

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

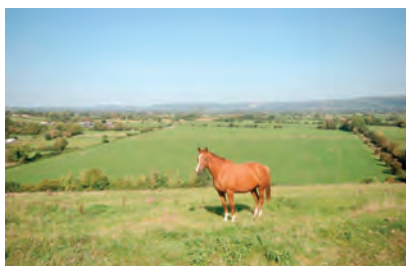
THE 39 STEPS



November 2024
No. 536

RODERICK THOMAS

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Roderick Thomas



Editorial

I cannot quite believe that I have now been editor for over a year! The support and kind words I have received from you, the readership, have been very gratifying; and the continuing support from the amazing team of contributors has, hopefully, given you an informative, interesting and, sometimes, challenging magazine to enjoy.

I am pleased that we have a new news article containing an update from our local MP. It is hoped that this will continue on a monthly basis and give an insight as to what our local Member of Parliament has been doing to represent us.

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of Denley Brown, who contributed a monthly weather report to this magazine for a number of years. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. Please see his obituary in the Regular Features section.

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

The front cover features Wedmore Theatre's forthcoming production of 'The 39 Steps' which, together with a cabaret and a meal, will offer theatre-goers a Big Night Out. See the article in the News section for more information.

Liz Sweeney

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE: 1 November 2024

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The Isle of Wedmore News welcomes all contributions and letters. It should be noted however that the views expressed are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, or represent any particular standpoint on the part of the publication. The editors also reserve the right to edit or amend any contribution for reasons of space, conformity, legibility or legality.

Wedmore News is digital! Each edition will be published on The Isle of Wedmore Website, www.theisleofwedmore.net. If you are a contributor who for copyright reasons does not want your entry included, please make this clear when sending it to the editor.

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 centre-spread 'What's On' listings.

Charity Fundraising Halloween Disco – Cancelled

Sadly, the Halloween Disco scheduled for 1 November has had to be cancelled. It is hoped to schedule a similar event in the new year. Please see the article in the News section for further information.

The Turnip Prize Entries – 1 to 23 November

Entries are open from 1 to 23 November. The Winner will be announced at The New Inn, Wedmore on 3 December.

St Mary's Annual Charities Fair – Saturday 2 November

St Mary's Church Annual Charities Fair will take place at the church from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.

The Big Tidy-Up – Sunday 3 November

Please join us at 10.00 am at Borough House to help keep our wonderful village and lanes clear of litter.

Wedmore Twinning Association AGM – 6 November

Wedmore Twinning Association will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 6 November at 7.00 pm in the upstairs room at The George.

Wedmore Twinning Association Quiz Night – Friday 8 November

Wedmore Twinning Association are holding a quiz night at 7.00 pm in the Masonic Hall, Wedmore.

Concert in Theale Village Hall – 16 November

On 16 November at 7.30 pm Mr Punch's folk club and the hall committee will hold an evening of music, song, recitation and poetry in aid of the village hall renovations.

Wedmore Theatre's Big Night Out – 28 to 30 November

An evening of comedy, drama, food and drink, plus music and glamour!

Embrace the Middle East Fundraising Lunch – 30 November

Lisa Hall and Richard Neill are hosting a lunch on Saturday 30 November, from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm, at The Vicarage, Manor Lane, Wedmore to raise money for Embrace the Middle East

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Coming Soon

Below is a selection of events coming up in the Isle of Wedmore later in the year, 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.

Living Advent Calendar – Starting 1 December

The Living Advent Calendar will be unveiled from 1 to 24 December, with one window lighting up each evening.

Wedmore Village Hall AGM – 5 December

The Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee will take place on Thursday 5 December at 4.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Wedmore Winter Ball – 6 December

The Wedmore Winter Ball returns on Friday 6 December at the Wedmore Village Hall.

Axbridge Church Christmas Fayre – 7 December

Axbridge Church Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday, 7 December starting at 10.30 am in the Axbridge Town Hall.

Wedmore By Lamplight – 11 December

This wonderful event will return on the evening of 11 December in The Borough. A great way to kick off your Christmas!



Christmas at Blackford Café – 11 December

The December Café will welcome musicians and songsters to prepare us all for the Christmas season. Blackford Village Hall on Wednesday 11 December at 2.00 pm.

Wedmore Opera Burns Night – 25 January

The popular Wedmore Burns Night, hosted by Wedmore Opera, will take place in Wedmore Village Hall on Saturday 25 January 2025 at 7.30 pm.

News

The Isle of Wedmore News is Now a CIC!

Following much discussion on the legal status of the Isle of Wedmore News, as it has evolved from a Parish Council magazine to its current form, we have taken the decision to incorporate the magazine as a Community Interest Company (CIC).

The Isle of Wedmore News was originally set up in the late 1970s to comply with legislation requiring local councils to publish minutes of their meetings to improve transparency and accountability. The Isle of Wedmore News has grown over the years to provide a monthly magazine containing information on events in and around the Isle of Wedmore; news articles of interest to the local community; regular columns to feed the body and mind; and updates from our local social clubs, societies, and sports

clubs. This is all funded by advertisements from a range of wonderful local companies who wish to promote their services to our community, whilst enabling us to print and distribute the Isle of Wedmore News, free-of-charge, to every address in the Parish.

Why is this change important? The Parish Council has long since moved to publishing its minutes, and other useful information, online at www.wedmore-pc.gov.uk while continuing to provide a monthly update in this magazine. Even with our modest turnover though, our friends at HMRC take an active interest and it has become necessary for us to submit annual tax returns. We also have a duty to those individuals who volunteer to put together and distribute the magazine each month, to ensure that we have appropriate corporate insurances in place.

What does the change mean to you, the readers? The CIC has been set up to ensure that the Isle of Wedmore News remains a not-for-profit organisation; run by unpaid volunteers; for the benefit of the residents of the Parish of Wedmore; and on a solid legal basis. You will notice no change to the magazine, or its editorial policy, because of this change and we hope that this will enable us to maintain this useful service for many years to come.

Ian Anstey
Editor

Missing the Crossword?

The Wedmore News is still looking for a new crossword compiler and is keen to hear from anyone who is interested in providing a crossword (or another brain teaser?) each month. Please contact the Editor, Ian Anstey, on 07891 847285, or via editorwedmorenews@gmail.com if you feel able to rise to this challenge!

Tessa Munt MP's Update

Thank you to the Isle of Wedmore News for giving me the opportunity to let you know what's been going on during September.

It's been a busy few weeks in Parliament and locally, and I've been bringing a team on board. I have some fantastic people joining me to help with the several thousand requests for support I've already received as your MP.

In the 24 days Parliament sat from the election on 4 July to the end of September, I've asked a question in the Chamber about better protection for whistleblowers and been elected a Vice Chair of an all-party group of MPs and Peers to look at this important issue. Another of my questions in Parliament highlighted the need to put power lines underground - something I've long campaigned for as an alternative to pylons as they have such an impact on our landscape here, and undergrounding enables better security. I've also raised concerns about the accuracy and transparency of company director registrations at Companies House. Misleading



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(584)

data enables individuals to dodge their legal responsibilities, which in turn can mask corruption and tax avoidance, which go undetected.

On 'Back British Farming Day', I asked the Prime Minister to deny rumours that his Government plans to take advantage of the previous Government's £100 million underspend of the farming budget in the last Parliament, which unfairly impacted our farming community, and the numerous businesses allied to farming, through no fault of the farmers. He would not commit to pre-empt the Budget due at the end of October, but I will continue publicly to press him and his Government to put the right support back in place.

I've been working with my colleagues to oppose the Government's plan to remove Winter Fuel Payments (WFP) from all but those pensioners on Pension Credit. I voted against the removal of WFP and believe the new Government must reverse its decision immediately, ditch these cuts, and give our most vulnerable pensioners the support they need this winter. If you are in a position to donate your WFP, please consider Somerset Community Foundation's 'Surviving Winter Appeal' which distributes funds locally to those most in need. You can contact them Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 16.00 pm on 01749 344949. You can get help to check whether you're receiving all the support that's available to you by calling Somerset Citizens' Advice on 0344 488 9623.

I will be holding a surgery on Saturday 2 November from 11.00 am until 12.30 pm in The Bluebird Cafe in The Borough, Wedmore. No appointment is necessary, it's first come, first served, and if you can't come to see me, let me know and I'll come to see you.

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

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

Tessa

Parish Council Business

Hello Friends! I hope you're all keeping well as we move into November! Time certainly seems to be flying by, doesn't it?

Firstly, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Wedmore in Bloom, for their wonderful efforts. We were delighted to contribute £1,034 to support their work in enhancing the village's floral displays. This donation means they've been able to purchase £900 worth of tulip bulbs, which will undoubtedly bring vibrant colour to our village come spring. Wedmore in Bloom manages around 70 pots throughout the village, and their dedication to beautifying our community is truly commendable.

In our recent Council meeting, we discussed several important topics, including ongoing projects and community safety. We finalised the Emergency Plan which aims to ensure that our village is prepared for any emergencies that may arise. We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG), which will provide valuable support and resources as we finalise



our emergency response strategy. This collaboration is vital for enhancing our community's resilience and ensuring that we can effectively respond to any unforeseen circumstances. Many of you have raised concerns about ensuring safe routes for children to navigate around the village, particularly when travelling to and from school. We are committed to advocating for safer walking and cycling paths and will continue to communicate these concerns to Somerset Council, urging them to take action.

In September, I was lucky enough to speak at the Isle of Wedmore Society meeting. One of the topics of discussion was riparian ownership, which pertains to landowners' rights and responsibilities concerning any land adjacent to watercourses, including responsibilities that may extend beyond the immediate banks. While landowners directly beside waterways have clear duties to maintain the bank's health, those with properties further away can also play a significant role in managing land to prevent flooding and protect local ecosystems. We encourage all landowners to trim their bushes and regularly check the brook, ensuring that vegetation does not impede water flow, and that any debris is cleared to maintain the health of our waterways.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone about the upcoming council meeting on Wednesday, 20 November 2024, at 7.00pm, please come along, it would be great to see you!

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. For updates and information, follow us on our Facebook page or visit our website www.wedmore-pc.gov.uk Let's work together to keep our village safe and vibrant!

Lindsey Baker
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council

Charity Fundraising Halloween Disco – Cancelled

Sad to be sharing this on behalf of the team behind the Halloween Disco. Due to low interest and ticket sales, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel the event on 1 November. Thanks to you all for your patience and understanding.

Our primary goal has always been to raise funds for a local charity and have some fun doing it with you wonderful people in the community, so thank you so much to those very generous people that declined a refund and asked that their ticket payment be donated to Cheddar Food Bank. We are glad at least that we could donate £100 thanks to these lovely people. By way of an apology, we also dropped off a big bag of groceries. The team at Cheddar Food Bank send a massive thank you!

Cheddar Food Bank are in urgent need for donations right now, so don't forget you can drop off food anytime in Wedmore (outside Pumpkin and the vicarage) and Cheddar (Sainsburys). Or you can make a cash donation to www.cheddarvalley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help

Oh no; I hear you say. We planned to attend; you say. Well fear not, we will be back, and we will try again. The Silly Sausage Social will return! At present we are thinking an over-18s 'old-skool' disco to celebrate the end of dry January, maybe with a Valentines twist? Tell us what you think and email Si_earles@hotmail.com if you are interested. If we get a strong sense this is something you want, we can make it happen with your support.

Simon Earles
Silly Sausage Social



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The Turnip Prize 2024

The Turnip Prize is a spoof art award of the lesser-known Turner Prize. We will be accepting entries for this year's competition from Friday 1 November. Entries should take the least amount of effort possible to create. To enter, post or leave your entry at The New Inn, Combe Batch, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4DU.

