

Parish News – February 2018

Editor this month: Geoffrey Fitch

If you have any news you would like included in the monthly newsletter please send your copy to geoffreyfitch@hotmail.co.uk
Also note that if your paper copy of the newsletter has disappeared you can always find it on the parish website www.wwl-pc.org.uk which is updated regularly by John Shepherd.

The Westonbirt Society which is barely a year old is continuing to thrive and to produce speakers across a wide range of topics. The most recent speaker was John Gingell, a Bristol chocolatier who worked for Cadbury Frys for 41 years. He delivered a fascinating talk on the making of chocolate and also treated the attendees to samples that he still makes to old recipes. It also transpired that he was an international athlete in the 1960s winning numerous 800 metre races which he attributed to being able to use the extensive sports facilities available at Cadbury's Keynsham factory.

The next Lectures are as follows:-on 21st February at 7pm Mike Howarth will talk on the Wonders of Westonbirt Arboretum when he will tell us many interesting things we never knew. On 21st March at 2pm Judi Wray-Bliss will talk on the Social Life in Bath in the 18th Century and on 18th April at 7pm Paul Barnett who has appeared on Countryfile and Coast will be delivering a lecture called Fore and Aft about the wrecks at Purton on the River Severn. Go to www.friendsofpurton.com for more information. Yet another fascinating subject.

An offshoot of the Westonbirt Society is the History Society which held its first meeting on 24th January. The aim of this group is to research and record village life as far back as records will allow and anybody with documents or relevant recollections is invited to contact Angela Potter (880203) who is leading this interesting exercise. Various research projects have been taken on by the attendees in the hope that a comprehensive history of Westonbirt can be pulled together: everyone is welcome to contribute and further meetings will be flagged up in the Newsletter.

On 11th May Westonbirt School are holding a Grand Celebration Ball to mark the 90th anniversary of its founding in 1928. This year also commemorates 150 years since the building of the magnificent Victorian mansion that is Westonbirt House. Tickets for this black tie /roaring 20s event can be purchased online for £50. Visit the school website to follow the link.

The school will also celebrate its 90th year with a Birthday Commemorative Book. This will be £20 per copy and can be ordered online - look up <https://westonbirt90thbook.eventbrite.co.uk> for the purchasing link.

The AGM of the Village Hall Fund was held on 22nd January and was well attended. The fund which amounts to almost £130,000 is managed for the benefit of our joint parishes and under the expert watch of the Treasurer Isabel Syben is now matching inflation and producing an acceptable income in these days of historically low interest rates. The 5 person committee will consider requests for funding for any projects which will benefit the whole community -

an example is the Westonbirt Society which is the recipient of funds to cover running costs but other uses will be considered.

G.F.