



## The Season for Beauty and the Beast

**B**eauty and the Beast" was this year's offering for the demanding Westbury public, who were hungry for entertainment, even after the superb meal provided by Jan D'Ambrogio and her hard-working team. This classic story shows that we should never judge based on appearances. The ugly Beast must be a baddy? A sword is a sword? Simon Roberts is a busty red-head? Think again! What we got was a rambunctious, fun-filled evening full of giggles, guffaws and yes, many belly laughs - a true reflection of Director Mark Landon's modus operandi and probably the best production since *The Hobbit* (author *P Moscrop - Ed*). Beauty was played by the wonderful, youthful, scrumptious, Leanne Roseblade-Bargh, a delectable leading lady who understandably captured the Beast's

heart and also contributed approximately 95% of the musical ability to their duets. Her sisters (Simon Roberts and David D'Ambrogio), convincingly demonstrated how unfortunate genetics may translate into spiteful, greedy, selfish behaviour, an interesting counterpoint to the Beast's kindly nature. Tim Smith was in his element playing this misunderstood grotesque.

Well, we have all been there – that moment when the world becomes too futile, inexplicable or illogical and the only thing to do is dissolve into helpless hilarity – that is what happened to Patience Fawcett-Till when playing a salt cellar for the fifth night just became too much, a magical few minutes for everyone. Impressively, the other household objects managed to hold it together, Hannah

McCartney as the Clock and George Ford as the Candelabra providing professional levels of continuity. Of course, our lovely fairy (Zoe Fransham) also helped in maintaining the narrative, and in a fabulous French accent too. She also had some pretty good jokes showing that Director, Writer and Actor Mark Landon did not keep all the best lines for himself as Gaston de Mucksplatter (*standing in for a sadly stricken Colin Cotterell, struck down with a nasty chest infection – Ed*). Landon was supposed to be devastatingly handsome and the magic of theatre is such that this was achieved by drawing a curly moustache on his face. Mucksplatter was working in league with Captain Slackmarrow (Adrian Crompton). In case we were in any doubt as to the Cap-



tain's bonafides, he displayed all the usual seafaring attributes; parrot, wooden leg and so on. Opportunistically, he shared the remarkable series of events that led to his pretty comprehensive disfigurement in front of curtain whilst a major scene change occurred. All the performances were good, Mucksplatter's two goons Flotsam (Amelie Phillips) and Jetsam (Caitlin Bennett) were clearly more intelligent than their boss and Andrew Landon imbued soul and depth to his drunken sailor. And of course no one could forget Clive Tempest's Hugh Jardon. It was great to see how high the morale of the cast was and one can only imagine the enjoyment everyone must have had in creating this excellent effort. Great work by Prompt Catlin Reilly and all the backstage crew

(Elke Landon, Di Landon, Claire McCartney, Stuart Hawke, Sue Pemberton, Mike Edginton, Brian Wyman, Mike Matthews, Nicola Atkinson and team, Jake Landon, with a special mention for May Brass on the costumes side).

In case you are wondering, of course all the baddies got their dues (banished to Lydnee) and Beauty and Beast get hitched. So yes, we should value inner characteristics like kindness and patience more than superficial qualities such as a curly moustache and voluminous hair. But the real moral, of course, is that if you are rich and have a nice castle, eventually a girl will fall for you.

Paul Moscrop *WoSP Food and Theatre Critic*

### Book Exchange

As many of you will know, the adaptation of the telephone kiosk in Northwood Green to a book exchange has been very successful and the Parish Council recently decided to do the same with the telephone kiosk outside the Lyon Inn. Simon Brown,



from Severn Valley Woodworks, kindly agreed to install the shelving and the work is now complete. Over the years, Severn Valley Woodworks have done a lot for this parish, includ-

ing the picnic table in the play area and planters at the Parish Hall, so we would like to express our thanks to all those involved.

There are now books in place and it is ready for use. So, if you take a book out, please either put it back when you have read it, or replace it with another. Children's books will be kept on the lower shelves.

## Parish Council

**O**ur first Parish Council meeting of the New Year was a very sad one as we were meeting without our friend and fellow councillor, Philip Woodman, who had died very suddenly since we last met. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his family but we too will greatly miss him and we held a minute's silence in his memory.

