

Westbury Needs a Crossing



Parish Council Chairman Simon Phelps on Points West regarding the crossing.



Crossing the A48 anywhere in the village is a nerve wracking experience and our Parish Council has been asking Gloucestershire County Council Highways for a pedestrian crossing for years. Aylburton and Alvington Parish Councils have also been campaigning for crossings for many years and on Monday 20th February we joined them in a road crossing demonstration on each of the three sites where crossings are needed. Around a dozen of us crossed the road slowly on numerous occasions in Westbury and had quite a few encouraging hoots and waves from passing motorists. About 12,000 vehicles a day use the A48, and you have to wait a long time for the road to be clear of traffic in both direc-



tions. The situation is doubly difficult if you are crossing with children or have mobility problems but the County Council seems to think that the expense of installing a crossing is only justified if there is a history of deaths and serious injuries, whereas we would prefer prevention of injuries and safety for our pedestrians.

Since the closure of Newnham surgery, the need for a safe place to cross has increased as more people have to cross from the bus stop to get to the Doctor's surgery at the Parish Hall. We recognise that the bends in the road and the raised pavements in the village make it more difficult to choose a suitable site for a crossing, but this should not be used as an excuse for failing to provide one at all.

Parish Council

All our parish councillors were at the February meeting but County Councillor Philip Robinson had sent his apologies. There were also two parishioners present who were asking about putting planters on the grass verge at Broadoak. As the Parish Council does not own the ground, it was explained that the County Council would need to be consulted and I related the problems that the Parish Hall had encountered when we had applied to install planters to mark the limits of the 30 mph zone through the village.

Planning We then moved on to planning matters and an outline application for two self-build dwellings in Ley Lane. As this is outside the development boundary, we were advised that the District Council would not agree to this, whatever we said. We voted to support an application for a two storey rear extension to Riverdene Cottage in Flaxley and had no objections to the erection of an agricultural building at The Paddocks in Goose Lane. We also supported an application to establish that the continued use of agricultural land as a domestic garden at Pound Farm, Chaxhill, is lawful. An application for an extension at Oak Barn, Poulton Court had been withdrawn and an amended description regarding the application for Northwood House was noted, although we also made clear that our original comments on the application still stood. A tree preservation order relating to four orchards at Gamage Court was also noted.

An application for ground mounted photovoltaic panels and associated works at Gravel Farm, Cleeve was discussed and it was agreed that as this is a large development (covering 47.57 hectares / 117.55 acres) it was a matter that all residents should be consulted on. The developer had also requested a public meeting

at which they could make their presentation and answer questions from the public. A public meeting has since been arranged for Thursday 16th March at 6.30pm at Westbury Parish Hall.

Our clerk, Fiona, then updated us on the results of previous planning applications with those at 9, Stantway Lane, Wintles Hill House, Fountains Cottage, Little Oaklands, Cleeveholme and Pound Farm, Elton granted and those at Cotshill Farm and Woodlands View refused.

Finance The financial statements were agreed.

Highways There are numerous highways problems which have been “ongoing” for some time. and Chairman Simon Phelps has been trying to talk to the newly appointed person responsible for our parish, but has been told that he is engulfed with work. Simon has given Andrew Middlecote, the Highways Manager, the full list of issues around the parish to pass on to him, so we just hope for progress soon. It has also been reported that the footway between the Parish Hall and the Water Gardens is overgrown and difficult to negotiate in a wheelchair so a request will be made for this to be cleared under the Lengthsman scheme.

Mike Townsend had met with Severn Trent regarding the sewer in Ampney Lane and they are planning to put larger pumps in place in order to solve the problems there.

A road crossing demonstration had taken place earlier that day for a pedestrian crossing in the village.

Burial Ground Fiona has received confirmation that our Public Works Loan Board application has been granted for next year, which will be used to pay for the second stage of the work, which is mainly fencing. A request has been received from Westbury School for permission to put up a wooden summer house

and we are awaiting further clarification from the school.