Due to increased skip hire charges, only one entry per person. No paper entries. No photocopied entries. Please include your name or pseudonym, contact phone number and the title of your entry.



1 November – Entries Open.

21 November – Entries Close.

23 November – Judging.

3 December, 6.00 pm.

The Winner will be announced at The New Inn, Wedmore. All entries to be removed from the New Inn.

For more info visit The New Inn, Wedmore, or our Facebook page, or contact Trevor on 07812 848011

Trevor Prideaux

St Mary's Annual Charities Fair

St Mary's Church Annual Charities Fair will take place on Saturday 2 November from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. This is the 23rd Charities Fair and, over the years, it has raised thousands of pounds for a wide range of charitable causes.

Once again St Mary's PCC is opening the church to give various charities an opportunity to sell you their Christmas cards, calendars and gifts. Coffee and Cakes will be available to refresh you in between making your purchases. This is always a very happy occasion, so do come along to support your favourite charities.

At the time of going to press, there are still a few stalls available. If you are a registered charity, and wish to have a stall, please email sjburton1012@gmail.com

*Sue Burton
Co-ordinator*

The Big Tidy Up

The next Big Tidy Up will be on Sunday 3 November, starting at 10.00 am. Meet in the yard at Borough House and help us keep the lanes and verges in, and around, the village looking loved and cared for. Litter grabbers and Hi-Viz provided. Please contact Venetia on 07967 660040.

Venetia Hopkins

Wedmore Twinning Association AGM and Quiz Night

Wedmore Twinning Association will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 6 November at 7pm in the upstairs room at The George. All are welcome.

The Association will also be holding a quiz night on Friday 8 November, 7.00 pm at the Masonic Hall, Wedmore. Tickets are £10.00 per person, with a maximum of 6 to a team, and include a Ploughman's Supper with dessert. There will also be a licensed bar. For more details and to purchase tickets please email wedmoretrinning1@gmail.com or ring Andy Reeson on 07801 718202 or Nickey Hann on 07801 847064

Nickey Hann

Mendip Rotary Quiz Nights

Mendip Rotary will be holding quiz nights at The George in Wedmore on 12 November and 10 December. The quiz will start at 7.30 pm and tickets will be £5. Please contact Tom on 07831 465568, to book a ticket.



Tom Elson

Concert in Theale Village Hall

Although renovation work has not yet finished, we are continuing to run fund raising events till Christmas after which the hall will be closed for a couple of months to complete jobs inside.

On 16 November at 7.30 pm Mr Punch's folk club and the hall committee invite you to an excellent evening of music, song, recitation and poetry featuring Chameleon, a long established West Country duo who live up to their name by performing British and American traditional and contemporary songs, together with some jazz and classic pop, with the emphasis on having a good time; Peter Janes, a Mendip musician, singer, and reciter of tragic, comic, and amorous ballads; and Terry Gifford, a local, nationally published, poet and academic.

Please come and support our endeavours. Tickets are £10 and there will be a bar and snacks available, with a raffle. Tickets are available in advance, please call 01749 670212 or 07855 297861.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Theatre's Big Night Out

We start the evening with a classic farce. 'The 39 Steps' is Patrick Barlow's award-winning spoof of the Buchan novel and Hitchcock masterpiece. Fresh from its nine-year hit run in the West End, it's further abridged so that the gags are even more outrageous and densely packed. Undaunted, our ridiculously talented cast of five portray 150 characters in a fast and furious riot of physical theatre – a man is chased across the roof of a hurtling train, there are fight scenes, death scenes, car chases, handcuffs, missing fingers and romance!

With our customary professionalism, we brought in a Physical Theatre Workshop expert to train our cast to use body movement to tell a story, and to learn stage techniques such as how to hit someone in a fight, how to fall safely, do a stage kiss and create a scene with minimal props (well, we could hardly fit the train or the cars onto the Village Hall stage, could we?)





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Feeling helpful?

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- Live around the Isle of Wedmore?
- Got a car and a bit of spare time?
- Like to give back to the community?
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The play runs uninterrupted for about an hour, at the end of which both cast and audience will be in need of sustenance! So, we then re-open the bar and serve the included two-course meal. Each table of 8 people is served with a set of sharing platters piled with a delicious selection of substantial local and continental snacks, including veggie options ('tapas' anyone?), followed by a pudding with a Christmassy flavour.

As our pudding is served, our stunning cabaret begins. Our very own gorgeous Georgina Sweet will move onstage to rock the room with some of her most popular songs, ending on a suitably Christmassy note to round off our jolly, sociable evening.

Performances, in Wedmore Village Hall, are on Thursday 28, Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November. Seats are at tables and can be reserved in any numbers up to 8, so why not get a group of friends together and make up a table of 8? Tickets are on sale now. Visit our website www.wedmoretheatre.com to book tickets or leave a message for our helpful Box Office Manager on 01934 807668. Numbers are limited, so don't delay!



Georgina Sweet

Wedmore Theatre

Fundraising Lunch for Embrace the Middle East

Lisa Hall and Richard Neill are hosting a lunch on Saturday 30 November, from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm, at The Vicarage, Manor Lane, Wedmore, to raise money for Embrace the Middle East, a charity that has been working in the region for 170 years, supporting marginalised communities with refuge, health care, and education.

Support for their ongoing action is needed now more than ever as they work to support those in conflict areas in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as communities in Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. Donations, for the lunch of homemade soup, bread and cheese, will go to Embrace. Charity goods will also be on sale.

We look forward to seeing you! Please email wedmorevicarage@gmail.com to reserve your place.

Lisa Hall

Wedmore Village Hall AGM

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee – Thursday 5 December at 4.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Covid may feel like something in the distant past but the Village Hall, whilst still very well used, has seen some decline in bookings largely due to some users simply not starting their sessions again. Nevertheless, most users are back, from arts to Yoga, Tuesday Club to Tai Chi, Badminton to Brownies, and Christening parties to Camelot Quilters.

The Village Hall Management Committee has continued to make improvements to the Hall, the latest major one being a complete refurbishment of the Snug to make it warm and welcoming – as the name implies! We have several projects in the pipeline including replacing the old range cooker in the main kitchen (well past its best-before

date), attention to stonework on the plinth around the outside of the Hall that has started to crumble and upgrades to the fire alarm system to bring it in line with new minimum standards. All these need funding and we are looking as to the best way forward, such as if any grants may be available. Of course, a building of the age of the Hall needs constant maintenance which doesn't come cheap!

The raked seating continues to be popular and has been enhanced by Wedmore Festival with grab rails. The mechanical ventilation system has been a good investment to make the Hall comfortable in hot weather and, importantly, Covid-safe.

With so many new houses and new families being welcomed to Wedmore we would love to hear from any of them who would be able to contribute to the all-important work of the Management Committee of the Hall. It need not be overly time-consuming, but it is a great way to get involved with a dearly cherished asset of the community. Please do contact me if you are interested at chair@wedmorehall.org.uk Also, if anyone has ideas of new user groups or functions that might like to hire the Hall, please contact me, or come to the AGM; we have availability and preferential rates for local users.

We are very grateful to our sponsors and local users for the continued success of the Hall and hope that representatives of these user groups will come to the AGM along with any residents of Wedmore who are welcome to attend. Finally, a special thanks to Wedmore in Bloom for the ongoing upkeep of the planters around the Hall, giving such a welcoming touch to our visitors.

Simon Tomes
Chair, Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee



Wedmore Winter Ball Returns this December!

Get ready for a night of glamour and festivity as the Wedmore Winter Ball returns on Friday 6 December at Wedmore Village Hall. Last year's event raised an incredible £1200, which was generously shared between Wedmore PTA, Wedmore Harvest Home, Wedmore 1st Scouts, and Vagabonds Carnival Club, who also served as the caterers.

This year's black-tie evening promises to be just as magical, featuring a delightful three-course meal and plenty of dancing. Tickets are limited, so make sure to reserve yours now by emailing wedmorewinterball@gmail.com or calling Lindsey on 07817 370281. Don't miss out on one of Wedmore's most anticipated events of the year!

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Warm in Wedmore

Following the success of Warm in Wedmore during the last two winters, we are hoping that Warm in Wedmore will take place again this winter, every Wednesday and Thursday from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm starting on 4 December (with a short break over Christmas and New Year), through until the end of February.



Village clubs and associations take turns to host a few hours of friendly chat and company over coffee or a bowl of soup, providing an opportunity for you to meet others and find out more about the club or association hosting that week.

More details will be included in the next magazine.

Living Advent Calendar

Christmas is almost here and, as in previous years, our thoughts are turning to lighting up the village as a Living Advent Calendar. One window will light up each evening between 1 December and Christmas Eve and continue to delight us all throughout the Christmas period. Would you like to be a part of this well-loved tradition? All windows are welcome – big or small we'll love them all!

To book a date for your window or for more information please contact Marianne Smith by Sunday 17 November on wedmorelivingadventcalendar@gmail.com

Marianne Smith

Christmas at Blackford Café

At our December Cafe we will welcome musicians and songsters to prepare us all for the Christmas season. Do join us at Blackford Café, Blackford Village Hall on Wednesday 11 December at 2.00 pm. You will be greeted with tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies. We would love to see you!

Wedmore Burns Night

The Wedmore Burns Night, hosted by Wedmore Opera, will take place on Saturday 25 January 2025 at 7.30 pm in Wedmore Village Hall. Tables of 6 and 12 and anything in between! Come alone or in a group and enjoy a two-course haggis dinner (vegetarian option available) prepared by local chef Nick Armitage, with two bottles of wine for every table of six and a little musical entertainment.

To book your tickets at £25 per person, just call Phyllida on 07540 110057 or email wofigaro@gmail.com

Phyllida Shaw

Bath and Wells Diocese Approves Changes To St Marys

The Vicar and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are pleased to advise all residents that two important projects have been approved by the Diocese.

The first is to replace the extremely inefficient and environmentally unfriendly heating system installed in the 1960s. Six Herschel Halo Radiant Chandelier heaters will be installed in the Nave, plus smaller heaters in the choir stalls and other locations. The cost of the new system will be between £50,000 and £60,000 and installation costs are currently out for quotations. The system is very flexible and should result

in electrical consumption being reduced by at least 75% and much more during Sunday Services. Importantly, it will mean PCC will be able to afford to heat the church again and make it economically viable for community groups to hold events in church during colder months.

This forms part of the plan to make the church more suitable for general community use, as the Nave will become multi-functional when the second project 'Re-Ordering' is implemented. This will involve removal of the pews in the centre of the Nave and replacement by chairs, which were selected after a number of public trials. In addition, a kitchenette and servery will be installed in the Southwest corner of the Nave. Six pews will be retained in each of the aisles as a historical record, particularly those with carved ends. This project is expected to cost £90,000 in total.

The PCC has sufficient funds to cover two-thirds of the costs of both projects but fund-raising through grants; donations, and sponsorship (for instance of chairs) will be necessary. The target is to install the heating in February or March next year, with Re-Ordering being completed later in 2025. We will keep you up to date.

Mike Gelder

Mr Punch's Folk Club

Please note that the folk club will not be taking place in Theale Village Hall for the next few months. We will let you know when and where the club will restart.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Charities Education Grants

Wedmore Charities have around £300 to allocate to any persons living in the parish of Wedmore, for any form of educational purposes. Pupils under 18 should apply through their parent or guardian, over-18s should apply for themselves. The application should give their details, school or college, and exactly what they intend to do with the grant. Please note that as the number of applications rises some previously successful applicants may be overlooked in favour of new applicants.

Applications should be addressed to The Treasurer, Wedmore Charities, Bockingford House, Westham, Wedmore. BS28 4UX. The closing date for applications is 18 November. Successful applicants will be notified in December.

