

# ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



April 2016  
No. 436

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# Editorial

One of the best things about being involved in the Wedmore News is the opportunity to see some of the revenue we raise from advertising being given to support our local organisations. Wedmore in Bloom keep the village looking lovely with blooms throughout the flowering seasons, whilst Wedmore Brownies are planning special events to celebrate a Brownie pack in Wedmore for 80 years. The Twinning Association has been part of life in Wedmore for over 40 years, with families continuing to join, thus maintaining strong links with our French counterparts.

The editorial team has also been putting their heads together to try and bring some fresh ideas for features in Wedmore News. So this month sees the first of what we hope will be a regular feature called 'A Day in the Life'. Launching the feature is Rod Pring, our Parish Clerk. Thank you to Rod for your contribution to achieve this. We are also hoping to launch a feature on local businesses. This is being led by Liz Sweeney, so please see her article below and we look forward to hearing from you.

We would also like to try and do something in Wedmore News to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June. Do you have any pictures of any events in the parish of Wedmore celebrating royal events such as the Coronation, Royal Weddings and Jubilee celebrations that you can share with us? If you can let us know what they were and the names of anyone featured in them, so much the better. Of course, we will have to see what technology will allow in terms of photo quality for printing. We will then see what we can do.

*Sue James*

## **Deadline for May Edition: 1 April 2016**

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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.*

## Front Cover

Mark Hamlin has provided us with this photo of cast members of the upcoming production of 'The Importance of Being Ernest' by the Wedmore Theatre Club. You can find the dates and details of the production in this issue.

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# News



## Parish Council Business

Due to an extremely wet December/January, the bottom of the cemetery became flooded and most of the recent graves were surrounded by water which was extremely upsetting for the relatives and friends of those interred there. A meeting of the Cemetery Committee was held and advice was sought from the contractor who had originally built the car park and access some ten years ago. He suggested extra land drainage to be put in place; this was referred to the full Parish Council for consideration who readily agreed. By the time you read this piece, this remedial work will have been completed. The Council also agreed to replace some of the wrought iron fencing at the far side of the cemetery which has rusted over the years.

## Henry Butt Trophy

The Council received five nominations this year, all of which would be worthy winners of this community service award. There could only be one winner, however, and Council members agreed that the award be made jointly to Bernard and Elizabeth Coulter of Bagley. Mr and Mrs Coulter are well known throughout the parish but particularly in the Theale area for their tremendous hard work carried out in connection with local arts events. They were presented with the trophy at the Annual Parish Assembly by the Chair of the Parish Council, Glenys Cousins.

## Portable Speed Gun

A few years ago, the Parish Council purchased a 'speed gun' as part of a community speed watch scheme. Although I still have the box, the 'gun' is nowhere to be seen. If anyone has any knowledge of its whereabouts, I would be very grateful!

*Rod Pring*

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

## Wedmore News

At a recent committee meeting of the Wedmore News, the committee considered the applications for funding and were delighted to provide the following grants to local organisations:

Wedmore in Bloom	£750
1st Wedmore Brownies	£500
Wedmore Twinning Association	£500

*Sue James*

## New – Focus on Businesses

Each month we bring you information on what is happening in the local societies and clubs that play an important role in our community. As businesses also contribute to the well-being of residents and the smooth running of our community, we think it would be interesting to learn a bit more about the different local businesses and the people behind them. This new monthly feature doesn't replace the advertisements. Advertisements are essential to enable new - and perhaps more established – residents to find the services they need and, most important, to cover the costs of printing and distribution!

So, if you run a business in the Parish, we would like to hear from you. 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? Send the basic information to [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com) and one of the editors will contact you. We hope to make this a regular feature, highlighting one business each month.

*Liz Sweeney*

## Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday Beacon



We shall be lighting a bonfire beacon on Thursday 21 April to celebrate Her Majesty's special birthday. Lighting up time is 7.30pm. The beacon will be at the top of The Manor Field, Lascot Hill.

The beacon has been registered with The Queen's Pageant Master and will be recorded so that Her Majesty will know we are celebrating her birthday here in Wedmore.

We welcome the community to share the celebration.

*The Tincknell Family*

## The Avalon Marshes – Landscape, Heritage and Wildlife



### AVALON MARSHES

To the south of the Isle of Wight lies the magical landscape of the Avalon Marshes. A lot has been going on in the area in recent years, in particular, through Heritage Lottery funding Avalon Marshes Landscape Partnership (AMLPLP) has brought significant investment. There are new bird hides, heritage trails, replica buildings, leaflets, interpretation panels and an Avalon Marshes website. There have been education projects with local schools, volunteer training events and two Avalon Marshes Festivals. There is yet more to do, with the Avalon Marshes Centre high on the priority list.



*A view of the Avalon Marshes (by Guy Edwards, 2020VISION)*

In addition, two special events are taking place in early June. The first is on Saturday 4 June at Strode Theatre in Street. ‘Avalon Marshes – Landscape, Heritage and Wildlife’ will be a day of talks, films and presentations by experts including local wildlife writer and broadcaster Stephen Moss, wetland archaeologist Dr Richard Brunning, archaeologist to Glastonbury Abbey John Allan, and wildlife expert and broadcaster Chris Sperring MBE. The programme is still being developed, so keep an eye on the Avalon Marshes website for more information [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org).

The second event on Sunday 5 June will be an expanded Avalon Marshes Open Day. Based at the Avalon Marshes Centre and on the reserves, there will be a range of wildlife and heritage activities for the whole family. The exciting addition is the opportunity to see, close up, the new replica Romano British building and Saxon Long Hall which have been built over the last year or so.

The heritage element of the day will not just be about the area's ancient history. The Somerset & Dorset Railway used to run through the heart of the Avalon Marshes and is held in great affection. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of its closure and the Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust will have their special anniversary exhibition on display. An added attraction is that Steph Gillet of the Trust will be signing copies of his new book 'The Somerset & Dorset Railway Through Time'.

Tickets for the Strode event go on sale in early April. More details of the whole weekend will be posted on the Avalon Marshes website and via the regular enews 'Messages from the Marshes', which you can sign up for at [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org).

We look forward to seeing you at these exciting events!

*The Avalon Marshes Team*

## **A Brighter Future for the Somerset Levels**

The Hills to Levels Partnership, with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, launched their community engagement programme in March. Through a programme of free events, local people have been and are invited to share their views on what makes the Somerset Levels special.



Hills to Levels Community Outreach Officer, Steve Mewes said: 'We are here to help people from across the Levels shape a common vision, a vision which sets the way for a brighter future for the Levels. To achieve this we need input, knowledge and passion from everyone, young and old. We are kicking things off with the following exciting events. They are all free, so please come along, enjoy the presentations and give us your views.'

### **Hills to Levels Events, April-May, 2016**

- Tuesday 19 April, 'Archaeology of the Brue Valley' with Richard Brunning from the South West Heritage Trust, 7.30pm Shapwick Village Hall, Shapwick, TA7 9NJ.
- Tuesday 26 April, 'The Nature of the Levels' with Mark Robins, Regional Policy Officer at the RSPB, 7.30pm Othery Village Hall, Fore Street, Othery, TA7 0QS.
- Thursday 5 May, 'Somerset Levels – World Class Wetlands' with Stephen Moss, Naturalist, Author and Award Winning TV Producer, 7.30pm Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory, TA3 6EU.
- Tuesday 17 May, 'History of Flooding in the Somerset Levels' with Professor Stephen Poole from the University of the West of England, 7.30pm Huish Episcopi Academy, 6th Form Auditorium, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9SS.

Booking is not needed and all the events are free. You can also visit the Hills to Levels website, facebook and twitter pages for all the latest updates.

If you would like to subscribe to the Hills to Levels email list and receive all the latest news from the team, please contact Steve Mewes at [steve.mewes@rspb.org.uk](mailto:steve.mewes@rspb.org.uk).

*Catherine Page*

## Fire Safety in the Home



Does your smoke detector often beep when you are cooking? Have you ever removed the battery because it happened so regularly? It's quite likely that you have the wrong type of detector fitted. Did you know that the fire

service can fit a smoke detector which is less sensitive to cooking smells and therefore more likely to alert you to an actual fire?

The Fire Service can carry out a free fire safety check as well as arrange a home visit to check and install detectors as well as offer valuable advice. Their aim is to prevent fires from starting in the first place and the fire safety check is the first step. Make contact for yourself or someone you care about today and don't let yourself or your loved ones be the next victim of fire.

Follow these simple steps to reduce the risk

- 1. Fit a working smoke alarm and test it weekly**
- 2. Take care when cooking and never leave cooking food unattended**
- 3. Plan and practise your escape route**
- 4. Make a bedtime check**
- 5. Don't overload sockets**
- 6. Put cigarettes right out**
- 7. Use candles carefully**
- 8. Have your chimney swept regularly**

*Lucille Simms, Village Agent*

## Safari Supper

A Safari Supper is being organised for Friday 27 May, with all the host houses in the Village Square. These suppers have always been hugely successful with everybody meeting up at Beggars Roost for something sparkly with canapés, then off with your hosts for an evening of food and wine and back to Beggars Roost for tea or coffee.

This event is being held for the Teenage Cancer Trust, and they will be the main beneficiaries, with some of the funds going to Wedmore in Bloom to help them continue with the work of enhancing our lovely village. The cost of this event will be £25 per guest, to include all wine and food.