Play Area We had had a big clear up of leaves etc on the Saturday before our meeting and Mike Townsend replaced the baby swing which had seen better days. When the weather improves we agreed to do some work on cleaning the play surface and a few repairs.

Footpaths A broken gate on the footpath between Adsett and the village had caused a problem but the landowner has agreed to replace it.

Other matters It was agreed that we should apply for the World War Two watchtower adjoining Walmore Common to become a listed building. Fiona has completed the necessary forms regarding the new speed cameras.

At next month's meeting, Fiona will bring the paperwork needed for completion by those prepared to stand as parish councillors in the elections in May. This led to some discussion and concerns about the need for more candidates to consider serving on the Parish Council. So if you want to represent the views of local people and ensure that our community gets the services it needs, please consider becoming a Parish Councillor and contact Fiona Wallbank, our clerk, on 01452 849178 or 07792 989212 for further information.

Our next meeting is on Mon 20th March at 7pm at the Parish Hall. *Di Landon*

Reminder Apparently up to 2 million people without photo ID will need to apply for a new free ID to vote in the May elections but only 1% have done so !



Election Rules and Deadlines

Register to vote by Monday 17 April
Postal vote applications by 5pm Tuesday 18 April
Proxy application by 5pm Tuesday 25 April
Voter Authority Certificate by 5pm Tuesday 25 April

Photographic ID is now required for voting.

If you do not have any acceptable form of photographic ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk or contact the election team on 01594 812638 or email elections@fdean.gov.uk. The deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm Tuesday 25 April.

Acceptable Photo ID

Passport	✓
Driving License	✓
Work/student passes	✗
Immigration document	✓
Blue Badge	✓
PASS card (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)	✓
Photocopies of ID documents	✗

Road Closures

Frewins Lane from 20 metres north of the bridge to 30 metres south of the bridge for approximately 60 metres for bridge repairs from 27th February 2023 until 10th March 2023.

Goose Lane, Bollow, from its junction with the A48 to outside The Paddocks for approximately 371 metres for Gigaclear cable repair works from 08:00 until 17:00 on the 1st March 2023.

Stantway Lane from outside Gatwick Cottages to the junction with Rock and Fountain Lane for approximately 100 metres from 08:00 on 6th March 2023 until 18:00 on 8th March 2023 in order to renew a fire hydrant within the carriageway.

Ley Lane from outside Pendrose Farm to Leycourt Farm for 50 metres from 13th March 2023 until 15th March 2023 for the installation of a new boundary box and meter installation.



A Parish Hall Management Committee meeting is not exactly the most romantic way to spend the evening of Valentine's Day but, in spite of that, most of us were there. Unfortunately our Chairperson, Jan D'Ambrogio, was unable to be with us, but she had sent plenty of notes to help her deputy, Helen Cracknell, who was thus able to keep us all in some sort of order!

There had been some progress on several of the "ongoing" matters arising from the

previous minutes. The sign directing people not to block the emergency access to the playing field has now been put up and Max Skipsey had done considerable research into a new security system for the Hall. The gas and electricity for the Hall are now both supplied by EDF and so Jan is more hopeful that a smart meter can be obtained to help monitor usage.

The asbestos survey had been carried out on the Hall roof in January and the asbestos was not considered to be a problem, although any work on insulating the roof space was advised against. This would also have to be taken into consideration when assessing the suitability of fitting solar panels.

Treasurer's report Sarah Mitten had circulated the accounts. The only item that was potentially worrying was the cost of legal and surveyor's fees in connection with the lease on the Doctor's surgery, especially as there does not appear to have been much progress in settling this matter.

Severndipity (Bar) There was no-one present to give a report from the Severndipity Committee.