The Ethel Pople Charity – Request for Applicants

The late Ethel Pople, formerly of The Old Smithy, Cocklake, who died in 1978, left a trust under her Will for the assistance of the elderly and/or infirm of Cocklake, Clewer and Wedmore to be called 'The Ethel Pople Trust' in honour of 'Our Blessed Lady of Wedmore'. Every year invitations are invited by the Trustees from those who consider they may qualify with a view to distribution of trust income.

The Trustees of the Ethel Pople Trust Deceased Charity are inviting written applications, from those who qualify under the terms of these trusts, with a view to distribution of the trust income in December 2024 or January 2025. Letters should state briefly the basis on which the applicants qualify. All applications will be treated in confidence.



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Please note that if you have applied successfully before, and wish to apply again this year, then the Trustees would like you to provide written confirmation that your circumstances have not changed. Applications should be addressed to the Ethel Pople Charity Trustees, John Hodge Solicitors, Unit 16, The Borough Mall, Wedmore BS28 4EB, for the attention of Sara Anthony.

Sara Anthony

Wedmore 40/30 Announces Next Year's Date

Well done the riders, the splendid volunteers, and the marvellous sponsors for helping make the 2024 edition a record in every way. Since the first edition, we have raised a total of £33,000 to help Weston Hospicecare and The Friends of St. Mary's Wedmore.

Next year's Wedmore 40/30 will take place on Sunday 31 August 2025, so put this on your shiny new calendars and lock in the date.

David Hopkins

Wedmore Brownies – Volunteers Needed!



Wedmore Brownies meet on Wednesday evenings at the village hall during term time. As part of GirlGuiding UK we run exciting activities for girls aged 7 to 10 years allowing them to grow and develop confidence, understand themselves and give back to the community.

This month you will see us on parade for Remembrance Sunday. Last September we had a wonderful weekend at Somerset County Camp up on the Mendip Hills where we challenged ourselves to rock climbing in a disused quarry, caving in an abandoned mine and archery. We also made no-sew cushions, dipped candles and attended a campfire where our Leader (Sue Moreman) was awarded her 10-year long service award.

Two out of our three current leaders will be standing down in July 2024. We now need someone who is prepared to take over running the Unit as well as others to help at meetings etc. Without volunteers we will, reluctantly, have to close the unit. If you are interested in helping us keep this Unit open, please contact Sue Moreman on 01934 710278 or via wedmore.brownies@gmail.com.

Wedmore Good Neighbours – Extra Volunteers Wanted!

Since the beginning of this year our wonderful volunteers have assisted local people with over 300 lifts to medical appointments, home visits and other requests. This is a 30% increase on 2023 so fresh volunteers are very welcome!

Who can join? If you live anywhere on/around the Isle of Wedmore, have a car and/or some spare time, plus a feeling that you'd like to get a bit more involved in the local community, then we'd love to add you to our list of volunteers.

What's the commitment? One of the most popular features of the scheme for volunteers is the fact that there is no regular requirement to do anything! When someone leaves a request on our helpline the co-ordinator for that week shares the task with all the volunteers, but not the name of the neighbour asking for help – their anonymity is preserved.

If you fancy taking on that 'ask' you simply inform the co-ordinator. You do as much or as little as you wish and pick the requests that are most appropriate to your schedule and inclinations.

How do I become a volunteer? Just call our helpline on 01934 806299 and leave a message – someone will ring you back shortly.

Want further information? General details about the scheme are available on the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website – www.whawb.co.uk/gns/.

The scheme has been up and running for several years now and there's a team of experienced people to give you any help and support you may need. When you join you will also be given a comprehensive Volunteer Folder that provides all you need to know about how the scheme operates – everything from accepting donations or help with mileage to record keeping and liability insurance.

Whatever questions you may have prior to joining can be answered by the person who calls you back.

A note for those calling on our services

If you have a request for help, simply call 01934 806299 and leave a message - 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, as you'll see from this article, we're getting quite busy - so the earlier you can call us before the help is required the more likely it is that we'll be able to find a willing volunteer.

Awareness Fest Raises an Amazing £17,626

In June this year Wedmore's George Inn hosted the first Awareness Fest music festival to support The Brain Tumour Charity in memory of Adam Stimpson - and the locals came out in force to join in the fun.

The Adam Stimpson Fund was set up by Garry and Annette Stimpson following the death of their 20-year-old son from a high-grade brain tumour in 2023. 'We wanted to do something positive to keep Adam's memory alive and to raise money for charities that help others going through the trauma of this devastating disease' explains Annette.

Ben Manzi and Stuart Kerley, owners of the George Inn, suggested holding an annual festival to support the fund while Catherine Vaughan, Stephen Warner and Ed Vaughan volunteered themselves as the organising team.



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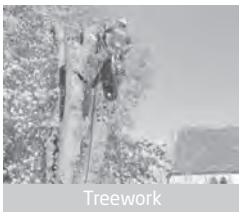
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‘We’re incredibly grateful to The George Inn, volunteers and sponsors,’ adds Annette. ‘Through their efforts, and the generous support of those who came to the Awareness Fest, the event has raised a fantastic £17,626 for The Adam Stimpson Fund which will be donated to The Brain Tumour Charity’. The charity is leading the way in the fight against brain tumours and the focus of Awareness Fest is to make more people aware of the symptoms of brain tumours, especially in the young, to enable early detection and more effective treatment of high-grade tumours.

Following the success of Awareness Fest 2024 it will now be an annual event. The next one will take place at the George Inn on 7 June 2025 – so save the date! This is just one of the ways the Adam Stimpson Fund is raising money to support those with brain tumours and to fund medical research. So far, in just over a year, more than £60K has been raised with the help of Adam’s fellow students at Swansea University, local gym Target Fitness, and many friends and family. This has been shared between Weston Hospicecare, Young Lives vs Cancer and The Brain Tumour Chariry. A golf day is currently being organised for April 2025 and Target Fitness are also keen to create another fundraising challenge.

Last word from Annette: ‘Wedmore, and all our friends, you were incredible. Thank you all and we can’t wait to see you next year for more live music, dancing and fun at Awareness Fest 2025’

Annette Stimpson

Mendip Rotary Prostate Testing Day

On Saturday 28 September, Mendip Rotary set out to test 250 men in a one-day PSA testing event at Cheddar Village Hall to detect signs of prostate disease. Prostate cancer is the second biggest killer of men in the UK. The sooner a problem is found, the better the chances of successful treatment.

Organised by the Mendip Rotary Club, funds were raised through a golf event and by sponsorship from Fiveways Financial Planning, with further donations by Yeo Valley and the Somerset Prostate Support Association.

235 men attended out of the 250 who signed up. Of those tested, 14 were subsequently advised to seek further medical investigation and 6 more advised their PSA was high and a second medical opinion was advised. 215 men were informed of a clear result. The entire testing process took less than five minutes.



Mendip Rotarians and staff from Somerset Prostate Support Association at the Testing Day.

Rotary President Tom Elson commented ‘We are very pleased with numbers attending and the whole day has run very smoothly,’ adding ‘Our hope is that all those attending get reassurance about their prostate health and those who may be subsequently advised to consult a GP for further investigation, benefit from early detection’

For further information please contact Bob Acland, Rotary club of Mendip 01934 732086 or 07870 977854, or for the Somerset Prostate Support Association please contact Tim Lewis on 01934 842513

Tom Elson

3Cs Harvest Supper

The annual 3Cs (Cocklake, Crickham and Clewer) Harvest Supper took place on Friday 6 September. The 300 revellers in attendance, tucked into a traditional ploughman’s spread sourced from providers across the 3Cs, Wedmore and surrounds. After supper, everyone was wholly entertained by the speaker Kate Isgar, who regaled everyone with tales of growing up in the 3Cs. With the children enjoying the tunes of the disco,





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everyone's attention turned to catching up with friends old and new. The buzz of chatter and laughter across the tent was fabulous.



The 3Cs committee would very much like to thank our sponsors, our helpers and everyone who came and made the evening such a success. Next year's event will be held on Friday 5 September 2025 at 7.00 pm. See you there!

Jo Keen

Friends of Weston Hospicecare – Big Drop and Jigsaw Sale

On behalf of the Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare I would like to thank everyone who came to support us for the Big Drop and jigsaw sale. We raised £370 at the café and jigsaw sale, as well as a huge amount of donations.

Apologies to any of you whose donations were not accepted for whatever reason today and we hope that you will feel able to support our next event whatever that might be.

Shirley Wederell

Regular Features

Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You **Lemon and Green Olive Chicken Tagine**

Ingredients –

- 1 to 2 tbsp olive oil
- 5 chicken thigh fillets (boneless)
- 3 red onions – chopped
- 1 tbsp turmeric



- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tbsp paprika
- 1 tbsp cumin
- 15g parsley chopped
- 2 preserved lemons, chopped
- 250ml water or chicken stock
- 2 lemons cut in half
- 80g pitted green olives
- Chopped fresh parsley, lemon slices and couscous for serving

Method –

Heat a large saucepan over medium high heat. Add the olive oil, then brown the chicken thighs for 3 minutes per side. Remove from pan. Add the onion to the pan, scraping all the brown bits the chicken left behind. Cook for 3 to 5 minutes (until soft). Add the turmeric, ginger, paprika, cumin, parsley, and preserved lemon; cook for an additional 2 minutes, stirring regularly. Pour in the water or chicken stock and add the halved lemons and the browned chicken thighs. Give it all a good stir and bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium low, cover and cook for 25 minutes. Remove the halved lemons and add the green olives then cook for 5 minutes. Serve over couscous with lemon slices and fresh chopped parsley.

Note – The recipe does not require salt as the preserved lemons and olives are sufficiently salty.

Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

This Month in the Garden

Whoosh, there goes another rocket to decorate the sky with balls of colour and silver stars! My childhood memories are of parkin and homemade sticky toffee around dad's proud but neat garden bonfire before our little box of fireworks was carefully lit, one by one, our two cats sat on the windowsill, inside, watching with wide open eyes.

Ok, I know it's a garden column, so back to business. Despite the Summer, or lack of, our plants live on, well apart from that little problem with the Fuchsias. Reducing wind by creating windbreaks may be a thing to consider. Many years ago Rosewarne Experimental Horticulture Station in Cornwall carried out trials with this theme. The main conclusion was to aim at filtering the wind rather than stopping it entirely and slatted fencing or a mix of evergreen and deciduous planting was the most effective and practical solution, as solid walls and fencing created strong wind eddies on the lee side.

Last month I recommended a few trees for small gardens, and I love multi-stem trees where these can be obtained. Also, by carefully raising the crown, by cutting off the lower small branches, a more interesting feature can be obtained and space created for low growing plants (including bulbs) underneath. With young trees, look out for any narrow V-shaped branches and carefully remove the smallest branch, often missed by busy nursery people. Also check that any tree ties are adjusted as the tree stem slowly expands. Cut down and compost those old plant stems that do not contribute to winter interest and consider adding some structural plants. In the past, box used to be very useful for this but, in many places now, the nuisance of box

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blight or box caterpillars means this is no longer a prudent choice. However, there are alternatives such as Hebe, dwarf euonymus, Cornus alba varieties, yew or small pampas grass such as Cortaderia s. 'Pumila'. Garden centres have plenty of these and others to tempt additions to the winter garden.

Lawns need to continue to be cut whenever possible and, if drainage or compaction is a problem, then make use of hollow-tine fork to remove cores of soil and fill with a top dressing such as sand or fine grit spread over the lawn and brushed in. For those meadow areas, cut foliage as low as possible before removing to the compost heap, and dig out any perennial weeds. Bare patches are good and can be over-sown now with meadow mixes and hay rattle, which is used to weaken the grasses and allow wildflowers more opportunity to establish over winter. Spring flowering bulbs can still be added to these areas, varieties of snowdrops, crocus, scilla, dwarf daffodil, and fritillaria will create spring meadows of beauty, the latter loving a damp or wet soil.

