

## Westbury's Easter Eggstravaganza



*Crafts and some tricky egg catching at the Easter Monday Funday*



*Many thanks to Dave Brewer for the eggs*

The Easter Monday Funday was a family event that was intended to be just that – a day of fun that didn't cost a fortune – and so it was. Unfortunately the weather was not in line with our vision of families picnicking on the grass in the sunshine and so the picnics had to be eaten in the Hall, but there was plenty for the children to do inside. With tables of art and craft materials and little cakes to decorate, there were plenty of creative opportunities as well as a chance to win a prize guessing how many Easter eggs were in the jar and where on a pirate's

map lay the buried treasure. Once the rain stopped, the children were able to set off on the Easter egg trail around the Hall grounds and also try out their egg catching skills. There was some very impressive throwing and catching on display and Hugo and Oscar and James and Jack managed to keep their (raw) eggs unbroken in spite of being hurled a considerable distance. Izzy deservedly won the Easter bonnet competition and Dylan won the prize for finding the buried treasure, but all the children won something and had a good time.



**T**he rain lashing down all evening had not deterred a good number of us from attending the April Parish Hall meeting. In keeping with the dreary weather, the meeting started off with the rather gloomy news from Jan D'Am-brogio (Chair) that the Hall's recent Electrical Installation Condition report, that is a requirement for the insurance, had been 'unsatisfactory'. Although there was nothing immediately risky, some work needs to be done to bring it up to the required standard, and this must be done within the next two months. Jan has spoken to the electrician and so the work is in hand.

**Treasurer's Report** Sarah Mitten had sent her apologies but had circulated the accounts which were agreed and signed.

**Severndipity (Bar) Report** The Severndipity Club had not met since the last Hall meeting so Gen Riley did not have much to report. There was some general discussion about the issues arising from bookings for 18<sup>th</sup> birthday parties, with their associated risk of underage drinking, and some prevention strategies were suggested, including stringent checking of IDs. The Severndipity Club Annual General Meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Fundraising Report** Jan reported that the Easter Monday Funday had been successful in spite of the heavy rain that arrived just as it began. Lots of families came along and enjoyed all the activities on offer and there were enough dry spells between the showers for them to enjoy the outdoor egg trail and egg catching as

well. The next big events are linked to the Coronation (see opposite page)

**Doctor's Surgery** Gen Riley reported that she was still waiting to hear about a face to face appointment regarding a new lease.

**Any Other Business** Gen Riley also reported that 25 children had come along to the Youth Project's recent taster session. Nikki Edginton, on behalf of the Cricket Club, asked for some documentation in support of a grant application and Tim Smith, on behalf of Westbury Players, offered to replace the small number of Hall tables that have shorter legs than the others, as these sometimes cause problems when setting up rows of tables for events. So, after a shorter meeting than some, we adjourned to the bar.

*Di Landon*

#### **Nosh and Natter**

#### **Westbury Parish Hall**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

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

**Soup of the Day**  
\*\*\*

**Quiche Lorraine and Salad**  
\*\*\*\*

**Chocolate Brownie and Ice Cream**

**£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**



Litterpickers will meet at 10am at the Parish Hall or Northwood Green Social Hall

**Severndipity Club at  
 Westbury on Severn Parish Hall  
 Notice of Annual General  
 Meeting**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an Annual General Meeting of the Committee will be held at Westbury on Severn Parish Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm

**\* Coronation Day**

**W**hen we planned our Coronation Day events, we thought that the Coronation was taking place in the afternoon, whereas we now find that the service starts at 11am! So, having watched the Coronation on TV at home (or not, as the case may be), please come and join us around 3pm for the other two Cs—the celebratory cream tea and the cricket.

## HELP !

The Street Warden Team have recently been out to this huge fly tip at the bottom of Hunthill, before Grange Court Road. It contained builders waste, roofing tiles, guttering, wood batons and general waste, including carpets, clothing, toys, food waste, nappies. If you've had any work done recently and recognise any items, or if you have any further information about this fly tip, please email the Street Warden Team at [Street.Wardens@fdean.gov.uk](mailto:Street.Wardens@fdean.gov.uk).



## REMINDER

### Local Elections

**Thursday 4 May 2023**

**Don't forget that you need to  
take photo ID with you**

\*\*\*

### District Council Candidates

The following persons have been nominated:

Name of Candidate	Address of Candidate	Description (if any)
BOWEN Suzanne Patricia	Little Cugley Farm, Newent, Glos, GL18 1JX	The Conservative Party Candidate
PHELPS Simon Charles	Boseley Cottage, Blaisdon Road, Westbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, GL14 1LT	Independent

### Uncontested Parish Council Election

Councillors duly elected without a contest Pamela Ensor, Debbie Hill, Alan Hyett, Diana Landon, Simon Phelps, Peter Radley, Benjamin Stephens and Michael Townsend.

