

# ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

February 2026  
No. 551

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## Editorial

February is the shortest month of the year but, to me, always seems to be the longest as I look forward to spring and getting outdoors again! As always, there are still plenty of activities across the Isle of Wedmore to get yourself involved in, from a midday music recital in Theale; a Wedmore Twinning games night; or the popular Blackford Winter Warmer. Also check the centre pages for a range of regular events.

I would like to thank all the local poets who contribute to our Poetry Corner, but we are always on the lookout for more original poems. If you are a budding bard, and have a short, original, appropriate (!), poem you would like to contribute, then please contact me at [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com)

Warm in Wedmore is now in full swing! Please come along for a cup of tea or coffee, or a warming soup. I will be attending on 25 February along with the Community Bus team and I look forward to catching up with some of you then.

*Cheers, Ian*

## Front Cover

We are grateful to Dan Bingham, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Wedmore Golf Club, for this month's stunning sunrise picture. There are more pictures to be seen on their Facebook page 'Isle of Wedmore Greenkeepers'. As ever, if you have a great picture in or around Wedmore, please let me know.

*Mike*

**DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE: 1 February 2026**

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# Key Events This Month

Here is your round-up of the key events this month. **Please see the articles later in this magazine for full details.** More exciting things to do across the Isle of Wedmore are covered in the regular centrespread of 'What's On' listings.

## Warm in Wedmore – Wednesdays and Thursdays in February

Warm in Wedmore has returned to the Masonic Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout February, except 11 and 12 February.

## Christchurch, Theale, Midday Music Recital – 7 February

The return of the popular midday music recitals starts with Somerset Flutes

## Wedmore Twinning Games Night – 7 February

Join us for bingo, a quiz and other games, fun for all the family, and a chilli supper.

## Blackford Harvest Home Winter Warmer – 13 February

Come and enjoy an evening eating delicious casseroles and warming puddings while completing a couple of quizzes for fun!

## Free Prostate Cancer Testing in Wells – 21 February

Every year in the UK 40,000 men are diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and around 10,000 men die from the disease. So go and get tested!

# Coming Soon

Below is a selection of events coming up in the Isle of Wedmore over the next months, so get these dates locked in and plan your year around them. We will bring you further details in later issues of the Wedmore News closer to the events.

## Friends of St Mary's AGM and Skittles – 3 March

The Friends of St Mary's will be holding their AGM, followed by a skittles evening, at the Post and Wicket.

## 'Twelve Olympians Live' at St Mary's Church – 6 March

An immersive show with the cinematic instrumental music of Devon based Richard Anthony Bean.

## The Clash of the Choirs – 21 March

Ten local choirs sing it out at St Mary's to impress the notoriously unreliable Clapometer.

## Wedmore Repair Cafe – 11 April

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Let's serve up some fun at Wedmore Tennis Club

(768)

## Wedmore Freecycle – 26 April

Come and recycle your unused items. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure!

## Wedmore Theatre Presents 'Private Lives' – 30 April to 2 May

Wedmore Theatre's spring production this year is 'Private Lives' by Noël Coward – one of his most enduring and best-loved comedies.

## St Mary's Tower Open Day – 4 May

See the bells and climb to the top of the tower for the best views in Somerset.

## Wedmore Festival – 9 to 17 May

Showcases an incredible range of performances from national, international and local talent.

## Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride – 30 August

Registration will be opening shortly for this year's 40/30 charity bike race in support of Weston Hospicecare.

## Wedmore Real Ale Festival – 18 to 20 September

One of the major fundraising and social events of the Wedmore calendar returns for its 25th year!

## News

### Tessa Munt MP's Update

Hello everyone. Now we're well and truly into 2026, I'm flat out representing you, both in Parliament and here in Somerset.

At the end of last year, I'd spent several days in Committee and in meetings with Ministers, Government lawyers and Clerks, discussing the details of the Public Office (Accountability) Bill, better known as the Hillsborough Law. Now I'm in the next round of discussions with Ministers and specialists, thrashing out the final wording and trying not to leave any clause of this important law open to 'interpretation'. It's essential this legislation (and any other) is right, not just for the many individuals and families who have suffered appalling injustice when public servants have lied to protect themselves and their organisations, but because failure now may take decades to remedy.



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(766)

I'm glad there's a reprieve for farming as our campaign to raise the inheritance tax threshold from its £1 million base was supported by many locals, bolstering the calls of farmers who met my colleague Alistair Carmichael MP, Chair of Parliament's Environment Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee at Yeo Valley Canteen last February, where they told him exactly what they thought! I'll continue to do all I can, alongside my colleagues, to demand the Government scraps this tax in full. Next, it's sorting out fair business rate bills for pubs, hospitality, and our high streets.

I'm delighted young people will, from next year, enjoy opportunities to live and study in Europe under a revived Erasmus Scheme. I've also supported my MP colleague Al Pinkerton's UK-EU Customs Union Bill through its first reading in Parliament. A new customs union with our 500 million European neighbours would provide a genuine opportunity for growth, reduce our dependence on the US and China and, critically, hugely benefit trade here in the South West There's a long way for the Bill to go before it becomes law and I'll keep you updated.

Locally, I met farmers to discuss the problems of hare coursing, theft, and the serious organised crime which is driving a rise in rural crime incidents in Somerset. Please don't hesitate to call 101 if you see something suspicious, and 999 if a crime is in progress, but don't tackle these situations yourself as it's not safe to do so.

I was pleased to bring together leaders from Somerset Council and many Parish Councils to share information about planning, its regulation and enforcement. It was a very positive meeting, and I look forward to further meetings with Parish Councillors to listen to their experiences and concerns.

I enjoyed a fascinating morning at the Mendip Connections event, which brought together individuals and groups from across the area to help with wildlife, access and heritage projects. It's fantastic to hear such enthusiasm for this work, and great to spend time with members of the Mendip Hills National Landscapes team.

Finally, credit is due to the organisers of the Somerset 'Breast Cancer Now' annual fundraising ball. This was my 15th time at the Ball, and I'm honoured to support this brilliant event each year. It's raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for a great, and important, cause.

As ever, if you would like to speak to me about anything concerning you please don't hesitate to email or phone my office. I'll be running my regular 'surgeries' throughout 2026, for February, the most local surgeries will be on Saturday 7 February from 11.30am to 12.30pm at The Lamb Inn, Axbridge; Friday 13 February from 8.00am to 9.00am at the Edelweiss Café, Cheddar; and finally on Saturday 14 February from 9.00am to 10.00am at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore. All surgeries operate on a first come, first served basis and no appointment is necessary. If you can't come to see me, I'll come to see you.

You can also get hold of me in a number of other ways, by phone on 01934 440639 (answerphone for out of office hours), by email at [tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk) by text on 07714 599669; or by post to Tessa Munt, Freepost (you won't need a stamp).

You can contact your Somerset Councillors for Wedmore: Harry Munt on 07896 255176 (text is best) or email [harry.munt@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:harry.munt@somerset.gov.uk) and Matt Martin on 07766 382563 or email [matthew.martin@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.martin@somerset.gov.uk)

Tessa

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## Wedmore Parish Clerk Update

Hello friends, from my perspective as Clerk, February is often a quieter month on the surface, but it is one of the most important points in the year for setting direction and making sure decisions already taken are being followed through properly. This is when much of the real work happens: checking that plans are translating into action and that the foundations the Council relies on remain sound.

Since last month's report, two formal meetings have taken place: The Planning Committee, which met on 16 December, considered a wide range of planning applications and related matters across the parish. Objections were submitted where proposals were judged to pose highway and pedestrian safety risks; cause harm to the Conservation Area or countryside character; or fail to adequately protect trees and biodiversity. The Committee also confirmed the street name Orchard Rise for the Combe Batch development and reviewed ongoing planning enforcement issues at several locations.

The Full Council met on 17 December and focused on finance, governance and committee oversight. Councillors formally set the precept for 2026/27; approved the Council's Investment Strategy for 2025/26; confirmed internal audit arrangements; and received reports from all committees. Updates were noted on highways drainage concerns, community events, biodiversity activity, emergency planning, and the management of community assets. The Highways Committee also met in early January to consider a range of ongoing highways, drainage and road safety issues raised by residents. These include flooding and drainage concerns at known locations, requests for traffic management and signage improvements, and correspondence relating to road condition and maintenance. As the minutes of that meeting will not yet have been formally approved, a full report will be included in the next edition once decisions and actions have been confirmed.

Following agreement of the budget and precept, councillors have begun the detailed work of implementing priorities for the year ahead. This includes confirming committee work programmes, reviewing contracts and service arrangements, and ensuring that spending plans remain aligned with Council objectives. Good governance does not stop at the meeting table; it relies on steady, careful work throughout the year.

Work has started behind the scenes on the review of the Neighbourhood Plan. At this stage, the focus is on evidence gathering and understanding how planning policy has changed since the Plan was adopted. This groundwork is essential so that, when residents are invited to engage later in the process, that engagement is meaningful and genuinely influences outcomes.

Flooding and drainage issues continue to be raised by residents, and rightly so. Further follow-ups have taken place to keep the pressure on Somerset Council and the Internal Drainage Board regarding known problem areas. Progress can be slow, but these matters remain firmly on the Council's agenda until there is visible improvement.

Alongside this work, the revised Emergency Plan to improve community resilience is nearing completion, with a strong emphasis on clarity and real-world usability. Development continues on the household emergency information cards and an accompanying online resource hub. The aim is to ensure residents can access clear, reliable information quickly if it is ever needed.

The Environmental and Biodiversity Committee continues to focus on practical, achievable actions across the parish's green spaces. These are incremental improvements rather than large-scale projects, but over time they make a real difference to habitats, landscape quality and how these spaces are used and enjoyed.

Wedmore's character and resilience depend not only on the work of the Parish Council, but also on the everyday actions of residents. As homeowners and parishioners, small steps such as maintaining boundary hedges, keeping ditches and drains clear where they fall within private responsibility, and reporting issues promptly all contribute to the wider health and safety of the village. This shared sense of responsibility is what helps Wedmore function as a strong and connected community.

February has also involved routine but essential governance work, including policy reviews, compliance checks and preparation for audit later in the year. As Clerk, one of my priorities is making sure this work is not only done properly, but that it is transparent and understandable, rather than hidden away in minutes and reports.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to raise issues, ask questions or share views with councillors and officers. Those conversations continue to shape the Council's priorities. With spring approaching, there will be more visible activity to report on very soon.

*Lindsey Baker,  
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

### Statement from the Parish Council Concerning 20mph Limit Article

Wedmore Parish Council notes the article published in the January 2026 issue of the Isle of Wedmore News by the 'Save Wedmore Lives' campaign group. The article was produced independently and not in consultation with the Parish Council.