This is a great fun event and an opportunity to have a home-cooked meal, wine and good company, all for a good cause. Please telephone Suzanne Metters, 712515 to reserve your place soon as possible.

*Barbara Horton*

## Aid Box Convoy Quiz Night

On Friday 26 February an amazingly successful quiz night was held in Wedmore Village Hall in support of Aid Box Convoy, a charitable organisation, co-founded by our daughter, Imogen McIntosh and set up in September 2015



to provide humanitarian help and support for the approximately 3,500 refugees living at the Grande-Synthe camp in Dunkirk.

The evening started with Imogen giving an impassioned and heartfelt address on the plight of the refugees and the horrendously muddy, winter tented conditions they are living in. Mostly from Syria and Iraq, they comprise men, women, families and lots of children, many of whom are unaccompanied, the majority having escaped the war zones in their countries and the threat of ISIS. Many have already lost family members killed in the war. Arriving at the camp with little more than they stood up in, they presently find themselves caught in a limbo state in France whilst they wait, in hope, for an opportunity of gaining sanctuary in Britain. The hall was absolutely packed to the rafters with 140 keen quizzers arranged in teams of four. Throughout the evening they were able to refresh themselves at the bar and were nourished by a great ploughman's supper. At the interval we were fortunate enough to be able to auction two weeks holiday in a luxury chalet in the French Alps and also hold a £5 raffle. In total the evening raised the staggering sum of £3,081.30 for Aid Box Convoy. Our thanks in no small measure are due to numerous willing helpers, but particularly our joint organisers, Mike and Penny Edmunds, for whom no praise and huge thanks can be too great. Both of them went that extra mile, with Mike setting all the quiz questions and Penny so very kindly persuading her son, Rob to donate two weeks holiday in his chalet. They helped in so many other ways to make the evening such a success.

*Holly & David Cole*

## **International SpooF Winner 2016**



*Competitors*

This year's International SpooF Competition held at The New Inn, Wedmore, attracted 69 entries from far and wide including Bagley, Birmingham and Boston.



*The winner, Matt Drew, receiving the trophy from Trevor Prideaux*

Players played in groups of four (8 games per round), and points were awarded for guessing correctly, with the winner and second place going forward into the next round, whilst the loser bought the drinks. The lowest score for the evening was 12 out of a possible 24, by Pete Wye, and the highest score was 26 by Sid Ney.



*Matt Drew with his lucky coins and winnings*

The final comprised Sid Ney, Tim Hector, Pip Nicolls the younger and Matt Drew. This was a knuckle biting affair, with all finalists putting their best hands forward, using their wits and skill to lift the title of this prestigious event. In last place was Sid with 18 points (and buying the beers), in third place Pip with 19 points, in second place was Tim with 21 points, in first place (receiving £69) was Matt from Theale with a whopping 22 points.

*Trevor Prideaux*

## **Cheddar Male Choir joint Concert with Launceston Male Voice Choir**

It's a great celebration for Children's Hospice South West this year being the 25th year of their foundation. Cheddar Male Choir and Launceston Male Voice Choir have joined forces for a concert in St Cuthbert's Church, Wells on Saturday 9 April to help raise funds for this very worthy organisation. The doors open at 7.00pm for a start at 7.30pm to what will be a fantastic performance of male voice singing with many popular songs ranging from traditional to modern, with a sprinkling of songs from the musical shows thrown in.

Tickets can be obtained in advance from any choir member or at the door on the night for only £8. A night not to be missed.



*Cheddar Male Voice Choir*

## **Wedmore Street Fair – 2 July 2016**

Wedmore Street Fair will take place on Saturday 2 July 2016. For more information, or to book a stall, please complete the form below and return to Gareth Gosling. c/o Gareth Gosling, Applewood, Mutton Lane, Wedmore BS28 4DS, or [gareth.gosling@btinternet.com](mailto:gareth.gosling@btinternet.com).

### **Wedmore Street Fair – 2016 Booking Form**

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I / We would like to book a stall at Wedmore Street Fair on Saturday 2 July 2016.  
Charities £17, local groups and societies £22, commercial stalls £35.  
I do/ do not require a table at an additional £3.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation  
or type of stall \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tel no: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (obligatory)  
for receipt and stall details \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for:-

£ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Wedmore Street Fair or BACS to WSF account:  
Sort code 30 91 84 Account Number 24297168.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## Wedmore Arts Festival – Back with a New Spring in its Step!



Wedmore Arts Festival returns in July 2016 with a programme of events which will have you dancing with joy.

It begins on 7 July with a glamorous ‘Night at the Movies’ (for three nights) performed by members of Wedmore Opera. There will also be other events from the fields of literature, travel, music and drama.

‘Ballet Central 2016’, the touring company from London’s Central School of Ballet, is composed of a group of young and dynamic dancers who will be showcasing their talent in Wedmore at 7.30pm on Friday 15 July. Two of their dancers were finalists in BBC Young Dancer of the Year 2015. Tickets are already available for this magnificent performance which features newly commissioned works as well as some much-loved favourites.

Booking has also opened for an evening of laughter. Danny Ward is a rising star in the world of stand-up comedy. He won the ‘Amused Moose’ Award for Best Show at The Edinburgh Festival in 2013 and will be bringing his hilarious act to Wedmore on Saturday 16 July.

For tickets, and constantly updated information, please go to our website [wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk](http://wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk)

*Dorothy Wright*

## A Day in the Life of the Parish Clerk



*Rod Pring*

‘So what do you think you can bring to the Parish Council?’

This was one of the questions asked when I attended an interview with members of the Parish Clerk selection committee in November 2012. I had anticipated this question along with several others and had given the answer some considerable thought. What I thought I could offer was reliability, flexibility, confidentiality, good administrative skills, experience in working as a member of a team, and most importantly common sense!

I served as a police officer for over 22 years, much of that time spent within the Cheddar valley area followed by a further 10 years as a Health & Safety/Security Manager with an international logistics company. I felt I was well qualified for the role of Parish Clerk and thankfully so did the Parish Council members. My predecessor, Simon Emary, was invaluable during the 6 months hand-over period and is still available for help and advice.

Parish councils have a variety of powers and duties that impact on the local community and part of my role is to ensure that council members do not exceed those powers and leave the council open to legal process. There are several websites that show the full list of responsibilities and these include allotments, burial grounds, public

seats, bus shelters, play areas, community halls, etc. Highways, planning, lighting and drainage are officially the responsibility of other authorities, although parish councils are consulted and can make recommendations on these issues.

In order to carry out its duties, the Parish Council receives a precept from the District Council each year and this is its main source of income. For the last few years the annual precept has been approximately £62,000. Another role I undertake is 'Responsible Finance Officer' to the Parish Council. This is another legal requirement and requires that I prepare the annual council budget and ensure all monies coming in and going out are properly accounted for. I prepare a set of accounts monthly which are audited by two councillors and all accounts are agreed and settled at the monthly council meeting.

The full council meets once a month and the committees of the council meet as required. They are Planning, Highways, Facilities, Allotments and Footpaths, Finance and General Purposes, Housing and Cemetery. One of my main duties is to prepare agendas and take minutes of all these meetings. The busiest committee is the Planning Committee which meets at least once a month and considers over 100 planning applications per year. Excluding the larger towns of Bridgwater and Burnham-on-Sea, this is more than any other parish in Sedgemoor District. I have never missed a full council meeting in three and a half years and have only missed one committee meeting in that time. Planning applications have to be advertised and we do this by using public noticeboards in Wedmore, Blackford, Theale, Mudgley and Cocklake, together with our own website.

I have already mentioned that the precept is our main source of income. Other incomes are received from allotment holders who pay an annual rent and burial fees in respect of the village cemetery. Burial records are kept at the Council Rooms and are very important historical documents. I receive many requests each year from relatives all over the world wishing to trace family members buried at Wedmore.

The three play areas at Wedmore, Blackford and Theale all have their own management committees under the umbrella of the Parish Council. I arrange annual safety inspections to comply with our insurance obligations and assist the committees to ensure any defects are quickly rectified.

The office in Grants Lane is normally open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. We don't get many callers these days as most of the correspondence is by e-mail or letter. The vast majority of correspondence we get relates to highway matters and these are forwarded to the appropriate council department. I usually suggest that residents report highway issues direct on-line as they seem to get a faster response than I get! Finance is the biggest excuse for not getting things done. If you want an ambulance, you dial 999 and you will get one in minutes. If you want a piece of road repaired or a sign replaced, unless it is life threatening it won't happen for weeks... or longer! All these works are prioritised; it can be very frustrating at times.

So there you have it, a brief synopsis of the role of the Parish Clerk. Setting agendas and taking minutes may not seem an exciting job but what makes the job enjoyable is serving the community, the variety of work and the uncertainty of what the next day will bring.

*Rod Pring*

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# Reports and Society Updates

## St Mary's Church 100 Club

Renee and Leslie Weedon were the winners of the March draw, holding No. 96, and receiving the £20 prize. Runner up was Nick Wright with his No. 74, winning £10. Congratulations

*Thelma Jenkins-Jones*

## Wedmore WI Report – February 2016



There were fewer of us than usual, probably due to grand-parenting duties, but we welcomed a visitor, Christine, and the business meeting included news of our summer outing, on Wednesday 8 June, to Berkeley Castle and Bristol Blue Glass. Diana is collecting names.