Fundraising The next fundraiser was to be the Jumble Sale on 26th February. Other events in the pipeline are an Easter Monday Funday, celebrations during the Coronation weekend in May, a Craft Fair in July and the usual Flower and Produce Show in September. The regular fundraisers of Nosh and Natter on the second Thursday of each month and the Sunday evening quizzes (also now once a month) mean that the Hall has a full diary of fund-raising events.

Other business The question of whether the Hall should be providing a warm space for those struggling with rising energy costs had been raised at the last meeting. Jane Townsend had reported that Flaxley School Room is taking part

in the Warm Space initiative and it was agreed that we use the response to this to guide our decision as to whether something similar is needed at the Hall. Enquiries had also been made via the Baby and Toddler Group and the responses suggest that there is no demonstrable need for this at the moment.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th March and is also our AGM so it starts at 7.30pm. Anyone interested in keeping the hall up and running is definitely invited to come along because in order to do this we need new committee members for the future.

Di Landon



SOME MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EASTER MONDAY FUNDAY 10TH APRIL

Come on down for a picnic, (inside if the weather is poor) an Easter trail, some games, an Easter bonnet competition and a few more bits which we are working on. We are also planning some Coronation celebrations over the May weekend and currently considering the following:



Saturday May 6th. We have a cricket match that day so join us for the 3 C's, cricket, cream tea and Coronation on the television

Sunday 7th May The daytime events will depend on what others are doing in the parish but, in the evening, we will be having a quiz with some Coronation related questions along with Coronation chicken jacket potatoes

Monday 8th May – Parish litter pick

Westbury Parish Hall
Sunday 7th May at 7pm



Get a team together and come and give your brain a workout. Lots of questions designed for those who are stronger on general knowledge and 20th century events than on what happened last year!



Sandwiches and Bar
£1 per person

Charity number 301644



We will be holding our Parish Hall AGM on 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm

Are you interested in helping to keep the hall running for the future of the Parish. We need to have some new ideas and input in to the hall and new committee members would help to stimulate us I am sure.

Not all of you like committee work and so if you would like to help out with fund raising, we are on the lookout for volunteers here too, and I can assure you that we do have fun as well as raising funds to maintain and improve the facilities.

If interested, please contact us on info@wosph.co.uk or ring 01452 229570

Thanks, Jan

Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall

Thursday 9th March 2023

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm

Soup of the day

**Marmalade sausages with mash and
veggies**

Sweet of the day

£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**

Jumble Sale

There was plenty of jumble on offer at our Good Old-Fashioned Parish Hall Jumble Sale on 26th Feb. People poured through the door at 2.30pm to snap up the bargains and we raised nearly £300 for the Hall funds. Masses of clothes, even some new ones with labels still attached, and lots of interesting bric a brac. Plenty to browse through before sitting down and enjoying a cuppa and cake.



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26th Feb.
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Northwood Green Gardening Club

At our February meeting, we had a very enjoyable talk by Emily from the Frampton on Severn Hedgehog Rescue about these delightful creatures and how we can attract them to our gardens.



Our first garden visit of the year will be on Sunday 5 March, when we will have a chance to see the snowdrops at Home Farm, Huntley. The garden is open from 11am to 4pm, entry £3.50.

On Thursday 9 March, Duncan Coombs will give a talk on

Barks, Stems and Evergreens for the Winter Garden

and tell us how to make the best of our garden in the colder months

Then, on Thursday 13 April, our speaker is Neil Jones on the subject of

Growing Herbs in the Kitchen Garden. Neil and wife Niamh run their own specialist nursery near Newent and won an RHS Gold Medal last year.

Meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Visitors are always welcome, fee £3. Annual membership £12.

Contact karenfayjohnson@gmail.com or call 01452 760970 for more information.

I know someone who was habitually late, until his doctor recommended sleeping in a herb garden. Sounds odd, I know, but now he wakes up on Thyme.

I went to a car boot sale yesterday and bought a box of second hand newspapers. They may be old but they're news to me.

