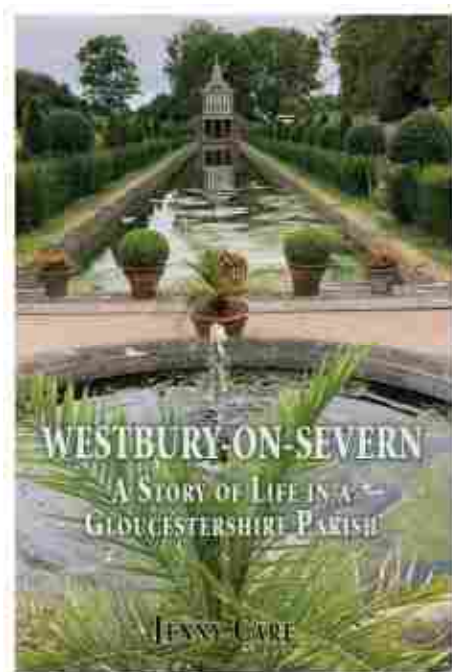
Let us all meet up again on **Saturday the 1st of October at Northwood Green Social Hall, 10.00am - Noon**

Come and join us for a coffee or tea and possibly be tempted by a slice of cake. Take part in the raffle, have a good chat, or just catch the gossip. Come along early for the best selection of goodies and grab a seat. New to the village? Come along and meet the community. This month we are supporting Westbury Church Fabric Fund. No, not bits of cloth, it is the building etc! *Ann Manning*

The Vale of Castiard WI meets on the third Wednesday of every month, at 7.30pm in the Flaxley School-room.



Our next meeting is on 19th October, when we will be carving pumpkins for Hallowe'en. November is our AGM, followed by a wine and cheese evening. Visitors and new members are welcome to join us for any of our meetings. For more information, please contact our President, Gill Western, on 07879 532060 or Secretary Sue Stephens on 01452 760773.



Available from Amazon.co.uk from October 15th 2022 is a new book "Westbury-on-Severn. A Story of Life in a Gloucestershire Parish" by Jenny Care. With nearly 350 pages and over 200 images, it charts the growth of the Parish since the age of dinosaurs to the present day. With the help of locals, people born there and archives, the book is a record of the people, their works, their play, their homes, their births and deaths. It is not a definitive story, but as near as could be achieved, especially as Covid-19 interrupted the research. However it will hopefully bring back memories for some and inform others.

There are a limited number of signed copies available from the author at £18.95, free p&p. Contact jenny-care@btinternet.com for more details.

Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while. Malorie Blackman

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13th October, at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. 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.



The November meeting, taking place on Thursday 10th November, is our AGM. Afterwards, Alun and Jill Whitehead, who hold the National Collection of Siberian Iris at Aulden Farm, will be giving a most interesting talk about the Bearded

Iris, their history, what varieties to choose and how they are grown.

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.



**Sunday 2nd October
at 8pm**

at the Parish Hall

**Teams of 4, entry £2 per person
Quiz Master
Jo Barry**



Westbury Players start rehearsals in October for this season's pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*.

It promises to be a roller coaster of emotions with plenty of slapstick and farce involved, certainly at rehearsals at least. We are looking forward to bringing you an all-action performance in the last two weekends of January, together with a slap up meal on some nights and a bar and, Oxford comma, heating !

Watch this space for ticketing details so you don't miss out on what should be an excellent night's entertainment.

Mark Landon

The August Weather Report

Like much of this summer, August was a dry and warm month, ranking as the UK's 5th warmest. On the warmest day (14th) the temperature reached 35C, and even on the coolest days the



The Severn at Garden Cliff in August

temperature only dropped to 22C. The coldest night was 5th/6th August when it dropped to 5C. The total rainfall for the month was 27.5mm and there were only 5 days with rain. The average maximum temperature was 26C and the average minimum was 12C. Thanks to Simon Phelps for these figures.



Are you interested in sharing your story?

The BBC is currently looking to make a film about how the cost of living crisis is impacting rural communities, and are hoping to speak to people for whom this is proving a difficult time. With those living in rural areas facing rising energy prices (while often heating larger, older homes), additional transport costs due to needing to travel further to amenities, and average wages being less than in urban areas, they would like to highlight the triple blow facing 1 in 5 of the population.

If any individuals have stories they would be willing to share in the film, perhaps of how the crisis is hitting them, their businesses, hobbies, together with any solutions, please get in touch with Barbara Piranty, CEO, GRCC on 01452 528491 or by email barbarap@grcc.org.uk **by Monday, 3 October 2022.**

It would be good to highlight issues facing Gloucestershire if we are able to.

You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.

Church News

Family Service Sunday 16th October at 10am

Have your wellies ready because it rained so hard that God told Noah to build an Ark!



Who climbed aboard? - bring a toy animal with you so that we can rescue them. And join us after our hard work for cake and coffee. *Rev Sarah Hobbs*

*"Planning meals in advance - now that's some food forethought." **Andy Field***

*"I'm not very empathetic, but I have friends who are so I just imagine how they must feel." **Ian Smith***



'You are not going on a journey'

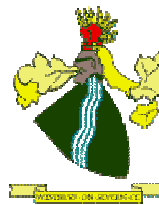
*Knowledge cannot make us all leaders
but it can help us decide which leader
to follow.*

Road closures

Rodley Rd will be closed between Hillview and the junction with Strand Lane between 3.10.22 and 7.10.22 for utility repair and maintenance works.