Sue Simmons was our speaker, previously known to us as a Country Markets cook and manager, but this time she was telling us about her 'day job', which is with Wessex Water. We had a fascinating evening learning where our tap water comes from, and how it ends up fit to drink. Wessex Water has 1.3 million customers, who usually consume

280 million litres a day, though at Christmas this drops to 100 million litres, and in the summer can go up to 450 million litres.

Sue had brought six large glass bottles of water, of varying states of colour and clarity. Her illustrated talk showed us how water is collected, stored, treated and finally piped to our homes. Somerset doesn't have the right geology for boreholes, but alternative sources are springs, not used as they can be contaminated with bacteria and other impurities, and reservoirs built by damming a valley and flooding it. Upland reservoirs are relatively clean, but those at low levels, fed by rivers, can be contaminated by the run-off from farms. Sue's first bottle of water had been drawn from a reservoir, and you wouldn't have wanted to drink it! We learned how particles are removed by filtration, through sand and carbon, which chemicals are added and what they do, and gradually the bottles of water appeared cleaner and more sparkling. Finally chlorine is added to destroy bacteria; there must be enough to keep the water clean as it passes through the pipes to our homes. Sue also told us about the work that goes on to maintain the water system, with pipes needing to be replaced or re-lined and the chaos that that can cause as roads are dug up, as we all know only too well. Jane gave the vote of thanks for a most interesting evening and we agreed we would view our water bills in a different light.

The competition, for a photograph of a lake or reservoir, was won by Carol. The April meeting is on Thursday 21, when Caroline Francis-Payne will tell us about 'Quilting'. The competition is for a "piece of your own handiwork". Visitors and guests are always welcome.

*Chris Barker*

## Isle of Wedmore Society Report – February 2016

Antonio Paladino from The Bioaqua Farm, Blackford, gave us one of the most interesting talks we have had for a very long time.

Antonio left Italy aged 20 and arrived in London where he became a chef and years later, wanting a different career, came across the future of sustainable farming called aquaponics – a marriage of agriculture and horticulture.

This is a system of water that starts in a fish tank full of trout and passes along a channel to the growing bed (where the plant roots extract the minerals from the water) and the then clean water returns to the fish tank to complete the ever moving cycle.

This is a very sustainable form of farming; the system uses a fraction of the water used by soil-based farming and there is no tilling, weeding, no soil-borne diseases, and also no pesticides, chemicals or antibiotics are used.

The produce is 100% organic and uses 70% less energy in its production. The farm was the first of its kind in the UK and the produce is sold through agents, the Glastonbury market and The Food Assembly in Frome.

We have never had so many questions put to a speaker, which proved what an interesting and informative talk Antonio gave us.

Many members said they would love to visit the farm and we hope to arrange this later in the year.

*Chris Edwards, Speakers Secretary*

## April Director's Blog – 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

For years I resisted staging 'Earnest' in Wedmore. I'd seen too many static, stuffy, old-fashioned productions – including films – that consisted mainly of people sitting around in drawing rooms delivering witty lines at each other, with little impression that anything much actually happened.



Indeed, many productions seemed merely to be providing Oscar Wilde with a theatrical vehicle for his famous witty aphorisms and an opportunity for a famous actress of a certain age, playing Lady Bracknell, to enquire 'a handbag?' to great comic effect.

Our team has been determined to make the play about more than this. It is, in fact, about many things, but above all it is about the irrepressible exuberance of the young and the selfish and arbitrary efforts of the old to repress it. This is, of course, a timeless theme and provides the necessary dramatic conflict and much of the comedy.

Modern theatre no longer delivers 'all lines and no action' shows. Contemporary audiences, especially younger ones, expect dramatic and entertaining action as well as a witty script.

I believe Oscar's original intention, along with his wicked desire to satirise the English upper-classes, was to entertain audiences through a mixture of vitality, joy, fun and wit. I hope that our interpretation of 'Earnest' will be, for our audience, like biting into a ripe, juicy lime – fresh, zesty and sharp, but with a hint of sweetness.

*Sue Rippon*

## Wedmore in Bloom



### Wedmore News Sponsors Wedmore in Bloom

Wedmore in Bloom applied for funds to be allocated to them when Wedmore News announced that they would accept requests from organisations at the beginning of the year. We were delighted to find out that the Wedmore News committee had decided to grant us a donation of £750. The cheque was handed over to Barbara Horton, Co-ordinator and Brenda Squires, Treasurer of Wedmore in Bloom by Sue James and Liz Sweeney, of the editorial team of Wedmore News.



*From left to right: Brenda Squires, Barbara Horton, Sue James, Liz Sweeney*

As the 'Bloomers' would be unable to continue their work without the sponsorship of local businesses, clubs, societies and local residents, we are extremely grateful to Wedmore News for their generosity. This means we can consider other projects as well as maintaining the current level of displays. The ever-rising price of plants, soil, fertiliser and the occasional employment of help with some of the heavier jobs, has meant that we have had to cut back on schemes to enhance our lovely village. Some of the new schemes we have in mind are placing a large holly in a pot on the Borough side of the Village Stores to enhance the stone wall, and renewing the notice board in the Borough Mall, to display a professionally created village map with illustrations of some of our interesting buildings, together with a compartment for business cards numbered to indicate their placement on the map. We are planning an Apple Day for 22 October, where we hope to encourage local children and others to take part in activities in connection with apples. The 'Bloomers' will continue to renew the container plants seasonally twice a year,

plus maintaining several permanent planting areas such as at St Medard Road, the bed outside the playing fields and a wildflower area in the churchyard. The small copse of silver birch surrounding the Millenium Stone in the recreation grounds planted last year will continue to need watering, as will the grass and stone beds at the Borough Mall. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who support us.

*Barbara Horton*

## **Wedmore Gardening Club**

We are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club this year. Over the years we have had many interesting speakers with their tales of plant hunting in far flung places, as well as from local horticulturalists with tips on growing varied plants from bonsai to vegetables. We've had coach trips to gardens in Devon, Hampshire, Gloucestershire and South Wales. The committee works hard at planning varied talks, trips, Christmas parties and of course the annual plant sale.



The Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning this year will be on Saturday 16 April from 9.30am onwards in the Masonic Hall. We're hoping to make this a grand 30th celebration! If you have seedlings or cuttings please bring them along or pass them to a committee member.

The April talk is on Tuesday 26 April at 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall. Brian Carlson will talk on 'All Aspects of Fuchsias'.

*Andrea West*

## **Wedmore Green Group 16th Freecycle Day on Sunday 3 April**



**GREEN**  
WEDMORE

Wedmore Green Group is holding the village's 16th Freecycle Day on Sunday 3 April. Following the huge success of the last fifteen we're asking parishioners to have another sort through their 'junk' and bring it along.

What you do is collect together all the stuff that you don't need anymore, all those bits and bobs in the shed, garage or attic; bring it down to the car park and set up your stall. Then everyone comes along and helps themselves!

There only two rules:

1. No money must change hands;
2. You take home what you cannot give away.

One man's junk is another's treasure! And less goes to landfill. This is a fun way to encourage the second mantra of reduce, reuse and recycle, thus slowing a little our insatiable consumerism. Also a chance for a good chat and gossip with the neighbours.

For more information about Wedmore Green Group, visit the website [www.greenwedmore.co.uk](http://www.greenwedmore.co.uk)

*Steve Mewes*

# Friends of St. Mary's

## Annual General Meeting

Many thanks to all those who attended the AGM. The numbers present reflect the emphasis placed on the skittles and on the quality of the New Inn's fish and chips rather than the AGM! We raised £7,000 last year and even after the contributions to the tower renovations and to the new sound system there is plenty in the kitty to help with other projects to maintain the church as an all village community centre, a beautiful building and the backdrop to our village lives.

## Dates for your diaries

**'TEA & TOWER':** On Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May. Following the works to the balustrade of the tower we can now go up again to enjoy the best view on the village. From 10am to 5pm small accompanied groups at 20-minute intervals will be allowed up. Children must be with adults and no children under 8 years old. Watch out for details soon. £6.00 for tea and cake - the tower visit is free!

**NANTWICH (Now Another That's What I Call Hymns):** On Saturday 18th June at 6pm - a predictably beautiful mid-summer evening. To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday there will be hymns and readings from each decade of her reign enlivened by wine, the Bridgwater Salvation Army Band and local choirs. Watch out for ticket details as this will be a full house.

For information about the Friends of St. Mary's contact David Hopkins. dahopkins@aol.com or 710149

## IT for the Terrified

IT for the Terrified, for all your computer training needs. A skill-sharing, informal, community project. Run by a committee, staffed by volunteers.

We will reopen from our Easter break on Monday 11 April.

Two Open House sessions will be Wednesday 13 April 1.30-3.30pm and Friday 15 April from 10.00am -12.00noon. Call in to find out more about us, chat to trainers, and book a session if you wish. Free entry includes coffee.

Two Workshops – Introduction to iPads, Thursday 21 April, 10.00am-12.00 and Introduction to Tablets Thursday 28 April, 10.00am -12.00noon.

We offer 1:1 sessions to help you to use a computer, iPad, tablet, smartphone or Mac in a friendly, relaxed environment.

