

Junior Cricket is a big hit



The 2023 season has started off slowly with lots of rain stopping play but this hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of the players. Between the rain and soggy outfielders we have seen some great numbers turning out for junior sessions on a Friday night. The club now offers All Stars, U9s, U11s, U13s and U15 groups with dedicated coaches working hard to grow and develop our junior members. The junior sides have started their league games although some of these have been delayed due to weather and availability of opposition teams. The U11 and U15 teams first games didn't go their way but the teams showed some real determination

and spirit throughout the matches. Individual performances from Phoebe Edwards with 4 wickets in her first U15s match and Liam Jones retiring on 30 made for a tough game for the opposition. Some of our juniors are making the transition to Senior cricket this year. We have had juniors from this season's U15s and players who finished their junior careers last year stepping onto the pitch alongside more experienced players in both Saturday and Sunday matches. Congratulations to Liam Jones and Will Nice for getting their first wickets for the Senior section of the club and to Ethan Kane for scoring his maiden 50 in Senior cricket. We wish all our older juniors taking the next steps



in their cricketing careers the best of luck with the rest of the season and look forward to seeing all our juniors develop in confidence, skills and love of the game as the season progresses.

Across the rest of the club, we have the pleasure of welcoming Kade Clowes and Darcy Harmer who are joining us this season from Australia to see how an English cricket season works. So far, the phrase they have heard the most is “it’s quite wet” but we hope that improves over the next few weeks! We also have the experienced Ross Martin coaching our Senior teams this year and this is already paying dividends with teams and individuals benefitting and learning from Ross’s experience and guidance.

For the first time in the history of the club we have a third team entered into league cricket this year. Their opening match resulted in a win for this new team which is an excellent way to start the season! It is so exciting to be able to have 3 teams going out each week representing the club made up of men, women, and older junior members. The club is always on the look

out for new players, so if you or anyone in your family would like a game, please do get in touch at chairman@woscc.org.uk

Finally, we would like to let you know about a special game that will be played on the 25th June. This is a memorial match in memory of Ben Nice. Many of you will remember seeing Ben in his wicket keeping kit or wafting his ‘Bite Me’ bat while trying to smash someone for 6. We welcome anyone who knew or played with Ben to come and join us on the 25th June. It would be incredible to have as many people playing in the match that knew Ben as possible, so please do let us know if you would like to be involved.

That’s all from us for now, we are just off to carry on doing sun dances to try and encourage that yellow thing in the sky to keep beaming down on us.

WOS Cricket Club

A Message from Leicester Teachers

It’s official, the Leicester Teachers Cricket Club will soon be in town. Meteorologists are predicting that the week commencing 16th July is likely to be one of the hottest weeks of the year as LTCC will be in Gloucestershire from Friday 14th until Friday 21st July. This will see the week cumulate in the fixture we all look forward to so much with our friends in Westbury at the Parish Playing Field from 2.00pm or thereabouts on Thursday 20th July.

Also everyone should remember the Bar will be open as per published opening hours and there will be a BBQ after the game to ensure everyone is suitably fed as well as watered. I’d like to also mention that we love lunching at the Lyon Inn beforehand, where we invariably bump into a few familiar faces. More details in next month’s WoSP

Steve Gill

Parish Council

Our May Parish Council meeting is always a little confusing as it technically comprises three meetings, each of which covers a different aspect of the Council's business.

So we started with the Annual Parish Meeting and after the usual formalities we briefly discussed the annual police and crime figures which had been circulated to us. These were presented differently from previous years with 49 categories of crime listed, but the overall picture shows a decrease of 11% in incidents reported to the police this past year compared to the previous year.

Chairman Simon Phelps then gave his report on a year marked by the very sad death of our fellow councillor, Philip Woodman, and also the death of our past Chairman Philip Horsley. We had also lost John Henry from our council when he moved to Newnham, but were pleased to welcome Ben Stephens in his place.

