

A photograph of a church building on a hill, partially obscured by bare trees and a field in the foreground. The church has a prominent steeple and is surrounded by greenery. The foreground is filled with bare, brown branches and a field of dry grass.

# ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

**January 2017**  
No. 445

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# Editorial

It seems a little strange sitting here in early December about to write and wish everyone a Happy New Year, however such is the case when working with long deadlines. So I can only hope everyone had a splendid Christmas and are now looking forward to the New Year with at least optimism and purpose.

I must start by thanking and paying tribute to my predecessor Sue James who has edited this publication with panache and style for some considerable time. I will continually aspire to uphold the standards Sue set, I can only wish I had her knowledge of Wedmore politics and hope that I will quickly acquire such.

I am commencing the post with a 3 months trial period after which time I expect to be found guilty and sentenced accordingly. I have a few ideas about new features that I would like to gradually introduce in the next issues, but if anyone has something they would like to see included, then please get in touch.

January is my least favourite month of the year as everything seems so dark and dismal after the warm glow of the Christmas Lights, however we have a number of exciting special events taking place here in Wedmore which should raise spirits and these are detailed in the following pages. At least the days are getting longer now.

Can I make a further appeal for another person to come forward as a 3rd Editor, or indeed someone to act as a proof reader would suffice in the short term. At present these duties are shared between Liz Sweeney and myself, so if you are able to assist

## Deadline for February Edition: 1 January 2017

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*The Isle of Wedmore News welcomes all contributions and letters. It should be noted however that the views expressed are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, or represent any particular standpoint on the part of the publication.*

*Wedmore News is digital! Each edition (without adverts) will be published on The Isle of Wedmore Website, [www.theisleofwedmore.net](http://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.*

*The editors also reserve the right to edit or amend any contribution for reasons of space, conformity, legibility or legality.*

please make contact, the work is not onerous and the subject matter is fascinating - editorwedmorenews@gmail.com.

Please note that an updated list of contact names for Wedmore Clubs and Societies will be published in the February Edition.

Finally may I politely remind anyone wishing to submit an application to the Committee of the Wedmore News for a grant towards any support groups, clubs or charities within the Civil Parish of Wedmore, that the deadline for this is Thursday 2 February.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this edition.

*Bill Sutton*

## **Front Cover**

The Front Cover Photograph is a view towards the village as it settles into its Winter outlook taken from just outside Wedmore car park by Liz Sweeney.

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# **News**

## **Parish Council Business**

The monthly meeting in November had a full attendance of Councillors and one of the items of business was to co-opt an additional member following the resignation some months ago of Peter Bird.

Three applications had been received and after careful consideration, Laura Sampson was duly elected by the Councillors. I am sure that Laura will need no introduction to many of you. She currently works at the George Hotel and I am sure she will make a valuable contribution to the work of the Parish Council.

Sedgemoor District Council has agreed to fund two street name-plates following an enquiry from a resident at Theale and Council members agreed to spend up to £2.5k on hedge cutting and ground works at the allotments in the New Year.

Many Councillors and their partners were in attendance at the Annual Service of Remembrance at St Mary's in October and Chairman Nick Avery laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish. He also attended a Carol Service held at St Mary's on behalf of St Margaret's Hospice.

## **Henry Butt Trophy**

It is that time of year when we ask residents to make recommendations for a worthy winner of the Henry Butt Trophy. The Trophy is presented each year at the Annual Parish Assembly and is awarded to individuals or a group of individuals who have given outstanding service to the local community. Last year's winners were Bernard and Elizabeth Coulter for the work they carry out in running community events in the Theale and Bagley area. If you have a suggestion for this year's winner please write to the Parish Clerk.



*Rod Pring*

*Wedmore Parish Council, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4EA  
Telephone 713087, Email wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

## Donations to Local Charitable Causes



Once again the Committee of the Wedmore News will be considering applications for donations to support groups, clubs and charities in the Civil Parish of Wedmore. If your organisation would benefit from an additional one-off small cash grant then we would like to hear from you. Please let us know:

1. The name of your club / group / organisation / charity;
2. The aims of the organisation;
3. What you would use the money for;
4. Please supply a contact name, email address and telephone number.

Please submit your application by Thursday 2 February 2017. Applications will be considered at the next Wedmore News Committee Meeting which will be held on Thursday 16 February. For further information or to submit an application please contact Sue James; [susan.james@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.james@btinternet.com)

*Sue James*

## Winners of the Turnip Prize 2016

“Pole Dark”



At a ceremony held at The New Inn, Wedmore, Somerset, this year's Turnip Prize has been awarded to Plumskey for his work entitled “Pole Dark” (A Black Pole).

The award was made in front of a packed art loving audience, TV cameramen and photographers cheered when the 69 year old winner emerged topless from the sea, shook his salty locks and strode across the gallery floor to accept the prize, a turnip mounted on a six-inch nail.

Organiser Trevor Prideaux said, “I am delighted with the lack of effort taken to create this work”.

Mr Plumskey, an IT contractor from Wedmore, Somerset said, “My inspiration came from big jugs of fine red wine and the odd pasty”.



Trevor said, “This year’s event attracted a total of 99 entries, It’s fantastic that Plumskey has won, he clearly has what it takes to be recognised in modern art circles and will be remembered in art history for no time at all!” “It’s a hole in the commode to the ageist Turner Prize and I believe that over the last sixteen years the artists entering ‘The Turnip Prize’ have created by far better works than Alex Farquharson and The Tate Britain Gallery could ever wish to exhibit”.

For more information please visit our facebook group ‘The Turnip Prize’ or twitter ‘turnippriizebook’ or [www.newinnwedmore.co.uk](http://www.newinnwedmore.co.uk)

**Contacts:**

<b>Plumskey</b>	WINNER 2016	07723 307149
<b>Trevor Prideaux</b>	Organiser / Judge	01934 710004/ 07812 848011
<b>John-Paul Coetzee</b>	Winner 2015 / Judge	07775 510150
<b>Royston Weeksz OBE</b>	Art Critic / Co Author / Judge	07890 236192
<b>Hannah Knowles</b>	Commissioning Editor / Judge	07814 000087
<b>Debbie Noon</b>	Landlady	01934 712099

The Turnip Prize – A Retrospective – We know its crap...but is it art? In all good book shop now!!

*Trevor Prideaux  
The Turnip Prize Founder*

**Wedmore Neighbourhood Plan**

The Questionnaire is coming! Hugh Hope-Stone has joined the Group to help design the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire. Hugh has his own market research company and brings invaluable experience. The Questionnaire will be circulated to all households in the Parish in early 2017 and will help inform us about your views on what sort of place Wedmore should be in 2033.

More information will be in the February IOW News ....!



*Bob Sellwood*

## **Wedmore News – requires a third editor for the editorial team**

As mentioned in the Editorial, with Sue's departure we are now down to a production team of 2, so Wedmore News really needs a third person to help out with editorial duties. This will involve covering the work of other editors if necessary and undertaking proof reading on a monthly basis.

This role is not onerous but will require a few hours of your time per month.

For more information please contact me at [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com), or by telephone 07572865763.

*Bill Sutton*

## **New Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group**

As initially mentioned in last month's edition, a new stitching group welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. We are a happy, friendly group of like-minded folk who enjoy all forms of stitching, knitting, crochet and natter. Don't be shy, come and join us. Contact Lesley, telephone 710134, or Julia, telephone 713021 or email [julia@sparkyknitters.co.uk](mailto:julia@sparkyknitters.co.uk) for more information. There will be workshops if desired.

Bring along a current project, start a new one or ask us to show you how, at the Scout Hut, Combe Lane, Wedmore on Monday morning from 9.30am -12.00 noon (currently term time only).

The cost is £3 per week.



*Julia Jones*

## **Blackford Village Hall Needs a Treasurer**

Blackford Village Hall, which many of you will know had a major refurbishment completed 3 years ago, is now an excellent facility, extremely popular and well-used, and is providing a tremendous resource for the village, and beyond. The Hall is run, as are most Village Halls, by a small committee who meet approximately every 3 months for a couple of hours, to ensure that things are running as they should, and to take any decisions necessary for the Hall's future. This is not an onerous task and, thankfully, due to regular bookings and careful management, the Hall's finances are healthy and there is funding to carry out all the day-to-day tasks required.

