

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



December 2018

No. 468

Editorial

The most magical month of 2018 is upon us, welcome to the December Edition Number 468.

If like me you are light years away from getting into the festive spirit, then the opening of the series of Living Advent Calendar windows at the Village Hall on Saturday 1 December, followed by our own unique Wedmore by Lamplight on Wednesday 12 December, should certainly minimise any natural Bah Humbug! tendencies you may have. These, when combined with the splendid array of events and carol services detailed in the following pages, particularly those where mulled wine is concerned, should achieve the right spirit just in time.

As we haven't done so for awhile, it is intended to publish a list of village contacts for Clubs and Societies in the January Edition, so if you have recently taken over at one of these, please would you advise our 'What's On' Editor, Liz Henderson (whatsonwedmore@gmail.com).

As always a massive thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Wedmore News this year, in particular our regulars whose wisdom, wit and knowledge provide a constant source of enhancement to the quality of this humble publication.

So let the celebrations commence in earnest. It is my absolute pleasure to wish all of our readers a Merry Christmas on behalf of everyone associated with the production of the Wedmore News.

Bill Sutton

Deadline for January Edition: 1 December 2018

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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. 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

As Bill mentioned in his Editorial, the first window of the Living Advent Calendar will be opened on 1 December at the Village Hall. The front cover photo gives you a sneak preview of this window, designed by Philip Hamblin. The photo was provided by Jan Daintree.

News

Parish Council Business

The October meeting was attended by representatives of Property Link of Watchfield who gave a presentation on a future proposed development on land off Combe Lane, Wedmore. Members agreed in principle to purchase a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for the village. These are the small signs that are moved around various locations and give drivers a flashing warning if they exceed the speed limit. As the signs are transportable, training will be given to one or two people so that good use is made of the equipment. This work used to be carried out by the County Council but has been dropped due to lack of funding. Members also agreed to budget for a new street lamp in Mudgley Road during the next financial year.

Members of neighbouring parishes recently met in Wedmore to discuss future funding for the 67 bus route. The County Transport officers are currently considering adding Burnham on Sea to the schedules and reinstating a Saturday service in and out of Wells. There would possibly be a 5% increase in fares announced soon.

Finally, on behalf of the Chairman and Members of the Council, may I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

*Rod Pring, Wedmore Parish Council, Grant's Lane, Wedmore Somerset BS284EA
Tel: 713087, email: wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

Wedmore Village Hall – 2018 AGM

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee – Thursday, 13 December 2018 at 6.00 pm in the Small Hall.

The Village Hall Management Committee have had another busy year continuing our endeavours to enhance the hall and make it ever more suitable for an extensive range of user groups. More than 25 user groups now use the hall on a regular basis from art to zumba; we have also been a venue of choice for a number of weddings. The hall continues to be a well-loved asset for the community.

As a Management Committee we are committed to pursuing a programme of maintenance and improvement but also to modernise and make this splendid Victorian building even more available, attractive and sustainable. Over the last twelve months we have had a new floor installed in the bar/snug area made possible by funding from the Real Ale Festival, installed retractable raked seating significantly enhancing

audience enjoyment – this was made possible by a £10,000 grant from Sedgemoor DC along with generous contributions from Wedmore Theatre, Wedmore Arts Festival and an advance of precept by Wedmore PC. All of the 51 seats have been sponsored by users within the community and a plaque is on each seat.

We have implemented an improved regular cleaning regime following a deep clean of the hall and the sanding of the main hall floor. I hope you have admired the ‘new’ floor which has been transformed from the grimy area it had become over the years. We were delighted to receive a grant from the Isle of Wedmore News and have consequently been able to replace items of the free-of-charge cutlery and crockery and can now provide over a hundred settings.

We have also been reassessed for Hallmark 1 and 2; this is the equivalent of Ofsted but for village halls and requires considerable preparation relating to Charity administration and management and numerous aspects of health, safety, security and licences.

Additionally, we have installed solar panels on the roof of the hall. Green Wedmore led the project and obtained all the funding to enable it to happen. It came from Wedmore Community Power Co-operative, Viridor Credits and Green Wedmore themselves. With a Tesla battery to store surplus generated electricity for use when the sun doesn’t shine, throughout the summer we were largely self-sufficient and hardly drew any electricity from the grid – a great contribution to the environment and a significant cost saving.

We have ambitious plans but inevitably all these need to be funded. Our future projects include refurbishing the entrance lobby, revamping the bar area/snug to make it more welcoming, renovating the storage units in the main kitchen, redecorating the main hall, etc. The list is endless! At the same time we need to be cognisant of the need to maintain the fabric of the building – tiles, gutters, etc.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors and users for the success of the hall. I hope that many of our user groups will send a representative to the AGM on Thursday, 13 December, along with any residents of Wedmore, and let us know of your needs and wishes for the Hall.

Simon C Tomes, Chairman, Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee

Wedmore’s Living Advent Calendar – Commencing Saturday 1 December

The first window to be opened in our Living Advent Calendar will be at Wedmore Village Hall. Philip Hamblin is preparing one of his wonderful creations so come along at 6.30 pm for the grand opening of our first window. You can find details of all the windows and a map at www.lacw.co.uk.

Thank you to all those from across the village who have offered to open a window and don’t forget that if you miss ‘an opening’ all the previous windows



will light up every evening thereafter at 6.30pm. You can use the map to go and have a look at those you missed. You can post pictures and comments on our Facebook page Wedmore Living Advent Calendar or follow us on Twitter @wedmoreliveadv1

Thank You from The Children's Society

The Children's Society Annual Collection Box opening raised a total of £1,033.70 with a further £190.88 from donations. Thank you again, everyone, for your generosity.



Susanne Burton, Local Secretary, The Children's Society

Love Fresh Veg?

Have you ever thought about growing your own fruit and vegetables?

This is the perfect time of year to consider a Wedmore Parish Council allotment. They are £30 (in advance) per annum for a full plot (1/8 acre) or £15 for a half plot with water included and you can grow various types all year round.

Rents are due on 1 January, so don't miss out and start planning your layout, what you would like to grow and seed choices.

It's great exercise, friendly and will get you out of the house.

Plots are available through the Parish Clerk on 01934 713087 or email wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com



A Big Thank You from Keith Hooper

In the October issue there was a piece on a Fire Walk to raise money for the RNLI so I decided to have a go. I've never tried raising money for anything before and was amazed how many people kindly sponsored me. I did the fire walk on 20 October and it was brilliant fun. I raised £1090 in total, so thank you to everyone who sponsored me.



International Spoof Competition at The New Inn, Wedmore – Friday 1 February

At 8 pm, prompt. Entrance fee £3; cash prizes. For information please call Frank or Debbie on 01934 712099.

The event will see International Spoofers from across the globe converge on The New Inn, Wedmore to try to claim Spoof Champion 2019.

Players who have entered so far include:

- Jason Mathias, 2018 Champion, the Barcelona Banker.
- Gill Kingston, 2017 Champion, the Glastonbury Guesser.
- Matty Drew, 2016 Champion and renowned birthday cake scoffer.
- Frank Sparks, 2015 Champion for Shortism
- Stephanie Patch, 2014 Champion of Chilli
- Paul Kingston, the Glastonbury Gambler and 2013 Champion
- Dave (USA) Palmer 2012 Champion
- Greg (suave) Mills, 2011 Champion
- Alice (who the ????) Swain, 2009 Champion



- Ivor (never lost a game) Squire, former Long Hill Champion
- Timmsy, the former Coins and Callus's Champion
- Roger Hancock, the blasphemer Champion 1931-2011
- Jim Mathers, the Glasgow Kiss Champion 1902
- David One Dog
- Chris Mckinley the Blackford Backhander
- Jim O'Conner the Mutton Lane Mincer
- Randy Candy, the Brickyard Bonker
- Neil Ellis, the Mudgley Master
- And many more.

*Jason Mathias, the Barcelona Banker,
2018 Champion*

Players will play in groups of four, each group will play 8 games a round, and points will be awarded for guessing correctly as follows;

1st = 4 points

2nd = 3 points

3rd = 2 points

last one out = 1 point.

The winner and second will go forward into the next round, whilst the loser will stand a drink for the other three players in their group.

Players must not call less than the coins they are holding or call an impossible call.

Adopt a Grave!



By the time you read this, a convivial work party formed of Wedmore in Bloom, the Garden Club, the Congregation, the Friends of St. Mary's and others of the willing and the pressed will have given the churchyard a bit of a tidy up. Thanks everyone for helping.

Looking to the future.....

Avoiding any thought of wanting to turn the churchyard into a suburban park but in an attempt to keep the churchyard looking, well like a country churchyard, a suggestion has been made that families and individuals might like to care for a grave. The Garden of Rest is looked after, the recently refurbished war graves are looking smart, most of the simple standing gravestones are pleasantly mossy but some

of the grander memorials need more effort. Could there be a more delightful way of creating a thread to the past whilst improving the present?