Simon then reported on the significant progress with the school playing field and burial ground extension, which has been an arduous and costly exercise. The closure of Westbury Court Care Home has been a serious loss and there is considerable concern over the future of the Doctor's surgery at the Parish Hall. Simon stressed that the Parish Council extends its fullest support to the community and the Parish Hall Committee in their efforts to retain this facility in the long term.

The District Council's new housing strategy is still unclear and the standard of maintenance of the parish roads remains a matter of great concern. However, Church Lane and Lower Ley Lane have been completely relaid. Speeding traffic and the lack of a safe crossing point in the village remain a problem and Network Rail still deny responsibility for the safety

of road users at Jordan Hill railway bridge, where overgrown vegetation impedes visibility. The churchyard working parties continue and there has been a notable increase of wild flowers under the new management system.

Simon finished by giving thanks to our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, for his assistance, to our Parish Clerk, Fiona Wallbank for her efficiency and careful management of the parish finances and to all his fellow councillors for their support and excellent attendance at meetings. As our District Councillor, Simon also reported on the recent election results which mean that the District Council now comprises 15 Greens, 11 Independents, 5 Labour, 4 Conservative and 3 Lib Dems.

Only one member of the public attended the meeting, and her concern was the future of the GP surgery in Westbury. Simon, in his report, had shown that we very much shared this concern and would do all we could to ensure that the surgery remained.

We then moved on to the Annual Council Meeting at which Simon Phelps was re-elected as Chair and I was re-elected as Vice-Chair. Richard Hewlett and Jeff Williams will continue as snow and flood wardens, Debbie Hill will continue as Emergency Planner and I will carry on as Parish Council rep on the Hall committee. And so, on to our usual monthly meeting.

Planning

There were only two planning applications, one for the replacement of velux windows with dormers at South View in Northwood Green, and the other for the erection of an agricultural building at Cleeve Farm, and there were no objections to either of these. Fiona then updated us on some earlier applications including the withdrawal of applications for two self-build dwellings in Ley Lane and glamping pods at Sunnybank in Elton,

and the granting of permission for an extension and side porch at Riverdene Cottage in Flaxley and an agricultural building in Goose Lane.

County Councillor report

By this time our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, had joined us and gave his report. The state of the roads was discussed at some length. Philip said that the bad winter weather had done a considerable amount of damage and an extra £4m had been assigned to highway maintenance in addition to the £100m already allocated and 39,000 pot holes had been repaired. Several people had commented that sometimes pot holes were repaired when others nearby were not.. Philip said that this was because there were strict criteria for safety defects and that they only fill the ones that meet these criteria. He also said that repairs are not so effective when carried out in wet conditions, but a new product is being tried, which, although expensive, is much more durable when used in wet weather. Chairman Simon is in the process of arranging an inspection of the parish's roads with Councillor Robinson and the Highways Manager as soon as possible.

Sadly, we heard that Westbury Court Care Home is to be sold. We also discussed our concerns regarding the GP surgery with Philip, and he said that he would follow this up with the County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning.

Philip also reported that the Speedwatch scheme seems to be working well and that 90% of drivers issued with letters have needed no further intervention and that 130,000 trees have been planted this year and they hope to have planted a million by 2030.

Finance Fiona reported that the internal audit had been completed in readiness for the external auditor and the accounts were signed.

Highways

An area of the pavement through the village has become very weed infested and will be reported to the Highways department. Hunt Hill potholes are still a problem and Simon is preparing a list of problems for his meeting with the Highways Manager.

Burial Ground Extension and School Playing Field

Work will be starting on the new fencing during half term and will probably take two weeks. The new playing field's drainage was well tested during the recent very heavy rainfall and it certainly passed the test. There has still been no agreement with the County Council regarding the lease and rent and Councillor Robinson will be asked to intervene.