The current committee is small in number and most of those on it have served for many years. There is always a need for new members and, in particular, the current Treasurer stood down at the AGM last month. Whilst temporary cover is being provided in this role, the Hall committee needs a Treasurer to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission, as well, of course for the Hall to run in practical day-to-day terms. It is therefore essential that the post is filled. It is not a particularly challenging role, doesn't need any professional financial skills, and requires no more than a couple of hours a month. The last Treasurer will be able to provide a handover.

If you feel that you can spare the time to help out on the committee and particularly in the Treasurer's role, in order to ensure that this wonderful village resource can

continue, please contact either the Chair, Steve Bloomer, telephone 440015, email [steve.bloomer@springboardit.co.uk](mailto:steve.bloomer@springboardit.co.uk) or Vice Chair, Nigel Morton, telephone 712213, email [npbmorton@gmail.com](mailto:npbmorton@gmail.com) for further information. Please consider doing so and, particularly if you have used the Hall and benefitted from what it provides, join others in giving some of your time to ensure that the Hall can continue to run for the benefit of the village.

*Nigel Morton*

## **Limelight Night Open Mic At The George Wedmore – First Friday each month**

Starting at 8.00pm, entry is free.

For the last 9 months local band Compendium have been running the above open mic event at the ever popular George and a lot of local talent has been appearing.

Regular Acts have included:

Tom Wilcox a talented local singer/guitarist playing popular covers.

Ellie Rialas from Mark - a very talented singer songwriter and competent guitarist

Rob Tipping and Dave Farley a harmony duo with a wide repertoire sometimes joined by Andy Mulliner on lead guitar sometimes backed by the band too.

Paul Dockerty a gifted song writer and performer of folk music – his self penned material and interesting guitar technique have impressed audiences and musicians alike.

Winston Chubb the ever popular songsmith from Cheddar – never fails to entertain with his humorous local story book of folk tales set to song.

Rod Coombs a recent import from Manchester playing and singing classic rock hits backed by the band.

Marie Cook and Stewart Knight playing their own blend of tasteful blues.

There have been several others from further afield.

Why not come along and join in the fun of music making and get in “The Limelight”. If you have sheet music – our keyboardist Frances will happily provide accompaniment for you – no rehearsals just do it!!!

*Michael Gillett*

## **Kindred – A Correction**

Last months article on the Wedmore based band Kindred contained an incorrect contact telephone number for bookings, which should have read 01934 710683, the band can also be booked via the following website [www.kindredliveband.com](http://www.kindredliveband.com).

Kindred had a successful gig at a packed George on Fri 17 Dec and now looks forward to playing at the Old Pier Tavern in Burnham on Sat 7 Jan and at the Crown Inn, Axbridge on Sat 25 Feb.

*Scotty*

## **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

Somerset Wildlife Trust is excited to announce the release of its latest Knit for Nature™ pattern, Boris the Barn Owl, part of a campaign to raise awareness of the decline of



much-loved Somerset species and get communities inspired to pick up their knitting needles to raise much needed funds for wildlife conservation in the county. Boris follows on from the success of Rustle and Blue Bell Hedgehog patterns.

You can not only raise money by buying the pattern, but why not also raise funds through hosting a tea party or coffee morning to knit with friends and sell cakes or other crafts at the same time. Every penny raised makes a real difference.

Barn Owl numbers have declined by 70% in the UK since the 1930's due to the changes in land use and loss of available nest sites and reduction of the rough grassland areas that support their small mammal prey. We have also lost around 30% of our hedgehog population since 2002 due to the disappearance of our hedgerows and permanent pasture, increase in roads and traffic and the use of pesticides amongst other things.

Don't forget to share photos of your creations on social media. Maybe your knitted Boris in some crazy colours, or perhaps you took Bluebell with you to a wild or exotic location? We want to know.

Share your photos and stories with us using #knitfornature on Twitter (@SomersetWT), Facebook, (@somersetwildlifetrust) Pinterest or email them to wildlifeneeds@somerssetwildlife.org and we will feature them on our website.

If you'd like to send some barn owls or hedgehogs back to us, the address is Somerset Wildlife Trust, 34 Wellington Road, Taunton, TA1 5AW

'Knit for Nature' is a registered trademark of Somerset Wildlife Trust



*Lisa Whaley  
Somerset Wildlife Trust*

## **Nick Hankinson**

Nick died on 15 November in St Michael's Hospice, Hereford after a long illness, faced bravely and cheerfully. Many in Wedmore will remember Nick, Moira and their daughter Eleanor who lived here for more than 20 years, first at Apple Dumpling Cottage, then Brickyard Farm and lastly Laurel Farm before moving to Moira's home area near the Malverns. Nick started The Eye Gallery in Bristol in the 1980s and was responsible for the academicians' 'Art Aid' print raising funds for Africa at the time of Band Aid. Subsequently Moira and Nick ran Somerset Creative Products locally. They continued to visit the village until Nick's illness made this more difficult and leave many friends here.

*Alison Crooks*

## **Poppy Appeal 2016**

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the Poppy Appeal in Wedmore and Blackford. This year we raised £1982.62.

*Sue James*

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# Letters

Dear Sir

As a collector of old horse brasses I have a particular interest in local saddlers.

The 1841 Census for Wedmore lists Charles Ridge as Saddler. One of his sons, William, and his descendants continued as saddlers in Wedmore until the nineteen thirties. Another son, Frederick, started a business as saddler in Cheddar. After his death in 1923, the business was continued by his wife, also finally closing in the nineteen thirties.

I have some examples from other saddlers in the area of the use of brass nosebands, studs and tug loops to mark their work. However I have been unable to find out if anything was used by the saddlers in Wedmore and Cheddar.

If your readers can provide any information about the local saddlers, it would be greatly appreciated.



*Terry Wilkinson,  
Stoneybridge View, Guildhall Lane, Wedmore, Somerset BS28 4AL  
Tel: 01934 713654 email: twilkinson41@btinternet.com*

## Wedmore News Would Like to Hear from You

Are you involved in running a local organisation in the Isle of Wedmore? Would you like to share some of the things that you do and raise awareness of your organisation by sharing your 'Day in the Life'? Please contact the editor Bill Sutton email [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com), and share your day.

*Bill Sutton*

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# A day in the life of

## Councillor Polly Costello

Being an elected Ward Councillor for Wedmore and Mark is by far much easier than somewhere like Bridgwater, we seem lucky not to suffer from anti-social behavior or drug problems and the crime rates are low, so in that respect my job here locally is fairly straight forward.

I sit on three committees at SDC, Community Scrutiny, Licensing and Grants. I am also on the Axe/Brue Drainage Board committee, am a custodian of Ashcott Windmill and am a member of Wedmore Parish Council, where I am on the Planning and Amenities Footpaths and Allotments committees. I am also the PPLO (Parish Path Liaison Officer).

Most of the SDC committees meet every eight weeks or so and we also have to attend Full Council Meeting in Bridgwater, which must be attended by all elected ward members from the four main political parties and at these we discuss such issues as Hinkley PointC, Devolution, large developments within Sedgemoor, amongst many other things. These Full Council Meetings are open to the public and press to attend.

Each committee meeting can take from 45 minutes to 3 or more hours, depending on how meaty the topics for discussion.

On a typical day I get my family up, make their packed lunches, send one to the office, the other two to school! An hour long dog walk checking as many local footpaths in a week as I can, always with some secateurs in my pocket! Back home...check the emails on my SDC laptop, read an agenda and get myself clued -up on which ever committee meetings I am attending that week. Whizz the vacuum round the house, flick a duster about, bake a cake, hang out the washing, get in the car, drive to Bridgwater, attend meeting, drive back home, collect children from after school club, cook them tea, take them to which ever clubs they are doing and then quite possibly then going on to a Windmill meeting or a Cluster Group meeting or Parish Council meeting.....

One of the things I most enjoy about this role is it is completely different from anything I have done in the past, I meet a real range of people, am learning so much about the District of Sedgemoor and also learning from some very distinguished Councillors....it can be dull and fascinating all at the same time.

