

An underwater photograph of a fish, possibly a salmon, swimming towards the right. The fish has a dark dorsal side and a lighter belly. The water is clear, and there is a large amount of bright green seaweed or algae in the foreground and middle ground. The background shows the surface of the water with light reflections.

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

July 2026
No. 556

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Editorial

As all parents look forward to having their little darlings home for the summer holidays, please find several events to keep them entertained in this issue, from tennis camps to Bumblesnouts.

Don't miss WedFest at St Mary's, where there is some great entertainment lined up. Also 'Swing from Paris' will be getting you into a Parisian mood this month and, if you fancy being in a Panto, then go along to get involved in Wedmore Theatre's latest production 'The Wrong Pantomime'.

There are many opportunities over the summer to get creative with your photography and enter them into the marvellous Wedmore in Focus competition. You may even find your photo gracing the front page of this publication!

Finally, don't forget to secure your tickets for the Blackford and Wedmore Harvest Home events coming up next month. Harvest Home is a great tradition in this area of Somerset and one of my favourites. Sitting down for the Wedmore luncheon with 600+ of our friends and neighbours is one of my favourite annual experiences. Hopefully see you there!

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

The front cover shows a European Eel, once abundant across Europe including the Somerset Levels. and now critically endangered. In our Articles section you can read how the Somerset Eel Recovery Project that started here in Wedmore, is taking a lead in conserving these remarkable creatures which make the incredible journey from the Sargasso Sea to our local rivers.

Mike

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE: 1 July 2026

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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 centrespread of 'What's On' listings.

Swing from Paris – 2 July

Parisian-flavoured music at Wedmore Village Hall from acclaimed all-string jazz quartet.

The Wrong Pantomime – Call for Performers! – Sunday 5 July

Fancy being in a Panto? If you are aged over 12 and can act, sing, dance or design, please come along to Wedmore Village Hall.

WedFest 2026 – 10 July

A relaxed evening of fun, organised by Wedmore Men's Shed, with good music from local artists, food, and drink.

Tennis Club Summer Camps – 27 to 31 July

These sessions are always popular and provide a great opportunity for young players to develop their skills and have fun on court.

Coming Soon

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

Blackford Harvest Home – 1 August

A village event for everyone. with a speaker, live disco, raffle, and bar.

Summer Holiday Course for 5- to 11-year-olds – 3 to 7 August

Children are invited to join Green Wedmore, Messy Church and the Bumblesnouts aliens for a creative, fun week.

Tennis Club Summer Camps – 3 to 7 August

These sessions are always popular and provide a great opportunity for young players to develop their skills and have fun on court.

Wedmore Harvest Home – 15 August

This is one of the major annual events for the village with a procession, luncheon, children's tea, and afternoon and evening entertainment.

Open Garden at Moorland Farm for Weston Hospicecare – 16 August

Come and join us for a lovely afternoon in a beautiful garden with a lake and wild garden.

Wedmore Twinning Trip to Saint-Médard-de-Guizières – 20 to 23 August

Interested in travel, culture, or simply meeting new people? Twinning is a fantastic way to experience it all.



The Isle of Wedmore Society

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WEDFEST

Friday 10th July @ 6pm

Love Live Music
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Four Bands
Great food
Drinks

@ St Marys Wedmore

Tickets £15 available at Wedmore Village Store & The Cottage Gallery

Proceeds to Somerset Prostate Support & Wedmore Men's Shed

WEDFEST

Friday 10th July @ 6pm

4 Great Bands
Music starts 6.30 pm

Prosecco Bar

BBQ

Bar

Asian Street Food

Dips

Dancing

Auction



High N Dry
A fabulous start to the evening with their ever popular sea shanties



Scarlett Stone
Appears with her super talented band performing a "rat pack" inspired set



The Fab Twins
Performing their 60s blend of close harmony songs including many Beatles tracks



Robb Dee
A really top notch "Tom Jones" tribute as seen on TV

@ St Marys Wedmore

Tickets £15 available at Wedmore Village Store & The Cottage Gallery

Proceeds to Somerset Prostate Support & Wedmore Men's Shed

(794)

Supper in the Orchard for Weston Hospicecare – 25 August

Ashgrove Farm will be hosting this event in aid of Weston Hospicecare. Why not come and join us in our beautiful marquee, with glorious views and music.

Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride – 30 August

Registration is now open for this year's 40/30 charity bike race in support of Weston Hospicecare.

Wedmore in Focus Exhibition – 29 to 31 August 2026

Come and view the big exhibition of photographs in this prize competition at St Mary's. Note that entries close on 14 August!

Theale Show – 5 September

Join the traditional friendly festival of baking, flowers, veg growing, craft and more. Come and join us for an afternoon of family fun and entertainment.

Wedmore Real Ale Festival – 18 to 20 September

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

A Sparkly Night with Wedmore Opera – 10 October

Wedmore Opera is bringing an evening of great music, feel-good fun, and fundraising to St Mary's Church.

News

Tessa Munt MP's Update

It's been another busy month, both here and in Westminster.

Accompanied by one of Somerset Council's senior planners, I met the developers of the new development at Combe Batch and their ecologist, primarily to discuss the state of the 'relocated' hedge alongside the Wells Road. I'm unhappy the hedge was uprooted after the legal deadline which protects birds during the nesting season, and the hedge roots were not even covered with soil which was piled up on the bank near the hedge. It seems likely that some sections will not survive the way this 'relocation' has been done which is such a waste. I will watch progress carefully.



On a cheerier note, may I thank and congratulate the organisers of this year's Wedmore Festival! I really enjoyed my return visit to see Marcus Brigstocke, one of my favourite comedians, and it's lovely that he appears to like coming to Wedmore too!

I was sorry not to be able to attend the People's Emergency Briefing at the Nat West Bank Chambers, but want to reassure you that having attended the original event in Westminster last November, I am very keen that you should let me know if you're supportive of the call for this to be televised nationally, whether by phone, letter or email.

Locally, I was invited to lunch at the Bath and West Show, where I caught up with Mel Squires, previously South West Regional Director of the National Farmers' Union,



Tessa with Mel Squires and Minette Batters

and Minette Batters, farmer and ex-President of the NFU for a discussion about farming and food. Minette now sits in the House of Lords as a crossbencher, meaning she has no political party allegiance, and understands the challenges facing the farming community.

I joined Avon and Somerset Search and Rescue (ASSAR) volunteers out on the Mendip Hills, meeting the team and learning more about their essential work across the area. Set up in 1975 principally to rescue climbers in the Cheddar and Avon Gorges, nowadays they respond to a wide range of incidents, accidents, and emergencies, giving their time freely and helping those who get into difficult, and often risky, situations. They respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and it's truly humbling to spend time with such well-trained, dedicated and highly motivated volunteers. ASSAR are a unique resource for our local community, and their work is entirely reliant on public donations. Thank you, ASSAR, for everything you do!

In Westminster, I asked questions about: the low mileage rates paid to those undertaking Jury Service; Councils losing income from recycling their aluminium; potential breaches of export trade regulations for waste tyres; huge business rate hikes for rural micro and small businesses like The Cider Barn at Draycott; when, and by whom, the records relating to the June 1994 Chinook air crash were sealed for 100 years; long delays to the compensation scheme for victims of the medical 'mesh' scandal; whether new training to increase the understanding of state threats for the Police should be extended to 'front line' health, job centre and social services staff as well; the legacy of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' Bill; and the habitual waste of NHS expertise, resources, time and taxpayers' money providing unsuitable wheelchairs for patients, which then have to be replaced.

My most local surgeries are listed below, but please visit my website or call my office for the full list. Friday 3 July from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at The Pub Night, Ashcott Village Hall; Friday 10 July from 8.00am to 09.00am at Edelweiss Café, Cheddar Saturday 11 July from 9.00am to 10.00am at the Bluebird Café, Wedmore There's no need to make an appointment - it's first come, first served. If you can't come to see me, I'll come to see you.

(013)



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You can also get hold of me in a number of other ways, by phone on 01934 440639 (answerphone for out of office hours), by email at tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk or by post to Tessa Munt, Freepost (you won't need a stamp). To keep updated on my work as your MP, find me on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky and LinkedIn. You can 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

Wedmore Parish Clerk Update

I hope you're enjoying some summer sunshine. I very often find myself smiling at how many people I bump into out and about in Wedmore, only amplified recently when I took part in the Big Ramble day. I spent the morning bimbbling around the parish, exploring different routes and seeing Wedmore from a fresh angle. I even took a couple of photos I'm planning to enter into the Wedmore 'In Focus' competition later this summer. What a brilliant way to spend a Saturday!

It's been a busy and quietly productive month for the Parish Council, so here's a friendly update on what we've been getting on with and how you can help keep the village looking lovely.

At the Annual Meeting on 20 May we welcomed Cllr Jacky Farley as returning Chair and Cllr Isobel Beacom as Vice Chair, confirmed committee memberships for the year ahead, completed our annual governance checks. The internal audit and AGAR were signed off and the accounts published for inspection.

With that tidy bit of governance done, we've been focusing on the practical things that matter locally: play areas – replacement parts ordered for Wedmore Playing Fields and bark topped up at Blackford so children can keep playing safely; footpaths – volunteers from the Men's Shed and the Footpaths Group replaced some broken stiles with new self-closing 'kissing' gates and the Men's Shed also continued with the rolling bench repairs; general grounds maintenance progressed at a cost of £1,185, things like cutting the grass at the Cemetery and Village Carpark, as well as the various playgrounds; and public toilets and essentials – cleaning, emergency drain clearance (again!) and utilities were funded, the total toilet provision exceeded £1,700 for the month.

A brilliant community effort at the allotments means the repainting and small repairs to the allotments seed shed have now been completed at a cost of £82.54. We will soon be able to offer starter plots behind the community shed to encourage new growers.

The total numbers for May were: income £726, including a generous £500 donation from the Bluebird Café; and payments were £8,730.97

A small, friendly plea, please help keep Wedmore lovely! We do a lot, but we all share the village and if everyone does a little it really helps. Could you please help by clearing litter; trimming any of your hedges that overhang pavements; pick up after dogs; and report fly tipping, or broken benches or signs to clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk Even one hour of volunteering or a quick tidy outside your home makes a big difference. As always huge thanks to our volunteers, groups and local businesses!

*Lindsey Baker,
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

Wedmore Parish Council Can Help with your Community Event!

Thank you for everything you do to make village life so vibrant. From village clubs, fetes, fundraisers and one-off events, it is the efforts of local people that help make Wedmore such a special place to live.

If you are planning an event, project or community activity, the Parish Council may be able to help with: small grants support for community projects and local events; promotion through parish noticeboards, website and social media; venues and equipment advice on Parish venues and local equipment providers; advice and permissions guidance on road closures, risk assessments and the right contacts; volunteers help connecting organisers with local volunteer groups.

Just let us know the details of your event, including the event title, date and time, location, a brief description of the event, and what support you would like. Please get in touch with me at clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk

*Lindsey Baker,
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

Wedmore Village Hall brings you 'Swing from Paris'

Following May's bonanza of music and theatre, Wedmore Theatre followed by Wedmore Festival, we are bringing you another treat on 2 July, 7.30pm, in Wedmore Village Hall. 'Swing from Paris' are an all-string jazz quartet of violin, guitars, and double bass. Inspired by the music of the 1930s, '40s and '50s from the cafés and cabarets of Montmartre to Artie Shaw, Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli, and the master of tango Astor Piazzolla.

They have performed at major UK and European festivals, including the renowned Django Reinhardt Festival in the legendary guitarist's home village of Samois-sur-Seine. Other appearances range from BBC TV and radio to the French Embassy and Kensington Palace. Now they are coming to Wedmore! Don't miss it. Tickets for the show are available from www.events.humanitix.com/swing-from-paris-at-wedmore-village-hall-somerset or scan the QR code.

Being able to attract well-known performers just underlines the superb staging facilities Wedmore Village Hall can offer, including its state-of-the-art coloured LED stage lighting which enhances anything from serious drama to a private party. Booking and enquiries can be made online at <https://www.wedmorehall.org.uk>



Wedmore Village Hall

The Wrong Pantomime – Call for Performers!

Fancy being in Wedmore Theatre's autumn panto? If you are aged over 12 and can act, sing, dance, or design, please come along to Wedmore Village Hall on Sunday 5 July at 3.00pm for our read-through of the script for this year's pantomime, and sign-up to be part of the team. This is not an audition! All interested people aged 12 and over are welcome and will be offered the chance to join in the fun! Wedmore Theatre is also looking for a choreographer and designers to create sets, posters, and programmes to join the growing cast of our November Pantomime.



