

Westbury's Got Talent



A memorable evening was had by all at the Parish Hall at the end of term, as the staff and families of students of Westbury CE Primary gathered for the bi-annual celebration of Westbury's Got Talent, the 8th the school has held. The event, hosted by The Friends of Westbury School, gave us all an evening of wonderful and varied talent.

The evening began with Helen Cracknell introducing the evening's judges - past Westbury teacher Sian Landon, chair of Westbury Players Mark Landon and Westbury Youth Project leader Nicola Atkinson. It was great to have Nicola judging, as having been the chair of Friends a number of years ago, it is her we have to thank for establishing this fixture onto the school's calendar in 2009 .

The evening's acts were excellently introduced by the show's comperes, Barney,

Lewys, Wilf and Reuben, who maintained the smooth running of the evening alongside the ever-talented team of Mrs Roseblade backstage, Claire McCartney on sound and Matt Fransham on lights. The brave contestant who opened the show was Poppy, who gave a super rendition of George Ezra's 'Gold Rush Kid'. She sang with strength and carried off a great double denim look too. Having set the bar high, it was up to Heidi and Adam to continue the show. Being older members of the school, they were able to use this to their advantage to perform 'The Teacher Act'. The staff of the school sat nervously as they waited for Heidi and Adam's observations of them, which they executed brilliantly, whether it was Mrs Sim and her designer bags, Mrs 'Forest' Green or Miss Wills continuously losing her keys! Finally - in the first act of the night , Hattie, one of the younger per-

formers gave the audience the cuteness factor in her bear costume as she wonderfully acted and performed the 'The Goldilocks Song'.

In the second act, the evening continued with great variety, opening with Liz's fantastic tap-dancing routine to 'Bills'. Her timing and actions were perfect, and she lit up the stage. Next up, Poppy, Pearl and Noah added some drama to the evening with their acting in 'Spider Dave'. This cheeky Spider, played by Pearl, began getting up to mischief, much to Poppy's disdain. Noah, acting the fire, was able to assist Poppy and 'Spider Dave' quickly escaped. The performance was atmospheric and the three acted well together.

Another younger performer, Aryton, got the audience going with his super stage presence and dancing as he performed the song 'Believer' by Imagine Dragons! Matthew then confidently swaggered onto



the stage and raised the roof with his non stop dancing to 'Cotton Eye Joe'. His stamina and enthusiasm were awesome, and it was commented that his Grandad had been seen celebrating

similarly after a successful catch playing cricket!

After an interval with ice-creams and sweetie bags, the comperes had the show back on track. Koen kicked it off with a wonderful rendition of 'I Want it That Way'. Koen's lovely voice is one to listen out for in future school performances, he handled the key change well and had the audience swaying along too.

Pearl kept the audience on its toes with a quiz about guinea pig noises! This budding David Attenborough shared interesting facts about guinea pigs, helping us all understand a little more about Bobby the school guinea pig. Next up, Nia and Ava gave a powerful version of 'Jolene' and their duet gave the show a great country and western vibe. Their voices complimented each other, and they sang superbly in time.

Just before the judges' comments, Eden gave a mesmerising British Sign Language version of 'This is Me' from The Greatest Showman. Her performance was unique, showed off a new skill and I suspect there may have been a few tears in the audience.

The final act of the evening was 'The Family Treeo' comprising Martha, Monty and Honey. The trio gave a rousing version of 'Seven Nation Army'. Monty on the drums kept the important beat going perfectly, whilst the distinctive bass was played by Honey. After singing the song with a lovely bit of attitude, Martha then broke into a gymnastic routine!

As the judges retired to decide the winners, the most eagerly anticipated act took to the stage - the staff of Westbury school! Their version of 'Revoltin' Children' from Matilda, had the children out of their seats singing and dancing along, whilst avoiding being squirted with a water pistol! The evening concluded with all the children receiving a medal for being marvellous. The prize for Most Entertaining went to Matthew, Most Original was Heidi and Adam and Greatest Achievement was 'The Family Treeo'. The Grand Prize was awarded to Eden for most impressive overall performance.

The evening, put together by Helen and her team from The Friends, was a great success and left us all wanting more.