Hard to imagine that more than a couple of hours twice a year is needed. Can any willing folk get in touch with me and, with Richard Neill's help, let's see if we can match you to a grave.

Thanks everyone.

David Hopkins, Friends of St Mary's

Ethel Pople Deceased Charity and the Wedmore Charities

The late Ethel Pople, formerly of The Old Smithy, Cocklake, Wedmore, who died in 1978, left a trust under her will for the assistance of the elderly and/or infirm of Cocklake, Clewer and Wedmore to be called 'The Ethel Pople Trust' in honour of 'Our Blessed Lady of Wedmore'. Every year, those who think they may qualify are invited to apply.

The trustees of the Wedmore Charities, an entirely separate trust, also make annual distributions of trust income, predominantly to those within the parish who fall within the same definition, in other words, the elderly and/or infirm.

The trustees of both charities meet in December each year with a view to deciding how their combined distributions can be applied for the greater benefit of those entitled each year.

The trustees of both the Ethel Pople Trust and the Wedmore Charities therefore invite written applications from those who qualify under the terms of these trusts with a view to distribution of the trust income in December 2018. Letters should state briefly the basis on which the applicants qualify, i.e. whether by a reason of age or infirmity and with any other relevant information as to the applicants' circumstances that they feel able to give.

Please note that if you have applied successfully before the trustees would like you to provide written confirmation that your circumstances have not changed.

The trustees of both charities will consider applications early in December with a view to distribution of trust income before Christmas.

Applications should be addressed to the Ethel Pople and Wedmore Charities Trustees, John Hodge Solicitors, Cheddar Road, Wedmore BS28 4EH, for the attention of James Ashby.

The Fingerpost Appeal

We are pleased to report that three more fingerposts have been completed, Stoughton Cross now has its new blade, Tealham Moor and Cocklake Bridge have also been finished.

This leaves only the fingerposts at Rughill / Chapel and Stoughton / Ashton junction for completion. The renovations required to complete the work are temporarily held up awaiting further funds to come in.

Thank you to all parishioners who have shown such generosity with all your donations, and enhancing the environment of the Wedmore Parish.

David Ewens

Wedmore Community Bus

We are looking for a few volunteers to come forward to drive the bus and / or act as controllers for the four set destinations we travel to each week. The work is not arduous and provides a valuable service to everyone in the Parish, especially to those who can no longer drive or feel safe to do so. If you can give up some time in support, please contact Mike Brewer on 07794 781975

Wedmore Arts Festival 2019 – Back Next May



The 2019 Wedmore Arts Festival is taking shape, and looks to be an even bigger and more varied event than it was last year. We are currently exploring dates and ideas for more than 15 events and we will bring you confirmation of these as soon as we can.

In the meantime, we will definitely be welcoming back the phenomenal young violinist Poppy McGhee, playing this year at a very special concert brought to us by the much loved Somerset Choral Society. That's on Saturday 11 May. On Wednesday 15 May we have another Wedmore favourite: Liz Grand, who entertained us so magnificently with her one-woman play on Shakespeare's *Second Best Bed*, returns with an Agatha Christie mystery: where on earth was the author during those famous 11 days when she went missing? All will be dramatically revealed! And on Friday 17 May the sensational Henry Blofeld will be regaling the village with his favourite sporting anecdotes. Plenty of variety promised already and we also have more music, drama and poetry up our sleeves, plus of course our wonderful series of *Lunch with the Speaker*: several fascinating topics and personalities are planned in that spot.

If you have not already put the dates into next year's diary, please do so now! 10 to 19 May 2019. You wouldn't want to miss anything!

wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk.

Music in Mind – Group for People with Dementia and their Carers

December dates are 3rd and 17th.

Stella Moore, Registered Music Therapist, HCPC 01934 732282

The Farming Community Network (FCN)

It's good to have someone to talk to. Call us on the FCN Helpline; 03000 111 999 7am to 11pm, every day of the year. FCN.ORG.UK



St Mary's Church, Wedmore Joins the Toilet Twinning Revo-loo-tion

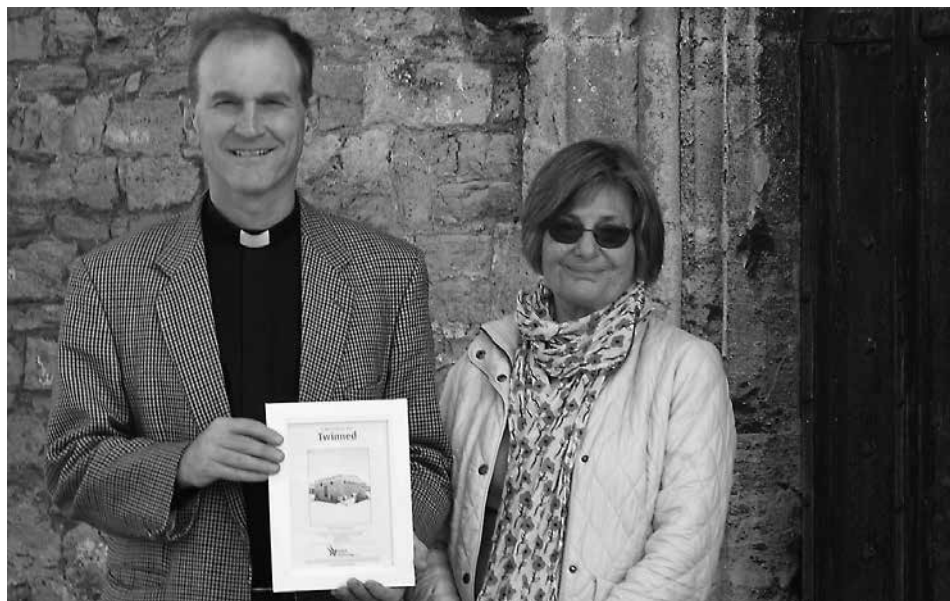
As part of Wedmore's efforts to become a 'Toilet Twinned Village' St Mary's Church now boasts certificates to show that they are supporting others across the globe.

The charity Toilet Twinning help to provide clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education in some of the world's poorest countries. Poor sanitation is one of the world's biggest killers and every minute a child under the age of five dies because of dirty water or lack of sanitation. The charity tackles this crisis through a twinning scheme which funds materials and education to empower people to build their own toilets and learn about the importance of hygiene and clean water.

Revd Richard Neill, Vicar of St Mary's, said 'It is outrageous that so many people in the world still lack the sanitation which we just take for granted. Toilet Twinning is such

a simple but imaginative way of tackling this problem and St Mary's are delighted to have twinned our church toilets with a church toilet block in Zambia. It is particularly good that a church in Zambia will be the beneficiary as the diocese of Bath and Wells has been 'twinned' with the Anglican Church in Zambia for the last 40 years.'

Local church-goers and villagers have helped raise the funds at St Mary's monthly Fair Trade coffee mornings, along with a generous donation from the church themselves. Liz Burton, who has been leading the local fundraising, says 'as well as individuals having the option to twin their home toilets for just £60, larger organisations such as businesses, churches and schools can raise money to sponsor a whole block of toilets. I'm delighted that St Mary's has got on board with this initiative and have become the latest toilet twinningers in Wedmore.'



You can find out more about the work that Toilet Twinning does by visiting their website www.toilettwinning.org or join the Wedmore Toilet Twinning Facebook page www.facebook.com/WedmoreTwinning for information on twinning your group, business or organisation.

Wedmore Neighbourhood Plan

Slightly later than hoped, the Wedmore Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Sedgemoor Council on 1 November.

Sedgemoor started its own consultation on the Plan on 9 November and comments must be made to Sedgemoor by Friday 21 December 2018. All the submitted documents can be seen on either

www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning or www.wedmore.online .

Paper copies of the plan can be purchased from the Parish Council for £5.



Please do not send comments to us, they need to go to ldf@sedgemoor.gov.uk. Written comments should be sent to the Council at Inward Investment and Growth, Sedgemoor Council, King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3AR.

Sedgemoor intend to appoint an Examiner in January who will consider the plan and report back with any changes required. Hopefully, this will be completed by March 2019.

All being well, we will then be in a position to hold the Referendum on the Plan on 2 May 2019 (the same day as the local elections).

The end is in sight!

Bob Sellwood, Chairman of the Neighbourhood, Plan Group

Cheddar Vale Lions Tree of Light Appeal – Saturday 1 December



Christmas is often a time of reflection, and members of Cheddar Vale Lions Club are inviting you to remember loved ones by sponsoring a light on their ‘Tree of Light’. The project, which is in its sixth year, will again be placed at Cheddar Garden Centre. A list of all those to be remembered will be placed in front of the tree.

Cheddar Lions will send the sponsor a handwritten card with the name of the person who is being remembered. They are invited to come along to the official lighting up ceremony which takes place on Saturday 1 December at Cheddar Garden Centre. There will be a dedication ceremony, music, carols and mulled wine, all commencing at 4.30pm.