## Parish Council

A couple of parish councillors had sent their apologies for the April Parish council meeting and our County Councillor Philip Robinson was also unable to attend. With no members of the public there either, we were therefore soon onto planning matters.

### Planning

First on the list was the proposal for ground mounted photovoltaic panels and associated works at Gravel Farm in Cleeve. The developers, Murray Planning Associates Ltd, were to have come to talk about the proposal at a public meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March but had to cancel this due to Covid. Fiona had tried to arrange another meeting but this had not been possible, which we felt was very regrettable as we would like Westbury parishioners to have had a chance to say what they think about this plan, as it covers such a large area (47.5 hectares or 117.375 acres). Generally speaking, we would wish to support the use of renewable energy, but after some discussion, the majority of us agreed to object to this application on the grounds that it would be situated on productive agricultural land and that it would be detrimental to the landscape. We felt that solar panels should be placed on the roofs of buildings or on brown field sites rather than on agricultural land and a glance at some of the 131 other documents linked to this application suggest that neighbouring parish councils feel the same.

Also on the list was an application for the erection of extensions and a double garage at Cricklade in Stantway Lane to which we had no objections, and an application for an extension and side porch at Riverdene Cottage in New Rd, Flaxley, which we supported. There were also no objections to the application for an agri-



cultural building at Woodland View, Northwood Green or the erection of a two storey side extension, single storey side extension, garage and parking area at The Cottage, Jordan Hill.

Fiona then reported that the earlier applications for a single storey rear extension at Oak Barn at Poulton Court Farm and the use of agricultural land as domestic garden at Pound Farm, Chaxhill had been granted

**Finance** After agreeing the accounts, we talked about the request from James



*A kestrel that James photographed in the churchyard*

Walkley-Cox that we purchase a kestrel box which James will put up and maintain in the churchyard. We felt that this would

be quite a boost to our efforts to nurture the churchyard as a haven for wildlife and agreed to go ahead with this and James will consult with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as to the best position for it.

Last month, we decided to defer our donation to Lydcare as we had no local drivers to provide their community care service in Westbury. Since then, we have heard that a local driver is getting in touch with Lydcare and so we agreed to look at the donation request again if and when a local service is resumed.

**Highways** I don't think I can remember a single Parish Council meeting where the poor state of the roads and the need for pot holes to be filled has not come up for discussion. Our Chairman, Simon Phelps, spends many an hour on the phone to the Highways Department but there are never

any quick fixes, and the large amount of rain combined with freezing conditions in December and March has apparently made matters even worse. However, Simon has now managed to arrange for the local Highways manager, together with our County Councillor, to come and meet him for a drive around all our lanes next month so that they can see how bad they are.

**Burial Ground Extension** The grass on the new school playing is growing well and has had its first cut of the season. It has still not been possible to agree the new lease and rent with the County Council as Fiona has not been able to get any response from the Council staff member responsible, but she will chase this again.

**Play Area** The wetpour surface needs some repairs but dry weather is needed so this may have to wait a bit longer.

#### **Around the Parish**

The stile on the footpath at Adsett has not yet been fixed but the landowner is aware.

An application is under way for the World War Two watchtower adjoining Walmore Common to become a listed building and English Heritage has requested more information about it.

Simon Phelps reported that there are numerous ongoing problems connected to Severn Trent utilities including long standing issues at Acres Corner in Northwood Green and at Stantway.

Debbie Hill has done a great job updating all the necessary information for the Parish Council Emergency Plan and will now submit it to the Forest of Dean District Council.

This year, we are timing our Spring Litterpick to coincide with the Coronation Big Help Out on the morning of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Bags, litterpickers and high viz jackets will be available to pick up from the Parish Hall or Northwood Green Social Hall from 10am and

we would welcome as many volunteers as possible. Ben Stephens agreed, on behalf of Young Farmers, to collect the full bags and bring them to the Parish Hall.

Parking problems at Stantway have been reported, especially in Rock Lane. Fiona has requested photos which she can then send to Two Rivers Housing. There is still no news about the future of Westbury Court, but the garden furniture has now been donated to the church and will be used for serving teas in the churchyard during the summer.

