

Summer's Coming!



Westbury's All Stars enjoying their first outdoor training of the season

After the wettest winter that most of us can remember, any sign that summer is not far away is very, very welcome and preparations for the coming cricket season make us think of sunnier days ahead. On Friday 26th April, Westbury Junior Cricket Club began their outdoor training. It was brilliant to see all the juniors back on the cricket pitch and lovely to welcome back old members and start getting to know new ones.

Sessions start at 6pm on Fridays at the Parish Hall fields, with All Stars finishing at 7pm and all other age groups at 7.30pm. All parents/carers will need to complete a registration form for their juniors, so please register on arrival and

make sure your junior has a name label before they go to their group. Subs are £35 for the first child and £25 for subsequent juniors. This is the first increase in 7 years and reflects the price increase for insurances and kit.

And it's not just the Juniors. By the time you read this, the adults will have had a pre-season game at Poulton (if weather permits). So if you are at a loose end on a Saturday or a Sunday & fancy the sound of leather on willow - Westbury-on-Severn Cricket Club are welcoming new players. The Club also has a Ladies Team so anyone interested in getting involved should get in touch with Ian Dunn or Nic Edginton for more information.



Once again, there was an encouragingly good turnout for the April meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee. Considerable progress had been made in sharing out the responsibilities involved in running the Hall, and so this month we were able to elect Sally Godwin as our new Chairperson, and Ken Boulton as Vice-Chairman. Gen Riley was also elected as our secretary.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. Our Treasurer, Sarah Mitten, reported that there had been three relatively small fraudulent bank transactions during the previous month, which had fortunately been picked up by the bank and the money refunded. There had also been two booking cancellations which prompted consideration of our policy on cancellations. It was agreed that there should be a 14 day period after booking during which the total fee would be refunded in the event of cancellation, but that after that period only 50% should be refunded and that hirers cancelling within 7 days of their event should forfeit their fee altogether.

It was noted that the Hall is still running at a loss, and this has not been helped by the wet weather which has affected many of the sporting events. Utility costs are being closely monitored and ways to reduce these costs are being examined.

Communication

With the various responsibilities now more widely shared, communication is very important and it was agreed that a WhatsApp group for committee members would be helpful. Jan D'Ambrogio will continue to deal with all the Hall bookings but it was agreed that an email address and phone number should be displayed in the Hall for use by hirers and user groups in an emergency. Ideally we would like to have a handyman on contract to deal with any problems that arise, but we cannot afford that at the moment so we will see how it all works out with the WhatsApp group.

Sub-Committees

Four sub-committees have now been set up to deal with maintenance, fundraising, utilities and administration and each of these will meet separately and report back to the main committee each month.

Utilities

Ken Boulton is negotiating a new electricity contract and volunteered to take meter readings, Clive Tempest is trying to address the problem of meter readings from Waterplus and Val Morgan-Townsend is looking into better wi-fi and cheaper waste collection.

Severndipity (Bar) Report

Val Morgan-Townsend had circulated the report and accounts and said that it had been agreed that care was needed when planning stock against events. The Severndipity Committee's AGM is on Friday 3rd May at 7pm.

Fundraising

The fundraising committee will be meeting shortly and will report back with their plans at the next meeting.

Dr's surgery

Gen Riley and Mike Edginton are again in touch with NHS Property Services on the basis that the Hall cannot afford to pay for the installation of a separate electrical supply for the surgery and the results are awaited.

Other Matters

The risks of clambering up a ladder to change the Parish Hall noticeboard were

discussed and it was agreed that we should look into a safer and easier way to advertise our events. It was noted that a minimum of two people should carry out the task and that any changes should be carried out at the user group's risk.

Mike Edginton has a list of external jobs that need doing but which require a dry spell and Westbury Players are planning to paint their container next to the surgery.

