



## Around the World with Youth Project

One of my favourite evenings of the year is the night of the annual show staged by Westbury's Youth Project. The children have clearly put so much into the evening, and it is wonderful to see them having such a great time and getting so much back. Their enjoyment and good humour is very infectious and the audience love it.

This year the theme was All Around the World and we arrived at the Hall to find some exotic delicacies on our tables, which had been prepared by Julia Humphreys, helped by the children in their cooking sessions. The excitement was tangible as the show began and we were off on our journey round the world. By the interval, the cast had taken us to Pompeii, Egypt, Australia and Bavaria with a mixture of singing, dancing and some very funny sketches.

After some more lovely munchies, we were treated to more sketches, singing, dancing, bucket drumming and the arrival of the magnificent dragon.. What is so impressive about this show is that so much of the material is written and created by the children themselves.

However, none of it would happen without a really strong group of volunteers, headed by Nicola Atkinson. Their energy and enthusiasm is the driving force behind the group and the young backstage helpers, Emily Atkinson, Caitlin Riley and Amelie Phillips, with Thomas McCartney on sound and lighting have all come up through the ranks and are now also able to give such strong support to the youngsters on stage. Well done to all of you – I'm looking forward to next year already. *More photos overleaf*

*Di Landon*



*All the cast come together to either create and Chinese parade drum beat or be part of the dragon herself. It was magical as the dragon came through the audience, twisting and rippling as the tambourines jingled.*

*Below The Bavarian Clock, with the mechanical figures on the clock brought to life by Tristan, Xanthe, Angus and Ruby with hilarious effect as the clock workings break down. The townsfolk of Barahof in Bavaria finally may have consider selling their beloved town clock.*



*Above A lovely dance to 'It's time for Africa' - with Amber being brave and being held by Lois, Nula, Cali and Ed.*



**A**s we assembled for the November meeting, we thought that there might not be enough of us for a quorum, but we were soon up to ten so we were able to proceed.

Since our previous meeting, BT have supplied a booster to help solve the Wifi problems and are sending another one, as the first one had not quite done the trick. There is still some uncertainty about the maximum number of people allowed in the Hall under the Fire Regulations and some clarification of this will be sought.

#### **Utilities**

Jan D'Ambrogio has now ended the contract with Bionic and can negotiate directly with EDF in future. There is still no smart meter but this will now be left until after the separate electricity supply for the doctor's surgery has been installed. Jan is hopeful that there will be a reduction in the gas costs from this month. There is still no heating in the changing rooms, but the showers are now working and the heating should be fixed very soon. The electrical jobs are being worked through and Mike Edginton has boxed in the unsightly cables in the corner of the Hall.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Sarah Mitten was unable to attend but had circulated copies of the accounts. Jan reported that the Kebabaret had made an excellent profit and it was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Katie Hyett for staging this event.

**Projects** Unfortunately, the Hall was unable to purchase the chairs for the

lounge as discussed at our last meeting.

#### **Severndipity (Bar committee)**

Gen Riley reported on the Severndipity Committee's meeting the previous evening. They have decided the bar will no longer be opened on Tuesday evenings and the general feeling at the meeting had been that user groups should be encouraged to organise events that would produce more profitable bar takes.

The Severndipity accounts had been circulated and there were some concerns as to whether it was necessary to hold such a wide range of stock, and the waste involved when serving draught beers and ciders. This led to considerable discussion as to a) whether reducing the range of stock would deter booking for events such as weddings b) the effect of reducing or discontinuing the stocking of draught beers and ciders and c) the possibility of finding another less wasteful line system. Gen Riley is looking into the pros and cons of the latter solution.

Gen explained that the lack of bars serving large numbers is a contributory factor to the wastage and the constantly changing prices also cause problems. However, the Severndipity Committee is well aware of the concerns and it was agreed that the present situation is not sustainable. Hall committee members were invited to the next Severndipity meeting to discuss these concerns and it was agreed to re-evaluate the situation in the New Year. Jan thanked Gen for all her work on this.

**Vespa Scooter Rally** This will take place at the Hall next summer and it is hoped that this will provide one of the really good bar takes that the Hall so badly needs.

#### **Fundraising**

The Kebabaret had been a huge success, and a lot of very positive feedback had been received. Jan asked committee members to send in ideas or photos for

the Hall's entry in the Christmas Tree Festival at the church

**Drs surgery**

Mike Edginton reported that he had met with a representative from Western Power on site, to discuss the installation of a separate electricity supply for the surgery. Di Landon reported that the Parish Council had agreed to make some contribution towards this cost and that Newnham Parish Council will also be asked to contribute.