Around the Parish Mike Townsend will repair the wetpour on the play area now that the weather is better. After further enquiries, it has been decided that the watch tower on Walmore Common is in too poor a state to apply for listing. Quotes are to be requested for work need on a couple of the parish's bus shelters.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 19 June 2023 at 7pm *Di Landon*

Message of thanks

I would like to express my appreciation to all those who chose to re-elect me as the District Councillor for the Westbury on Severn Ward. It was quite an overwhelming experience when the Ballot Boxes were opened, as it very quickly became evident that I had secured such a large share of the votes cast. I will endeavour to continue representing everyone in the Ward, I have and I will continue to be available to anyone who may wish to contact me on any issues which may be of concern to yourselves. With thanks to you all.

Simon Phelps

Coronation Weekend

Northwood Green



Thank you to all who joined in to make our King Charles III coronation day celebrations in Northwood Green such a special and memorable occasion. Thank you to all volunteers, cake makers, tea box makers, hall and village green decorators, quiz organisers and participants and all who came to share tea and chat to neighbours and friends. It was a splendid day. Thank you *Mandy Howell*



Benches installed, library neat and tidy and village verges free from litter. Thank you to all those who donated their time, efforts and items to make our village a better place.



Parish Hall

It was a busy weekend and although the cricket had been cancelled and it rained on the King's Parade, we still had some guests who popped in for some lovely cream teas at the Parish Hall.



On Sunday, our brains were tested with an excellent Coronation-themed quiz, accompanied by a delicious supper of jacket potatoes and Coronation chicken.



And on Monday, we picked up litter!



The bar was not open for our May Parish Hall meeting so we met in the lounge rather than the main hall – a rather more comfortable option. There were a few apologies, but fifteen of us were present and Chair Jan D'Ambrogio took the opportunity to suggest that in future we meet at 7.30pm rather than 8pm, which most of us felt would be an improvement. There were a few matters arising from last month's minutes – most of which are in the process of being sorted. The new key fobs were due to arrive the next day and Jan will be getting some new keys. Jan also mentioned that she is planning to have a discussion with the GP surgery regarding some extra utility costs arising from the surgery now being open five days a week.

Treasurer's Report Sarah Mitten had circulated the accounts and these have also been registered with the Charities Commission. There had been little change, with utility costs still high, but some funds had been received under covenant from the Severndipity Club.

Projects Although there are several projects on the list, the work on the faults mentioned in the Electrical Installation Condition report have taken priority and an electrician is coming to attend to these. Clive Tempest has found someone to give us a quote for repairing the peeling hall roof but repairing the pot holes in the car park is more of a problem as, with the surgery open all week, the car park is in use nearly all the time.

Severndipity (Bar) Ken Boulton reported that the bar will no longer be open on Tuesdays but will open on Wednesdays when there are some cricket matches. The bar take increased a little last month but the bar, like many pubs, is not the profitable venture that it once was. This led to some discussion about how to reduce costs and increase sales and it was agreed that we look at this again when everyone has had a chance to study the Severndipity Club's accounts after their upcoming Annual General Meeting. Fundraising events that attract large numbers would help with the sales and a plan to change the bar layout in order to reduce ullage will help reduce costs, but the main difference from former times is that the bar is no longer manned by a pool of volunteers.

Fundraising Jan reported on the Coronation weekend events. The cream tea had gone well, the Coronation-themed quiz was very well attended and quite a lot of litter was collected on the Bank Holiday Monday. The next event is the Craft Fair on 9th July and Sarah Mitten reported that she has received bookings for 19 stalls already and more are expected. A query arose about car parking that day as there are sheep grazing on the rugby field which is usually used on these occasions as an overflow car park, but Ken Boulton agreed that the sheep can be penned for the day. The Flower and Produce Show will be held on Sunday 3rd September and other events are planned for the autumn.

Doctor's Surgery As reported last month, Gen Riley has been trying to arrange a face-to-face meeting regarding a new lease, but although she has received an acknowledgement of her e-mail, there has been no further response. The situation is becoming increasingly exasperating and there was considerable discussion about how we should deal with the prob-

lem. It was agreed that we need to decide on a clear set of criteria that have been agreed by the committee as a whole, and then take a strong line with NHS Property Services in order to settle the matter.