Sian Landon



Our May Parish Hall meeting was well attended and everyone is settling in to their allotted roles. Ken Boulton is working on the problems with reading the water meters and has been negotiating a new contract with Biffa which could save around £30 per month, so this was agreed.

Treasurer's report Sarah Mitten reported that it had been a better month financially with a few more bookings and some profitable fundraising. Our solicitor's advice will be sought regarding whether the doctor's surgery building should now be added to the Hall's accounts as an asset. Sarah has checked with our insurers following concerns being raised about the possible risks involved in changing the signs on the roadside display board, and she has been assured that volunteers are covered in the same way as employees.

Sub-Committees We now have four sub-committees — administration, utilities, maintenance and fundraising. We also have new committee members and it was suggested that information about the Hall and its workings should be made available to them so that they feel more able to partake in discussions at meetings. Sarah and Gen Riley will arrange this.

Utilities The Hall's Wifi is very poor and so a quote is to be obtained for wifi boosters which will be hard wired in to the walls. Ken Boulton updated us on the lower price rates under the new electricity contract, which starts in August.

Maintenance Chair Sally Godwin thanked the maintenance committee for cutting the grass verge near the Hall gates, which has much improved the visibility as you exit the Hall car park. Mike Edginton and Brian Wyman had been busy cleaning the gutters and the flat roof and will have a look at a couple of other issues that were raised. Mike wished to thank Rich Eeles for all the work that he does to keep the playing field in such good condition.

Fundraising The fundraising committee had met earlier in the month and Tiff Cairns circulated a list of the planned activities for the year. Tiff and Sarah are also looking at ways to set up Gift Aid for donations. Committee members were asked to make sure that they plug Hall events with their user groups.

Severndipity (Bar) Severndipity had held their AGM but still have two vacancies on the committee. There was some discussion as to whether soft drinks at weddings should be provided by caterers or sold by the bar and the two treasurers will discuss this further. Bar volunteers were requested for the forthcoming scooter rally and, in future, training will be arranged so that volunteers are ready to help at big events such as this.

Other matters An incident of some dangerous speeding round the car park had been reported to the PCSO. Gen Riley was due to meet with NHS Gloucestershire later that week regarding the lease of the doctor's surgery.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 11th June at 7.30pm.

Di Landon

Life Hack: When too tired to do all the things on your To Do list, try a To Don't list. Simply write all the things you're not going to do and then... don't do them. Huge sense of achievement with none of the effort." Eleanor Tiernan



This month at the Parish Hall

**2nd June 2024
7.45pm**



**Robbie Williams Tribute Night
21st June 2024**

Prebook. Neil 07889178260 or
Wegottickets.com/events/590385
or £12 on the door

Doors open 7.30 Start time 9pm
All ages (under 18s must be accompa-
nied by an adult)

..... and coming soon

Italian Feast Night

(see below)

26th July 2024.

7pm for 7.30pm

£20: 3 courses £15: 2 courses

Flower and Produce Show

Sunday 1st September

Jumble and Plant Sale

6th October

10 – 12:00 Noon

Teas

Old Skool Disco

60's, 70's 80's and 90's

7th Dec 2024

Westbury on Severn Parish Hall

Italian Feast Night

Friday July 26th. 7pm for a 7:30 pm serving.

£20 for 3 courses. £15 for 2 courses

Save the Date
Menu to follow as pre booking essential
Tickets from Jan on 07944343921 or
Tiff on tiffacair@gmail.com

Nosh and Natter
at
Westbury Parish Hall
Thursday 13th June

Food served between
12.30pm and 1.30pm

Soup of the Day

Coronation Chicken with a jacket potato and green salad

Eton Mess

£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

2nd June 2024
7.45pm



Frank Treasure is retiring from his role as quiz organiser and the Hall Quiz on Sunday 2nd June will be his last one. So we wanted to take this opportunity to thank both him, Jim Brass and all the other quizmasters, for the work they have done to provide so many entertaining and informative evenings at the Parish Hall. The quizzes have been a regular part of the Hall's programme of events for many, many years and have been much enjoyed as well as providing an income for the Hall. We are hoping that the Hall can continue to be a venue for quizzes in the future, so more details on that in next month's WoSP.