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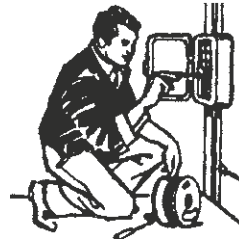
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A few years ago, we put on a crazy show called 'The Panto That Goes Wrong'. Well, this one is even crazier: it's completely the wrong panto! 'The Wrong Pantomime' is a humorous rhyming scamper through a jumble of pantomime characters, villains, heroes, lovers, a poisoned cake, and two dames. What could possibly go wrong? What if Peter Pan turned up as a character in 'Cinderella'? How would Prince Charming react? With hilarious sketches, a chorus, and dance routines, the possibilities for confusion are limitless. Written by Richard Coleman, and directed by our own Sandra Low and Paul Brice, 'The Wrong Pantomime' already has the beginnings of a star local cast. But this is a big show, with a chorus, and we need more of you!

Performances will be held on 26 to 28 November, including a matinee. Rehearsals start on Thursday 3 September and thereafter on Thursday and Sunday evenings in Wedmore Village Hall. We look forward to recruiting yet more Wedmore talent for this fun production.

Wedmore Theatre

WedFest 2026

WedFest is almost upon us! We are very excited to bring you an evening of fun, song and dance at St Mary's Church, Friday 10 July from 6.00pm. This will be a real community event with food and drink provided by an assortment of wonderful groups from the village.

The music line up of High and Dry with their sea shanties; Scarlett Stone with her Rat Pack set; The Fab Twins with the unmistakable sound of the Beatles; and then, to cap it all, Rob Dee as Tom Jones, should see everyone on their feet singing along. In addition to the music, we have a selection of fantastic, unique 'money can't buy' items for auction so don't miss out on that.

Tickets are only £15 so if you haven't got yours yet, rush down to Wedmore Village Store or the Cottage Gallery. If you are lucky there may still be some left. Let's make it an evening to remember.

Wedmore Men's Shed

Blackford Harvest Home

A village event for everyone! This year's event will be held on Saturday 1 August, Church Lane, Blackford. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm Harvest Supper, including a speaker, followed by a live disco, raffle and bar.

Tickets are £25 for adults, £10 for children under 14; and £2 for children aged 5 and under. For further details and tickets, please phone 01934 440015.

Jane Hicks

Bumblesnouts Summer Holiday Course for 5- to 11-year-olds

The Bumblesnouts will be visiting St Mary's Church, Wedmore on 3 to 7 August from 9.30am to 12.30 pm each day. Children are invited to join Green Wedmore, Messy Church and the Bumblesnouts for a creative, fun week. The Bumblesnouts are aliens who travel from out of space in a funny old spaceship to show humans how to take better care of the planet. Through songs, mask making, spaceship building and storytelling children will meet characters like Mrs Fizzy, Tree Fellas and Jock the Croc. Parents can enjoy a performance on the final day. The course will cost £10 per child. Application forms from lizandersoncello@gmail.com Applications must be submitted by Wednesday 15 July

Liz Anderson

Tennis Club Summer Camps

Wedmore Tennis Club coach, James, will once again be running summer camps for juniors on 27 to 31 July and 3 to 7 August; tots from 9.00am to 9.45am and juniors from 10.00am to 3.00pm. These sessions are always popular and provide a great opportunity for young players to develop their skills and have fun on court. Details for contacting James can be found on our website at www.wedmoretennis.co.uk.

Wedmore Harvest Home

This is one of the major annual events for the village and will be held on Saturday 15 August. This amazing event starts with a procession through the village and the crowning of the Harvest King and Queen. This is followed by the amazing luncheon in the big marquee at Wedmore Village Field, next to the playing fields and the Children's tea. Finally there is the ever-popular evening entertainment, so something for everyone!

The running order of events starts at 9.00am with the road closures; at 9.30am – Procession assembles in Church Street; 9.45am – Judging and photographs; 10.00am – Crowning of the Harvest King and Queen; 10.30am – Church service and prize giving; 11.00am – The procession departs!

There are a variety of classes you can enter for the procession: 1) Single Pedestrian; 2) Group Pedestrian; 3) Decorated Pram; 4) Push Bike; 5) Dance Group; 6) Horse Class (Adult); 7) Horse Class (Child); 8) Vintage Car; 9) Vintage Tractor; 10) Classic Commercial Vehicle; 11) Vintage Bike; 12) Decorated Float (Any size trailer/vehicle, no theme); and 13) Best Dressed Dog. All classes are judged separately for children up to 14 years, adults or mixed ages.

Please note that all vehicles must be insured by owner. Everyone takes part at their own risk. If you would like to participate but need help organising a vehicle or trailer, please speak to Claire on 07546 479876

Also, don't forget the floristry classes: 14) Decorated Hanging Arrangement; 15) Best Table Arrangement; and 16) Arrangement on pedestal stand or milk churn. Decorated Hanging Arrangements must be submitted at the Marquee, Wedmore Village Field by 7.00pm on Friday 14 August. They will be judged accordingly with the announcement of placing and prizes presented at the luncheon.

At 12.30pm we sit down for the luncheon for ladies and gentlemen over 16 years, the guest speakers this year will be Les Davis and Olly Seymour. During the afternoon, entertainment will be provided by Edward Crowley, The Human Juke Box.

At 4.45pm the Children's Tea will commence, with Disco Queen as entertainment! Come along and enjoy sandwiches and cakes.

At 7.30pm, the evening entertainment will include Juice, Snake in the Footspa, and DJ Olly from Enhanced Entertainment. Food will also be available from Rachel's Grill.

Tickets for this year's event are: £35 ticket for the luncheon including entry to the afternoon and evening entertainment. If you want to attend the afternoon and evening entertainment only, then £10 tickets can be obtained on the door from 3.00pm onwards. For the Children's Tea, children are free, but adults will need an afternoon ticket. All tickets for all sessions can be obtained from Wedmore Village Store or by contacting Rachel Bennett on 07807 156069.

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The Wedmore Harvest Home Committee 2026 would like to extend grateful thanks to all our advertisers, sponsors, and to the many helpers who put in countless hours and much effort throughout the year to maintain the tradition of the Harvest Home and we look forward to seeing everyone on the big day!!

Wedmore Harvest Home Committee

Open Garden at Moorland Farm for Weston Hospicecare

There will be an open garden event at Moorland Farm on Sunday 16 August, from 12.00 noon to 4.00pm, at Moorland Farm, Chapel Allerton in aid of Weston Hospicecare. Come and join us for a lovely afternoon in a beautiful garden with a lake and wild garden where refreshments will be available. The Cheddar Valley Singers will be entertaining you during the afternoon. Entry is free but if you have any queries, please contact Shirley Wederell on 01934 712089 or 07812 391962.

Shirley Wederell

Be Part of Wedmore Twinning

Did you know Wedmore has been twinned with the charming village of Saint-Médard-de-Guizières, near Bordeaux, for over 50 years? Many local families have enjoyed unforgettable exchange visits, building lasting friendships across the Channel.

Our twin village is just a stone's throw from the famous wine region of Saint-Émilion, so you can expect sunshine, beautiful scenery, and of course some of the world's finest wines! We'll be heading to France again from 20 to 23 August and we'd love you to come along! Whether you're interested in travel, culture, or simply meeting new people, twinning is a fantastic way to experience it all. If you're interested, and would like to be part of this long-standing tradition, and make memories that last a lifetime, please get in touch with Andy on 07801 718202 or email wedmoretwinning1@gmail.com

Andy Reeson

Supper in the Orchard for Weston Hospicecare

Ashgrove Farm will be hosting supper in the orchard on Tuesday 25 August, from 6.00pm at Ashgrove Farm, Sand (Cider Festival site) in aid of Weston Hospicecare. Why not come and join us in our beautiful marquee, with glorious views and music. Bring your own tableware, food and drink. There is ample parking on site and toilets available.

Tickets are £10 each for tables of 6 or 8. (non-refundable) and are available from Sally Lee on 07557 912468 or by email at sallya.lee@gmail.com

Shirley Wederell

Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride

Over 300 riders took part last year, our most successful event so far, raising a great deal of money for Weston Hospicecare and The Friends of St Mary's Wedmore.

Registration is now open for the event on Sunday 30 August at www.westonhospicecare.org.uk/event/wedmore-40-30 or via the QR code, where you can also sign up for a regular Wedmore 40/30 newsletter. This exciting cycling challenge sees bike enthusiasts take on a breathtaking 30-, 40- or 70-mile course across the spectacular Mendip Hills and Somerset levels. There is also a fun, family-friendly 12-mile course. Entry includes excellent food to keep your energy up and reward yourself for achieving your goal. For further information please contact David Hopkins on 07984 924432.



David Hopkins

Theale Show 2026

Planning for the 81st Theale Show on 5 September is now well advanced. You can now see the classes on our website at www.thealeshow.com and the printed brochures will be ready shortly. This year the novelty dog show classes have been included early, but there's still time to teach your dog the best trick, so get training!



We're well into the growing season, and our fruit is looking very healthy. 'Ted's Taters' and the 'Grow a Geranium' competitions have had a great take-up. Lots of entries are the lifeblood of the show, and planning any entry is the best way to support us, and also, most important, great fun.

Thanks to all the helpers who have offered their time on the show weekend. Many hands make light work, and if you're free on the weekend of the show and would like to help, then please contact us via our website www.thealeshow.com/contact/, send Richard an email at richard.atkin@live.com or leave a message on 01934 806157. We're looking forward to seeing you all there!

Richard Atkin

Wedmore Real Ale Festival Silver Ju-Beer-Lee

This year's event runs from 18 to 20 September, with 90+ Beers, 20+ Ciders, Wine and Spirit Bar!

One of the highlights of the Wedmore Real Ale Festival is its charity auction, which helps raise vital funds for local charities and community projects. The organising team is currently seeking donations from businesses, organisations, and individuals to help make this year's auction a success. Donations can include products, services, experiences, hospitality packages, or other unique items that will encourage generous bidding on the day. Every auction donation contributes directly to the festival's fundraising efforts, helping support good causes across the local area. Whether it's a small gift or a high-value prize, all contributions are greatly appreciated and can make a real difference to the charities and community groups that benefit from the event. Businesses donating auction items will also gain valuable exposure to festival attendees, while demonstrating their support for the local community during this special 25th anniversary year. If you would like to donate an item to the charity auction, please email the organising team for more information at wraf@wedmoreale.co.uk.

In addition to auction donations, a limited number of sponsorship opportunities are also available for businesses or individuals wishing to support the festival and its charitable fundraising efforts. Sponsorship can provide additional visibility and promotional benefits while helping ensure the continued success of this much-loved community event. To sponsor or find out more about sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website at www.wedmoreale.co.uk/sponsors.

Thank you to everyone who helps make the auction, and the festival's charitable impact, a success.

Sara Hamilton

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(323)

A Sparkly Night with Wedmore Opera

Do you have plans for Saturday 10 October? You do now! Wedmore Opera is bringing a feel-good, seriously fun, fundraising evening to St Mary's Church, and you're invited. Think great music, a lively atmosphere, and a chance to be part of something special right here in the village.

This is the first event in the run-up to our next big production in October 2027, so it's a bit of a kick-off party, and we're starting as we mean to go on. Whether you're an opera superfan or just up for a brilliant night out, come along and see what we're all about. Sign up to our newsletter so you don't miss the details at www.wedmoreopera.co.page If you fancy volunteering, we'd love to hear from you just get in touch by email at wofigaro@gmail.com More information in later issues, but for now just know it's going to be a really good night!

Ellie Oliver

Wedmore in Focus Photographic Competition

The competition is well underway but don't put it off! You have until 14 August to enter, and you will find all the details you need by scanning the QR code below, or by using the web address. Fill in the entry form to start the process, then get out there and take wonderful views of our splendid village and Parish, then submit them on the 17 or 18 August, see website for details. The exhibition is in St. Mary's Church on the August Bank Holiday and will be enjoyed by everyone. Remember. it's the taking part which matters!

A reminder that there are two themed categories for entries: 'Sunshine and Shadows' and 'Brick and Stone'. The competition is free to enter, with a first prize of £25 and there will be a big exhibition of entries over August Bank Holiday weekend in St Mary's Church. Please visit www.bit.ly/iowphoto or follow the QR code, to complete your entry form.