Any Other Business July 22nd is going to be a 'very full car park day,' as there are bookings for a wedding, a cricket match and the Rugby Club are now hosting a Sevens Tournament that day! However, all the hosts of these events were represented at the meeting and were happy that it would all be manageable – but if you're going to the Hall that day it might be an idea to car share or go by bike!

Nik Edginton reported that she is making progress with the risk assessment, Brian Wyman asked for an adjustment to the heating for short mat bowls and Mark Brill and Tim Smith will carry out the fire risk assessment. So the meeting ended, but instead of adjourning to the bar, we just went home!

Di Landon



**Nosh and Natter
Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 8th June 2023**

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm

Soup of the Day

Lasagne, garlic bread and salad

Eton Mess

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three courses

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

Café on the Green

is back on Saturday June 3rd – Northwood Green Social Hall
from 10.00 to Noon.

This month we are supporting Gloucester Samaritans



You know you missed that slice of cake & chat so come along. Not been before, no problem you will soon be part of the chat. This month is a bumper raffle, so get those 50 pences ready to win a prize.

Vale of Castiard WI

Our May speaker gave a very lively and informative talk about the Severn and Wye bridge disaster, which dispelled some of the myths surrounding the 1960 event.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 21 June, when Nathalie Mignotte will give a talk "Of Meads and Flowers: an Appreciation of the Mediaeval Garden". Meetings take place in the Flaxley Schoolroom at 7.30pm. Please contact Gill Western, President, on 07879 532050 or Karen Johnson, Secretary, on 07879 386573 for more information.

Road Closures

Bridge repairs on Horsemans Bridge, Blaison Road from 5th to 9th June, with the road being closed 24/7.

Ampney Lane, Northwood Green - from The Crescent to the pumping station for Severn Trent pipe renewal works, from 12th to 15th June or until completed.

Church Rd - 20m either side of the level crossing for maintenance and adjustments from 23:00 on 18th June to 05:00 on 19th June or until completed.

Northwood Green Gardening Club

Many thanks to all those who supported our annual plant sale. The weekend was a great success, with a huge variety of lovely plants donated by club members and many people coming to buy.

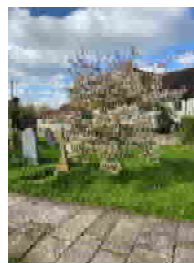
Our meetings have now finished for the summer, as we are all busy in our gardens. However, we have a number of trips planned, beginning on Thursday 8 June with a visit to Westonbirt Arboretum in the morning, followed by the nearby Hookshouse Garden and Pottery in the afternoon. £20.50 for the two visits, including refreshments at Hookshouse.

On the evening of Tuesday 18 July the Head Gardener at Highnam Court is giving us a private guided tour - a rare opportunity to see the garden without the crowds, at a perfect time of year. £11 including refreshments.

There are just a small number of places remaining for our coach trip to the RHS garden at Wisley on Sat 16 Sept. The price for non-members of the Northwood Gardening Club is £37, to include the coach fare, entrance fee and a cream tea.

Please contact Karen Johnson on 07879 386573 or email karenfayjohnson@gmail.com for more information.

Closed Churchyard



The churchyard looks really beautiful at this time of year. Our next working party is on Sat June 10th from 10 am until 1pm — all helpers are very welcome.



**Westbury Church
Friends Presents**

**At Northwood
Green Social Hall**

THURSDAY 29TH JUNE 2.30 PM

**BEETLE DRIVE &
CREAM TEA!**

Tickets available for only £3.00

Contact:
Wendy Winfield 750583
Frances Down 760270
Carol Barker 07793540227



**Westbury-on-Severn Parish
Church Friends
100 Club**

PRIZE WINNERS FOR APRIL 2023

1 st	81	Ann Manning	£50
2 nd	55	Simon Phelps	£20
3 rd	87	Chris Broad	£10

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

WoSPCF at:

westburychurchfriends21@gmail.com

The final draw of the "year" is in July 2023.

April weather

We had quite a range of temperatures in April with 8 frosty nights, but the temperature reaching 20C on 28th and 29th. The predominantly westerly winds brought rain on 17 days with a total rainfall of 87.5mm during the month.