Christmas is a time when you get together as a family and remember those that you have lost. We would love you to share this moment to reflect and think of the good memories.

All money raised by the Cheddar Lions ‘Tree of Light’ will go into the Cheddar Valley community supporting local projects and those in need.

The money raised makes a difference. If we have a request for a piece of equipment for a disabled child, a group or anyone in need in our community, the Club will consider it, and the money will be available to help where required.

The minimum donation asked is £5, and this will sponsor a light in memory of a loved one by completing a form to be found either on our website www.cheddarvalions.org.uk, or in Cheddar Garden Centre, at various outlets throughout the valley, or by telephone: 0845 833 7402.

National Report Rates Musgrove Park’s Maternity and Neonatal Care Above National Average

Mothers who deliver their baby early and need additional care at Musgrove Park Hospital’s neonatal unit have better outcomes than most of England. According to a report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health into neonatal care, Musgrove performs better than the national average.

The report says 7 in 10 premature babies discharged from the hospital's neonatal unit are breastfed, compared with six in ten nationally. This is thanks to a great focus by neonatal staff, who work with Musgrove's specialist infant feeding team to teach and support mums to breastfeed.

Another area where Musgrove Park performs above the national average is in cases of bloodstream infections (sepsis) in babies receiving intensive care. There were none at Musgrove in the last year, compared with a national average of 5.6 in 1,000.

This is in part due to enhanced care available on the neonatal unit over the last few years where it's now mandatory for two clinicians to be present when intravenous lines are placed in babies.

At Musgrove's neonatal unit, nine in ten parents are present with their baby during a consultant ward round, compared with 75 per cent nationally. Parents are encouraged to be present during a ward round so they get a chance to let their consultant know first-hand if anything is concerning them.

IT for the Terrified

Are you terrified of Tablets? Or irritated by iPads, Petrified of your Phone or Confused by your Computer? Then why not give us a ring and see if we can help?

I.T. for the Terrified provides help with using tablets, smartphones, cameras, computers, and similar devices on a one to one basis. Each informal session of two hours is tailored to meet the individual's needs, in a relaxed and friendly way, using their own equipment. Our volunteer trainers can help with most subjects and fully understand that the use of modern technology can be daunting to the newcomer. We can cover android phones, android tablets and iPads, iPhones, Windows and Macs.

Our opening hours are flexible, because we have different volunteers with different skills on different levels on different days, but we will arrange an appointment to suit both parties as quickly as we can.

Please call and leave a message on 01934 741751 as we will need to book an appointment for you. We meet at Cheddar Village Hall next to St Andrew's church, Church Street, Cheddar, BS27 3RF. Appointments are essential and now cost £10 for a two-hour session but please ask if there is more than one of you or you have any other requirements.



*Contact us at I.T. for the Terrified: 01934 741751
(usually goes to a standard answer phone
– please leave a message)*

www.itfortheterrified.co.uk itfortheterrified@btconnect.com

Usually using Cheddar Village Hall, Church Street,

Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3RF

Registered Charity No. 1130308: Company No. 06779600



A Day in the Life

Are you a local professional or someone involved in running a local organisation in the Isle of Wedmore? Would you like to share some of the things you do or perhaps raise awareness of your organisation? Please contact Liz Sweeney by email, photoswedmorenews@gmail.com.

Focus on Businesses

Do You Run a Business in the Parish?

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

Liz Sweeney

Letters to the Editor

Hi Bill,

Tidying through some old documents recently, I came across a booklet entitled 'Bagley Close Magazine December 1938,' although for the life of me I can't remember how it originally came into my possession.

It contains a selection of works by pupils at the old Bagley School, with three names of pupils being familiar to me, having met the people concerned as adults when, with my mum and dad, as a twelve year-old I first moved to Theale in 1954.

An entry from one of those I knew really appealed to me, and I copy it below.

The Sea

I love to see the lovely rolling sea of blue and green and to watch the sea-gulls flying round to try to find some dainty bite upon the ground. The sun shines on the beach and gradually the sea comes rolling in on the golden sand and covers the shining beach. Slowly the sun goes down over the sea and makes a beautiful colour in the sky. Then when it grows colder I go home because the sea comes up over the sand.

Clive Higgs, Class 2.

I thought it was a lovely little piece from a young boy, and remember Clive Higgs and his BSA 250cc motor-bike. Sadly he was killed on it when in his twenties, I believe at Yarley Cross.

Two other names in the booklet I recognised were Clifford Bethel, Class 1, and Cecil Sugg, Class 3. I also well remember the Headmaster, George Parfitt, who was there in 1954, although I don't know whether he was there in 1938.

It is also poignant to remember the terrible events which were set to ensue the following year when Europe erupted into war, of which in December 1938 the young pupils would have no fore-knowledge.

Kindest regards, Trev

J.P.Trevor Hunt

Reports and Society Updates

St Mary's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners this month are Mrs Win Russell with ticket number 89 and, second, Tom and Jane Wright with ticket number 32. In the final draw for 2018 the winning number is 61, belonging to John Allison and second Mrs Sheila Duckett with ticket number 95. Congratulations to all.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has supported this venture during 2018 and raised £840 for St Mary's General Fabric Fund, thus helping towards the general costs of maintaining and protecting our lovely church. Liz Henderson will be pleased to renew subscriptions for 2019 at the St Mary's Christmas Market on 1 December. Alternatively Lisbeth Bull will be happy to hear from existing and new members on 712742.

Lisbeth Bull

Wedmore Harvest Home 100 Club Lottery 2018



Hundred club winners as follows October 1st David Eccles, 2nd Gareth Gosling November 1st Gay and John Puddy, 2nd Pat Wood December 1st Alison Slade, 2nd Dave Powle 1st prize winning £100 and 2nd prize winning £50! Congratulations to you all, your cheques will be on the way soon. That concludes our 2018 100 club; a big thank you to

all who joined in and entered.

Wedmore Harvest Home 100 Club Lottery 2019

Our popular 100 club 2019 is now LIVE! Help us raise some important funds for the Harvest Home, and be in with a chance of winning money every month for a year!

All for only £30! If you are interested please contact Kerry on 07881 740576. Your number will be drawn every month: first prize is £100 and second prize £50. You are able to choose your own number, so be quick and don't delay, otherwise you could miss out on your lucky number!

RNLI – News and Local Rescues in September

On Saturday 20 October RNLI Winscombe held their Sponsored Fire Walk in front of Winscombe Cricket Club when 18 volunteers walked barefoot over a bed of red hot wood embers in front of a crowd of 300 spectators. The committed sponsorship total now exceeds £5,000.

There were 10 local rescues in October – (Minehead – 5, Portishead – 2, Weston-Super-Mare - 3). On 19 October, Minehead's D class lifeboat was launched just after mid-day to search for a couple cut off by the tide on a boulder-strewn beach. They located the couple at Selworthy Sands, took them off the beach and landed them back at Minehead; this rescue is recorded on video on the RNLI Minehead Lifeboat Station web page.



Wedmore Theatre Monthly Report for December



Tickets for 'The Railway Children'

There's still time to pick up tickets for one of the four performances in Wedmore Village Hall on Thursday 29 November at 7.30 pm, Friday 30 November at 7.30 pm, Saturday 1 December at

2.30pm or at 7.30 pm. To watch a video trailer of the show, go to <https://youtu.be/pssgG8SuB3Y>

Tickets are available from the Wedmore Theatre Box Office on 01934 743953, at Wedmore Village Store, or online at www.wedmoretheatre.com. All tickets are numbered, and there is, of course, a reduced ticket price for children under 18.

To become a Subscriber, and so be eligible for Priority Booking for all future productions, sign up now to our free regular Newsletter by visiting www.wedmoretheatre.com. Anyone can be a Subscriber, and it costs nothing!

Our 2019 Spring Revue – 'Dame Edna's Big Brexit Night Out'

By popular demand, we shall be welcoming back one of our most enduring favourites – Dame Edna Everage – who will be giving Wedmore her take on Brexit. Accompanying her inimitable Aussie perspective on this uniquely British event will be a dazzling array of comedy sketches, song and dance routines and a variety of satirical takes on Brexit. And, of course, there will be a special guest appearance by the Australian cultural attaché – Sir Les Patterson.

This very special show will play in Wedmore Village Hall over the three nights of 'Brexit Weekend' – 28, 29 and 30 March. All members of the community are welcome to join in, whether seasoned performers or complete beginners who would just like to have a go for the fun of it. For more information, or to participate, e-mail chair@wedmoretheatre.com.

(Warning: the combination of Dame Edna and Brexit means much of the content risks being politically incorrect. Not for the faint-hearted, or those with a selective sense of humour!)



Wedmore Theatre AGM

A date for everyone's diary – this year we are holding our Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm on Monday 10 December, and we shall be returning to our old venue, The Swan Inn. So, everyone can enjoy a pre-Christmas drink together, whilst catching up on our results for this year and our early outline plans for 2019. Everyone in the community is welcome, regulars and newcomers alike. So if you would like to have a say in what sort of shows we put on next year, then do come along and join in!