#### **Other matters**

The Local Government Boundary Commission is conducting a consultation about the number of seats on the County Council. After a short discussion, we agreed to recommend that the current number should not be reduced as this would overload County Councillors who often represent numerous parishes. Philip Robinson, for example, represents ten other parishes as well as Westbury, so trying to attend all their Parish Council meetings as well as fulfil County Council duties must already be quite onerous.

There will be no election of parish councillors this year as we only have eight councillors at present, who have all agreed to continue, but we should have nine. Rather worryingly for the future of local democracy, there are very few parish councils in Gloucestershire where seats are contested and an election is needed.

The next Parish Council meeting is also the Annual Parish Meeting and will be starting at 6.30pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

*Di Landon*

Blaisdon Road will be closed for a short distance near Boseley Mill Farm from 5/6/23 to 9/6/23 to carry out bridge repairs. If you require any further information regarding this closure, please contact [streetworks@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:streetworks@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## **Churchyard Working Party**

**A**s we had hoped, the sun shone for our April working party in the churchyard, and all our past efforts paid off as we spent the morning in the sunshine surrounded by masses of wildflowers.



*The carpet of cowslips in the churchyard*

We were able to make an early start on deterring the nettles and ivy, but we also enjoyed meeting up again and having a chat over our coffee and cakes! Our next session will be on

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May between 10am and 1pm**

We welcome anyone who cares to come along to see what we do or lend a hand.

*Di Landon*

---

## **Church News**

**I** do hope you can come and join us at **WESTBURY CHURCH** for our **FAMILY SERVICE** on **Sunday 21st May at 10am** to welcome in God's new creation and play a part in that as well!

We'll be planting and growing, singing, praying and enjoying cake and coffee afterwards. See you then or get in touch with Rev Sarah 01594 517157

## Cafe on the Green

**T**hank you to all that attended the Cafe on Saturday 1st April, no April Fools here as there was a wonderful range of goodies on offer. Many thanks to the village bakers and everybody that helped in any way, and the Social Hall was buzzing with the joys of Spring despite the somewhat rainy weather.



Just a reminder that there will be no Cafe on the Green on May 6th, as it clashed with a 'Right Royal Do' - but why not come along and celebrate the Coronation with a community picnic on the Green in the afternoon. Please see the lovely colourful posters in the village for details. The Cafe Team will be back on Saturday 3rd June, when we will be supporting Gloucester Samaritans

## Vale of Castiard W I

**O**ur next meeting is on Wednesday 18th May, at 7.30pm in the Flaxley Schoolroom. Paul Barnett will talk to us about the Wye Bridge Disaster. Visitors are always welcome, £5 entry.

**'Sing 2 Remember'** is a community group run by Gloucestershire-based charity Mindsong, and we meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 2pm at Lydney Community Centre. The free-to-attend sessions give a range of people, not just those living with dementia, a chance to come together and experience feelings of community and friendship through singing.



**Memory Café -  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
2023**

**T**he 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 from 11.00am—1.15 Refreshments provided.

**There is no charge for attending this event so pop along and join us. For further information: Call:07926 986 247**

**The centre 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!**

*Our April activity was painting poppies, which we really enjoyed, and we were all pleasantly surprised at how well they*



## Northwood Green Gardening Club

**O**ur next meeting is on  
**Thursday 11th May,**  
when Keith Smith will give a talk on  
**Judging, Growing and Propagating  
Chrysanthemums**

He will cover fuchsias and dahlias too, and will bring plants for us to buy. Keith is also happy to answer any questions about growing vegetables. This should give us all the information we need to make an impact at the Westbury Show!

The meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Visitors £3, annual membership £12.

On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th May, our very popular annual plant sale will be held at The Glen, Adsett GL14 1PH, from 10am until 4pm each day. The sale will be manned on the Saturday and on Sunday will operate on an honesty box system.

Please contact Karen Johnson for more information - telephone 07879386573 or email [karenfayjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:karenfayjohnson@gmail.com).

## March Weather

**M**arch seems to have been a month of contrasts with the temperature reaching 17C on 30<sup>th</sup>, the warmest day, but dropping to -5C on the coldest night which was 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>. There were six frosty nights and we had snow on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and sleet on 11<sup>th</sup>. After having the driest February for 30 years, it should come as no surprise to us that there were 24 rainy days in March, the wettest day being the 9<sup>th</sup>, and a total of 127.5mm of rain during the month. This was a lot more than we had in March last year when the month's total rainfall was only 51mm.

