

Development Opportunities for the Westbury Community Bulletin 8 - December 2023

Produced by the Leigh Park Community Centre (LPCC)
with Sustainable Communities.

Welcome to the December 2023 issue of the LPCC Community Activities Bulletin. As usual quite a few ideas are being bounced around with a view to creating a wider variety of fun and useful activities and opportunities, that might include all residents. This said it is your community, therefore your input is needed and welcomed, so that needs, desires, and aspirations might be met, where possible. LPCC might be able to help you set up a group or activity, show you where the opportunities you seek are, and advise.

The battery on my trusty SEAT conked out recently, which it appears was quite fortuitous as the helpful chappie the AA sent out was a fount of information ref AA Apprenticeships. So, I thought this needed to be shared, because one of the findings from much research shows that too many young people getting geared up for employment are not being supported or informed as well as they could be or need to be. LPCC through this Development Bulletin and its overall work intends to redress this deficit.

The AA Apprenticeship scheme

<https://www.theaa.com/about-us/newsroom/aa-launches-new-patrol-apprenticeship-programme>



In late December 2018 the AA introduced their 3 year 'New Patrol Apprenticeship Programme' to afford the opportunity for young people to become the Roadside Patrollers and Vehicle Inspectors (and more) of the future, working with local garages and professionals.

This is a chance to develop myriad skills in servicing and repairs with the ability to diagnose and analyse faults.

and join the Roadside Patrol or myriad other offered roles.



Roadside Patrol Apprenticeship



Level 3 Motor Vehicle and Maintenance Technician - 36 months

With around 10,000 breakdowns by cars, motorbikes, caravans, and vans per day being attended, it is doubtful, regardless of the progress of fully automated vehicles one day, that you will ever starve for work. The technology is

ever evolving, but the need is not diminishing.

Roles

Recovery Patrol

Contact centre Worker



Road Operations

Digital

HR

Finance

IT



Marketing, Data & Insight

All in all, this appears to be a superb opportunity for someone who wants to get on.

Average salary £25,481 per year

Ref: <https://uk.indeed.com/cmp/The-Aa/salaries/Apprentice>



Older People Programme to start in the New Year.

This project brought 2 funders together, those being 'Lottery' and the 'Wilts Foundation Older Peoples' grants. LPCC, as reported in other issues, has done a complete review resulting in a 'needs analysis', which takes into consideration the results shown in The Westbury

Neighbourhood Plan, courtesy Westbury Town Council, and a Community Area Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, by Wilts Council covering Westbury.

<https://www.westburytowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-page/>

https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/westbury-2020_43431036-3.pdf** See Westbury Ham page 20.



The Project

This work will create and support the building of social and practical skills of older people through a wide range of activities and learning, encouraging independence and interdependence and creativity, thus increasing opportunities, reducing isolation, whilst improving mental and physical fitness and general wellbeing.

Aims

- To build a project that is open and accessible to all older people.
- To include mentoring and social activities for older people, especially those who are disadvantaged or deprived in any way.



- Support to build confidence and self-esteem.
- Encourage attendees to take on new challenges and broaden their opportunities and horizons.

Other allied support will include.

- Passage to employment and re-entering the work force - advice and training opportunities
- IT instruction
- Employment skills work such as CV writing and interview skills.
- Research for opportunities



- Creative arts – including dance, crafts, and other activities.

This project will include the assistance of the following via support and workshops.

- local police – Safety in the home and on the streets
- back to school
- careers advisors – Re-entering the workplace and entrepreneurship
- local support services – information and guidance
- young people teaching older people IT.
- other relevant support.

*** This project will include the support of such as Age Concern/Age UK and other support agencies for this age group.*

LPCC's own research via Surveys, forums, and face to face contact over 2022/23 revealed that too many over 60s, do not:

- have enough information to assist them with their daily challenges.





- have information and guidance re getting back into the workforce.
- know how to access existing opportunities.
- engage enough in local activities.
- feel included in the workings of Westbury.
- have sufficient advice re exercise and diet.
- have trouble making ends meet.
- get out of the house much.

- receive few home visits.
- have enough volunteering opportunities

Improvements anticipated.

- Over 60s will build new skills and restore and share lost or dormant ones.



- Confidence and esteem levels will be raised.
- Isolation will be reduced.
- Employment opportunities and skills will be enhanced.
- Attendees will feel safer.

- The project will attract further grants.
- Increased collaboration and sharing of skills, ideas, and resources.
- Friendships will be formed.



- Mental and physical fitness will be improved.
- Post Covid depression will be alleviated.
- Increased opportunities to engage and volunteer, feeling useful and a part of the community.

** Whilst as you can see much work has been done to ensure that the needs of the over 60s are met, where possible, this project still needs your input and participation.

If you wish to get involved in this project in any way talk to Debbie LPCC's manager and/or fill out the 'Expression of Interest' at the end of this bulletin.



Environmental, horticulture, agriculture, nutrition and shop project



At the back of the Centre, you will see open space where 2 projects are set to take off in 2024. One is outdoor sports such as a Volleyball and outdoor circuit training etc., and the one discussed in the following text with the long title of, ‘Environmental, horticulture,



agriculture, nutrition and shop - learning project’, the length of the title expressing a wide and deep range of activities that will be encompassed by this project including growing one’s own food. Imagine going out to your patch at home on a frosty morning snapping off sprouts and digging your own potatoes, the taste as I can attest to, is like night and day compared to store bought vegies. When I lived in Attleborough in Norfolk I had a smallish garden which produced most of the vegies we



used for a year. Local experts and those with gardening



experience will help us all to become better food growers.

Another facet of this project will be horticulture, growing trees, and plants, some perhaps to plant around Westbury as a part of LPCC’s ‘Beautify Westbury’ goal, and potted and cut flowers to sell in the



proposed shop, and so on.



We will also learn how to grow our own fruit, planting gooseberry bushes, strawberry plants, black and red currant bushes, and raspberry canes, etc. Who knows, maybe Westbury sports someone who can teach us to



make jam.

A culinary skills project is on the cards for 2024, so all of the home-grown produce can contribute to menus.

For the environmental section of this project, we will connect with the Ranger Service, craftsmen and women and local professionals, perhaps going into the wild to learn all we can about nature’s good works and even have a go at nature crafts such as wattling and rustic furniture making.



It is hoped to instal a greenhouse and a shop. The latter will serve as a vehicle for teaching business skills etc.

Now for your ideas!



‘General Expression of Interest Form’ Email Debbie. office@lpccwestbury.org.uk

Name: _____ **Age** _____ **Email.** _____

I am interested in: _____

Ideas. (Activities, projects, support, and bulletin etc).

Skills and experience I would like to offer. _____

Sponsorship Business Card Ads.

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Email Debbie, Manager: office@lpccwestbury.org.uk