

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious



The cast of Westbury School Drama Club's production of Mary Poppins

The Parish Hall was filled to the brim the first weekend in July, as the children of Westbury-on-Severn Primary School's drama club performed in Mary Poppins. The production was, like Mary Poppins herself, 'practically perfect in every way' as children from Year 3 to Year 6 sang, danced and acted their socks off. Thanks to all who came to clap and cheer the children in their two sell-out performances, which have raised vital funds for the school.

Leanne Roseblade-Bargh SENDco / Oak Class (Y4/5/6) Senior Teacher

What a wonderful evening, as always. The children put so much energy and enthusiasm into their roles that every year it is a joy to watch their show, and this year was no exception.

But we know that they are not the only ones who put heart and soul into producing an evening like this, so thanks and congratulations to the staff, parents and friends who helped with all the different aspects of producing these performances. Looking forward to next year's already.

Di Landon



Our July Parish Hall meeting was held in the main hall, which meant that we were all able to see how much better it looks for its fresh coat of paint before we got on with the business of the evening. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the June meeting so we then went straight to the . .

Treasurer's Report Sarah Mitten had circulated the accounts for the year so far and advised us that the Hall's finances are fairly stable. The greatest concern is the high cost of the Hall's utilities and Jan D'Ambrogio has been doing considerable research to find the best possible rates and has now got a new contract at a cheaper rate. Jan is also trying to get a smart meter installed to help identify where economies could be made. It was agreed that notices should be on display reminding hall users to turn off any unnecessary lighting.

Hall maintenance A lot of the electrical work that was required has been completed, at a cost of over £2000, but there is still more to be done in order to comply with legislation and insurance requirements and estimates for this work are being obtained.

Discussion of all this highlighted the enormous amount of time and effort that Jan puts in to her role as Chairperson, especially as she also takes all the bookings and does a huge amount on the fundraising side as well. In view of her stated intention of standing down at the next AGM, it seems highly unlikely that anyone else will want to take on this role

unless the work is more evenly shared among the rest of us on the Hall Management committee and by the wider community. A mixture of people is needed including those with up-to-date and practical knowledge and skills and those who are available during the day when it is necessary to open the Hall for hirers and contractors, for example. It was agreed that Jan will make a list of all the jobs that she does so that we can look at how best to share them out.

Doctor's surgery Gen Riley was not at the meeting to update us on any progress with the lease. An approach has been made to the Parish Council to see if any financial help might be available to help with the costs involved in providing a separate electrical supply for the surgery.

Projects As agreed last month, the various projects on the list are to be kept on hold until the more pressing electrical works have been completed and paid for.

Severndipity (Bar) report Val Morgan-Townsend reported that the regular bars were doing better than this time last year and that there had been a couple of extra events that had produced good bar takes.

Fundraising Jan reported that there had been twenty bookings for stalls at the recent Craft Fair but there had been a lot of late cancellations. However, there were nine excellent stalls which did well. A profit was also made on the refreshments – bacon butties and home-made cakes always go down well!



Stalls set up for the Craft Fair

Fundraising will be having a break in August, but schedules are out for the

Flower and Produce Show on Sunday 3rd September and there will be a Rod Stewart Tribute Night on Sat 9th September.

Other Business Mike Edginton has been trying to find a good time to fill the pot-holes in the Hall car park but occasions that he is available when the car park is empty are few and far between. Clive Tempest shared the good news that Westbury AFC will be starting a reserves team following their successful 2022-23 season . . . and on that positive note, the meeting ended. *Di Landon*

Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall

Thursday 10th August 2023

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm

Soup of the day

Gammon with cheesy potatoes and
vegetables

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



SAVE THE DATE!



And book now for





Westbury Players

Westbury Players have been busy cleaning up the container that houses all their costumes. More work is needed on it, but Act 1 is complete



Summer is also the traditional time for us to have our American Supper and so we had a very pleasant evening catching up with each other and enjoying great food and good company.



Parish Council

We had a full complement of councillors at the July Parish Council meeting including our newly co-opted councillor, Richard Hewlett, who was warmly welcomed. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and there were no members of the public present so our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, was invited to give his report so that he could move on to another meeting.

As cabinet member for Economy, Education and Skills, he wished to let us know that the Adult Education Service, which reaches many adults who missed out on their education the first time round, had recently been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. He was also pleased that the County Council has agreed to spend £16.5m on a school for pupils with special needs in Gloucester. This is not funded by Council Tax but via the Government's Dedicated Schools Grant. The school will provide 200 places for children with learning difficulties, aged four to 16. As well as improving the experience of pupils, it will save money currently spent on out-of-county placements, which can cost as much as £50,000 a year.