Parish Council

May is the month when the Parish Council holds an Annual Parish Meeting and an Annual Council Meeting, which understandably leads to some confusion. To clarify, the Annual Parish Meeting is largely to keep parishioners up to date with what has been happening with local government and public services over the previous year, whereas the Annual Council Meeting is to elect the Chair and Vice Chair and to appoint councillors to the various roles within the Council.

Unfortunately, our County Councillor, Philip Robinson was unable to attend and there were no members of the public present, but after accepting last year's minutes, the Annual Parish Meeting heard from PCSO Tracy Martin, who went through last year's crime figures for

A promotional poster for a performance. At the top, it says 'DAN BUDD as Robbie Williams' in large, stylized green and red text. Below this is a collage of images showing Dan Budd performing on stage, playing guitar and singing into a microphone. A green banner across the middle of the collage reads 'WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN PARISH HALL FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2024'. At the bottom, there is a black box with white text: '£9 in advance', '£12 on the door', 'www.wegotickets.com/event/590385', and 'Text Neil 07889 178260'.

Westbury. We much appreciated her presence, as for the last few years the police have not sent a representative and she had attended even though it had been her day off.

There had been a small increase in the number of road accidents involving injuries but traffic offences were down and accidents involving only vehicle damage were the same as the previous year. We know that the main accident spots are Elton Corner, Jordans Hill Bridge and Chaxhill and so we asked if she could let us know where in the parish the accidents occurred, so that we have figures which may support our request for changes to the speed limit at Jordans Hill. There was one instance of house burglary and one car stolen, which was the same as last year, and the only drug offence was one for possession of cannabis. There were eight instances of anti-social behaviour. There had been a recent incident when two cars were seen racing around the Parish Hall car park and this was reported to PCSO Martin and she will bear this in mind when on her rounds.

Our Chairman, Simon Phelps, had circulated his annual report in which he alluded to the frustrations over several issues affecting the parish which have not been resolved. Top of the list is the hold up with the leasehold agreement for the School Field extension, but the state of the roads, the overflowing sewers and improving the visibility on the approach to Jordan Hill Bridge are also proving hard to resolve. However, the churchyard is becoming a better habitat for wildflowers and wildlife partly thanks to the Churchyard Working Group. Simon went on to thank our County Councillor, Philip Robinson, and his fellow councillors for their support and expressed all our thanks to our Parish Clerk, Fiona Wallbank.

We then moved on to the Annual Council Meeting at which Simon Phelps was

unanimously re-elected as Chairman and Richard Hewlett was elected as Vice-Chairman. Richard Hewlett also agreed to continue as Snow and Flood Warden, Debbie Hill will continue to be responsible for the Emergency Plan and I will carry on as Parish Council representative on the Parish Hall committee.

Planning There were no planning applications to be considered (which was very unusual) so we moved on to

Financial Matters The monthly accounts were agreed but the signing of the annual accounts had to be deferred until next month as our usual auditor is unwell and alternative arrangements have had to be made. It was agreed that dedicated Parish Council email addresses should be arranged for parish councillors rather than them using their personal email addresses for Parish Council business and Fiona is setting this up. We have had a couple of incidents of spam emails being sent out and it is likely to soon become compulsory for Parish Councils to use a gov.uk domain.

Highways Chairman Simon Phelps and Richard Hewlett had accompanied Andrew Middlecote and a colleague from Gloucestershire Highways on a tour around the parish's trouble spots (all 21 of them!) As well as the general poor state of the roads, especially at Hunt Hill, Frowens Lane and Cowleys Elm, where there is also a massive pot hole, they looked at several blocked drains, and areas where there is subsidence or which are prone to flooding. So Highways are now fully aware of all the issues, but this clearly does not mean that they will be quickly fixed – as Westbury is far from alone in having problems on this scale. Highways Departments are obviously getting stick from everyone, and they pointed out that problems such as the limited budget, and the fact that it takes 4 months to get a 'Road Closure' notice

issued, do not help them get through the vast amount of work that is needed. Simon has written to Mark Harper about the visibility issue at Jordan Hill railway bridge. More care will have to be taken when driving along the lanes this summer, as the verges will only be cut once and, judging by the height of the vegetation already, it will be very difficult to see what's coming round the bends.