Wedmore Theatre

The Friends of St. Mary's

‘Helping the congregation raise money to maintain and enhance St. Mary’s as an all-village community centre’

Current Projects

With a lot of help and advice from third parties and with the splendid financial support of the Mendip Rotary Club and the Wedmore Real Ale Festival we are close to rigging professional quality lighting for the stage area to enhance community events using the church. The first to benefit was the Somerset Choral Society concert on Saturday 24 November and the spots will cheer up all the Christmas events such as The Christmas Fair on Saturday 1 December.

The exterior lanterns at the west and south doors are about to be refurbished by an expert glazing and metalwork company. The rather sad and rusty lanterns will be looking spruce shortly

A while back the Friends helped pay for the replacement of the protecting and supporting grille on the east end stained glass window. The west window now needs attention!

A call has gone out for villagers to ‘adopt a grave.’ Please get in touch if you, or you and your family would like to take on the care of one of the graves in the churchyard

Upcoming Events

The Friends have played a small part in helping to organise the inaugural ‘Wedmore’s Living Advent Calendar’ from the 1 to 24 December. Look out for the map showing the locations of the windows. Go to the website www.lacw.co.uk, join the Facebook page Wedmore Living Advent Calendar or follow it on Twitter at @wedmoreliveadv1.

The congregation are running The Christmas Fair on Saturday 1 December.

On Saturday 30 March 2019 the sixth and best yet “Clash of the Choirs” will bring together 12 local groups of singers for a light-hearted competition judged by the famous ‘Clapometer.’

Bank Holiday Monday 6 May is the date for the next Tower Open Day.

The second Wedmore 40/30 will take place on Sunday 16 June. There were over 150 riders this year and we expect to double that in 2019. Get your bikes out and help us raise a lot of money for Weston Hospicecare and for The Friends of St Mary’s.

Membership

We say 'I am not a churchgoer' ... but we all are! Hundreds of us went to Any Questions, The Village Post Office Debate and the Election Hustings. We are there for weddings, funerals and christenings, for Remembrance Sunday, carol services, midnight mass, on Christmas morning, at Easter, Harvest Festival, the First School services and Messy Church.

We all attend and enjoy the many events that are held in the church. It is hard to imagine the village without St. Mary's as the venue for The Clash of the Choirs, Wedmore Arts Festival, For Nantwich, The Somerset Choral Society and many other concerts. Hard also to picture the first Saturday of the month without the Fair Trade Coffee Shop, without the annual charity Christmas card sale and the May and Christmas Fairs.

We are all Churchgoers! Without The Friends of St. Mary's the cost of maintaining this beautiful building at the heart of our village falls on the shoulders of the active congregation only. Please join 'The Friends' - have a lot of fun and lend them a hand to raise funds to maintain and enhance our lovely church

David Hopkins, 01934 710149, dahopkins@aol.com

Wedmore Bridge Club

The Ladies' and Men's Pairs Championship was played during October with Barbara Biggin and Jean Lowe triumphant in the Ladies'. The Men's Trophy was won by Mike Smith and John Dixon. Runners up were Allison Smith and Maggie Uffindell and Bob Jepps and Gordon Kendell. Congratulations to all.

The Club's County League team scored a recent impressive victory in the Second Division by 17 – 3 to consolidate a useful middle order league position.

For information about Club activities please contact Secretary Steve Pedrick on 712852.

Wedmore WI



Our October meeting was held in The White Horse Inn in Mark where 16 members enjoyed a delicious lunch.

After the meal, Jill, our President, showed us some poppies she had knitted. These are to be made into a wreath for display at the WW1 exhibition to be held in the Village Hall between 7 and 11 November. We aim to make enough to commemorate one poppy for each man from the Parish who died at this time. Several knitters were recruited.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 20 December in the Masonic Hall at 7.30 pm when our speaker will be Michael Malaghan who has 'Gone to the Dogs.' The competition is a doggie picture.

Diana Rocky

Isle of Wedmore Society – Report of 25 October Meeting

Due to our advertised Speaker having to cancel his talk the Society was lucky enough to contact Ian Piper from The Yeovil Free-Wheelers, a voluntary organisation of Blood Bikers, who deliver blood and other medical items to hospitals and private homes.

Ian, who turned up with his very expensive and specially adapted BMW motorbike, gave an amusing and very interesting talk about this vital work. The Yeovil branch of the Blood Bikers, who are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year, mainly work out of Yeovil District Hospital delivering items during out of hours all over the south west and beyond, including London.

The idea started in 1962 to get young motor cyclists off the street and into using their bikes for something useful.

Yeovil operate four bikes with 40 volunteers, who are highly trained and are able to use sirens and blue lights when on a call but must not break any motoring laws, including speeding or jumping red traffic lights.

The bikes can cost anything up to about £16-17,000 each and annual running costs are £7,500 per bike - the volunteers save the NHS about £100,000 per year and are mainly supported by donations.

The volunteers started out doing 15 jobs in the first year but now carry out 1,000 call-outs per annum. The Society is very grateful that Ian could come and talk to us at very short notice and if the number of questions was anything to go by then we had a very worthwhile evening.

Chris Edwards, Speaker Secretary



Mendip Rotary Club Marks World Polio Day



Members of the Rotary Club of Mendip were marking World Polio Day by planting purple crocus bulbs opposite Cheddar War Memorial. The 'Purple for Polio Campaign' aims to raise public awareness of the life-threatening infectious disease of poliomyelitis which, although eradicated in the UK in 1984, still affects children in developing countries.

Mendip Rotarians also organised a public display in Cheddar library, where Rotarian Bob Acland gave an informative talk to members of the public about Rotary's progress towards eliminating the disease. Rotary Clubs worldwide have been actively fund-raising since 1985, and working with the World Health Organisation to provide vaccination against the disease.

Cases due to wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases then to 22 reported cases in 2017. As a result of the global effort to eradicate the disease, more than 16 million people have been saved from

paralysis. The latest statistics show that reported cases so far this year have dropped to fewer than 15, but as long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting the disease.



Rotarian Bob Acland gives a talk to the public in Cheddar Library



Mendip Rotarians plant crocus bulbs in Cheddar to mark World Polio Day

Rotary's Donation to Search and Rescue Charity



The Rotary Club of Mendip recently presented a cheque for £500 to Avon and Somerset Search and Rescue.

The A&SSR is a charity staffed by unpaid volunteers with specialist skills who are called out to assist other emergency services in saving lives.

They comprise

Cliff Members who are killed and experienced with rescue and working at height; Search Members, skilled and experienced with land search and rescue; Water Members, skilled and experienced with water and water margin search and rescue from still or swift-water in lakes, rivers, weirs or floods; and Support Members, who make valuable contributions in keeping A&SSAR running, but do not routinely get involved in rescue.

Mendip Rotary president Adam Travis presents a cheque to Duncan Massey from Avon and Somerset Search and Rescue



Reach Out and Dance Wedmore Dance Classes

Wedmore Over 50s Dance Group meets in Wedmore Village Hall from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon every Thursday (term time only). The cost is £5 or £3 for concessions, paid per session and the aim is to get fit, dance, meet new people and have fun. The sessions are very varied and are a mixture of dances from around the world and contemporary dances. They are suitable for all abilities.

No special expertise or clothing is required. Contact Pat Taylor on 01934 713430 (email davidandpattaylor@btinternet.com) for more details or just turn up on the day.

Free Dance Classes

Wedmore Over 50s Dance Group are planning to hold free taster sessions, thanks to a grant from the National Lottery, on Mondays 26 November, 3 December and 10 December in Mark Village Hall from 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

The aim is to get fit, dance, socialise and have fun. The sessions are very varied and will include a mixture of stretching, keep fit and dances from around the world, such as Salsa, African, Polish and Bollywood. They are all led by Viv Gordon and are suitable for all abilities. No experience or special clothing required.

Please come and give us a try. Contact Pat Taylor on 01934 713430 (email davidandpattaylor@btinternet.com) for any more information or just turn up the on the day.

West Mendip Walkers

Thursday 6 December

Moderate circular walk 10mi from Street. OS Map Ex141 ST480345. Start 10.00 am. Park YHA car park. Contact Carol Jackson Tel: 07979 354530 or caj7599@gmail.com

Thursday 13 December

Moderate circular walk 5.5mi from Rodney Stoke. OS Map Ex141 ST482499. Start 12.30 pm. Park near church. Contact Roger Mead Tel: 01934 743088/07724 800882 or rogermead1941@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 20 December

Moderate circular walk 9.25mi from Clewer. OS Map Ex141 ST439511. Start 9.00 am. Park in paddock Cribb House Lane. Contact Tony Strange Tel: 01934 733783/07415 517355 or anthonyestrangle@gmail.com

Thursday 27 December

West Mendip Walkers easy circular walk 6mi from Priddy. OS Map Ex141 ST528508. Start 12.30 pm. Park Queen Victoria Inn. Contact Carol Jackson Tel: 07979 354530 or caj7599@gmail.com

Tony Strange

Interested in Beekeeping?