We then had a chance to raise various concerns about pot holes and the long grass on local verges which restricts vision for motorists. Philip assured us that as well as a new "pothole buster" there are also eight new teams working on the smaller pot holes in the county. Richard Hewlett mentioned a recent road closure in Rodley, which had caused inconvenience for drivers, but did not get the pot holes filled because it rained.

Planning The application for the erection of a detached dwelling on land north of The Tynings at Walmore Hill had been withdrawn and an application for change of use of a disused farm building to workshops at Leycott Farm met with no objec-

tions. Gloucestershire Highways had applied for permission to pollard the two



lime trees in the village which we supported. Fiona updated us on an earlier application regarding Thistlemoor in Church Lane,

which had been granted.

Finance The monthly accounts were agreed and signed.

Highways As mentioned last month, Chairman Simon Phelps had been in touch with Severn Trent about the manhole covers in the village and had asked them to make it a priority. The noise made as traffic passes over them both day and night must be really irritating to those living nearby. When there was no sign of them being replaced, Simon had to get in touch with the CEO of Severn Trent but has now been told they will be dealt with overnight on 24th July. So hopefully, by the time you read this, peace will have been restored in the village! It is understood that the replacements may be an improved type, as this has been a recurring problem. Since Simon's tour of the village with Highways representatives, lots of white markings around potholes have appeared so we hope that these will be fixed in the near future. There were also reports of the footway at Broadoak having become overgrown and an unruly hedge causing a problem on the A4151.

Burial Ground Extension

Agreement has now been reached with the County Council regarding an increase in the rent to be paid for the school's enlarged playing field, and this is to be reviewed in five years time. Our thanks go to our County Councillor for his support in this matter. Locks have now been

requested for the gates. It is good to see that the grass is growing well on the new playing field and it has now had two or three cuts.

Play Area The picnic table was badly damaged recently and Simon from Severn Valley Woodworks advised that it is beyond repair and kindly offered to give us a new one. The picnic area with its table has been used and enjoyed so much over the last few years that we are all very grateful to the Woodworks for this donation. Michael Townsend has been in touch with the Community Payback team and they have agreed to repaint the two seats, clean the wetpour surface and trim the play area boundary.

Footpaths Some bridge repairs have been carried out but a stile is needed over a new gate on the footpath near the Smokery.

Climate Change I shared information from the Forest Climate Network regarding an organisation being developed by local authorities, including the FoD District Council, which aims to increase understanding and awareness for homeowners about the benefits of having a lower carbon home and how best to achieve this. They are working on a website that will give easy access to information and advice. I am now also representing the Parish Council on the Forest Climate Adaptation and Resilience Project, which aims to prepare communities for changes in the environment due to hotter summers and the increased risk of flooding in winter.

Doctor's Surgery Following last month's request from the Parish Hall committee for some assistance with the costs which have been and will be incurred in ensuring that we keep a doctor's surgery in the parish, Fiona had made enquiries to the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils

(GAPTC) regarding whether the Parish Council could help with this and had been advised that this would be possible if a public meeting indicated that residents supported this. More information regarding the costs involved in installing a separate electricity supply for the surgery building is needed and the Parish Council would be unable to help during the current financial year anyway, so this is something for future consideration.

Community Transport We were pleased to hear that Neil Tappin has now taken on the role of voluntary community driver for Lydcare. Over the years this service has been such a help to those without their own transport and we are so pleased that it is now available again. It was agreed that our annual donation to Lydcare will be resumed in September and our thanks go to Neil for providing this service.

Bus Shelters Fiona is still gathering estimates for the work needed on some of the shelters.

Around the Parish Last month's request for a financial contribution towards the cost of providing a defibrillator for the Elton Area was considered and it was agreed that a donation of £50 would be made towards this.

Other matters The recent response by the Fire Service to a report of a sheep in the river indicated that better access to local knowledge in such circumstances would reduce costs and prove effective. It was felt that this would also have helped with the way that the risk of flooding was treated last winter and Simon Phelps will talk to the County Council and the emergency services about trying to improve communication.