There were no members of the public present and County Councillor Philip Robinson had also sent his apologies.

**Planning** We had no objections to an application from Westbury Court Gardens for work on trees that are growing too close to each other or to an application for prior approval for the conversion of an existing barn at Cotshill Farm, Lower Ley Lane to a residential dwelling. We were also notified of amendments regarding the application for an extension at Cleeve Holme to which we had no objections. The application for an Agricultural Trailer Sales and Servicing Depot at Elton was due to be reheard at the January Planning Committee meeting the following day and Peter Radley was intending to speak.

**Highways** After the accounts had been agreed we moved on to the numerous problems with our roads. Chairman Simon Phelps is in touch with Highways on a very regular basis and will emphasise how bad the pot holes are now, especially along Rodley Road. (These have since been marked ) Predictably, flooding has been a problem in several places and although teams have been out clearing the grips, in many places the gratings are blocked. There has been flooding at Adsett outside The Glen which is due to a long running issue with highways and there is also a new problem with flooding near Frocester House in Northwood Green which Simon is pursuing. In Amp-

ney Lane, the manhole has been overflowing with sewage and all these problems will be taken up with the Highways Department and Severn Trent. Simon will also be in touch with them regarding the grit bins, as it does not appear that these have been refilled, and some are damaged.

A parishioner had raised the issue of road safety involved in crossing the A48. We had been told that a 40 mph buffer zone was being considered by the police for both sides of the 30 mph zone through the village, designed to slow traffic from the top of Wintles Hill to Jordans Hill bridge, and that a pedestrian crossing near the Water Gardens was also under consideration to make access to the Doctor's Surgery safer for pedestrians. There has been no progress with this and so Simon has asked the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that a police representative is at the next Road Safety meeting so that this can be discussed further.

Aylburton, like Westbury, has unsuccessfully campaigned for a crossing for many



*Aylburton residents demonstrating for a crossing in June 2022*

years and on 20<sup>th</sup> February they are holding a "mass crossing" demonstration in support of their campaign and have invited us to do likewise. They have suggested that we time ours for 2pm so please let me know if you are interested in joining this.

Simon had recently seen contractors working at Jordans Hill and hoped that

they might be doing the long awaited clearance of the trees and bushes that block the view for approaching motorists, but was told that they were just clearing enough to enable the structure of the bridge to be inspected during the overnight road closure. We thought that this work would have been done by now and so have asked Fiona to write to our MP Mark Harper (also Secretary of State for Transport) to ask him to push for this to be completed.

**Around the Village** There has been no progress regarding the rent for the new **school playing field** but the drainage has been well tested by some heavy rainfall and is working very well. Our planned clean up of the **play area** at the Parish Hall had to be postponed due to bad weather, and will now be on Sat 18<sup>th</sup> February. A new seat for the baby swing is on order. **Footpaths** Mike Townsend has been in touch with Jeff Wheeler of the Public Rights of Way team regarding problems with the footbridge at Broadoak and a blocked path near Northwood Green, and a new stile has been installed at Church Lane. The telephone kiosk in the village is now up and running as a very welcome **book exchange** (see p 2). Concerns have been raised regarding the new rules whereby voters have to provide **photo ID at the polling station** for the next elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (see next column) A parishioner has also written to the Health Secretary regarding **Westbury Court Care Home** remaining empty when patients are being discharged to hotels due to the need for hospital beds – emphasising a point that was made when we argued against the Home being closed.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm at the Parish Hall.

*Di Landon diana.landon12@gmail.com*

## New Voting Rules

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

### Forms of ID that can be used to vote?

Passport  
Photo driving licence (including provisional licence)  
Blue badge  
Certain concessionary travel cards  
Identity card with PASS mark  
Biometric Immigration document  
Defence identity card  
Certain national identity cards  
For more information  
visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

### If you do not have an acceptable form of photographic ID

Electors can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. They can apply for this at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk) or we can send paper application forms. You will need to send a photo, like a passport photo or you can go to the Council Offices in Coleford for help to apply. Please contact the election team on 01594 812638 or email [elections@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:elections@fdean.gov.uk). The deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm Tuesday 25 April.