Cafe on the Green

What a busy morning, together we raised a total of £227 for Riding for the Disabled at our February Cafe.



Spring is around the corner, so why not catch up with friends on Saturday 4th March from 10.00 til Noon. This month we are supporting the Northwood Green Social Hall to keep this great facility in top notch condition & there for everyone to enjoy

Kay Manning

Vale of Castiard WI

In February, Lauren Sagar persuaded the reluctant artists among us to try our hand at drawing, with her session on Can't draw, won't draw. It was a fun evening, with some very creditable results.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15 March, when we will hear Tales of a Travel Rep, as told by Pamela Holland. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Flaxley Old Schoolroom. Guests are welcome, £4.50. Please contact karenfayjohnson@gmail.com or call 01452 760970 for more information.

*“Somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note, it said ‘Parking Fine.’” – Tim Vine
“Toughest job I ever had? Selling doors, door-to-door.” – Bill Bailey*



Churchdown

Male Voice Choir

Invite you to an evening of Song
in support of:
WESTBURY ON SEVERN
PARISH CHURCH FRIENDS

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

At Westbury On Severn Church

7.30pm

Bar - Raffle

Tickets £8.00

Book in advance or pay on the door.

Tickets available from

Frances Down 01452 760270

Carol Barker 01452 760311

Email: Westburychurchfriends21@gmail.com

Or Via our Facebook page: Westbury on Severn Parish

Church Friends

www.churchdownmvc.org Registered Charity No: 1060177

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Westbury on Severn Parish Church Friends are planning several events for 2023 and wanted to let you all know so you can keep the dates free!

31st March - See above

8th July - Church Fete (times to be confirmed)

2nd/3rd December - Christmas Tree Festival (Details to follow later this year)

We hope you can join us at these events.

Definitions

An adult — a person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

Chickens — the only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

January Weather

One old saying about January's weather is that "*a green January makes a full churchyard*". This is based on the perfectly reasonable notion that cold weather kills germs, while mild winters allow them to spread.

As Simon's figures show, we had 15 nights of frost in January including continuous freezing nights between 14th and 24th, and the temperature dropping to -7C on the night of 21st/22nd. So let us hope that this will have put paid to some of the germs that have been attacking us recently. The warmest days saw the temperature rise to 11C with the warmest night being 3rd/4th when it was 8C. The wettest of the 16 wet days was 7th when we had 18mm of the 97.5mm month's total rainfall. We had just one day of snow and the average maximum temperature was 7C and the average minimum was -0.3C.

As you will know, there are two contradictory sayings about the weather in March, involving lions and lambs, and this is probably due to our ancestors believing that there should be a balance in weather and life. So if a month came in roaring like a lion it should go out quietly like a lamb. With March being such a changeable month, with spring-like temperatures or snowstorms, one can see how this saying might need to be adaptable and have the two swapped around. Understandably there are many contradictions in weather lore as another saying is that *A peck of March dust is worth a King's ransom*, suggesting that a dry March is a good thing, whereas a Herefordshire saying is that *March dust on an apple leaf brings all kinds of fruit to grief*. But I think all will agree with the saying that *A damp, rotten March gives pain to farmers and to everyone else!*

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH

COUNCIL

www.westburyonsevernpoc.org.uk

Email:

clerk@westburyonsevernpoc.org.uk

07792 989212

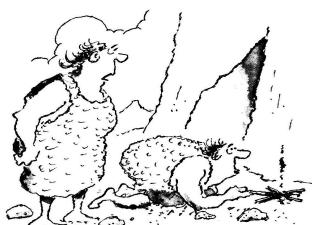
**PUBLIC MEETING
ON
THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2023
COMMENCING AT 6.30PM
IN
WESTBURY PARISH HALL**

**Presentation from
MURRAY PLANNING
ASSOCIATES**

RE

**P1773/22/FUL Gravel Farm,
Cleeve, Rodley Proposed
ground mounted photo-
voltaic panels and associated
works - Site area 117 acres**

Further details can be found on the Forest of Dean District Council website:
<https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/>



*'Have you tried turning it off
and on again?'*



Memory Café - Tuesday 14th March 2023

The Memory Café aims to provide a fun, friendly, safe and supportive space for people living with dementia or memory loss, their partners, families and carers.