General maintenance works on the M48 bridge mean that it will be fully closed from 7pm on Friday 30 September to 6am on Monday 3 October.

Cricket



The cricket season has now come to a close but that doesn't mean the club will go into hibernation - quite the opposite. This year, Westbury CC will be hosting their

Presentation Evening on Friday 21 October at Westbury on Severn Parish Hall

This is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements on the field last season. The club is getting back to the pre-covid post season event and hopefully attendees all enjoyed the slight change in format earlier in the year. The feedback has been very good, so it will continue in the same vein for this time. The club will be giving out all the usual awards and will of course have plenty of time for the evening's famous 'social intercourse'. The evening will start at 7pm with food from 7.30pm and the dress code will be smart casual. The menu for the evening will be Hunters Chicken with Dauphinoise potatoes and vegetables, with Vegetarian option - Vegetarian strudel. **Desert is Chocolate** Brownies and Ice Cream.

If you have any special dietary requirements, please let us know and we will do our best to help. The ticket price for the evening is £20 per person, or £12.50 if you are under 18. If you would like to attend, please contact club Chairman Ian Dunn at iaundunn10@sky.com and he will send you a booking form. Alternatively through the Westbury Cricket club Facebook page.

Football



I must confess I haven't been as diligent in watching our lads defending the honour of the village as I should have been recently, which means I am a little vague on the football front.

However I am pleased to report that they started their league campaign with an emphatic 6-0 win over local rivals Blakeney FC. "We were magnificent" claimed club president Tempest who has taken a Putinesque hold on the levers of power, which means he is allowed to carry the balls back to the changing room after the match. The nutritional aspect has not been neglected either by the President as he continues to supply the team with heated up pizza cardboard packaging whilst presumably throwing the pizzas in the bin.

Sadly the winning run came to an end at...er...one, with a less impressive 1-1 draw at Broadwell 3rds but they still sit in a healthy 5th in the league table.

For those wishing to support, they will be playing at the Parish Hall against Harrow Hill Reserves on Oct 1st and any spectator will be rewarded with some flowing football and some flowing beer in the bar afterwards.

The following week they travel to Bream Amateurs - we should win that, they are Amateurs after all.

Mark Landon



Rugby

Sat 10th Sept
Westbury 17
Drybook 3rds 17

A draw was a fair result with both teams leaving everything out on the pitch in a full blooded encounter. Westbury Coach Rychknyx McKenzie and DoR Matt Hart should be



really proud of their team coming together so well. All the boys went well with no 8 Max Kaufmann grabbing a well earned hat trick.

Sat 17th Sept

Westbury 36 Chosen Hill 34

What a thrilling encounter at the Ken Boulton stadium of light. Lack of numbers from both sides did not stop the game from being an epic encounter. Westbury never gave in and should all be proud of themselves. Tries from no 8 Max Kaufmann, Skipper Robbie Pritchard, Daniel Worwood (on his debut), Joe Hemings and Alex Pearce. A good day for the veterans, with Simon Roberts, DOR Matt Hart and chairman Ken Boulton enjoying a cheese and wine stag day. Rychknyx McKenzie had a good day with the boot, with a great 36-34 win for the blue and whites. Man of the match was awarded to Max Kaufman for an outstanding performance and players worthy of mention were Rych McKenzie, Joe Hemmings, Marc Ward and Daniel Worwood who both debuted

and Dave Trigg who also had his first game in a blue and white shirt. Huge well done to Chosen Hill 3rds for turning up and pushing us to our limits and thank you to all who attended - what a start to the season. *Max Skipsey*



*P e t e
M i l e s
a d d e d*
Well, what a difference some players make! This time last season West had played 2 games

and were losing by 50 points or more by half time in both games, it was hard going. 2022 has started in a much more positive way with good playing numbers, a 17 all draw against powerful neighbours Drybrook 3rds, and a mighty victory against Chosen Hill 3rds 36 – 34 in a titanic struggle. All have set the season off well. Rych McKenzie and DOR Matt Hart should be very proud of what they have achieved so far, however the players need to keep turning up and supporting this great club.

Sat 24th September A Smiths XV v Westbury

A very tough day in the splendour of the Cheltenham Prince of Wales stadium for the boys in blue & white. Already depleted from a couple of head injuries in the front row, the game started with West also short of a couple of lads with failing sat navs!

West started well with a tit for tat try count that saw Max Kaufman scoring a couple for the blue and whites. Smiths replied with some real pacy tries from a very competent set of three quarters that were outstanding for second team players. The second half saw scores from the veteran scrum half Justin, coach Rych & skipper Robbie Pritchard. The West line up was bolstered further by the 11th hour



arrival of Dan - the Welshman - Worwood (who felt completely at home in the Tywysog Cymru stadium - some performances worthy of note from Russ and Ash who were mercurial in flight from the line out - collecting magnificent arrows thrown by Matt 'the hookey' Hart. An all round good performance even if the result didn't go our way - on to next week.

**Rugby training every Tuesday at
the club 7pm**

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