

Westbury Heritage Society

Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Welcome to our latest newsletter – there's lots going on in the heritage centre and we have a packed programme of interesting talks and events coming up for you to enjoy.

Hercules becomes a TV star: The heritage centre was featured on television when BBC programme The Repair Shop stepped in to lend a hand with one of our favourite exhibits – the statue of mythical hero Hercules. The cast iron statue, which weighs in at more than 300 kilos, once graced the beam engine at Bitham Mill. But he had become detached from his club following a fall. The programme's specialists worked their magic and Hercules is now back in pride of place.

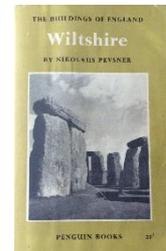


Festival debut for society: As part of this year's festival the



society is hosting a talk by leading architectural historian Julian Orbach. The talk which will feature Westbury's historic buildings takes place on Tuesday October 2 at the Methodist church in Station Road. The talk starts at 7.30pm. Julian, who wrote the Blue Guide to Victorian Buildings, is currently revising the Wiltshire volume of Pevsner's Buildings of England. This promises to be a

fascinating talk and a great opportunity to find out more about the historic buildings in our area so please come along. You can turn up on the night or book your ticket through the Westbury Festival website at www.westburyfestival.org.uk



Bill's hard work wins seal of approval: The heritage centre couldn't survive without the hard work of its band of volunteers. One of the society's stalwarts, Bill Prior, has just been awarded the George Nichols cup in recognition of his hard work and dedication. We are always looking for extra help. Work can range from manning the desk and greeting visitors to cataloguing artefacts and photographing them. If you think you can help, pop into the heritage centre for an application form or just a chat or call us on 01373



825784.

Discover things to do in Westbury: We are taking part in this special festival event at the Paragon on Saturday September 22. Pop in and see us.

Hard work pays off for volunteers: Paintbrushes and rollers were the order of the day when volunteers set to work to give the centre a fresh look. The redecoration has brightened the premises and we are now making plans for new exhibitions.

Heritage Open Days: Westbury is taking part in the national Heritage Open Days scheme. It runs from September 6-9 and enables visitors to see parts of the town's heritage not usually open to the public.  **heritage open days**
For more information about what's on in our area visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Westbury artefact with Royal connections: David Bullock spotted a remarkable piece of Westbury history when he was touring the Sandringham Motor Museum. This invalid carriage was made especially for George VI by the Westbury firm of Carters. The company had previously made similar carriages for Edward VII and George V. This carriage was supplied to Buckingham Palace in 1950 and was used by the King in 1950 and 1951 following an operation on his leg. It was powered by a 36 volt battery and could speed along at 8 miles per hour! It cost £327. Carters was established in 1850 and was last in Westbury at premises adjacent to Bitham Mill. If you spot any Westbury



heritage far from home we'd love to know!

Historic photograph exhibition: as part of the festival we are staging an historic photograph exhibition in All Saints church. This will feature some of the many images from our extensive collection. The exhibition runs throughout the festival from September 24 to October 5.

Heritage society gets new team: Following our recent AGM, we now have a new committee and look forward to working together. Sally Hendry has taken over as chair of the society following the resignation of our long term chairman Keith Miller.

Find out about your family history: Westbury heritage centre is staging its own version of Who Do You Think You Are! Thanks to the Wiltshire Family History Society, we are holding a special event on Saturday October 6 when experts will be on hand to help you trace your ancestors and get tips and advice on how to research your history. Come along and find out more!

Website revamp: Have you looked at our website recently? Thanks to hard work from one of our newest volunteers Brenda Pyne, the website now hosts a range of historic pics as well as other information. We plan to eventually photograph all our main artefacts and put them up on the site. If you have any thoughts about what you would like to see on the site please let us know! Find us at www.westburyheritagesociety.org.uk

Doing research: Did you know we have a wide range of reference books on local history such as town directories, historic photographs and maps. Pop in and look through them at your leisure..

Contact us...We are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10-4pm and Wednesday and Saturday 10-1pm. Telephone us at 01373 825784.