**Any other business**

Helen Cracknell suggested that we start planning next year's Summer Show and Jan reminded us of the need for a new sign board. Di Landon reported that the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council is undertaking a Housing Needs Survey for Westbury Parish and questionnaires will be sent out to every household. As part of this process, the Parish Council has been invited to discuss grant assistance for voluntary organisations operating in our parish, and therefore we need to hear about any projects that are being considered that may qualify for this. The next meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.



at

**Westbury Parish Hall  
on Sunday 3rd December at  
8pm**

**Teams of four at £2 per  
head**



**Christmas  
Nosh 'n' Natter  
Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec  
2023**

at

**Westbury Parish Hall**

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

**Spicey Parsnip Soup**

**\*\***

**Mustard-glazed Gammon  
with Dauphinoise potatoes, red cab-  
bage, peas and carrots**

**\*\***

**Salted caramel cheesecake**

**\*\***

**Coffee and mince pies**

**£12.00 two courses: £14.00 three  
courses**

**All ages welcome**

**Please let us know in advance if  
you have any dietary requirements  
other than the above**

**See in person or call  
Gail on 760495 or Jan on 760630 to  
book**

**There is a slight increase for our  
Christmas menu and we will have a  
raffle on the day and the bar will be  
open**

**All profits made from our Nosh 'n' Natter  
will go towards replacing furniture in  
the lounge**

**Charity reg no: 301644**



**Thank you for your con-  
tinued support  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year**





### Pre-Christmas Bash



It was a night aimed at getting

us into the Christmas spirit and it certainly did. Good company, great food and the Steel Weasels getting us up and dancing.

It was a great night.



**T**hank you for supporting the Parish Hall. It's our Parish Hall and without your support during the year we would be unable to maintain and keep it running.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM  
WESTBURY PHMC



### Parish Council

**W**e had our full quota of parish councillors at the November meeting, and were joined by the County Public Rights of Way (PRoW) officer, Jeff Wheeler, who had come to discuss . . . . .

**Footpaths** With 63 miles of footpaths in our parish, we are in frequent contact with him so it was good to meet him in person. The main issues that we wanted to discuss were a blocked footpath, and reports of plot holders in Ley Park Woods intimidating walkers. Some waymarker posts have also been removed. Jeff advised that these incidents need to be reported to his team online to ensure that action is taken.

**Public Comment** The recent closure for two days of Rodley Road, between the Parish Hall and Strand Lane, has been of disputed value. Gigaclear had dug a trench (for the third time) and even the men on site did not see why it was being done. This also raised the issue of why the 6" pipes under the road, which are there to drain the water towards the river, have not been replaced by 10" pipes

which would be more effective and help to prevent the road flooding. The Parish Council has been asking Highways to do this for some time but Chairman Simon Phelps agreed to contact them again.

**Planning** Objections were raised to an application for a residential development of one detached dwelling on Wintles Hill on the grounds that it would be a new build on a greenfield site and outside the settlement boundary, and there were also concerns about the safety of access on to the A48. Fiona updated us on an earlier application for conversion of an agricultural building to a dwelling at Cothill Farm which had been refused.

**Finance** The financial statements and accounts for payment were agreed. Owing to new National Association of Local Councils (NALC) pay scales and a recent job evaluation, it was agreed to increase the salary of our clerk, Fiona Wallbank. While this may be the statutory reason, it is also because we wouldn't ever want to have to manage without her!

Fiona has drafted the budget for next year. The grass cutting contracts are up for renewal and it was agreed that we need to reassess the grass cutting map for the closed churchyard. The burial ground extension will also now need mowing.

**Highways** There is a huge pothole near Cowleys Elm Farm in Rodley. As reports of Highway problems are dealt with online now, it is possible to Google 'Fix My Street' which will take you to a website where you give the postcode and describe the problem. If it is a pothole and you are able to upload a photo and, if possible, stick a tape measure in the hole to show how deep it is, it does seem to get the problem dealt with a bit faster – and presumably the more often it is reported the better.

The work done by Severn Trent in Ampney Lane went over the time predicted

and the site was left in a mess, so Mike Townsend has emailed the Managing Director. The drains in Rodley are to be tackled next year.

#### **Burial Ground extension**

The lease of the new school playing field has still not been agreed and so Fiona will chase up the County Council and the solicitors about this, and will send GCC an invoice, as the rent was due in September. Following the issue regarding graves and boundary markers that was raised at last month's meeting, it was agreed that in future a form regarding burials should be agreed with the undertaker and the family before the burial.