Jan D'Ambrogio announced the Communitea event that is to be held at the Hall on Weds 8th May. (More details on page 6), Tiff Cairns suggested fundraising through regular donations from those who wish to support the Hall and I reported that our County Councillor has a small amount of funding available for our community and that a basketball hoop at the Hall had been suggested. However, no suitable location for this could be identified due to the proximity of the main road and the risk to the insulation of the Hall walls. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th May at 7.30pm. Di Landon

Severndipity Club Annual General Meeting

Severndipity Club are the team who are responsible for running the bar at Westbury On Severn Parish Hall. We are a small committee who help to contribute to the activities and events at your local Parish Hall. We're having our AGM on Friday 3rd May at 7pm in the lounge at the Parish Hall, and we would love it if you could join us to find out about what we have done this year, and maybe you'd like to get involved, or join our committee! We have 2 vacancies following members deciding to step down, so if you would like to find out more or support the Parish Hall, please come along to our AGM.



Nosh and Natter

Westbury Parish Hall

Thursday 9th May 2024

Food served between 12.30pm and 1.30pm

Soup of the Day

Quiche Lorraine with salads

Chocolate Brownie

£8.00 two courses £10.00 three courses

Please call us to say that you are coming and let us know in advance if you have any dietary requirements

Please either see in person or call Gail on 760495/ Jan on 760630

Police and Crime Commissioner elections—2nd May

Remember to take valid ID when you go to vote. Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth photo drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name on the ID should be the same name as appears on the Electoral Register. Only original documents will be accepted; scanned images or copies will not be accepted.

Easter Monday Funday

A pril began with the Easter Monday Funday, organised at the Parish Hall by parents of children from Westbury-on-Severn Primary School. After weeks of rain, it was a wonderful surprise to have a sunny day and people were able to sit



outside on the patio soaking the sunup shine. For the children there was plenty to with an Easter trail to little follow, lambs to see, biscuits

decorate, all sorts of games to play and a visit from the Easter Bunny himself. The bouncy castle in the Hall never stopped bouncing and there was

there was plenty of excellent cake to replace all the energy spent.

A very happy occasion all round.

Get planting!



Flower and Produce Show Sunday 1st September

Parish Council

The April meeting of the Parish Council could be described as quiet and quick, as there were no members of the public present, our County Councillor had sent his apologies and there were only three planning applications on the agenda. The minutes having been agreed, planning was next on the agenda.

Planning A site meeting had taken place to The Willows at Broadoak regarding the conversion of a single storey extension and conversion of the existing garage to an ancillary annexe and other changes to the roof and windows, and the Parish Council had supported this application. At the meeting, the application to convert redundant agricultural barns at Court Farm in the Village to create six residential dwellings was discussed, and it was agreed to also support this. The other applications were for the erection of a building/canopy over the cattle yard area at Wood Hill Farm in Rodley and the change of use of a disused farm building to a light industrial unit at Leycott Farm in Lower Ley Lane, both of which met with no objections.

Fiona then updated us on the results of some earlier applications. The application for an extension to an agricultural building at Court Farm and the application regarding prior approval for a new agricultural building at Upper Ley Farm had both been granted but the application to establish whether the use and occupancy of a bungalow at Ishkara in Grange Court Road as a permanent residence, originally granted permission as a holiday let, is lawful, had been refused.

Finance The accounts were agreed and signed.

Highways Chairman Simon Phelps reported that he was hoping to meet up with Andrew Middlecote, the Highways Manager, the following week to show him

around the potholes and highways issues in the parish. The footway between Newnham and Minsterworth is becoming overgrown and also needs attention.

The verges around Rodley are being taken over by hemlock, which looks a little like cow parsley but is deadly poisonous to all mammals. If in doubt, leave well alone! Simon has reported this to Andrew Middlecote, who will hopefully be able to get some professional advice as to how this can be dealt with.

The Highways department will also be asked to provide some signs in Northwood Green warning drivers that there are no footways and to look out for pedestrians.

Burial Ground extension In spite of the efforts of Fiona and County Councillor Robinson, we have still had no response from the County Council regarding their sudden demand that we apply to the Secretary of State for Education for change of use of land for the burial ground extension. They have still not agreed the draft lease for the land and the rent that was due in September has not been paid. The Head has asked if the school can go ahead with plans for developing a play boatyard and a sand digging area for the children to enjoy during the summer.