Wedmore and Cheddar Beekeepers will be holding a 7-week beginners' course in beekeeping starting on Friday 22 February 2019 (7.30pm – 9.30pm). Cost will be £20. Venue: Cross Memorial Hall, Webbington Rd, Cross, BS26 2EL. If you are interested in joining then please contact Jonathan Friend

Tel. 01934712971 or email jpdfriend@gmail.com



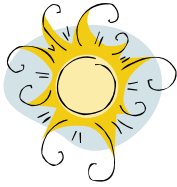
Weather Report for October 2018

RAINFALL



Monthly total	40.0mm	(1.57ins)
30-year average	86.2mm	(3.39ins)
Wettest day (13th)	8.0mm	(0.31ins)
No of dry days	21	
Last 3 months (Aug - Oct)	174mm	(6.86ins)
Year ending 31 Oct 18	735mm	(28.9ins)
30-year annual average	803mm	(31.6ins)

TEMPERATURES



Maximum (13th)	21.5 °C	(70.7 °F)
Minimum (30th)	-3.0 °C	(26.6 °F)
Number of air frosts	4	
Monthly average maximum	14.6 °C	(58.3 °F)
30-year average maximum	15.0 °C	(59.0 °F)
Monthly average minimum	6.0 °C	(42.8 °F)
30-year average minimum	7.6 °C	(45.7 °F)

COMMENTS

Rainfall less than half the average. Temperatures cooler than usual caused by persistent northerly wind during last week.

Denley Brown

Vera's Verse for December

Grandchildren

I am a grandmother and a great,
Which has never been my aim,
But if I persist in living on and on,
I've only myself to blame,
You can enjoy your great grandchildren,
And their toys,
The shining hair of the girls,
And the cheeky grins of the boys,
You no longer have to worry,
How your grandchildren will make a living,
They are travelling the world,
And achieving,
You can sit back in your armchair,
And bask in their glory,
When you are in company,
It can make a good story.

Vera Banwell

Forthcoming Events



St Mary's Christmas Fair – Saturday 1 December

9.30am to 12 noon. All the usual stalls, Fair Trade Coffee shop and bacon rolls. Wedmore First School Academy Singers will entertain us and there will be a Messy Church craft stall. We look forward to seeing you.

Green Wedmore Meeting and AGM – Monday 3 December

Meet in the function room upstairs at The George for the Annual General Meeting at 8 pm. Open to all and new members are especially welcome. Come and find out about Green Wedmore's successes this year and plans for the future.

For this final meeting of the year, attendees are invited to bring nibbles to share.



Radio 4 Kitchen Cabinet – Tuesday 4 December

Radio 4 will be recording their Kitchen Cabinet show in St Mary's on Tuesday 4 December in the evening. Tickets are free of charge and on a first come first served basis via the show's website.



Concert at Wedmore Methodist Church – Wednesday 5 December

Annual Concert in aid of Children's Hospice South West. Come and join us at 7 pm for an evening of entertainment - all participants give their time free for this very worthy charity 'Making the most of short and precious lives.'

No charge for admission and all donations will go directly to the Children's Hospice South West. No expenses taken. Refreshments served after the concert (a small charge) and there will also be a Christmas Gift stall together with CHSW Charity cards and gifts.



We look forward to seeing you again this year. A lovely start to Christmas!

Wedmore in Bloom – Saturday 8 December

Meet outside The George Inn at 9.30 am, all welcome.



Wedmore Farmers' Market – Saturday 8 December

At the Borough Yard from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm. Any enquiries, please contact Mrs Judith Gould on 07813340086.

Repair and Share Cafe – Saturday 8 December

Green Wedmore's twice-yearly Repair Cafe returns to the Village Hall 10 am-1pm.



Bring your broken items and learn how to repair them with friendly volunteer fixers. From electrical goods to clothing items, don't send them to landfill, let the Repair Cafe help you to mend it instead. Or just pop in for coffee, cake and a chat! As it is so close to Christmas there will also be lots of ideas on how to reduce your carbon footprint this Christmas with homemade gift and Yuletide decorations displayed and opportunities to share and swap things for Christmas.

Wedmore Theatre AGM – Monday 10 December

Commencing at 7.30 pm in The Swan.

Wedmore by Lamplight – Wednesday 12 December

Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee – Thursday 13 December

At 6.00 pm in the Small Hall.

Children's Christmas Carol Service – Sunday 16 December

6.30 pm at Crickham Baptist Church



Blackford Community Carols – Monday 17 December

Come and join us at 6.30 pm for the annual family carol singing and refreshments. No entry charge but we hope to collect donations for Wells' Connect Centre Christmas lunch for the homeless, a multi-faith school in Palestine and Singing for Syrians.

Wedmore WI Meeting – Thursday 20 December

Michael Malaghan - 'Gone to the Dogs'. Masonic Hall 7.30 pm, all welcome.



The Green Man – Thursday 20 December

At Theale Village Hall from 7 pm onwards.

An Evening of Carols followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine – Sunday 23 December

6.30pm at Crickham Baptist Church



Wedmore and Mark Conservatives Winter Supper – Friday 18 January

At the Masonic Hall Wedmore commencing at 7.00 for 7.30pm. The tickets are £20 and available from Ross Young tel 710255.

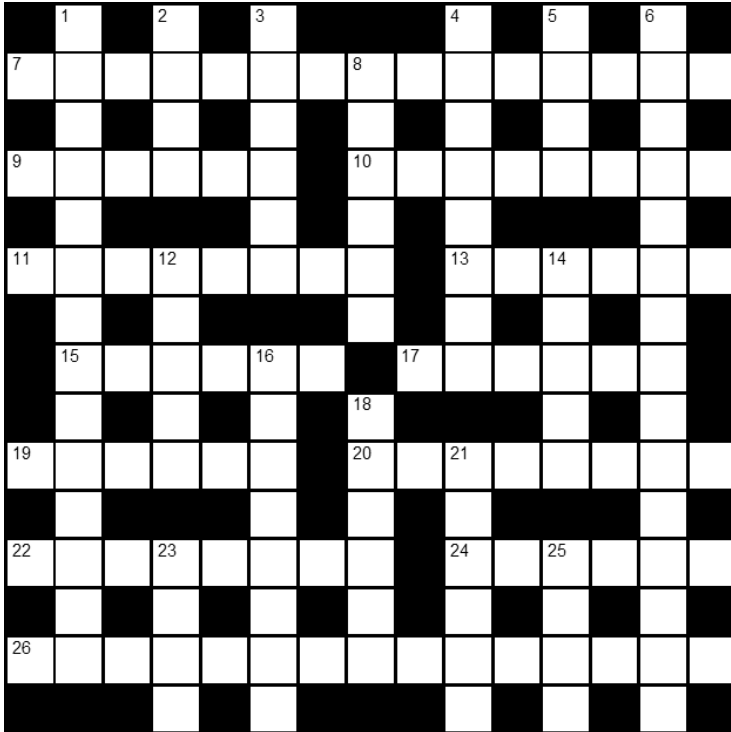
Blackford Harvest Home Winter Warmer – 15 February

7.30pm at Blackford Village hall. Tickets are £12.50, call Maureen on 01934 712087 to get your tickets.

The Crossword:

Number 20

By greendandelion



ACROSS:

- 7 Cool sesame touch smooths the pudding (9,6)
- 9 These pebbles make up rock (6)
- 10 Grass indicator of office water plant (4,4)
- 11 Be quick returning over the path making tracks (8)
- 13 Big ladies say lose second letter of houses in the far north (6)
- 15 Glorify missing first charge (6)
- 17 Awareness of a copper army (6)
- 19 April's going up and around (6)
- 20 Three-foot clearance (4,4)
- 22 Cans a story we hear of worker in money maybe (8)
- 24 The oxide loses energy yet has a stab at it (6)
- 26 Half changed mother, maybe not quite clear (15)

DOWN:

- 1 True, zippers thin out in the New Inn 5th December (3,6,5)
- 2 Image I take to the cleaners (4)
- 3 Casual ask about central state (6)
- 4 CIA names suspect who can't remember (8)
- 5 Stick around a Pacific island (4)
- 6 Film slaying an unusual discipline of mind reading (15)
- 8 Harsh time affected pound (6)
- 12 Custom reported area of one's operation (5)
- 14 The French politicians show us the way (5)
- 16 Joins current inside troopers (8)
- 18 Dash! It can come between words (6)
- 21 Something in the surety persuaded the girl in the office to do it again (6)
- 23 Put first silly letter in the opening (4)
- 25 These regiments aren't together very often (4)

Answers at the rear of publication.

Events Taking Place Outside the Parish

Wellbeing 'Drop In' Support Café – Mondays

Youth support staff and 'one-2-one' counselling advisers, for people aged 13 –18. Mondays 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Methodist Hall, Cliff Street Cheddar BS27 3PL. Free pizza. www.SRYP.org.uk. Inspiring involvement, creating opportunities.