The main issues that I am faced with on an almost daily basis are Planning and Highways/speeding/bad parking and footpath problems....and also getting grilled on politics! It is truly frustrating trying to resolve issues as usually I get fobbed off by various authorities and no one accepts liability for a thing, being a DC does not give you carte blanche, but with enough badgering you sometimes find a way.

My first year as a Councillor was very much about Listening and Learning, the last thing you want to do as the “new girl” is to make a complete wombat of yourself in front of all the other Councillors, and having to keep my lips zipped has been really frustrating at times, as many of you who know me will understand!

The only thing I would change is that: Sometimes I really feel meetings could progress so much better if certain members didn't spend their time repeating what everyone else was saying...my new motto is to speak when you have something relevant to say...otherwise keep quiet, hard to believe I know!

So to sum up my day it really has to be BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!

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## **Focus on Businesses: Ratcliffe Bros –**

### **Where Cars and Birds Interact**

If you happened to see ‘The One Show’ on BBC 1 featuring the Ratcliffe Bros garage in early September, or you are one of their customers, then you will probably know why there are umbrellas hanging from the ceiling of the workshop; but do you know the origin of the company's unusual logo?

Andrew Ratcliffe talked to me about the history of the business that he runs with his brother Duncan and also explained a bit more about the flock of annual visitors, who he describes as ‘our most loyal customers’ as they have been coming back for over 30 years.

At the beginning of the 1960s Donald Ratcliffe – Andrew and Duncan’s father – was working in Clark’s shoe factory in Street. In 1961 he decided to run his own business and bought the Wells Road Garage in Latcham, which consisted of a small workshop and a filling station. He changed its name to Dunnick’s Mead Motors, as it is located in an area called Dunnick’s Mead. He decided to create a distinctive logo, choosing a monk with a steering wheel because, according to historical accounts, monks used to make their pilgrimage to Glastonbury by walking along the hills above the flooded Somerset Levels and stopping to refresh themselves at Dunnick’s well.

In the 1960s and 70s Donald expanded the business, taking out loans to build a showroom. He first took on an Austin dealership, then Nissan, then Toyota, finally switching to a main dealership for Audi and VW. Andrew Ratcliffe



joined his father’s business in 1970 as an apprentice straight from school and Duncan joined in 1979 to take over the spare parts department. The current workshop was built in 1975 to accommodate the VW servicing business. In 1988 the business was split, separating the maintenance and repairs from the car sales. Andrew and Duncan ran the workshop, trading as Ratcliffe Bros, while their father continued to sell cars from the showroom until he retired in 1992 (although by that time he had already given up the VW dealership). Andrew and Duncan took over the whole business, adding the car sales to the maintenance and MOT testing. About two years later a fire destroyed the showroom but, as they no longer had the dealership, they decided not to rebuild it.

The two brothers both continue to work in the business employing three staff. Andrew told me that it was about 30 years ago – so about ten years after the workshop had been built – that the first swallows flew in. They arrive at the same time each year in the spring, having travelled 6,000 miles from Africa, and start to build their nests. They hatch their young and then fly off again in the autumn. Andrew said that their arrival and departure times are easy to remember as Duncan’s birthday happens to be in early April and his own is in late September. Of course, birds tend to make a mess, so the umbrellas, some of which have been donated by customers, are hanging from the ceiling to protect the cars, people and the floor from the bird droppings.

*Liz Sweeney*

## Do You Run a Business in the Parish?

Then how about telling our readers more about yourself? Who are you? What is your business? Are you from the Wedmore area? If not, where did you come from? What motivated you to start, take over or carry on the business? If you would like to share your story, send an email to [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com) or [photoswedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:photoswedmorenews@gmail.com) and I will contact you for a short interview.

*Liz Sweeney*

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# Reports and Society Updates

## St Mary's Church 100 Club

The final draw for December gave us No. 35, Debbie Noon, winning 1st prize of £20.00, and No.21, Sue Burton, winning £10.00. Congratulations to them both.

A License to continue running a fresh 100 Club for 2017 has been received, and it would be very encouraging if the present subscribers renew membership for the Monthly Draw which takes place for the 1st of each month, starting with January 2017. The cost for the year, just £12 per number held. This year £840 was raised for St. Mary's Church, which sum is used to help towards the ever increasing costs of maintaining the fabric of the village Church. To take part, please contact either Thelma Jenkins-Jones, No. 7 Elmsett Hall, Glanville Road, Tel: 01934 710467, or Barbara Moody, 6 Hervey Close, Tel: 01934 712975.

*Thelma Jenkins-Jones*

## Wedmore WI Report for December 2016

Diana welcomed everyone, and wished "Happy Birthday" to Hazel, Andrea, Pat J and Aileen. The party meeting last month had been a great success, with an excellent Ploughman`s Supper, and the AGM in Taunton had also proved enjoyable for those who attended. The speaker who talked about "Ageing disgracefully" was particularly good.

Our own speaker for the evening was also very enjoyable. Philippa Threlfall is an artist and has been making murals for over 50 years. Her career started at art college as an illustrator, but she became interested in textures and ceramics; her design for a pub sign in Sheffield, The Hermit, was selected and created by painting on tiles. There followed a variety of commissions, using tiles and natural materials such as stones, slate and different coloured clay to produce enormous designs for outside and inside of buildings new and old. Philippa had photographs from the 1960`s showing how her works were hung onto a wall – it involved much scaffolding, hefty men, pulleys and ropes, and very little in the way of safety equipment such as helmets. The murals at that time were set into concrete, so were very heavy. One such mural was designed to show "Life in the West Riding" and was a representation of a shepherd and his dog, miners and a mining village and the landscape. The drawings of the original design looked very like the finished work. Her aim is always to demonstrate how people fit into the place where they are living and working. One of her murals for a new school



saw the school children collecting pebbles and stones to make the ground surface. Years later, when the school was being closed, one of the local councillors who had collected pebbles as a pupil, was instrumental in getting the mural moved to a local park.

In recent times, with the advent of new adhesives and materials, the weight of the murals has decreased, making it much easier to handle them.

We were fascinated to see some local ones – Tesco in Wells has a mural which was originally inside, and has moved twice outside, and there is another in Street. Like many of Philippa`s creations, the sky is made from pieces of slate. In Bristol, there are ceramic roundels on Broad Quay House, a whole row of different designs including a token coin depicting a mermaid, a black boy with tobacco, a jet engine from Concord, W.G. Grace and other Bristol symbols. Each roundel is set in a square with the Colston crest and dolphins. Other Bristol murals include a map taken from the 17th century Miller map, with the River Frome before it was culverted, and on Redcliffe Quay a mural to celebrate the Matthew going off to unknown territory. This was drawn from an illustration in the Wells Cathedral chained library. After a vote of thanks by Christine, there were plenty of questions. Philippa`s obvious enthusiasm for her work will set us off on a mural hunt whenever we are out and about. The competition for a piece of pottery was won jointly by Lois and Diana.

The January meeting is on Thursday 19th, and will be a Scottish Evening. The competition is a Scottish Souvenir.

*Chris Barker*

*2 Dunns Close Wedmore BS28 4BL 01934 712182 [chris@cjbarker.plus.com](mailto:chris@cjbarker.plus.com)*

## **Chair Yoga**

Jo Willis, a fully qualified yoga teacher and chair yoga therapist, is starting a class in Wedmore. This is a fun class, ideal for over 50`s, to stretch, flex and relax. It will strengthen muscles, improve balance, stamina and flexibility. All the exercises can be practiced whilst sitting in a chair, if preferred some can be done standing. No previous experience is needed. The classes are on Tuesday mornings, from 10.00- 11.00am in the Function Room at The Swan Inn. The cost is £5.00 per class, pay as you go. Jo has existing classes in Axbridge, Draycott and Wells, and teaches for Somerset County Council and Age UK. Come and give it a try!



For more information, contact Jo Willis, telephone 0755 271 1101

*Chris Barker*

## **Isle of Wedmore Society Report for November**

We gathered for our last meeting of the year with a talk by Michael Blandford on ‘The Water of Wells’

Michael, who gave our Society another talk a few years ago, is a volunteer guide for The Cathedral and is involved with The Bishops Palace and therefore has excellent knowledge to give this talk.

Without the waters of Wells the Cathedral and St Cuthbert’s Church would not have existed.