Burial Ground and School Playing Field There has been no response from the County Council regarding the lease and the unpaid rent, in spite of our Clerk, Fiona, chasing this on a regular basis. She has now completed the incredibly complex form applying for change of use that they have suddenly demanded. We are still awaiting a letter of support from the school governors, which is also required, but that seems to be taking a while.

Play Area This is in need of a good spring clean so Mike Townsend will ask if the Community Payback team would be willing to do this for us as they made a very good job of it last time.

Footpaths Mike Townsend reported that there are a couple of fallen trees blocking footpaths in Ley Park and that there has been a problem on footpath EWS 5.

Climate Change The Forest Climate Network is keen for every Parish Council to do as much as possible to encourage residents to reduce their carbon emissions, protect their local environment from the effects of climate change and to encourage biodiversity. However, they also suggest that members of the community should be encouraged to play a part, or take a lead in this, so we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to help with any projects of this sort. Please email me - diana.landon12@gmail.com - if this would interest you.

Our next meeting is on Monday 17th June at 7pm at the Parish Hall. *Di Landon*

Westbury Church
Family Service
at Northwood Green
Church
on Sunday 16th June at
10am



and God created the heavens
and the earth
and it was good

I hope you will come and help us
discover what happened.

WESTBURY CHURCH
FRIENDS AGM

TUESDAY 16TH JULY 7.30PM
@ WESTBURY CHURCH

You are welcome to join us for our
AGM.

Come along if you would like to join
us as a committee member, just to
help at our fundraising events or if
you are just interested in what we do.

We look forward to seeing you.

Vale of Castiard WI

Our May meeting saw the welcome return of Paul Barnett, who gave a fascinating talk about the RMS Carpathia, the first ship to come to the rescue of passengers on the Titanic. Paul is a very popular speaker and the topic attracted a number of visitors.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19 June at 7.30pm, when Peter Gill will give a talk about Private Godfrey's War. To the legions of fans of Dad's Army, Private Charles Godfrey was that wonderfully endearing, kind and gentle retired tailor who lived with his two spinster sisters in Cherry Tree Cottage, Walmington-on-Sea. However, the Great War experiences of William Arnold Ridley, who played Godfrey, as a combatant in



the front line trenches of the Western Front would leave him both physically and mentally

scarred for life.

Visitors (male as well as female!) are very welcome to join us. £5.50 including refreshments. For more information, please contact Gill Western, President, on 07879 532060 or Karen Johnson, Secretary, on 07879 386573.

Please note that, due to the temporary closure of the Flaxley Schoolroom, our June meeting will be held in the Northwood Green Social Hall.

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting a bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian.

Dennis Wholey

Our Weather in April 2024

Warmest Day. 12th 19.5c
Warmest Nights . 4/5th and 5/6th. 9c
Coldest Day. 27th 7c
Coldest Nights. 19/20th and 24/25th. -1c
Wettest Day. 28th 13mm
Number of Days with Rain 19
Total Rainfall. 95.5mm
Hail fell on 17th
Predominant Wind Direction, Southerlies for the first half of the month and Northerlies in the second half.
Average Maximum Temperature 13.8c
Average Minimum Temperature. 4.5c
So warmer and wetter than
April 2023
Average Maximum Temperature 13.2c
Average Minimum Temperature 2.5c
Rainfall 87mm



Memory Café
Tuesday 4th June 2024
and every 4 weeks

If you have a partner or parent living with dementia or memory loss, come to the Memory Café with them. It is fun, friendly, safe and supportive with refreshments and activities included.

Supported by Artspace, Cinderford as part of the Mindscape Project, people can enjoy a variety of craft and activities.

11.00am - Cuppa and a cake

11.30am - activities provided by

Mindscape tutors

12.30pm – 1.15 Soup and rolls served.