Cheddar Baby Book Club – Mondays

At the Cheddar Library from 10.45 am to 11.15 am, for babies to pre-school children. Spaces are limited so book your free place before the rush!

Bookings can be made in person at Cheddar Library or call 0300 123 2224 or email chelib@somerset.gov.uk

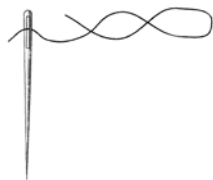
Cheddar Valley U3A – Monday Mornings

Retired or semi-retired? If you are in Cheddar on a Monday morning between 10.30 am and 12.00 noon come and chat with us over a cup of coffee in the Library. For more details search on line, search for Cheddar U3A or ring 01934 744241.



Craft and Sewing at Cheddar Library – 1st and 3rd Fridays

Try a variety of crafts, meet new friends, and share ideas and company with the Craft and Sewing Group at Cheddar Library, at 2.00 pm on the first and third Fridays of each month.



At any session you can join in the activities or bring your own craft to do, as you wish. We are a friendly group and new members would be very welcome.

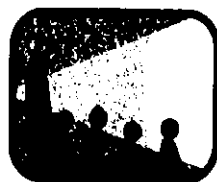
For more details contact Cheddar Library.

Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre – Autumn Season, Thursday 13 December

Film 'The Greatest Showman,' a big, bold musical inspired by the story of showman P. T. Barnum's creation of the Barnum and Bailey Circus and the lives of its star attractions.

Tickets for all events are available online at: www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts

For more details visit www.kowessex.co.uk/cheddarArts or for queries email cheddararts@googlemail.com



Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You



Bubble and Squeak Frittata

Christmas is coming, so a feast of good food. It always seems to be the case that we eat too much, but nevertheless have mountains of food left over. Well here is an idea of what to do – make a frittata. Left over scraps can be made into a substantial meal and you can add almost anything you like. The recipe is a basic frittata, and then add what you have; be it ham, bacon, sausages or various cheeses, etc. Whatever you add, it's good to have some grated hard cheese on the top.

Serve with salad items which are still lurking in the fridge and those half empty bottles of wine which need finishing off!

Ingredients (serves four)

2 tbsp olive oil

1 large onion, sliced

8 eggs

Salt and ground pepper

300/400g cold cooked potatoes cut into cubes

300/400g cold cooked cabbage or other left over greens, shredded

1 tbsp chopped mixed herbs

75g grated hard cheese

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan, and then add the onions. Cook gently for 10 minutes until soft and golden.
2. Meanwhile, break the eggs into a jug, beat lightly and season well.
3. Add the potatoes to the onions and cook gently for a few minutes to heat through, then stir in the greens and herbs, and whatever else you choose.
4. Add some more seasoning and make sure the ingredients are well combined and evenly distributed around the pan right up to the edges, then pour in the eggs.
5. Keep the heat low, do not move the ingredients around; just let the egg slowly set from the bottom up. After 6-7 minutes give the pan a shake. You should be able to see that the bottom half of the frittata is set, but there is still a good layer of wet egg on top.
6. Now sprinkle the cheese on top and place the pan under a hot grill. You want the frittata to finish cooking slowly so keep the grill heat moderate. Leave the frittata for 10 minutes or so until the top is set and golden brown.
7. Now let it cool in the pan for 10 minutes, and then transfer to a serving dish.

Norma and Derek Logan

The Garden in December

I am writing this on 31 October. We have already had several cold nights this autumn, although, here in Theale, not quite as cold as forecast. A couple of nights ago however, it went down to -2°C . or maybe even lower (I didn't look until 6.00 am) and that was enough to blacken dahlia foliage and finish off our outdoor tomatoes.



I have seen predictions of an exceptionally cold winter, but I don't know how scientific they are. I said last month that I might try to come up with a Christmas Gardening crossword, but although I have started it, I won't make the deadline if I try to complete it, so it will have to be a New Year crossword!

If these present low temperatures persist into December, they will do significant damage to all half-hardy plants not only dahlias. Gladioli, begonias and any other similarly tender species that may be on the patio or in containers elsewhere need to be moved. If you have somewhere protected to put them, such as a cold greenhouse, then do so. If not then cover them with fleece or similar protection. However, by the time you are reading this, this cold snap may be history; in recent years we have tended to have a few frosts in November, followed by a return to mild, damp weather, so we shall see. As I said last month, mild, damp conditions in winter can be ideal for the spread of grey-mould fungus (*botrytis*) which attacks a wide range of plants, particularly when there is little air movement, so under glass, open ventilators and/or have a fan to circulate the air. Winter bedding plants, such as pansies and primulas can also suffer from this mould, so beware. There used to be various fungicides available to amateur gardeners to counteract this problem, but most of them are no longer available so you will just have to be vigilant and pick off any affected foliage that you see.

Winter vegetables, such as lettuce, under glass or polythene, can be affected by the same problem; getting the foliage too wet when watering can make it worse, so try using "leaky hose" for example, rather than overhead watering.

I was speaking to someone a few days ago who said that, so far, the birds have not been stripping berries from pyracanthas, cotoneasters, etc. No doubt they will when the weather gets colder; they always take the red berries first, because birds can see better at the red end of the spectrum (incidentally, that is why slug pellets are blue, so that birds don't see them on the ground and eat them and flowers pollinated by birds in the wild e.g. hummingbirds, tend to be red). This is not irrelevant as it leads me on to preserving holly berries for Christmas; if you wish to do this on a tree in your garden, putting a polythene bag over them, tied loosely, can keep our feathered friends off until you want to use the holly for festive displays.

When the leaves have all come off you can prune apples and pears at any time until the buds begin to burst again at about the end of February. Do not, however,

prune plum or cherry trees in the winter, as this lays them open to infection by the silver-leaf disease, which is at best debilitating and at worst, lethal. (I'm sure I say that every year).

On the lawn, now is a good time to deal with moss, either chemically or simply by raking - a good job on a cold day - but remember that moss in a lawn is often a symptom of some other problem. Poor drainage, shade or acidity may be to blame and the cause needs to be addressed otherwise it will simply return next year. Frequently, scalped patches appear at the side of the lawn where the mower wheels have dropped off the edge, or herbaceous plants have flopped on to it. Use the lawn edger to cut out a piece of turf and turn it around, so that the grassy part is moved to the edge, the bald bit will then be filled in by encroachment of grass from the surrounding area. If you frequently have problems with border plants lying on the lawn, consider a "mowing strip" of slabs along the edge of the grass, sunk in to turf level so that the mower passes over them. I have often considered putting a "swath board" on the mower so that it pushes such plants to one side (the border) instead of running over them. Come on mower manufacturers, take the hint!

If you like to have some scent in the garden in winter, consider growing *Sarcococca confusa*, sometimes known as Christmas Box; it is evergreen and has small creamy, honey-scented flowers. It grows to about a metre high and wide and usually flowers early in the New Year.

Talking of Christmas Boxes, it is now time to drop hints about gardening books or other related items that you would like to find in your Christmas stocking. Also, get together a selection of seed and other gardening catalogues, so that you have an excuse to sit in the arm-chair and browse through them during the short days of mid-winter (with a warming drink of something to help).

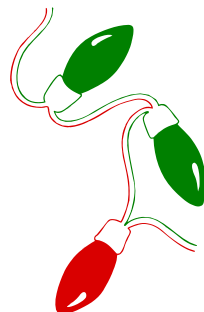
I will end by wishing you all the Compliments of the Season.

Adrian Hutchison

Thought for the Month

Dear Friends,

One of the things that I love about this time of year is all the lights. Town and village centres look even more happy and welcoming with the lights sparkling. Then there is the effort that some people go to in decorating their houses. Each year we seem to go more and more over the top in the decorations we put up, often losing all sense of moderation and taste. I love it! Sometimes I will travel a couple of miles out of my way just to pass by houses that have



been completely festooned with Christmas lights, flashing reindeer and flying angels. After all, if we can't pull out all the stops at Christmas time, when can we?

This year there will be more lights than ever in Wedmore as people open their windows for the Living Advent Calendar. A taster of what to expect on 1 December is on the front cover of this issue. Do enjoy these, do have lots of good conversations as you meet others from the village through advent and do make sure to say thank you to those who have spent time and money in order to brighten up our lives

For me, the lights bring a smile to my face, make me feel better about things, but they are also a sign of something deeper. At a time when the sun's light is being swallowed up by growing darkness, the Christmas lights can remind us of the light that Jesus can cast into our lives. Often at carol services the last reading that we hear is from the gospel, the account of Jesus' life, given by John. He begins his account at the beginning of time and speaks about the light and life that Jesus brings to all creation,

'In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness; and the darkness did not overcome it.'

That light is God's good gift to us, an assurance of his presence with those who find themselves in dark places, full of sadness, pain, loneliness and emptiness. And at Christmas we remember especially that this gift of light is seen most fully in Jesus.