While everyone wants the children to get the maximum benefit from the land, the frustration at the lack of response from the County Council led us to decide that permission for these plans could not be granted until a draft lease was agreed and rent paid. It was also agreed that permission to plant a willow tunnel could not be given as the roots could significantly damage the land drains that have cost so much to put in.

It was agreed that we should ask the school to arrange a meeting between the County Council, the school, the school governors and the Parish Council to try to solve this whole problem.

Request for play area at Northwood Green Chairman Simon reported that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) would consider the request for some play equipment to be put on their land at their next meeting, but Mike Townsend said that the Northwood Green Social Hall Committee were unwilling to be responsible for this.

Footpaths There's a tree blocking a footpath in Church Lane so Ben Stephens will remedy that.

Climate Change I reported that progress is being made towards the installation of solar panels at Lydney Leisure Centre and the Dean Academy and that Cinderford has now got a completed Climate Adaptation plan.

Doctors' Surgery Negotiations are ongoing

Land registration Fiona has been advised that all land owned by Parish Councils must be registered by 2030. She will do some research into this and report back at the next meeting.

Next meeting This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and will take place on Monday 13th May at the earlier time of 6.30pm. All are welcome. *Di Landon*

A48 overnight closure

The A48 is expected to be closed between the Severn and Wye Smokery and the Severn Bore for resurfacing between 20:00hrs and 06:00hrs each day from the 27th May 2024 until the 31st May 2024 or until the works have been completed, whichever is the later. For further information, please contact Gloucestershire Highways on 08000 514 514 or visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Parish Hall Bar

This will be open from 7.30pm on Wednesday evenings from 8th May





Westbury-on-Severn Parish Hall Weds 8th May 10.30-12.30

FODDC Community Builders would really LOVE to hear from you.

Come along for a coffee and that in a warm, friendly environment.

For further information, please contact: Community.Builders@fdean.gov.uk 01594 810000







Do you need some help with the Cost of Living?

What would you like to see happening in your locality?

Maybe a regular 'coffee and chat' event, an exercise class or a craft group?

Do you have skills that you would like to share or maybe you would like to become a volunteer?

What is important to you?

We will be joined by Two Rivers Housing and Glos Fire and Rescue.



We had a successful Taster session at Youth Project on 18th April with some new faces. With icing biscuits, costume experiments, games and tongue twisters, great fun was had by all. The group is looking healthy with 21 members with a great split of 7 boys and 14 girls. We are now starting to work towards our show in November with the theme of 'Its an Education'.

On 2nd May, as the Hall will be in use as a polling station, we are heading to see Narnia at the Cheltenham Playhouse as the start of a few learning experiences for the group.

If anyone is interested in joining please contact Nicola on 07972 761345

Northwood Green Gardening Club

At our April meeting, Marcel Floyd gave a passionate and informative talk on growing clematis, and brought along some beautiful clematis plants to sell.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th May, when Mary Fenton, a self-taught gardener and photographer from Bredon, will tell us about The Wonder of Trees. This is our last meeting before we break for the summer to allow our members time to actually do some gardening! The meeting will take place at 7.30pm in the Northwood Green Social Hall. Visitors welcome, £3. Annual membership £12. Please contact

karenfayjohnson@gmail.com or call 07879 386573 for more information.

Our very popular annual plant sale will take place on Saturday 11th May at The Glen, Adsett, Westbury-on-Severn GL14 1PH. We will be open from 10am to 4pm, selling a wide variety of plants at bargain prices.

Vale of Castiard WI

At our last meeting, we voted on this year's WI Resolution - the cause that the WI will support over the next 12 months. This year the theme is Dental Health Matters - a call for action to increase the availability of NHS dentist appointments.

On Wednesday15th May, Paul Barnett makes a welcome return to talk about the Titanic Effort - RMS Carpathia's dash to save the stricken liner. The meeting will take place at 7.30pm in the Flaxley Schoolroom. Visitors are always welcome. Please contact Gill Western, President, on 07879 532060 or Karen Johnson, Secretary, on 07879 386573 for more information.