Thursday afternoons 'Computer drop in' £2.00 per visit. Ideal for a small problem that doesn't need a full 2-hour session. No need to book, just drop in (term time only, 1.30 - 3.30pm).

To contact us telephone 741751, or email [itfortheterrified@btconnect.com](mailto:itfortheterrified@btconnect.com), or visit our website [www.itfortheterrified.co.uk](http://www.itfortheterrified.co.uk)



IT for the Terrified, The Old Cowshed, Station Road, Cheddar. BS27 3AG. Next to the War Memorial - not the Market Cross. Opening hours match Kings Academy term times.

Registered Charity No. 1130308. Our normal opening hours are 10.00am-12.00 noon and 1.30pm-3.30pm, Monday-Friday.

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

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

Thursday 7 April. This month's presentation is entitled 'Barefoot to Buckingham Palace' by Susan Marshfield, a well-known local speaker. Susan gives her own take on Buckingham Palace garden parties. Join us at Cheddar Village Hall at 2.15pm, entry £2, visitors welcome.



On Thursday 21 April we have our regular Meet & Greet Coffee Morning from 10.30am – 12.00 noon at Cheddar Village Hall. Visitors are welcome. Telephone 744241 or visit [www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk](http://www.cheddarvalleyu3a.org.uk) for more details.

*Roger Coe*

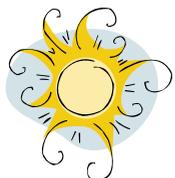
## Weather Report for February 2016

### RAIN FALL



Monthly Total	58.0mm	(2.28")
30 year average	53.1mm	(2.09")
Wettest day (6th)	17.0mm	(0.67")
No of dry days	13	
Last 3 months (Dec-Feb)	195mm	(7.66")
Year ending 29 Feb 2016	761mm	(29.97")
30 year annual average	797mm	(31.38")

### TEMPERATURES



Maximum (21st)	14.0 °C	(57.2 °F)
Minimum (16th)	-5 °C	(23.0 °F)
Number of air frosts	12	
Monthly average maximum	8.6 °C	(47.5 °F)
30 year average maximum	8.5 °C	(47.3 °F)
Monthly average minimum	1.47 °C	(34.6 °F)
30 year average minimum	2.1 °C	(35.8 °F)

COMMENTS Annual rainfall total now running below 30-year average.

*Denley Brown*

## Cheddar Vale Lions Club

Cheddar Vale Lions Club thank all those who supported our Easter Egg Raffle. The proceeds will be split between our Defibrillator Appeal and Lions work in the community. We hope to purchase our first defibrillator shortly and to have it up and running as soon as possible.



Our Annual Senior Citizens Tea Party is being held on Saturday 9 April at Shipham Village Hall. If you would like to come please ring Lion Marion on 740366 to book your place.

Next month is our Annual Duck Race in the Gorge on Monday 30 May. All proceeds will go to Children's Hospice South West who celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their foundation this year. Please buy a ticket when you see us out and about before the event and come and join in the fun on that afternoon.

*Janet Clark*

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## Forthcoming Events

### **Fairtrade Coffee Morning – Saturday 2 April**

St Mary's Church welcomes everyone to visit our Fairtrade coffee shop from 9.30am to 12.00 noon. There will be a variety of homemade cakes to enjoy with Fairtrade tea and coffee. Pop in for a quick visit or enjoy some relaxation with the daily newspapers. We look forward to seeing you.

### **Wedmore Green Group 16th Freecycle Day – Sunday 3 April**

From 10.00am to 11.30am at Wedmore car park.

Bring all your unwanted stuff to the car park and set up your stall. Everyone then comes along and helps themselves!

There only two rules: no money must change hands and you take home what you cannot give away.

### **Wedmore Theatre Club – Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 April**

Presents 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at 7.30pm in Wedmore Village Hall. Numbered seats available.



### **Mr Punch's Folk Club – Friday 8 and 22 April**

At the New Inn, Wedmore at 8.00pm.

On Friday 8 April, open mic session featuring Malcolm Harris traditional singer accompanied by guitar mandolin and banjo. On Friday 22 April, open mic session featuring Thornbridge, a well-known and popular Bristol folk trio. Entrance £1

### **Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club, Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning – Saturday 16 April**

From 9.30am onwards, in the Masonic Hall. We're hoping to make this a grand 30th celebration! If you have seedlings or cuttings please bring them along or pass them to a committee member.

### **Wedmore Twinning Association Quiz Night – Saturday 16 April**

On Saturday 16 April at 7.00pm in the Masonic Hall we will be holding another of our famous quiz evenings. Tickets £7.50 per head, to include a light supper, can be obtained from committee members or direct from Cameron Swales, 713342. A bar will be available. We hope to see you all there.

## **Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 20 April**

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

## **WI Meeting – Thursday 21 April**



At 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Our speaker will be Caroline Francis-Payne, who will talk about 'Quilting'. The competition is for 'A piece of your own handiwork'. Visitors and guests are always welcome, and there is tea, coffee and biscuits and time to chat at the end of each meeting. For more information contact Chris Barker, 2 Dunns Close Wedmore BS28 4BL, 712182 [chris@cjbarker.plus.com](mailto:chris@cjbarker.plus.com)

## **Wedmore Methodist Church Spring Bazaar – Saturday 23 April**

A Spring Bazaar will be held in the Masonic Hall, Church Street, Wedmore on Saturday 23 April from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. Various stalls will include crafts, homemade cakes and preserves, tombola, bric-a-brac, books, toys, plants, raffle. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served. Sit around with your friends for a friendly chat. Everyone welcome. Anyone wishing to take a craft stall please contact either Gwen Fisher 712629 or Angeline Duckett 712631 for further details.

## **Theale Flower Show - The Queen's 90th Birthday Tea Party – Saturday 23 April**

Theale Flower Show would like to invite you to a very special birthday party, celebrating the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at 3.00pm at Theale Village Hall. There will be traditional afternoon tea, a quiz (one for adults and one for children), live piano accompaniment, as well as a children's fancy dress parade, with prizes for the quiz winners and the best fancy dress.

Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for children. There will be a limited number of tickets so please apply promptly if you would like to be there! Telephone Sheila Badman, 712414 or Yvonne Hutchison, 712729 or find out more and book tickets online by 15 April at [www.thealeflowershow.com](http://www.thealeflowershow.com).

## **Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday Beacon – Saturday 23 April**

The Tincknell family will be lighting a beacon at the top of the Manor Field, Lascot Hill at 7.30pm. The community is welcome to share the celebration.

## **Theale Film Club – Sunday 24 April**

The film is 'The Young and Prodigious T.S. Spivet'. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.00pm prompt start, at Theale Village Hall. For more information please contact Lesley Luke, 713176, [lesleyluke@live.co.uk](mailto:lesleyluke@live.co.uk), Bernard Coulter, 712144, [bcoulter@talktalk.net](mailto:bcoulter@talktalk.net), or Pam Meadows, 712143.

## **Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club – Tuesday 26 April**

Starting at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. Brian Carlson will talk on 'All Aspects of Fuchsias'. Please come and join us. Details Carol Gibson, 01278 641345



## Isle of Wedmore Society – Thursday 28 April

The meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. The speaker will be Mike Lake (RN ret'd.). His talk is entitled 'Look no Hands'. Come and learn something about drones! Members free; visitors, who will be most welcome, £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

## Supper Concert for Wedmore Opera – Friday 29 April

Following their hugely successful concert last year, Syrinx return to Wedmore at Wedmore Village Hall. Once again they will be performing a varied selection, including Beethoven's Quintet in E flat for piano & winds, Movements from Reinecke - Trio in A minor, and Caplet's Quintet for piano & winds.

The evening commences at 7.30pm. Tickets, to include supper, are £20 and are available from the Village Store. For further information, please see the website [wedmoreopera.com](http://wedmoreopera.com).

## St Mary's Church Tea and Tower – Monday 2 May

Following the works to the balustrade of the tower we can now go up again to enjoy the best view on the village. From 10.00am to 5.00pm small accompanied groups at 20-minute intervals will be allowed up. Children must be with adults and no children under 8 years old. Watch out for details soon. £6.00 for tea and cake - the tower visit is free! For information contact David Hopkins, [dahopkins@aol.com](mailto:dahopkins@aol.com) or telephone 710149.



## An Evening with the RNLI – Sunday 15 May

At The Swan Hotel, Wedmore at 6.30pm. Mr. Alan Tyson, an RNLI volunteer, will be giving a talk/film about the history of the RNLI.

Tickets will be available from 1 April from the RNLI shop Burnham-on-Sea, Wedmore Village Store and The Swan Hotel.

## Safari Supper – Friday 27 May

Host houses will all be in the Village Square. This event is being held for the Teenage Cancer Trust, the main beneficiaries, with some of the funds going to Wedmore in Bloom to help them continue with their work. Tickets are £25 per guest, to include all wine and food. Telephone Suzanne Metters, 712515 to reserve your place.

## NANTWICH (Now ANOther That's What I Call Hymns) – Saturday 25 June

At 6.00pm. Friends of St. Mary's invite you to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. There will be hymns and readings from each decade of her reign enlivened by wine, the Bridgwater Salvation Army Band and local choirs. Watch out for ticket details as this will be a full house. For information contact David Hopkins, [dahopkins@aol.com](mailto:dahopkins@aol.com), telephone 710149.