### Postal voting

Postal voters will not be affected and will be issued with their postal ballot papers as usual.

**Postal Votes:** If you want to vote by post (or proxy) you will only qualify for one in time for the elections if you are (or will be) registered in time to vote at the elections.

### Deadlines:

Register to voter = Monday 17 April  
Postal vote applications = 5pm Tuesday 18 April  
Proxy application = 5pm Tuesday 25 April



**W**ith all the festivities that have kept most of us busy since the December meeting, it is not surprising that there were one or two things that were described as 'ongoing' at the January meeting. The Hall's security and WiFi systems came into that category but both are working satisfactorily at the moment, Jan will shortly be talking to Joe Liddington about the marquees in storage and we have not heard any more regarding the issues with the Doctor's surgery lease.

There has, however, been progress with the water meter, which has now been raised up in the ditch, an asbestos assessment, which was due to take place the morning after our meeting and Mike Edginton has repaired the bollard near the gas tank and completed the work in the cooler room.

Ken Boulton reported that there has been some sign of improvement in the income from the bar, and that they have been able to lessen the losses due to ullage. It was suggested that some form of external lighting to show when the bar is open would be helpful and this will be followed up.

**Treasurer's Report** It was a pleasure to have Sarah Mitten back with us in person this month and to hear that all is well with the Hall finances, although rising utility prices are still a matter of concern. The accounts are in the process of being audited ready for the Annual General Meeting.

**Fundraising** Chairman Jan D'Ambrogio reported that the Kebabaret and the

had been very successful, and the monthly Nosh and Natters continue to provide a steady income. Our fundraisers will be meeting in February to plan more events for the coming year but 26<sup>th</sup> February is already booked for another Old-Fashioned Jumble Sale. It was agreed that we need to liaise with other local fundraisers so that our events do not overlap or clash with theirs. The Hall's funds have recently been boosted by a generous bequest in the will of former Hall chairman Phil Horsley, for which we are most grateful.

Jan gave us the good news that the Hall had received the highest rating after a recent Food Safety Inspection. She is also registering as a catering business (called Mrs D's Pots and Pans) with the Forest of Dean and will then be able to provide a catering service for weddings or other events at the Hall, which may help to boost bookings.

**Any Other Business** Jan has been trying to get a smart meter provided by EDF to monitor the Hall's gas and electricity usage but, as we know, it seems impossible to get through to anyone on the phone at the moment. Jane Townsend reported that Flaxley School Room is taking part in the Warm Space initiative (see p 8) This led to a discussion of whether the Hall should provide something similar, and it was felt that further information is needed to ensure that the right sort of help was available at the right times to aid those who needed help most. It was agreed that we discuss this again when we know more.

Brian Wyman had noticed that some of the Hall's cupboards need repair and kindly offered to do this after the pantomime, and Mike Edginton offered to clear away the pile of wood behind the surgery. So with plans for the future in mind, the meeting concluded and we moved to the bar.

*Di Landon*





We will be holding our AGM in March 2023.

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](mailto:info@wosph.co.uk) [or ring 01452 229570](tel:01452229570)

Thanks, Jan

## Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Food served between  
12.30pm and 1.30pm

Soup of the day

\*\*\*\*

Normandy chicken with vegetables

\*\*\*\*

Sweet surprise

£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



at

Westbury Parish Hall

on

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
at 8pm.

Teams of four at £2 per head

*'Doctor, there's a patient on line one  
that says he's invisible.'*

*'Well, tell him I can't see him right  
now.'*

## Cafe on the Green

Thank you



**M**any thanks to all of you who braved the stormy weather to support the Village Coffee Morning in aid of the Great Western Air Ambulance today. Your generosity raised £134.50, this did include a kind donation.

The Cafe will be back on the 4th February when we will welcome the Riding for the Disabled team with all proceeds going to this worthy charity. *Kay Manning*

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## Vale of Castiard WI

**I**n January, Forest Voluntary Action Forum gave an interesting talk about volunteering opportunities and their work in matching willing helpers to suitable projects. We learned that organisations throughout our area are in need of volunteers and there are opportunities for everyone, no matter what their interests or abilities.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15 February, at 7.30pm in the Old Schoolroom at Flaxley, where Lauren Sagar will be giving a talk called "Can't draw, Won't draw". Visitors are always welcome, £4.50.