Enjoy the lights this Christmas, keep them shining for as long as possible; and remember that the great light which all our decorations celebrate and to which they point will continue to shine long after the twinkling Christmas trees and neon Santas have been put away for another year.

Lisa, Iona, Melissa and I thank you for all your good wishes and prayers this year. May you have a Christmas full of light and a New Year full of hope.

Richard Neill – your Vicar

Sport Reports

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

October started with a big day for the Club as the A-team had reached the final of the Somerset Bowl for only the second time. The final was at Weston against the holders, Worlebury, who put out a strong, young side. Josh Barwell and Toni Ribí got the team off to a great start and despite being pushed hard clinched their match 3 & 1. Behind them though the team struggled as Worlebury played some excellent golf. The pairings of Tom Smith and Lee Parsons and Mike Garbutt and Richard Ham both found the opposition too hard to handle. Jon Thompson and Dom Channon took their opposition to the sixteenth but then succumbed before Rich Vowles and Rob Davis won the final match to leave the score 3 – 2, a more than creditable outcome.

The season may be winding down but there were two more Open competitions to play in although that did mean playing on consecutive days. First was the inaugural Seniors Mixed Open which attracted over forty visiting players as well as a similar number of locals. Wet and windy conditions produced low scores but a tight finish with three scores of 35 being best of the day. Countback gave first place to Jill Jordan and Mike Waddington from Lilleybrook ahead of Duncan and Rachel Hughes from Oake Manor with Phil and Kay Taylor from Enmore taking third place. Vera Ireland and John Russell were the best Wedmore team on 34, a score matched by Bob and Alison Cooke from Sidmouth and Phil Hodge and Anne Elliott-Rose from Enmore.



The A team drowning their sorrows after their defeat in the final

Conditions were perhaps marginally better for the annual holding of the Yonex Trophy with Wedmore players this time dominating the prizes. Best of all was Mark Sweeting, making light of the conditions with a brilliant 41 points, 2 better than runner-up Mark Cornish. Best visitor of the day was Dewi Morgan with an excellent score of 38 on an unfamiliar course. Home players then filled the next three places, Charles Sweeney, Dale Worthington and Duncan Williams all beating par with a score of 37. Annya Patten with a hard earned 33 took the Ladies' Trophy, 2 shots better than runner-up Liz Sweeney with Jane Prosser best on countback from a group of players on 30.

Wet and windy conditions met players for the Club Monthly Stableford and scoring generally reflected this. Dom Channon won division 1 with 35, one better than Mark Cornish who beat Ben Barwell on countback. Tom Bennett played better than handicap, his 37 points edging out runner up Danny Guyatt by a point. Best score of the day came from Dave Ash winning division 3 on 39 with Nigel Young second on 34. Only three ladies braved the elements, Fiona Pinsent winning with an excellent 38, with Abi Moore on 34 and Jane Prosser third on a very respectable 32.

The Ladies' Stableford offered a trophy for the winner – the Olive Bowl. This went to Ann Dixon, her second big win in a few weeks. Her score of 39 points also made her clear winner of division 2 with Hazel Gough second on 34. Wendy Lucas won division 1, her score of 38 being just 2 better than both Maggie Morris and Shirley Turner who took second place on countback. Linda Roberts won division 3, her score of 38 was 4 better than second placed Judith Robinson. The Seniors' Stableford had some outstanding scores in division 3. Ray Wall won on 45, 3 better than Dennis Howard with Phil Rogers third on 38. There were some odd results in divisions 1 and 2 with the first 3 in 1, John Russell, David Taylor and Mike Garbutt all scoring 38 whilst in 2, Nigel Day, Chris Monks and Nick Smith all scored 37.

In the Club Medal Tom Smith won a close finish in division 1, although his score of 71 was just one better than Tim Harris. Nett 74 was good enough to win division 2 for Mark Sweeting with Bobby Jones second on 76. The only player to match par was Russell Dixon who won division 3 with a nett 70 giving him a 7-shot margin over Max Grant. Jane Prosser was leading lady with nett 70. In the Ladies' own Medal scoring proved difficult despite the good weather. Captain Shirley Gooding had the best score of the day, 74 to win division 1 by a single shot from Marlyn Jackson. Jenny Brown's score of 75 was enough to win division 2 by 6 clear shots from Hazel Gough whilst Penny Oliver won division 3 by an even larger margin, her 76 putting her 7 shots ahead of Liz Sweeney. Tim Harris marked his return to Seniors' golf at Wedmore with a 2 over par gross round of 72. This equates to a nett 67 and was enough to win division one of the Medal, but only on countback from Steve Lawrence. Phil McMahon was the clear winner of division 2 with a nett 70, 2 better than Mike Peacock who took runner-up spot from Ian Dillamore on countback. There was another close finish to division 3 with Julian Roberts beating Peter Spinks on countback after both finished on 70.

In a week of close finishes, the closest came in the final event which was the annual match between the Captain and Vice-Captain's teams for the Barron-Midgely Trophy. With the score poised at five matches each, Sean Gray, playing with his father Club Captain Jim Gray, holed a long putt on the final hole to secure a half against vice-captain Kevin Osman and his partner, father-in-law Keith Thomas, to leave the match tied at 5½ each, possibly the first ever drawn match.

Tony Biggs

Wedmore Tennis Club

Autumn coaching is now well underway for juniors and adults. The second half of this term dates are 5 November to 22 December. Juniors are welcome from tots aged 3 years up to the older juniors and squad training. Craig has also been running taster



sessions at the club on Wednesday lunchtimes which Wedmore first school pupils are enjoying and we hope to see lots of the young players at future training and fun holiday sessions, etc.

Adults Cardio Tennis takes place at 9am on Wednesday mornings followed by Rusty Rackets at 10am. This is open to beginners or those who have not played for a while; it's a great way to get involved and all are welcome. There are sessions for all so please see the website for full details or contact Craig Phillips tel.07546230727 or by e mail - tennis.phillips@hotmail.co.uk.

Coaching is available all year round and bookings are now being taken for January 2019.

Winter league and matches are underway with four teams competing in the league on Sundays captained by Michael Gill. There are also two teams in the veterans captained by Val Parker.

Joanna Cooper

Church News

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Tuesday 18 December 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

Baptisms

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

Lucia Dobson daughter of James and Sarah Dobson of Wedmore, whose christening took place in St Mary's church on Saturday 27 October 2018.

Travelling Crib

During December figures of Mary and Joseph plus their donkey will be seeking homes to stay for a night during that symbolic Advent journey towards Bethlehem. The Travelling Crib is a tradition from South America, where it is called POSADA and is all about offering Mary and Joseph hospitality on their journey, and in so doing, opening one's home and heart to the stranger and to God.

If you want to host Mary and Joseph for a night, please contact 713745 or 712144.

A travelling crib will also be making its way around the houses of those who are having windows in the Living Advent Calendar.

The Road to Bethlehem

Christchurch Theale invite you to join them in travelling 'The Road to Bethlehem' on Saturday 22 December. An interactive journey, during which we will meet some of the characters from the nativity story and sing some favourite carols, begins at Stoney Stile, Snake Lane, Bagley and ends at Theale Village Hall.

We begin at 4.30 pm. You can either go straight to Stoney Stile (there is no parking there) or meet at The Village Hall and be escorted to our starting place by an angel. This is very much an event for all ages and families and children are welcome. Some walking is involved. Seasonal refreshments will be served.

Help needed to put up churchyard Christmas tree

The large Christmas tree in front of St Mary's is going to be put up on Sunday 9 December after church at 11.45 am. The more folk that we have the easier it will be, so if you can spare 30 minutes to help on that day it will be much appreciated. Please let the vicar know if you think you can come along and help.

