

Westbourne Parish Council Newsletter

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WESTBOURNE'S OPEN GARDENS DAY TOPS £12,000

Westbourne's Open Gardens day, on Sunday 17th June, saw the village heaving with visitors from far and wide. Held once every three years, villagers in Westbourne opened their gardens for the day and invited thousands of people to come and visit them.



This year the owners of 20 gardens in the village invited garden-lovers to enjoy the experience of wandering through the village and viewing the wide variety of gardens on show; from patio gardens, those with water meandering through, manicured and tastefully planted mature gardens to gardens designed and planted to show standard.

It was quite clear just what an extraordinary amount of work had been put into preparing the gardens, and the garden owners must be thanked as the stars of the show for all their dedication and hard work.



This extremely successful community event was organised by the Open Gardens committee and, as usual, was led with military precision by Avril Hardie and Emma Weatherstone. The event was also supported by many volunteer local residents who acted as stewards, ticket sellers and helpers. The PTA laid on a lunchtime BBQ at the primary school, while the Westbourne WI provided refreshments at the Parish Hall. Thanks must also go to the sponsors

for providing the garden's signage and the local business advertisers for supporting the brochure costs.

It is estimated that this family event attracted well in excess of 1,000 visitors and raised over £12,000 for local charities. The raffle was drawn at 5pm and the twenty lucky winning numbers can be found online: web- www.westbourneopengardens.co.uk Facebook and Instagram - @westbourneopengardens



It was good to see so many smiling faces in the village, well done everyone involved!

CELEBRATING COMMANDER TIM PEAKE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Residents are invited to attend a special celebration of Commander Tim Peake's achievements on Thursday 12 July 2018 at 3.30pm at Monk's Hill Recreation Ground, Westbourne.

Tim will be unveiling a plaque which will be placed next to an oak tree that has been planted by the Parish Council, as well as officially opening the recently refurbished playground. For further information about the event, please contact the Parish Clerk.



RESIDENTS URGED TO USE NUMBER 54 BUS

Westbourne Parish Council is representing the voice of many concerned residents about the future of the local bus service in discussions with WSCC.

Since the withdrawal of services provided by Emsworth and District - a private local business - due to a lack of commercial viability, Westbourne's buses have been reduced. The County Council is now funding the 54 bus for a year with Stagecoach, which links Westbourne to Chichester and surrounding villages, until a permanent solution can be found. The former 28 bus to Havant no longer runs.

Cllr Richard Hitchcock said: 'Westbourne residents are very concerned about the reduction of our buses. They provide a vital service for many younger and older people who rely on public transport for work and access to shops or health services. It is essential that Westbourne as a rural community supports its residents with good transport links.

'The Parish Council has made the County Council aware of these concerns, including the fact that the 54 bus now runs at limited times and there is still no bus to Havant, and we will continue to until an improved service is put in place.



'We encourage all residents to use the 54 bus as much as possible over the forthcoming year to demonstrate to the County Council that it is a well-used service which needs to be maintained.'

The Parish Council has prepared a petition and is asking all village residents to sign it to help bring back Westbourne's buses. Volunteers will also be asking passengers on the buses to sign up and make their voices heard. The signed petition will then be sent to West Sussex County Councillor Viral Parikh who will present it to WSCC on our behalf.

To find out the latest information about the bus service and to raise your concerns, contact West Sussex County Council at www.westsussex.gov.uk or call 01243 777100.

KEEPING WESTBOURNE TIDY

Littering seems to be a problem that never goes away. At the Parish Council's Spring Clean day in April, over ten large bags were filled despite Chichester District Council having had their own litter pickers out the previous week.



The District Council has launched the Adopt and Area campaign to encourage everyone living in the area to share responsibility for cutting down on litter in their neighbourhood. You can take part in the scheme by adopting an area – it could be the pavement outside your home, a favourite footpath or play area – and keeping that space litter free.

'I'd like to thank residents who joined us for our Parish Spring Clean day which was once again a great success', said Cllr Richard Hitchcock. 'The Parish Council is committed to keeping our Parish litter-free and will continue to hold spring cleaning events, maintain its two recreation grounds and work with the District Council to help report littering and fly tipping'. Find out more and join the campaign, go to www.chichester.gov.uk/adoptanarea

WHAT IF? YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In April, Chris Scott of the Resilience and Emergencies team at WSCC, gave the second of two talks about community resilience. The first, which took place last year, looked at possible emergencies which communities might face in the future. This time, the focus was on what we can do to deal with such an emergency should we be unfortunate enough to be confronted with one.