For more information, please contact our President, Gill Western on 07879 532060 or Secretary Karen Johnson on 01452 760970.

## Northwood Green Gardening Club

**O**ur January meeting was very well attended and members heard a fascinating talk by Perry Sladen about his venture in growing grapes in Oakle Street. We all enjoyed sampling the sparkling wine that he brought to demonstrate the fruits of his labours!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9 February, at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Emily Harper from the Hedgehog Rescue Centre in Frampton on Severn will tell us about the benefits



hedgehogs bring to our garden, how to make our garden

hedgehog friendly and what to do if we think our hedgehogs are in trouble. Non-members £3. Annual membership £12.

On Sunday 5 March we will be visiting Home Farm in Huntley, a very popular garden at this time of year. The garden is open from 11am to 4 pm. Entry £3.50.

Please contact

karen.f.johnson@btinternet.com or call 01452 760970 for more information.

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## 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!

31<sup>st</sup> March - Churchdown Male Voice Choir at Westbury-on-Severn Church

8<sup>th</sup> July - Church Fete

2nd/3<sup>rd</sup> December - Christmas Tree Festival

We hope you can join us at these events.

## Church News

### FAMILY SERVICE

We are staying on at Northwood Green Church GL14 1AN for our service on Sunday 19th February at 10am  
GOD LOVES YOU; GOD LOVES ME just as we are

I do look forward to seeing you, come along and discover what God knows about us! And enjoy a snack after the service.  
*Rev Sarah*

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

#### PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY 2023

1 <sup>st</sup>	63	Simon Phelps	£50
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	Alison Edginton	£20
3 <sup>rd</sup>	15	Sue Sterry	£10

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

west-  
burychurchfriends21@gmail.com

## Cosy Community Coffee

at Flaxley Schoolroom  
Every Wednesday morning  
until 29th March  
9.30 until 12.30  
Light meal at 12 Noon  
Tel: 07756468563  
or just turn up.

## Westbury on Severn Parish Church Friends



at Northwood Green Social  
Hall

FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY  
7PM FOR 7.30 START

BYOB\* Raffle Nibbles

Bingo cards £2 each

Prizes for winning cards

Raising vital funds for replacement  
wiring in

Westbury-on-Severn St Mary St Peter &  
St Paul Church

Please call Jo on 07946664514 if you  
would like to reserve a table.

**\*Bring your own Booze**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February –  
7.30pm

NWG Social Hall

*Puddings Ancient & Modern*

For all those who love homemade dessert  
- we have just the evening for you.

Come & indulge in a selection of home-  
made desserts before Lent begins. This is  
a fundraiser for NG Social Hall.

Booking essential, with Ann and Kay  
Manning on 01452 760454, by 11<sup>th</sup> Feb  
latest, cost £8/head including coffee/tea  
Come along with empty tummies & a  
large spoon. Bring family and friends,  
and if you wish something to drink.

You will need to book, as places are go-  
ing like hot cakes.....or warm apple pies!





**Memory Café - on  
Tuesday  
14th February  
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.

**11.00am Arrival and enjoy a cuppa and a cake**

**11.30am Activities provided by Mindscape tutors**

**12.30pm Soup and rolls served.**

**1.15 Finish**

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

**Call: 07926 986 247 to find out more**

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!**

### **Wildlife in our Churchyard**

As you know, the Heritage Lottery Fund gave generous funding for our church spire and in return requested that the closed churchyard should be nurtured as a wildlife area. For the last four years, the volunteers on our monthly working parties have been striving towards this and more recently, James Walkley-Cox has been caring for the churchyard with the same aim. Our January working party had to be cancelled because of bad

weather but, weather permitting, we shall have another go on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 10am until 1pm.

In the meantime, James has written the following about the wildlife that he has seen in the churchyard and we hope that, even in winter, you might like to have a walk around and see for yourself.