Westbury-on-Severn Parish Church Friends 100 Club

PRIZE WINNERS FOR APRIL 2024

1^{st}	39	Marlow Grogan
		£50
2^{nd}	72	Dot Symonds
		£20
3 rd	92	David Brooke
		£10

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

westburychurchfriends21@gmail.com We have 2 free numbers available on a first come, first served basis. Thank you for your support.

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 on the insistence of the insurers.

Churchyard Working Party

A t last! A dry morning and a great turnout of helpers in the church-yard. There were jobs to do at all levels but most of us were glad to remain safely at ground level while Simon Phelps and David Ellis tackled the congested guttering and downpipes. There were also some drains to clear out but those chores are now done and the rest of the season will probably be the usual mix of gardening and 'archaeology' as we continue to find old stonework under the grass.

Our next session is on Sat 12th May between 10am and 1pm. All help is welcome and refreshments provided.

Café on the Green

Many thanks to everybody who found the time to come along to the Café on Saturday 6th April

We were small in numbers, but we did manage to raise £97.50 for Art Shape.

The Café will be back on Saturday 4th May at the Social Hall from 10.00 am to Noon.

Please try to support this community event.

With special thanks to everyone who helped to run this event, the bakes as ever were delicious



And a couple of jokes for the children:

What kind of room doesn't have windows or doors? A mushroom What do get when you mix a cow with an earthquake? A milkshake.

Weather Report

Te have some catching up to do as we missed the weather report in the last edition. So here are the February and March figures-thanks to Simon Phelps.

February 2024

Warmest Day. 3rd 16c Warmest Night 14/15th. 9.5c Coldest Day. 27th 6c Coldest Night 23/24th. -4c Wettest Day. 8th 35mm

Days with Rain. 19

Total Rainfall. 144.5mm

Predominant Wind Direction SW for first 3weeks.

Northerlies for last week, Strength Very Slight to Slight.

Average Maximum Temperature. 10.5c Average Minimum Temperature 3.1c

Very noticeable difference in rainfall from February 2023, when total was 12mm, also difference in average temperatures, maximum for 2023, 9.6c, minimum for 2023, 0.4c.

March 2024

Warmest Day. 17th 15.5c Warmest Nights. 12/13th and 19/20th.

8.5c

Coldest Day. 2nd. 3c Coldest Night. 2/3rd -4.5c Wettest Day. 28th. 31mm

Davs with Rain 21 Total Rainfall. 140.5mm

Predominant Wind Direction, Southerlies, strength, Slight

Average Maximum Temperature 11.1c Average Minimum Temperature. 2c Comparison to March 2023, rainfall 126.5mm,

Average temperatures, maximum for 2023 was 10.4c, minimum for 2023 was

Some interesting fluctuations in rainfall and average temperatures. Simon.



Come and join us

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 enjoy a variety of crafts and activities.

11.00am arrival, cuppa and cake 11.30am activities provided by Mindscape tutors

12.30pm – 1.15 Soup and rolls served. There is no charge so why not pop along and join us? For further information: Call: 07926 986 247

On-site parking, disabled access and facilities. Stagecoach Bus No 22/23 every ½ hour from outside the centre. The Harvey Centre, Main Road, Minsterworth, Gloucester, GL2 8JH



Sport - Editor Mark Landon

Football

Westbury 2 Mitcheldean 0

On 30th March, Mitcheldean visited the holy turf at Westbury. In fact, as David D'Ambrogio had carefully marked out the pitch and had it cut, it looked very good, despite the incessant rain. For reasons that continue to baffle us the referee was unimpressed and actually asked the visitors if they could see the lines, which, fortunately, they could and so the game commenced. (The actual indignation of the club secretary / pitch marker who was away on holiday is sadly not printable, following the President's unwise decision to inform him of developments anyway - Ed)