Thanks to Simon Phelps for these figures. Many English sayings about the weather are understandably linked to agriculture, so 'A wet May and a fine June makes the farmer whistle a merry tune' and 'A wet and windy May fills the barn with corn and hay' suggest that we should be hoping for plenty of rain, but I think most of us would hope for a fair number of warm, sunny days too. According to the old lore 'If it rains on 1<sup>st</sup> May, it will rain twenty days during the month' - we'll see!

---

## Youth Project

**Y**outh Project is back and following our taster session on Thursday 30th March we are delighted to say we have 26 members, 12 from 2022 production of Dreams and Nightmares, and so a lovely turnout of new starters from 8 to 15 years.

We have begun to think about ideas for our theme this year of 'All over the World'. We talked about the countries the young people have travelled to themselves and how we can incorporate this in the show in November. This week we also made fondant toppers to fairy cakes, to start creative ideas flowing.

Thanks to all parents and leaders for your invaluable support, that will make Westbury on Severn Youth Project thrive again in 2023.

Nicola Atkinson Chairman 07972 761345





## Church Friends

What is the perfect antidote for a horrible wet evening? Listening to some fantastic singing by the Churchdown Male Voice Choir which is exactly what 90 people were treated to on the night of the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The fundraising event was organised by Westbury Church Friends. With some familiar faces amongst the grey blazers (the man of many talents Pete Wilson and the ex-Westbury footballer Dave Cox)

Ralph Barnes, Musical Director, conducted the Choir in some fabulous renditions of "World in Union", "Amazing Grace", "Do You Hear the People Sing" among others, and then the audience were treated to Jeff Bourton signing the classic Les Miserables "Bring Him Home". After a well-earned interval, the Choir began again with more musical numbers "Love Changes Everything", "The Lord's My Shepherd" and "And So It Goes" and this time Ralph provided solo musicality, singing the beautiful



*Churchdown Male Voice Choir, conducted by Ralph Barnes*



*James Quinn*

"Gwahoddidat". The final number of the night "Nessun Dorma" was very well received and the audience clamoured for more, where the Choir duly complied with a resounding rendition of "Morte Christe". The Choir were faultlessly accompanied by James Quinn throughout the evening. A thoroughly enjoyable evening

came to a close for most of the audience with a good old raffle.

Those of us lucky enough to take a slight detour from the journey home to The Lyon were treated to some more singing (which I am

reliably informed is known by performers as the afterglow) from

Members of the Choir, along with some good natured conversations.

Westbury Church Friends would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who attended the event and to those generous people who provided some brilliant raffle prizes and sponsorship for the programme. Please do keep an eye out for future fundraising events as we are building funds up to help pay towards the rewiring of the Church.

*Jo Barry*



## Sports News

### Football

Westbury United's run in the Minor County League Cup culminated in an exciting final played at Bishops Cleeve FC All Weather pitch under floodlights (most of the time) against high flying Lakeside FC Reserves, who currently top the Cheltenham Premier Division.

Although widely unfancied to win, given their lowly league position and the unavailability of some key players due to the competition rules, Westbury weathered the early storm with keeper Jay Brown looking secure and a back four of Jamie Ward, Gary Morgan, Alex Maton and Joe Denning putting in a series of tackles, headers and some scrambling interceptions.

They then began to get into the game after the nerves settled. Playing in front of a large crowd, and a mainly hostile one at that, they soon began to make some in-roads with Ackeen Wright, probably the player of the season and certainly top goal scorer, began to torment the Lakeside defence. Eventually Wright found a gap and wriggled into the penalty box and rounded the keeper, who had no option

but to bring him down, and the referee instantly pointed to the spot. Lewis Cromwell calmly despatched the spot kick to give Westbury a 1-0 lead after only 20 minutes.

The rest of the half was evenly fought out



*Lewis Cromwell being congratulated by Ackeen Wright and Andrew Cueto after scoring from the penalty spot.*

with excellent performances all round, particularly in defence. Tom Glover, Andrew Cueto and Morgan Shellam also showed commitment and some deft touches in midfield. Harry Howells bravely managed to keep going despite being laid low during the week with a chest infection.

In the second half, Lakeside FC redoubled their efforts, and eventually found the back of the net via a goalmouth scramble which wasn't entirely visible to

your correspondent. At 1-1 the Lakeside supporters went wild with joy, not entirely in a positively spirited sort of way but there you go.

Unfortunately for Westbury, Lakeside then brought on some substitutes who changed the game with some direct skilful running which eventually resulted in a stunning volley from a quick break which gave Brown no chance.

