



**Neighbourhood Partnership
Westbury on Trym Neighbourhood Forum, 21 May 2013**

Promoting Westbury-on-Trym

1. Westbury in Bloom

This is Westbury in Bloom's 10th year and the programme for 2013-14 and the Flower Fund collection is well under way - thanks to all the deliverers and very many people's generosity.

The order for the hanging baskets, planters and flowers throughout Westbury has now gone in and the gardeners are also busy at work weeding, growing and planting! The theme for the launch of this year's Britain in Bloom is 'Edible Britain' so we are working with the children at Westbury-on-Trym Academy on this theme - and also hoping for another surprise!

The R.H.S. and Britain in Bloom awards are judged with equal emphasis on the three areas of: - 'Community Participation', 'Gardening Achievement' and 'Environmental Responsibility'. The awards recognize that as well as flowers, communities need to keep their areas as clean and green as possible - keeping the streets clear of weeds, litter and graffiti and encouraging recycling.

So helping Westbury to keep 'up to scratch' in this area is a good way of promoting Westbury as 'The Village within the City' and as an attractive place for people to shop, do business and enjoy the ambiance - and apart from lifting spirits, it's good marketing!

2. WoT Business Association (WOTBA)

WOTBA is continuing to be active in promoting Westbury. **The Town Team is making progress in working towards a Survey** which will take place during the second half of June/early July. This is in response to the Mary Portas initiative in encouraging town centres, in this case Westbury, to respond in a positive way to the challenges of the myriad of supermarkets, out of town Malls such as Cribbs Causeway and internet shopping. As many people as possible will be encouraged to become involved in the Survey (residents, shoppers, businesses, workers and others) by answering questions about how they currently experience Westbury and also their thoughts and ideas on suggested improvements and Westbury's future development. The Survey will be completed through interviews and will also be available on line. This is a real community effort and everyone's input to this will be valued and, we hope, will really help to contribute to Westbury's present and future.

A brand new WOTBA Website is being launched very shortly which will show all the Businesses in Westbury, particularly highlighting those businesses who are members of the Business Association, as well as some other surprises! **WOTBA is now also on Twitter and Facebook.** **The Discount scheme** is also in the process of being re-launched and will run for an extended period of 2 years.

WOTBA is also trying to encourage more 'happenings' in Westbury during the year so the next event - **'Treasures of Westbury'** - is being held on the afternoon of **Wednesday, August 7th 11-3pm**. This summer event is being themed around pirates with 'Pirate Pete' in

attendance, many stalls and also lots of fun and games for the children. Another summer event, organized by The Westbury on Trym Society and The Village Hall will be a **Jazz Night and Barbecue taking place on Saturday, June 22nd at the Village Hall.**

Yet another summer event '**The North Bristol Festival of Age**' - a fun day for older people living in our area is taking place in **The Bradbury Hall, Henleaze, on Monday July 1st (10.00 – 4.00).**

3. Village Plan

The Westbury-on-Trym Society (WotSoc) is currently preparing a **Community Plan**. The first step involves producing a record of what we value around the Ward and what we want the Planners to use as a reference when considering future development plans. This is called a **Character Assessment** and the process has already started with a pilot study concentrating on the Westbury Conservation Area. However, we need more help to continue the process. So, please register your interest and support by contacting WotSoc Chairman, Hilary Long, on 9622795 or wotsoconhil@gmail.com