There is no charge for attending this event so why not pop along and join us? For further information:

Call: 07926 986 247



Flaxley Fete Dog Show

@ Home Farm, GL14 1JR

Start Time 12:30 Entries from 12 Midday

Dog Show Classes:

1. Lovely Ladies
2. Gorgeous Gentlemen
3. Golden Oldies (dogs to be over seven)
4. Dog most like its Owner
5. Most Appealing Eyes
6. Waggiest Tail
7. Best Six Legs
8. Young Handler (to be split if numbers allow and prizes to all)
 - a. 10 and under
 - b. 11-16
9. Dog Judge would most like to take Home.

Terms and Conditions:

- ❖ £3/class or two class for £5. Cash only.
- ❖ Children 10 and under to be accompanied by an adult (16+).
- ❖ Dogs must be on leads at all times.
- ❖ Please clear up after your dog and put in the appropriate bins.
- ❖ Judge's decision is final.

Kindly Sponsored by:



Presented in association with:



FOLLOWED BY
A DOG SCURRY



How fast is your dog? A Fun Race for all dogs
Prizes for fastest dog
Entry fee: £2.00

Road Closures

Church Lane, Northwood Green will be closed from 23.00hrs on 9th June 2024 to 05.00hrs on 10th June 2024. This is to allow for works by Network Rail. Emergency and pedestrian access will be maintained.

Blaisdon Road, Westbury On Severn will be closed from the 10th June 2024 to 13th June 2024, between the hours of 22.00hrs to 06.30hrs each night. This is to allow for works by Network Rail.

If you should require further information please email
streetworks@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Teacher: James, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

James: No, Miss. It's the same dog.

Message from Network Rail

The next phase of the Severn Estuary Resilience Program (SERP) starts soon and preparation is due to commence from **Monday 3 June**, with the main work taking place **whilst the railway is temporarily closed** between Severn Tunnel Junction and Gloucester from Monday 22 July to Saturday 10 August. Buses will replace trains for all or part of your journey. Please note there will be some passenger services running at weekends, but please check before you travel at nationalrail.co.uk. We will be holding a drop-in event on Thurs 6 June 2024 between 3pm and 7pm at the Awre Village Hall, Awre, Newnham GL14 1EL. Members of the project team and contractors will be on hand to answer any questions and no appointment is needed.

Churchyard Working Party

Another fine morning for our work in the closed churchyard in May, and it was a good chance to tidy the hedge along the roadside. One thing leads to another - and so the road gutter and drains got a clean out too! Although stinging nettles are undoubtedly good for encouraging butterflies, moths and other insects, you can have too much of a good thing and so these got thinned out somewhat. Because churchyards have never been ploughed or fertilised, they are a haven for wildlife such as bees, butterflies, swifts, slowworms and hedgehogs and our churchyard is currently a mass of wildflowers.

Our next working party is on Saturday 8th June between 10am and 1pm and any volunteers are very welcome to join us.

Be Ready for the General Election

It is important that those who want to vote in the general election make sure they are registered and that they have an accepted form of photo ID for voting in person in a polling station.

If anyone is unable to go to a polling station on Thursday 4 July they can apply to vote by post or even appoint a proxy - a person you trust to vote on your behalf. Remember that before you can apply for a postal vote or appoint a proxy you must be registered to vote.

Residents who do not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID either online or by completing a paper application form which is available at our offices or by calling us at 01594 812638. If you need any help with applying for the free ID or want to request an application form please contact us at the number above.

Rugby

Westbury on Severn RFC held their Annual Awards and Meal on 10th May. It was a great night and huge thanks to everyone who came, who bought a raffle ticket or who bid at the



auction.

The Hip Flasks were kindly etched by the artisan machinists at Forge Motorsport, so thanks to Peter Miles.

Congratulations to all of the winners. The Awards were capped off with Lee Prince getting his 500 blazer. So on to next season

WOS Junior Cricket

The Junior season is underway with over 50 juniors attending Friday evening practices. It is wonderful to see so many young people enjoying the return to cricket. So far, the weather has meant a mixed bag for both games and practice but the enthusiasm is boundless when the weather permits!

