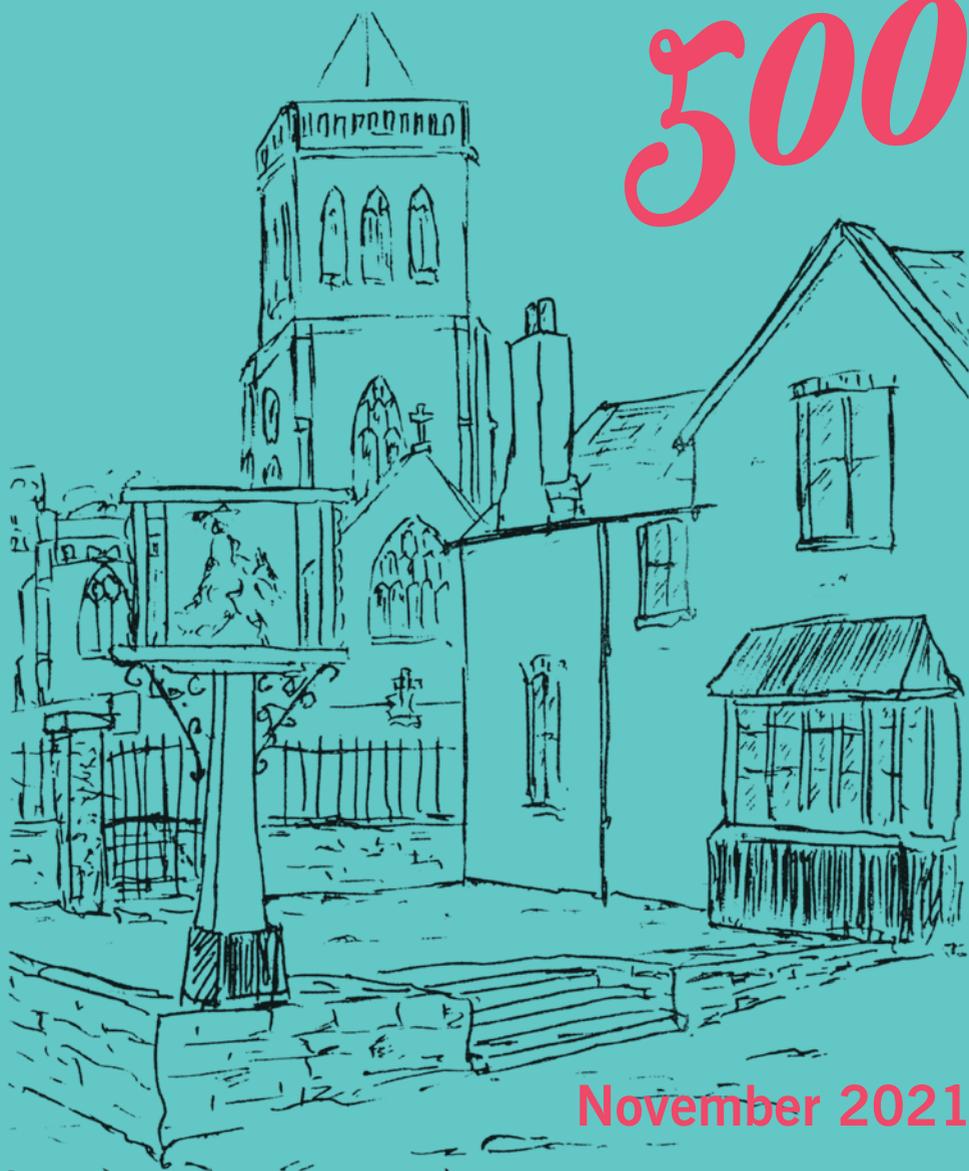


ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

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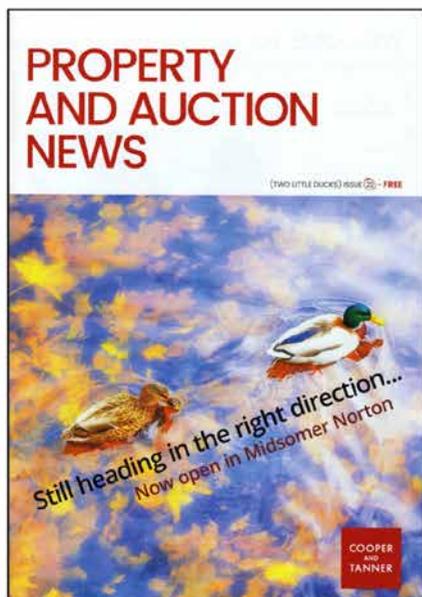
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Editorial

Dear Readers

An absolutely scrumptious welcome to this the anniversary November Edition, number 500!!! Wow what an amazing achievement for a humble (well not that humble actually) village magazine, which was first published back in November 1979.