Hydrangeas have loved it this year. Of the 'mop head' varieties these are mostly shades of pink. If you want a blue coloured hydrangea, they you need to add Aluminium sulphate, available in garden centres as 'Sequestrine', and an acid soil. Avoid lime (PH 7 and above) at all costs. Note that the triangular flowered varieties of Hydrangea paniculata are increasingly popular in shades of white or pink but cannot bear blue flowers.

November is the best time to sow broad beans and complete the harvesting of tomatoes, cucumbers, and the last of the apple crop. Bring any house plants back into the house now and, if not lifting for store under cover, mulch the Cannas, bananas and gingers. Tree ferns will need their crown protected with straw and covered against hard frost as it could be an extra cold winter now the climate is so unpredictable. Cheer up though, Christmas is but a month away!

Tony Connell

Country Lane Walker

It's the last couple of months of the year and what a year! with what must be the worst weather, at least in that we really didn't have summer. So, walking hasn't been the best. Nevertheless, I hope many of you have been able to get out, enjoying nature, and getting vital exercise.

I have been healing myself, during and following my stroke. You have heard me talk of such things, and maybe wondered what I am talking of. Well healing comes in many forms, way too much for covering here. Visualisation can make a profound difference to our wellbeing. To aid my healing I put out a message to fellow healers and prayer makers to aid the dissolving of blood clots in my legs, as I could not take anticoagulants following the bleeds on my brain. Three days later the clots started dissolving, and totally cleared. So, here is an example of 'where many are gathered' – mass healing and praying, is so powerful.

So, I am putting out to my healing friends again to improve my eyes. Hopefully by the time you read this the healing will have taken place and I am able to drive again. I have asked my friends to create a vision of the nerves at the back of both eyes – a cable such as an ethernet cable in an organic form, containing multiple small wires, most of which join the back of the eyes to the brain cortex (covering around the brain),



What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Fri	1	The Turnip Prize - Entries open for the spoof art award.	All day	The New Inn, Wedmore
		Support Group for Dementia Carers - Monthly meet-up	10:00am - 12.00 pm	The Swan, Wedmore
Sat	2	St Mary's Annual Charities Fair - Fundraising event for various charities.	10:00am - 12.30 pm	St Mary's Church,
		Annual Charity Christmas Card Sale	9.30am - 12.30 pm	St Mary's Church,
		Tessa Munt - MP Surgery (No appointment necessary, first come, first served).	11:00am - 12.30 pm	The Bluebird Cafe
Sun	3	The Big Tidy-Up - Community clean-up event	10:00am	Borough House, Wedmore
Fri	8	Wedmore Twinning Association Quiz Night	7:00pm	Masonic Hall, Wedmore
Sun	10	Remembrance Service - Includes wreath laying and reading of names.	10:15am	St Mary's Church,
		Remembrance Service - Includes wreath laying and reading of names.	11:00am	Christ Church, Theale
Tue	12	Mendip Rotary Quiz Night - Monthly quiz event,	7:30pm	The George, Wedmore
Wed	13	Probus - A Talk by Susan Symons 'Victoria and Albert' (A ladies' invitation event.)	10:15am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
Sat	16	Messy Church - Crafts, worship, shared tea.	3:00pm - 5.00 pm	St Mary's Church,
		Concert: Chameleon, Peter Janes, Terry Gifford - Folk music, recitations, and poetry.	7:30pm	Theale Village Hall
Sun	17	Theale Film Club	6:30pm	Theale Village Hall
Wed	20	Club 50 Meeting: Mission to Seafarers - Tea and talk with speaker Jenny Burton.	2:30pm	Masonic Hall, Wedmore
		Probus - A Talk by Alison Knight 'If the Shoe Fits' (A ladies' invitation event.)	10:15am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
Thu	28	Wedmore Theatre's Big Night Out - An evening of comedy, drama, food, and drink.	Evening	Wedmore Village Hall
		The Isle Of Wedmore Society - A Talk by Tim Moreman 'The Fallen of World War Two from Wedmore Parish.'	7:30pm	Masonic Hall, Wedmore
Fri	29	Wedmore Theatre's Big Night Out - An evening of comedy, drama, food, and drink.	Evening	Wedmore Village Hall
Sat	30	Embrace the Middle East Fundraising Lunch	12:00pm - 2.00 pm	The Vicarage, Manor Lane, Wedmore
		Wedmore Theatre's Big Night Out - An evening of comedy, drama, food, and drink.	Evening	Wedmore Village Hall

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Every 3rd Monday	Enhanced Community Bus Service - Cribbs Causeway		
Alternate Monday's	Music in Mind		The Masonic Hall, Wedmore
Every 1st Wednesday	Coffee and Chat	10:00am - 12:00	The Bluebird Café
Every 2nd Wednesday	Blackford Café	2:00pm-4:00pm	Blackford Village Hall
2nd & 4th Wednesday every month	Probus	10:15 am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
Every 3rd Wednesday	Wedmore Parish Council Meeting	7:30pm	The Council Rooms
2nd & 4th Thursday each month	Mendip Rotary Club	7:00 pm	The George Inn
Last Thursday of each month (EXCEPT AUGUST)	Green Wedmore Meeting	7:30 pm	Wedmore Village Farm, Plud Street
1st Friday of Every Month	Wedmore Carers Group	10:00am - 12.00 pm	The Swan, Wedmore
1st Saturday of each Month	St Mary's Coffee Shop	9:30am - 12.00 pm	St Mary's Church
3rd Saturday of each Month	Theale Community Café	10:00am - 12.00 pm	Theale Village Hall
2nd Saturday of each Month	Wedmore In Bloom Work Party	9:30am	Outside The George Inn

November 2024

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

Beavers	5.45 - 6.45 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Pilates with Anna MacGregor	6.00pm	Blackford VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	7:00pm	Blackford VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Bridge Club	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
Scouts	7.15 - 8.45 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

TUESDAY

Little Lambs	9.15am - 11.15 am	+ Little Lambs	Heather Hector	01934 712478
Wedmore Men's Shed	9:30am - 12:00	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
Chair Yoga	9:45am	Masonic Hall	Jo Willis	07552 711101
Yoga for the body, breath and mind	10:00am - 11.15 am	Scout Hut	Kay Wensley	07584 374515
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Lesley Nichols	01934 712045
Music Matters	2.30pm	via Zoom	mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk	
Cubs	6.30 - 7.45 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Pilates with Anna MacGregor - beginner / general class	6.10pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	7.20 pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883

WEDNESDAY

Pilates	9.15 - 10.15 am	Blackford VH	Lucy	07813 913309
Piloga Fit	9.30 - 10.30 am	Wedmore VH	John Beasley	01749 672482
Pilates	10.30 - 11.30 am	Blackford VH	Lucy	07813 913309
Coffee with a View	10:30 - 12:00	Bagley Baptist Church		
Rainbows	4.30pm	+ Wedmore VH	Gail Millard	01934 713922
Brownies	6.15pm	+ Wedmore VH	Sue Moreman	01934 710278
Guides	7.00pm	+ Wedmore VH	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
Health Tai Chi	11.00 - 12.00	Wedmore VH	John Beasley	01749 672482

THURSDAY

Wedmore Dance Group	10.30am - 12:00	Wedmore VH	Nikki Pryn	07519 630365
Wedmore Golf Club Bridge Club Section	2:00pm	Wedmore Golf Club	Colin Pinks	01934 712499
Wedmore Men's Shed	2:30pm - 4.30 pm	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
Cubs	6.30pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Table Tennis at Theale	6.30pm - 8.00 pm	Theale VH	Dave Whitmarsh	01934 712620

FRIDAY

Tots and Tinies	9.15am	+ Wedmore First School	Penny Wallace	07833 105418
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	+ Wedmore Scout Hut	Jim Collett	01934 712663

and some wires that enter the brain itself. To visualise the repairing of those wires and connections damaged by the four bleeds on the brain. To visualise the growing of new wires to replace those that may have died or damaged beyond repair. To then surround the brain with a blue sphere of light, for cooling, cleansing and repair, and for protection. To put a golden shell around that sphere, for complete protection. This is a common universal form of protection practised in many cultures. In Chinese healing it is called Wei Chi.

We can also surround our whole body, by drawing the same sort of blue light from under our feet and bringing it up over our heads, sealing ourselves in this egg shape. Again create a shell of gold, or silver, or white, whichever comes to you as you visualise. This is called 'Closing The Aura' and can be applied at any time for protection, such if confronted with aggression, someone trying to zap your energy, in a moment of fear, accident, illness, visiting hospital, surgery, dentist, or the supermarket. Good to practise daily, so that you can apply it at a moment's notice. So, to practise, practise, practise as all of us have the capability, with commitment.

So, what has this to do with walking? Well, walking is a most effective way of bringing ourselves healing, as I have touched on so many times. I am now, at end of September, walking 3 miles at speed. Not every day yet, but every few days. Daily walking is now a mile plus! By the time you read this I hope to be occasionally doing 4 miles and up into the hills again. Trying to keep positive. Keep walking! As always you can contact me on 01934 712404 or 07976 288535, WhatsApp or melvyn@gmx.co.uk

Melvyn Firmager
Always be green, never be mean

(The views represented in this article are those of the author. Please always take advice from your health care professional on medical treatments or dietary habits – Ed.)

Poetry Corner

The Farmer's Wife

A farmer's wife was expected to:
Feed the hens and mow the lawn
Fold the fleeces when the sheep were shorn
Boil the milking coats ready for the next dawn
Turn the hay and stook the corn
Nurse any sick animals that were born
Patch the clothes that were badly torn
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(029)

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Events coming up in November:

Sat 2nd Nov - Becca Kate

Fri 8th Nov - Quiz Night

Sat 9th Nov - Larkham n Hall

Sat 16th Nov - Nicole Perez

Fri 22nd Nov - Comedy Night

Sat 23rd Nov - Chris Jagger & guest

Sun 24th Nov (2.30pm) - Henry Sampson

Fri 29th Nov - Music Bingo

Sat 30th Nov - Sophie Rose

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(729)

Letters to the Editor

No letters this month.

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

Obituary

Denley Brown 1926 to 2024

Denley Brown died on 5 September, aged 98, at home in Blackford. Wonderful live-in carers allowed him to stay in his own home until the end so that he could continue to enjoy his garden, watch cricket and rugby on television, and read The Times every day.

He was a regular contributor to the Isle of Wedmore News for many years with his monthly weather reports based on his meticulous recording of rainfall and temperatures, which he had started in 1961 when he began farming at The Grove, Blackford. On one of his house visits the doctor asked Denley, in a cheery ‘let’s start a conversation’ type way, ‘What is the weather going to do today?’ Denley replied, in a very matter of fact way and with a wry smile, ‘I do not forecast the weather, I simply record it’.

He was a member of the National Farmers Union, and over a ten-year period he represented dairy farmers on the now-defunct Milk Marketing Board. Until recent years Denley was a member of the Bowls Club and Probus. He regularly attended the Isle of Wedmore Society talks, and other events, in both Blackford and Wedmore.

In accordance with Denley’s wishes, there was no funeral, only a private cremation. His sons Robert and Peter continue to live locally and his two surviving daughters, Gillian and Diana, live in Evesham and Taunton respectively. For those who remember our father, we hope that you all enjoyed or benefited from his contribution to village life.

Pete Brown

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.

November is Movember!

According to the charity Movember, ‘Men’s health is in crisis’. They state that, globally, men die on average 4.5 years earlier than women and for reasons that are largely preventable.