The Lakeside fans got behind their team loudly, and in a couple of instances leading one to think that had it been a Hannibal Lecter movie and Anthony Hopkins did his stuff on some of them, then the audience would conclude that "Well, he shouldn't do that, but on the other hand..." Sadly the pressure continued, even after a breather when the floodlights all went off for a few minutes for some reason and with 10 minutes to go Lakeside got a deserved third as three Westbury defenders, despite manfully hacking away at the ball and anything close by were unable to dispossess the Lakeside attacker who managed to muscle the ball over the line. However, Westbury acquitted themselves with pride and in a post match press conference President Clive Tempest paid tribute to the work of the management team and the players for their commitment and efforts throughout the season. They will need to "concentrate on the league" and, rather confusingly have another semi - final to play (different competition) on the 27th April.

*Mark Landon*

## Rugby

On 15<sup>th</sup> April, Westbury on Severn RFC took on Smiths Rugby 2's at the Prince of Wales Stadium. It was a tough day at the office for the boys in purple (due to a colour clash). A well

drilled Smiths side saw them cruise to the end. However the score didn't reflect the competitive game that played out - some great attacking phases led to a well earned meat pie for VC Max Kaufmann that was to be WoS's only score. Captain



Robbie Pritchard said "I couldn't fault our defence, the boys gave it their all and got rid of the cobwebs - ready for the cup game next week"

Result - Smiths RFC United 43 Westbury on Severn 7.

Westbury played Drybrook IIIs in the Forest of Dean Combination Cup Semi-final on 22<sup>nd</sup> April – but apparently they lost—score unknown.

**Westbury on Severn RFC AGM is on the 2nd May at 7pm at the Parish Hall**

The Westbury on Severn RFC end of season meal & presentation evening is on **12th May 2023 at 7PM**, and is a great chance to gather, have some food, a beer (0% available) & regale old war stories.

The meal will be around £10 per head - let's please get some numbers in attendance - if last year was anything to go by it'll be a good do - we need numbers for the caterer - add your intention to the app or let Max Kaufmann know.



## Cricket

### Juniors



We would like to start by saying a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2022 season. It was a great season with some lovely weather and we certainly made the best of it. We hope that all the juniors enjoyed the training sessions and league cricket that we played.

2023 is going to be an exciting year with the club celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be lots of celebrations happening and opportunities for the juniors to get involved in all aspects of club life.

A date for the diary is 25<sup>th</sup> August when we are planning a parents vs juniors match. Then on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August there will be an 'old vs new' players match with lots of festivities for everyone to get involved with. More details will follow during the season.

#### **Newnham and Westbury Under 15's team**

After a very successful first year of our Newnham/Westbury collaboration we are pleased to announce that we will be continuing to work together for the coming season. The U15's will continue to train on a Friday evening at the Westbury ground with their matches being played on the Newnham ground.

There has been a huge amount of work happening at the Newnham ground to get both the club house and the pitch ready for the new season. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been helping to do the work at Newnham including the Archery club who have been doing amazing work in the Club house.

In more exciting news, we are starting a 3<sup>rd</sup> team as part of our Senior club this season and matches will take place at the Newnham ground. It is the next step for

U15's and we are excited to see this happen as it will enable them to take that step from junior to adult cricket. If any parents would like to play some games or know anyone who would like to get involved, please let us know. Everyone is welcome!  
*The WOS and Newnham Junior cricket coaching team*

## Adults

Westbury were due to travel to Shurdington for the first pre-season match of the year on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, but unfortunately the match had to be abandoned due to the weather. Another pre-season match against Frocester is due to be played at 1pm on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> April and then the season begins on 6<sup>th</sup> May with the 1sts at home against Langford, the 2nds away at Witcombe and the 3rds due to play Woodpeckers 2nds at Newnham.

We are delighted that Ross Martin will be our lead coach for the 2023 season.

Ross is a level 3 qualified coach who has played at the highest amateur levels and spent this winter playing in Australia. Last September Ross featured in the National Village Cup Final at Lords where he was player of the match.

Ross brings a wealth of playing and coaching experience and to a club that he loves. Ross will be supported by other qualified coaches and senior players. This is a fantastic opportunity to help all players develop so let's get behind Ross and the club for what's going to be an exciting season.

Editor: Andrew Landon  
Everything else: Di Landon  
diana.landon12@gmail.com  
Hayden Farm, Rodley, Westbury-on-Severn  
GL14 1RE  
01452 760531