The Council's Highways Committee last considered a 20-mph speed limit at its meeting on 8 October 2025 and, based on data provided by Somerset Highways, resolved not to pursue a parish-wide 20 mph scheme at this time.

The Parish Council has not altered that position and has not endorsed any campaign on this matter. Any future proposals would be considered openly at a public meeting in accordance with Parish Council Standing Orders.

*Lindsey Baker,  
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

### Wedmore by Lamplight – A Festive Success

Several weeks on, the village is still buzzing after another magical Wedmore by Lamplight. The event brought the community together once again, filling the centre of the village with lantern light, festive cheer and a wonderful sense of togetherness. Wedmore by Lamplight simply wouldn't happen without the incredible support of our community. Heartfelt thanks go to every volunteer, marshal, performer, local business, community group, stall holder, lantern carrier, sponsor, and supporter who gave their time, energy and generosity to make the evening so special.

Special thanks to Bridgwater Carnival for enabling the road closure; Wedmore Parish Council for granting much-needed funds and offering guidance on compliance;

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and St Mary's Church for a beautiful crib service. The Men's Shed were invaluable with their army of table-carriers and gazebo-wranglers, while local businesses donated vital funds and residents generously shared parking spaces and electricity. Thanks also to Jo and the PTA for helping children create and decorate more than 50 lanterns, and of course to Santa and his elves for bringing festive magic for young and old alike. Most importantly, thanks to everyone who came along, supported local shops and businesses and helped create such a joyful atmosphere.

Planning is already underway for this year's Lamplight, and we would love to hear from anyone keen to get involved [wedmorebylamplight@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorebylamplight@gmail.com) From the Wedmore by Lamplight Committee, thank you for making the evening so special and looking forward to this year's festivities already!

*Wedmore by Lamplight Committee*

### St Mary's Church, Cleaning Rota

Do you have 3 to 4 hours for one month per year to join our committed group of church cleaners? St Mary's Church is cleaned regularly by a group of dedicated volunteers, if you would like to help and join this committed team please contact me, Heather Hector, via email at [heather@the-hectors.co.uk](mailto:heather@the-hectors.co.uk) or by phone on 01934 712478

*Heather Hector*

### Cheddar Valley Foodbank

A big thank you to everyone who has been able to donate food over the last year. The foodbank is always very grateful and sends their big thanks for your continued generosity. If, like myself, you forget to purchase extra food when shopping, or unable to take it to the drop-off point, then please do think about making a donation online. It is very easy and enables the foodbank to buy exactly what they need and are short of, please visit their website at [www.cheddarvalley.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.cheddarvalley.foodbank.org.uk) On this site you can also check any food they are in short supply of.

If you wish to donate items, the drop-off point is in the lobby of St Mary's church. Collections from the drop-off point are at 10.00 am each Saturday.

*Jane Scott*

### Wedmore Community Bus Needs New Drivers

Due to the design of our new Community Bus, it can now be driven by anyone with a standard driving licence. New drivers will now merely need to complete a simple assessment and DBS check, and they will be ready to start giving a valuable service to our community. The new bus is also much easier to drive than our old one.

This is great news for the Community Bus as we need more volunteer drivers to resource our expanding services. Drivers are needed for scheduled services on Mondays to Fridays and/or some Saturdays and/or Private Hire for local community and social groups on weekday afternoons/evenings and at weekends. We would particularly welcome volunteers connected with community groups as we'd like to expand use of the bus for private hire by this sector.

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Driving the bus isn't a big commitment. Many volunteers are only available occasionally, but they still make a valuable contribution. Even the volunteers who drive most frequently rarely drive more than once a month and they only drive at times when they make themselves available. Also, even when a driver has been timetabled for a trip there is flexibility to swap if she/he becomes unavailable.

Driving is very rewarding as it provides an important service to many local residents and community groups. It is fun as the bus is a friendly place where there is normally a happy buzz of conversation and plenty of laughs. It isn't difficult. All drivers are given free training by an approved Somerset Council trainer.

Interested? If so, please contact us either by email on [wedmorebus@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorebus@gmail.com) or telephone Phil Butterworth on 01934 712775.

For further details of the Community Bus and its services please refer to our article at the end of this magazine, go to [www.theisleofwedmore.net](http://www.theisleofwedmore.net) where there is a tab at the top of the home page, or email us on [wedmorebus@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorebus@gmail.com)

*Wedmore Community Bus Team*

### Peal Attempt at St Mary's

A visiting bell ringing band will be attempting a peal on Saturday 14 February from 10.00 am at St Mary's Church.

*Kevin Baldwin*

### Warm in Wedmore

Warm in Wedmore has returned to the Masonic Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 am - 2pm. This month's dates are 4, 5, 18, 19, 25 and 26 February (nothing on 11 or 12 February). It's hosted by local clubs and organisations so do come along for a chat and catch-up with good company. There will be coffee and cake and delicious soup! The hosts ask for a voluntary donation for their organisation so you will also be supporting village activities. Looking forward to seeing you there!

*Sue Parsons*

### 200 Years of Christchurch, Theale

Two hundred years ago, on a cold and bleak day in January 1826 the foundation stone of a new church was laid in Theale. It would be another two years before it opened its doors for its first service.

Christchurch is in real need of repair and renovation so we the Congregation are dedicated to raising funds to save this much-loved building. We will be holding a number of fundraising events during the year, including the return of our popular Midday Music recitals starting with Somerset Flutes on Saturday February 7 in the Church at 12.00. For further details contact Elizabeth Coulter on 07761833449

*Elizabeth Coulter*

(710)

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### Wedmore Twinning Games Night

Wedmore Twinning are hosting another games night and supper on Saturday 7 February at 7.00pm in Wedmore Village Hall. We'll have bingo, a quiz and other games, fun for all the family. A chilli supper will be served, and the bar will be open.

Please come along, have some fun and support Wedmore Twinning. Tickets are £15 in advance from Andy Reeson 07801 718202; Helen Reeson 07710 716729; or by email at wedmoretwinning1@gmail.com

*Andy Reeson*

### Blackford Harvest Home Winter Warmer

The Blackford Harvest Home Winter Warmer returns on Friday 13 February, 7.30pm at Blackford Village Hall. Come and enjoy an evening eating delicious casseroles and warming puddings while completing a couple of quizzes for fun! Tickets are £16.00, please phone 01934 440015 to book yours!

*Jane Bloomer*

### Prostate Cancer Testing Event in Wells

There will be a free prostate cancer testing event for men aged 40 and over, organised by the Somerset Prostate Support Association, in Wells Town Hall on Saturday 21 February from 10.00am to 4.00pm.



Every year in the UK 40,000 men are diagnosed with Prostate Cancer and around 10,000 men die from the disease. Early diagnosis can be crucial to successful treatment. Appointments take 10 to 15 minutes and must be booked online in advance. It will not be possible to be tested on the day without a prior appointment.

All tests are confidential and are carried out by qualified medical practitioners. For any questions regarding the tests please contact Peter Hopwood by phone on 01458 441669 or by email at peterhopwood46@gmail.com Donations to SPSA for future testing events will be gratefully received, either at the event or via <https://www.spsa.uk/> where you can donate online.

*Peter Hopwood*

### Friends of St Mary's AGM and Skittles Evening

The Friends of St Mary's will be holding their AGM at the Post and Wicket on 3 March, followed by a skittles evening. It is promised that the event will be light on the AGM bit and heavy on the skittles and fish and chips.

### 'Twelve Olympians Live' at St Mary's Church

Richard (Rich) Anthony Bean will be returning to St Mary's Church on 6 March for an evening of cinematic electronic music. 'Twelve Olympians Live' is an immersive show with the cinematic instrumental music of Devon based Rich. Accompanied by lights and video projections the show includes music from his recent trilogy of albums inspired by the legends of Ancient Greece, alongside some electronic classics and music from Richard's back catalogue and music by Jean Michel Jarre and Vangelis. Tickets are available from the Universe website at [www.universe.com/events/twelve-olympians-live-tickets-59PR67](http://www.universe.com/events/twelve-olympians-live-tickets-59PR67) or via the QR code.



*Richard Anthony Bean*

## The Clash of the Choirs

The sell-out village event, where local choirs sing it out to impress the perennially unreliable Clapometer, is back at St Mary's on the evening of Saturday 21 March.

Tickets will be £12, and £5 for under 13s. They are on sale at Wedmore Village Store or, with a handling charge, through the Eventbrite website at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clash-of-the-choirs-tickets-1979512359755](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clash-of-the-choirs-tickets-1979512359755) which you can also access via the QR code. For further information contact David Hopkins 07984 924432



David Hopkins

## Wedmore Theatre Presents 'Private Lives' by Noël Coward

Let's have a laugh this spring! Wedmore Theatre's spring production this year is 'Private Lives' by Noël Coward – one of his most enduring and best-loved comedies. Performances are on the 30 April, 1 and 2 May in Wedmore Village Hall.

Amanda and Elyot are charming, rich, utterly reckless – and divorced. When they meet unexpectedly on the first night of their honeymoons with new partners, old flames re-ignite, and impulsive love takes hold. But they divorced for a reason, and their fiery romance soon spirals into a chaotic riot of passionate desire, slanging matches and outrageous battles.

Set against a backdrop of moonlit French Riviera glamour, 'Private Lives' is a sparkling comedy of manners – hilarious, stylish, and a rollercoaster of emotions, filled with razor-sharp wit, sizzling chemistry, and timeless sophistication.

For Wedmore Theatregoers who enjoyed our June 2025 production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', there's an added treat in that three of the actors who played the 'Four Young Lovers' in that play are cast here, and in many ways re-visit the fiery passions they performed so hilariously in their 'Dream' roles. Recent stars Will Vero, Tristan Palmer and Sonya Bull are joined by our brightest new young starlet Matilda Friend. A brand-new battling foursome to entertain us with Coward's inimitable dialogue.

Tickets will be on general sale from 15 March. To get priority booking ahead of this date, sign up now for our newsletter through our website at [www.wedmoretheatre.com](http://www.wedmoretheatre.com)

We are always looking for new team members with all levels of experience. If you would like to join the fun of putting on this play, as an actor, or helping backstage, in set design and construction, or in planning, organisation and communication, then we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch by email at [productions@wedmoretheatre.com](mailto:productions@wedmoretheatre.com)

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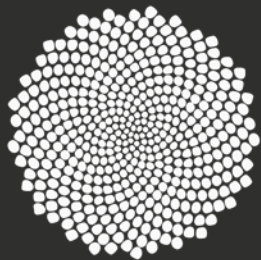
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## St Mary's Tower Open Day

The Tower Open Day returns this year on 4 May. This is a great opportunity to see the church bells and climb to the top of St Mary's tower to enjoy the best view in Somerset!