Movember is the leading global charity changing the face of men’s health. The charity exists to stop men dying too young, by tackling some of the most complex health issues facing men today. It started as a single-minded fundraising and awareness campaign in 2003 and has evolved into a multi-faceted health organisation, with programs accessed by millions worldwide.



In November the charity encourages men to grow a moustache and raise money for the charity with sponsorship. The charity then uses its funds to raise men's health issues and run projects around the world. The charity focuses on three key preventable diseases and conditions for men: mental health and suicide; testicular cancer; and prostate cancer. Apparently, there are five things men should know and do when it comes to their health and to minimise the risk of these conditions: stay connected with people you feel comfortable with; talk more and listen more; find out about prostate cancer and your individual risk; get to know what's normal for your testicles; and move more! There is more graphic information on the website! www.uk.movember.com/mens-health/general

Carers Rights Day 2024

Also in November we remember the 5.4 million carers in the UK. This year, Carers Rights Day is on Thursday 21 November 2024 and this year's theme is recognising your rights. According to the organisation Carers UK, every day 12,000 people become unpaid carers for a partner, family member, or a friend. Many of these don't see themselves as carers, often unaware of their legal rights and what they're entitled to in terms of support and benefits. This year's theme is 'recognising your rights' and the aim is to help carers recognise and understand their rights, and to access the support available to them, whenever they need it. As a carer, knowing your rights empowers you with information about what you're entitled to. This helps you feel confident asking for what you need, as well as challenging things when your rights are not being met, whether that be in the workplace or education, in accessing health or social care, or when interacting with other professionals or at home. These are some of the 'rights' an unpaid carer is entitled to: the right to make a request for flexible working; the right to ask your GP practice to identify you as a carer; the right, and choice, to request a free flu jab; and the right to request a carer's assessment. In our area we do have a Carers Agent, Lucy Parkinson, and she can be contacted on 07985 741607 lucy@Somersetcc.org.uk We also have a Village Agent, Lina Curiale Hopkinson, and she can advise carers of these rights and how to access them, and she can be contacted by phone 07375 371549 or email lina@somersetcc.org.uk For more information about rights, benefits, and more, go to the Carers UK website.

Support for people with dementia and their carers in Wedmore

Do you care for or support a person with dementia? Then this friendly informative group is for you! Come along on the first Friday of the month to The Swan, Wedmore between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, next meeting on Friday 1 November. If you want to find out more about the Memories Workshops and Carers' Group, phone HeadsUp on 01749 670667 or email Sally Sargeant at wedmorecarers@yahoo.com You can also see their latest Newsletter by going to www.whawb.co.uk. If you need help with funding, just ask, help may be available.



For easy links to all the websites and documents referenced, please go to www.whawb.co.uk and go to the Wedmore News item for October 2024.

*Cathy Butterworth
Wedmore Health and Wellbeing Project
01934 806266 cb@theconsultant.org*

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(730)

Wedmore Good Neighbours

Need a lift? Most requests we get are for transport to and from medical appointments, such as visits to the doctor's surgery, a hospital or for vaccinations. If you need a lift for a medical appointment there's usually a volunteer who is happy to drive as far as Musgrove Hospital in Taunton or to the Bristol hospitals. Taxis are very expensive (if you can even get one around here!) so this is proving to be a very worthwhile and welcome service.



Like some company? Many of us can feel alone at this time of year. Our volunteers are therefore visiting a small number of people in their own homes to provide weekly assistance and company. We can also provide lifts for those that want to attend local clubs and events, just contact us if you'd like a lift or would just like someone to pop in for a cuppa.

Anything else we can help with? 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?

Who can use the scheme? Anyone in the local community who, for a variety of reasons, needs a little bit of help from time to time. The group operates alongside Wedmore Health and Wellbeing to offer 'neighbourly' support to those in the local community that request it. These services are available to those living on and around the Isle of Wedmore.

Does it cost anything to use the service? Wedmore Good Neighbours is operated by volunteers and is free to use. However, the group does have running costs, including insurance and petrol expenses, as well as the vetting and training of volunteers (all are DBS checked). So, if you use the service and/or want to make a donation, this is always very welcome, just talk to your volunteer about this.

How can you request help? Simply call 01934 806299 and leave a message - 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! You can find out more about the scheme by visiting the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website - www.whawb.co.uk/gns/

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Wedmore in Bloom

Job done! With help from our team of volunteers the winter planting has been done and we would like to thank you all. Now we must sit back and wait for the show to begin. Some new tulip varieties have been used this year. Jimmy, Exotic Emperor, Light and Dreamy, and Spitsbergen, to name a few. In the supporting cast we have grape hyacinths, pansies, veronica, wallflowers and polyanthus. The total number of bulbs and plants used for the displays was 3726!



Note that our regular monthly event takes place on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 9.30am outside The George Inn.

Kay Adams

Women of Wedmore WI

Grizzly bears, mad traffic and brutal weather

Self-confessed travel and motorcycle addict Christopher Mutton presented a fascinating talk about his adrenaline-fueled Trans-America road trip. The 79-year-old former BA pilot embarked on his 'journey of a lifetime' from Alaska to Argentina with a group of other intrepid travelers, covering 21,600 miles in five months. They faced daily hazards from wildlife, landslides, mad traffic, missing road surfaces and brutal weather, but Chris told Women of Wedmore WI that he would 'do it again in a heartbeat'.

Chris, who was the eldest in the group, travelling with expedition specialists GlobeBusters, completed the journey without a scratch and never missed a day's riding. Some fellow travelers were not so fortunate however as one was injured after hitting a moose, another fell into a concrete ditch, and a taxi in Argentina knocked one rider off his bike.

The roads varied from the wide, smooth, and empty highways of the US and Canada to the bedlam of central America, with missing tarmac. Chris recalled how locals were allowed to create their own speed bumps in order to stop traffic and sell refreshments. There were encounters with grizzly bears, snakes, snow, 50mph winds, and the riders crossed the Andes over passes of nearly 16,000 feet.

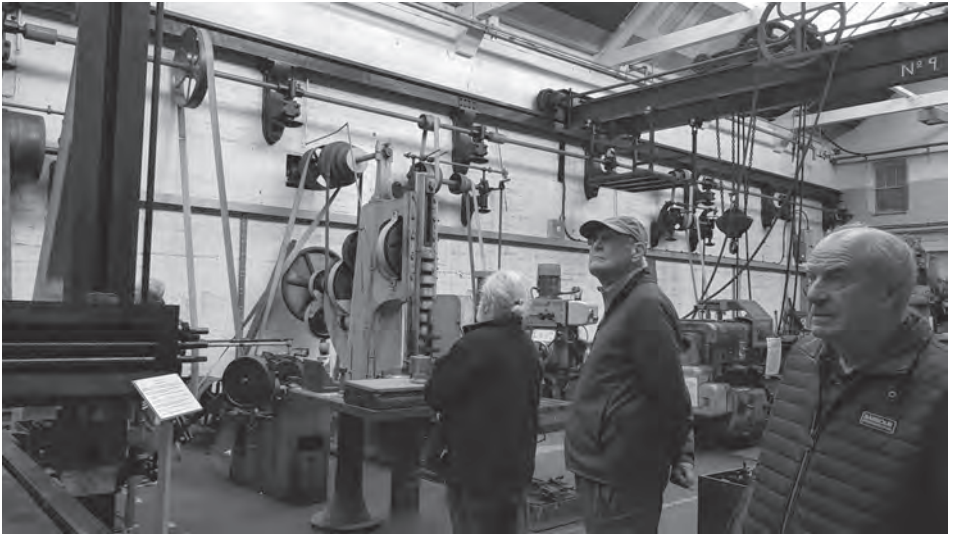
'The group was split into sub-groups of mixed abilities and priorities,' explained Chris: 'The 'fast group' were hooked on adrenaline and getting to the hotel first; the 'steady group,' including Chris, wanted to enjoy the scenery, and survive; and the 'just get there' group were well out of their comfort zone! 'I certainly learned a lot both as a person and as a rider, and my mission is to tell as many riders as possible to turn money into memories'. Chris showed us his trip memories captured by a set of stunning photographs taken over his entire journey from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina.

We will be immersed in the glamour of a 1950s Hollywood studio for our next Women of Wedmore meeting, with a live photo shoot demonstration, and talk by celebrated photographer Damien Lovegrove. The meeting starts at 7.00pm at the Post and Wicket on Wednesday 13 November. If you are interested in joining Women of Wedmore WI, please email wedmorewi@outlook.com

Sarah Ford

Wedmore Men's Shed

What's been happening? In September, the Men's Shed members visited Underfall Yard in Bristol. Underfall Yard is a key part of the floating harbour in Bristol dating back to 1830. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel it's how the harbour is kept from silting up. Members had a private tour of the site and various machinery, including the hydraulic pumps. The yard had just reopened after a devastating arson attack



Members at the Underfall Yard visit

18 months ago. Also in September, a group enjoyed an evening of Rugby in Bristol watching the Bears vs Gloucester.

Events planned in future months include apple harvesting and cider making, and a series of monthly talks on the first Monday of each month. In November we hold our AGM, and in December a talk about Drones. Our Christmas Lunch will be at Rich's Cider Farm and Restaurant.

Interested in getting involved? Wedmore Men's Shed is 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 wedmoremensshed@outlook.com or come to meet us, and find out what we are all about, on Tuesdays from 9.30 am to 11.30 am or Thursdays 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm off Plud Street.



John Ford

(599)

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Wedmore Footpath Group

Please follow the Countryside Code

What better way to blow away the cobwebs than with a walk in the countryside on a crisp autumn day. Here in the Isle of Wedmore you can explore our beautiful landscape on a variety of local footpaths. In future Isle of Wedmore News articles, the village's new Footpath Group will guide you through a selection of routes for you to enjoy. In the meantime, while you are out and about, please stay safe and help protect the environment by remembering the rules of the countryside.

We live in a farming community so it's important for us to bear in mind that our actions can affect other people's lives and livelihoods. Public footpaths often run through farming land, so follow the farmer's directions when animals are present, or being moved or gathered. This helps keep everybody safe.

Also, please leave gates as you find them and do not interfere with farm machinery, horses, or livestock. Give wild animals, livestock, and horses plenty of space and do not feed them.

Here are some other important points to remember from the Countryside Code:

- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths on farmland
- Take your litter home
- Do not light fires
- Keep dogs on a lead and pick up after them

The full Countryside Code, issued by Natural England, can be found at www.gov.uk

We hope you enjoy exploring the area around your home. It's always a good idea to plan ahead. Check the forecast before setting off and wear appropriate clothes. Sturdy boots are advisable, particularly if the weather has been wet, as you might encounter some muddy paths. And a drink and a snack are always handy. The brambles put on a growth spurt at this time of year. If you are able to, please take a pair of secateurs with you and cut back around gates and stiles if they are overgrown to make it easier for everyone to use the paths.

If you spot any issues with a Wedmore footpath, please check the Somerset Council interactive map at www.roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map If the problem has not yet been recorded, please report it here at www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-a-public-right-of-way Any other correspondence, or to find out how to get involved with the Footpath Group, please contact footpaths@wedmore-pc.gov.uk

Wedmore Footpath Group

Wedmore Tuesday Club

Tuesday Club members and helpers hit the road again. We went on our yearly trip to Clevedon, with lunch at the Little Harp Inn, where the conservatory had been reserved for us, with lovely views across the Bristol Channel to Wales. Great food and a really good day out that everyone enjoyed. We cannot wait for the next trip!

Why not join our happy band of members at Wedmore Village Hall each Tuesday from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm. If you are retired and not doing much, you could be enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits on arrival, a two-course roast lunch and a piece

of cake to take home, all for £6. We also do a raffle, prizes donated by the members themselves, and a ticket is only £1. There is a weekly quiz, and we all love this. Are they competitive? You bet they are! Most beneficial to all is the company and putting the world to rights, it is definitely one of the highlights of the week and a good way to make new friends.