Westbury School

The children at Westbury-on-Severn Primary school have looked at our



local geography with a 'River week'. We've explored the river Severn and its journey from the source all the way to us. Helen Cracknell with the help of the

children, has been painting a mural in the playground of the river. Another highlight of the week was a whole school walk to the river - following Oak class's sketch maps. We had fantastic weather and it was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the beauty that Westbury-on-Severn has to offer!

*Leanne Roseblade Oak Class (Y4/5/6)
Teacher*

Walk for Phil

In a few weeks, the staff at school are walking from Hartpury College to Westbury-on-Severn, in memory of Phil Woodman, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Phil was a much loved member of our Westbury family and he taught at Hartpury College for many years. If you would like to sponsor us in raising money for the Stroke Association, please follow the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walkforphil?>

Many Thanks from all the staff at Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School

And... Just a reminder that our school will be celebrating its 175th anniversary at the

beginning of the next academic year and I would love to hear from past pupils about their memories of their time at school, and also if anyone is happy to share photos they may have of the school. Please feel free to share this with other members of the community, I'd love to hear from them! Please contact Mrs Sian Landon on s.landon@westbury-on-severncofe.gloucs.sch.uk if you have anything to offer. Thank you.

*Mrs Sian Landon
Sycamore Class (Y2/3) Teacher*

Walmore Hill School



‘Its Playtime!’

The children are able to enjoy their playtimes on the school field as well as the playground now that the warm summer weather has arrived. I have noticed the sheer joy of the children when the door is opened and they are released into the great outdoors. We are so fortunate to have such beautiful surroundings

here at Walmore Hill. We are keen to improve the outdoor area further in the next few weeks.

Some of our parents have been getting involved in organising a gardening club after school on Thursday afternoons and the children who have been attending are enjoying the activities so much. Trees and flowers have been planted and the front garden and containers are full of flowering plants that are beginning to blossom and attract lots of insects.

Our pre-school and reception children are using our outdoor area every day too. We have cars, bikes and scooters, as well as lots of activities for the children to explore. Sand and water trays construction toys and outdoor kitchens. Some of the older children enjoy playing in the area at lunchtimes too, particularly the outdoor kitchen!

Our pre-school group is continuing to grow and it is great to see the children settling in to school life. They are learning alongside our Reception children both in the classroom and outdoors. We are constantly looking for ways to enhance the children's play at Walmore Hill. Something as simple as blowing bubbles last week generated lots of excitement, as well as a box of chalks for drawing pictures on the playground. Some of the older children have organised football games at playtime as well as a fitness club!

I have focused on play for my article this month because I have appreciated being outdoors myself and observing the children getting so much out of their play. All of the adults take turns to supervise the children at morning break and we have dedicated staff who look after the children during the lunch break. These times are vitally important to allow children time to relax, to be active and to socialise with their friends and siblings. Its lovely to see brothers and sisters taking care of

each other too.

Lots of books have been written over the years about the importance of play.... I think this is a great quote to ensure we all find time to play whatever our age!

"We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing" (George Bernard Shaw)



Met the Climate Team at the Royal Forest Show - 17th June

Come along to say hello, learn more about the council's climate plans including our involvement in the AURORA project and share your thoughts on how we can collectively secure a Net Zero future for the district. We'll be attending alongside colleagues from our Biosphere, Communities, Local Plan and Regeneration teams.

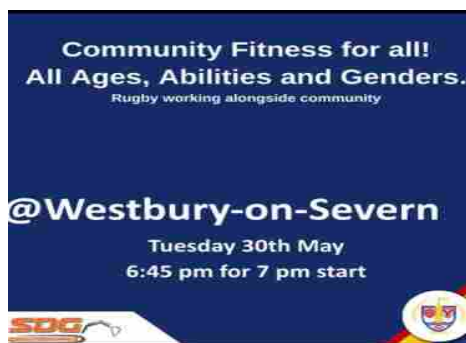
A couple of Dad jokes for Father's Day
(Sun 18th June)

*Why did the scarecrow get an award?
Because he was out standing in his field!*

*What did the daddy buffalo say to his son
when he left for work? Bison*

Sport

The very successful Westbury on Severn RFC Community fitness for all is back....Come on down give it a try — warm welcome guaranteed.