## Poetry, Wildlife and Laughter at the Wedmore Festival

Wedmore Festival is proud to announce that three spectacular stars of the small screen will be part of the Festival programme in May this year. These include poet and broadcaster Lemn Sissay, the official poet of the 2012 London Olympics no less; and comedians, actors, and wife and husband team, Rachel Parris and Marcus Brigstocke will host an hilarious 'improv' performance evening;. Prepare to be entertained by this and many other events! Our full list of events will be published in March.

If you would like first chance to buy tickets and support the work of the Festival, we would love to invite you to become a Friend of Wedmore Festival. This gives you exclusive access to festival events before they go on sale to the general public. You will also be supporting a worthwhile cause for the village that supports local talent. For just £25 per annum you will receive the following benefits: 7-day Priority booking period for a maximum of 4 tickets per event when tickets are released in April; Invitation to private views of art exhibitions; advance publicity posted directly to you 'hot off the press'; and regular updates on Wedmore Festival activities.

Further information about this year's Festival and more of events will be available on our website at [www.wedmorefestival.co.uk](http://www.wedmorefestival.co.uk) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/wedmorefestival](http://www.facebook.com/wedmorefestival)

*Phil Butterworth*

## Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride

Registration will be opening shortly for this year's 40/30 charity bike race on 30 August in support of Weston Hospicecare. Further details will be included in next month's issue but there will be the usual 30-, 40- and 70- mile routes plus a shorter route for all the family.

*David Hopkins*

## Exciting developments at Axbridge and Wedmore Surgeries

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our patients. Applications were recently invited for a national £102 million NHS England fund aimed at modernising GP premises across the country, supporting over 1,000 practices. This funding is primarily intended for refurbishment, reconfiguration, and more effective use of existing space.

We are very pleased to announce that Axbridge Surgery has been awarded 100% funding, and Wedmore Surgery 66% funding, to support planned reconfigurations. We are extremely grateful to the Wedmore and Axbridge Health Fund CIO, who have generously agreed to cover the remaining 34% shortfall for Wedmore (£42,000), as well as the costs of equipping each new clinical room.

Future-proofing the Practice The reconfigurations will provide five additional clinical rooms at Axbridge and one at Wedmore. This will allow us to expand neighbourhood-based care in line with the NHS Long Term Plan, which emphasises delivering services closer to communities, rather than in hospitals. These changes will help ensure the practice is well-prepared to meet the needs of our patients now and in the future.

Important Information about disruption While we aim to minimise disruption, some changes are unavoidable: Axbridge Surgery will remain open throughout the works, which are expected to take up to 12 weeks and will start at the beginning of February; Wedmore Surgery will be closed for up to 8 weeks while works are completed. The start date is yet to be confirmed but we will keep our website updated with news on this, please visit [www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk)

We do not anticipate any reduction in appointment capacity during this time. Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting phase of development for our surgeries.

*Dr Ewart Jackson-Voyzey and Dr Josephine McHugh  
GP Partners Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice*

### Somerset Care Services Directory

Do you need up to date information about care and support in Somerset? Then this updated publication has everything you need. The Somerset Social Care and Support for Adults Guide explores the entire social care journey. It includes information on paying for care; finding the right care home; specialist care; help for carers; and a comprehensive list of care providers in Somerset.

You can get your free paper copy by contacting Lindsey Baker, Clerk to Wedmore Parish Council by phoning 01934 713087 or emailing [clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk) It is also available on the Parish Council website under 'Helpful Information'. You can also download a copy from this article from our website [www.whawb.co.uk](http://www.whawb.co.uk)

*Cathy Butterworth*

## Regular Features

### Country Lane Walker

I am so sorry I missed the January issue. I sent my copy to the editor yet found it not sent!! Of course, I blame the editor for not publishing the article which was not sent. Well, that is what editors are for (*of course - Ed*).

As I am writing this, a full moon with crisp air so still, painted, clouds reaching out from the sunset, much of the sky lit up with such vibrant beauty, I walk to a favourite oak tree to do micro cosmic orbital chi kung, enjoying the calm and peace with Cheddar Gorge and the Mendip Hills in the background. Still, with some clusters of seeds hanging down from the ash trees.

Then thinking of the winter months and the need to continue walking even when it gets very cold. The tendency is to want to stay inside in the warmth, yet exercise and fresh air are so vital. The biggest problem is likely to be, for some, that of cold air hitting our throats, sinuses, and lungs, which also can cause susceptibility to viruses. A couple of ways to reduce this is to wear 'neck thingies', snoots I believe they are called, and balaclavas. Both bamboo and silk give off less fibres, if any, and keep one very warm by their very nature, super lightweight, and no allergy problems for me.



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Oh, and a big thank you for those of you who accosted me at Wedmore by Lamplight. I so much appreciated your thoughts and kind words. Actually, it is quite a thrill to know my meanderings mean something to you. So, thank you again. So delightful! Also, someone saying my safety article was the best I had done. Yet, regret I also upset someone about the accident many years ago. My intention was to help protect us all and this was recognised. I went by what the papers said, neither adding nor taking away. May your kneecaps and earlobes spin deliriously, every time you walk.

As always, you can contact me on 01934 712404, 07976 288535, WhatsApp or at melvyn@gmx.co.uk Love to hear from you.

*Melvyn Firmager*

## Poetry Corner

We are always looking for more, original, short, poems by local poets. If you have one you would like to share, then please email me at editorwedmorenews@gmail.com

### The Farm-hand's Valentine

Surrounded though I am by the spread of nature

I'm drawn back to this small patch of ground.

No fear of fallow land while you're around.

I'm a simple-minded, know-what-I-like creature,

and what I like is seeing you everywhere,  
my wildflower meadow on a single stem.

Fellows may laugh, but I can ignore them.

It's you I need to be with, to breathe your air.

My eyes have taken over every sense,  
all my strength is harnessed to your beauty;  
to feel close to you my pleasure and my duty.

I trust this Valentine gives no offence.

Yoked as I am, I can only follow now.

You're the horse and I'm the faithful plough.

*Ann Mason*

## Thought for the Month

The seasons of nature give us a rhythm to the year; I find it a helpful reminder that I am not in control. There are forces and changes beyond my influence. Instead of fighting them, it works much better to follow them. Instead of trying to wear a t-shirt and shorts in winter, it's better to wrap up warm and enjoy the winter sun. Instead of trying to cut the wet grass, it is better to let it rest for the season.

God has given us rhythms to follow because we so often get caught up in the everyday, so much so that weeks and months can pass without proper thought. We need reminding that we are finite, that we too need rest. I wonder, as we come towards the end of the winter season, is there something you need to rest from? In the Bible in Psalm chapter 4 verse 8, we are reminded that we can rest in peace because God is in control:

*'In peace I will both lie down and sleep;  
for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety'*

*Psalm 4:8 (ESV)*

Perhaps now that the new year is firmly in flow, it is an opportunity to reflect, to pause, to slow down. As nature is resting in anticipation of spring, you too can choose to rest and not strive.

*Ben Jacobs*

## Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You

### Beef Wellington Sandwich

#### Ingredients –

- 4 large croissants - split
- 60ml mayonnaise
- 60ml Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 small shallot; thinly sliced
- 450g chestnut mushrooms, sliced
- 1 tsp fresh thyme (finely chopped)
- Pinch of salt and pepper
- 350g thinly sliced rare roast beef
- 125g thinly sliced prosciutto
- 30g rocket

#### Method –

Preheat the oven to 190C. Place croissant cut side up on a baking sheet and lightly toast for about 6 to 8 minutes and then set aside.

While the croissants are toasting, combine the mayonnaise and mustard in a small mixing bowl, season with salt and pepper, and set aside.

Heat a frying pan over medium/high heat. Add the butter, shallot, mushrooms and thyme. Cook stirring occasionally until brown (about 10 minutes). Season with salt and pepper.



(661)

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To assemble – spread about a tablespoon of the mayonnaise/mustard mixture on each half of the croissant. Top one side with 2-3 slices roast beef then 2 slices of prosciutto. Divide the mushrooms into 4 equal portions and cover the prosciutto. Add rocket to each sandwich and top with the other half of croissant. Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

### This Month in the Garden

Well, spring is coming and we're looking forward to a complete mystery as to what the climate will bless our garden with. After last year's drought and late deluge, it could be anything!

Buds are bursting, sap is rising, birds are singing - what's not to love in our gardens this month. But just in case it's a bit cold outside I'll start with a few indoor propagation ideas. This is a really good month for sowing seeds of hardy and tender plants in a heated propagator. Use a peat free compost adding perlite or vermiculite (ratio 2:1) and, for most seeds, cover with about the same depth as the seed. Water well and check weekly that the seed does not dry out, oh, and most importantly, label with the seed type and the sowing date. Softwood cuttings can also be easily rooted in warmth at this time. Take 2- to 4-inch-long cuttings cut below a node and with the bottom leaves removed, compost as above and enclose the pot in a polythene bag or cover to ensure the cuttings don't dry out. Plants such as fuchsias, geraniums, coleus and many more can be tried this month and next so why not have a go? Successful plants will be ready for the village plant sales later on in the year.

Hardwood cuttings can also be taken in February. Willow and dogwood are easy but many more can be tried with a good chance of success, including roses of course. Take thick pencil stems 8- to 12- inches long, wound the bottom inch or so by cutting a very thin slice of 'bark', and inserting these 6 inches apart in a slit trench with grit in the base. Make sure the stems are buried at least two thirds in the ground as this will encourage more roots and less bud growth. I used to insert these cuttings completely, just leaving the very top above ground, and that worked a treat for me. These cuttings will need a full growing season before lifting next October or November for potting up or planting out.

Whilst outside, don't forget that this is the time to lift, divide, and replant snowdrops and daffodils as soon as their flowers fade and pinch off the daffodil seed pods as these take at least 3 years, and up to 7 years to reach flowering size so is rarely worth the wait. The scent of Sarcococca, Viburnum and Daphne is a real joy this month and even the common hazel is a glorious sight with the long catkins spreading their pollen far and wide. I also love the twisted hazel which I have pruned by cutting off the lowest branches to make a good place for that Pulmonaria 'Blue Ensign' I recommended last year.

Pruning can also be done now to late summer flowering shrubs such as Buddleja, Leycesteria, Hypericums and the colourful Clematis which can be cut right down to about 6 inches. With the early flowering clematis (before July), leave these or just prune a few branches back to give a long flowering season. Remember to cut the buddleia stems hard back and save the sticks to use as supports in the garden or in summer tubs. You'll also have a few new Buddleja plants grown from these unintentional cuttings!