Supported by Artspace, Cinderford as part of the Mindscape Project, people can expect to enjoy a variety of craft and activities.

Itinerary:

- 11.00am arrival and enjoy a cuppa and a cake**
- 11.30am activities provided by Mindscape tutors**
- 12.30pm – 1.15 Soup and rolls served. Finish**

There is no charge for attending this event so why not pop along and join us?

For further information:

Call:07926 986 247

The centre is located beside the A48, and has on-site parking, disabled access and facilities. Stagecoach Bus No 22/23 also stops and departs every ½ hour from outside the centre.

The Harvey Centre, Main Road, Minsterworth, Gloucester, GL2 8JH

Come and join us – a warm welcome awaits!



Save the date !

Westbury Players AGM will be held at the Parish Hall Lounge on Sunday 26th March at 6pm. All members are welcome to come along and make their views heard and to contribute to the discussions about upcoming events and productions. As a further enticement the bar will be open for post-meeting analysis and opinions.

See you there !

PS : If you aren't sure whether you are a member or not then you probably are — so come along if that sort of stuff interests you.

Mark Landon

Closed Churchyard

Weather permitting, we shall be having a working party in the churchyard on Saturday 11th March between 10am and 1pm. With snowdrops and primroses all around, it is a good place to sense that Spring is definitely here, so if



you would like to join us, please come along and bring your favourite gardening tools with you. If you just want to come for an hour or so, you would be just as welcome.

Di Landon (760531)

Westbury Sport

Cricket



Football

Westbury beats Minchinhampton in the Semi Final of the Gloucestershire County Cup.



I apologise for the patchy nature of the football reporting this season but Westbury Utd's astonishing cup run in the Junior County Cup should not go unrecorded. With fine victories over Prestbury Rovers (5-3), Frampton Utd Res (5-2), and Rodborough and Cainscross Old Boys (1-0), Westbury had powered their way to a semifinal match against Minchinhampton. As their previous matches were all away fixtures, this was

their first match in the competition played at home, so nerves were jangling as we waited to see if the team could perform as well on this side of the River Severn.

Club President Tempest was curiously relaxed in the pre-match press conference, maybe reflecting on his triumphant performance on stage where he bestrode the stage like the Shakespearean colossus that he has become. Indeed, some would say he was milking his Hugh Jardon, the character he brought to life with such dramatic dexterity, when advising the press corps confidently that he had instructed his team to relax and not take the game too seriously.

Such confidence seemed well placed as Westbury got off to a flying start with young Tom Glover expertly firing the home side ahead after 8 minutes. The level of delirium only increased on the touch line after 13 minutes when Andrew Cueto surged forward down the left flank and crossed into the 6 yard box where an unmarked Harry Howells had time to control the ball and fired it into the bottom corner.

At this point, club secretary Dave D'Ambrogio, a role he has fulfilled for over 50 years (in case any readers have forgotten) explained that he had been in email correspondence with the callow 17 year old referee who had informed him that, as referee, he expected the players not to expect leniency just because of his lack of years.

The cup run hero, Akeen Philips, responsibility for the lion's share of the goals in the preceding cup fixtures, and a handful for any team to deal with, was again weaving in and out of flailing defenders and, despite being caught offside on multiple occasions, eventually sprang the trap and rifled home after 37 minutes to treble

the advantage.

However as halftime loomed Minchinhampton launched a rare foray into the Westbury penalty box and what seemed like a harmless cross missed everybody and landed in the bottom corner to make it 3-1. Nervousness spread through the crowd like a Californian wildfire and Club President Tempest, who only a couple of weeks ago was striding the stage, skilfully portraying a confused, frustrated, nervous old man began to stride the touchline like a.....er....confused, frustrated, nervous old man. Great actors can always draw from life experiences.