The water originates from swallett holes on the Mendips around Wells and travels 50 feet below ground, rich in nitrates into various parts of The Palace producing anything from 4 to 10 million gallons a day. Sluce gates are operated to control the flow and avoid flooding particularly during times of heavy rain which we had earlier in the week of this talk.

The St Andrews well is the reason why the Cathedral is sited in its present position. Wells was surround by bogs and these were raised to assist getting the water to flow into the City.

The Well House, situated in the grounds of The Bishops Palace, diverts the water into 3 different channels including the water which runs down the north and south sides of the high Street.

The talk, combined with excellent photographs, was well received, and we finished the evening with free wine and mince pies. We have already booked a number of excellent and varied Speakers which will be announced soon.

*Chris Edwards.  
Speaker Secretary*

## **Wedmore in Bloom AGM and Supper – Friday 13 January**

At 7pm in the Masonic Hall. WIB helpers and guests welcome.

Contact Andrea West on 712161 if you'd like to come.

Please Note: There will be no Work Party on Saturday 14 January. We'll probably do a churchyard tidy up at the February work party, details will be supplied later.



*Andrea West*

## **Charity Quiz Night in aid of the Samaritans**

On Friday 4th November, the quiz night held in support of the Weston-super-Mare and N.Somerset Branch of the Samaritans at Wedmore Village Hall raised the amazing sum of just over £2,500.

The evening was started by Andy, a local Samaritan who gave a short talk on the history, aims and objectives of the Samaritan movement and, in particular, the work of the Weston-super-Mare branch, stressing that it is completely self-supporting relying entirely for its existence on fund raising and donations and also that no member of the branch received any remuneration.

The hall was packed to capacity with 33 teams of 4 all eagerly attempting to combine their entire fund of wisdom and general knowledge in the hope of winning the champagne first prize. During the interval a splendid hot meal was served and the licensed bar did a roaring trade.

The organisers would like to thank all those who participated in the evening for their generosity in supporting this event and, in addition, the army of helpers, a number of them Samaritans themselves, who gave so much of their time.

*Holly and David Cole*

## Cheddar Male Choir



[www.cheddarmvchoir.co.uk](http://www.cheddarmvchoir.co.uk)

It's that time of year when there is an opportunity for all those male singers who have hidden talent but are unsure on how they can release their vocal energies to appreciative audiences.



Cheddar Male Choir are recruiting for the coming year 2017 and we invite all those budding singers to join us. Now is the right time of year as we will be learning new songs to add to our vast repertoire. We meet at the Draycott Village hall on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, so do come along where you will be made most welcome. Take a look at our website and get a flavour of what we are about. Go on give it a go.

The Choir was founded in January 1985, and has some 40 members. Performances have been given in the Royal Albert Hall, Wells and Bristol Cathedral, the Colston Hall, Assembly Rooms Bath and the Cardiff Millenium Centre and has toured Jamaica, Norway and Tuscany.

We Aim to Entertain is our *raison d'être*.

*Tony Brown. Chairman CMC  
Tel: 710076*

## Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club

Jean Tincknell will give a talk and demonstration on flower arrangements and colour coordination in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday 24 January, all are welcome.

*Andrea West*

## Wedmore Harvest Home 100 Club Lottery 2017

We are going to be running our successful 100 Club Lottery again next year. This is a great opportunity to help raise funds for Wedmore Harvest Home and win money at the same time! £30.00 per ticket (£2.50 per month) 1st Prize - £100.00 2nd Prize - £50.00

To enter please contact Kerry Willcox, telephone 07881740576. Your number will go into every draw, so you could win 24 times! Monthly draws will take place at the Wedmore HH committee meetings. First draw will take place at our AGM in January 2017. You are able to choose your OWN numbers, so be quick to not miss out on your lucky number!

*Beth Skeen*

## IT for the Terrified



I.T. for the Terrified – for all your computer training needs. A skill-sharing, informal, community project. Run by a Committee – Staffed by Volunteers.

I.T. for the Terrified is now using Cheddar Village Hall for our computer training sessions, with an ethos of friendly, informal, relaxed and individual help to use your computer,



tablet or smartphone. If you need the use of one of our machines, please let us know as this can be arranged.

Anyone of any age or ability can learn how to order prescriptions or library books, do your shopping, share photos, email or chat to friends and family online, etc.

Our opening hours will be flexible, because we have different trainers with different skills on different levels on different days, and need to work round when the hall is available, but we will arrange an appointment to suit both parties as quickly as we can.

### **Appointments are essential**

**SPECIAL OFFER** for JANUARY and FEBRUARY – sessions are £10 per two hour session.

Contact us at I.T. for the Terrified: 01934 741751

[www.itfortheterrified.co.uk](http://www.itfortheterrified.co.uk) / [itfortheterrified@btconnect.com](mailto:itfortheterrified@btconnect.com)

Using Cheddar Village Hall, Church Street, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3RF

Cheddar Village Hall (used to be Cheddar Church House) is next to St. Andrew's church and almost opposite the road to Sainsbury's (used to be Budgen's).

If you can spare two hours a week and have skills on any level (especially basics) that you would like to share with others, please get in touch.

### **Cheddar Valley University of the Third Age (U3A)**

On Thursday 5 January, we start the new year with a talk entitled 'The Odd Couple' by David Kingsbury and Dean Harris about their life as film and TV extras.



They have been in shows including Casualty: Midsomer Murders: Jam and Jerusalem: Merlin: The Duchess: Poldark: Pride and Prejudice: Broadchurch and many more.

2-00 pm for 2-30 pm Cheddar Village Hall. For information call 01934 744241.

On Thursday 19 January we have our Coffee Morning, Cheddar Village Hall 10.30 am to 12 noon. Details 01934 744241 or search online for Cheddar U3A.

*Geoff Farnie*

### **Cheddar Lions**

Cheddar Vale Lions Club wish all in the Cheddar Valley a Happy, Healthy New Year. Thanks to all your support with the Christmas Raffle we are over half way towards another defibrillator for our Centennial Project. Thank you all so much for your generosity.



Please support when you see us out and about and if you know of a cause or a project you think the Lions can help with, then contact us, either through the website [www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk](http://www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk) or by phoning the President, Janet Clark, on 01934 248114. We are always looking for new members so if you are interested and want to give something back to the community then contact us as above."

*Janet Clark  
(Lion President and P.R.)*

## Walk Programme – West Mendip Walkers



**ramblers**  
at the heart of walking

Programme as follows:

### Thursday 5th January

Moderate circular walk 8.25mi/13.2km from Stogursey Church. OS Map Ex140 ST205429. Start 10.00a.m. Park near church. Contact Tony Strange Tel: 01934733783/07976902706 or [anthonyestrangle@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyestrangle@gmail.com)

### Thursday 12th January

Easy circular walk 7.5mi/12.0km from Westwood Church, Bradford on Avon. OS Map Ex156 ST807592. Start 10.30a.m. Park near church. Contact Margaret Donkin Tel: 01373462203/07980515777 or [margdonkin@aol.com](mailto:margdonkin@aol.com)

### Thursday 19th January

West Mendip Walkers - moderate circular walk 6.5mi/10.4km from West Bagborough church. OS Map Ex140 ST168336. Start 12.30p.m. Park near church. Contact Vi Howley Tel: 07711 662993 or [vihowley@btinternet.com](mailto:vihowley@btinternet.com)

### Thursday 26th January

West Mendip Walkers - easy circular walk 7.0mi/11.2km from Smallways Lane, Chilton Polden. OS Map Ex140 ST377398. Start 12.30p.m. Park near playing fields. Contact Ken Masters Tel: 01749 670349/07784 941439 or [k.masters265@gmail.com](mailto:k.masters265@gmail.com)

*Tony Strange*

## Somerset Wildlife Trust

### Putting a Flutter into the Future of Blackdown Hills Butterflies

Somerset Wildlife Trust are delighted to announce that, together with the Blackdown Hills Trust, it has received funding of over £20,000 from Viridor Credits, through the Landfill Communities Fund, to support its work in the Blackdown Hills to reverse the decline of four key butterfly species.

The two organisation's activities, which form part of a larger project effort in the area – the Blackdown Hills Priority Butterflies Project – will, thanks to the new funding, ensure that the very specific habitats the butterflies enjoy for feeding and breeding can be restored and enriched, and then joined up to enable populations to grow and expand through the ability to move more freely between sites. The work has also been given additional financial support from the Blackdown Hills AONB.