As a consequence the Parish Council will soon be updating its own Emergency Plan, and one of the tasks will be to identify somebody who can grit untreated roads in the event of snow and/or ice. If you have any ideas, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Taking part in the 'What if' Resilience scheme entitled the Parish to receive up to £1,000 of equipment for use in an emergency. This equipment includes shovels, snow shovels, torches, megaphone, wind-up analogue radio, safety light sticks, first-aid kits, foil blankets, rubber gloves, high-visibility jackets, cordoning-off tape, 'Road Ahead Closed' warning signs and road cones. The Parish Council would like to thank the County Council for this equipment, which is now in the Parish Council's safe keeping.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

You will have most probably have read, both in the Westbourne Magazine and in this newsletter, that the Parish Council is currently short of two councillors. It has been operating below strength, so to speak, for the last three years and, although it has achieved a great deal, it would be great if more people could come forward to help.

PARISHIONERS



If becoming a parish councillor seems too big a step to take, that doesn't have to stop you becoming involved in a specific area of the Council's work that is of particular interest to you. Take traffic and parking, for example. These are topics that concern many of us but, rather than just

talking – and often complaining – about it, you would have the opportunity to make a difference were you to become a member of the Public Services Committee. And there are plenty of other important public services that this group deals with.

If you are interested in recreation, leisure and amenities – and it would be somewhat odd if you weren't – places are available on the Committee so named. This committee has recently overseen the installation of £35,000 worth of play equipment at the Monk's Hill Recreation Ground and this is just one of many initiatives that can be taken to make Westbourne an even better place in which to relax and enjoy yourself.

We all lead busy lives these days, but these committees only meet three or four times a year and we are sure you would be able to fit that in. Moreover, it is a good way of finding out what the Parish Council does and how it operates, as well as getting to know other people in the village. Who knows, you might even get the bug and decide to join the Parish Council!

If you are interested in finding out about, or even becoming a member of, either of these two committees, please contact the Parish Clerk.

WESTBOURNE BENEFITS FROM NEW HOMES BONUS FUNDING

The New Homes Bonus (NHB) is a grant paid by the government to local councils to reflect and incentivise housing growth in their local areas. It is based on the amount of extra Council Tax revenue raised for new-build homes, conversions and long-term empty homes brought back into use.



For several years, Westbourne has benefited from NHB monies. Projects included the village gateways, outdoor exercise equipment at the recreation grounds, new benches in parts of the village, a new disabled-friendly roundabout, and funding for an extension to the cemetery.

This year, a decision has been made to purchase equipment for the Community Speedwatch Scheme (just now getting off the ground) and two new mobile solar-powered vehicle activated signs. Whilst the 20mph speed limit and the village gateways have succeeded to some extent in reducing the speed of vehicles in the village, it is clear that much more needs to be done.



If you would like to be involved in the Community Speedwatch Scheme, please contact the scheme co-ordinator Cllr David Mack.

COMMUNITY CHEST

At the June Parish Council meeting, Greening Westbourne were awarded £200 from the Council's Community Chest Grant Scheme. This money will go towards the installation of cycle stands in The Square. Details of the Community Chest Grant Scheme are available on the Parish Council website and from the Parish Clerk.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Parish Council would like to thank residents who attended the Annual Parish Assembly in April.

Guest speakers from CDC presented how forming a Community Land Trust could provide much needed affordable homes for younger and older people in the Parish. The event was also an opportunity to hear annual reports from a range of local community groups and organisations, as well as meet others and share ideas over cheese and wine.

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Call:	07775 654483
Email:	westbournepc@outlook.com
Write to:	Clare Kennett, Clerk to the Parish Council, 53 Skylark Avenue, Emsworth, PO10 7GB
Website:	www.westbournepc.org
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/westbournepc

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Richard Hitchcock	<i>Chair</i>	01243 389096	rahitchcock@btinternet.com
Cllr Nigel Ricketts	<i>Vice-Chair</i>	01243 371865	nigel58ricketts@googlemail.com
Cllr Roy Briscoe		01243 696376	westbournepcroy@talktalk.net
Cllr David Mack		01243 372784	davidmack12@hotmail.com
Cllr Piers Mason		01243 377977	piers@zoboa.com
Cllr Val Owen		01243 373382	mrsvalowen@gmail.com
Cllr Syd Smith		01243 378438	sydsmith@btinternet.com

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mark Dunn	<i>District Councillor</i>	01243 535202	mdunn@chichester.gov.uk
Cllr Viral Parikh	<i>County Councillor</i>	07474 741345	viral.parikh@westsussex.gov.uk

The Parish Council meets every second Thursday of the month at 7.15 pm at the Meeting Place, North Street, Westbourne. Residents are very welcome to attend the meeting which is held in public.