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Other plants needing pruning are black, red and white currants, autumn fruiting raspberries and the apples and pears that you never got round to pruning last autumn or winter!

Why not make a terrarium in a glass jar this month? Jars with a lid support small leaved tropical type plants whilst those without a lid will grow small cacti or succulents. A 1- to 2- inch layer of grit goes in first followed ideally by a bit of charcoal then a layer of houseplant or cacti compost. Time for the fun bit as you add your choice of small plants and maybe a stone or rock or two for landscape effect. Water plants in to settle and then only when really needed. Place in bright spot indoors and watch it all magically grow.

Wishing you all happy plants and gardens.

Tony Connell

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We read with some interest the letter from David Ewens, on behalf of the King Alfred Project Group (Issue 549, December 2025). Whilst we applaud the endeavour and the ambition of this group taking on a major project, we can't help wondering if £125K might be better spent on a project that can deliver lasting social and educational value, and legacy for the wider Wedmore community.

As this follows so quickly on the tails of a decision to erect Alfred-themed village entry signs, might the Parish Council, or another body, consider leading an exercise to engage with the wider community on how it might like to recognise its relationship with Alfred, particularly if heritage funding is to be sought?

To us, celebrating Wedmore's connection with peace during these volatile times is a great thing, but a statue feels a little ostentatious and a tribute from yesteryear, not to mention a target for theft, it being so valuable and located in a public area.

But maybe that's just us. However, a conversation or consultation of some sort would perhaps allow others to express their views and help guide the focus of the Project Group.

*Simon Earles, Liz Burton, David Hopkins, Venetia Hopkins,  
Helen Mewes, Steve Mewes*

*Please note that all letters submitted are the views of the contributor and not of the Wedmore News. The Editor reserves the right to decline publication of any letter.*

*Please submit any letters by email to [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com)*



## Health and Wellbeing

### Our Health and Wellbeing

In consultation with Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice and with the support of Wedmore Parish Council, here is this month's item relating to our health and wellbeing.

The Somerset Care Group

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**Events coming up in February:**  
 Fri 6th Feb. - Quiz Night  
 Sat 7th Feb. - Rodney Branigan  
 Fri 13th Feb. - Comedy Night  
 Sat 14th Feb. - Michael Mochan  
 Mon 16th Feb. - Wandering Hearts (ticketed)  
 Fri 20th Feb. - Music Bingo  
 Sat 21st Feb. - Luke Potter  
 Sun 22nd Feb. - Graham Dent 2:30pm  
 Wed 25th Feb. - Poetry Night  
 Sat 28th Feb. - Tom Corneill & Blair Chadwick

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### Warmth in Winter!

February is often one of the coldest months of the year, so we all need to find some warmth to comfort us. Staying in our own homes to keep warm is a tempting way to achieve this, but this may not be good for our overall health. It's hard to believe, but according to information in Patient.info, research has shown that 'Reduced social contact, being alone, isolation and feelings of loneliness are associated with reduced quality of life'. This risk is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day and having an alcohol use disorder. Go to the Patient.info website to find out more.



An easy way to increase our social contacts is to come along to Warm in Wedmore on Wednesday and Thursdays in January and February (excluding 11 and 12 February). The warmth in the Masonic Hall, the hot drinks, and delicious soup are additional incentives, alongside the convivial company and sociable chat! I have met people I wouldn't otherwise have met and have had some very interesting conversations! As well as reaping the benefits of social interaction, you will also be supporting seven of our local groups:- Cheddar Vale Lions, Wedmore Gardening Club, Green Wedmore, Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund, Wedmore Festival, Women of Wedmore WI and Wedmore Community Bus. Not only will they welcome your support, but you can find out more about them and perhaps join them?

If you need transport, Good Neighbours may be able to help – please see their article in this section of the magazine. Warm in Wedmore is for everyone! For those of you who work or are otherwise occupied during daytime hours, perhaps search your Isle of Wedmore Directory for an organisation to join and increase your social contacts during the evenings? If you can't find your Directory, let me know, I have more!

February is also the month to think about our 'hearts' and to cherish and celebrate our close relationships, be they partners, friends or family. For Heart UK, the heart health charity, this is their Heart Month. This year the charity is focusing on cholesterol, learning about it and how to adjust our lifestyle to reduce it, if necessary. The charity states that 'almost 1 in 2 adults in the UK have high cholesterol'. The risk of high cholesterol is that it 'can clog up the arteries that carry blood around the body, making them narrower and causing blood clots. There is some really useful information about what the test results mean, how to eat to reduce cholesterol and you can also work out your own risk of developing heart disease over the next 10 years with the NHS Heart Age tool (for adults aged 25-84).

In summary for February, we need to stay warm, stay sociable and stay heart-healthy!

# What's On in the Parish

# February 2026

## KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Wednesday and Thursday	All Feb except 11/12	<b>Warm in Wedmore</b>	10.00 am	Masonic Hall
Saturday	7	<b>Midday Music Recital</b>	12.00 noon	Christchurch, Theale
Saturday	7	<b>Wedmore Twinning Games Night</b>	7.00 pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Wednesday	11	<b>Women of Wedmore - Games Night</b>	7.00 pm	The Post and Wicket
Friday	13	<b>Blackford Harvest Home Winter Warmer</b>	7.30 pm	Blackford Village Hall
Saturday	21	<b>Prostate Cancer Testing</b> (must be booked in advance)	10.00 am to 4.00 pm	Wells Town Hall

## REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Alternate Mondays	<b>Music in Mind</b>	2.15 pm to 3.00 pm	Masonic Hall
2nd Tuesday	<b>Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting</b>	8.00 pm	The Post and Wicket
4th Tuesday	<b>Wedmore Gardening Club</b>	7.30 pm	Masonic Hall
1st Wednesday	<b>Somewhere House Coffee and Chat</b>	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	The Bluebird Café
2nd Wednesday	<b>Blackford Café</b>	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Blackford Village Hall
2nd and 4th Wednesday	<b>Wedmore Probus</b>	10.15 am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
3rd Wednesday	<b>Wedmore Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.00 pm	Parish Council Rooms
3rd Wednesday	<b>Club50</b>	2.30 pm	Masonic Hall
2nd Wednesday	<b>Green Wedmore Meeting</b>	7.30 pm	The George Inn
2nd and 4th Thursday	<b>Mendip Rotary Club</b>	7.00 pm	The George Inn
4th Thursday (5th Thursday in January)	<b>Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting</b>	7.30 pm	Masonic Hall
1st Friday	<b>Wedmore Carers Group</b>	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
1st, 3rd and 5th Friday	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club</b>	8.00 pm	Theale Village Hall
1st Saturday	<b>St Mary's Coffee Shop</b>	9.30 am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's Church
2nd Saturday	<b>Wedmore In Bloom Work Party</b>	9.30 am	Outside The George Inn
3rd Saturday	<b>Theale Community Café</b>	10.00 am to 12.00 noon	Theale Village Hall
4th Sunday	<b>Theale Community Film Club</b>	6.30 pm	Theale Village Hall

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAY

<b>Ladies Badminton</b>	10.00 am to 12.00 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Jean Windridge	01934 712046
<b>Mah Jong</b>	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Sue Kirley	07814 549040
<b>Beavers</b>	5.45 pm to 6.45 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Pilates with Anna MacGregor</b>	6.00 pm	Blackford Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
<b>Yoga with Anna MacGregor</b>	7.00 pm	Blackford Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
<b>Bridge Club</b>	7.00 pm	Masonic Hall	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
<b>Scouts</b>	7.15 pm to 8.45 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com

### TUESDAY

<b>Little Lambs</b>	9.15 am to 11.15 am	St Mary's Church	Heather Hector	01934 712478
<b>Wedmore Men's Shed</b>	9.30 am to 12.00	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
<b>Chair Yoga</b>	9.45 am	Masonic Hall	Jo Willis	07552 711101
<b>Yoga for the body, breath and mind</b>	10.00 am to 11.15 am	Wedmore Scout Hut	Kay Wensley	07584 374515
<b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.30 am	Wedmore Village Hall	Lesley Nichols	01934 712045
<b>Music Matters</b>	2.30 pm	via Zoom		mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Squirrels</b>	5.15 pm to 6.00 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Becca Newman	group-leader@wedmoreoutgroup.org.uk
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30 pm to 7.45 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com
<b>Pilates with Anna MacGregor - beginner / general class</b>	6.10 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
<b>Yoga with Anna MacGregor</b>	7.20 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883

### WEDNESDAY

<b>Pilates</b>	9.15 am to 10.15 am	Blackford Village Hall	Lucy	07813 913309
<b>Piloga Fit</b>	9.30 am to 10.30 am	Wedmore Village Hall	John Beasley	01749 672482
<b>Pilates</b>	10.30 am to 11.30 am	Blackford Village Hall	Lucy	07813 913309
<b>Coffee with a View</b>	10.30 am to 12.00 pm	Bagley Baptist Church		
<b>Health Tai Chi</b>	11.00 am to 12.00 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	John Beasley	01749 672482
<b>Rainbows</b>	4.30 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
<b>Brownies</b>	6.15 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Karen Corfield	07899 730539
<b>Guides</b>	7.00 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650

### THURSDAY

<b>Wedmore Dance Group</b>	10.30 am to 11.45 pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Nikki Pryn	07519 630365
<b>Wedmore Golf Club Bridge Club Section</b>	2.00 pm	Wedmore Golf Club	Colin Pinks	01934 712499
<b>Wedmore Men's Shed</b>	2.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com
<b>Table Tennis at Theale</b>	6.30 pm to 8.00 pm	Theale Village Hall	Dave Whitmarsh	01934 712620

### FRIDAY

<b>Tots and Tinies</b>	9.00 am	Wedmore First School	Sara Vincent	07986 244050
<b>Wedmore Art Group</b>	2.00 pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jim Collett	01934 712663

## Support for people with dementia and their carers in Wedmore

Do you care for or support a person living with dementia? Then this friendly informative group is for you! Come along on the first Friday of the month to the Swan Hotel, Wedmore, between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, next meeting on 6 February. If you want to find out more about the Memories Workshops and Carers' Group, phone HeadsUp on 01749 670667 or email wedmorecarers@yahoo.com If you need help with funding, just ask as help may be available.



## Coffee and a chat

For general support with mental wellbeing Somewhere House, a charity based in Burnham, visits The Bluebird Café in Wedmore on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. They offer an opportunity to meet and chat. For more information contact them on 01278 780769.