Jean Gregory

Avalon Camps Summer 2026

We need your help to set up camp at Church Field, Vicarage Lane, Mark, on Wednesday 15 July from 10.00 until 4.00 and to take it all down again on Friday 31st July from 10.00am. It is a mammoth task to erect all the patrol tents and fit out the marquee and to strike camp at the end. Please come and join the friends of Avalon Camps, you will have a great time. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. To find out more please contact us by phone on 01278 641551, by email at contact@avaloncamps.org.uk by visiting our website at www.avaloncamps.org.uk or on Facebook and Instagram.

Avalon Camps is a local charity based in Somerset, which gives children from the City of Bristol, between the ages of 8 and 9, an opportunity to have a holiday in the countryside. We receive no government funding.

Avalon Camps

Bluebird Café Awards Evening

Bluebird Cafe and Bar has celebrated its third anniversary with another huge cash give away to the local community. The popular local music venue has recently awarded £10,580 to a variety of good causes, bringing the total given away by Bluebird over the past three years to £35,000. Beneficiaries included Weston Hospicecare, which has received £2,000





to be used to purchase much needed equipment; Somewhere House Somerset received £1,500 for its counselling service; and The Space, Cheddar, who will use its £1,000 donation to support young people’s emotional wellbeing.

The other applicants who received money this year are:

Wedmore Opera	£240
Wedmore Girl Guides	£200
Hugh Sexey Middle School	£500
Mark Village Show	£240
Wedmore First School Academy	£400
Wedmore Scout Group	£750
Wedmore Footpaths Group	£500
Wedmore Men’s Shed.	£1,000
Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club	£500
Wedmore in Bloom	£750
Wedmore by Lamplight	£1,000

Bluebird, which is run by Ian Scott (Scottie) and John Ford, is a not-for-profit business with a reputation for being one of the best small live music venues in the region. Performers from across the South West entertain every Saturday evening and there are regular comedy, quiz and music bingo evenings, as well as monthly Sunday afternoon jazz. The Bluebird recently celebrated its second Young Performers Emerging Talent Competition, open to students aged 16 to 18. The winners were a trio from Strode College called Paper Planes and the group, together with the contest’s runners up, will be returning to the Bluebird stage later this year to perform.

Since opening three years ago, the Bluebird community café has made a positive impact on village life and is a hub for clubs such as the Women of Wedmore WI, Men’s Shed and Wedmore in Bloom to meet. Situated in The Borough, it’s a popular spot for many locals and visitors who enjoy breakfast, tea, coffee, cakes, and lunch. In the evenings the venue changes to a relaxed bar that serves delicious sourdough base pizzas, including a takeaway service. For further information please visit our website at www.bluebirdcafewedmore.co.uk

Thank You’s from Award Beneficiaries

Wedmore Men’s Shed are grateful to the Bluebird Café and Bar for presenting us with a cheque for £1,000. This will help us further develop our workshop and provide some more outdoor seating.

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare wish to acknowledge publicly the award of £2,000 received last night for Weston Hospicecare and which will be used towards the purchase of a Bariatric recliner chair for the in-patient unit. The Hospice is creating a bariatric room, which will enable them to be all-inclusive in the service it offers to



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patients. Congratulations to Scottie and John on a wonderful evening and all that they do to help groups in the community of Wedmore.

Wedmore Bowls Club would like to thank the amazing Bluebird Café Wedmore for the most generous donation of £500 to the club, which will be put towards our budget to urgently re-decorate the flaking paintwork on the exterior of the clubhouse. We are greatly indebted to Scottie and John of the Bluebird café...a terrific local asset.

Wedmore in Bloom would like to give a very big shout out to The Bluebird! We are so grateful for your very kind donation. Plants, compost and treatments are costing considerably more, and this will help enormously. Thank you Bluebird!!

Members of **Wedmore Footpaths Group** are delighted to have been given £500 by the Bluebird Bar and Cafe. The group was amongst 14 recipients at the community cafe's funding awards night. Thank you Bluebird for your generosity! The money will go towards materials for installing new 'kissing' gates and fingerposts.

*John Ford,
Bluebird Café Wedmore*

Orchard Received Thatcher's Grant



The Community Orchard @ Bagley is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a grant from Thatcher's Cider, supporting the continued growth and sustainability of this valued local resource. Run as a small community charity by dedicated local volunteers, the orchard is situated in the hamlet of Bagley on land leased from Somerset Council. Established around 20 years ago, the project began as a community effort to reclaim land that had become overgrown with brambles and scrub.

Over the years, the site has been carefully restored and nurtured into a peaceful and welcoming green space. However, with some of the original trees now reaching the end of their lifespan, support from Thatcher's has enabled the planting of ten new trees across a range of varieties, helping to secure the orchard's

future. In addition to these activities, the orchard has hosted several special occasions, including wedding blessings and a naming ceremony, further highlighting its role as a cherished community space. This latest grant ensures that the Community Orchard at Bagley can continue to flourish as a place of tranquillity, sustainability and shared local pride for many years to come.

Jacky Farley

Reflex First Aid Defibrillator Training – Wedmore Village Hall

A lively and informative evening unfolded at Wedmore Village Hall when Shane from Reflex First Aid Training led a hands on, free, Defibrillator and CPR session for local residents. The event, part of Reflex's ongoing mission to boost public confidence in lifesaving skills, drew an enthusiastic crowd keen to learn how to act swiftly in an emergency.



Shane's clear, practical, teaching style made complex procedures feel accessible. After a short introduction covering the

Primary Survey, checking for hazards before touching the body, participants moved straight into practice with training mannequins and simulated defibrillators. The hall buzzed with teamwork as attendees took turns performing chest compressions, using training mannequins, guided by Shane's calm encouragement and expert tips.

Shane then took us through a simple process for checking the patient and administering appropriate aid, including CPR and the use of a defibrillator. The process was described by the acronym DR-ABCDE, which stands for Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability and Exposure. You can find further information about this online, or by attending a Reflex first aid course.

The session struck the perfect balance between serious purpose and friendly community spirit. Many commented on how reassuring it was to discover that defibrillators are simple to operate and can truly make the difference between life and death. Shane was able to combine technical knowhow with warmth and humour, which left everyone feeling quite empowered.

With several defibrillators already located around Wedmore, this training has strengthened local readiness and confidence. A big thankyou to Shane and Reflex First Aid for an excellent evening of learning that could one day help save a life.

For more information or to enquire about future training, contact Reflex First Aid by phone on 07591 049188 or visit their website at www.reflexfirstaidtraining.co.uk

Jane Allen

Spare Currency Raises over £1,000 for Weston Hospicecare

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare have joined forces with Wedmore Travel Agents, 2Js, in The Borough to raise funds for Weston Hospicecare. The hospice provides free palliative care to people with life-limiting illness in the Somerset area. They deliver expert care from their base, Jackson-Barstow House in Uphill, a 10-bedroom in-patient unit (IPU), along with a day and wellbeing centre.

To complement the in-house services, they have a team of community nurse specialists who care for patients, and their families in their homes. Covering all areas

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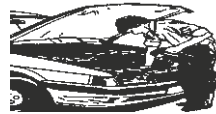
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between Clevedon and Yatton to the north; Cheddar, Wedmore and Axbridge to the east; and Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge to the south.

Liz Burton from Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare set up the coin collection scheme with 2J's Travel in April and it has already raised over £1,000. Joseph Rajkovic of 2Js said 'We are very happy to support Weston Hospicecare, and this is an easy way for people to donate to the cause. We all have spare coins left after a holiday, or old coins which have gone out of circulation and, rather than leave them laying around, pop in to the office and donate them'. It is estimated that UK households together have over £2billion in leftover holiday currency, with most people keeping spare coins and notes in purses, jars and drawers for years. This cash can all be put to good use, supporting Weston Hospicecare.

2Js have set up a collection point in their travel office. So please have a rummage and donate any old travel money you have. Check in old bags, suitcases and drawers. You can also donate any old, or out of circulation money of any origin, including UK, including commemorative and collectible coins.

Shirley Wederell, Chair of Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare said 'The community of Wedmore always goes the extra mile for our local hospice, and I thank 2Js for their support'. Next time you take a trip abroad, please remember you can donate any spare coins or notes back home with 2Js.

Liz Burton

Two 'Love Musgrove' Marathons in one night!

Mike, Ben, George and Ben, yes, there really are two Bens! Between them they make up three and a half paramedics (one is in training). They took on what they described 'as a stupid challenge, all in the name of a very good cause'.

Overnight, from 12 to 13 May they ran an incredible distance to raise money for the Beacon Centre, reaching over £7,000 for Love Musgrove's



Beacon Centre Fund at time of writing! They ran from every ambulance station in West Somerset - Minehead Ambulance Station, to Burnham-on-Sea, to Bridgwater, to Taunton - before finishing at Musgrove Park Hospital's Beacon Centre. 'All told, it was roughly 100km, very little sleep, and a lot of questionable life choices,' said Mike. On the home straight towards Musgrove Park Hospital, they had a welcoming cheer squad along Parkfield Drive and came around to the Beacon Centre with an escort of ambulances to be greeted by colleagues, friends, and family with rapturous applause and fanfare.

So why did they decide to fundraise for Love Musgrove's Beacon Centre Fund? In August last year, Mike's mum, Beverley, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Since

then she has faced the fight of her life, one that no one chooses but many are forced to endure. Throughout her treatment the care, compassion, and unwavering support provided by the staff at the Beacon Centre have been essential to her recovery. Mike added: 'As paramedics, we see first-hand how vital services like this are. We also know that sometimes the only way to say 'thank you' properly is to suffer a little yourself. So, for 24 hours, we pushed our bodies to their limits to raise money and give something back to a team that gives so much, every single day.'

Their arrival at the Beacon Centre coincided with Beverley's final radiotherapy treatment, and she was overwhelmed with the arrival of the team and everyone's support. Under a balloon arch, surrounded by friends and family, Beverley fervently rang the radiotherapy bell in celebration to signal the end of two herculean journeys, the men's ultramarathon and her own journey to recovery.

Paul Hopkins

Articles

Somerset Eel Recovery Project: Three Years Making a Splash!

It all started right here in Wedmore, back in June 2023 at Green Wedmore's 'Wilder Wedmore' festival, from that first eel-y (!) conversation, the Somerset Eel Recovery Project (SERP) started to take shape. The idea was simple, rather than waiting for someone else to fix things, why not explore the grassroots approach and start the action on our own doorstep? The European eel, once abundant across Europe, is now listed as 'Critically Endangered' having seen losses of up to 90% over the last 40 years.



Three years on, SERP has now grown from that festival conversation into a fully incorporated not-for-profit organisation with volunteers, scientists, teachers, and community members all pulling together. SERP has also taken on a leading role chairing the Somerset Eel Working Group, bringing together organisations from across the county to coordinate recovery efforts.

The 'Eels in the Classroom' initiative captured the imaginations of thousands of school children across Somerset. We set up over 60 elver tanks across nurseries, primary, secondary, special educational needs schools and community places to help get the public connected with these remarkable creatures, when so small make the incredible journey from the Sargasso Sea to our local rivers.

On the science side, we have used cutting-edge eDNA technology to help map eel populations across parts of the Somerset Levels revealing that, while eels can be found in the main rivers, they are often being blocked from accessing the wider drainage ditch network by man-made barriers. This mapping work has shaped conservation priorities across the county. To tackle those barriers in the meantime, we have revived the heritage craft of making straw ropes to drape over river barriers, giving young elvers a way to pass upstream. During the Spring high tides SERP has been catching and moving glass eels further upstream over barriers to help them access higher reaches of the catchment, an exercise that requires strict licences and permits as eels are a

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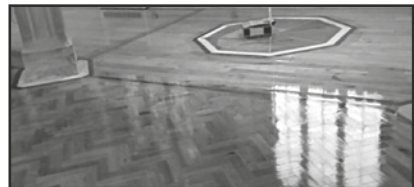
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creature that suffer from trafficking and illegal fishing - some say this is the biggest wildlife crime on the planet.

Also on the agenda is to deliver a local Somerset 'River Mapping for Nature' project. The Axe and Brue segment was launched at the Living Brue event, and, by the end of June, the Parrett project (kindly supported by Somerset Council) will have launched too. These are accessible to everyone via iNaturalist so please do consider joining in!