## Wedmore Arts Festival – Thursday 8 to Sunday 17 July

A festival of opera, drama, literature, comedy and music. For further details visit the website [wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk](http://wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk).



## **Wedmore Methodist Church Flower Festival - Friday 15 to Sunday 17 July**

This will be our third Flower Festival and the theme chosen for 2016 is 'Wedding Anniversaries'. It will take place in The Methodist Church and entrance is free. Friday and Saturday opening will be 10.00 am to 5.00pm with coffee and cake in the morning, soup and roll lunch time, cream teas in the afternoon.

Sunday morning there will be a 'Café Service' in the Methodist Schoolroom commencing at 10.30am. The Preacher will be Lois Emm from Cheddar. Everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you again this year at our Flower Festival, further details available from all Methodist Church Members.

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## **Events Taking Place Outside the Parish**

### **Cheddar Valley Lions Senior Citizens Tea Party – Saturday 9 April**

Our Annual Senior Citizens Tea Party is being held at Shipham Village Hall. If you would like to come please telephone Lion Marion, 740366 to book your place.

### **Cheddar Male Choir joint Concert with Launceston Male Voice Choir Concert – Saturday 9 April**

In aid of The Children's Hospice South West. At St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells, BA5 2AW. Doors open at 7.00pm, with the concert starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets can be obtained in advance from any choir member or at the door on the night for only £8.

### **Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Monday 18 April**

Comedian Richard Herring, is appearing at Kings Theatre in his 12th solo stand up show, 'Happy Now?' in which he ponders – happiness.

Tickets are available online at [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts). For help call 744939 extension 2 or visit Kings Fitness & Leisure in person. Payment for the new booking system is by credit/debit card only and cash will only be accepted for tickets sold on the door.

### **Hills to Levels Events – Tuesday 19 April and Tuesday 26 April**

'Archaeology of the Brue Valley' with Richard Brunning from the South West Heritage Trust at 7.30pm on 19 April at Shapwick Village Hall, TA7 9NJ.

'The Nature of the Levels' with Mark Robins, Regional Policy Office at the RSPB at 7.30pm on 26 April at Othery Village Hall, Fore Street, Othery TA7 0QS

## **Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society – Wednesday 20 April**



At Cross Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Brigadier (ret'd) Johnny Torrens-Spence will be talking about 'Axbridge in the Monmouth Rebellion 1685.'

Axbridge, with many other towns and villages in the West Country, was caught up in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685, its climax at the Battle of Sedgemoor (the last battle fought on English soil), and its dreadful aftermath, the Bloody Assizes of Judge Jeffries. Several men of the town were involved in the rebellion, and six rebels were hanged in Axbridge town square.

Johnny Torrens-Spence, an amateur military historian, will give an illustrated talk about the events surrounding the Monmouth Rebellion from the perspective of those who were living around Axbridge at the time – what motivated those who supported the rebellion, and what became of them afterwards.

## **Moor Harmony and the Mendip Consort Concert – Saturday 23 April**

Cheddar-based folk choir Moor Harmony, folk musicians Issy & David Emeney and The Mendip Consort recorder ensemble are joining forces to put on a fabulous evening of folk and baroque music in St. Andrews Church, Cheddar commencing at 7.00pm. Proceeds in aid of the Village Hall.

Moor Harmony, who are always happy to welcome new members, sing the songs of our heritage. Glorious English folk songs with fabulous tunes, irresistible choruses and words to touch the heart, all arranged by their folk musician leader Issy Emeney in stunning four-part harmony. Issy is a well-known and respected composer, melodeon player and performer on the English folk scene, and together with her husband David, has three albums recorded with the acclaimed traditional Wild Goose record label to her name. The Mendip Consort play an amazing array of recorders ranging from the tiny high pitched soprano to the gigantic contra bass. The finale of the evening will see all three performers coming together to sing and play one of Issy's compositions 'The First of May', to celebrate the coming of summer. Come and join in! Contact Jane Burdock, 743834 or Issy Emeney, 741551.

## **Cheddar Arts Fringe Festival – Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May**

This spring the Cheddar Arts Fringe Festival will be bigger and better than the popular event held last year.

The festival opens with a showcase event at Chestnut Barn Studio, Kent Street on Friday 29 April from 6.00pm to 9.00pm, where samples of all the artists' work will be on display throughout the evening.

There will be a well-mapped walking tour around Cheddar as local artists and crafts-people throw open their studios and venues. It will be possible to chat to the artists and watch some of them at work. The exhibition will include painting, sculpture, textiles, fused glass, ceramics, calligraphic art, jewellery, music and poetry. In addition, there is a Children's Challenge with activities and prizes.

Check out the website [www.cheddarartists.com](http://www.cheddarartists.com) nearer the time for details of other activities in the library, pubs and cafes throughout the village.

Opening hours 10.00am to 4.00pm daily.



Samples of artists' work 2016

## Hills to Levels Events – Thursday 5 May and Thursday 17 May

‘Somerset Levels – World Class Wetlands’ with Stephen Moss at 7.30pm on 5 May at Williams Hall, Stoke St. Gregory, TA3 6EU.

‘History of Flooding in the Somerset Levels’ with Professor Stephen Poole from the University of the West of England at 7.30pm on 17 May, Huish Episcopi Academy, 6th Form Auditorium TA10 9SS.

## Cheddar Valley Lions Club, Annual Duck Race – Monday 30 May

Taking place in the Gorge. All proceeds will go to Children’s Hospice South West who celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their foundation this year. Please buy a ticket when you see us out and about before the event and come and join in the fun on that afternoon.

## Avalon Marshes ‘Landscape, Heritage and Wildlife – Saturday 4 June

A day of talks, films and presentations at Strode Theatre, Street. For more information visit the Avalon Marshes website [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org).

## Avalon Marshes Open Day – Sunday 5 June

To be held at the Avalon Marshes Centre and on the reserves, there will be a range of wildlife and heritage activities for the whole family. Also an opportunity to see the newly constructed replica Romano British building and Saxon Long Hall which have been built over the last year or so.

In addition, the Somerset & Dorset Railway is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its closure; there will be a special anniversary exhibition on display.

For more information visit the Avalon Marshes website [www.avalonmarshes.org](http://www.avalonmarshes.org).

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# Polly’s Kitchen

Now this is a recipe that I always thought was complicated and therefore had put off making it until just before Christmas last year, when I found out that it was in fact so very easy and delicious. To supper guests it will seem really impressive, when in fact it is a doddle. Gravd lax will keep for up to a week in the fridge and if you don’t want to make a whole side of it, then cut the recipe in half and it can be a mid-week treat. I like to serve this with a pickled cucumber salad to add some zing and some half fat creme fraiche mixed with horseradish. It makes a great starter accompanied with some rye bread or is a perfect Sunday night ‘snackette’.

The whole thing can be prepared well in advance, making it a hassle free dish, a win win starter!

**Gravd lax** (Serves 6 to 8 people as a starter)

### For the salmon

85g caster sugar

70g flaky sea salt



2 tbs gin  
2 tbs freshly ground black pepper  
100g fresh, chopped dill  
500g fresh salmon fillet, skin on, bones removed

#### **For the cucumber salad**

1 large cucumber, peeled and finely sliced  
1 tsp salt  
2 tsp caster sugar  
fresh ground pepper  
1-2 tbs cider vinegar  
1 tbs fresh, chopped dill

#### **For the sauce**

1 small tub half or full fat creme fraiche  
1 tbs hot horseradish sauce  
Salt and pepper to season

#### **Method**

Firstly prepare the salmon and bear in mind that it needs to do its thing in the fridge for at least 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours, so build this into the preparation time. Mix the salt, sugar, pepper, gin and dill together thoroughly in a small bowl. Pat the salmon dry with a kitchen towel and place in a dish that has fairly high sides, to avoid leaking all over your fridge, like it did in mine! Rub the mix all over the top of the salmon and then cover with cling film and place in the fridge to cure for at least 24 hours. After this time has elapsed, very quickly run the salmon under the tap to remove the salt, but hopefully not all the dill and then pat dry with a kitchen towel. The fish will feel much firmer and you will be amazed how much fluid has been drawn out in the curing process. Wrap in cling film until needed or slice thinly on an angle and wrap up for serving later.

The cucumber salad is also better if it has had a little time to pickle in its dressing, so I advise you do this a couple of hours in advance too. Simply mix the salt, pepper, sugar and cider vinegar together in a bowl, pop in the sliced cucumber and chopped dill, mix well, cover in cling film and leave in the fridge with the salmon. Now for the next really easy part: mix the creme fraiche with the horesradish sauce and add a bit of seasoning and the job's done.

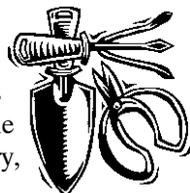
Now all you have to do is assemble it all as beautifully as you can on plates and wow your lucky guests!

*Polly Costello*

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## **The Garden in April**

April is usually thought of as the month when the garden really comes to life, particularly here in the milder climate of the south-west. At the time of writing, we are only three quarters of the way through February,



but due to the mild winter we've been having, the display of daffodils and other narcissi is well under way, although March is usually what I think of as daffodil month, so what will be happening by April?