**Play Area** The recent annual play area inspection conducted by the Play Inspection Company had suggested that the balancing beam be removed, as the wood is rotting. The wetpour is also in need of some repairs and the cost of this has been allowed for in next year's budget.

**Other matters** Two years ago, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust asked the Parish Council to take on the maintenance of Poulton Wood, to which we agreed. However, they have now decided to keep this area and will continue to maintain it.

As new housing at Longhope has an impact on flooding in Blaisdon and Westbury, it was considered that we suggest to the Forest of Dean District Council that Westbury Parish Council should be consulted about a current application to build 45 new houses in Longhope and about similar applications in future.

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council has been asked to conduct a Housing Needs Survey in Westbury next year and the Affordable Housing Manager will be coming to talk to us about this at the January meeting.

Our next meeting is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at the Parish Hall.

*Di Landon*

### Cafe on the Green

Many thanks to everybody who attended the Cafe on the Green on 4<sup>th</sup> November. In total £113.55 was raised for the Great Western Air Ambulance. Numbers were slightly down, but the weather, spooky events and firework fun played a part here, I suspect.



December will be the last cafe of 2023 and what an event we have for you, with wonderful bakes, homemade Christmas cards and a bumper raffle. All proceeds will benefit Gloucester and District Samaritans. The charity supports those needing emotional support every hour of every day, all year. The helplines are manned solely by volunteers who operate from branches entirely self funded.

**Please come along on  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
and support generously**

### Closed Churchyard

Our priority at the November working party was to ensure that the area near the war memorial was ready for the service and wreath laying on Remembrance Day.

There is not a lot that we can do in the churchyard during the winter months and so we decided that we would not hold another working party until February. By that time, it will be a mass of snowdrops and primroses and there will be lots to do to get ready for the spring and summer.

**So we meet again on Sat 10th Feb**

Westbury-on-Severn Parish  
Church Friends  
present

### **A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd December  
2023**

**10am – 4pm**



**in Westbury Church**

**The Westbury Family Service  
is moving to  
NORTHWOOD GREEN  
CHURCH for the winter.**

We hope very much that you will all join  
us in celebration for our special

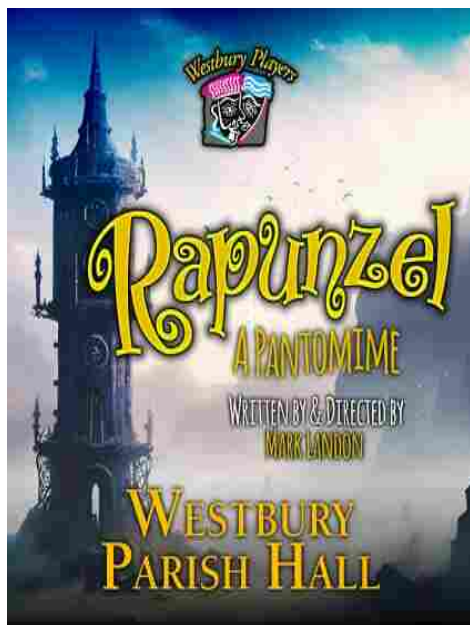
### **FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**on Sunday 17th December at  
10am.**

*I look forward to seeing you all. Sarah*



*“And another thing, son . . . . . never  
ever return a bin to where you found it.”*



## It's nearly Panto time! Performances

*Meal nights £17.50*

Sat 20th Jan Tickets available

Frid 26th Jan - a few left

**Sat 27th Jan — SOLD OUT**

## Matinee

Sunday 21st Jan

*Adults £5*

*Children under 16 £3*

*1 child free with every paying adult*

Tickets selling fast so please contact :-

**David D'Ambrogio**

**on 01452 760630**

**to book your tickets**

## Westbury-on-Severn CE Primary School

**I**t's been a busy start to Term 2 at Westbury! This term we have been celebrating our school's 175th Anniversary. Our week-long 'Dream Big' week began with a Victorian Theme Day, with the whole school dressed up as Victorians.

The children's Victorian learning experience in Sycamore Class (Y2/3) included scripture, writing in chalk, chanting the times tables and making peg dolls. The children in Willow class (YR/Y1) went on a history walk with their guides Mrs Kift and Mrs Morris -Green, who shared how the school has changed since their time as pupils and looked at

plans of the school through history. Chestnuts (pre-school) created flap-jacks using the recipe book made by the PTA in 1981.