Our work has spread well beyond Somerset. We have been featured in the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, CNN, Positive News, and our eDNA work was showcased by the Royal Society. BBC Countryfile broadcasted a dedicated segment in July 2024 within the parish down on the Axe at Clewer, and TV chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has proudly declared himself an 'eel legend' after getting behind our cause! Last weekend at Avalon Marshes we celebrated World Fish Migration Day and launched our Eel Trails, copies of which will be available at the Avalon Marshes Centre very soon, and in October we get to showcase our work in the House of Commons to MPs, Lords, and their researchers.

More information join our Facebook group and check out our website www.somerseteelrecoveryproject.co.uk We really are excited about what comes next!

*Vanessa Becker-Hughes,
Director, Somerset Eel Recovery Project*

Regular Features

This Month in the Garden

July may be a popular holiday month, but if that's not your thing, it is an excellent month to learn to sit back and just enjoy the wonderful season. There should be plants in bloom and scents to help you dream with the bees and butterflies. Particularly on heavy clay soils, roses would be my first choice and the modern shrub varieties bred by David Austin and Harkness are superb. Many years of very skilled breeding work goes into these, and most are rejected in trials before a very few enter the final stage deemed worthy of naming and multiplication for sale. When this is taken into account, it is no wonder that the retail price is considerably higher than the magazine 'bargains' that some may choose. For a plant that is going to last for many years, I'd rather pay the extra. It really is true that you get what you pay for!

Modern rose breeders operate on the shoulders of folk like Thomas Fairchild from Hoxton in London who, in the early 1700's, not only grew banana plants but had a vineyard with over 50 grape varieties. An inquisitive nurseryman, Fairchild produced the very first man-made hybrid (a hybrid Dianthus) and set in motion the whole hybridization industry. So thanks to Mr Faichild, we have a most wonderful range of new plants to adorn our gardens, bred by his successors.

Do keep dead heading, watering any new plants in their first year, and just ignoring the odd greenfly or giving the bush a blast with water which will dislodge the pesky critters and leave any remaining to be munched by the friendly ladybirds. Cosmos,

marigolds, alliums, rudbeckias and echinacea are useful companion plants attracting ladybirds and hoverflies to control green and blackfly.

Lightly trim lavenders once flowering is complete and prune harder any shrubs that have completed their hour of floral beauty in the garden. These will continue to grow new shoots ready to supply good flower bearing material next year.

Continue sowing vegetables to fill any vacant space (e.g. after potatoes), early peas, French beans, beetroot, salad onions, turnips and lettuce of course are all fast growing but may need regular watering to encourage fast growth towards autumn and winter. Also, remove sideshoots from cordon tomatoes and water as needed to avoid that blackened area spoiling the fruit (called blossom end rot). Harvest fruit in the early morning and leave any training until the afternoon when plant stems will be more pliable and less likely to break. Continue feeding tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers with a high potash liquid feed or for a truly cheap and organic fertilizer, dunk fresh pulled nettles (if you have any) into a large tub, cover with water and leave in a distant place for a month when the resultant liquid can be diluted 1 part to 10 parts water yielding a potash-rich, if rather smelly, organic fertilizer.

There's plenty of things to propagate from softwood cuttings. If in doubt give it a try, you've nothing to lose. Use stems with a bit of firmness developing, remove the soft tip and cover as soon as possible with plastic to avoid heat stress. Buddleja, hypericum, and hydrangea are suggestions but there's plenty more to try, including all sorts of roses. If you are on holiday your houseplants can be kept happy for a week or so by filling the sink with water, placing a fluffy towel with one end in the water and the other end on the draining board and arranging your pots on top of the towel. This will draw the water naturally by capillary action to keep the towel moist and the pots will draw the water up as needed.

Towards the end of the month wisteria stems will need cutting back to about 5 leaves from the base. Don't worry too much about how accurately you do this as the most important pruning is due in January and February. In July you can use shears if the stems are within reach. Happy gardening!

Tony Connell

Poetry Corner

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

A Veterans' Tennis Match at Wedmore

Our four had lived two hundred and sixty years.

Cares were light, and time carried no blight

On a perfect spring day for tennis.

Four mixed-double matches ensued

Ending in a draw two-two.

Sets were counted,

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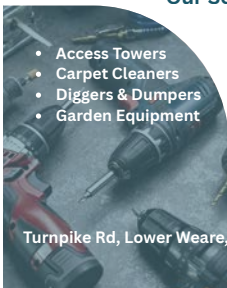
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(444)

We beat them by one,
Meaning we had won.
The first victory in two years for Wedmore's second vets.
The eight players sat in the clubhouse, sharing soup and bread.
After tea and cake the visitors left for Minehead.
Shutting the door our youngest commanded,
'Come on, a victory dance.'
And all four pumped knees, swung arms and sang
'We won. We won. We won.'
The day before, by the rhyme at Kingsway,
I had stopped my car to watch the lambs play.
Humankind has its graces.
Sheep haven't vices, but only as lambs do they have dances.

Bill Hayley

Tasty Morsels – Yogurt Cake

Ingredients –

2 large eggs
150g granulated sugar
225g Greek yogurt
½ cup olive oil (or vegetable olive) + more for greasing the pan
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt

Method –

Preheat the oven to 190C. Grease a loaf pan with the oil and line it with parchment paper, leaving about a 1-inch overhang on the long sides. In a large mixing bowl, vigorously whisk the eggs and sugar together until pale yellow and frothy. Whisk in the yogurt, oil, and vanilla extract. Whisk in the baking powder and salt. Add the flour and stir with a rubber spatula until just combined and all the flour is incorporated. A few small lumps are fine, just be sure not to overmix.

Transfer the batter to the prepared loaf pan and spread it out evenly. Bake the cake until it is lightly browned and a cake tester inserted into the centre comes out clean – about 45 minutes. Transfer the pan to a cooling rack and let cool for 10 minutes before using the parchment paper as a sling to lift the cake out of the pan and onto the rack to cool completely.

Cook's note: this is an extremely versatile recipe. I like to add lemon zest and fresh thyme to mine! Consider using flavoured yogurt such as cherry and adding almond extract or adding fruit such as blueberries! Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Thu	2	Swing from Paris Jazz Quartet	7.30pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Sun	5	Wedmore Theatre - The Wrong Pantomime, Script Read Through	3.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Wed	8	Women of Wedmore WI - Summer Party	7.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Fri	10	WedFest	From 6.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat	1	Blackford Harvest Home	6.30pm	Church Lane, Blackford

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Alternate Mondays (see listing)	Music in Mind	2.30pm to 3.30pm	Masonic Hall
2nd Tuesday	Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting	8.00pm	The Post and Wicket
4th Tuesday	Wedmore Gardening Club	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Wednesday	Somewhere House Coffee and Chat	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Bluebird Café
2nd Wednesday	Blackford Café	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Blackford Village Hall
2nd Wednesday	Green Wedmore Meeting	7.30pm	The George Inn
2nd and 4th Wednesday	Wedmore Probus	10.15am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
3rd Wednesday	Wedmore Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Parish Council Rooms
3rd Wednesday	Club50	2.30pm	Masonic Hall
2nd and 4th Thursday	Mendip Rotary Club	7.00pm	The George Inn
4th Thursday (not July)	Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Friday	Wedmore Carers Group	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
1st Friday	HeadsUp Support Group	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
2nd and 4th Fridays	Mr Punch's Folk Club	8.00pm	Theale Village Hall
1st Saturday	St Mary's Coffee Shop	9.30am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's Church
2nd Saturday	Wedmore In Bloom Work Party	9.30am	Outside The George Inn
3rd Saturday	Theale Community Café	10.00am to 12.00 noon	Theale Village Hall

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

Little Lambs	9.15am to 11.15am	St Mary's Church	Heather Hector	01934 712478
Wedmore Men's Shed	9.30am to 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 to 11.15am	Wedmore Scout Hut	Kay Wensley	07584 374515
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Wedmore Village Hall	Lesley Nichols	01934 712045
Music Matters	2.30pm	via Zoom	mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk	
Squirrels	5.15pm to 6.00pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Becca Newman	group-leader@wedmorescoutgroup.org.uk
Cubs	6.30pm to 7.45pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com
Pilates with Anna MacGregor - beginner / general class	6.10pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	7.20pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Wedmore Dance Group	10.30am to 11.45pm	Wedmore Village Hall	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 to 4.30pm	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
Cubs	6.30pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com
Table Tennis at Theale	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Theale Village Hall	Dave Whitmarsh	01934 712620

FRIDAY

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

Country Lane Walker

Well folks, having just come out of that amazing heat wave at the end of May, and realising I hadn't walked for 5 days, I walked 1.2 miles. I was a little stiff to start with I soon picked up some speed. Then the next day did 1.5 miles, much easier. And I probably did a mile+ walking in Glastonbury. So, I keep saying to keep it up daily, yet at 82 the heat was a tad too much I have to say, but then early morning chi kung helped.

Some really good news in that I had an appointment with my cardiac consultant at Musgrove Park Hospital, having walked across from Trull road where I parked my car, two miles there and back. There is a nice foot path for part of that route. Anyway, my consultant saw I had my trusty Nordic Walking Poles with me, and he commented on how good they are for upper body workout whilst walking. He then said my heart is as good as ever. Bearing in mind it will be seven years shortly since my heart attack, with 6 resuscitations; eight stents installed; the loss of one coronary artery; and the formation of a new one, not so bad going. It just shows how walking, chi work, visualising, and now humming, makes such a difference. But then I know you know that, as you are all doing it too, aren't you!

I also had a GP appointment just the other day, and he commented on how good the Nordic Walking Poles are too for the same reasons, improving lung and heart capacity. And, of course, great for encouraging good body balance, even when one is not using them the balance stays betterer.

Not such good news is my blood sugar level is up, 'they' want me on drugs, yet I have already started on a programme at the Glastonbury Frequency Medicine Centre and directing humming to balance the area along with tightening up on diet, which I strayed from following the stroke. Hospitals do not cater for health or healing, so one can easily get hooked into the wrong food and struggle to turn it around. One might think there would be a more holistic approach in hospitals to work to better their patients. Yet, of course, so such thing takes place apart from a few special requirements. Other news is I went on an evening presentation on Sound Healing, and humming a couple of weeks ago at Goddess Hall in Glastonbury, and have now met with a sound healer in Glastonbury who was also present, with us planning to work together with humming etc.

So keep on walking humming, chi kung-ing, and all that, and get touch if you wish to. As always, you can contact me on 01934 712404, 07976 288535, WhatsApp or at melvyn@gmx.co.uk Love to hear from you. Keep on walking!

Melvyn Firmager

(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.)



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THE BUMBLESNOUTS SAVE THE WORLD!

Summer Holiday Course for 5-12 year olds

August 3rd to 7th

9.30- 12.30 pm

St Mary's

Church, Wedmore

Children are invited to join Green Wedmore, Messy Church and the Bumblesnouts for a creative, fun week. The Bumblesnouts are aliens who travel from outer space in a funny old space ship to show humans how to take better care of the planet. Each day the children will rehearse the songs and enjoy creative activities like mask making, spaceship building and storytelling, meeting characters like Mrs Fizzy, Tree Fellas and Jock the Croc. Parents can enjoy a performance on the final day. The cost for the course will be £10 per child for the week. Places are limited.



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Events coming up in July:

Fri 3rd - Quiz Night

Sat 4th - Sam Dowden

Sat 11th - The Toucans

Sat 18th - Small Town Jones

Fri 24th - Music Bingo

Sat 25th - Nicole Perez

Sun 26th - Afternoon Jazz Sunday

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed that so few people attended the National Emergency Briefing in the Masonic Hall in May.



Most of those attending are all relatively aware of the crises that are coming our way and so are already getting prepared for the possible outcomes of climate change and the wanton destruction of our environment by developers and other greedy and selfish individuals. As we numbered about 40 people there it showed that only 1% of our village are concerned enough to find out what is happening, is likely to happen and what to do about it.

Please, everyone, do make an effort to inform yourselves. There are plenty more National Emergency Briefings happening in nearby locations so you would still be able to get up to speed, if you want to.

*Anthony Lamb,
Daisy Farm*

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

Health, Wellbeing, and Support

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.

Take the test(s)!