#### **Birds**

While there is not so much avian activity in the winter, the wonderfully entertaining jackdaws are year-round residents and will be seen squabbling in the large fir or foraging on the ground for insects. The abundance of mistletoe, holly, ivy and yew berries throughout the churchyard means the thrush family is well represented and in winter, the usual blackbirds and song thrushes are often joined by a mistle thrush, which always seems more



*A mistle thrush*

intent on guarding the berries than actually eating them. The trademark drill-like *churr* call can be heard when-

ever another bird dares to land anywhere near fruit that the mistle thrush has claimed as his own. After the first redwings and fieldfares arrive, usually in mid-November, the poor thing is outnumbered and inevitably has to admit defeat.

The corvid family are well represented in the churchyard. Alongside the jackdaws, rooks, magpies and carrion crows are regular visitors. I've seen jay in the churchyard too. Overhead you can add to the list with a raven if your luck is in – the jackdaw will let you know they are about as they rise up to defend their territory. Listen out for the raven's distinctive honk of annoyance.

The skies over the churchyard are well worth watching. Alongside the raven there is a chance of sparrowhawk, buzzard, red kite and kestrel (one of which roosted in the churchyard over the winter of 2021). Others I have observed over the winter churchyard include heron, cormorant, gulls, ducks and geese.

Back on ground level, wood pigeon and collared dove will visit daily. There is a decent list of LBJs (little brown jobs) – dunnock, wren, robin (a great all year round singer too), house sparrow...and some more colourful types too: coal, great, blue and long-tailed tits; pied wagtail (look up to the gutter and roof of the church), goldcrest love the yews' cover (especially the large yew next to the front entrance of the church) and finches – goldfinch, chaffinch, bullfinch and siskin all appear on my churchyard tick list in recent years.

#### **Mammals**

Mice and voles are abundant in the churchyard but are rarely seen in winter – it is too cold and dangerous for them to venture out in the daytime. The grey squirrel is your best chance of a mammal spot (unless you stay late enough for some bat spotting) especially near the oak trees.

#### **Flowers**

January brings the first signs of primrose, lesser celandine and snowdrops. The first primroses tend to break through by the road end of the churchyard by the kissing gate and spread throughout the churchyard into February and March.

*James Walkley-Cox Nature Friendly Gardening Jimwc1974@gmail.com for*

*You never see owls being amorous in the rain. It's too wet to woo.*

*Why didn't the rabbit want to leave her burrow?*

*She was having a bad hare day!*

### **Philip Woodman**

17.12.71— 7.1.23



Westbury Church was barely big enough to hold all those who came to celebrate Philip's all too short life, and the wonderful tributes paid to him by his family summed up why we were all there. His love of life, learning and laughter, together with a smile that could light up a room, were qualities which we all knew him for.

Philip lived all his life on Broken Cross Farm and went to Westbury School and, later, Kings School, which led to his life-long love of cathedrals. He became an active member of Westbury Young Farmers where he developed numerous skills including public speaking and flower arranging. This was an unusual hobby for a teenage boy at that time but he had found it a very good way to meet girls!

Having studied at Hartpury and worked on the family farm, Phil became a landscape gardener and then an agricultural lecturer at Hartpury, where he found his true vocation. Messages received by his family from his former students show that he was 'a brilliant teacher', 'a true gentleman', 'a brilliant laugh' and 'an absolute legend'.

Philip was also active in the local community, serving as school governor for many years and remaining a member of the PCC and the Parish Council up until his death.

When Philip had a stroke three years ago,

his life changed dramatically but the stroke did not change who he was as a person. His determination to get better, his wonderful sense of humour and his ability to look on the bright side, were truly inspiring and while he had lost so much, he never lost sight of what he still had.

Much has been said about his love of life, but most of all he loved his family and his children Tom, Emily and Wilf were his pride and joy. His time spent with them gave him great happiness and they will always cherish all the wonderful memories that he gave them. We will all miss him very much and our hearts go out to his family who have lost such a wonderful husband, father, son, brother.