The habitat preferred by the Marsh Fritillary, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Brown Hairstreak and Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawk-Moth needs to be carefully managed, as their survival depends on having particular plants and flowers to lay their eggs and to feed. This is why, using the funds awarded, efforts will be focused on protecting and restoring wetland, grassland and open woodland on the Blackdown Hills, which will promote the growth of the plants the butterflies depend on and make the landscape easier for the butterflies to move through.

Somerset Wildlife Trust will be carrying out habitat management at their reserves: Bishopswood Meadows, Jan Hobbs and Yarty Moor. The work will include scrub clearance and coppicing to restore species rich grassland and will also lay hedges to create a varied hedge structure.



**SOMERSET**

The Blackdown Hills Trust, which leases over 200 hectares of open land within the Forestry Commission's Neroche forest estate, is carrying out mulching of old conifer stumps to improve habitats for rare butterflies. This work continues a long-term habitat restoration project begun 10 years ago with the removal of the conifer plantations, and continued ever since through grazing using English Longhorn cattle.

Both Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Blackdown Hills Trust have extensive experience in connecting core patches of habitat together to create a sustainable environment for species. Somerset Wildlife Trust is a member of the partnership that has re-established large blue butterflies in the Polden Hills. Their Green Down Reserve has one of the largest populations of Large Blues in Europe.

David Leach, Grants and Trust Manager for Somerset Wildlife Trust comments, "76% of the UK's butterfly species have declined over the past four decades. We need to carry out urgent work in strongholds like our Blackdown Hills nature reserves to make sure they can play their part in conserving butterfly populations nationally. The grants we've received will enable us to lay a considerable foundation upon which we can build over the next few years so we can secure the longer term future for these vulnerable species."

Gavin Saunders, who coordinates management work for the Blackdown Hills Trust, said "Thanks to support from Viridor Credits we can continue work which relies on long-term commitment from funders, local community groups and national agencies alike."

*Lisa Whaley*

## Weather Report for November 2016

RAINFALL			
	Monthly Total	125.4mm	(4.94ins)
	30 year average	82.2mm	(3.24ins)
	Wettest day (21st)	29.0 mm	(1.14ins)
	No of dry days	16	
	Last 3 months (Sep-Nov)	228mm	(8.96ins)
	Year ending 30 Nov 2016	742mm	(29.2ins)
	30 year annual average	797mm	(31.4ins)

## TEMPERATURES

	Maximum (12, 16th)	13.0 °C	(55.4 °F)
	Minimum (30th)	-7 °C	(19.4 °F)
	Number of air frosts	9	
	Monthly average maximum	9.1 °C	(48.4 °F)
	30 year average maximum	10.9 °C	(51.6 °F)
	Monthly average minimum	2.2 °C	(36.0 °F)
	30-year average minimum	4.6 °C	(40.3 °F)

## COMMENTS

Rainfall 53% above long term average. Cooler than usual, particularly overnight

*Denley Brown*

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# Forthcoming Events

## 'Limelight Night' Open Mic – Friday 6 January

At The George, Wedmore Starting at 8.00pm, entry free.

Why not come along and join in the fun of music making and get in 'The Limelight'. If you have sheet music – our keyboardist Frances will happily provide accompaniment for you – no rehearsals just do it!

## Blackford Village Hall Café – Wednesday 11 January

In the Blackford Village Hall: 2 – 4pm.



## Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 13 and Friday 27 January

Open Mic sessions at The Panborough Inn, starting at 8.00pm, entrance £1. For more information please telephone 712144.

## Wedmore in Bloom AGM and Supper – Friday 13 January

7pm at the Masonic Hall.

Please note that will be no Work Party on Saturday January 14.

## Theale Film Club Quiz Night Saturday 14 January

At 8pm in Theale Village Hall.

Test your knowledge of film and powers of observation with film and music extracts on the screen. Not too serious .... a bit of fun!

Teams of six with tickets £7.50 per person to include a light supper. There will also be a raffle. For more information and to book your team .... in advance please ..... 712144 [bernard.coulter@gmail.com](mailto:bernard.coulter@gmail.com)

## Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 18 January

The meeting of the Parish Council will be held on at 7.30pm at the Council Rooms Grant's Lane. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

## Wedmore WI Meeting – Thursday 19 January

The January WI meeting is on Thursday 19th in the Masonic Hall, at 7.30pm. We are having a Scottish Evening, with Ron Barron speaking and giving a toast. Come and find out what goes on at Wedmore WI, we welcome friends, guests, visitors, new-comers to the village, or people who have lived here for years!



For further information please contact Chris Barker, 2 Dunns Close Wedmore BS28 4BL, telephone 712182, email [chris@cjbarker.plus.com](mailto:chris@cjbarker.plus.com)



## Theale Film Club - Sunday 22 January

Our film for January is Florence Foster Jenkins (2016) The story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress who dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice.

Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm. For more information contact Leslie Luke 713176 [lesley@live.co.uk](mailto:lesley@live.co.uk) or Bernard Coulter 712144 [bernard.coulter@gmail.com](mailto:bernard.coulter@gmail.com)

New members welcome.

## **Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club - Tuesday 24 January**

7.30pm at the Masonic Hall. Jean Tincknell will give a talk and demonstration on flower arrangements and colour coordination. All welcome. Andrea West 712161



## **Isle of Wedmore Society Talk - Thursday 26 January**

How well do you know the oldest building in our parish? An illustrated talk by Hazel Hudson entitled "Do you know the story of St Mary's church?" will look at the history of the church through the eye of the camera from the 1880s to today. Members free (annual subscriptions will be due); Visitors £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

## **Reel Back the Years - Friday 27 January**

In the Wedmore Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm An evening of nostalgia prompted by a wonderful collection of archive films that portray how the West Country and its farms have changed over the last century. This show will feature live conversation and memories from the stage. Watch images of horses working the fields and the early tractors that replaced them, chuckle at the story of a Somerset cider den and



the Winscombe firemen with their hand pump, see early charabancs winding through the Cheddar Gorge.

I can recall the triumphant sound of 'Thumper', an old Marshall tractor, firing up. To a young lad it was exciting to watch the cartridge (a sort of roll of blotting paper) being lit and inserted into the engine. Once warmed the engine was thrown over with the starting handle until - thump, thump, thump, it's steady beat announced the tractor was ready for it's task - in the woodland, or maybe hauling cattle wagons onto the show ground. This is just the sort of memory "Reel Back the Years", an evening of archive films evoking the West Country's rural past, is planning to conjure up.

In Wedmore Village Hall the flickering film images will lure you once again into a Somerset cider den, you'll chuckle at the Winscombe fire brigade practicing with their old hand pump, see charabancs winding up Cheddar Gorge in the early 1900s and watch the moving portrait of a Dorset estate lovingly filmed during the Great War. Horses will still work the fields and steam trains call at country stations. There will be recollections, prompted by the films of life on the land and our rural past.

Come to Wedmore Village Hall Friday 27 Jan at 7.00 pm and perhaps share your memories. Tickets, to include an interval pasty, £13 from the Wedmore Village Store or (01934) 863074.

Tickets (to include an interval pasty) £13 from The Village Store or from (01934) 863074.

## **Burns Night Supper - Saturday 28 January 2017**

At 7:30 in the Wedmore Village Hall. Have a fling! Enjoy a traditional Burns Supper during an evening of music and merriment, haggis and humour – and featuring a

genuine Scottish Piper! Tickets £15.00 are available from Jo Lewis 01934 712929 or wedmoreburnsnight@gmail.com

## **Blackford Harvest Home – Annual Winter Warmer – Friday 10 February**

Blackford Harvest Home are holding their annual Winter Warmer on 10 February at Blackford Village Hall. Tickets are £12.50. Come along for lovely home cooked casseroles and puddings, catch up with your friends and test your knowledge and brains with our fun quiz! Contact Mike for tickets on 712087



## **Morgan and West – Parlour Tricks Thursday 2 March**

Wedmore Theatre Club and Take Art are thrilled to be able to bring this exciting show to Wedmore Village Hall on Thursday 2nd March 2017. Time-travelling magic duo, Morgan and West bring a display of jaw-dropping feats of magic and illusion, as well as wit, charm and no small amount of panache!