For easy links to all the websites and documents referenced, or to find out how to sign up to take part in the research programmes, please go to [www.whawb.co.uk](http://www.whawb.co.uk) and go to the Wedmore News item for February 2026. You can also contact Cathy Butterworth on 01934 806266 or by email at [cb@theconsultant.org](mailto:cb@theconsultant.org)

Cathy Butterworth

## Wedmore Good Neighbours

Is February the most miserable month of winter? It can certainly feel like it – spring is just around the corner but, in the same way that the darkest hour is the one just before dawn, those last few weeks of long nights and cold wet days can really put a damper on things. With this in mind our volunteers will be busy doing their bit to provide practical help and lift spirits in any neighbourly way they can.

Warm in Wedmore is back and, as usual, is being hosted by different local clubs and organisations each week. These get-togethers offer a few hours of chat and company over coffee, cake and bowls of soup (see article in the News section of this issue for details). If you'd like to attend, but need a lift, then just call us and we should be able to find a volunteer to provide transport.

If you don't have a car, or it's not convenient to drive yourself then getting to the doctor's surgery, a hospital, or even local club meetings, can be a challenge. Taxis are very expensive and rather impersonal. Provided it's not an emergency and you give us about a week's notice we can almost certainly find a willing volunteer to provide transport and company as far as Taunton and Bristol.

Just want a bit of company? Our volunteers are now visiting a small number of people in their own homes for a regular cuppa and a chat. If you, or someone you know, would like this kind of neighbourly help just call 01934 806299 and leave a message.

Need a favour but not sure who to ask? There may be other situations where you could use a bit of neighbourly help. Maybe you are unwell and need your dog walking? Got a prescription you'd like collecting from the chemist? Have some items that need taking to the recycling centre?

Wedmore Good Neighbours is operated by volunteers and is free to use. However, the group does have running costs – insurance, petrol expenses, as well as the DBS



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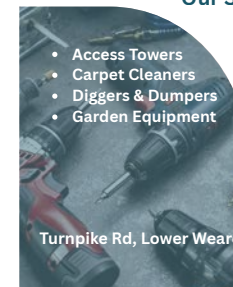
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vetting and training of volunteers. So, if you do use the service, and want to make a donation, this is always very welcome, just talk to your volunteer about this. Demand for the group's services has been steadily increasing so if you'd like to become a volunteer, you'd be most welcome.

Whatever your request, or you would like to volunteer, please call 01934 806299, leave a message, and a volunteer will reply within 24 hours. Please note that we're not part of social services, or an emergency service, we're just good neighbours! Also, visit the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website at [www.whawb.co.uk/gns](http://www.whawb.co.uk/gns) for more information.

*Jim O'Connor*

## Club Reports and Society Updates

### Wedmore Gardening Club

As I write it's bitterly cold but with beautiful sunshine. I have to say I haven't been tempted into the garden to do the many jobs still needing to be done. We have, however, much to look forward to this year, starting with two great talks: On Tuesday 24 February Alan Cavill's talk is entitled 'No Dig Vegetables on Allotments'. I know not everyone has an allotment, but this talk equally applies to our garden veg plots. There is nothing better than popping out into the garden to harvest our own fruit and vegetables. Looking further forward to Tuesday 24 March Nick Wray will be speaking on 'Gardens of Japan'. Nick has been before and is an excellent and entertaining speaker.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30pm with refreshments served after the talk. As always, we look forward to seeing as many members and guests who can make it.

*Jean Windridge*

### Isle of Wedmore Society

We had our first meeting of the New Year in January and held our AGM, which you will read about in the March edition of The News. This month's meeting will take place on 26 February at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. We are looking forward to hearing a talk by Wedmore resident, Robin Gray, on the 'Caves of the Mendips'. Robin is an expert, having explored and opened new routes in them for many years. His artistic ability has enabled him to photograph and paint scenes inside the caves, and we are promised a talk encompassing how to safely navigate the caves and observe them in all their mystery.

As always, visitors welcome and a chance for new members to sign up. There will be a charge of £5 for visitors with tea, coffee and biscuits on offer. For further information please contact the secretary, Jean Gregory, by email at [secretaryiows@btinternet.com](mailto:secretaryiows@btinternet.com)

*Jean Gregory*



### Mr Punch's Folk Club

The next folk club sessions will be held on Friday 6 and Friday 20 February from 8.00pm. All are welcome, entry is £3, bring your own refreshments.

*Bernard Coulter*

## Women of Wedmore Go Crackers!



Women of Wedmore enjoyed a fun crafting session making Christmas crackers in December. Quite a challenge for some of us, despite clear instructions electronically displayed. Concentration was definitely required! Success, as shown in the photo. More challenge lay ahead with the Christmas quiz, especially with the Christmas Dingbats section of Christmas songs and carols. Groans were heard! The evening finished off with a buffet supper of delicious food made by members and a few glasses of bubbles!

Women of Wedmore WI's next meeting is on Wednesday 11 February at the Post and Wicket 7pm, for a fun-filled Games Night. For more details, please email WoW on wedmorewi@outlook.com

*Linda Morecroft*

## Wedmore Dance Group

Want to try something new? Come along to Wedmore Dance Group on a Thursday morning. Your taster session is free of charge! We are a friendly and welcoming bunch, in our 50s, 60s and 70s, and our professional teacher choreographs the routines to make them accessible to everyone. We have enjoyed many genres of dance over the years including Hollywood musicals, salsa, disco, northern soul, Bollywood, tap, jazz and flamenco.

We meet every Thursday during term time, from 10.30 am to 11.45 am in Wedmore Village Hall and, after your free taster, each class is £7 on a 'pay as you go' basis. We are very pleased to say that, after being awarded money from the Lottery Community Fund, we are currently dropping the termly £10 membership.

If you would like more information, please ring Nikki on 07519 630365, otherwise just turn up on a Thursday morning. You will always get a very warm welcome.

*Wedmore Dance Group*



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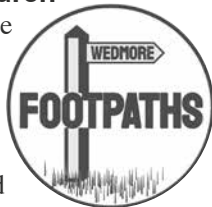
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## Wedmore Footpaths Group – A Walking Trail for Children

February half term will give younger people the chance to explore the village. Wedmore Footpaths Group has put together a short guide for children as a brief introduction to some of the fascinating history and points of interest in Wedmore. Although this is meant for children, they should be accompanied by a responsible adult because, as we all know, the roads in Wedmore can be busy and dangerous at times.



Hundreds of years ago people called the parish of Wedmore an island (and we still call it the Isle of Wedmore). This is because it sits up on a high area of land surrounded by streams and rivers. When this water floods onto the moors below us, it sometimes looks like we might live on an island! We are surrounded by beautiful countryside. When you walk in St Mary's churchyard have a look towards the Mendip Hills. Is there a clear view of the hills today? Perhaps there is snow on them?

Wedmore has lots of exciting history for us to learn about. We know that Romans once lived here because some of their coins and pottery have been discovered. In 1853 a hoard of buried treasure was found! About 200 silver coins were discovered in St Mary's Churchyard. We think they were buried over 980 years ago in Saxon times. The Friends of St Mary's plan to mark the discovery of the silver coins with an explanation board because the original stone commemorating the find is breaking up. Tucker Coles, who discovered the coins while he was working in the churchyard, used his finder's reward money to move to America with his family. Sadly he was killed there in the Civil War.



*Wedmore Millennium Tapestry in St Mary's Church*

You have probably heard of the most famous Saxon: King Alfred the Great. Did you know that he once owned Wedmore? King Alfred defended his kingdom against Danish invaders. After he defeated them, a peace treaty was signed in Wedmore in the year 878. Look for the brass plaque on the wall inside St Mary's Church that has a picture of King Alfred on it. Can you see what the writing says around him? Now find the big, framed tapestry on the wall. This was made by villagers in the year 2000 to celebrate the Millennium and shows the layout of the centre of the village. Can you see the very old market cross? This is in The Borough and reminds us that for hundreds of years the village held busy markets in the main streets where people sold things like food and cattle.

Turn left outside the church and walk down towards the George Inn, which has a big arched entrance. In the days when people travelled long journeys in stagecoaches pulled by horses, the passengers and horses were able to rest and eat in coaching inns like this. The drivers would take the stagecoaches through the large entrances and into the courtyards of these coaching inns. Take care crossing the road. Villages and towns used to have brick steps to help people get onto their horses. Can you see something which looks like it might be a mounting block?

When you are walking around the village you will find some road names that remind us of King Alfred's time. Can you see what the Mews in Church Street is called? As you walk towards Wedmore Village Store you will see names on cottages in Church Street telling us what the buildings were once used for. Walk along to the end of the road and turn right into The Borough. When you get to the House of Allington shop, cross the road when it's safe to do so and go into The Borough Mall. On your left, on the wall by the bench, you will see a map of Wedmore. What buildings do you recognise? Can you see the picture of the Saxon ring that was found in a garden in Wedmore? Walk past the Post Office into the car park and through the entrance to the new houses.

Turn left and when you get to the end of the road cross over into Worthington Close and on to a footpath which takes you to the village car park. Here on your right you will find the gate to Worthington Wood which is planted with trees and bushes growing fruit like pears, plums and apples. Little creatures like small mammals and bees and butterflies love this area. Take care as you walk through the car park. Follow the road that vehicles use to leave the car park just a short way until it swings to the right. Don't go as far as the exit. On your right you will see a post with an arrow. From here you can see views of the countryside. The safest way to return to the village is to go back the way you came.

We hope that, when the weather is better, families will enjoy following the yellow arrows into the fields and footpaths around Wedmore. When we walk in the countryside, we have to remember some rules called The Countryside Code. We should keep to the footpaths across farmland, close gates behind us and give any animals in the fields plenty of space. It is also important to take your litter home and keep dogs under control.

If you would like to discover more about Wedmore's past, Hazel Hudson's books and walkabout leaflets are available from Wedmore Village Store.

For some walking routes around Wedmore visit [www.theisleofwedmore.net](http://www.theisleofwedmore.net) To get in touch with Wedmore Footpaths Group by email at [wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com](mailto:wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com)

*Wedmore Footpaths Group*



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## Wedmore Men's Shed

In December the Men's Shed had their annual Christmas dinner. This year The George looked after us, with over 20 members attending, including one Father Christmas!



We also had a very successful Wedmore by Lamplight, with lots of villagers coming over to our stall to hear about everything we do in the village. There was a raffle with 14 prizes being given out, ranging from hand tools and chess board to a servant for the half day, which was one of the shed members who offered to help with handyman or gardening jobs. At the beginning of the month we had another of our Monthly, Men's Shed Mondays at the Bluebird. This month's talk was from Jim O'Connor who gave an interesting and entertaining talk about his career in advertising.