Unless any urgent matters arise, there will be no Parish Council meeting in August and the next meeting will be on **Monday 18th September at 7pm.** *Di Landon*

Jordan Hill Railway Bridge

The recent accident that occurred when a motorcyclist was injured at Jordan Hill railway bridge highlights the dangers of this stretch of road, which are largely due to poor visibility. Westbury Parish Council has been campaigning for at least 16 years to remedy this and last year Simon Phelps attended Network Rail's information event at Awre Village Hall to request that the scrub growth on the railway embankment should be cleared. Following that meeting, he received correspondence from Network Rail that it would attend to the problem during last summer's six week closure of the line for maintenance work at Etloe.



How-
ever,
nothing
was done
and he
has re-
peatedly
chased
Network

Rail and GCC Highways about the problem. GCC Highways has acknowledged the dangers and they intend to improve the signage, but as the Parish Council have discussed on many occasions, the speed limit needs to be extended to the Elton Corner side of Jordan Hill and better road markings are required. GCC Highways have approached Network Rail and stated that they (GCC Highways) are prepared to clear the scrub growth, but Network Rail has refused to allow them access.

When Simon suggested to Network Rail that they clear the embankment themselves during this year's closure of the line for further operations at Etloe, they replied that "scrub clearance would in Network Rail's opinion only

encourage the road traffic to travel faster and therefore make the situation more dangerous."

In a letter that was printed in both The Forester and The Forest Review at the beginning of this month, Simon pointed out the years that Westbury Parish Council have attempted to get both GCC Highways and Network Rail to attend to this matter, and also drew attention to the fact that at some point in the future a serious accident is going to happen resulting in life changing injuries or, worse, still a loss of life.

Update Simon has now had an email from Network Rail, saying they are now "considering " a site meeting to discuss the safety aspects of the situation!

Road and Footpath Closures

Network Rail are planning to close Church Lane to vehicles from 6am on Monday 31 July until 6am on Wednesday 2 August 2023 for work on upgrading the level crossing.

Footpath EWS 63, between Brook Farm and Blaisdon Road, will be closed from 6am on 7th Aug until 5am on 11th Aug (or when the work is finished) for construction work connected to the upgrading of the railway crossing.

Part of Ley Lane will be closed from 4th Sept to 6th Sept for pipe repair by Severn Trent.

Also, Network Rail will be upgrading the railway tracks at Grange Court and apologise for the noise disturbance for those living nearby. They will be working round the clock from Monday 7 – Friday 11 **Aug** and Monday 14 – Friday 18 **Aug** On Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 **August**
Single overnight shift: 12:40am – 8:15am
Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 **Sept**
Single overnight shift: 12:35am – 8:15am

Community Transport

In a parish like Westbury, not being able to drive any longer can make you feel very isolated. Fortunately, we now once again have a volunteer driver who is able to provide transport to the doctor, hospital, dentist or to a social appointment. He gives his time and the use of his vehicle to help others in the local community and the service is co-ordinated by Lydcare.

To book this transport please contact Lydcare's Transport Co-ordinator, Edna on 01594 544414. You can leave a message on voicemail and Edna will respond as soon as possible. There is a standard mileage charge to cover the fuel costs from the driver's home and back again, plus the cost of any parking charges.



This is a really useful service **BUT** we could do with more Lydcare volunteers in Westbury so if you can drive and can spare an hour or two every so often, please have a look at their website <https://www.lydcare.org/> to find out more or ring me on 01452 760531

Di Landon

Churchyard Working Party

Our July working party had to be abandoned due to rain although, needless to say, the sun was shining about an hour later, when we had given up and gone home! The mixed sunshine and showers has meant that everything has been growing rapidly so there will be plenty to do at our next session which will be later in the month than usual, on

Saturday 19th August.

We welcome the help of anyone who would enjoy caring for the wildflowers and wildlife in our ancient churchyard and we will be there from 10am to 1pm (weather permitting) Refreshments are provided.

Di Landon

Northwood Green Gardening Club

We enjoyed a private visit to Highnam Court gardens on 18 July, with an interesting talk and plenty of time to explore the beautiful surroundings. There was a fantastic turn-out, in spite of the rather damp weather., and we were able to retreat into the Orangery for tea and delicious home-made cakes during the heaviest of the showers.

Our regular meetings will resume on Thursday 14 September, when Ken Power will be telling us how to make good, nutrient-packed compost.

Meetings take place at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Visitors welcome.

Please contact Karen Johnson on 07879 386573

or email karenfayjohnson@gmail.com for more information.

Vale of Castiard W.I.