Special Advent and Christmas Services at the Churches of the Isle of Wedmore - December

Sunday	2	9.00 am	Holy Trinity	Parish Communion & Gift Service
		11.00 am	Christchurch	Parish Communion & Gift Service
		6.30 pm	St Mary's	Advent Carol Service
Sunday	9	9.00 am	Holy Trinity	Sunday Breakfast and Christingle
Wednesday	12	6.00 pm	Wedmore by Lamplight	Crib Service
Sunday	16	6.30 pm	Allerton Church	Christingle Service

Monday	17	6.30 pm	Holy Trinity	Village Carols
Wednesday	18	6.00 pm	St Mary's	Wedmore 1 st School Carol Service
Thursday	20	All Day	Holy Trinity	Hugh Sexey School Carol Services
Saturday	22	4.30 pm	Bagley	Orchard Road to Bethlehem
Sunday	23	9.00 am	Holy Trinity	Advent Meditations
		11.00 am	Christchurch	Carol Service
		6.30 pm	Allerton	Carol Service
		6.30 pm	St Mary's	Carol Service
Monday	24	5.00 pm	St Mary's	Christingle
		11.00 pm	St Mary's	Midnight Mass
Tuesday	25	9.00 am	Holy Trinity	Christmas Morning Communion
		9.00 am	Allerton Church	Christmas Morning Communion
		10.30 am	St Mary's	Christmas Morning Communion
		11.00 am	Christchurch	Christmas Morning Communion

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

*Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel at 8.45am
Communion is celebrated most Wednesdays at 9.45 am*

Sunday	2	Advent Sunday	10.30 am	Café Church & Gift Service
			6.30 pm	Advent Carol Service
Sunday	9	Advent 2	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Wednesday	12		6.00 pm	Crib Service
Sunday	16	Advent 3	8.00 am	BCP Holy Communion
			10.30 am	Morning Praise
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	23	Advent 4	10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.30 pm	Carol Service
Monday	24	Christmas Eve	5.00 pm	Christingle Service
			11.00 pm	Midnight Mass
Tuesday	25	Christmas Morning	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sunday	30	Christmas 1	10.30 am	Benefice 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	2	Advent Sunday	9.00 am	Parish Communion & Gift Service
Sunday	9	Advent 2	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast & Christingle
Sunday	16	Advent 3	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Monday	17		6.30 pm	Community Carols
Sunday	23	Advent 4	9.00 am	Advent Meditations
Tuesday	25	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday	30	Christmas 1		No Service

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	2	Advent Sunday	11.00am	Parish Communion & Gift Service
Sunday	9	Advent 2	11.00 am	Christchurch All Together
Sunday	16	Advent 3	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Saturday	22		4.30 pm	Road to Bethlehem
Sunday	23	Advent 4	11.00 am	Carol Service
Tuesday	25	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday	30	Christmas 1		No Service

Allerton Church

Sunday	2	Advent Sunday	9.00 am	Family Praise
Sunday	9	Advent 2	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	16	Advent 3	9.00 am	No Service
			4.30 pm	Christingle Service
Sunday	23	Advent 4	9.00 am	Parish Communion
			6.30 pm	Carol Service
Tuesday	25	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Family Communion
Sunday	30	Christmas 1		No Service

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

Bagley Baptist Church

Every Sunday 10.30 am - Morning service. We have groups for tots to teens, and a lovely playroom for restless little ones.

Every Wednesday 10 am-12noon is our very popular 'Coffee with a View.' Come for coffee/tea and home-made cakes, our wonderful view and a warm welcome. Bring a friend, or come and make some new ones here. All free of charge. We have good parking and wheelchair access.

Every Wednesday (term time) 7.30- 9.15 pm. We run two youth groups for school years 6-8 BBC1 and years 9+ BBC2.

Saturday 8 December - Hand Bellringers of Great Britain 7 pm-9.30 pm.

Sunday 9 December - Prof.Stuart Burgess. 'Star Of Bethlehem' 10.30 am.

Monday 24 December - Candlelight Service 7 pm

Tuesday 25 December - Christmas day Service at 10.15 am

For further details, please ring (01934) 710779 / 712812, email contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or go online at www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Wedmore Methodist Church

Preachers for December

Sunday	2	10.30 am	Regular Morning Service
Sunday	9	10.30 am	Rev. John James Holy Communion
Sunday	16	10.30 am	Family Service
Sunday	23	10.30 am	Local Arrangement Carol Service
Sunday	30	10.30 am	Regular Morning Service

Crickham Baptist Church

Sunday Services: 6.30 pm

Sunday School: 10.30 am

Contact *Dulcie Hooper* 712187

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar

Contact *Father Philip Thomas* - telephone 709244

Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

Surgery Opening Times

Wedmore Surgery

Mondays and Fridays 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.30 am to 1.00 pm

Telephone 01934 712774

Axbridge Surgery

Monday to Fridays 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Telephone 01934 732464 - Please note the surgeries are closed on Bank Holidays.

Contact our Clinical Team through our Website

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

www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Improved Access Appointments

Axbridge Surgery

Tuesdays 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

During these a Nurse/HCA/Phlebotomist will be available for routine appointments outside normal surgery times. These appointments are provided, but not exclusively, for those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours.

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

Please visit our website or visit/ telephone the practice 732464 or 712774 for changes to opening hours.

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

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

Wedmore Community Bus

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

The service acts less like a bus and more like a personal taxi service. You get on and off wherever you tell us is the most convenient place - usually outside your own house.

Travel is free if you have a current bus pass. If you have to pay, then fares compare very favourably with alternative forms of transport, saving money on fuel and parking. For example, the 50-mile round trip to Taunton is only £4.80.

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

Controller Taunton	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Bridgwater	Angeline Duckett	712631
Controller Weston super Mare	Carol Ayliffe	713471
Controller Street	Carol Ayliffe	713471

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



Crossword 20 Answers

Across: Chocolate mousse 9.Stones 10.reed mace 11.tramways 13.igloos 15.ionise 17.acumen 19.spiral 20.yard sale 22.tinsmith 24.thrust 26.semitransparent

Down: 1.The Turnip Prize 2.icon 3.Alaska 4.amnesiac 5.guam 6.psychoanalysing 8.thrash 2.manor 14.lamps 16.soldiers 18.hyphen 21.retype 23.slit 25.rare

What's On in the Parish

December 2018

1 - Sat	St Mary's Church Christmas Fair	9.30am - 12 noon	St Mary's Church
3 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
	Green Wedmore	8.00pm	The George
4 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	10.30 - 2.30pm	Wedmore VH
	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The Swan
5 - Wed	Camelot Quilters	10.00am	Wedmore VH
	Concert at Wedmore Methodist Church	7.00pm	Wedmore Methodist Chapel
8 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom Work Party	9.30am	The George
	Green Wedmore Repair Cafe	10am - 1pm	Wedmore VH
	Wedmore Christmas Farmer's Market	9.30 - 1.30pm	The Borough Yard
	Hand bellringers of Great Britain	7 - 9.30pm	Bagley Baptist Church
9 - Sun	Holy Trinity Church Breakfast	8.30am	Holy Trinity Church
10 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
	Wedmore Theatre AGM	7.30pm	The Swan
11 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	10.30 - 2.30pm	Wedmore VH
12 - Wed	Probus	10.15am	Wedmore Golf Club
	Blackford Cafe with Christmas festivities	2 - 4pm	Blackford VH
	Wedmore by Lamplight		
13 - Thurs	Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee AGM	6.00pm	Wedmore VH Small Hall
14 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic Christmas party	8.00pm	The Panborough Inn
16 - Sun	Theale Film Club Paddington 2	6.30pm	Theale VH
	Childrens' Christmas Carol Service	6.30pm	Crickham Baptist Church
17 - Mon	Wedmore Knitting and Quilting Group	9.30am	The Scout Hut
	Blackford Community Carols	6.30pm	Holy Trinity Church
18 - Tues	Wedmore Tuesday Club	10.30 - 2.30pm	Wedmore VH
	Wedmore Young Farmers	7.30pm	The Swan
19 - Wed	Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm	Council Rooms Grant's Lane
20 - Thurs	Wedmore WI Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
23 - Sun	An Evening of Carols with Mulled Wine & Mince Pies	6.30pm	Crickham Baptist Church
28 - Fri	Mr Punch's Folk Club Open Mic Christmas blues	8.00pm	Panborough Inn

MONDAY				
Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane Lisa	07977 415799 07801 272255
Pilates	11.00am	The George	Georgie	07976 254887
Art Group	2 - 4pm	Wedmore VH	Chris Midford	01749 712522
Beavers	5.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Bridge Club	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
Scouts	7.15pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

TUESDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Chair Yoga	10.00am	The Swan Inn +	Jo Willis	07552 711101
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Angela Mills	01934 712607
50+ Dance Class	10.00am	Wedmore VH	Rhian Weston	07854 594268
Ballet Classes	4.00pm	Bristol Ballet Centre +	ashermann99@hotmail.com	
Acting Up Drama Club	3.45pm	Wedmore VH +	Lou Merryfield	07973 429947
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Circuit Training	7.30pm	Blackford VH	Nigel	07776 82231 07799 814204

WEDNESDAY				
Fitness2Unique	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Rainbows	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
Brownies	6.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Lisa Hall	01934 713566
Guides	7.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
Yoga	8.00pm	Blackford VH	Sandra Mailey	01934 712686
PilogaFit	10.30-11.30am	Wedmore VH	John Beasley	01749 672482
Tai Chi	12.15-1.15pm	Wedmore VH	John Beasley	01749 672482

THURSDAY				
Yoga	10.00am	Scout Hut	Shane Allen	01275 790175
Maturity Gang	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Pat Taylor	01934 713430
Ballet Classes	3.45pm	Bristol Ballet Centre +	ashermann99@hotmail.com	
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

FRIDAY				
Fitness2Unique (2 Classes)	9.15am	Blackford VH	Rane / Lisa	As above
Tots and Tinies	9.15am	Wedmore First School +	Jo Page	01934 710431
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	Masonic Hall +	Jim Collett	01934 712663

+ Not taking place during school holidays