*Westbury School staff and pupils on Victorian Theme Day*



In the afternoon, Mrs Landon led an assembly which shared further information about the school. Each afternoon during the week, every class focussed on a curriculum area and how it has changed through 175 years. Oak Class (Y4/5/6) learnt about music through the years, creating classic Christmas songs like those composed in 1948. Willow carried out art studies and Sycamore looked at science and technology. The culmination of the week was an exhibition of the school's history held in the school hall.



*Past and present headteachers at the exhibition. From L to R  
Mr David Crunkhurn, Mrs Val Hoskins,  
Mrs Anna-Mai Armstrong, Mrs Gail Jones*

It was wonderful to welcome back many ex pupils and staff who spent time looking at how the school has expanded, and sharing their memories of their time at school. Friendships were rekindled and generations of families came for a look and a cup of tea. Huge thanks to the PTA for their support and for creating a commemorative tea towel, which can be purchased through the school.

Also, it's almost that time of year again when we're looking forward to welcoming you to the **Christmas Craft Fair at the Parish Hall on Saturday 2nd December** between 10am and 2pm. There'll be plenty of stalls selling hand made crafts for your Christmas shopping needs, games for the children, turkey rolls, carols, and of course Santa himself!! Do pop along, we'd love to see you there!

Christmas is not Christmas without a school nativity play! The Christmas tunes are filling the corridors as Willow Class rehearse their nativity play, Prickly Hay! We can't wait to share this with our families. Then there is Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch and a trip to the Pantomime in Cheltenham, all before we finish on December 20th!

We wish all our community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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



## Drivers Wanted

**C**ommunity transport helps people remain independent, participate in their communities and access public services. It makes up for unmet local transport needs and also fosters a sense of belonging.

Fortunately, in Westbury, we are able to access the community transport scheme co-ordinated by Lydcare, as we have a local volunteer driver, Neil Tappin, who is able to provide transport to the doctor, hospital, dentist or to social appointments. He kindly gives his time and the use of his vehicle to help others in the local community - but we could really do with at least one more Lydcare volunteer so that all the journeys do not fall to just one driver. So if you can drive and can spare an hour or two every so often, please have a look at Lydcare's website and contact them to sign up with them

<https://www.lydcare.org/>

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.

*Di Landon*



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers from your WoSP**



## Sports

### Football

**WESTBURY UNITED 2. WINCHCOMBE 2 ( 4-5 ON PENALTIES).**

**O**n the last Saturday in October, Westbury were drawn against Winchcombe in the County Cup. It proved to be a game of pulsating brilliance and two former players, spectating, pronounced it the highest standard of football they had ever seen at Westbury. Winchcombe, currently top of the Cheltenham Leagues, were strong, well organised and direct - but, no more so than Westbury. In the first quarter the opposition took the lead after a scramble in the Westbury box but Westbury soon replied through Ackeen Wright after some fast inter-passing. Then Lewis Cromwell conceded a penalty which Winchcombe duly despatched. Within two minutes, after a scintillating passing movement, Dillano rifled in a riposte, from twenty yards. A second half then saw a game played at breath taking pace with fierce tackling and bravura football. Pierce had to go off after a clash of heads but Cam and Jamie held the defence together. Ackeen pierced the opposition on three or four occasions but could not force a winner and it ended at two apiece. Alas, in the penalty shoot out, they made one save and it ended four five. Westbury were out, but not out-classed and the current form bodes well for the future. Harry Howells and Dilano were men of the match but all played well.

**SLING 0. WESTBURY RESERVES 5**  
The Reserve team, marshalled by Brickerz and Joe D'Ambroogio in mid field, crushed Sling at St Briavels. Joel scoring a hat trick, Andrew Cueto and Brickerz with one each.

WESTBURY UNITED 2.  
HOWLE HILL 4

On the first Saturday in November Westbury entertained the League leaders on a very wet pitch. One of the only games played proved to be a step too far and probably should not have been undertaken as Westbury are a fair weather team and were two goals down in the first quarter - one a goal mouth scramble and the other a long distance shot that sailed over keeper Kane's head. Westbury played the better football but Howle Hill had some big solid players up front and the long ball proved a handful for our defenders. Despite that, Westbury hit back with a beautifully crafted goal and a powerful shot from Harry Howells. After the break Hill scored two equally powerful ripostes. One un-stoppable header from the dreaded ex pro Scouser and the other a rifle shot. Then Dilano hit back with a very strong shot from outside the box and, with two Howlers in the sin bin for dissent, Westbury got on top and Ackeen had three one on ones that were squandered. So it ended and Westbury rued the conditions and the missed chances. Not to mention the chance to go top.