By way of celebrating and looking back, I have decided to precis the initial and each of the previous centenary issues in an article entitled the Isle of Wedmore News – 500 Not Out, which I hope you will enjoy.

Congratulations must go to the excellent management team of the 20th Wedmore Real Ale Festival on beating all records for fund raising, and to the organisers of the mini Isle of Wedmore Arts Festival, both great successes.

Well, we have a large and eclectic mix of events to look forward to in November including two exciting pieces of news; firstly Wedmore by Lamplight will take place in December and also, the WI will return soon stronger than ever, so it just remains for me to thank as always the good folk who assisted me in putting this edition together. Happy reading!

Bill

Front Cover

This month's cover features a reproduction of the image used on the first edition.

Liz Sweeney

Deadline for December Edition: 1 November 2021

Contact the Wedmore News

Editorial Copy/Items for Publication

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Email editorwedmorenews@gmail.com

What's On Listings and Contact Details for your Club/Organisation

Liz Henderson, 12 Church Street, Wedmore. BS28 4AB (01934 713196)
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Photos and Features

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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 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.

News

Parish Council Business

The September meeting was held back at the Council Rooms after the visits to Blackford and Theale. Cllr David Kirley chaired the meeting due to Polly Costello being on holiday. Cllr Andy Reeson attended his first meeting and signed the Declaration Register. The main agenda items centred on dogs. Two complaints of dangerous and aggressive dogs had been received from walkers using the footpath from Sand Road to Pilcorn Street. The complainants had been advised to contact the police and the Clerk also informed the Dog Warden at Sedgemoor who has enforcement powers. One local resident had written to ask the Council to provide a piece of land so that his dog could run free. Members felt this was not within their power and pointed out that there is lots of open space and droves around the village where dogs already run freely. Members agreed to fund another dog waste bin in Combe Lane near the new footpath leading onto Cross Farm.

Some Councillors had met with traders to discuss the future of 'Wedmore by Lamplight.' There was talk of it being suspended but after the discussions members were supportive and hoped that it would continue this year.

*Rod Pring, Parish Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council,
Grant's Lane, Wedmore Somerset BS28 4EA Telephone 713087,
email: wedmoreparishcouncil@gmail.com*

Wedmore by Lamplight is Pleased to be Back

Wednesday 8 December 5.30pm – 9.00pm Late night shopping – Food – Music – Fun
Christmas starts here!

The 20th Wedmore Real Ale Festival (10 – 12 September 2021)

We finally pulled it off, the belated 20th Wedmore Real Ale Festival, which had to be cancelled last year due to the pandemic finally went ahead safely this year and we are delighted to say it was a great success. Like 2019, it was held again on the Glebe Field site, which allowed for an open-sided marquee to provide a very safe venue with plenty of fresh air to flow across the site. We had a range of food and a gin bar to give our visitors plenty of choice, whilst on site.



Talking of choice, this year, we had our biggest selection of drinks, consisting of 89 different ales, six craft ales, 20 ciders and five wines to give a whopping total choice of 120 different drinks. During the weekend, over 6,500 pints were poured and 246 bottles of wine and prosecco were drunk, during our most popular festival yet, with over 2000 people attending.

There was a great music line-up again this year with the Bee Skas kicking us off with their ever-popular two-tone classics on Friday night. Saturday's live music came from Cross the River, Kindred and Mantawrays before our headline band Abba Revival, the number 1 tribute act for the on trend Swedish supergroup performed a back catalogue that drew in our largest crowd yet and kept them dancing from their



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first song until their last. As well as all the live music, we had DJ Olly from Enhanced Entertainment ending both nights with more dancefloor belters.

This year's Sunday raffle takings was a record breaking £2,025 with the top prize being a trolley of 100 cans and bottles of beer kindly donated by Pitchfork Brewery. The auction alone made £8,307, which includes another record-breaking £2,810 raised for the festival's finale, the 'Beer Bucket Challenge'. This saw the following local participants getting doused in a lovely cocktail of the remaining ale by those who clearly cared:

1. Charlotte Cundy
2. Emily Mulliner
3. Emma Andrews
4. Lexie Gower
5. Linda Moorcroft
6. Shannon Loughrey
7. Sarah Love
8. Dave Powell
9. Finn Cavanagh
10. Nick Munyard
11. Pip Nicholls
12. Matt Lloyd
13. Simon Tremlett

Many thanks to all of our brilliant sponsors, prize donators and volunteers for their continued support and for working hard to help us make the 2021 festival the best yet!

We celebrated another record year of ale drinking and fundraising on 2 October, with the organisers pouring out £20,000 in donations to local worthy causes.

Some 16 organisations were handed cheques at the annual Presentation Evening at Wedmore Village Hall. The cheques were presented before 100 people made up of the successful beneficiaries, organisers past and present, volunteers and sponsors, who gathered to celebrate a fantastic comeback year for the 20th festival.