We organise some trips during the summer, we pay for this, so you get a trip and lunch included. We have people come in and do a talk, always very interesting and informative. If it is a member's birthday, they get a special cake baked for them, which is divided up, so everyone has a piece to take home. Happy Birthday is sung, and they are also given a present, our members normally bring in some sherry to toast their special day plus a non-alcoholic drink. You are sure to get a warm welcome if you come along.

If you want any further information, then please contact one of the team: Lesley on 01943 712045, Sue on 07748 131413, Yvonne on 01934 712729, or Graham on 01934 712916

Graham Whitcombe

Wedmore Gardening Club

It is late September at the time of writing and there is still lots to do in the garden to prepare for next year! Jobs such as dividing perennials, planting spring bulbs, pruning etc, but I don't worry too much and just enjoy the beautiful flowers and autumnal colours still around. Such a lovely time of year.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30pm with refreshments served after the talk. Come along as everyone is given a warm welcome. For further information please contact Andrea on 01934 712161.

Jean Windridge

Isle of Wedmore Society

On 26 September, with the end of our 'Summer Break', 18 members and 5 visitors heard from four of our local politicians about who they are and what they do. Leading the panel, our Wedmore Parish Council Clerk, Lindsey Baker, explained the role and history of the Parish Council, going back to 1894, with some well-illustrated slides.



She then introduced three other panel members: Jacky Farley, the Wedmore Parish Council Chair; and our two Somerset Councillors, Matthew Martin and Harry Munt.

We then heard various explanations of current matters, including how the five District Councils, including Sedgemoor, had been merged into Somerset Council and then into Wards and Local Community Networks. A discussion followed, including a variety of questions on the presentations. These included why the Combe Batch project had been approved and does our Neighbourhood Plan have any significance in planning decisions? The inertia in dealing with the non-footpath parts of Pilcorn Street, for which £104,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy is sitting in the bank, and the problems of an ever-increasing number of huge lorries coming through our tiny and congested village streets. Even if some of the issues raised do not have

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easy solutions, it was an interesting and good-natured meeting, and we all came away perhaps better educated but still rather baffled!

The November meeting will take place on Thursday 28 November as usual at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Our speaker will be Tim Moreman, a local military historian, with a talk entitled 'The fallen of World War Two from Wedmore Parish.' During the month of Remembrance, Tim will pay tribute to people of Wedmore who fought and fell in World War Two. Members free, visitors £5, with free glass of wine or tea/coffee afterwards. Contact Ian Tomes on 01934 710390.

Ian Tomes
Secretary Isle of Wedmore Society

Wedmore Probus Club

Somerset Attractions by John Croxford Hawley

Where to start? There are so many attractions! John was visiting us for the third time and presented us with a very comprehensive list, with photographs, of Somerset Attractions.

Somerset is blessed with four ranges of hills: the Mendips, Poldens, Quantocks, and Exmoor. There are two gorges, Cheddar of course, and lesser known Ebbor Gorge. There are also the famous caves in Cheddar and Wookey. The view from Crook Peak could well be the best in the County.

Somerset is well known worldwide for both Cheddar Cheese and Cider (Scrumpy) We have two cities, Bath and Wells, with an Abbey and a Cathedral respectively. Bath has so many attractions including the Roman Baths and Sally Lunn's Eating House. The Somerset levels offer bird watching, walking, fishing, and withy farming. Withies are cropped annually and used for basket making. The seaside towns of Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare, and Minehead offer fresh Atlantic air and two piers at Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare which were frequented by Campbell's steamers providing trade with South Wales.

Somerset has two castles at Taunton, the county town, and Dunster. There are several museums across the County. King Alfred created the birthplace of Saxon England in Wedmore. We also have some of the best church towers in England, notably at Huish Episkopi and North Petherton and some fine country houses, including Tyntesfield, Montacute, and Barrington Court being well worth a visit. Railway enthusiasts are well catered for with the West Somerset Railway that runs from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead and the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore.

Finally, there is Glastonbury, with its famous Tor, Abbey ruins (some of Henry VIII's very best work!) and, of course, Glastonbury Festival.

Channel Dash by John Smith

Operation Fuller took place in 1942 and concerned the passage of three capital German warships. On Hitler's orders, these three ships, the Scharnhorst, Prinz Eugen and the Gneisenau were ordered from Brest, in western France, to return to Germany. Hitler was always concerned about Norway and wanted these ships to eventually proceed there.

Both Hitler and Admiral Raeder considered the route and decided against the northern route around Scotland, because of the British fleet in Scapa Flow. So, the quicker route up through the English Channel was chosen. British defences were minimal at the time, with only the cruiser HMS Cardiff and the submarine HMS Sealion armed with torpedoes in the area. The German ships set sail on 12 February, but a southwest gale blew up the Channel making detection of the ships difficult. ME110 fighters based in western France and four squadrons of ME109 fighters provided air cover. Poor co-ordination between the RAF and the Royal Navy meant that the ships got through without any engagement.

The Scharnhorst eventually struck a sea mine off the Scheldt estuary and both the Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen made port in Kiel and Wilhelmshaven respectively, having to break through thick ice in both ports. The Gneisenau was bombed in dry dock and never sailed again. The Prinz Eugen was sunk by the cruiser Duke of York with the help of other ships. The British gained a tactical advantage, though, as the ships would have hampered our troop movements to Malta and North Africa.

November Speakers

13 November – Victoria and Albert by Susan Symons (ladies' invitation)

27 November – If the Shoe Fits by Alison Knight (ladies' invitation)

David Ewens

Wedmore Opera Goers

There are still seats available for Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake on 24 April – the seats will be £64 each for the theatre and the coach. A few seats have become available for the Marriage of Figaro in Cardiff on 8 February, £89 in the mid stalls or £48 in the raised stalls. For Benjamin Britten's Peter Grimes on 1 April the seats will be £73 in mid stalls or £51 in the raised stalls. Please email suzannemetters@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Suzanne Metters

Theale Film Club

Theale Film Club will be open from 6.30pm. Please call 07855 297861 for further details.

Bernard Coulter

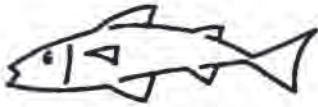
St. Mary's Church 100 Club

The latest winners are Margaret Redman and Alan and Heather Hector. Congratulations!

Liz Henderson

Club 50

Summer is well and truly over, although I'm not sure it ever really started this year. Having said that, we were unusually lucky with the weather on our coach trips: sunny, if a little chilly, in the Cotswolds in April; sunny and warm in Swanage in May; and again, in Babbacombe in June. The trip to the Botanic Gardens of Wales, in September, was a beautiful day and what a lovely place to visit, well recommended if you're ever in the Swansea area. One more trip to Bath and the American Museum in October, so fingers crossed for fine weather.



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In November we will revert to meetings in the Masonic Hall with tea and a speaker. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 November at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Jenny Burton on 'Mission to Seafarers'. Please note that the Christmas Lunch will be at Wedmore Golf Club on 18 December.

Club 50 is open to everyone so come along and join us. For further information please contact Andrea West on 01934 712161 or email wedmore.west@gmail.com

Andrea West

News and Events from Outside the Parish

Mendip Morris Beginners Classes

You may have seen the Mendip Morris dancing in Wedmore over the last couple of years, and you may even have joined in with the dancing. Now, Mendip Morris are holding a beginners 'try it out' session, for you to learn a few more Morris steps and dances. This will take place on Wednesday 13 November from 8.00pm to 9.30pm at the War Memorial Hall, Congresbury. A lift share can be arranged from Wedmore, so that is no excuse! Everyone over the age of 18 years is welcome and no previous experience is needed. For more information contact mendipmorris@gmail.com

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre

Cheddar Arts' autumn season concludes on Friday 8 November with 'Love Sarah' starring Shelley Conn, Celia Imrie and Rupert Penry-Jones. Determined to fulfil her late mother's dream of opening a bakery in Notting Hill, Clarissa enlists the help of her grandmother and her mother's friend. 'Celia Imrie is terrific in this warm-hearted drama.'

Tickets are available online at www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts The doors of Kings Theatre at the Kings of Wessex School open at 6.45 pm and performances begin at 7.30 pm

ABBA Sensation Come to Mark

Put on your platform shoes and flares and come along to dance to Abba Sensation on Saturday 2 November at Mark Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm. Fancy dress optional, with a prize for the best outfit! A bar will be available.

Abba Sensation came to us just before lock-down and got the whole place rocking – they were absolutely brilliant, and we know you will have a great evening both dancing and listening to them.

Tickets are £18 and available now from www.Ticketsource.co.uk/Mark-village-hall

Save the Children Lunches, Shipham

Save the Children lunches will be served in Shipham Village Hall at 12.30pm on the following Fridays: 1 November, 15 November and 29 November. Please come and

join us for soup, bread, cheese, tea and coffee for £5.50 (pay at the door). All profits are donated to the charity.

Henton Church Revitalising Fund – Autumn Programme

Cerne Abbas and astronomy in the time of the Celts – 2 November

A talk to be given by Dr Richard Miles, past Director of the British Astronomical Association on Saturday 2 November at 7.00pm. His subject will be the Giant of Cerne Abbas and how the Celts viewed time and the universe. He will reveal recent discoveries about the significance of this striking part of our landscape. His talk will be in Henton Church. Admission is free and there will be a cash and card bar, with donations in support of the Revitalising Fund.

Christmas Pop-Up Shop – 30 November

Come and find your Christmas gifts at the Christmas pop up shop in Henton Church, on Saturday 30 November, from 11.00am to 1.00pm. There is free admission, and any donations will go towards the Revitalising Fund.

Piano Concert – 8 December

A classical piano concert, full of beautiful and varied music, will be given by David Secchi and Xavier in Henton Village Hall on Sunday 8 December, 6.00pm. There will be a cash and card bar and tickets, costing £15, can be obtained from Viv Chalk, email vivianchalk@icloud.com or WhatsApp 07445 808079.

Ian Tinsley

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.

Cheddar Vale Lions

Tree of Light - Service To The Community

Cheddar Vale Lions Club will be launching the annual Tree of Light at the beginning of November. The Tree of Light gives members of the local community the chance to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one. The project is in its twelfth year and is well supported.

Donations can be made via our website by downloading a form or by request via email.

The dedication service and lighting ceremony will take place at the Bath Arms on Monday 9 December, from 4.30pm. We are very grateful to the Bath Arms for their support over the past few years. The names of those remembered will be placed on a board beside the large outdoor Christmas Tree. A replica tree, hung with stars depicting the names of all those dedicated during the service, will be displayed in the window of Woodbury Insurance, opposite the Bath Arms.

Tree of Light dedication service is open to the public, and sponsors, friends and family can attend. The dedication will be live streamed and available online via Facebook. All sponsors receive a memory card bearing the names of their loved ones.



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Please note that any changes to these arrangements will be posted on Facebook or refer to the club's website details below.

Christmas can be a sad time as we remember those who are no longer with us. More than ever, since the pandemic, it has been an opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones, especially at Christmas time when families come together. This Lions club project is of benefit to the community with all proceeds used to serve the Cheddar Valley area. Lion members thank everyone who has contributed to this project over the last 12 years, as it is truly helping Lions make a difference.