If you go to one of the classic landscaped gardens in the region, in April you will see flowering trees and shrubs such as rhododendrons (botanically this includes azaleas) and magnolias at their best and various species and varieties will continue to give a magnificent display until the end of May.

In their native habitats, many, if not all, of these are woodland plants and in the wild get some protection from fluctuating weather from larger trees in amongst which they grow. Often in our gardens, this kind of protection is not available to them so they may be damaged by a sudden drop in night temperature, for example. The odd plant can be covered with fleece when cold nights are forecast, but if you have a lot of susceptible plants often you just have to live with the weather and accept any damage that may occur. I once was involved in the potato growing industry in Scotland and often, if early potatoes were threatened by frost, growers would turn on irrigation sprinklers to keep the leaves from freezing, but this is not a method that many people would be equipped to use in their garden.

By the time you read this, I am sure most of you will have cut your grass for the first time, if not more than once. If you have clumps of coarse undesirable grasses in your lawn, they will often escape being mowed because the mower causes them to lie down as it passes over them; if this happens, rake them with the lawn rake and mow them again. Most coarse grasses do not like close mowing and will gradually disappear if you do this. Now is the time to apply lawn fertilizers; slow release ones are best as they are not leached away by the first shower of rain and are absorbed and used by the grass rather than polluting the nearest waterway.

For an interested gardener, life is full of lessons and we can learn something new almost every day. I have had gardens of my own since 1970 and was interested in them long before that (Mr. Gruntphuttock has nothing on me). If you have the sort of mind that files away experiences and observations for future use, all well and good, but of course many gardeners find that keeping some sort of diary is necessary if they are to remember everything. However you do it, remembering how plants behave in given circumstances and therefore what to do when those conditions occur again is what marks out the really successful gardener. This particularly applies to choosing the sowing dates for vegetables; if however you have not been doing it for long enough to learn lessons from experience, don't be afraid to ask those who have; most gardeners are happy enough to pass on knowledge to others. Also, of course, plenty of information is now available on the internet and if you don't or can't use that then seed catalogues and packets have plenty of information. Wherever you get your guidance from, this is the time of year when simple successional sowing will bring good results with most crops. Beware of low night temperature causing vegetable seedlings to bolt. Sweet-corn can be sown at the very beginning of May for cropping in September (if the badgers don't find it first). Cucumbers and marrows can soon be outside safely and runner and french beans should be happy enough at night now.

The earliest of spring-flowering shrubs will have done their thing by now. Flowering currants (ribes), forsythia and viburnum fragrans, for example, flower on year-old

wood and pruning them now, immediately after flowering, will give the new growth that will flower next year the maximum amount of time to grow.

Dead-head tulips and daffodils as they finish flowering to prevent them from putting their energies into setting seed and do not cut off their foliage, but allow them to die back naturally for maximum performance next year.

If you have planted new raspberry canes, be hard hearted and cut them back to about 20cms. You will have no fruit this year, but plenty from better established canes in future. For similar reasons, take the early flowers off newly planted strawberries.

Good luck with your gardening for now and more to come next month.

*Adrian Hutchison*

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## Wedmore Community Bus



The initial idea for a community bus was broached in the late 1960s when the railway line through Burtle closed leaving an array of Polden Hill villages without any public transport. As these smaller communities could not justify an application exclusively for their use, Wedmore was invited to become involved as the village was envisaged as a natural hub for such a bus service.

By 1979 a survey of village transport needs, together with consultation from definitive county bodies, led to a successful application to Somerset County Council, who subsequently supplied a minibus at a cost of £6000, running mainly for the transport of school children in the autumn of 1980. The service was launched by the Chair of the County Council, Air Vice-Marshall Harold Leonard Williams on 1 Oct 1980.

From December 1980 the bus collected passengers who lived in the outlying areas, making respective relay journeys to Cocklake, Clewer, Crickham and Stoughton; Blakeway, Mudgely, Bagley and Theale; lastly Sand, Heath House, West Ham and Blackford, bringing residents into Wedmore to shop. They each had 1hour 15 minutes in Wedmore before the return journeys commenced and the cost of travel was 30p for adults and 20p for children. Due to a lack of support, the Cocklake and Blackford routes were later combined and the Sand route extended to include Weare, Badgworth and the Allertons. Further extensions to pick passengers up in Cheddar were proposed, but not implemented.

Originally, the Traffic Commissioners granted a licence to run on a Wednesday to Bridgwater via Mark and Catcott. Shortly afterwards a second route to Glastonbury and Street on a Friday was authorised. The Bridgwater route proved highly popular with tickets selling out within minutes, often prompting complaints from those unable to secure a seat.

Initial passenger numbers using the bus were reasonable. On Wednesday 17 June 1981, Mrs Joyce Lockyer became the 1000th passenger to travel and was presented

with a free ticket, card and box of chocolates by the Founding Chair Mr Richard Kite. However, several instances of under use are also documented and this has become a recurrent theme. A parallel problem of equal proportion has been a lack of drivers and this also continues today.

On 24 January 1981 the Bristol Omnibus Company scrapped their No131 service between Wedmore and Weston-super-Mare, which had provided a return service four days a week. This had been the first public service to run into Wedmore and its demise was witnessed by Mr Leonard Wall, who as a young boy had seen the arrival of the first bus, a small open top charabanc with solid tyres, 70 years earlier. So the community bus took this route over on 27 January, initially travelling to Weston on a Tuesday, via the villages of Cocklade, Chapel Allerton and Weare. The cost of this journey, £1, undercut the Bristol Bus charge by 40p and gave passengers a two and a half hour stay in Weston. A lack of drivers precluded a 4th service commencing to Burnham on Sea when the regular service there also ceased.

Many funny anecdotes have arisen over the years. Alarms seem to feature heavily. On starting the bus two weeks ago, an alarm sounded which took me five minutes to locate and stop. On another occasion the bus was returning from Street when an alarm sounded, the driver stopped the vehicle and checked everything to no avail, it stopped of its own accord later in the journey. However a passenger later called to say she had purchased an alarm clock in Street and this had been the culprit.

Since getting involved with the bus last year, I have become aware of many similar schemes now commencing operation throughout rural areas of the UK, where commercial bus operators have discovered that they simply cannot operate a profitable bus in such areas without charging outrageous prices or receiving a high subsidy.

The fact that the Wedmore Community Bus has operated for 36 years with low fares is a great credit to the innovation and effort of the local people whose vision and determination brought this valuable asset into existence. However, if it is to continue, we must demonstrate that Wedmore has a clear requirement for a community bus, as in these difficult days, with a continually tightening public purse, it is an obvious case for coining the hackneyed phrase; 'use it or lose it.' A particularly disappointing scenario would be if the bus was relocated elsewhere in the county, which is possible if a greater need was demonstrated there.

The present bus has 16 seats and allows wheelchair access. Details of the weekly schedule and how to book are contained later in this publication. All journeys commence from Wedmore at 9.30am. It is worth restating that if you have a bus pass then travel is free; if not, prices are highly competitive. Whilst I hope you have found this reminiscence entertaining, its real purpose is to encourage you to come and support the Wedmore Community Bus by travelling with us. So on behalf of my fellow drivers and the Management Committee, we hope you will and look forward to welcoming you on board soon.

*Bill Sutton*

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# Thought for the Month



*The Queen and the King She Serves*

Dear Friends,

On 21 April this year Her Majesty the Queen will turn 90 years old. Like Paddington Bear she has two birthdays – her real birthday is in April with her ‘official’ birthday, usually surrounded by various state occasions, when the weather is better in June. This year the focus of celebrations will be the weekend of the 10-12 June, with a vast ‘Patron’s Lunch’ on The Mall and many events happening locally across the land. Look out for what is happening here in later editions of the IOW News.

The Queen had already been on the throne 15 years before I was born. She has always been part of my life – the head on the stamps and coins, the crest on the post box, the outfits at Royal Ascot, the presence at so many big national events, the speech on Christmas Day. But there is one part of her life, of great importance to her, that often goes unnoticed - her deep Christian faith. One writer has said that ‘Trying to understand the Queen without understanding her Christian faith is like trying to make bread without yeast. Yeast isn’t the only ingredient in bread but it is the one that makes all the difference.

In an age that is, on the one hand, increasingly secular and, on the other, fraught by religious conflicts, her approach is winsomely inclusive. She is the head of The Church of England but never tells anyone that they must attend. Rather, she points to Jesus and how he expands her capacity to love people.’

In one of her recent Christmas broadcasts, she said, ‘For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the prince of peace, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ’s example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith and none.’

There’s certainly no doubt about the identity of the King our Queen serves. May our nation see her for the godly woman she is, see Christ in her and come to know the Christ she points to and honours in all she does.

*Richard Neill*

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## Sport Reports



### **Isle of Wedmore Golf Club**

February was not a great month for golf as heavy rain continued to cause problems until spring began to dry out the course right at the end of the month. The Seniors managed to avoid this in part by heading for the sandy courses at Saunton in Devon to take part in their Vets Team Challenge. This was the second year they had competed and, as in the previous year, they were competing against 19 other teams from across

the south-west. This year, for the second year running, they achieved an excellent third place behind just the home club and Bude, totalling 150 points across their four pairs. This was just 5 points behind Bude and confirmed the club's reputation as one of the strongest Seniors sections in Somerset.