This show has toured the country to great acclaim and is great fun for all the family – so be sure to put the date in your diary now! Ticket details will be published in the February issue.

## **The Clash of The Choirs – ‘The Return’ - Saturday 26 March**

Once again The Friends of St. Mary’s bring you 220 singers from 11 local choirs and singing groups, 300 fans roaring them on, shenanigans and a clapometer!

Tickets will be in demand and will be on sale early in the New Year.  
(For info call David 710149, or email dahopkins@aol.com)



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# **Events Taking Place Outside the Parish**

## **Brent Knoll Bazaar Farmers’ Market and Parish Cafe**

### **Saturday 14 January**

At the Brent Knoll Parish Hall – 10:00am to 12 noon. Locally produced fresh Beef, Pork, Chicken, Goat’s milk, cheese and meat, Eggs, Cheese, Pickles and Preserves. Vegetable Stall, Speciality Bread, Westcroft Cider, Homemade Cakes and Savouries, Phoenix Cards, Handmade Cards, Silver & beaded jewellery, Children’s Games and Toys, Local Crafts, Dog Treats, Textiles, etc., CDs, DVDs, Books and Bric-a-Brac. Plus Raffle

The Parish Café will be serving drinks & light snacks. Entrance FREE  
Good quality, clean items for Bric-a-Brac Stall (No Electrical Goods, please) would be appreciated, (collection or delivery). To book a Sale Table (£7 per table) please phone Eddie Fuller (01278 760 308).  
All proceeds to Brent Knoll Parish Hall

**Brent Knoll Conservatives - New Year Social - Saturday 14 January,**  
Commencing at 7:30pm at Wascelyn, 48, Brent Street. Tickets £6 (incl. Finger Buffet & Refreshments)

The New Year Social is open to all. A great opportunity to chat informally with your Local Tory Team including The Right Honourable James Heappey MP

Contact: Bob on 760760 or bob@flockman.com.

## **Brent Knoll Flaming Torch Lit Procession – Saturday 21 January**

At 7pm Tickets £11.00 per person (Children under 14 free)

Entrance by ticket only to include a glass of mulled cider and free samples from a selection of Westcroft Ciders (alc. 6% by volume) Pig Roast and Refreshments (with vegetarian alternatives), plus raffle.

Numbers are limited, to reserve your ticket call 01278 760 762. Car Parking is available. Tickets may also be purchased in advance from Westcroft Farm or Brent Knoll Village Shop.

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# **Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You**

## **Russian Fish Pie (Serves 4)**

Happy New Year and may it be a year of good health and happiness.

No doubt everyone is intending to go on a post Xmas eating regime so here is a recipe full of good things and a naughty bit of pastry!

The recipe is for individual pies but it can be done as a single pie if preferred. Serve with Duchess potatoes, fresh vegetables and a pouring parsley sauce. For those not undertaking a “dry” January try a Picpoul or Muscadet with the dish.



### **Ingredients**

500 gram of mixed fish in chunks (salmon, cod, smoked haddock)

Salt & Pepper

200 ml Milk

1 Bay Leaf (optional)

1 small onion chopped

50 gram Butter

100 gram Mushrooms chopped

Chopped Parsley

1 tbs Flour

100 ml White Wine or Madeira

1 hard-boiled Egg cut into quarters

Packet of Puff Pastry and 1 beaten egg

### **Method**

1. Heat oven to 200c (Gas Mark 6)
2. Place the fish in a pan with the milk and bayleaf, season to taste, bring to the boil and then simmer for 5 mins. Strain, and reserve 100 ml of the milk for use later on.

3. Melt butter in frying pan and fry the onions gently for 10 mins, then add the mushrooms for a further 2 mins. Stir in the tablespoon of flour and add the reserved milk. Continue to stir and gradually add the wine, parsley and fish. Set aside to cool.
4. Roll out the pastry and cut into 4 x 15cm squares. Divide the cooked filling between the squares adding a piece of hard-boiled egg to each parcel. Then paste the edges of the pastry with half of the beaten egg, then fold the parcel to the centre pinching the top together. Prick the parcel with a fork, brush with the remaining beaten egg and decorate with any left over pastry trimmings. Place on a baking sheet.
5. Bake in the oven for 15/20 mins, then reduce temperature to 170c (Gas Mark 4) for a further 10 mins.

*Stuart Fisher*

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## The Garden in January

It is always hard to know month in advance, despite various forecasts one sees, what the weather may be doing when you are reading this. At the moment (1 December), we are experiencing colder weather than we had in the whole of last winter. In my garden it was -3.5°C this morning, followed by freezing fog: yesterday it was even colder at -5.5°C, although it was subsequently a fine day. As things stand, this weather is forecast to continue for at least another week. It has certainly put paid to lingering autumn flowers, Chrysanthemums, Nerines and Cyclamen hederifolium.



Leaves were late beginning to fall this year and the autumnal colours were spectacular and in fact there are some leaves still falling at the time of writing.

January is usually thought of as a quiet time in the garden, to the extent that I considered having a garden themed crossword, instead of suggesting things to do, but that requires a bit of forward planning, something I seldom give myself time to do.

Soon after Christmas, perhaps something to do with lengthening days, I start getting the urge to sow some early seeds and if you have a greenhouse that is not too cold or a window-sill propagator or are simply prepared to move them around depending on just how cold it is, it is worth sowing some early cabbage seeds and even parsnips in plugs (although leaving them in there too long may distort the roots); if you want to grow big onions from seed, you can start sowing them in plugs or pots now.

Remember that most vegetables are biennials and will grow to the stage at which we eat them in the first season and then go to seed in the next; experiencing low temperatures after they have started into growth will trigger off the mechanism that makes them go to seed (maybe I have been exposed to the cold too often) so protect them from getting frosted early in their lives. I have said before that it may be worth risking that happening with a few in the hope of an early crop, but don't let it happen to too many.

Sweet peas, if not already sown in the autumn can be sown early; remember that field mice and voles will often steal the seeds in a greenhouse and take measures to

protect them from these depredations. I know from experience that voles can get through half inch mesh chicken wire (or the equivalent metric size) so use something smaller like quarter inch weld-mesh. Also remember to pinch out the growing tips of sweet peas when fairly small so that they develop more than one main shoot.

If you have thoughts about making serious changes to the structure of your garden look around and plan it now, before the ground becomes workable and you get carried away with the rush of spring work.

One thing you do need to ensure now is that top-heavy growth on trellis and pergolas is cut back before the windy weather of March arrives and blows it all down.

Last year I talked about carefully rotating vegetable crops to discourage pests and diseases; this was brought home to me last summer when some of my cabbages developed club-root, probably through being grown too soon after a related brassica (this includes swede/turnip crops and some salad leaves. Also “green manure” crops like mustard are related so can also harbour pests and diseases (it really is a mine-field out there isn’t it). Club root in particular can also be more of a problem if the soil is acid, so liming is beneficial.

We are at the beginning of the fruit pruning season and this needs to be completed before bud-burst at the end of February. As I have often said before, do not prune plums now as the wounds may become infected with the debilitating “Silver-Leaf disease”, the spores of which will be drifting about now (the fungus itself is a sort of bracket fungus that grows on the trunks of infected trees)

I am coming to the end of my allotted space; there are more things I wanted to write about, but most are not too urgent and I will have to remember them next month, unless of course we are in the grip of a seriously cold winter as some are predicting, Hopefully they are wrong and by then there will be plenty of snowdrops and daffodils about, heralding the serious beginning of the new gardening year.

*Adrian Hutchison*

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## Sport Reports

### IOW Golf Club

November is the month when Autumn begins to merge into winter and weather can veer from glorious sunshine to chilling reminders that winter is just around the corner if indeed not already here. On the golf course, balls are no longer lost in long grass but amongst the falling leaves, the white tees are put away until April and tired and battered captains are pensioned off and replaced by newer models, eager for the fray. At Wedmore G.C. both the Seniors and Ladies went through this metamorphosis as their AGMs took place in the month.

For the Seniors, Tom Bennett took over from Mike Tanswell who was able to look back on a successful year. He was not so successful in the annual match between the Captain’s and Vice-Captain’s teams which resulted in a win for the Vice-Captain by 10 matches to 8. Best scoring pairs were Brian Kidd and David Nelson who scored an incredible 43 points over just 15 holes. Peter Laney & John Hogan and Ivor Monelle & Mac Hargraves were the next best pairs with 37 points.