It sometimes feels like there is not much which can't be measured or tested these days. In terms of our health there are a range of tests which are invaluable in finding early indications of disease or ill health. Some of these we can instigate off our own bat and can sometimes be free. Here are just a few for you to consider whether they would help you understand your body more fully and take any action to make things better.

Hearing – Both Boots the chemist and Specsavers offer free preliminary hearing tests and offer advice on any possible follow up. Search online for Boots free hearing tests. Our nearest store is Shepton Mallet. Search online for Boots hearing tests. Similarly search online for Specsavers free hearing tests.

Sight – The NHS recommends that we should have our eyes tested every 2 years (more often if advised by your ophthalmic practitioner or optometrist). Eye tests are free for some people, e.g. children under 16, and up to 18 for those in full time education, people over 60 and people with certain conditions, e.g. diabetes or glaucoma. For more information see the March edition of Wedmore News.

Poo in the post! – This is the colloquial name for the NHS bowel cancer screening programme. This test can help to show early signs of bowel cancer and thus improve the chances of better treatment outcomes. Although it sounds distasteful to send your poo in the post it is very easy to do and a very effective test. According to the NHS, bowel cancer screening is currently offered to people aged 50 to 74 every 2 years. This is because our risk of getting bowel cancer gets higher as we get older. You can also get screening for bowel cancer every 2 years if you're aged 75 or over, but you need to call the bowel cancer screening helpline on 0800 707 6060 and ask for the test. If you think you're eligible for bowel cancer screening but you've not been invited, or had your test kit, call the bowel cancer screening helpline on 0800 707 6060.

PSA (prostate-specific antigen) – According to the NHS website, routine PSA testing is not offered on the NHS. This is because there are advantages and disadvantages of having this test. You can find out more on the NHS website, searching for PSA testing. Also www.prostatecanceruk.org has very helpful information. You may be offered a PSA test if a doctor thinks you have symptoms that could be prostate cancer. Men aged 50 or over can also ask their GP for a PSA test, even if they do not have symptoms. Anyone aged 50 or over with a prostate can ask for a PSA test. However, there are organisations which do offer PSA testing free for men who would like to have a test. According to PSA Tests @ My PSA Tests the PSA test is a blood test which can provide the overall health of your prostate and may show the early signs of prostate cancer. Our local organisation, www.SPSA.uk holds regular testing sessions in our area. The next one in Wedmore is Saturday 10 October at Wedmore Playing Fields pavilion (Post and Wicket), you will need to book via their website.

Mammogram – NHS breast screening is offered to women aged 50 up to your 71st birthday. Everyone registered with a GP as female will be invited and there is more information on the NHS website. If you have not been invited for breast screening by the age of 53, and think you should have, contact your local breast screening service. Somerset Breast Screening Service, Breast Care Centre, Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Musgrove Park, Taunton, TA1 5DA. Phone: 01823 342425. You will not automatically be invited for breast screening if you are aged 71 or over, but you can still have breast screening every 3 years if you want to. You will need to call your local breast screening service to ask for an appointment.

Skin testing – Boots offer a skin checking service, SmartSkin Checker, powered by AI. It states that 'Results are for information only and are not a medical diagnosis'. This system enables you to upload a photograph of a particular area of skin and AI then gives possible causes for the change. Initial information is free, but there is a charge for more detailed information. Of course, your GP will be able to help with any skin concerns.

Blood Pressure – This test/measurement is one of the easiest and perhaps the most useful test we can do regularly to monitor our health and look for early warning signs of ill health. Please see May edition of Wedmore News for more information. Know your numbers!

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Thursday	9.00am – 8.00pm
Friday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 2.00pm

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01934 713513

The Village Agent

Also, this month I am including information about our Village Agent, Lina Curiale-Hopkinson, who provides people in Somerset's rural communities with easier access to information and services, as I meet people who are not aware of the role.

The Somerset Village Agent service is a project run by Thrive Somerset and now covers over half of the county. The Agents are local, highly trained individuals living in the parish 'clusters' they support. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. Village Agents work with all ages dealing with a wide variety of issues, including health and social care, home safety, finding local activities for people to join in with, and signposting and referring people to money and benefit advice. Village Agents also have the role of helping to shape services by feeding back to the appropriate body information about gaps in service e.g. transport provision. They can also motivate and support a community to respond to a local need by working together to address issues e.g. by helping them to set up a coffee morning for a group of lonely people or start a volunteer car scheme.

The Village Agents work flexibly and may send emails outside normal hours, so please don't feel obliged to respond until it suits you. They care about making communication accessible. If a different format works better for you – plain text, bullet points, voice note, or otherwise, then please let them know. Anyone can contact their Village Agent. You can contact Lina Curiale-Hopkinson by calling 07375 371549 or 01823 331222 lina@Somersetrec.org.uk You can also make a referral for support from a Village Agent through Thrive Somerset's website. www.thrivesomerset.org.uk

www.patient.info is a website and accompanying app, which states that 'Our clinical information meets NHS England's Information Standard.' For easy links to all the websites and documents referenced, or to find out how to sign up to take part in the research programmes, please go to www.whawb.co.uk and go to the Wedmore News item for July 2026. You can reach them all with just one click and find out more interesting facts, figures and insights. You can also contact Cathy Butterworth on 01934 806266 or by email at cb@theconsultant.org

Cathy Butterworth

HeadsUp Support Group

Do you care for or support a person living with dementia? Then this friendly informative group is for you! Come along on the first Friday of the month to The Swan Hotel, Wedmore between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. The next meeting will be on Friday 3 July. If you want to find out more about the Memories Workshops and Carers' Group, phone HeadsUp on 01749 670667 or email wedmorecarers@yahoo.com If you need help with funding just ask, as help may be available.



HeadsUp

Somewhere House Coffee and a Chat

For general support with mental wellbeing, Somewhere House visits The Bluebird Café in Wedmore on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. They offer an opportunity to meet and chat. For more information contact them on 01278 780769 or visit their website at www.somewherehousesomerset.org



Somewhere House
July 2026

Music in Mind

Music in Mind takes place at Wedmore Masonic Hall on Monday afternoons, usually fortnightly, from 2.15pm to 3.30pm.

If you are caring for someone who can no longer use words to communicate, sharing music together can be very rewarding for both of you. It's great to see someone involved, feeling part of a group and celebrating what is possible, not what has become too difficult and therefore frustrating. We sing plenty of songs, but we also work with sounds, and there is no right or wrong! So we use small percussion instruments and listen to the sounds we can make. There is always a choice as to whether to join in or not. It's good to give people the time to hear others play and helps people feel valued.

Also, if you are a musician and can contribute by occasionally playing live music for the group, then please get in touch!

There is no charge for the sessions. For more information please contact Stella by phone on 07896 509754 or 01934 732282 or by email at davstellamoore@btinternet.com

Stella Moore

Wedmore Good Neighbours – Undaunted by Rising Fuel Costs

We're half-way through 2026 and, thanks in large part to our noisy neighbour over the pond, it has been an especially topsy-turvy six months. Although we in Wedmore can't do much about the global situation we can try to lessen the impact in our local community. That's what Wedmore Good Neighbours is all about – making sure that anyone who could use a little help and support has somebody to turn to.



Need a lift? Most requests we receive are from people requiring transport for a medical appointment - taxis are expensive and impersonal! We also provide lifts to local club and society meetings. You don't have to pay for lifts (or any of the other services we offer). However, the group does have running costs. Fuel and all car running costs are paid 100% by the volunteer driver. Scheme insurance, training and vetting of volunteers is paid for by the scheme. All volunteers are DBS checked and many have received first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. So, if you do use the service, and want to make a donation, this is always very welcome! The easiest way to do this is by giving money directly to the volunteer who has helped you. They may choose to pass some, or all, of your donation on to pay for general scheme costs.

Got a favour to ask? Transport is not the only way we can help. Maybe you need some light work doing in the garden? Or someone to walk your dog if you are unwell? Got some rubbish that you'd like taking to the local recycling centre – we can probably manage that too. Perhaps you are unable to get out of the house but need something from the local shops or chemist?

Volunteers can also help with writing letters and filling forms, including assisting with simple tasks that need completing online. Last but not least you might just want some company over a cuppa! Our volunteers regularly visit a number of people in the local community on a social basis. The group can handle a wide variety of requests – but occasionally has to decline simply because the insurance policy does not cover every circumstance.

(661)



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(480)

Whatever your request, or if you would like to volunteer, please call us on 01934 806299, leave a message, and a volunteer will reply within 24 hours. Please note that we're not part of social services, or an emergency service, we're just good neighbours! If you'd like more detailed information about the group and how it operates visit the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website at www.whawb.co.uk/gns

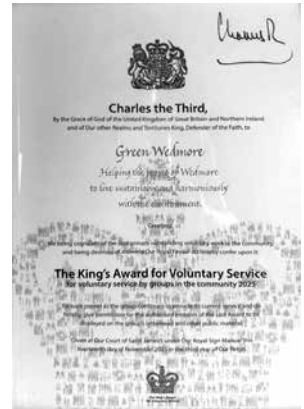
Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Green Wedmore

Green Wedmore has been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2025. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. Representatives of Green Wedmore received the award crystal and certificate from Mohammed Saddiq, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset on Tuesday 26 May at The George Inn.

Green Wedmore advocates for sustainable living and helps people reduce environmental impact and save money in this climate emergency and cost of living crisis. Activities include regular freecycle and repair cafe events and talks on environmental issues; installation of solar on community buildings; advising on a Green Charter; household solar PV scheme for 117 buildings; Wedmore Community Power Co-Op; Wilder Wedmore Nature Festival; Wedmore Village Farm; woodland creation and more.



Green Wedmore is one of 232 local charities, social enterprises, and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. Their work, along with others from across the UK, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

Green Wedmore was founded on a simple but powerful idea: that ordinary people, working together, can make an extraordinary difference, that the choices we make about how we travel; how we power our homes; how we grow and source our food; and how we look after the natural world on our doorstep, matter enormously. And that change, real and lasting change, does not always begin in the corridors of power but here, in a village like ours, one conversation, one project, one community at a time.

Since those early beginnings, the volunteers of Green Wedmore have given thousands of hours of their own time: they have planted trees and tended wildlife corridors; they have organised workshops and talks; they have advised on insulation and renewable energy, reducing bills and carbon footprints; they have campaigned, educated, inspired and, above all, they have acted. In doing so, they have helped make this community a model for sustainable living that others across the county and across the country, look to with admiration.

To every volunteer who has ever given an afternoon to a Green Wedmore project, who has stood in the rain to plant a hedge or who has attended a committee meeting after a long day's work, this award belongs to you. Not to any one person, but to each and every one of you.

Why not join Wedmore's Kings Award-winning Voluntary Group this new year? Please contact us at hello@greenwedmore.co.uk or join us at our next meeting at The George on Wednesday 10 June at 7.30pm.

Liz Burton



Wedmore Footpaths Group



The funding from the Bluebird (*see article in News – Ed.*) will be used to fund materials for installation of new 'kissing' gates. The Wedmore Footpaths Group is very grateful to have help from members of Wedmore Men's Shed

who have installed two gates near Middle Stoughton. It will also be used for new fingerposts, and walkers will have noticed the restored yellow arrows on existing posts which have been painstakingly repainted by group member Lesley Silcock.

With support from landowners and the parish council, Wedmore Footpaths Group continues its work improving the access to paths in and around the village. Members were also involved in Wedmore's recent Big Ramble which encouraged people to explore the local area.



Men's Shed members are pictured after installing one of the two new gates near Middle Stoughton.

To get in touch with Wedmore Footpaths Group, or report any issues, please email at wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com Happy walking!

Wedmore Footpaths Group

Wedmore in Bloom

July is the month for saying thank you! As well as a big thank you to the Bluebird Café (*see article in News – Ed.*), thank you to everyone who helped with the summer planting. We are now reaping the fruits of our labours; Wedmore is looking colourful. Also, remembering the watering volunteers, many thanks to you all. We do hope that the newly installed water butts are helping.

Kay Adams

Wedmore Gardening Club

Back in May we held a very successful Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, raising nearly £500. Many thanks to members who made cakes; to everyone who donated plants; and to those who came along to buy the excellent quality plants available. The committee, as always, worked very hard, so thanks to them and everyone involved.

For the May meeting Brian Ladd, a committee member, gave a fascinating and unusual talk on ‘Flowers on Stamps’. Brian has an extensive collection of stamps from around the world and in-depth knowledge of what the particular flowers on the stamps meant to each country and the reasons behind these choices. Really interesting.