If you would like to join the Men's Shed and get involved in just some of these activities, now is a great time to get in touch. We are a friendly, welcoming place where men can get involved in a number of activities, including projects that help the local community, as well as socialising and enjoying many interesting visits. If you are interested in joining, either email us at wedmoremensshed@outlook.com or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30 am to 11.30 am or Thursdays 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at Wedmore Village Farm. Please come along and find out what we are all about, you are more than welcome.



Members enjoying Christmas Meal



Father Christmas also in attendance



Men's Shed Mondays - Jim O'Connor talking to members at the Bluebird

Wedmore Men's Shed

## Wedmore Probus Club

The next meetings of Wedmore Probus will be held on 11 February, when the speaker will be Emma Gilford whose subject will be 'The Environment Agency', and 25 February when the speaker will be David Banwell whose subject will be 'A Farmers Life'. Talks are held at Wedmore Golf Club, 10.30am.

If you are a retired man living in Wedmore and the surrounding area then you will probably enjoy a Wednesday morning twice a month listening to very interesting, informative and stimulating talks together with a chat over a cup of coffee and, should you wish, an informal drink and lunch after the talk. There is absolutely no commitment or attendance expectation, and the cost of membership is very low at £25 per annum. So if you are interested in attending then please call 07538 643682 for further details.

*Mike Gelder*

## Green Wedmore

We will be holding two of our popular events again in the village in Spring: The Repair Cafe will be back at the Village Hall on Saturday 11 April, a chance to bring along broken items to be fixed, or tools and blades to be sharpened. Help us keep items useful for longer, reduce what is sent to landfill and remove the need to buy new. Pop along for coffee and homemade cake while you wait. More details will be in the next edition.

Freecycle also returns on Sunday 26 April at the Cheddar Road car park. From 10am, get there early as locals look to rehome useful items. One man's trash is another man's treasure as they say.

A reminder also that our monthly meetings now take place on the second Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm at the upstairs room in The George. Everyone is welcome to come along and find out about our ongoing projects and plans for the future, Next meeting is Wednesday 11 February. Why not join Wedmore's award-winning Voluntary Group this new year? Please contact us at [hello@greenwedmore.co.uk](mailto:hello@greenwedmore.co.uk)



*Liz Burton*

## Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be at Theale Village Hall on 22 February, doors open at 6.30pm and the film will start at 7.00pm. New members are always welcome, and temporary membership is available, please phone for further details on 07855 297861.

*Bernard Coulter*

## Wedmore Tuesday Club

Another year and another Christmas party for all our members and helpers, this year it was held at The Duck in Burtle. A very big thank you to Sue Worrall and Yvonne Hutchison for booking the venue, sorting everyone's menu wishes and printing these on a card for each table. We started with tea or coffee, then the crackers got pulled and paper hats put on. Our very talented entertainer Janet Smith on her keyboard



really got us in the Christmas mood with some Christmas Carols. Janet came up with some hilarious anecdotes and a short version of the pantomime Mother Goose. Janet had selected some of us helpers and members to play a part in it and we soon had everyone laughing. Janet, we cannot thank you enough for all the work you put into this, Wedmore definitely has talent!

After an excellent lunch, the tables were cleared and we heard the sound of bells. In came Father Christmas with presents for all our helpers, huge thanks to Christine Raphael for helping Father Christmas with the presents. Lastly it was time for the free raffle with four hampers up for grabs. The lucky winners were Maggs Rowley, Pauline Redman, Mary Elliott and Margaret Harrington, big thanks to Jane Nisbet for



buying the goodies and assembling the beautifully wrapped hampers. Finally, our members were given a delicious piece of Christmas cake to take home, huge thanks to Lesley Nichols for baking and decorating it! It was a lovely get together for us all and everyone said they had a brilliant time.

Have you ever thought 'yes, I would like to be a helper at Wedmore Tuesday Club'? We are always looking for new people to join us to help this very vital club to keep it going, it is such a social event for our members and helpers alike. Not sure? well why not pop along for an hour or two and see if it really is something you would like to get involved with, it is not a commitment to do every Tuesday just when you are able, if you are interested please contact:- Lesley Nichols on 01934 712045 or Sue Worrall on 07748 131413 or Yvonne Hutchison on 01934 712729 or Graham Whitcombe on 01934 712916 or 07580 500545.

*Graham Whitcombe*

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**Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club**

Notable scores of 65% or more were achieved in December club sessions by the Bridge Base Online robots 79%, Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood 71.3% and 65%, Janice Young and Ronnie Follenfant 66.3%, Jean Whitlam and Nigel Hamlyn 66.3%, Jane Hall and Peter Dawes 65.6% and Jane Lawrence and Michael O'Brien 65.4%.

December has been an extremely short month for the club. With Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve falling on a Wednesday, bridge sessions ceased with our Axe event on the 17 December and, as I write this article, we won't play again until Monday 5 January! This month's hand comes from board 1 of our last Axe session where it tested the EW pairs' knowledge of their defence to an opponent opening 1NT.

Most Norths opened 1NT and East would naturally overcall 2D, but some pairs use this as an artificial bid showing a specific major suit holding such as spades and another suit. If you do this, do you have an agreement about what 3D shows? I suggest that it should show a hand similar to this. Too weak to double but with a 6+ card diamond suit. Ideally it should have a better suit and fewer outside values.

Where East was prevented from overcalling by their system, South passed and West had their own problem. Should they show both majors? You may find a spade fit but there is a danger of playing in a 4-3 fit with no court cards!

Personally, with such a good heart suit I would just show this. Playing naturally I could bid 2H but 3H is a much better description of the hand. Again, too weak to double 1NT but with a good 6 card suit. East with 2 card support, a 7 loser hand and opening values is then worth a 4H raise. This makes on any lead other than a heart.

The club welcomes new players and visitors. See www.bridgewebs.com/cheddarandwedmore for details of our session times and places. If you are a rubber bridge player, and would like an introduction to duplicate bridge, we can come to your rubber bridge group and show you how it all works. If you have any bridge-related questions, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me through my Bridge Nerd blog at www.profdavies.co.uk

*Geoff Davies*

**Club50**

We continue our programme with a talk and tea on 18 February at 2.30pm in the Masonic Hall. The talk is entitled 'My Job as a Physio' and will be presented by Chris Barker.

A reminder that Club50 is a social club open to everyone. Membership starts in January, but guests are always welcome to come and try it out. The annual subscription of £5 and refreshments are £3 per meeting. We are a friendly group and welcome new members. For further details ring Andrea on 01934 712161 or Heather on 01934 712216

*Andrea West*

♠ AJ63  
♥ 52  
♦ AJ8  
♣ Q954

♠ T975  
♥ AKQJ98  
♦  
♣ T72

♠ KQ  
♥ 76  
♦ K65432  
♣ AJ6

♠ 842  
♥ T43  
♦ QT98  
♣ K83

## St Mary's Church 100 Club

Congratulations to Richard and Carol Kilburn and Andrea West for winning the January draw.

*Liz Henderson*

# Sports Club Reports

## Wedmore Golf Club

The rain, which had been missing most of the year, finally came in December with its usual impact on the golf. It had no impact though on the Club AGM which took place on the first Sunday with Quinton Thorne taking over from Moly McMillan as Club Captain. Moly was able to report on a successful year for the Captains' charities which had raised £10,900 over the year. He also presented the John Viney Trophy to John Sims, the most consistent scorer over the year's weekend competitions. Hannah Abraham, for club management, was able to report on the continued strength of the Club, now with over 760 members including nearly 150 ladies and a seniors' section of 225 members. The pre-AGM competition was cancelled due to weather, but this did not stop Lucas Kirk and Gina Falcon, Seniors and Ladies Captain joining Quentin Thorne for the traditional drive-in.



Earlier in the week the Ladies lost their competition to the weather but both the Seniors and Club competitions went ahead, albeit reduced to 15 holes to avoid the slippery slopes on the back nine. The Seniors played a bowmaker with Philip Horn and Russell Dixon, supported by an anonymous ghost taking first place with 64 points. They were pressed hard by two teams scoring 63 with Peter Roberts, Richard Jones and Tony Lockhart taking second place on countback from Pete Restorick, Bill Witter and Martin Olive. They were followed by a group of six teams all of whom scored 61.

Steve Plant had the standout round in the weekend stableford scoring 35 points in very mixed weather conditions to win Division 1 by 2 points from Rich Nokes with Graham Sugg third on 30. Craig Fillary reached 33 points to win Division 2 by 4 points from David Crew who pushed Trevor Marshall into third place on countback. There was a very close finish in Division 3 with Andrew Bertenshaw scoring 30 points to finish one ahead of Chris Mckinly who beat Paul Stevenson on countback. Most Ladies were too sensible to play in the conditions with best score coming from Lyn Bird with a very respectable 27.

Both the Seniors and Ladies played competitions the following week, the Seniors eventually playing the second round of their Winter League. Best scores came in Division 2 with both Chris Jackson and Trevor Guy scoring 39 points with Jackson taking first place on countback. New Captain Lucas Kirk took third place with 38 points. Mark Cross was winner in Division 1 with 38 points which put him one ahead of Jeff Griffiths and another point ahead of third placed Nigel Day. Clive Warren-Smith won Division 3 with 37 points which on a very unofficial count puts him tied for first place in the overall league with Trevor Guy, both having scored a total of 73. Back to the daily competition, Gerry Stimpson on 36 and Robert Thomas on 33 were second and third in Division 3.

The Ladies played a bowmaker over just nine holes to make time for their Christmas lunch. As usual there was a close finish with Pam Berry, Mandy Vearncombe, Trish Phelps and Maggie Dommett taking first place with 44 points. This put them one ahead of the team of Ronnie Follenfont, Diana Midgley, Gina Falcon and Linda Wright who in turn finished one ahead of Alison Buckton, Pru Witter, Lyn Bird and Heather Abraham.

The Seniors held their Christmas Lunch the following week preceded by a 9-hole 3 club competition. Despite the weather and restrictions, Steve Plant went round in gross level par for 21 points but failed to get a prize as these were restricted to those attending the following meal. First place was taken by Dave Pilling on 19 points with Bob Cotgrove, Nigel Day and Dave Bradshaw all scoring 18 points in the next 3 places.

The Ladies had no official competition but still played a 'blind drawn' pairs as a winter warmer. Mary-Lou Denny and Lyn Bird took first place with 34 points with Lynda Huzal and Lyn Bird two points back in second. There was a Club Stableford at the weekend, reduced to 14 holes to avoid the slippery slopes on the back nine. Terry Williams had the round of the day, winning Division 2 with 31 points,

which put him 2 ahead of second placed Mark Grant with Paul Stephens another 2 points back in third. Steve Dowden won Division 1 with 30 points, 2 better than Nigel Jones with Steve Plant, competing an excellent week, another shot back in third. There was a tight finish in Division 3 with Robert Thomas winning on 30 which was one better than both Chris Donald and Jon Turner. In the Ladies section Lyn Bird top scored on 23 which pushed Nicola Stevenson into second place on countback.