While the Seniors were in Devon, events at Wedmore were distinctly Cornish. In the monthly medal, best score of the day came in division 2 where Darren Cornish came in with an outstanding net 64. This was 7 better than a group of four players all on 71. Second place on countback, despite a hiccup on the last hole, went to Jim Gray, with Roger Griffin taking third place. Meanwhile, up in division 1, the second best score of the day came from Mark Cornish. His net 66 took him 6 shots clear of second placed Daryl Cornelius with Kevin Osman third on 74. The closest finish came in division 3. This was won by Mark Sweeting with a net 67, just 2 shots clear of Marcello di Mascio in second place with Daniel Milford taking third with a net 72.

There were also good scores in difficult conditions in the club Stableford. Simon Moore won his second Stableford in consecutive months, winning division 1 with 38 points, edging out John Russell on 37 with Jim Dobbs third on 35. There was excellent scoring in division 2, won by Brian Webber with 41 points. Jay James was second with 40 and Bob Jones third on 39. Marcello di Mascio won division 3 on 39, 3 better than runner-up Max Grant and Brian Fry.

The Seniors also managed both a Medal and Stableford. In the Stableford, Brian Webber led the way in division 1 with 38 points. Close behind was new captain Mike Tanswell, scoring 36 points to take second place from Peter Laney on countback. Terry Simpson continued to show the benefits of a sober January by winning division 2 with 38 points. This gave him a comfortable 3 points margin over Colin Clegg in second place with Jim Crick just edging out Ian Hollands for third spot after both scored 34. Best score of the day came in division 3 where Tony Ireland scored a very impressive 41 points to win by 5 points from Bob Jackson with Eddie Parlour 2 points further back in third place.

In the Medal, Calvin Poulton-Sadler led the way in division 1 with a net 66. This gave him a lead of 2 points over runner-up Steve Lawrence with Brian Webber another 2 points back in third. There was another net 66, this time from Ian Hollands to win division 2 by a clear 4 shots from David Hollingdale and Philip Horn with David winning out on countback. Higher handicappers in division 3 struggled a bit more with Richard Jones taking the honours with a net 73, 2 better than Keith Rabbits who beat John Sim on countback.

The Ladies, probably very wisely, are always a little bit slower to get into the more strenuous competitions in the early part of the year. Their first 18-hole competition of the new year was a three player Bowmaker. There was a close finish with two teams coming in with 70 points each. Countback gave first place to the team of Beryl Richards, Betty Norman and Carole Lewis. Sue Chambers, Wendy Lucas and Sarah Mathews were the unlucky team who had to settle for second place. Joan Peck, Mary-Lou Denny and Vera Ireland took third place with 67 points.

They did also fit in a Stableford, with new Captain Sue Tarry clearly enjoying herself, scoring 37 points to win by 5 clear points from Cathy Olive. Hazel Gough was a further 2 points back in third with Liz Hill and Pam Berry both scoring 29 points

to take fourth and fifth place respectively. In their first Medal of the new year, there were no outstanding scores but a close finish with Audrey Cowlin taking first place from Wendy Lucas on countback after both went round in net 75. Gill Jones was just a shot further back in third place with Mary-Lou Denny on 77 and Linda Roberts on 79 taking the next 2 places.

Next month the county knock-outs get under way; the Avalon League kicks off, including the Seniors League for the first time and the ladies start all their matches. Spring is here at last!

*Tony Biggs*

## Wedmore Bowls Club

**'A Great Day Out' - Open Day, Sunday 8 May**



*Pictures from last year's event (by Steve Wilkinson)*

Wedmore Bowls Club offers some of the best bowling facilities in Somerset, and we want to invite as many people as possible to come try the sport without any commitment. We have both indoor and outdoor bowling, so that the sport can be enjoyed all the year round, by people of all ages and abilities. You do not need any equipment or special clothing to get started as we can provide all the essentials on the day, but suggest that you may wish to bring a pair of sports trainers to wear. Bowling is fun, a good form of exercise and a means of meeting new people, which makes it healthy for the body and the mind. Contrary to popular belief, bowling is a sport for the young, as well as the young at heart, and is unique in that it can be played by all ages at a competitive level, or just for fun, to suit all abilities. It is worth noting that the world's best bowlers are under 40 and Somerset County Bowls Association has a strong Under 25s teams as well as some international players. There will be free light refreshments available on the day, and the bar will be open for normal business. The club, which is situated at the Wedmore Playing Fields (on the B3139 road to Blackford & Mark) will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm with friendly people on hand to show you around and help you 'have a go'. Please feel free to turn up at any time. If you cannot make the Open Day we can still arrange individual tours / bowling experiences at a time to suit you. For more information please visit the web site [www.isleofwedmorebowls.org](http://www.isleofwedmorebowls.org).

*Dave Nicholls*

# Wedmore Tennis Club



## Winter League

The winter matches should have all been played by the end of March; a number of weather related postponements will mean an active month for some of the teams!

Captained by Nicky, the B team is the only one in the position of having completed their matches and, with two more wins this month, topped their division, so will be promoted to division one next season. Well done to them!

A 7:4 win on tarmac against Trull for Clare, Olivia, Tony and Baz was followed a week later by a very satisfactory 9:2 win in tricky, gusty conditions against Woodlands B. Nicky and Clare ruthlessly won the ladies' doubles 6-0, 6-0, while Tony and Baz lost the men's in three close sets. Through employing clever tactics, both mixed matches were won in straight sets.

Despite a very successful start to the year, the C team were brought down mercilessly by the unassailable Winscombe A team. Mark and Ben were beaten 6-0, 6-0 while Tess and Jo managed to win three games in their ladies match. In the mixed, Ben and Tess lost a close first set tie break 13-11 before the hosts redoubled their efforts to take the second set 6-1. Similarly, the hosts were uncharitable towards Mark and Jo in their match, though some recompense was made in the form of cake and biscuits.

In contrast, the D team were able to celebrate a 10:0 victory over Bridgwater C, contested at Wedmore due to the Bridgwater courts being unplayable. Sandra and Jo won the ladies doubles 6-2, 6-3 while David Evans and John Gould won their men's doubles 6-3, 7-5 after increased resistance by Bridgwater in the second set. In the mixed matches husband and wife pairing, David and Sandra, won 6-2, 6-0, while Jo and John, thanks in part to Jo's cross-court forehands and smash volleys, won 6-2, 6-3. The team currently leads the division with only one fixture left to play.



*The D team, from left to right: Sandra Evans, John Gould, Jo Attiwell, David Evans*

In their first match this month, the optimism of the Vets A team (Shirley Turner, Liz Randall, David Evans and John Gould) was rapidly checked on the heavily sanded

astro courts at Clevedon. David and John quickly lost their men's doubles, though Liz and Shirley battled away to take the Clevedon ladies to a third set. In the mixed, Shirley and John were unable to overcome the home pair, though Liz and David came from behind to take their match in a championship tie-break. A 9:3 victory for Clevedon A.

In their second match, this time more realistically optimistic, the Vets A team of Tess Hodgson, Jenny Fitzpatrick, David Evans and John Gould did win a close match at Victoria Club. John and David again rapidly lost the first set 6-1, but started the second set well and were ahead 5-0 before being pegged back to 5-5. A sense of calm prevailed and they won the set 7-5 and the deciding tie-break. Tess and Jenny started well and won the first set but were affected by second set jitters then lost the tie-break. The mixed doubles matches were also split with Tess and John winning in two sets and Jenny and David losing in two. Through winning more games, Wedmore were awarded the additional two points.

The Veterans B team also travelled to Clevedon this month. Val Parker and Matty Small collected two points by winning the ladies doubles in a third set tie-break, while the Clevedon men proved too strong for Bill Hayley and Sam Mullick and beat them in two sets. In the mixed matches, Val and Sam lost in two sets, but Matty and Bill fought hard only to lose in a third set tie-break. An enjoyable match, but a loss of 9 points to 3 leaves Wedmore currently at the bottom of this division.

*Sarah Cunningham*

## Isle of Wedmore Junior Football Club



Wedmore JFC is pleased to announce that the club has been awarded FA Community Club Status. This is the highest accolade and we are one of only a dozen clubs in the entire county to reach this level.

As you can see from the photograph, Wedmore's 'new' multi-use games area is being used extensively, not only by the football club and young farmers club, but also the First School Academy. Now that the tennis club has relocated to its new premises, the old courts have been converted into a fantastic all-weather floodlit recreational facility. Having

experienced the wettest December since records began, this facility has made it possible for the boys and girls to continue with football when the pitches have been under water.

Should any village organisation or club wish to block book sessions, send an email to [jim.cavanagh6@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.cavanagh6@btinternet.com).

With the new football fields, playground, tennis courts and pavilion, cricket nets and MUGA, the village now boasts some of the best recreational facilities in the County. The final stage of the development will be a new clubhouse, which has already secured the backing of the Parish Council and hopefully work will begin soon. Obviously, fundraising will play a big part in securing the monies for the building, so the Playing Fields Committee will be launching a number of events in the near future. We hope that the whole community will get behind these events and the final part of the development can be completed.

Wedmore Junior Football Club Awards Evenings, we will be holding two Awards Evenings on 12 and 13 May from 7.00 pm at Wedmore Village Hall. On the Thursday it will be the turn of the girls and the older boys and on Friday the event is for the young ones. There will be refreshments for young and old.