The Cheddar Vale Lions Club meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church Meeting Room, Tweentown, Cheddar. Lion Clubs identify needs within the community and work together to fulfil those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Cheddar Vale Lions Club, please contact Lion Secretary Sylvia Cook via phone on 03458 337402, email information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk or via our website at www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk

Sylvia Cook

Cheddar Valley u3a

Our Coffee Mornings Plus from 10.00 am to 11.30 am, on the third Thursday of each month, often include specials events. In September members went live on air with Radio Somerset and treated listeners to some of the activities on offer, as well as lots of laughter, cheering, and clapping, demonstrating what pleasure can be had from u3a. October's morning featured the Plant Swap table and, for November, it will be the Craft Fayre, where unique artisan Christmas gifts and decorations can be purchased. Looking further ahead, the New Year will bring the return of the Speaker Meetings, as our lovely Lunch Club organiser has agreed to add to her workload and set about finding interesting speakers. Details to follow.

Check out the website at www.u3asites.org.uk/cheddar-valley/home for all the information you need.

Frances Snelling

Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

The September Branch meeting was held at Wells Golf Club. The Chair welcomed ex-RAF colleague Paul Rolfe, Managing Director of Ad Astra Cider, who was attending for the first time. The highlight of the day was a talk by Sister Anne Martin, our Branch Deputy Chaplain, on the war-time experiences of her father who was an early RAF radar and communications expert. There were also some personal reminiscences of her time as an RAF dependent, which struck a chord with many.

The October Branch meeting was again held in Wells Golf Club, and Mike Green gave a fascinating presentation on 'The Baedeker Raids', the bombing of our cathedral cities including Bath and Exeter. The President gave a full briefing on the Annual Conference 2024 with all the Resolutions concerned with 'Individual Voting' after which there was a discussion to identify how the Branch would vote for each Resolution.





The next Branch Meeting is on Monday 4 November at 11.00 am in the Bell Inn, Evercreech. This will be an Informal Fun Games Day with skittles, darts and pool plus cards and board games; there will be no business!

The Branch December Event will be the Christmas Lunch on Saturday 14 December at 12.15 pm at Wells Golf Club. This will be a formal Christmas lunch, starting with a drink on arrival; a two or three course lunch with choices for each course chosen in advance; and ending with coffee and port for the Loyal Toast.

For information about any of these events, please contact the Branch via e-mail rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or phone the secretary on 01458 224057 for further information.

Paul Ashmore

RNLI Winscombe and District Branch

Shanty Festival Results

The portion of the money raised at the Bristol Shanty Festival for the RNLI is £1,000 although not all of this will be received by the Winscombe Branch as some will go to the Chew Valley and Portishead Branches who supported the event as singers and collectors.



Three Concerts for the RNLI In Eight Days

On Saturday 28 September the Branch held a RNLI Winscombe Folk Night in the Winscombe Church Centre organised by James Barattini. An audience of around 50 people were treated to a wonderful evening of folk music from local singers Issy and David Emeny and 'Three Rivers Music', a close harmony female acapella group, consisting of Lauren Holloway, Emily Willmott, and Lucy Gilbert. The concert raised £366 for the RNLI from the sale of tickets, bar and raffle, a great result.

On Saturday 5 October, the 'Joyful Spirit Gospel Choir' staged a concert in St Andrew's Church, Congresbury, as their contribution to RNLI 200 celebrations. The choir sang a selection of traditional gospel songs and spirituals but included two pieces of African music and a spectacular rendition of Bridge over Troubled Water.

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The third concert was on Sunday 6 October at 2nd Nailsea Scout Headquarters. This was a Folk Concert collaboration between Nailsea Folk Club, Winscombe Folk Club and 2nd Nailsea Scouts and featured our local High and Dry Shanty Crew along with local songwriters, who had been challenged to produce songs for the RNLI 200 celebrations.



RNLI Winscombe and District Branch Pop-Up Sale – Saturday 16 November

There will be a RNLI Pop-Up Sale at Winscombe Community Centre on Saturday 16 November from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Entry is free, and the sale will include larger Items that have been donated, RNLI Christmas cards, jigsaws, Christmas stocking fillers, Christmas cakes and puddings, spring bulbs, Chris's tools and domestic items, other Christmas stalls, and refreshments. Contact Allan Cooper by e-mail at allan.coop@tiscali.co.uk or by phone on 01934 842954; or Tina Joyce by e-mail at meejlfh@gmail.com or by phone on 01934 842304 for more details.

RNLI Winscombe Folk Concert 'Wayward Jane' – Saturday 30 November

RNLI Winscombe Branch will present a folk concert by the Scottish folk quartet 'Wayward Jane' on Saturday 30 November in St James' Church Centre, Winscombe Doors open at 7.30 pm, with the concert commencing at 8.00 pm. Wayward Jane features American folk, Old Time traditions plus fresh arrangements There will be a bar selling refreshments plus a raffle in aid of the RNLI. Tickets cost £15 and are available from James Barattini winscombe.folk@gmail.com or by phone on 07703 538861.

RNLI Winscombe and District Branch Reindeer Run – Sunday 8 December

The Branch is pleased to announce that our third Reindeer Run will be on Sunday 8 December at 2.00pm, assembling at Winscombe Cricket Club. Runners of all standards are welcome. Runners are encouraged to get sponsorship and bring supporters, as drinks and refreshments will be available. Contact Tim Moran tim@moransonline.com or by phone on 07801 678432.

September Shouts

In September there were 14 Shouts between our four Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 3, Minehead – 5, Portishead – 3, Weston-super-Mare - 3).

The Weston-super-Mare lifeboat crew were called out on Tuesday 17 September to reports from the public of a small vessel aground in Sand Bay. The D-Class inshore lifeboat was launched via the low water route, grounding several times in the channel due to the low tide. On arrival at the scene, there were two sailing dinghies aground in the mud. The occupants were eating lunch and waiting for the tide to turn, to re-float, and head back home. No assistance was required.

Crew member Matt Lyons assisted on the shout, he said 'It's always a relief to find people safe and out of any danger. We urge anyone who is concerned for someone in or near the water to always ring either 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard. We would rather launch to a false alarm, and find all is well, than not launch at all'.

Paul Ashmore

Sports Reports

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

The month of September heralds the final few days of the outdoor bowls season and there was certainly a bit of an end of term feeling for all the bowlers. The final round of Somerset County league games took place on 31 August and our A team successfully retained its place in the Prem 2 Division with a fantastic win over North Petherton. The B team, however, lost and was relegated to North 2 Division where they will join our C team, which have just won promotion to North 2! Our Weston and District league team contested the league knockout cup final against Victoria Saxons at Winscombe Bowls Club. Atrocious weather stopped play after just 14 ends, with Saxons ahead at the time and taking the trophy. Our Clevedon and District league team went through the season unbeaten by all teams, except for arch-rivals Portishead Royal British Legion who beat us in both the league and the knockout cup semi-final.

For the Club's Finals Weekend our players and spectators enjoyed two rain-free days of great bowling. Our winners were: Men's 4 woods Tim Crow, Ladies 4 woods Teresa Alden, Men's 2 woods Paul Alden, Ladies 2 woods Ann Hughes, Men's Pairs Tim Crow and Trev Gray, Ladies Pairs Teresa Alden and Wendy Burden, Mixed Pairs Chris Coles and Honor Buck, Open 4 woods Dave Nicholls, New Winners Mark Wilson, Over 70s Stuart Fisher, Family Pairs Chris and Suzi Coles. Many congratulations to the winners! The weekend was rounded off by a spectacular hog



When writing your Will, you may wish to make sure your spouse or civil partner is provided for, yet feel anxious about what might happen if his or her situation were to change in the future.

If your whole estate passes directly to your spouse, there is a risk of your children's inheritance being lost entirely, or reduced significantly. Such as if your spouse remarries, requires long-term care, or makes changes to his or her Will.

If you have children from previous relationships, there can also be concerns that family relationships might change after death with the danger of conflict and loss of inheritance.

There can also be concerns about those inheriting, for example, if they are young, vulnerable or they were to then go through a divorce.

You do not know what the future holds, so you may want *flexibility* to allow decisions to be made at the time to protect inheritance from being lost, wasted or ending up with someone else.

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If you would like advice about your Will or how a Flexible Life Interest Trust might benefit you, please call **01934 442030** to arrange an informal chat.

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roast for over 70 members, served up by the excellent Somerset Sausage Company. Truly a weekend to remember!

Captain's Day gave out-going Ladies Captain Trish Newell and Men's Captain Peter Gower the opportunity to thank all the players who had supported them throughout the season. 50 bowlers took part in a Ladies v Men challenge which was ultimately won by the Ladies! Thank you everyone who took part and helped on the day.



*Teresa Alden and Wendy Burden
– Winners Ladies Pairs*



*Paul Alden – Winner Men's
2 woods with runner up Dave
Nicholls*



*Trev Gray and Tim Crow –
Winners Men's Pairs*

Of course, by the time you read this the Indoor League season will have begun and we have two full-size indoor rinks to ensure all-year bowling. Why not come along to see what this community club is all about? We offer taster sessions and free coaching, for which all equipment is supplied. Keeping active means keeping young and we have a great social section too! We would love to welcome you. Scan the QR code on this article or go to www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org to gather more information. You can also contact Indoor Secretary, Steve Young, on 01794 870987.

Peter Gower

Wedmore Golf Club

The season may be drawing to a close but there was a rush to get as many major events in as possible during September. The final weekend saw 10 knockout competitions. In Seniors Summer Plate. Peter Laney made an excellent start against Brad Speller but Brad fought back to win comfortably 6 and 5. This was followed by the Frank Edwards Cup, which is played over 36 holes. Club Captain Dave Bedford never got going against Mike Garbutt, who ran out an easy winner. On Saturday the Wilks Trophy was a much closer contest and it was Jim Vearncombe who came out on top 3 and 2. Next up was a family affair, with Steve Major taking on Rob Major for the Bill Lander Trophy, which Rob won 5 and 4.



The Ladies now made an appearance, with Cathy Olive taking on Lyn Bird for the Macarthur Trophy which Lyn won 3 and 2, reversing last year's result. They were followed by the second division of the Macarthur Trophy, between Karen Clark and Jenny Thomas, with Jenny winning 4 and 2.

With the Singles finished, the first pairs competition was mixed greensomes for the Guys 'n' Gals Trophy. Annie Patten and John Cutter got off to a roaring start and went on to win 6 and 5 against Sandy Bedford and Kev Osman. The Seniors Greensomes was the closest match of the day with Peter Roberts and Brad Speller holding on to win 3 and 1 against Mark Cross and Martin Peakman. The Ladies played for the Crandon Cup with Eunice Bond and Bev Broad giving shots to Jane Hewitt and Joan Peck but still winning 4 and 3. The Men's competition for the Peter Hathaway Trophy four-ball betterball competition saw Rod Stewart and John Wormald beat Greg Cox and Mark Sweeting 4 and 3.

Captain's weekend, at the beginning of the month, started with a nine hole three-clubs-and-a-putter fun competition. Mandy Vearncombe led the way with 19 points but was chased home by Ian Robson and Jay James both on 18. In the Captains Cup stableford competition the Ladies were in two divisions with Nicola Stevenson winning Division 2 with 37 points followed by Ange Webber on 35 with Pru Witter on 33. In Division 1 with Eunice Bond beat Karen Preedy on countback after both scored 36 points, followed by Fran McMillan on 34. There were three divisions for the men, with the top score of 39 points coming in Division 3 where Andy Humphries won, 6 clear of Peter Sismanovic, with Tony Biggs in third place. In Division 2 the top 3 all finished on 38 with Jon Raeside winning on countback ahead of Brian Webber and Robert Preedy. In Division 1 Dom Smith won on countback from Timothy Bowden after both scored 36, with Terry Edwards third on 35.