There is no meeting in August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 September, when "Mrs Fishy" will give a talk and demonstration on preparing fish for cooking. The meeting will be in the Flaxley Schoolroom at 7.30pm.

Visitors and new members are always given a warm welcome. Please contact Gill Western, President, on 07879 532050 or Karen Johnson, Secretary, on 07879 386573 for more information.

CAFE ON THE GREEN



Many thanks to all our supporters & helpers who attended the Summer Special Coffee Morning, a total of £132.60 was

raised for Art Shape.

The team will be back on Saturday 5th August, to tempt you to a couple of hours of chatting & munching. We will be raising funds for Westbury Church Fabric Fund.

Not been before, don't worry you will soon be welcomed by the team and catching up on the village gossip - come along and give it a go. We need support to keep it running.

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church Friends 100 Club

PRIZE WINNERS FOR JULY 2023

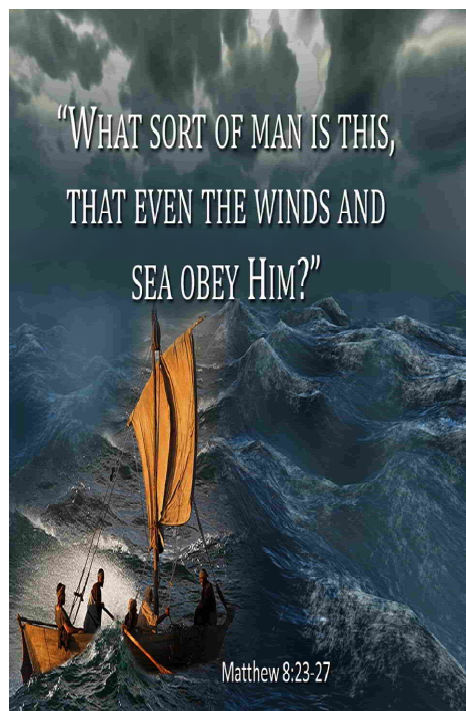
1 st	96	Karen Matthews	£50
2 nd	23	Laura Hardacre	£20
3 rd	3	Clare Down	£10

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. Therefore, please could you renew your numbers for the new year as soon as possible, preferably paying online.

Many thanks for your support of WoSPCF throughout the year as we raise funds for the church to have essential and expensive rewiring work completed at the insistence of the insurers.

WESTBURY CHURCH FAMILY SERVICE SUNDAY 20th AUGUST at 10am



Make a boat and test it on stormy water.
Don't tell God how big your storm is tell
the storm HOW BIG GOD IS



June Weather Report

Thanks to Simon Phelps' record keeping, we can look back and remember the beautiful sunny days of June after a changeable and wet July. He reminds us that there were only 6 days with rain in June with a total rainfall of 30mm, of which 15mm fell on 20th. The temperature reached 29C on 13th, 16th and 25th and was 15.5C on the warmest night, the 27th/28th. The month started cooler, with northerly winds, and the coldest night was 2nd/3rd at 5C and the coldest day was 6th when it was 14.5C. We had some thunder on 12th and the winds became southerly in the second half of the month. The average maximum temperature was 23.5c and the average minimum temperature was 10.4c

Walmore Hill School News

It is almost the end of term.... the children have been enjoying their work in class, as well as playing outdoors during their morning break and lunchtimes. The hand-made 'mud kitchens' have been installed and are a great success. New equipment has been purchased which the children love using. Our planters and front garden are looking amazing and the flowering plants are definitely attracting more butterflies and bees.

Sports Day was a great success and we all really appreciated using the field in Westbury. The weather was perfect and the children and their parents had a great time taking part in all of the races in the afternoon.

Art Week was a wonderful experience for all of the children. They studied various artists' work (including Van Gogh, Monet and Frida Kahlo) and created lots of beautiful artwork which was displayed as an exhibition for parents at the end of the

week. It was lovely to see so many parents coming to see the children's work.

As we approach the end of term we will be saying goodbye to two members of staff; Mr Tuffley who teaches the children in Swans Class and Mrs. Davies who is a Teaching Assistant in the same class. We held a special 'Goodbye Assembly' on Monday afternoon to which all parents were invited. We will be sad to say 'goodbye' to Mr Tuffley. He has enjoyed working at Walmore Hill for the past 2 years and has contributed a great deal to the children's learning and well-being, as well as being a very kind and supportive member of our teaching team.