The July meeting will be on Tuesday 21 July with Claire Hart giving a talk on ‘Square Metre Gardening’. This appears to be a very popular topic just now as there are quite a few articles appearing in various magazines. It’ll be good to hear Claire’s thoughts on the subject, as I’ve read quite a lot of different ideas and suggestions. There is no meeting in August as, on Tuesday 18 August, we have our annual trip, which this year is to The American Museum in Bath. At the next meeting Jan will be asking for names of those interested in going and, in the meantime, Carol will be sending an email to members asking for names. More details will be shared at the July meeting.

As always meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30pm with refreshments served after the talk. Members and guests are always most welcome.

Jean Windridge

Women of Wedmore – No Ghosts Allowed!

Women of Wedmore held a short AGM at its May meeting to summarise the previous year and to elect its committee members. Then followed an engaging and entertaining talk by ghost writer Tom Henry. Definitely, No Ghosts Allowed, although Tom did admit to living in a very old and haunted house; a chair was moved so a guest could not get out of his room, and the thermostat has been seen to swivel around on its settings!

Tom grew up in Lancashire and inherited his mother’s love of storytelling, insight into character and love of words. His father was a cricketer, and his skills passed Tom by! After university, Tom worked on regional papers as a journalist that taught him to write, rewrite, structure, interview, and to ‘read between the lines’. After 15 years as a journalist Tom moved into freelance work when the Internet began to influence the newspaper industry. It was during this time a friend asked him to ghost write a book as he did not have the time.

Tom’s first book was born, *The Fight for Fordhall Farm* by Ben and Charlotte Hollins. The book tells the story of a young brother and sister faced with eviction from

their family home of 700 years, and saving their livelihood and way of life on their organic farm. Tom spent two weeks recording their story whilst living in a derelict caravan with no windows. Transcribing the tapes is an important part of bringing the Hollins' story together: capturing their characters, their tone of voice and descriptions of their life. Tom is very proud of his first book that includes a foreword by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. The book has won several awards for sustainable development, environmental and community enterprise and Tom, with the book, appeared on an episode of Richard and Judy!

Tom has now published 26 books; one of these is *Butterfly Brain* by Barry Cryer. Barry is a legendary scriptwriter, terrific storyteller and one of the country's funniest comedians. Tom spent several weeks interviewing Barry including a pub crawl around London that culminated in *Private Eye's* office to use the facilities! Other books include *A Belfast Child* by John Chambers. A personal account of growing up in Belfast during the Troubles in the Loyalist community and the disappearance of his mother who came from a strong Catholic family. It's a tale of divided loyalties and hatred but also one of hope. Tom describes *Me And The Table* by Stephen Hendry as a challenge as he knew nothing about snooker and had to understand the psychology of the sport. In the interviews (in strict 2-hour time slots) Stephen always talked in the present tense, that Tom captured in the book. Stephen was interested in someone to tell his life story and not be a sport pundit. After Stephen's career peaked it crashed very quickly.

Broken and Betrayed by Jayne Senior is the true story of the Rotherham abuse scandal which Jayne fought for 14 years to expose. Jayne worked with vulnerable girls and tried to help by passing information onto the authorities. She was pressured to stop her work by the police. Fortunately, she kept all her notes and became the whistle-blower in the investigation by *The Times* newspaper. It's very likely you have a copy of one of Tom's books, our own very special book *The Turnip Prize!* Tom turned himself into the 'pretentious art critic' who worked alongside Trevor Prideaux to produce this gem of a book.

Tom describes ghost writing as a mad job but it's a privilege to sit down with someone and record their life. Everyone has a story to tell! Before the evening finished Tom led us on a writing exercise to release our creative juices. He gave each of us a photograph and we wrote a few sentences about what we thought was happening or what sort of person was in the photo. Some good stories emerged!

Women of Wedmore WI's next meeting is on Wednesday 8 July, 7.00pm for a summer party, with live music, at the Post and Wicket. For more details, please email [WoW on wedmorewi@outlook.com](mailto:WoW@wedmorewi@outlook.com)

Linda Morecroft

Isle of Wedmore Society

Our May meeting before our summer break attracted a wide audience of 28 members and 6 visitors all with a keen interest in that well known, but obscure person, Hugh Sexey. Who was he and why is his name all over Somerset? Our speaker, Helen Rogerson, present Master of the Hugh Sexey Hospital in Bruton gave us a very simple answer. He was a wealthy man who left all his money in a trust for the benefit of the poor of Somerset. So how did he become rich? Again, very simple. He got a job in the





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(745)

Exchequer of Queen Elizabeth 1 which he continued when James 1 took over. His circuit, as Auditor of the Exchequer, covered the whole of Wales giving him plenty of opportunities to use his valuable insider information to make money, and he made more by lending at a good 10% interest. He spent his money on land and property, especially around Blackford, Bruton and some places in Gloucestershire.

He began life in Bruton, in about 1537 and was probably the son of Robert Sexey, a merchant who was once Mayor of Bristol. He was educated at King's School in Bruton and moved to London to study Law and from there into Government service. He had two wives. The first was Dorothy Uttley and as there were no children they decided to use their wealth to help others. They began this before Dorothy sadly died. His second wife, who he married late in life, was very different and was, purportedly, a gold digger whom Hugh decided to disinherit.

When the twelve Trustees were able to access his money long after his death, they asked his friends what they thought Hugh would have liked, as he had left no instructions. It was decided that an Alms House for old people and schools for young people would be the best plan, and so a hospital was built in 1638, followed by a school for boys then, much later, one for girls. Originally the hospital housed 12 old people but can now accommodate 27, all in their own bright and cheerful flats. It is a Grade 1 site so is costly to maintain and keep to modern safety standards. It still relies on the income from the Blackford estates for its main finances. The name 'Sexey' derives from Seyse, an old French name, itself coming from the Latin, Sextus, meaning Sixth.

Our next full meeting will be in September when our speaker will be Fiona Torrence-Spence, who is an expert on the Ashton Windmill.

Jean Gregory

Mr Punch's Folk Club

On Sunday 19 July, 5.00pm, we have 'Folk in the Orchard'. Come along and sing a song. Bring your own garden chair and refreshments, cream teas will be on sale; and Friday 24 July from 8.00pm. All are welcome, entry is £3, bring your own refreshments.

Bernard Coulter

Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club

Notable scores of 65% or more were achieved in May club sessions by Barbara Biggin and Diane Bishop 67.3%, Jonathan Stean and Susan Dunn 66.7%, David Lambert and John Down 65.5% and Maggie Uffindell and Sue Spink 65.3%.

The Wedmore Championship Teams event on the 18 May was won by Jane Hall, Peter Dawes, Janet O'Brien, and Michael O'Brien with 70 VPs. The Handicap Teams event was an extremely close finish with Sue Spink, Maggie Uffindell, Janice Young, and Ronnie Follenfant just beating Caroline Ladd, Joe Ladd, Brian Ladd, and Chris Loughlin by only 0.6 imps!

An overcall of 2NT is commonly used to show a hand with both minors or, more generally, the two lowest unbid suits. Many people who use this bid over an opponent's suit bid don't realise, however, that it can also be useful after an opponent has opened 1NT.

The hand prompting this article came from the Wedmore Championship Teams event. At our table, after two passes South opened a weak no trump. This is much better than opening 1S, since it avoids the rebid problem if partner responds with

2 of a minor. There is no problem after 2H by partner since this should promise 5+ hearts after 1S so you have a known 8+ card fit and can safely pass. (Partner did not open so you know you don't have a game.)

Sitting West I bid 2NT over South's 1NT to show both minors which incidentally prevented North from showing their spade suit. With slightly better clubs, East bid 3C which duly made 10 tricks. (East knew that my hand was limited to <15 high card points since with 15+ I would have doubled 1NT).

This use of 2NT does not conflict with any of the common defences to 1NT so why not add it to your convention list if you don't already play it?

The club welcomes new players and visitors.

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

Geoff Davies

Wedmore Opera Goers

On Sunday 20 September, at 4.00pm, we will be attending a matinee performance of Bartok's 'Bluebeards Castle' followed by Stravinsky's 'Oedipus Rex' at the Millenium Theatre in Cardiff. The cost will be £56 each for the theatre and the coach.

On the following Sunday, 27 September, again at 4.00pm in the Millenium Theatre, Cardiff, we will attend a production of La Boheme by Puccini. The cost will be £56 each for the theatre and the coach.

Next year on 18 March we will be visiting Cardiff again for Matthew Bourne's performance of Cinderella, this time at 3.00pm. The cost is yet to be confirmed but will be about the same as the above.

Please email suzannemetters@hotmail.com if you are interested in any of our events.

Suzanne Metters

Wedmore Men's Shed

May has been a busy month. 8 swift bird boxes have been completed by members and installed around Wedmore.

In conjunction with the Wedmore Footpaths Group the first 'kissing gate' was installed between Snipefield Lane and Middle Stoughton.

Just as the weather warmed up, we had the first BBQ of the season, with 40 members, friends and family enjoying the food and drink.

Meanwhile, on the allotment, everything is thriving in the sunshine.

North (D)

♠ QT754
♥ J82
♦ J53
♣ Q5

West

♠ 6
♥ AQ
♦ KQ974
♣ K7642

East

♠ AK
♥ T9643
♦ T86
♣ JT8

South

♠ J9832
♥ K75
♦ A2
♣ A93





Interested in getting involved? We have a growing membership, with a 25% increase since the beginning of the year, so come along and see what you are missing out on. Wedmore Men's Shed is a friendly, welcoming place where men can get involved in several activities, including projects that help the local community, as well as socialising and enjoying many interesting visits. Email us at wedmoremensshed@outlook.com or come and meet us on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 12.00 noon, or Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.30pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm off Plud Street. Please come along and find out what we are all about, you are more than welcome.

Wedmore Men's Shed

Wedmore Probus Club

The first of our recent speakers was Paul Roberts who talked about the many forms of traditional Somerset signposts, sometimes called finger posts, and the strange co-existence of two signpost makers, both based in Mark.

Paul told us that 1920's guidance stated that signposts should have black upper-case lettering on a white background and white supporting poles that carried the name of the highway authority. Many signposts were removed during World War II so they couldn't be used by enemy forces, but it actually resulted in American troops getting lost on our roads. The 1964 regulations encouraged local authorities to remove and replace traditional fingerposts, but Somerset decided to retain most of the old posts.

The second speaker was Dr Pete Aird who spoke about the Slavic Gospel Charity 'SGA' and the many countries that this charity now covers, stretching to far eastern Siberia. SGA can trace its UK formation back to 1950, with work centred on the Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe who had become refugees living in the displaced persons camps of Western Europe. SGA was a relief organisation that brought food, clothing, bibles and other necessities, overland to these camps.

Peter told us about their 4 core ministries: training workers; sponsoring workers; publishing literature; and distributing aid. He also told us about various trips that he has made with SGA, including to Ukraine where an ever-growing number of widows and orphans are in need of physical and mental support.

Our July meetings are on 8 July, when Ian Pilbeam will give a talk on the Ukraine Conflict; and 22 July, which is the Chairman's Outing.

The Isle of Wedmore Probus club meets at the Wedmore Golf Club in the morning on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month and if you are a retired man living in

Wedmore or the surrounding area, you will probably enjoy our meetings. You can listen to interesting, stimulating and informative talks after enjoying a friendly chat over a cup of coffee. You can also stay on for lunch after the talk and enjoy an informal drink and chat with convivial members. There is no attendance commitment, and the cost of membership is low at £30 per annum. So if you are interested in attending, please call me 07572 569870 for further details.

*Denis Jones,
Secretary*

Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be at Theale Village Hall on Sunday 24 July, doors open at 6.30pm and the film will start at 7.00pm. New members are always welcome, and temporary membership is available, please phone for further details on 07855 297861.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Tuesday Club



Well the highlight for this past month was our annual trip to Little Harp in Clevedon. Huge thank to Sue Worrall and Yvonne Hutchison for organising this. We were taken there by Berry's Coaches, our driver was Alan, so we knew we were in good hands. Once we arrived, we were seated in the conservatory, as we know our members really like to sit in there and enjoy the lovely views of the Bristol Channel and South Wales.

I had just started drinking my coffee when one of our members called me and said they could not find their handbag. Their friend said she had definitely put it in the walker, but it was no longer there. I checked all around their table, no sign of it. I went back out to where the coach had dropped us and retraced our route, but again no sign of it. They said not to worry and drink my coffee while it was still hot. About five minutes later they called me and said they had found it; they had been sat on it! We all had just the biggest laugh but thank goodness it was found!