Both the U13 and U15 teams have man-



aged to start their league season playing Parkend and Ruardean Hill, coming a close second in all matches so far. We have seen some amazing individual performances with Roman batting the whole innings in his first U 13 game for Westbury, Ollie making his first 30-retired and Thomas H with his impressive 2-1 off 2 bowling figures!

In the coming weeks we have lots more matches to play and plenty more opportunities for our young cricketers to excel with bat, ball and behind the stumps.

A massive 'Well done' to two of our junior members who took to the field last Sunday to play in their first ever Senior game for the club. Both took it in their stride and bowled and fielded brilliantly.

We have lots more juniors ready to start their journey into Senior cricket over the weeks ahead, it is an exciting time for the whole club to see our juniors progress in their confidence and cricketing ability.

Until next month, let us hope for more fair weather so that we can play as much cricket as possible.

WOS Junior Cricket Coaches

Cricket

The first month of the season has been a mix of rain, runs and results as the senior three teams kick off their league campaign.

The first team under the stewardship of Alex Wyman played their first game at Thornbury and came up short in a high scoring game before bouncing back to record a dominant victory over Great Rissington. The highlights being strong innings from Devin Rogers and Alex Wyman backed up by the bowlers with the full arsenal chipping in the wickets column.

As for Rich Poole's second team, that elusive first win is imminent with a number of promising displays not quite translating in victory. Will Hargreaves's first week century against Eldersfield was in vain in a high chase, before a defeat on the minefield of King George V field meant it was 0/2, but plenty of club members contributing to the team. The Wolfhounds are 2/2 and only had to play one game! Beth Powell recorded her highest senior score to edge past Newent IIs, with game number two being conceded by Bream. Look forward to seeing you all on the boundary edge soon! And if you fancy donning the whites and swinging the bat, there's always a space!

Cricket Latest

On Saturday 25 May, the **Firsts** played Chipping Campden, and we had a relatively solid start to our batting innings. Unfortunately a middle/lower order collapse, with some help from a debatable umpiring decision left us finishing 190 all out. Devin finished on a well made 73 from 120 balls.

We got off to a great start with the ball, and soon had the opposition 76-5, but then a 50 run partnership followed before Will Hargreaves took an absolute screamer in the Gully and the game looked like it was creeping back in our favour. But it was not to be and they won the game with two wickets in hand and 9 balls remaining. Another player of the match performance for Devin Rogers and mentions also for Ed Edginton and Fran Stirrup.

Meanwhile, the **Seconds** hosted Bream and opted to field first with the hope we



could dominate with the ball. Unfortunately despite the ever reliable James Walkley - Cox striking in the first

over, we could not capitalise and Bream scored 215-6. James bowled 8 very tight overs and Jon Hargreaves took 4 wickets in two good spells with



the ball. Special mention to Talli Scott who had a solid game behind the stumps.

Westbury's reply got off to a good start and at the halfway stage it was anyone's game, but unfortunately the loss of a number of other wickets and some good bowling and fielding resulted in Westbury falling short by 51 runs. Nice to see the skipper Rich Poole amongst the runs with his first fifty of the season.

The Thirds (Wolfhounds) travelled to Parkend with a good mixture of youth and experience. After losing the toss, we were put into field with Charlotte and Beth opening the bowling with some gaps in the field (we started with nine players)

They kept the run rate at a reasonable level and with the arrival of the Pritchard brothers we were at full capacity. Some wicket worthy bowling and determination in the field meant that they ended their innings 196-5 with wickets spread evenly.

We mixed our batting line-up with experience and not so much experience. Every batter showed confidence, each making a contribution. Eventually it came to Mark Landon (who opened) and Chris Wayman, whose experience and some dogged batting brought the wolfhounds another win on the road, with Mark finishing on 111 and Chris 58. Special mention to Neil and Rory who spent nearly 30 overs padded up and Jack who came in and showed potential.

Fixtures for 1st and 2nd June

SATURDAY	1st XI v Cheltenham Civil Service (H)
	2nd XI v Stonway (A)
	3rd XI v Ruisden Hill B& (H)
SUNDAY	Sun XI v Cowley (H) 1400
	UTS v Huxley (H) 1000

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