Westbury lacked some players due to the Easter holidays and were dismayed to see that Mitcheldean were at full strength and that even Damon Beaumont (an old adversary) had flown in especially from Turkey, an hour before, in order to play! However, Westbury soon asserted control as Brickerz started to outmuscle the aforementioned Damon in midfield. Harry Howells, who subsequently earned an e-mail from Damon, telling him he had the best feet in the local leagues, also exerted control. Halfway through the half, Ackeen Phillips floated a beautifully crafted shot over the startled Mitcheldean keeper to make the score 1-0. In the second half Ackeen continued to probe up front and eventually found a neat pass to Tom Glover who made it 2-0. The back four of Westbury meanwhile kept a clean sheet. Pierce was immaculate and young George Ford, in his first full game for the firsts, had an excellent game and did well enough to earn himself man of the match. However, his first effort to down a pint of non-alcoholic Guiness was not so good (not surprising, it's horrible - Ed)

With this important 2-0 victory, Westbury continue to inch back up the League and Manager Derek Palmer was left smiling like the Cheshire Cat. With few games remaining it is still mathematically possible to win the league with leaders Howle Hill faltering, although Bream remain hot favourites with games in hand.

Westbury 4 Harrow Hill Reserves 1

In the first game after Easter and with four games to go in the season, Westbury entertained the second bottom team in the League. How David D'Ambrogio got the pitch ready was a miracle, as rain and wind ruled the week. It was the only game still on in the whole division. The opposition kicked off and the game became difficult to predict as the soggy pitch and the wind made silky football difficult. After fifteen minutes, Ackeen glided through and coolly placed it into the net. However, five minutes later the Harrow Hill right back unleashed a thunderbolt from twenty yards, that no keeper in the world would have saved. Thereafter, the game became very scrappy and the Westbury crowd became more ill at ease, mindful of Tempest's third law of football: relegation threatened teams fight like dogs.

In the second half so it came to pass. Harrow Hill tackled and scrapped like demons and Westbury, although camped in their half could not get through. Increasingly ashen faced Manager Derek Palmer flapped his hands and the more ashen faced President stared glumly on as the Harrow Hill keeper stopped even well placed shots. With five minutes to go Ackeen again weaved into the Hill box and, lo and behold, was hooked down from behind! Pierce Clarkson coolly smashed the penalty in. With three minutes to go Ackeen then glided in for another. With one minute to go the brother of the Harrow Hill Chairman, Michael Edwards then tapped in another.

Who writes your scripts? The ashen faced ones retired to the bar ruminating on a very strange, tense game.

Ruardean Hill 0 Westbury 3

For the penultimate game of the season Westbury visited the chilly heights of Ruardean Hill. As the whole of the normal defence had been seduced by the Veterans to go on holiday to Malaga the Manager, Derek Palmer, was slightly worried that we might lose to the bottom of the League team. He need not have worried. In the first minute Ackeen cut through the Hill defence and was hooked down from behind. He easily converted the penalty and the hastily assembled new defence of Alex Mason, Boulder Morgan, George Ford and Morgan soon proved they could cope with anything the Hillers could throw at them. Joe D'Ambrogio, Brickerz and Lewis Cromwell dominated mid field and soon put Alex Worral through for a second goal. Thereafter the Lads dominated the first half. The second half was a messy affair and there was a sense of foreboding when Brickerz was sent off for a second yellow card. However, the ten men prevailed and Ackeen went through for a second brilliant individual effort to confirm why he is the top striker in the League. Six wins on the trot and we have to play the league leaders, Bream, next week.

Bream 4 Westbury Utd 0

The last game of the season saw Westbury at putative champion Bream. Bream were well fired up for the game which would see them crowned champions if they won. Alas, Westbury barely turned up. We featured four young players who had been seduced on to the Veterans holiday in Malaga, and it showed as they dragged their wearied bodies around. Westbury disintegrated early when keeper Kurt fumbled a ball and Bream cashed in and were three nil up by half time. Westbury only conceded one more after this but the die was cast, Lewis Cromwell was man of the match and fought well but we never looked like scoring. We had to grimly watch the award of the old silver cup to Bream and also observe it being filled with much drink in the bar after the game.