We were served with a two-course meal which was very good. Yvonne always makes up little cards with the person's name and what they pre-ordered on it and places it where they are sat, this is so helpful, huge thanks Yvonne. Our members went for either fish, chips and peas (my favourite), roast chicken or gammon. Everyone really enjoyed their meal. The only down side was that they were short staffed so the service was slow which meant there was no time for a stroll along the promenade which is what we would normally do and means we get some nice sea air in our lungs.

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We arrived back safe and sound, big thanks to Alan our driver. I know there are plans for another trip during the summer, yet to be arranged but know our members will be looking forward to the next one. We would like to thank a new helper, Elaine, who came along to help us and did really well, and said she had really enjoyed it.

If you are interested in joining Tuesday Club, or volunteering to help, please contact Sue Worrall on 07748 131413, Yvonne Hutchison on 01934 712729, or Graham Whitcombe on 01934 712916 or 07580 500545.

Graham Whitcombe

Wedmore Village Farm

It was lovely to meet Ian and Verena Tames who came to the farm last week in search of something that they planted a few years ago. Once a conker, now a flourishing little chestnut tree, Ian and Verena eventually found their donation to the farm to be healthy and thriving in the top field.

There have been other things growing at the farm over the last few months, which includes exploring ways to make the farm feel welcoming and inclusive of the local community. We would not have been able to achieve the running of the market garden on this beautiful land without the help of our volunteers and, as such, we wish to re-extend the invitation to join us for Volunteer Wednesdays!



Every Wednesday morning, from 10.00am, the charity team and volunteers get together and let nature lead the way. There is tea, coffee and (usually!) cake. The tasks on the farm will vary from week-to-week, moving with the seasons. A typical day might look like sowing, tending, land maintenance, or harvesting. You are just as welcome to pick up a watering can and enjoy some peace. We then gather for lunch, which is cooked on the farm using local produce, to be shared together.

Volunteer days offer the opportunity for people to enjoy this space that was lovingly created in the interest of localising our food systems and to benefit from being outside and sharing good food in even better company.

From 2.00pm every Wednesday you can also visit our beautiful, diverse, flower farm and 'Pick Your Own'. Please bring a jar or container to transport your posy home and note that we do not currently have a working card machine to take payments with, so can only accept cash at this time. Available produce from our farm will also be for sale. Also, keep your eyes peeled for the opening of our wood fired sauna! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Annie Rowley

Club50

We have enjoyed two lovely coach trips in the last couple of months. In May we had a really good day at Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. Such a fascinating history and beautiful gardens and we also had a guided tour entitled 'Women of Berkeley Castle'. Well worth a trip, as it's really not far from here. In June our coach trip was

to Sidmouth on the south Devon coast. A traditional seaside resort which fortunately changes very little over the years.

On Wednesday 15 July we will have our member's Summer Lunch in the Masonic Hall. This is prepared by the committee so add your name to the list. The time is 12.30 for 1 o'clock.

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

Andrea West

Wedmore Dance Group – Looking the part!

Wedmore Dance Group is now taking a break for the summer, but we'll be back in September. If you would like more information, please contact Nikki at nikkipryn@gmail.com or just turn up to Wedmore Village Hall on a Thursday morning during term time. Classes run from 10.30am to 11.45am. You will always get a very warm welcome.



Wedmore Dance Group

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The winners of the June draw are Caroline Patterson and Gill and Bill Litherland. Congratulations to you all!

Liz Henderson

Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Golf Club

You can tell the golf season is really getting under way in May as the first two Opens of the year take place. First up were the Ladies who held their Spring Meeting with nearly a hundred visitors and members competing in a 3 player bowmaker. The visitors did very well, first place going to Angela Hudd, Wendy Butt and Lo Dallocco from Mendip Spring whose score of 86 points was 6 better than the rest of the field. Kate Cleverley, Lesley Wills and Sam Thorpe took the best Visitors prize with 74 while Gina Falcon, Di Miller and Greta Hillier were the best mixed team.

Two weeks later there were 112 Seniors gathered for the Seniors Open, with an even split between home and visiting players and the prizes also fairly evenly spread. First place went to Steve Major of Wedmore, but only just, with his score of 39 points matched by Charles Woodard, with Steve winning out by the narrowest of margins on countback. Charles had to settle for winner of Division 2. This situation was reversed in Division One with visitors in the first three places, with first place going to Dave Mitchell from West Wilts Dave Stowell from Vivary Park scored 38 points to take the prize for Best Visitor. Tony Biggs of Wedmore took the prize for the over seventy-fives with 34 points.

The Ladies played their two qualifiers for the Barlow Dickinson National competitions. These started with the Barlow Stableford. No one reached 40 points,



Steve Major receiving his trophy following the Seniors' Open.

but Ange Tanner scored 39 to win Division 3 by 2 points. Mandy Vearncombe was the clear winner of Division 1 with 37 points. The closest finish was in Division 2 with Hazel Gough beating Claire Biggs on countback after both scored 35 points. The following week was the Dickinson Medal. Best score on the day came from Mandy Vearncombe winning Division 1 with a net 70, 2 under par. The higher handicappers found conditions more testing, apart from Ronnie Follenfant who won Division 2 on 74. Lesley Burchill was winner of Division 3 with a net 79.

Club competitions continued as ever. First up was the monthly stableford. Top score was 40 points from Andrew Bertenshaw, winning Division 3 by 2 points. Tom Smith won Division 1 in a very close finish on 37. Countback was needed in Division 2 with Tony Rymell taking first place ahead of David Sellers after both scored 39. Claire Walker was best of the Ladies on 33. Two weeks later it was the Monthly Medal, and the scores were good but not outstanding. Best scores were in Division 3 this time with both Chris Jackson and Russell Dixon scoring 69 with Chris taking first place on countback. Ross Aiken won Division 1 with a net 71. Paul Stephens was another player to record a 69, winning Division 2 by a shot. The Ladies saw Sally Stephens just beating Mandy Vearncombe on countback.

Getting used to moving for a bank holiday, the Seniors played a Stableford on the final Tuesday. Best score was in Division 1 with Richard Efford scoring 41 points to win by 5 clear points. A close finish in Division 2 saw Paul England beat Greg Cox on countback after both scored 38. Mike Smith also scored 38 to win Division 3 by a single point.

The month finished with the Triangular Match between the Seniors, Ladies and Men. The Seniors seemed thrown by not having the course to themselves on a Monday as they could only muster a total of 349 points which put them in third place with the Ladies in second place on 365 and the Men clear winners on 395. Steve Major was top scorer for the Seniors with 39 points. Ian Robson was ahead of Paul Stevenson on countback



The three Club Captains Lucas Kirk, Quintin Thorne and Gina Falcon with the trophy won by the Men's Section.

for the Men, after both scored 40 and best individual scores from the Ladies came from Ronnie Follenfant and Claire Walker, both on 41 points.

Tony Biggs

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

May was the month that the Outdoor Bowls season really got underway. Sometimes the sun even shone, but on other occasions the rain poured relentlessly, and you think ‘Why?’. Well it’s enormous fun and invariably the weather is perfectly fine. However when the Men’s team recently drove to Clevedon the rain was so torrential that there was not a bowl launched in anger and a postponement. Arriving home in Wedmore from the non-match we found there hadn’t been a drop!

Our Women’s section has had a tough start to the season. In the Weston and District league a brilliant victory over Nailsea was sadly paired with two losses against Congresbury and Yatton. In the Wessex Ladies league a loss against Clevedon was balanced by two great wins against Victoria and Congresbury. But most recently an agonising last end loss to local rivals Winscombe by 46-48. In the Victoria league there has been a win against Burnham but a loss against Bridgwater. In the County league a decisive win over Mark Moor by 74-36 was followed by losses against Victoria and West Backwell. Finally in the National Top Club competition our progress to the final was stifled by Taunton Vivary 59-78.

Our Men’s teams are faring better but still have had some sobering defeats. In the Weston and District League we have played five and won five, with wins against Victoria Vikings, Ashcombe Templars, Mark Moor, Clarence Gold and Portishead. In the Clevedon and District League we have played four and won four with wins over Nailsea, Chew Stoke, Clevedon Prom and Congresbury. In the County league the A team started the season with a great win against Bath B, but then followed up with losses against Taunton Deane, heavily, and Winscombe, narrowly. The B team however has started well with wins against Yatton B and Portishead but a loss against Clevedon Prom B. The Club Two Fours competition got off to a great start with a nice win against Ilminster but came to a swift halt with a heavy defeat against Williton and their very talented team.

We still play Friendly matches and although the excessive heat at the end of May caused a couple of these matches to be cancelled. Games were played against Long Ashton and Somerton and, as always, resulted in draws (ahem!). Our internal club competitions are now well underway with the odd shock result but mainly going to form. Finals Weekend is on 5 and 6 September with a hog roast, courtesy of the Somerset Sausage Company, immediately after; make sure you put that in your diaries. Following last month’s AGM the new Management Committee took the reins with the usual full agenda of issues to confront.

Please call Stuart on 07775 518236 or contact him at millhaven44@icloud.com to arrange a visit to one of the best indoor and outdoor bowls facilities in Somerset, right here in Wedmore! We supply all the equipment needed to start you off and four free coaching sessions from our qualified coaches. If you wish to become a part of this great community club, to maintain a good level of healthy exercise, meet like-minded people and enjoy a social or competitive game of this great sport then check out our website www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org Come and have a go!



Peter Gower



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Wedmore Tennis Club

The early May spell of lovely warm weather brought everyone out onto the courts, with members making the most of the sunshine. In fact, conditions were occasionally a little too warm, with some sessions being cancelled because of the heat!



We were delighted to hold our very first Padel Tournament, with 16 players braving a very chilly evening to take part. After a series of competitive matches, Mike Robinson and Joe Purves emerged victorious, defeating Kerry Pinkner and Paul Steckler in a nail-biting final. Congratulations to all who took part and helped make the event such a success. The padel court is now also open to non-members, bookings to be made through www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/WedmoreTennisClub Come along and have a go – it's a great introduction to racquet sports as well as being great fun for seasoned tennis players!

The Summer League is now underway and after 3 matches the current positions are: Men's A, Div 1, standing 1st; Men's B Div 5, standing 1st; Men's C Div 7, standing 2nd; Men's D, Div 8, standing 1st; Ladies A Div 2, standing 1st; Ladies B Div 2 standing 5th; Ladies C Div 4, standing 6th; Ladies D Div 6, standing 5th.

There is plenty to look forward to over the coming months. A taste of what's to come is our Winner Takes All Tournament on 20 June, which promises to be a fun day of tennis and competition. The Knockout Tournament is also underway, with the finals scheduled to be played in September. Good luck to everyone competing.

With league matches, tournaments, coaching camps, and plenty of social tennis ahead, there's lots of excitement in store for the rest of the summer. We look forward to seeing you on court!

Shirley Turner

Wedmore Football Club

The final game of the season for the first team was one of the biggest in the club's history, this took place on 14 May at Cheddar Football Club. This was a huge opportunity to win some silverware this season in the Somerset Div 2/3 Cup. The opponents were newly crowned champions Paulton Rovers, the final attracted a crowd of 328 and Wedmore rose to the occasion completing an historic 3-1 win. This was even more impressive having trailed 1-0 early on. Goals from Billy Halford, Tom Baker and James Bayliss secured the silverware on a momentous occasion.

The annual presentation evening was held on Saturday 30 May, award winners were: First Team – the Players Player was Jordan Cook and the Managers Player was also Jordan Cook; Reserves – the Players Player was Dennis Philips and the Managers

Player was Josh Turrell; A Team – the Players Player was Lee Harbour and the Managers Player was Fynn Monson.



