

‘Development Opportunities’ for the Westbury Community. Bulletin – February 2024.

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

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the ‘Westbury Development Opportunities Bulletin’.



As you will likely be aware the LPCC has long striven to offer the Westbury community the very best opportunities possible. The programme as a whole does not just afford the chance to take up an activity, but it also endeavours to provide support where it can, such as the currently running ‘Apprenticeships and Employment Support’ project. In talking with residents, we have uncovered a need for more support and information to be made available, which may include drop-in Surgeries by the likes of Age UK/Concern, or the Citizens Advice Bureau, etc. So, if drop - in advice organisations could help you in any way please fill out the Expression of Interest form at the end of this bulletin to make your needs known and we will go from there.

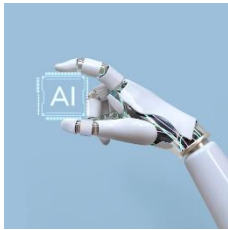


Adding to this, it appears that both local businesses and residents would like to have business and job fayres, perhaps once a year. This type of event will allow businesses to show what they offer and also job opportunities may be forthcoming. Sustainable Communities with LPCC volunteers is currently researching and compiling information regarding all of the businesses, large and small, that operate in Westbury, which it proves is considerable in numbers and variety. It probably makes sense to employ local people, thus creating a skills and labour pool to be envied.

Please feel invited to share your ideas regarding this opportunity via the Expression of Interest form or talk with Debbie the Centre’s Manager.

Good information is key!!

Apprenticeships.



Let's first of all explode the myth that apprenticeships are for the young only - it is not true. Recently we were asked to look into AI apprenticeships and in doing so uncovered a plethora of opportunities.

There is no apprenticeship age limit. There are many ways apprenticeships can not only benefit older people but can also be beneficial for their careers - from upskilling to restarting in a new field.

What is an AI apprenticeship?

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How do I get into AI with no experience?

Most AI jobs will demand candidates to have solid programming knowledge and skills in MATLAB, C/C++, and Python. You cannot learn these skills on your own or from watching videos online. That is why you must pursue a degree or a certification to get started and become a pro in this field.

Ref: <https://www.google.co.uk/search> - 28th January 2024.

Examples in the AI field.

Types of AI Apprenticeships:

Machine Learning Apprenticeships:

Data Science Apprenticeships:

Natural Language Processing (NLP) Apprenticeships:

Computer Vision Apprenticeships:

Robotics Apprenticeships:

How to get started.

If you are at school or college speak with your Career's Advisor. You could also research your area to see if AI opportunities exist locally – they do!



Examples of AI opportunities in Wiltshire.

A handy list to get you started. Select one that may suit you and touch base with them to set up a meeting, or perhaps work experience. As you can see the field is wide and varied.

<https://aeroleads.com/list/top-information-technology-and-services-companies-in-wiltshire>

A few steers to what is available in Westbury: Typed CMS Ltd, Invibe Digital, CIRC Manufacturing.

Communiters.



Recently several valuable volunteers have stepped up to the plate, contributing immensely to the overall programme and taking some of the load from the very busy manager's shoulders. If only able to offer several hours a month it will help, or perhaps you might do something from home, research for example.

As a 74-year-old, now semi-retired Community Development Consultant who had a first job at 13 years old, I have to date garnered skills and qualifications that have proven useful to the communities I work with, it is my guess that you have done the same. Personally, I have a lot to get up in the morning for, which includes helping clients to write bids for grants, helping to design projects and programmes to meet resident's needs and aspirations, meeting with instructors and other professionals and agencies, and so forth.

There is no reason there should not be a 'Communiters Club, developing a social side to the animal. Perhaps dances, trips out and the like – why not, there is nothing so good for body and soul than the gift of giving, which can include teaching someone to read, guiding a young person on a career path, or teaching any useful skill.



Sports development.



The proposed project includes indoor Table Tennis, Badminton, Mat Bowls, Fencing, Dance exercise, martial arts and more. Outside will be Volleyball and Circuit Training. A bid for £15k is being worked up as we speak to enable this project, as new kit has to be purchased and instructors paid. There can be a path created for anyone who wishes to become qualified in one or more of the offered disciplines.

One of the aims this year is to get us all that bit fitter and healthier, so nutrition and healthy eating cookery classes are being contemplated as a part of this project. We may not have any control of how many years we live, but we can contribute to the years we have, being healthier.



This project will tap into anyone in the Westbury Community who can bring skills and life experience to bear, as well as tapping into regional and national services and organisations.

Money.

We cannot hide from the fact that it takes money to run good quality projects and programmes and to that end the community can contribute by buying a Lottery Ticket (See One Lottery on our site).

<https://www.lpccwestbury.org.uk/one-lottery>

Businesses can take out a £5 per issue business card add, the latter creating a local directory of services as it grows. As you will know the fuel costs at home have grown out of proportion, so imagine the bill for Community Centres now.

One can sponsor a whole project, so if this appeals, talk to Debbie, the Centre's Manager.



‘General Expression of Interest Form’

Name: _____ Age _____

I am interested in:

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

Skills and experience I would like to offer.

Signature: _____ Email: _____

*** A typed signature will suffice as this is not an official registration form.

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

Business Card Sponsorship

£10 per issue or £100 per year

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