*The three Captains for 2026: Quinton Thorne, Gina Falcon and Lucas Kirk*

Adrian Taylor

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## Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

Brrrr! It's definitely turned a bit chilly as I write this in December, but the two full-sized indoor rinks at the Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club provide a nice, warm, venue for winter bowling.

In the month leading up to Christmas the men's section played two matches in the Somerset County Indoor Bowls league. The first against Clarrie Dunbar Bowling Club was lost 59-76. All the four rinks played (2 at home, 2 away) were very close but three lost, one drew. However in the next match, against Purnells Bowling Club of Paulton, we won all four rinks with a cumulative score of 113-68. In their double rink Top Club match against a hugely powerful Bristol team our Ladies lost 21-51, nevertheless a really creditable performance. In a mixed friendly match against North Petherton we were victorious by an impressive 39-27. The men also played their annual pre-Christmas match against our friends of Portishead Royal British Legion. This match is a friendly one to remember past players from both clubs that we have sadly lost over the years and this year the game was won by Wedmore 53-32, both rinks winning comfortably.

Off the rinks, our club is proud to have as its club charity Weston Hospicecare. Our 'Christmas Squares' raffle and December coffee morning raised over £600 for the Hospice. We are grateful to the George Inn and the Zen Thai and La Rocca Italian restaurants in Cheddar, for their generosity in providing prizes for the raffle and to the many members who donated individual raffle prizes and of course then purchased 'squares'.



*The team from Wedmore Dental Practice at their 'have a go at bowls' night*

In early December we were delighted to welcome Jennifer and her team from the Wedmore Dental Practice, one of our brilliant club sponsors, to a 'have a go at Bowls' experience, before they set off for their Christmas celebrations at the George Inn. We thank them for their wonderful support of our club and, of course, the community. Rumour has it that there's some real bowling potential lurking at the Dentists!

And talking of Christmas celebrations, the Men's outdoor section held its annual pre-Christmas Dinner at the IOW Golf club. Approximately 40 members sat down to a splendid meal provided by Hannah and her team at the golf club; we look forward to returning next year!



*Men's section Xmas dinner at Wedmore Golf Club*

If you would like to be a part of this fantastic community club, to keep active and make new friends please head to our website for further details [www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org](http://www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org) or contact Stuart by email at [millhaven44@icloud.com](mailto:millhaven44@icloud.com) You will get all you need to start you on your bowls journey including free, fully-qualified coaching. The bonus is that by contacting us now you should be bowls-ready to play on our excellent outdoor greens this summer. We hope to welcome you.



*Peter Gower*

### Wedmore Football Club

As we head towards the business end of the season, all three teams have something to play for, and all are involved in the promotion hunt. The first team have put in some solid displays since the start of the new year, included an emphatic performance away

at promotion rivals Hutton winning 4-0 with goals from Tom Baker, Billy Halford, Ed Gillions and Ben Cherson. Ollie Sealey is performing well individually, placed in the top 3 goalscorers in Division 2 with 13 goals in 15 games.

The reserves are still in the thick of a promotion charge, with a physical game with Weston Celtic to start the year. A share of the points in a 2-2 draw, Dennis Phillips with a brace.

The A team have had some excellent wins which have been on the back of some excellent goalkeeping and defensive displays. They were unfortunate not to win against Nailsea United Colts going 2-0 up to let the lead slip and lose 2-3 at home.

Here are the League Tables as of 4 January:

#### Somerset County Division 2

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Paulton Rovers Sports	12	10	1	1	40	31
2	St George and Gordano	14	9	4	1	22	31
3	Street FC Reserves	15	8	4	3	20	28
4	Isle of Wedmore	13	9	1	3	17	28
5	Cutters Friday	15	8	3	4	10	27
6	Hutton	14	7	3	4	9	24

#### Weston and District League – Division 2

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Portishead Town A	10	10	0	0	31	30
2	Highburn Athletic	10	8	2	0	33	26
3	Isle of Wedmore Res	11	8	1	2	20	25
4	Weston Celtic	10	7	2	1	38	23
5	Clevedon United A	12	5	1	6	-14	16
6	Banwell Reserves	9	4	0	5	-8	12

#### Weston and District League – Division 4

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Sandbay FC	8	8	0	0	38	24
2	Worle Colts	11	6	1	4	32	19
3	Swiss Valley Rangers Res	9	5	1	3	19	16
4	Isle of Wedmore A	9	5	1	3	-1	16
5	Nailsea United Colts	9	5	0	4	-1	15
6	Clevedon United Colts	8	3	1	4	-2	10

Up the Isle of Wedmore! ⚽

*Ben Warren*

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## Wedmore Tennis Club

With the Christmas festivities well behind us, the teams are now looking forward to concentrating on their performance in the new year. The A team remain top of Division 1, while the B team are currently 5th in Division 2. The C Team continues to go from strength to strength in Division 6, where they are top of the table with a commanding 7-point lead, while the D Team in the same Division are currently 4th out of the 6 teams. In the Vets' Division 1 league, the A Team are still looking strong, while the B team are finding things tougher. They will be looking to edge ahead of Minehead in the table to avoid relegation to Division 2. Well done to everyone involved, and best of luck to all teams in the matches ahead.



Although the weather was poor, there was a good turnout for the Christmas Jumper social evening and there were some very jolly jumpers on display. Unfortunately, due to the poor weather, Jordann Sports were unable to bring along their demo racquets, but hopefully this will be rearranged for another time.

Exciting News! Padel is coming to Wedmore Tennis Club. Details are still under wraps but watch this space for more information soon.

Finally, a huge congratulations to our coach James Mitchell, who has been crowned Somerset County Padel Champion, winning both the men's singles and mixed doubles titles, a fantastic achievement and one that the whole club can be proud of.

*Shirley Turner*

# News and Events from Outside the Parish

## Cheddar Male Voice Choir Concert for Weston Hospicecare



*Steve Russell on Stage*

If you like male harmony singing and a fantastic soprano soloist, then come along to the Cheddar Male Choir concert at Draycott Memorial Hall on 28 February. Doors open at 7.00pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm.

Quit those winter blues and enjoy some really uplifting singing, there's even a bar and raffle. The choir are very fortunate to engage Kate Eastment, a wonderful Grade 8 Soprano soloist, who has delighted audiences throughout the West Country with her humorous songs and light opera classics.

Tickets are £10 per person and can be purchased from Deane's of Cheddar, Draycott Store, a choir member, or online at Eventbrite (there is a small additional handling charge for online tickets). This concert will be raising a donation for the Weston Hospicecare, a charitable organisation who care for adults with any life-limiting illness.



*Soprano Kate Eastment*

*Graham Knott*

## Henton and District Garden Club

In February, gardeners are itching to start planning and improving their plots, so why not come and learn about 'Square Metre Gardening. How to grow vegetables in small spaces including ideas for vertical gardening and raised beds. Our speaker, Claire Hart, is a graduate in Agriculture and Food Marketing and runs Grassroots PR Ltd with a focus on plants, pigs and poultry! She lives in Somerset and ran a small holding for years. Claire combines her love of growing with a passion for countryside topics, from poultry keeping, equine issues and Grow Your Own to how to grow giant Veg! She writes for a number of countryside and gardening magazines and has over the decades contributed to the likes of NFU Countryside, Grow Your Own and Amateur Gardening.

Henton Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month in Henton Village Hall from 7.00pm for refreshments, with talks starting at 7.30pm. Annual

membership is £15, or £5 per meeting if you would just like to come to an occasional meeting. For more information either call Sue Thorne on 01749 674767 or visit our website at [www.hentongardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.hentongardenclub.weebly.com)

*Susie Spragg*

## Cheddar Vale Lions

Cheddar Vale Lions are holding their next Jumble Sale on 21 February in the Village Hall Cheddar. Doors Open to the public at 2.00pm and entrance is 50p. If you have any good quality items to donate, please bring them along from 12.00 noon. Please note that we are unable to accept electrical goods, furniture or glasses.

We are always looking for new members, so if you want to help look after your community and beyond, have some fun, and enjoy being social then do get in touch through our website [www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk](http://www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk) email us at [information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk](mailto:information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk) or phone 03458 337402.



*Janet Clark*

## Interested in Scottish Country Dance?

The U3A organises a Scottish Country Dance Group at Axbridge Town Hall on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am. For further details please contact Marion Warren-Smith on 01934 712904 or via email at [cdws@me.com](mailto:cdws@me.com)

*Marion Warren-Smith*

## Save the Children Lunches

You can help children in distress around the world! Join us for our next lunches on 6 and 20 February, 12.00 noon, in Shipham Village Hall.



**Save the Children**

Just £5.50 lunch (under 5's are free) for a selection of homemade soup, locally baked bread, cheddar cheese, pickle, and tea or coffee. All profits go to the Save the Children charity.

*Ian Firth*

## The Warm Spot, Axbridge

'The Warm Spot' takes place every Monday from 10.30am to 2.00pm in Axbridge Church Rooms. Come along for coffee, tea, cake, and chat. Soup lunches during winter too! For more details contact Yvonne Brown on 01934 249538.

*Yvonne Brown*

## Cheddar Valley U3A

If you are retired and would like to join us at U3A, why not drop in to the Cheddar Parish Hall between 10.00am and 11.30am on the third Thursday of the month, you will be very welcome. You can also find out about Cheddar Valley U3A at [www.cheddar-valley.u3aite.uk](http://www.cheddar-valley.u3aite.uk)



*Malcolm Litten, U3A*

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### Cheddar Arts @ King's Theatre

Cheddar Arts spring season of films continues on Friday 6 February with The Ballad of Wallis Island, starring Sian Clifford, Tom Basden and Carey Mulligan. Charles (Tim Key) is an eccentric lottery winner living alone on a remote island who dreams of getting his favourite musicians, Mortimer-McGwyer (Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden), back together. 'A gentle musical comedy about fame and fandom.'

Entrance to the theatre from Kings Leisure Centre car park. No online bookings. Tickets are available on the door – cash payment only. The doors of Kings Theatre at the Kings of Wessex School open at 6.45 pm and performances begin at 7.30 pm.

*Jan Rance*

### Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

At the first Branch meeting of the year, our Branch President gave a fascinating Presentation 'History of a Belgian Spitfire Pilot – Part 1' whom he met during his RAF career. This was followed by a discussion about the Branch's plans for this year.