Mrs. Davies is retiring after working as a Teaching Assistant for 21 years at Walmore Hill. She has been a very supportive member of staff over the years and has loved working with the children. Mrs. Davies' favourite subject has always been mathematics and she has definitely helped our children in year 6 prepare for the SATs papers in the Summer Term.



Mrs Davies watching the children perform during our Victorian Christmas production.

She has seen many changes over the years, but always says the close-knit family feel remains constant here. We are hoping she will enjoy a well-earned rest. We often tease her about the number of cups of tea she drinks every day. Hopefully she can enjoy her tea in peace

at home! Mrs. Davies is already planning to come back and run a sewing club after

school, so it will be great to see her regularly. We have always appreciated her sewing skills when costumes have been required for our Christmas plays. It's amazing how quickly Mrs. Davies can rustle up some costumes for a flock of sheep when needed!

We are all looking forward to some warm sunny weather. The children have worked so hard and deserve a holiday! Let's hope they will be able to enjoy the great outdoors and come back refreshed and ready to learn in September.



Westbury on Severn RFC
District league 1

PLAY FOR US

Every Tuesday
Meet 6:45 for 7pm start
@ Westbury parish hall

SDG
GLEVUM
WILKIN & CO
TPS

Westbury's Famous Tree

Westbury-on-Severn made the Sunday papers recently when the Sunday Telegraph had a picture of Westbury Court Garden's Head Gardener, Jerry Green, sitting under the huge Holm oak in the garden. With a girth of 9.3m (30ft 6in), it has been declared the widest oak tree in the UK. Believed to have been planted around 400 years ago, it towers over its surroundings in the garden, and is much admired by around 20,000 people who visit the gardens each year.

What do you call an oak tree that can't make it's mind up?
Undeciduous.

How do you make an oak tree laugh?
Tell it acorn-y joke.



Westbury AFC NEW PLAYERS WANTED !!!



Following a successful 22-23 season whereby our 1st reached the County Cup Final and League Cup Semi Final... we have decided to start a reserves team and welcoming new players, all ages and abilities

Our 1sts play in North Gloucestershire Premier Division
Our 2nds will start in the North Gloucestershire Division 3

Training is 7 - 8.30pm on Wednesdays at Plock Court

Matches are Saturday afternoon

If your interested please drop us a message... we look forward to hearing from you

WoS Cricket Club

As another junior season draws to a close, we reflect over our time together and wistfully reminisce about the sounds of laughter and fun that drift across the field on a Friday evening. As a junior committee we are so proud of our junior members and grateful to their parents and carers for bringing the juniors to practice sessions and games. It isn't easy juggling family life so we value all the time given to help make our junior side such a success.



The Juniors enjoying themselves earlier in the season

Across the season we have had up to 60 young people join us on a Friday evening and have been able to raise sides for U11, U13 & U15 games every week that the weather has permitted us to play. The weather, the unpredictable element that we all wish we could control, has again played its part in our season, but the juniors bring their own sunshine even when it rains.

We struggled to find the wins this year with the U11's bringing in the most wins but for us as coaches and helpers, the wins have not changed our pride in seeing the teams go from strength to strength throughout the season. We have seen some brilliant individual and team efforts and the determination to keep improving never ceases to amaze us. Well done, Juniors, we have loved our 2023 season

with you and look forward to winter nets and the 2024 season.

To round off our junior season we are hosting a Celebration and Presentation evening on Friday 25th August as part of the clubs 70th Anniversary celebrations. This will be an opportunity to come together and celebrate the season, award prizes, play some fun games and enjoy a BBQ together so we hope you will be able to join us from 6pm.

The junior evening is just the start of a weekend of celebrations for the club, with the Senior section hosting a previous vs current players match on Sunday 27th August with BBQ afterwards. It will be a great afternoon of celebration as the club marks this incredible milestone so everyone is welcome to come along and help us make the day one to remember.

In other club news, the ladies section got off to a flying start in July with a win against Huntley ladies. It was a great game, with the win coming from the final ball of the game with a fantastic run out. There is a lady's festival and more matches to enjoy before the end of the Senior season so if any ladies fancy giving cricket a go, please do get in touch with us.

We wish the 1st, 2nd, 3rd (Wolfhounds) and ladies' teams the best of luck with the rest of the season and hope to see lots of you at the club celebrations in August.

So, for now we say farewell as the junior season ends and the coaches get to enjoy their time off before the madness starts again next year! Thanks for reading our updates and sharing in our junior section journey.

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