The new Ladies Captain, Saybria Sims (pictured below), who took over from Sue



Tarry on Thursday, had a very successful week as she was back in action at the weekend this time winning the Club Stableford with 37 points, 3 ahead of Pauline Hale who was another point ahead of Chris Simpson. In the pre-AGM Bowmaker the winners were Gina Falcon, Sue Chambers and Di Midgley on 79 points, beating runners-up Joan Peck, Deidre Wheadon and Debbie Ramsell by a single point with Vera Ireland, Claire Biggs and June Smith third.

Nor were these the only AGMs at the Club during November as the Somerset Ladies Golf Union also held its AGM there. This was significant for the Club for two reasons. Cathy Olive (pictured below), a member of Wedmore, was being installed as the first club member to



become Ladies County Captain having served as Vice-Captain for the last two years. In addition another Wedmore member, Desiree McGowan, was receiving the Grass Roots Cup for the best round by a higher handicap player in a county competition. A good number of locals were there to celebrate on behalf of both ladies.

Most of the golf consisted of a trail of outstanding scoring. This started with Terry Simpson in the Club Stableford winning division 3 with 45 points, closely chased by John Vowles on 42 and Ian Williams with 41. In fact you had to score over 40 points to win a prize this week as division 1 went to Jim Dobbs on 43 points ahead of Stuart Bishop on 41 and Chris Norris who was a further shot back in third place. There was a very similar result in division 2 which was won by Jon Thompson on 42 with Mike Parsons second on 41 and Jay James one shot back in third.

These scores were replicated in the Seniors Stableford. Leading the way in division 1 was Martin Easton with a fantastic 45 points which pushed John Sims on 42 into second place with Peter Bennett third on 41. Easton's was not the only 45 of the day as Colin Clegg had the same score to win division 3 by a huge 7 point margin over runner up Clive Warren-Smith with Alan Caines another point back in third place. Tightest finish of the day came in division 2 where David Bates and David Russell both finished with 42 points, a birdie on the final hole giving Bates the win on countback. Jim Crick took third place on 37.

These scores were made to look commonplace in the Club Medal. There was a collection of sub-par scores but only one score went below 60, a very rare event. This round came from Dale Worthington who, playing off a handicap of 15 scored a 3 over

par 73 gross to give a nett 58, the equivalent of 48 points. This won division 2 by 7 shots from Dave Skelton who himself had an excellent score of 65. Mark Higginbottom was third on countback from 2 other players all on 66.

Stuart Bishop was another player having a remarkable day. Three birdies matched three bogeys to give a gross level par score and a nett score of 62 to win division 1 by 5 shots from John Russell who just beat Richard Weight on countback. Steve Major completed a successful week for himself by winning division 3 with nett 65 to hold off Tony Hoskings by a single shot with Mike Sinclair a further shot back in third place. Captain Saybria Sims was the best lady again with a nett 73.

If nett 58 is a very rare score then how about nett 56! This was the unbelievable score recorded by Derek Moody in winning the Seniors' December Stableford played, strangely at the end of November. This was a gross score of one under par 69, won the division by 11 clear points and crashed his handicap down from 13 to 10.

*Tony Biggs*

## **Wedmore Tennis Club**

Despite the season, our hardy members are still on court both competing and playing socially. Six teams are involved in winter league matches and 20 enthusiastic ladies signed up for the winter doubles round robin event. The men's and ladies' practice nights, open to all, also continue to run as do the timetabled social tennis sessions.



Thanks to those who completed the survey. The committee will meet shortly to discuss all the comments and suggestions made e.g. the introduction of new membership categories so that more of the Wedmore community have the opportunity to enjoy using the Club's facilities.

### **Winter League**

The A team in division 1 have won all three of their matches to date. A close first match against Trull A, which was won 6 4, was followed by more convincing wins against Clevedon A (9 2) and Wedmore B (10 1). The B team, captained by Nicky Attwood, have alternately lost and won their four matches so far and collected a commendable 19 out of a possible 40 points.

The C team are experiencing a similar pattern with two wins and two losses to date with recent results, 7 5 against Victoria A and 4 7 against Taunton A, suggesting much tighter matches.

David Evans' D team haven't had to play on unfamiliar courts yet. Two close first matches (8 6) against Avenue, with Henry, Tom, Vicky and Matty representing Wedmore, and against Lympsham B (7 4) this time with Sandra, Jo, Mark and David playing, were followed by a loss to a strong Clevedon team (8 2) by Charlotte, Sandra, Mark and David.

The Vets B team have had a successful season so far with wins against Cheddar A (8 3) and Victoria A (10.0) A 2 10 loss away to Minehead was compensated for by the warming lunch provided!

### **Junior News**

Wedmore Juniors took part in an U11 team event organised by Cheddar Tennis Club on November 12th. Five local clubs took part and Wedmore juniors came second.

Congratulations to Amelia Corr, Charli Beeson, Izzy Knott, James Darley and Rufus Cardale who played great tennis and displayed a fantastic team spirit throughout.

Further to the success of the 2016 tournaments, more events will be held at the club. The first will be on Sunday March 12th. This will be an all day grade 5 event. If you can't wait until then to compete, Stephen Pearce at Cheddar Club is running a matchplay event on the 18th and 19th February and a grade 5 event is being held at Bridgwater on 4th to 5th March.



The dates for further tournaments at the club will be decided shortly; in addition we hope to be able to provide information relating to team events soon.

Wishing everyone an injury-free, fun-filled year of tennis!

*Sarah Cunningham*

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## Church News

### 'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Tuesday 17 January the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.



### Parish Registers

#### Funerals

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of:

John Cooper, of Ashton who died on the 25 November 2016 aged 62 and whose funeral took place at Allerton Church on 4 December 2016.

Dorothy Pelling, of Cheddar who died on the 21 October 2016 aged 92 and whose funeral took place at Allerton Church on 31 October 2016.

Charles Rendall of Latcham who died on 18 November aged 83 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on the 29 November.

Trevor Hole of Blackford who died on 11 November 2016 aged 89 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's, Wedmore on Thursday 24 November 2016.

Eileen Stott of Cheddar, formerly of Wedmore who died on the 19 November 2016 aged 90 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on 2 December 2016.

### Baptisms

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

Benji Bethell son of Jonathan Bethell and Stephanie Patch baptised at St Mary's on Saturday 20 November 2016.

### Hervey Trust

A previous vicar of Wedmore Revd Sydenham Hervey left a sum of money in 1929 to the young people of the village. The award is still offered annually to one or more students who have been judged to have made a contribution to school and village life and is for them to use in any further education or employment.

The award only amounts to a reasonably small monetary value but is still useful to those who receive it and is of value when it comes to writing a C.V.

If you are in Year 11 currently and live in the parishes of Wedmore, Theale or Blackford and would like to apply for the award then please do contact the then please do contact the Revd Richard Neill at richardneill1967@sky.com or on 713566 for further information.

Alternatively, do you know of any Year 11 student from our parishes who you would like to nominate for the Hervey Trust award, perhaps because of some particular or long standing community involvement or someone who has overcome particular obstacles and is looking to flourish in education or someone with plans for the future which would benefit from being considered for the award.

### Messy Church

Saturday 4 February 3.00 - 5.00 pm at St Mary's



- is a way of being church for families involving fun
- is for adults and children to enjoy together
- uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.
- is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together
- is returning to the Isle of Wedmore on Saturday 4th February 3.00pm -5.00pm in St Mary's church

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

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## Church Services

### St Mary's Church, Wedmore

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 8.45am*

Sunday	1	The Naming of Jesus	10.30 am	Benefice Communion
Sunday	8	Baptism of Christ	10.30 am	Parish Communion

Sunday	15	Epiphany 2	6.00 pm	Start the Week
			8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service & Communion
Sunday	22	Epiphany 3	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	29	Education Sunday	10.30 am	Benefice Communion

### **Holy Trinity Church**

Sunday	1	The Naming of Jesus		No Service
Sunday	8	Baptism of Christ	6.00 pm	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	15	Epiphany 2	9.00 am	BCP Evensong
Sunday	22	Epiphany 3	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	29	Education Sunday		No Service

### **Christchurch, Theale**

Sunday	1	The Naming of Jesus		No Service
Friday	6	The Epiphany	7.00 pm	Epiphany Carol Service
Sunday	8	Baptism of Christ	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	15	Epiphany 2	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Epiphany 3	11.00 am	Come & See
Sunday	29	Education Sunday	6.00 pm	Candlemas Communion

### **Allerton Church**

Sunday	1	Advent 2		No Service
Sunday	8	Advent 3	9.00 am	Family Service & Gift Service
Sunday	15	Advent 4	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	22	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Youth Communion
Sunday	29	Education Sunday		No Service

*Revd Richard Neill, Vicar of the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore can be contacted on 713566.*

### **Bagley Baptist Church**

Sundays 10:30am Morning service. (Groups for 3 - 15's.)