*Di Landon*

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### December Weather

**I**n December, a cold spell with the temperature dropping to -11.5C on the coldest night on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> was followed by an unusually dramatic rise in temperature with the temperature reaching 11C on both 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This coincided with three days of rain with 17mm of rain on the wettest day, the 20<sup>th</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> December was another wet day with 16.5mm and the total rainfall for the month was 111.5mm. Eighteen nights of frost were recorded and snow fell on 11<sup>th</sup> and sleet on 18<sup>th</sup>.

Last month, we mentioned a saying about the weather on St. Paul's Day (25th) which states that "if misty, it predicts great dearth" and the bad news is that 25th was, in fact, dull, misty and foggy all day! *Thanks to Simon Phelps for this*

### Weather sayings for February

*Warm February, bad hay crop;  
Cold February, good hay crop.*

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
There will be two winters in the year."*

## SPORT

### Football

**T**he first three matches scheduled for January were postponed but on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, Westbury United travelled to Stratford Park, in Stroud for a Quarter Final County Cup match, against Rodborough Common FC, currently run-away leaders of Stroud Division one. Immediately, one could see why. A tall, fast well drilled eleven, with formidable passing skills and direction, looked awesome.

However, cup football is a strange animal. A side with dogged determination and unswerving purpose can overthrow teams as giant-killer sagas often attest. Imbued with indomitable spirit Westbury kept out every missile and javelin hurled at them. Joe and Alex Maton, the Captain and centre back repulsed wave after wave of attack ably assisted by a workaholic mid field with Morgan and Harry Howells working their socks off. In goal Jay stood firm. Then the most potent striker in the North Gloucestershire league struck. Westbury managed two or three sallies into the Rodborough half and yes Akeen struck.

One nil to the boys from West. Despite more furious attacks and a generous amount of added time from the referee they prevailed. Next stop the semi Final v Minchinhampton at home on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Be there. Massive congratulations to Manager Derek Palmer. *Clive Tempest*

### Cricket

**S**o the 2023 Season is underway! (Yes, already!!)

Well done to the Ladies who played their first Indoor Softball League match against Hatherley on 8<sup>th</sup> January. They may not have won but it was a great performance to start the year!!

On 15th January, on Week Two of the Ladies Indoor League, Westbury had a close loss to Newent and a convincing win against Ruardean Hill. Really well done to all of the ladies who played so well.

If you are not sure you want to play but would like to be involved, we are always looking for scorers to help us out!



## Rugby

The Westbury on Severn RFC barmy army travelled to a very claggy Gloucester Old Boys RFC 2's in a merit table clash on 7<sup>th</sup> January. Unfortunately GOB had their first team game cancelled at the 11th hour, but on the plus side this provided a capacity crowd...& a few subs.

The game started after an inspirational monologue from Capt Robbie Pritchard reminding the gathered crew that an aerial attack was imminent...it was in the form of H<sub>2</sub>O from above! The first half was a knock for knock, end to end affair, finally bookended with mercurial 50 ...30... 20...10 ...inch...individual try from our very own DOR Matty 'the turkey' Hart.....converted excellently by fly half coach Rychknyx McKenzie...only to be matched & cancelled out by a GOB try 2 mins later and so half time saw the GOB

going in 10 -7 up.

The second half saw some wholesale changes from the hosts including two old Westbury lags in Aled Halford-Tuffley & ex captain Paddy Hinds lining up against the blue & white army. West defended well and fought their corner (end) & suffered a few injuries to boot including Max Kaufmann (braveheart) sustaining a head wound & the twins having to attend GRH for a dislocated shoulder and a head knock ....heal well boys. GOB went on to score a couple of good tries in the less than summery second half weather, at a speed that showed their league fitness - the game ending 25 -7 to GOB.

A great day on and off the field. A big thanks G O B for the hospitality a n d , as the saying goes,



'it's the game that counts'. It was also great to see ex Old Cryptians RFC legend Jason Norwood giving pitch-side advice to the talented youth helping out at GOB.

The matches versus Bream RFC Bulldogs on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and Bredon Star RFC 2nds on 21st Jan were cancelled due to pitch conditions but on 28th Jan, Westbury travelled to play Old Patesians RFC and were 31-10 down at half time, the match being well and truly won by the home side.

*Simon Roberts*

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