*Jim Cavanagh  
Chairman - Isle of Wedmore Junior Football Club*

## Wedmore Cricket Club 2016



### Wedmore Cricket Club

#### Seniors

There are two senior teams that play on Saturday afternoons during the summer (May to September) with nets on Monday evenings on the Rec from April.

There is also a midweek 20/20 League.

#### Juniors

WCC has a great youth policy, catering for all ages from Under 9s to Under 17s. There are a number of fixtures throughout the summer and training and coaching during the week.

#### Coaching

WCC is always in need of coaches for the Junior teams, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Pip Patch or Chaz Maguire (details below). You do not need any coaching experience, just a desire to assist with helping out with the Junior sides. Should you wish to pursue Level 1 /Level 2 Coaching Certification and assist with one of the Junior sides, the club is happy to fund the course for you.

#### Social

It is a very social club, running a number of events throughout the year, including the Village six-a-side tournament in July.

The clubhouse and bar are open on Saturday afternoons/evenings and Mondays after nets.

WCC welcomes new players of all abilities that fancy a game of village cricket or to watch and enjoy the social side of the club.

Also, if there is anyone keen to umpire on a Saturday, we can offer free tea and drinks after the game.

If you are interested in joining or being part of Wedmore Cricket Club, please contact: Seniors: Chaz Maguire, Club Chairman, 07973 810786 or 710705, [chazmaguire@btinternet.com](mailto:chazmaguire@btinternet.com); Youth Teams: Pip Patch, Youth Team Coach 07970 070871 or 713250, [p.patch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:p.patch@hotmail.co.uk).

You can also contact us via our Facebook page

*Chaz Maguire*

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## Church News

### 'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Wednesday 13 April, 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.

Timings of the route are as follows:

10.30 am	Cocklake	Lane End Farm
10.40 am	Crickham	Crickham Baptist Chapel
10.50 am	Clewer	Clive Weare House
11.20 am	Stone Allerton	Stone Cross
11.30 am	Chapel Allerton	Allerton Church
11.40 am	Ashton	On the corner next to Hill View Farm
11.50 am	West Stoughton	T Junction with the road to Allerton
12.00 noon	Blackford	Holy Trinity
12.15 pm	Westham	On the corner next to Bockingford House
12.25 pm	Heath House	Ash Tree Farm
12.35 pm	Sand	Upper Sand Farm
12.50 pm	Mudgley	Court Farm Cottages
1.00 pm	Bagley	Bagley Baptist Church
1.10 pm	Theale	Christchurch
1.25 pm	Wedmore	St Mary's



## Parish Registers

### Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of:

Mrs Nellie Harris of Grants Lane, Wedmore who died on 31 January aged 97 and whose funeral took place at Mendip Crematorium on Wednesday 10 February 2016.

Mrs Margaret Harris of Heath House who died on 28 January aged 65 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on Friday 19 February 2016.

Mr Nigel Humphries of Axbridge who died on 11 February aged 65 and whose funeral took place at St Mary's on 18 February 2016.

Mr Don Rossiter of St Medard Road, Wedmore who died on the 18 February and whose funeral took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Wednesday 2 March 2016.

### **Baptisms**

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

Florence Ernestine Wilton Kendall, daughter of Neil and Eleanor Kendall of Cheddar, baptised at St Mary's Church on Sunday 21 February 2016.

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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	3	Easter 2	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	10	Easter 3	10.30 am	Parish Communion & APCM
Sunday	17	Easter 4	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Family Service & Baptisms
Sunday	24	Easter 5	10.30 am	Parish Communion

*Junior Church welcomes children aged 4-11 on the fourth Sunday of each month, while a supervised crèche for pre-school children runs on special occasions.*

### **Holy Trinity Church**

Sunday	3	Easter 2	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	10	Easter 3	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall
Sunday	17	Easter 4	6.00 pm	Songs of Praise
Sunday	24	Easter 5	9.00 am	Parish Communion

### **Christchurch, Theale**

Sunday	3	Easter 2	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	10	Easter 3	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	17	Easter 4	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	24	Easter 5	6.00 pm	Come & See

### **Allerton Church**

Sunday	3	Easter 2	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	10	Easter 3	9.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday	17	Easter 4	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	24	Easter 5	9.00 am	Youth Communion

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

## Bagley Baptist Church

A group of ordinary people with an extraordinary God.

Every Sunday 10.30am - Morning service (Groups for 3-15s).

Every Wednesday 10.00am-12.00noon 'Coffee With A View'.

Come for free coffee and home-made cakes, our wonderful view and a warm welcome. Bring a friend, or come and make some new ones here. We have good parking and wheelchair access. We have various Bible studies and youth groups which we'd love to tell you about! For details, please telephone 710779 / 712812 / 713267, email [contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk), or come and see us at [www.bagleybaptist.co.uk](http://www.bagleybaptist.co.uk)

## Wedmore Methodist Church

Sunday 3rd 10.30

Mrs Liz Rankin

Sunday 10th 10.30

Rev. Julie Letts

Sunday 17th 10.30

Mr Tony Stevenson - Family Service

Sunday 24th 10.30

Rev. Colin Anderton - Holy Communion

## Crickham Baptist Church

Every Sunday 10.30 am  
6.30 pm

Sunday School  
Evening Service

Contact *Dulcie Hooper* on 712187.

## Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar

Thursday 10.00am

Mass

Friday and

Saturday 9.30am

Mass

Saturday 10.00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sundays 9.00am

Mass

Contact *Father Philip Thomas* on 742564.

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# 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.*

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.

# 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 9.30am 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 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the evening before your journey:

Controller Taunton	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Bridgwater	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Weston super Mare	Pam Meadows	712143
Controller Street	Rosy Brooks	713697

The bus is also available for private hire. It can be booked by contacting Rachel Bennett, telephone 07807 156069 or email rachbennett1@hotmail.co.uk.

# What's On in the Parish

# April 2016

2 - Sat	<b>Fairtrade Coffee Morning</b>	9.30am	St Mary's Church
3 - Sun	<b>Green Wedmore – Freecycle Day</b>	10.00am	Wedmore Car Park
4 - Mon	<b>Green Wedmore</b>	8.00pm	The Swan
5 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
6 - Wed	<b>Camelot Quilters'</b>	10.00am	Wedmore VH
7 - Thurs	<b>The Importance of Being Earnest (until 9 Apr)</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore VH
8 - Fri	<b>Wedmore Arts Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall
	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic + Malcolm Harris</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn
9 - Sat	<b>Wedmore in Bloom Work Party</b>	9.30am	The George
10 - Sun	<b>Holy Trinity Breakfast</b>	8.30am	Blackford VH
11 - Mon	<b>Blackford Village Hall Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Blackford VH
13 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
	<b>Blackford Cafe</b>	2.00pm	Blackford VH
15 - Fri	<b>Wedmore Arts Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall
16 - Sat	<b>Isle of Wedmore Gardening Club Plant Sale + Coffee</b>	9.30am	Masonic Hall
	<b>Wedmore Twinning Association Quiz Night</b>	7.00pm	Masonic Hall
19 - Tues	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers</b>	7.30pm	The George
20 - Wed	<b>Club 50 Outing to Wye Valley / Abergavenny</b>	9.15am	Cheddar Rd Car Park
	<b>Camelot Quilters'</b>	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Council Rooms Grant's Lane
21 - Thurs	<b>WI Meeting, Guest Speaker Caroline Francis-Payne</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
22 - Fri	<b>Wedmore Arts Group</b>	2.00pm	Masonic Hall
	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic + Thornbridge</b>	8.00pm	The New Inn
23 - Sat	<b>Methodist Church Spring Bazaar</b>	10.00am	Masonic Hall
	<b>Theale Flower Show</b>	3.00pm	Theale VH
	<b>HM Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Beacon Lighting</b>	7.30pm	Manor Field Lascot Hill
24 - Sun	<b>Theale Film Club</b>	6.30pm	Theale VH
26 - Tues	<b>IOW Gardening Club Meeting</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
27 - Wed	<b>Probus</b>	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
28 - Thurs	<b>Isle of Wedmore Society</b>	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
29 - Fri	<b>Supper Concert for Wedmore Opera</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore VH

## Regular Weekly Events

### MONDAY

<b>Modern Dance</b>	4.00pm	Blackford VH +	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204
<b>Beavers</b>	5.00pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Bridge Club</b>	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Thelma Jenkin-Jones	01934 710467
<b>Scouts</b>	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

### TUESDAY

<b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.30am	Masonic Hall	Sue Freeman	01934 741861
<b>Ballet Classes</b>	3.45pm	Blackford VH +	Bristol Ballet Centre	0117 960 5844
<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	07775 682231
<b>Cardiodance</b>	7.30pm	Wedmore First School	Kaye Morgan Anstee	07799 814204

### WEDNESDAY

<b>Rainbows</b>	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
<b>Beavers</b>	5.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<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

### THURSDAY

<b>Wedmore &amp; Blackford Toddlers</b>	9.30am	Blackford VH +	Gareth 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	0117 960 5844
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Mendip Rotary Club</b>	7.15pm	IOW Golf Club	Chris Steel	07799 068669

### FRIDAY

<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
<b>Karate</b>	5.00pm	Blackford VH	Kayleigh Branston	07748 916695

+ Not taking place during school holidayS