(Except for New Year's Day, when we're meeting at 6.30pm instead)

Please check the website for any last minute changes to normal service times & dates, particularly during the winter weather.

Every Wednesday 10am - 12noon is our really popular "Coffee With A View."

Come for free coffee & home made cakes, our wonderful view & a warm welcome. Bring a friend, or come & make some some new ones here. We have good parking & wheelchair access.

We have various Bible studies & youth groups which we'd love to tell you about!

For details, please ring us on (01934) 710779 / 712812 / 713267

Email us on [contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk) or come & see us at [www.bagleybaptist.co.uk](http://www.bagleybaptist.co.uk)

### **Wedmore Methodist Church**

*Preachers for Methodist Church - January*

Sunday 1 January	10.30am	Local arrangement
Sunday 8 January		Elizabeth Manley

Sunday 15 January

Revd Roly

**Sims Family Service**  
Sunday 22 January

Revd Roly Sims

**Sims Covenant Service**  
Sunday 29 January

Archie Rowe

## **Crickham Baptist Church**

*Contact Dulcie Hooper on 712187.*

## **Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar**

*Contact Father Philip Thomas - telephone 709244.*

# **Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice**

## **Surgery Opening Times**

### **Wedmore Surgery**

Mondays and Fridays . . . . . 8.30am to 6.00pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays . . . . . 8.30am to 1.00pm

Telephone 712774

### **Axbridge Surgery**

Monday to Fridays . . . . . 8.30am to 6.00pm

Telephone 732464 - Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

### **Extended Surgery Hours**

The practice offers an extended opening hours service. This extra service is being offered in response to the wishes of patients expressed in the Patient Surveys. During the 'Extended Hours' a GP will be available for routine appointments outside normal surgery times. These appointments are not for emergencies or to see a Nurse, they are dedicated to those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours.

### **Extended hours surgeries are held:**

#### **Axbridge Surgery**

Wednesday and Thursday . . . . . Alternate weeks 6.30pm to 8.00pm

#### **Wedmore Surgery**

Wednesday and Thursday . . . . . Once a month 7.00am to 8.00am

Saturday . . . . . Alternate weeks 8.00am to 9.30am

*Please note, these hours may be subject to change depending on the availability of doctors.*

Please visit the website at [www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk), or visit / telephone the practice 732464 or 712774 for changes to opening hours and information on how to contact a doctor or get medical help during the Christmas and New Year period.

You can also obtain 24 hour general medical advice by telephoning NHS 111, or visit the NHS 111 website.

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

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# Wedmore Community Bus

The Wedmore Community Bus is available for everyone, travelling to Taunton (Tuesdays), Bridgwater (Wednesdays), Weston super Mare (Thursdays) and Street (Fridays).

The service acts less like a bus and more like a personal taxi service. You get on and off wherever you tell us is the most convenient place - usually outside your own house. Travel is free if you have a current bus pass. If you have to pay, then fares compare very favourably with alternative forms of transport, saving money on fuel and parking. For example, the 50-mile round trip to Taunton is only £4.80.

The bus departs from Wedmore at 9.30 am and is back by early afternoon - leaving plenty of time for those needing to collect children from school. To book a seat, ring the friendly controller between 6.00 pm and 6.30 pm on the evening before your journey:

<b>Controller Taunton</b>	Angeline Duckett	712631
<b>Controller Bridgwater</b>	Angeline Duckett	712631
<b>Controller Weston super Mare</b>	Thelma Jenkins Jones	710467
<b>Controller Street</b>	Rosy Brooks	713697

The bus is also available for private hire. It can be booked by contacting Jo Keen, 710759

# What's On in the Parish

# January 2017

1 - Sun	<b>NEW YEARS DAY</b>		
2 - Mon	<b>NEW YEAR BANK HOLIDAY</b>		
	<b>Green Wedmore Meeting</b>	8.00pm	The George
3 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
6 - Fri	<b>Limelight Night - Open Mic at the George</b>	8.00pm	The George
7 - Sat	<b>Fairtrade Coffee Shop</b>	9.30pm	St Mary's Church
9 - Mon	<b>Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group</b>	9.30am	The Scout Hut
11 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Golf Club
	<b>Blackford Village Hall Café</b>	2 - 4pm	Blackford VH
	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.30pm	The Council Rooms
13 - Fri	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic</b>	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
	<b>Wedmore in Bloom AGM and Supper</b>	7.00pm	Masonic Hall
14 - Sat	<b>Theale Film Club Quiz</b>	8.00pm	Theale VH
15 - Sun	<b>Blackford Holy Trinity Church Breakfast</b>	8.30pm	Blackford VH
16 - Mon	<b>Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group</b>	9.30am	The Scout Hut
17 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
18 - Wed	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.30pm	The Council Rooms
19 - Thurs	<b>WI Meeting, Scottish Themed Evening</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
21 - Sat	<b>Theale Community Café</b>	10.00am	Theale VH
22 - Sun	<b>Theale Film Club - Florence Foster Jenkins</b>	6.30pm	Theale VH
24 - Tues	<b>IOW Gardening Club Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
25 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Golf Club
	<b>Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting</b>	8.00pm	The Recreation Soc Club
26 - Thu	<b>IOW Society Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
27 - Fri	<b>Reel Back the Years</b>	7.00pm	Wedmore VH
	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club - Open Mic</b>	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
28 - Sat	<b>Burns Night Supper</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
31 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George

## Regular Weekly Events

<b>MONDAY</b>				
<b>Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)</b>	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane & Lisa	07977 415799 07801 272255
<b>Art Group</b>	2.00 - 4.00pm	Wedmore VH	Chris Midford	01749 712522
<b>Modern Dance</b>	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Kaye Morgan Anstee	01278 641194
<b>Beavers</b>	5.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Bridge Club</b>	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Brian Moreton	01934 713854
<b>Scouts</b>	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
<b>Fitness2Unique</b>	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
<b>Chair Yoga</b>	10.00am	The Swan Inn +	Jo Willis	07552 711101
<b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Sue Freeman	01934 741861
<b>Ballet Classes</b>	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre ashermann99@hotmail.com	
<b>Acting Up Drama Club</b>	3.45pm	Wedmore VH +	Lou Merryfield	07973 429947
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Circuit Training</b>	7.30pm	Blackford VH	Nigel	07776 82231
<b>Cardiodance</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore First School	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
<b>Fitness2Unique</b>	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
<b>Rainbows</b>	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
<b>Brownies</b>	6.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Lisa Hall	01934 713566
<b>Guides</b>	7.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
<b>Yoga</b>	8.00pm	Blackford VH	Sandra Mailey	01934 712686
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
<b>Wedmore &amp; Blackford Toddlers</b>	9.30am	Blackford VH +	Abbe Smith	01934 710471
<b>Yoga</b>	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Shane Allen	01275 790175
<b>Life Drawing Class</b>	10.00am	The Swan	Lily Sawtell	
<b>Over 50s Dance Group</b>	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Pat Taylor	01934 713430
<b>Yoga</b>	11.30am	Masonic Hall	Shane Allen	01275 790175
<b>Ballet Classes</b>	3.45pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre ashermann99@hotmail.com	
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
<b>Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)</b>	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
<b>Tots and Tinies</b>	9.15am	Wedmore First School +	Jo Page	01934 710431
<b>Wedmore Art Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall +	Eileen Sanders	01934 710353

+ Not taking place during school holidays