Westbury might finish second or third, depending on later results. Not a bad season but we have no silverware and should really have won the League but for some unfortunate, freak results. Must do better! Thanks to all supporters and friends of the Club. Now to cricket and a new season. The awards evening is on June 15th, at the Hall. *Clive Tempest*

Rugby

Westbury 15 Bream 42

After the rain the Ken Boulton Stadium of Dreams looked amazing in the Easter sunshine when on 28th, March we welcomed our old friends from Bream RFC for a FOD combination cup Quarter final. A capacity crowd enjoyed some flowing rugby that ended with Bream going through to the next round. Westbury try scorers were Max Kaufmann and Robbie Pritchard. The outstanding man of the match awards went to Andrew Cueto (for excellent kick and chase and strong defending) and to Luke with some great carries.

Old Cryptians 38 Westbury 19

The following week, Westbury were on the road again to Old Cryptians. The



g a m e kicked off to a decent start with Westbury's defence but as the pressure built

from Crypts, this led to the first try of the game. Westbury put in a good attack but

suffered as Crypts went over for a second fast try. Coming to the end of the half, Crypts were leading 4 to 1.

In the second half, Westbury got off to a speedy start with a try from Harry Janneh, taking a great line through Crypts. Another try for Westbury from Paul Reddan brought the game to 4-2 but Crypts responded with a try of their own, shortly followed by Westbury scoring their third try from Cap'n Bob. Crypts ended the game with another try and a final score of 38 - 19 to Old Cryptians.

Westbury 7 Drybrook II

On 13th April, Westbury completed their final home fixture of the season with what was, quite literally, a game of two halves. With both the original fixtures



against Drybrook II having fallen foul of the appalling weather, this double header saw the visitors win the first half 5-49, and the second 7-29. No matter, Westbury never lost their shape or their hearts and Drybrook were forced to work for all of their points, with several fine passing moves.

Westbury tackled relentlessly and put together some good passages of play but the visitors were too strong - underlining their status as unbeaten league champions. Westbury's tries came from Paul Reddan and a Drybrook guest, with MoM awards going to Will Lord and Ben Stephens.

Cainscross 31 Westbury 26

The sun came out at Cainscross RFC on 20th April so sunscreen rather than the Vas' was the order of the day. The game kicked off with the backdrop of the magnificent Great Western Railway. It has to be said that the Chairman was cockahoop with the array of rolling stock passing by, as he regaled the numbers to the assembled capacity crowd! Anyway, onto the rugby, and as expected for two teams so close in the league, the game was a tense affair with real end to end flair from both sides bookended with a few knock ons and fumbles. The ref's whistle definitely got some action and the points were even at half time, 19-19. The second half was a bit fractious and resulted in a couple of yellows - one for either side. Some really good bursts from both sides saw the (invisible) scoreboard ticking over, with the game ending in favour of the home side 31 -26.



There were some performances of note for Digger for the try and the dream duo that is Max Kaufmann & Harry for their penetrating runs. Also Lee Prince, Markie Paul and Matt Hart (the vets collective....) and the ever improving Will Lord and Jay Scott for taking on the 9 (found your position there our kid!). It was the last game of the season and a very narrow margin loss on the road. Thanks to Cainscross for the hospitality.

So that's that! It's on to the AGM (on the 7th May), and the Dinner on the 10th (get

your forms in) and the Tour. Well done all, rest up, fitness and preseason soon (news to follow). A thank you to all of our supporters and sponsors this year - SDG Groundwork Solutions Ltd, Wildin & Co, TPS Gates & Doors Ltd, Severnside Veterinary Group and Glevum Windows And lastly a massive thanks to all who've helped behind the scenes - you know who you are.



Reminder Annual Awards and Meal Night

10th May 7-7.30 at the Parish Hall

All ex players, supports

ers or followers are welcome with partners, friends or mates as well. It's a very informal affair, so no long tables and speeches. Dress code smart casual (club shirts)

Below is the link to the form to secure your place.

https://forms.gle/c6FjhkZcV6qrQCf49

£12 for a two course meal and awards presentation.

Thanks to Pete Wilson for all his marvellous photos



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