Cricket

Cricket is back ! After a slight false start caused by the deluge of rain, the season at last got out of the starting blocks in May. Credit should be given to Ted Edginton and Ian Dunn and their helpers for managing to get not one but two squares and outfields ready given the monsoon conditions of April.

Firstly the 1sts, whose numbers have been bolstered by young antipodean, Kade Clowes, who has made an encouraging start to the season having taken 10 wickets already before some of us have even managed to get our boots on. Alex Wyman has also made an encouraging start, knocking off 69 runs in only 66 balls and amassing over 100 runs already. That said, the 1sts came up a little short losing to Lydney by 33 runs and Aston Ingham by 31 runs, but as the wickets dry out we hope for better news.

The 2nds haven't had much luck with the weather, playing only one game so far with Ian Dunn (49) and skipper Glyn Bayley (61) getting the side off to a great start, but unfortunately things subsided somewhat afterwards and they found themselves stuck on 154-6 at the end,

chasing 220-9 at Ruardean Hill. Some consolation may have come with the magnificent teas they provide up there.

The newly formed 3rds, their existence a testament to the burgeoning club numbers caused by a thriving youth section growing up and a few older players refusing to retire, is skippered by Chris Wayman and have managed to get in a couple of matches. Their first a real nailbitter in which they defeated Ruardean Hill 2nds by 5 runs with father and son combination of Alan Kane (36) and Ethan Kane (56) providing the bulk of the runs.

Their second match against Aston Ingham 3rds was a low scoring affair played at Newnham cricket pitch (remember the two squares mentioned earlier, that's the second one). Aston Ingham were restricted to 119-9 with Andrew Cueto bowling an excellent spell for 3-15 and leg spinner Eve Powell claiming 2-17 including, rather pleasingly, getting their own leg spinner out stumped by the excellent glove work of keeper Tallia Scott. Beth Powell and Charlotte Dunn also put in accurate bowling spells and at tea the home side felt pretty content with their bowling and fielding efforts.

Unfortunately the batting display didn't quite match up as your correspondent's cunning plan of seeing off the opening bowler was rather taken to extremes as five overs were blocked out for precisely no runs at all and then almost as soon as the softer bowling came on, he contrived to run himself out through a catastrophic misjudgment involving momentarily believing he could run as fast as he could when he was eighteen. Sadly he couldn't as was fractionally (5 yards) short of his ground. While skipper Wayman (31 n.o) was patiently knocking the runs off at one end, wickets fell regularly at the other. Luckily the 3rds had one last ace up their sleeve, as in strode the magnificent figure of club president Clive Tempest with a

Bothamsque swagger. As he surveyed the field his eyes narrowed, looking for weaknesses and gaps in the field. What followed was an exhibition in swiping and whacking and nurdling and cutting until half an hour later he was run out fractionally short of his ground, having amassed (checks notes) er...one run. When wondering out loud over a post match beer where it all went wrong he was gently reminded that he is 81.

The innings subsided to 88 all out but an encouraging first couple of games for the new team, particularly on the bowling front, and we look forward to the season ahead.

Mark Landon

Football

A team flying somewhat below the radar this season has been Westbury's newly formed Veterans football team. However we are delighted to report that the team managed by Ian Martin are sailing high to the point where they are virtually guaranteed promotion from the 2nd division. So impressive is this achievement I invite readers to check out the division table below - assuming the editor can fit it in. *Mark Landon*

League Table

[FULL TABLE DETAIL >](#)

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Westbury United	9	8	0	1	26	24
2	Longleaves	9	7	0	2	10	21
3	Staunton & Corse	8	5	0	2	12	18
4	Shurdington Rovers	8	5	0	3	2	15
5	Tuffley Rovers	9	4	0	5	2	12

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