The main event the following week was the Seniors Open Mixed Greensomes with the new pairing of Jane Hewitt and Lucas Kirk winning on 43 points from the longer-term relationship of Fran and Moly McMillan. Greta Hillier and Stephen Potter were third on 41. Best visitors were Gary and Deborah McArdle on 39, matched by Wedmore Lady Captain Lyn Bird playing with Trevor Pitt from Brean who were the top mixed pair.

The Ladies Autumn Meeting took place the following week with main event being an 18-hole Stableford followed by a nine-hole bowmaker. In Division 1, Mary-Lou Denny cruised round to accumulate 41 points, despite windy conditions and won by five clear shots over June Smith on 36 points, with Ruth Rogers third on 33. In Division 2 Maggie Tolchard take first place with 36 points, with Sue McDonald beating Sue Edwards, on countback, with 35 points. In Division 3 had three players all on 33 points with Janet Robson ahead of Joan Peck and Jennifer Fell on countback. In the afternoon, Jennifer Fell, Ruth Rogers, and Hazel Gough took first place on 40 points ahead of Liz Hill, June Smith and Sue Edwards on 38, beating Eunice Bond, Deidre Wheadon and Prue Witter on countback.

Saturday saw the final Open of the year, the Yonex Trophy. The Ladies sections were dominated by visitors, with the exception of Janet Robson who scored a remarkable 46 points to win Division 2, ahead of Jenny Pennell and Vanessa O'Brien, from Bovey Tracy, who scored 41 and 38 respectively. Sheelah Ayliffe from the

(096)

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Bovey Tracy club was winner in Division 1 with 37 points, followed by Claire Redwood and Dawn Chadwick, both from Weston on 36. Home players did much better in the Men's divisions, but Joel Gibberd from Filton took the honours in Division 1, from Marc Large and Bill Lander, after all finished on 39. Stan Dinotaro had the best score of the day, with 42 points to win Division 2 from Greg Cox and Julian Clarke on 28.



Seniors Captain Peter Roberts presenting prizes to winners of the Open Greensomes, Lucas Kirk and Jane Hewitt



Competitors celebrating following Finals Day

Tony Biggs

Church News

Parish Registers

Christenings

Welcome to the following baptised into God's church recently:

Evelyn Willcox, daughter of George and Lorna from Sand, who was baptised on 8 September at St Mary's Wedmore.

Minnie Coombes, daughter of Jack and Alice Coombes from Blackford, who was baptised on 29 September at Holy Trinity Church, Blackford.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of:

Debbie Tilbee, of Poolbridge Road, Blackford, who died on 12 August and whose funeral took place at Holy Trinity Church on 6 September 2024.

Denley Brown, of High Street, Blackford, who died on 5 September 2024 and whose cremation was on 20 September 2024 (see obituary).

All Souls Service

Sunday 3 November at 3.00 pm at St Mary's church

Our annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, for those whose funerals we have taken over the past year or so, is an important part of what we do. Lighting a candle for those that we have loved, but see no longer, is something that continues to have great resonance. Relatives of those whose funerals we have taken during the year will be invited, but the service is open to anyone. If you are hoping to come along, or if there is anyone whose name you wish to be remembered at the service, please let to the vicar know in writing. We offer a cup of tea and a slice of cake afterwards.

Traditionally the church sets aside November 2, All Souls Day, to remember those countless ordinary people who have gone before us and whose memory we cherish. This comes the day after All Saints Day when the church remembers those many extraordinary men and women whom we think of as saints. The service will be a chance to remember those dear to you who have recently died (whose names will be read out at the service), to meet with others who are also bereaved and to express our Christian faith in resurrection and the hope of God's kingdom.

There will be a separate service for the village of Allerton also on Sunday 3 November at 3.00 pm.

Special Services for Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Day services will be at St Mary's and Christchurch on 10 November. At St Mary's we begin in church at 10.15 am (please note the time – it's the same as last year, but ¼ hour earlier than the usual Sunday service at St Mary's) before moving to the war memorial for 11.00 am. The service at Theale will begin at 11.00 am.

Service and ex-service personnel are invited to form a hollow square, together with the uniformed youth organisations and, in addition to the normal prayers, laying of wreaths and the Kohima Epitaph, we will read out names of those who died in more recent conflicts. Blank small wooden crosses will also be available in church if there is someone in particular, who was not from the Isle of Wedmore, whom you would like to remember. These can be laid at the very end of the service, alongside the Isle of Wedmore named crosses, as a means of commemorating these personnel

There will be an opportunity to gather on Armistice Day itself, 11 November, around the War Memorial in the churchyard at St Mary's for two minutes silence. Please gather by 10.55 am.

(004)

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Friday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 2.00pm

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On a Wheel and a Prayer

On Tuesday 5 November the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches, and you are welcome to join Richard at any of the stops.

Messy Church

Messy Church will be held on Saturday 16 November, 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm at St Mary's. Messy Church...

- ...is a way of being church for families involving fun
- ...is for adults and children to enjoy together
- ...uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity, and to give people a chance to play together.
- ...is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together



The two hours of Messy Church will feature a number of craft tables based around the theme of the light up the darkness, a time of worship and a shared tea. It is for all the family, whether or not you normally come to church. Look out for flyers, posters and invitations later in the month. Speak to the vicar Richard Neill if you want to know more or look at www.messychurch.org.uk

Advent Carol Service

The first weekend in December sees the beginning of Advent, the time in the church's year for preparing ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus when he comes, both at Christmas in human form and at the end of time in glory. Advent Sunday, 1 December, will be marked in the evening when St Mary's will move from darkness to light during the Advent Carol Service at 6.30 pm. This is a particularly moving service in which the theme of the coming of the light of Christ is invoked with hymns, music and readings appropriate to the Advent season.

Revd Richard Neill

Church Services

Isle of Wedmore Benefice

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/

Every week on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday there is Morning Prayer online at 9.00am on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday 3	All Saints Sunday	10.30am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Café Church All Souls Service Start the Week
Sunday 10	3 Before Advent/ Remembrance Sunday	10.15am 6.00pm	Remembrance Service Start the Week
Sunday 17	2 Before Advent	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Morning Praise Start the Week
Sunday 24	Christ the King (Christchurch Theale Name Day)	10.30am	No Service – See Christchurch

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 3	All Saints Sunday	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 10	3 Before Advent/ Remembrance Sunday		No Service – See St Mary's or Christchurch
Sunday 17	2 Before Advent	9.00am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday 24	Christ the King (Christchurch Theale Name Day)		No Service – See Christchurch

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday 3	All Saints Sunday	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 10	3 Before Advent/ Remembrance Sunday	11.00am	Remembrance Service
Sunday 17	2 Before Advent	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 24	Christ the King (Christchurch Theale Name Day)	11.00am	Patronal Festival Communion

Allerton Church

Sunday 3	All Saints Sunday	9.00am 3.00pm	Family Service All Souls Service
Sunday 10	3 Before Advent / Remembrance Sunday		No Service – See St Mary's or Christchurch
Sunday 17	2 Before Advent	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday 24	Christ the King (Christchurch Theale Name Day)		No Service – See Christchurch

Bagley Baptist Church

Sunday service is at 10.30 am. Come in person or view live via our Bagley Baptist YouTube channel. Teaching groups for children and young people starting around 11.00 am.

Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12.00 noon is our popular 'Coffee with a View.' Come for coffee and tea, home-made cakes, our wonderful view, and a warm welcome, all free of charge. Bring a friend or come and make some new ones here. We have good parking and wheelchair access.

Other fellowship groups are available - youth group, home groups, social gatherings, prayer meetings, and more. For further details Telephone 01934 710779, Email us at contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or visit our website www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Crickham Baptist Chapel

There is a service held at the Chapel on Sundays at a new time of 2.30 pm. We welcome everyone, we have a short service, followed with tea, coffee, cake, and fellowship together. 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 01278 783935.

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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am to 1.00 pm

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Axbridge Surgery

Monday to Fridays 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

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Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

Contact our Clinical Team through our Website.

We can also be contacted, in your own time, through our website

www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk

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

Axbridge Surgery, Tuesdays 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

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

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

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 Wedmore Community Bus is a not-for-profit bus service run by volunteers for the benefit of the local community. It provides regular scheduled services to 5 locations. The bus is also available for private hire, principally for the use of local community groups. There will soon also be regular excursions to other places - watch this space in future issues of the Wedmore News.



Scheduled Services

There are five Scheduled Services a week. These are:

Cribbs Causeway - some Mondays

Taunton - Tuesday

Bridgwater - Wednesday

Weston-super-Mare - Thursday

Street and Glastonbury - Friday

The bus departs from Wedmore Car Park at The Lerburne at around 9.30 am to start picking up passengers. It returns to Wedmore between 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm depending on the destination. See below for more details.

The bus is a friendly place where there is normally a happy buzz of conversation. Our passengers often meet for a coffee whilst at the destination.

Anyone is welcome to come on the bus and a place can easily be booked by telephone.

We try to pick up and drop off at the homes of all users who need this. For other passengers this will be at a location that is convenient for them. We are also flexible about drop offs on route.

We are happy to provide help in getting on and off the bus for those who need it.

Drivers are all volunteers who want to help passengers to enjoy their time on the bus as much as possible.

The service is free for everyone with a Concessionary Bus Pass and for children under 5 years old on all services except Cribbs Causeway. Cribbs Causeway is £2 for Concessions and free for children under 5. For other passengers, fares are low as the bus is financed by Somerset Council and drivers are volunteers.

Timetable and Booking Details

All services – Depart Wedmore Car Park at The Lerburne at around 9.30 am to start picking up passengers.

Some Mondays – Cribbs Causeway Departs Cribbs Causeway 2.00 pm. Back around 3.30 pm. There is only one trip scheduled for this month and this will be on Monday 18 November. Book early to avoid disappointment! For further information call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631.

Tuesday – Taunton – Departs Taunton 2.00 pm. Back around 2.45 pm.

Wednesday – Bridgwater – Departs Bridgwater 1.00 pm. Back around 2.00 pm.

Thursday – Weston-super-Mare – Departs Weston 1.45 pm. Back around 2.45 pm.

Friday – Street and Glastonbury – Departs Street 1.00 pm. Back around 1.30 pm.

Passenger pickups/drop-offs for all five services are normally available in Wedmore, Sand, Heath House, Mudgley, Latcham and Cocklake.

Additional pickups/drop-offs are normally available in other villages on route to each destination.

Cribbs Causeway – this is at Mark.

Taunton and Bridgwater – these are at Mark, Bason Bridge and East Huntspill

Weston-super-Mare – these are at Stoughton, Allerton and Mark

Street – these are at Theale and Godney

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.

Alternatively, just come to the Lerburne car park before 9.30 am. Except for the Cribbs Causeway service, we will normally be able to fit you in, although this isn't guaranteed.

Some Mondays to Cribbs Causeway – Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible

Tuesday to Taunton – Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 between 6pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Wednesday to Bridgwater – Helen Flooks on 01934 611006 between 6pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Thursday to Weston-super-Mare – Carol Ayliffe on 01934 713471 between 6pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Friday to Street and Glastonbury – Ann Hughes on 01934 712832 between 6pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Relief Booking Controller – Lesley 01934 900571

Private Hire

The community bus is available for private hire at these times:

- Weekends (all day and evening)
- Some Mondays (all day and evening)
- Tuesday to Friday (3.30pm onwards)

Our drivers are fully trained, and they volunteer to provide this local service.

Each enquiry will be provided with a list of drivers to contact. 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 a blanket charge of £2 per mile (plus a discretionary tip for the volunteer driver!). There is a discounted rate of £1 per mile for youth's and children's community groups and adult's community groups who have their own driver approved by Somerset Council.

To book our comfortable community bus for your event or outing, please email Wayne at iowrtabookings@gmail.com

For further information about anything relating to the Community Bus please email us on wedmorebus@gmail.com

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