Isle of Wedmore 1st team receiving the Somerset County Division 2/3 Cup

All games have now finished, and final league tables have been confirmed:

Somerset County Division 2 (Top 6 out of 15 teams)

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Paulton Rovers	28	21	3	4	69	66
2	St George Easton	28	19	7	2	60	64
3	Isle of Wedmore	28	18	4	6	40	58
4	Nailsea United Res	28	13	11	4	10	50
5	Fry Reserves	28	13	7	8	13	46
6	Street Reserves	26	12	8	8	22	44

Weston and District League – Division 2 (Top 6 out of 12 teams)

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Highburn Athletic	22	19	2	1	55	59
2	Portishead A	22	18	1	3	51	55
3	Weston Celtic	21	17	3	1	69	54
4	Isle of Wedmore Res	22	16	1	5	35	49
5	Locking Park	21	10	2	8	11	32
6	Banwell Reserves	22	9	0	12	-9	27

Weston and District League – Division 4 (Top 6 out of 9 teams)

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Sandbay FC	15	15	0	0	76	45
2	Swiss Valley Rangers Res	16	10	1	4	24	31
3	Isle of Wedmore A	16	9	2	5	14	29
4	Nailsea United Colts	16	9	0	7	18	27
5	Worle Colts	16	7	2	6	32	26
6	Clevedon United Colts	16	7	2	7	6	23

Up the Isle of Wedmore! 

Ben Warren

News and Events from Outside the Parish

Henton and District Garden Club

July marks the end of the Henton Garden Club year and we celebrate with our summer party. We are looking forward to an interesting short presentation from the charity Vision North Somerset, whom the club support with their plant sales. Members' guests and visitors are very welcome to join us at a charge of £5.

In addition we hope to welcome Brian King, from The Gardens Group Gold Club, who promises to talk to us on all things gardening and perhaps will also test our knowledge! Earlier in the year, members received free Bidens plants from the Group and their plants will be judged by Brian. Members, too, can compete in classes for the best display of vegetables, a vase of mixed flowers, a single rose stem and an arrangement of herbs.

We normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Henton Village Hall, from 7.00pm for refreshments and talks start at 7.30pm, except for June, July, August and December when we have our summer trip, garden party and Christmas celebration. Annual membership is £15 or £5 per meeting if you would just like to come to an occasional meeting. For more information either call Sue Thorne on 01749 674767 or visit our website at www.hentongardenclub.weebly.com.

Susie Spragg

The Warm Spot, Axbridge

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

Yvonne Brown

Cheddar Valley U3A

If you are retired and would like to join us at U3A, why not drop in to the Cheddar Parish Hall between 10.00am and 11.30am on the third Thursday of the month, you will be very welcome. You can also find out about Cheddar Valley U3A at www.cheddar-valley.u3asite.uk

Malcolm Litten, U3A



Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

At the June Branch meeting, Steve Barton gave a fascinating Presentation 'RAF National Service'. Steve outlined the history of National Service in the UK from initiation in January 1949 until the last conscripts left in 1964. All physically fit males between the ages of 17 and 21 had to serve in one of the armed forces for an 18-month period. They then remained on the reserve list for another four years. During this time they were liable to be called to serve with their units but on no more than three occasions, for 20 days maximum. In 1950 a further National Service Act lengthened the period of service to two years. During the 1950s National Servicemen took part in various military operations in Malaya, Korea, Cyprus and Kenya. Students and apprentices were allowed to defer their call-up until they completed their studies or training. Conscientious objectors had to undergo the same tribunal tests as in wartime.

Towards the end of June, Mendip Golf Club held their Battle of Britain Trophy Golf Competition for the RAFA Cup, presented in 1959 by Sqn Ldr Ron Fell DFC Chairman of the then RAFA Shepton Mallet Branch. On 27 June, around 30 members attended the 80th Anniversary Lunch in Wells Golf Club for an enjoyable meal, games and the loyal toast.

The July Branch meeting will be held on Monday 6 July at 11.00am in Wells Golf Club, with a presentation from David Willmott on 'Epic Delivery Flight of an HS 748 from Christchurch New Zealand to Southend-on-Sea UK, his Last Flight as an Airline Captain'. The last Branch event of the Spring Programme will be the Summer Barbecue in the Cider Barn at Ad Astra Cider Farm including some games and fun activities, but please note that the date has changed to Sunday 2 August.

For information about any of these events, please contact the Branch via email rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or contact the Secretary by phone on 01458 224057.

Paul Ashmore

RNLI Mendip Branch

Fundraising

As part of the RNLI Nationwide 'Mayday Events', the Branch held its Annual Plant and Garden Sale back in May. The weather was fine and sunny which guaranteed a good turnout and a strong steady footfall, so that most of the plant stock was sold by midday. Our chief grower Christa Loughrey had been putting plants onto 'Mike's Table' outside April Cottage in Axbridge for a couple of months, so these 'Pre-Sales' contributed £1,150 to the final total of £2,524 which is an excellent result.



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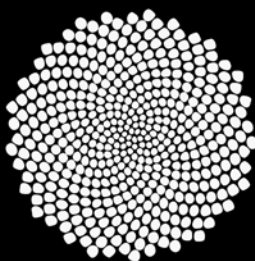
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The weekly Winscombe Thursday Market table brings in a steady income - £49.56 so far while 'Betty's Pots' continue to produce income, the latest being £50 from the Post Office at Congresbury. This brings the fundraising total for this year to £6,520.

RNLI Mendip held its Annual Review on Thursday 14 May. The Annual Review has replaced the AGM for assessing the events of the Branch for the last year. The meeting was less formal and focused on fundraising targets, future fundraising events, and succession planning for 2026. The Treasurer circulated the End of Year Summary which showed that we raised £16,881 in 2025 from 15 events.

Mendip Branch conducted a second collection on Saturday 27 June 2026 at Tesco in Wells. Once again, the team was anchored at the Store entrance wearing yellow tabards and deployed their 'Rescue Buckets' and 'Card Reader' among the Saturday Shoppers. The team smiled sweetly and engaged in conversation with anybody and everybody, talking about the RNLI in general, local lifeboat stations and our Branch role in supporting 'Saving Lives at Sea'.

A reminder that this year is the RNLI Lifeguards Silver Anniversary and a special anniversary campaign launched on Saturday 4 April. Lifeguards will return to Brean and Burnham beaches from 4 July to 7 September. 31 July is the International Lifeguards Appreciation Day, and this is likely to be the centrepiece of the RNLI Lifeguards celebration. The RNLI is also planning a Nationwide Lifeboat Day for Saturday 10 October.

The Branch is organising a RNLI Mendip Folk Night on Saturday 10 October at St. James Church Hall featuring folk group 'Harbottle and Jonas'.

The second Branch Trafalgar Night Dinner and Dance will be held on Saturday 24 October at the Batch Country House, Lymsham. The evening will begin at 6.00pm, and include a three-course dinner, dancing, with 'carriages' at midnight. Tickets will cost £55 and will be available in advance. The Guest Speaker will be Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns former Second Sea Lord and Governor of Gibraltar.

May Shouts

In May, there were 11 'Shouts' between our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 2, Minehead – 2, Portishead – 3, Weston-super-Mare – 4).

Milford Haven Coastguard control paged Burnham-on-Sea lifeboat volunteers, at 5.43pm, Thursday 14 May, after a yacht reported engine difficulties in the Bristol channel. The distressed vessel was en-route from Burnham-on-Sea to Watchet, when the engine overheated. Burnham's Atlantic 85 lifeboat, Doris Day and Brian was quickly launched so that the volunteers could do a welfare check of the casualty. Duty Launch Authority Lyndon Baker explains; 'We located the casualty without difficulty, and



our crew escorted the yacht back to the safety of the Burnham-on-Sea Sailing Club pontoons.

Portishead lifeboat station launched twice to the same incident on 21 May. The first launch was at 12.35pm. It was believed that a person was in the water near to the Clifton Suspension Bridge. A thorough search was carried out alongside Portishead Coastguard Rescue Team, the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter crew from St Athan, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, and the Ambulance Service. As the search was carried out the Coastguard Helicopter crew from St Athan conducted a low-level search demonstrating incredible skill. Sadly, even after re-launching at 8.22 pm, to continue the search, nothing was found.

Paul Ashmore

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Weddings

Congratulations to Benjamin and Jane (née Seymour) Thomas of Wells who were married in St Mary's on Saturday 23 May 2026.

Congratulations to Barney and Ellie (née Dando) Beauchamp of Wedmore who were married in St Thomas of Canterbury, Cothelstone, on Friday 15 May 2026.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Barbara Sweet who died on 5 April aged 82 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be held on Saturday 11 July, 3.00pm to 5.00pm at St Mary's. Messy Church is: a way of being 'Church for families' involving fun; 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; and about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together.



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

Revd. Richard Neill

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

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

Sunday	5	Trinity 5	10.45am 6.00pm	Café Church, Creche and Seekers Start the Week
Sunday	12	Trinity 6	8.00am No service at St Mary's 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Joint Communion with Christchurch Start the Week
Sunday	19	Mary Magdalene	10.45am 6.00pm	Patronal Communion Start the Week
Sunday	26	Trinity 8	10.45am	Morning Praise

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	5	Trinity 5	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	12	Trinity 6	9.15am	Worship Together with Allerton and Holy Cross at Allerton Church
Sunday	19	Mary Magdalene		No service – See St Mary's
Sunday	26	Trinity 8	9.15am	Sunday Breakfast

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	5	Trinity 5	11.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	12	Trinity 6	11.00am	Worship Together with St Mary's
Sunday	19	Mary Magdalene		No service at Christchurch – See St Mary's
Sunday	26	Trinity 8	11.00am	Parish Communion

Allerton Church

Sunday	5	Trinity 5	9.15am	Family Service
Sunday	12	Trinity 6	9.15am	Worship together with Blackford and Mark church
Sunday	19	Mary Magdalene		No service at Allerton – See St Mary's
Sunday	26	Trinity 8	9.15am	Morning Worship

Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	5	Trinity 5	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	12	Trinity 6	No Service at Holy Cross	Worship Together with Holy Trinity and Allerton at Allerton
Sunday	19	Mary Magdalene		No service at Holy Cross – See St Mary's
Sunday	26	Trinity 8	9.15am	Parish Communion

Bagley Baptist Church

Bagley Baptist Church welcomes you to join us. Our Sunday Service begins at 10.30am, with teaching groups for children and young people starting around 11.00am; and on the second Sunday of each month we come together for an All-In Family Service.

Our Wednesday Coffee Morning runs from 10.30am to 12.00 noon, offering free coffee, tea, homemade cakes, a lovely view, and a warm welcome. Bring a friend or come and make new ones. Our Youth Groups meet every Wednesday, during term time, at 7.30pm for ages 10 to 17. We have good parking and wheelchair access. We also offer Home Groups, monthly Prayer Meetings, and other opportunities for

fellowship. For more information, please phone us on 01934 710779, contact us by email at contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or visit www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Sam Harvey, Secretary

Crickham Baptist Chapel

Sunday services at Crickham Baptist chapel are to be held at 6.30pm during the summer months, everyone is welcome, we have a short service followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and cake. You are sure of a warm Christian welcome.

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

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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.

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Wedmore Community Bus



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

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

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

Summer Excursions

All excursions leave Wedmore Village Car Park at 9.30am, with additional pick-ups on route by arrangement.

July 6 - Frome (Festival) – Arrive around 10.30am, depart at 2.30pm, and arrive back in Wedmore around 3.30pm. Check the Frome Festival website at www.fromefestival.co.uk for further details of this event.

August 24 - Minehead via The Quantock Hills– Arrive around 10.40am, depart at 1.40pm, and arrive back in Wedmore around 3.00pm

September 14 - Hilliers Garden Centre– Arrive around 9.50am, depart at 12.00 noon, and arrive back in Wedmore around 12.20pm

Fares are £5.00 and £2.00 for concessions. Call Angeline Duckett for full details and bookings on 01934 712631, as early as possible please.

Timetable and Booking Details

All services depart Wedmore Car Park at 9.30am. 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.

*Please note changes to organiser contact details for **Bridgwater and Weston-super-Mare**.*

Monday - Bath (monthly) – This month's visit to Bath will be on Monday 13 July – Departs Bath at 2.00pm, back about 3.30pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

Monday - Cribbs Causeway (monthly) – This month's service will be on 20 July – Departs Cribbs Causeway at 2.00pm, back about 3.30pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

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

Wednesday - Bridgwater – Departs Bridgwater 1.00pm, back around 2.00pm. Call Jo Blythe on 01934 713001 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Thursday - Weston-super-Mare – Departs Weston 1.45pm, back around 2.45pm. Call Helen Flocks on 01934 611006 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

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

Saturday - Wells (monthly) – This month's service will be on 11 July – Departs Wells Bus Station 12.15pm and Wells Market Place 12.20pm, back around 1.00pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

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

Private Hire

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

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

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

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

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