Anxiety was multiplied as Minchinhampton attacked again and Gary "Boulder" Morgan who, until that point had been an impenetrable rock in defence, was unable to clear and Minchinhampton pounced to bring the score back to 3-2.

As tempers frayed and tackles flew in, a perceived unpunished offence against a Westbury player was greeted by the plaintive wail of Club Secretary D'Ambrogio, a role he has fulfilled for over 50 years, as he yelled at the referee "What about your email ref ????" This was surely something never previously screamed at a football match, and "email" was revealed as a curiously ineffective word when uttered in rage and frustration.

However, Tom Glover took it upon his youthful shoulders to settle nerves as the half entered injury time when he calmly controlled the ball 20 yards out and unleashed an unstoppable shot that flew into the top corner to bring the half time score to an entertaining 4-2.

The second half was a less entertaining spectacle as Phillips' efforts to add to the score line were thwarted by the linesman (correctly). Westbury are not a team to "park the bus" so continued to press forward but the Minchinhapton defence held firm and had several opportunities to get

back into the game.

After 79 minutes, they decided to have a crack from long range and suddenly the ball curled into the top corner from an excellent shot by one of their players (I didn't bother recording who it was, we don't have many readers over that way).

At 4-3, the nerves returned. Manager Derek Morgan was spotted eschewing his vaping device and had got back on the ciggies, many an ex-player in the crowd began baying as if they were back on the pitch and the players from both sides put in extra efforts. Minchinhampton pushed on for the equaliser but Maton, Morgan, Cueto and Jamie Evans held firm at the back and keeper Jay pulled off a couple of fine saves when required.

At the final whistle, the Westbury players collapsed on the ground in relief, fatigue, elation and some of them may have simply fallen over.

The final is scheduled for 18th April. President Tempest could shelve his clichés about "concentrating on the league"



for a while longer, although as they are third from bottom in the league I imagine they will be doing that anyway. Celebratory beers were then taken in the bar alongside the rugby boys who had just beaten Old Crypts - happy days !

Mark Landon

Rugby

Well done to the four Westbury on Severn RFC vets that turned out on 4th February to represent the Forest of Dean Veterans versus a Cinderford presidents Vets XV. This was a memorial game for ex Cinderford player Mogsy Morgan at Cinderford RFC . It was a thrilling game that saw the combination going down 21-17 despite a dubious 79.99 min touch line call that denied the visitors a win!!



L – R Ash Hathaway, Matt (& Thomas) Hart, Russ Williams & Lee 'Flea'

Nevertheless a great game played out to a near capacity [editorial licence!] crowd that enjoyed flowing rugby of the highest quality....not seen since 1985well done all - a fitting tribute to a forest legend.

On 18th February, Westbury-On-Severn RFC Seniors were at home for the first time in 2023 and were very pleased to welcome Old Cryptians Rugby Football Club III to the KB stadium of light. Pre match saw the official presentation of the Westbury on Severn RFC shirts for the

season sponsored by SDG Groundwork Solutions Ltd who stayed to enjoy the game ...& sport was definitely on offer with Westbury football taking on Mich in their cup semi final (which they won 4-3...) well done fellas....



To the rugby, and as expected it was an end to end tussle from the off . . and it wasn't pretty at times. It was a game that saw injuries on both sides, (heal well fellas) tries from WOS included a brace for Robbie Pritchard and two for the ever present mercurial Lee 'flea' Princefollowed up with a couple from tall Paul on the wing....all in all ending 41 - 10thanks again Old Cryptians.

Saturday 4th March



This week
Westbury on
Severn RFC
are back on
home turf v
Cirencester
Rugby Club
2's ...bar
open after -
see you there.
*Simon
Roberts*

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