The next Branch meeting will be held on Monday 2 February at 11.00 am in Wells Golf Club. There will be a presentation entitled 'History of a Belgian Spitfire Pilot – Part 2 – after the War' by our Branch President, Dick Whittingham, followed by preparations for the Branch AGM on 2 March. The AGM will be an important meeting to which all members are requested to attend in order to share their comments and feedback.

For information about either of these events, please contact the Branch via email at [rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com) or phone the Secretary on 01458 224057 for further information.

*Paul Ashmore*



### RNLI Mendip Branch

We are pleased to report that the Tesco December bucket collections raised a grand total of £2,697 by our members standing, quietly, smiling and talking to the shoppers. The Vobster Quay Activity Centre hosted their Charity Santa Scuba Diving Event on Sunday 14 December to raise money for the RNLI and Help for Heroes. A host of Divers dressed in Santa Suits with fluffy white beards hit the water en masse.





A Folk Concert will be held on Saturday 21 February in St James' Church Centre. Doors open at 7.15 pm and the concert will start at 8.00 pm. Mark Waistell is a singer songwriter based in Devon. his music is acoustic folk based but draws on many influences including classical, traditional, ragtime, and rock. Tickets cost £12.50 and are available from James Barattini by email at [winscombe.folk@gmail.com](mailto:winscombe.folk@gmail.com) or by phone on 07703 538861. There will be a bar selling beers, ciders, wine and soft drinks plus a raffle in aid of the RNLi.



RNLi Mendip Branch will hold its Annual Review Meeting on Thursday 12 March at 7.00 pm in the New Winscombe Community Hall; members of the public are welcome to attend.

### December Shouts

In December there were 6 'Shouts' between two of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Portishead – 1, Weston-super-Mare – 5).

Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat crews received five shouts over the Christmas period on 26 and 28 December and 30 December twice. All were for persons entering the water and potentially missing. On Sunday 28 December, Crew were paged at 12.26 am by the HM Coastguard to assist police in the search for a missing person. The D Class lifeboat was launched and joined the National Police Air Service in the search. The Atlantic 85 lifeboat was prepped as a back up to the D class but was not required as the person was located inshore by the police. Both lifeboats were stood down and returned to service at 1.15 am, ready for the next call out.

*Paul Ashmore*

# Church News

## Parish Registers and Notices

### Weddings

Congratulations to Edward and Ella (née Askew) who were married in St Mary's on Saturday 6 December.

### 'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

Now that the four churches on the Isle of Wedmore have joined with Mark, the 'Wheel and a Prayer' route has been extended to include Mark and its hamlets. The vicar will be now cycling around and praying for the benefice every other month, starting on 24 February. Look out for the new timings in church and online.

### Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of penitence, fasting and self-examination (that's why many people give something up for Lent). In the early church it would be kept by those preparing for baptism at Easter, but as time went on, it seemed a good idea for everyone to set aside time for this in the weeks leading up to the most holy time in the church's calendar.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday when ash is smeared on our foreheads as a sign that one day we will die and thus of the need to get our lives right. This year Ash Wednesday falls on 18 February and, in the benefice, we will be marking this important day with a said communion at Allerton at 11.00 am. The imposition of ashes will be offered at the service.

*Revd. Richard Neill*

# Church Services

## St Mary's Church, Wedmore

Our worship continues to be available online on an occasional basis. When one of our Sunday services is recorded you can join in via the St Mary's YouTube channel. Links for all the above and details of services both online and in churches can be found [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/)

Most weeks on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday there is Morning Prayer online at 9.00 am on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/](http://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/)

Holy Communion is celebrated most weeks on Wednesday morning at 9.45 am.

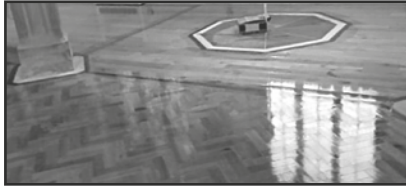
Sunday	1	The Presentation of Christ	10.45 am 6.00 pm	Café Church, Seekers and Creche Start the Week
Sunday	8	2 Before Lent	8.00 am 6.00 pm	BCP Holy Communion Choral Evensong
Sunday	15	1 Before Lent	10.45 am 6.00 pm	Parish Communion Start the Week

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Sunday	22	Lent 1	10.45 am	Morning Praise
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### Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	1	The Presentation of Christ	9.15 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	2 Before Lent	No morning service	See St Mary's, Wedmore
Sunday	15	1 Before Lent	9.15 am	Morning Praise
Sunday	22	Lent 1	9.15 am	Sunday Breakfast

### Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	1	The Presentation of Christ	10.45 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	2 Before Lent	No Morning Service	See St Mary's, Wedmore
Sunday	15	1 Before Lent	10.45 am	Morning Praise
Wednesday	18	Ash Wednesday	11.00 am	Benefice Communion
Sunday	22	Lent 1	10.45 am	Parish Communion

### Allerton Church

Sunday	1	The Presentation of Christ	9.15 am	Family Service
Sunday	8	2 Before Lent	No Morning Service	See St Mary's, Wedmore
Sunday	15	1 Before Lent	9.15 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Lent 1	9.15 am	Morning Worship

### Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	1	The Presentation of Christ	9.15 am	Morning Worship
Sunday	8	2 Before Lent	No Morning Service	See St Mary's, Wedmore
Sunday	15	1 Before Lent	9.15 am	Friends and Family Service
Sunday	22	Lent 1	9.15 am	Parish Communion

### Bagley Baptist Church

Our Sunday services start at 10.30 pm with children and youth groups starting around 11.00 pm. We have an All-In Family Service on the second Sunday of each month. On Wednesday we host our 'Coffee with a View' morning from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon with free refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere. Youth Groups for ages 10 to 17 are held every Wednesday, during term time, from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm. We also hold fellowship groups including home groups, prayer gatherings, and social events.

Everyone's welcome and it's all free. We have good parking and wheelchair access. For further details, call us on 01934 710779, email us at [contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk) or visit our website [www.bagleybaptist.co.uk](http://www.bagleybaptist.co.uk)

Sam Harvey, Secretary

## Crickham Baptist Chapel

Sunday services at Crickham Baptist chapel are to be held at 2.30 pm during the winter months, everyone is welcome, we have a short service followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and cake. You are sure of a warm Christian welcome.

Sunday School is held Sunday mornings at 10.30 am. All ages are welcome, and we have a fun time with crafts, cooking, stories, and quizzes. Phone Ruth for more details on 01278 783935.

Ruth Smith

# Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

## Surgery Opening Times

Wedmore Surgery	
Monday	8.30 am to 6.00 pm
Tuesday to Friday	8.30 am to 1.00 pm
Telephone 01934 712774	
Axbridge Surgery	
Monday to Fridays	8.30 am to 6.00 pm
Telephone 01934 732464	
Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.	
Improved Access Appointments	
Axbridge Surgery, Tuesdays	6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

## Contact our Clinical Team through our Website

We can also be contacted in your own time through our website, with a member of our clinical team replying to you by the end of the next working day. You will be asked to complete an online form. This is useful for non-urgent conditions. We will then contact you and let you know the best action to take.

## Improved Access Appointments

During these a Nurse/HCA/Phlebotomist will be available for routine appointments outside normal surgery times. These appointments are provided, but not exclusively, for those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours. Please note, these hours may be subject to change depending on the availability of clinical staff.

Please visit our website [www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk) visit or telephone the practice on 01934 732464 or 01934 712774 for changes to opening hours. You can also obtain 24-hour general medical advice by telephoning NHS on 111 or visit the NHS 111 website [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)

*During improved access appointments the front door will be locked. Please ring the video doorbell for access. Access will only be granted to patients with pre-booked appointments. Surgery telephones are not manned during extended hours.*

# Wedmore Community Bus



The Community Bus is a not-for-profit bus service run by volunteers for the benefit of the local community. It currently provides regular weekly scheduled services to four locations and monthly services to Bath, Cribbs Causeway and Wells. The bus is also available for private hire, principally for the use of local community groups.

The bus is a friendly place and open to everyone. Our drivers want to help you enjoy your time on the bus as much as possible. Except for the Bath service, whenever possible we try to pick-up and drop-off at a location that is convenient to you, including your home if need this. We are also flexible about drop-offs en-route. We are happy to provide help in getting on and off the bus for those who need it.

Fares are kept low, as the bus is financed by Somerset Council and all our drivers are volunteers. The service is free for everyone with a concessionary Bus Pass, except for the Bath and Cribbs Causeway services which are £2 for concessions. All services are free for children under 5 years old.

## Timetable and Booking Details

All services depart Wedmore Car Park at 9.30 am. To be sure of a seat, just call the number indicated below against the relevant destination, at the time shown, and we'll agree a convenient pick-up location and time.

**Monday - Bath (monthly)** – This month's visit to Bath will be on Monday 2 February – Departs Bath at 2.00 pm, back about 3.30 pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

**Monday - Cribbs Causeway (monthly)** – This month's service will be on 16 February – Departs Cribbs Causeway at 2.00 pm, back about 3.30 pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

**Tuesday - Taunton** – Departs Taunton 2.00 pm, back around 2.45 pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Wednesday - Bridgwater** – Departs Bridgwater 1.00 pm, back around 2.00 pm. Call Helen Flooks on 01934 611006 between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Thursday - Weston-super-Mare** – Departs Weston 1.45 pm, back around 2.45 pm. Call Carol Ayliffe on 01934 713471 between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Friday - Street and Glastonbury** – Departs Street 1.00 pm, back around 1.30 pm. Call Ann Hughes on 01934 712832 between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Saturday - Wells (monthly)** – This month's service will be on 14 February – Departs Wells Bus Station 12.15 pm and Wells Market Place 12.20 pm, back around 1.00 pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

Except for the Bath service, passenger pick-ups and drop-offs are normally available in Wedmore, Sand, Heath House, Mudgley, Latcham, and Cocklake, with additional pick-ups and drop-offs in other villages en route to each destination if requested. Please request a pick-up location when you book, and we will try to accommodate. Note that the Bath Service only picks up at Wedmore Car Park and Theale.

## Private Hire

When it is not committed to the above scheduled services, the Community Bus is available for private hire for day trips and evenings.

Our drivers are fully trained, and they volunteer to provide this local service. If you are a community group and wish to make regular use of the service then we can train one of your members, so you always have a driver available.

The bus safely seats 16 people and will cost £2 per mile (plus a discretionary tip for the volunteer driver!). There is a discounted rate of £1 per mile for youth and children's community groups. To book our comfortable Community Bus for your event or outing, please email us at [iowrtabookings@gmail.com](mailto:iowrtabookings@gmail.com)

For further information about anything relating to the Community Bus please email us on [wedmorebus@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorebus@gmail.com)

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