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Edward Coleman: 14 Leigh Close, 824215 enquiries@restoredimage.co.uk

Sewing service - curtains, blinds and dressmaking, alterations, repairs
Anne Poole: 117 Westbury Leigh, 858711, aptextiles@virginmedia.com

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Sue Huntley B Ed(Hons), Cartref, Black Horse Lane, 859977 sue@hsow.co.uk www.hsow.co.uk

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If you would like a free one-line entry in this directory in future newsletters, please give the details to Angela (303941 or jandagraham-leigh@blueyonder.co.uk).



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Westbury Leigh Car Park

As you may have seen in local papers or on Wiltshire Council's website, the Council has completed its review of parking in the county and, as expected, Westbury Leigh is on the list of car parks considered to be of little strategic value. For Westbury Leigh Community Project Ltd (WLCP), the registered charity that runs the Community Hall, this outcome of the review is an important stage in the process of securing the community asset transfer of the car park.

The Council is making progress on costing different options for dealing with the drainage problems in the car park. WLCP has submitted a draft application for the community asset transfer and this will be confirmed when we know more about the drainage solution and the legal framework for the transfer. These things take a long time!

We will give you more news when we have it, and watch out for local events to raise money for the future maintenance of the car park (date for your diary: Quiz on 18 July). In the meantime, if you have any queries/comments, please contact Angela on jandagraham-leigh@blueyonder.co.uk

Cygnets Pre-School

Cygnets Pre-School, located in Sandalwood Road, Leigh Park is delighted to have just been inspected and graded as OUTSTANDING by OFSTED.

"The highly experienced and qualified staff team have an excellent understanding of how to best support children in their learning and development"

The Pre-School does have a limited number of spaces available for children from age 3 to begin in the September term, should you wish to book a visit or for more information please telephone the Pre-School on 01373 827555.

Village Association Contacts

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Community Hall Website: www.westbury-leigh-community-hall.org.uk

Westbury Leigh Village Association Website: www.westbury-leigh.co.uk

Did You Know

That in 1687 there was a poorhouse in Westbury Leigh? In 1732 there was a plan to buy a house in Westbury Leigh to use as a workhouse, with a salaried master and mistress – it is not known whether this was done.

That the Westbury workhouse was used from the mid-19th century to 1930? It was in Eden Vale Road and is now retirement flats (William House Court).

That in 1814 the Churchwardens of All Saints' Westbury paid 3d a dozen for the destruction of sparrows? At Westbury Leigh the Community Hall has recently suffered damage from flocks of pigeons nesting in the tower.

Become an ambassador for your local carers charity!

Carer Support Wiltshire are looking for volunteers to become local carer ambassadors to help support more people providing unpaid care and support to a family member or friend.

Perhaps you have noticed that someone local has been giving extra care to one of their relatives, or looking out for a neighbour?

Our charity provides free support to people all over Wiltshire but our beautiful county is so large that we struggle to let everyone know that we exist.

Here are a few ways you could help:

- Contribute a regular article/column to your parish newsletter (like this one!)
- Put up promotional posters in your local village hall, shops or noticeboards
- Link-up with local village events to tell people more about us.

We really value our volunteers and we offer social events, access to training for your role and reimburse your out of pocket expenses.

If you could help us reach more of the carers living in your area, please give Alan Docherty at Carer Support Wiltshire a call on 01380 871690, or email info@carersinwiltshire.co.uk.

Dog data.

Figures published by the Pet Food Manufacturers Association state that there were approximately 10 million dogs in the UK in 2014. The regional figures state that 25% of households in the south west owned a dog, the highest percentage being 37% of households in the north east. Even so this suggests that within the 320 households we deliver this newsletter to there are probably 80 dogs. That could be quite a noisy party should we get them all together!

The Pets4homes census from 2010 states that the most popular breed is the Labrador Retriever, followed by the Cocker Spaniel, Springer Spaniel, and the German Shepherd. This is taken from the Kennel Club puppy data and therefore only includes registered dogs.

The most popular names for 2014 (according to the Guardian) are Poppy, Alfie, Molly, Bella and Charlie. According to the Daily Mail it's Max, Bella, Charlie, Daisy and Lucy. We are certainly a nation of animal lovers and a 2011 UK census states that there were twice as many pets as pensioners, 24 million pets and 12 million people aged over 65!

See Westbury Leigh on screen

You may have noticed the new house built by Vince and Jackie Macey behind 61 Westbury Leigh. You probably won't have realised that this is an "eco house", built on principles of sustainability. It will be featured on More4's "Building The Dream", presented by Charlie Luxton, at 9pm on 2 June. The programme will feature Westbury and Westbury Leigh, not just the house.

Election fever!

There are now only a few days left to the general election on 7 May, the first to be held under the provisions of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, which gives parliaments (under normal circumstances) fixed terms of 5 years. Before that Act, parliamentary terms had been a maximum of 5 years for the past 100 years, with post-war general elections typically held every 4 – 5 years, with no predictable dates.

Westbury was a parliamentary constituency from 1448 to 2010, when the constituency name was changed to SW Wiltshire. It returned 2 MPs until 1832, when this was changed to one. MPs in the 1820s included Sir Manasseh Massey Lopes (who built the Town Hall in the Market Place) and Robert Peel, who established the Metropolitan Police Force (and probably had no local connection). In the 1860s/1870s, there was great competition between Abraham Laverton and members of the Phipps family for the seat.

Westbury achieved 19th century notoriety! It was a "rotten borough" before the 1832 Reform Act: the right to vote went with ownership of 61 specific properties, which by 1832 had been mostly bought up by local grandees (eg Sir Manasseh Massey Lopes). In practice, by 1832 MPs were appointed by the 12 aldermen of the town. Even when the right to vote was extended by the 1832 and 1867 Reform Acts, voting remained public. This encouraged bullying and bribery and there were many challenges to election results. One of these was in 1869, when Abraham Laverton successfully challenged the election of John Phipps as MP for Westbury in 1868. This was one of the cases that resulted in the Ballot Act of 1872, which introduced the secret ballot. And Abraham Laverton built Prospect Square for his workers who had voted for him in 1868 and had been evicted from their homes by John Phipps – a lasting memorial for Westbury!

Abraham Laverton also challenged the result of the 1880 election, but this time unsuccessfully. This was based on allegations of undue influence on voters, including free drinks in pubs in Westbury and the surrounding villages. One of the pubs named was The Anchor Inn in Westbury Leigh (now 150/152 Westbury Leigh).

Do make the effort to vote on 7 May. Note that your polling station may have changed from Westbury Leigh Community Hall to Leigh Park Community Centre, as both are now used as polling stations. Check on your poll card where to go.