WESTBURY UNITED 3. BREAM 1

On a newly cut pitch, thanks to the good offices of David D'Ambrogio, Westbury took on the team widely tipped to win the league. What a great game ensued. Westbury, reminded by former supremo, Shaggy, before the game to play a fast mobile passing game proceeded to cut Bream to pieces. Harry Howells in mid field assisted by Harrison as a holding mid fielder became dominant. After ten minutes the Bream defence punched a ball away: penalty. The normally dependable Lewis Cromwell, telegraphed his shot and it was saved.

Not to worry, soon after Cam tapped in the first goal. Bream had no shot in that half.

In the second half Bream started to counter and scored a scrambled goal. However the deadly duo that was the Westbury attack, Ackeen and Dillano began to run riot. Dillano smashed in a trademark twenty yarder and Ackeen, at last, after a strange few games discovered his mojo and tore the Bream fence to shreds. His goal was a sumptuous chest down and un-stoppable volley past a very good goalkeeper. On to Milkwall next week! Very good team performance. There is no I in team.

*Clive Tempest*

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## Rugby

### Westbury 17 Smiths 25

Saturday 4th November was a wet day at the Ken Boulton stadium of light, where Westbury on Severn welcomed old rivals Smiths Rugby United to the banks of the Severn. The warmups were a damp affair with steam coming off both sides by the time the whistle went. The game played out as expected — a real pick and go affair with lots of handling errors from both sides. The ball was like a bar of soap at times, and some big hits and unsuccessful runs (and a yellow for Smiths) saw the score board, manned by 'big Pete', ticking over slower than a cheap watch. At half time the score sat at 10 - 12.

The second half saw a mirror image of the first .. tit for tat ... some great moves, some



monster scrums and some sublime line outs. The game ended 17-25 to the visitors, so well done Smiths. With all of the sport out of the way, Westbury excelled (in the kitchen) and a guest appearance from Team Manager & spud Meister (Rusty) saw the collective sportsmen dining on the most sublime pie mash & gravy.....a meal surely worthy of 5 stars on trip advisor!

A good contest on what was a wet and trying surface. It was great to see a big crowd and fantastic to see old second team manager 'Pence' back at Westbury. Well done all - we march on!

#### **Minchinhampton 45 Westbury 26**

On Saturday 11th November, a crisp, dry Hollybush Ground welcomed Westbury on Severn RFC and their travelling support in this Gloucestershire Merit Table clash versus Minchinhampton 2nd XV. Conditions were perfect for running rugby and neither team disappointed those watching from the touchline. Following a minute's silence for Armistice Day, both teams started the match at a furious pace, with Westbury often having the upper hand in early exchanges. Whilst showing some great endeavour, Westbury



were often let down by the final pass not going to hand.

Mid-way through the first

half, a reshuffle was required for the Blue and Whites as fullback (and special agent) James Bond had to retire from the match due to an injury, having made some great contributions during his time on the pitch. Despite best efforts, Westbury trailed at half time 19 - 7.

The second half commenced at a similar pace to the first 40 mins. Settled into their rhythm, Westbury started to build some great phases of play. Solid set piece from the lineout secured by Ash Hathaway, combined with some excellent line breaking runs by Harry Janneh with a robust defence by Max 'Jukebox' Kaufmann (hit after hit), and all was looking good for the men in Blue and White. Westbury battled their way back into the match heroically and with 7 minutes to play the scores were tied at 26 - 26. Full credit to Minchinhampton, who having weathered the storm, proceeded to score three, quick unanswered tries resulting in a final score of 45 - 26 to the home side.

Having learnt the valuable lesson of 'it's not over until it's over', the Blue and Whites can take some huge positives from the match. Effort from 1 - 15 was exemplary, with special mentions to Paul 'Freddie Steward' Reddan who was imperious under the high ball, Will Lord and Shay Lewis for their dogged effort in attack and defence and not forgetting 'Flea' Prince for his man of the match performance and footwork that would turn Michael Flatley green with envy. Westbury try scorers: Rych McKenzie, Robbie Pritchard, Paul Reddan and Aaron Morgan. Huge thanks to Michaela for yet again providing first class First Aid and to our hosts for their hospitality. We look forward to welcoming you to the KB stadium of light in the New Year.

**Westbury will be back in league action on 2nd Dec versus Cainscross at home, 2.30pm—see you there?**

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