This year's fundraising was the most successful yet, surpassing 2019's total of £19,000 and bringing the total amount of money raised for local causes over the festival's 20-year history to a whopping £226,320.

The beneficiaries for 2021 include Children's Hospice South West, Weston Hospicecare, Weston-Super-Mare Samaritans, Somewhere House (Somerset) Limited, Wedmore First School PTA and Wedmore & Axbridge Community Health Fund.

'We are delighted that the festival was so successful that we can give away £20,000 on the 20th anniversary of the festival,' said James Turbitt, a WRAF committee member. 'It was especially gratifying after having to postpone our 20th festival by a year due to the pandemic. Everyone welcomed the return of the festival with open arms, helping make it one of the largest local social events in Wedmore. We've had some great feedback from our guests on the new site, the food stalls and the Ginjar gin bar.'

James added: ‘Deciding on where and how much to donate is a difficult decision and one the committee takes very seriously, as there are so many worthy causes. Giving out the cheques makes all the hard work in running the festival more than worthwhile.

‘This fundraising feat would not be possible without our sponsors and our committed and enthusiastic team of volunteers who help bolster the organising committee to keep the festival running smoothly: those 6,500 pints and 246 wine and prosecco bottles don’t pour themselves!’

The complete list of 2021 beneficiaries:

Wedmore in Bloom	£350.00
Let’s Make Wedmore Sparkle	£400.00
Green Wedmore	£400.00
Holy Trinity Church Blackford	£400.00
Wedmore Scout Group	£450.00
Wedmore Tuesday Club	£500.00
Blackford Village Hall	£700.00
Weston-Super-Mare Samaritans	£850.00
Weston Hospicecare	£1,000.00
Wedmore First School Academy & Nursery	£1,000.00
Isle Of Wedmore Junior Football Club	£1,000.00
Hugh Sexey C of E Middle School	£1,000.00
Children’s Hospice South West	£2,500.00
Wedmore School PTA	£2,750.00
Somewhere House (Somerset) Limited	£2,950.00
Wedmore & Axbridge Community Health Fund	£3,000.00



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The donation to Wedmore PTA includes their £750 share of the takings from the festival raffle, which they helped to run and generate a record breaking £2,025 worth of takings.

Dates for your diaries: next year's festival will be running from 9 – 11 September 2022. We will keep you posted on its developments via our Facebook page.

To keep up to date with all festival news please like our Facebook page @wedmorealefestival, follow us on twitter @WedmoreRealAle or go to our website www.wedmoreale.com

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

The Turnip Prize 2021

The Turnip Prize is a spoof art award of the lesser-known Turner Prize. We will be accepting entries for this year's competition from Monday 1 November. Entries should take the least amount of effort possible to create.



To enter contact:

- Trevor 01934 710004 or 07812848011
- Or The New Inn, Wedmore.

Alternatively leave your entry at The New Inn, Combe Batch, Wedmore, Somerset. BS28 4DU. Please include your name or pseudonym, contact phone number and the title of your entry. Closing date for entries will be Friday 19 November.

The winner will be announced at The New Inn, Wedmore, Somerset on Wednesday 1 December at 6.30pm.

For more info visit The New Inn, Wedmore or our facebook page

St Mary's Church Wedmore Annual Charities' Fair – Saturday 6 November 2021

Once again St Mary's PCC is opening the church to various charities to give them an opportunity to sell their Christmas cards, calendars and gifts. This year the Fair will be on Saturday morning 6 November from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. This is the 20th Fair and over the years it has raised thousands of pounds for a wide range of charitable causes. At the time of going to press, there are only a few stalls still available. If you wish to have a stall, (registered charities only), please telephone me on 01934 712092.

Fairtrade Coffee and Cakes will be available to refresh you in between making your purchases. This is always a very happy occasion, so do come along and support your favourite charities.

Sue Burton, Co-ordinator

Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours Group

Good Neighbours Going Into Winter

The Wedmore Good Neighbours Group received slightly fewer requests over the summer months but the number of people asking for help has picked up with the arrival of autumn. Most requests are for a lift to a medical appointment and we're expecting to be kept busy as people get their Covid booster jabs and annual flu vaccinations.

As well as lifts to the doctor's surgery, or to hospital, volunteers are also available to drive people to club meetings and other community social events in and around Wedmore. Apart from this type of assistance volunteers can offer support in other ways too. Perhaps your garden could use a little tidying up or you are struggling with a light DIY task? Maybe you support a relative but are going away for a few days and need someone to look in on them? Are you self-isolating, or unable to get out for another reason, and need something collecting from a local shop or the chemist? Find the winter months a bit lonely and you'd like some company over a cuppa? The group can handle a wide variety of requests



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– but occasionally has to decline simply because the insurance policy does not cover every circumstance.

So, if you know of someone in and around Wedmore who would welcome assistance of the kind the scheme provides, please encourage them to call 01934 806299 and leave a message - a volunteer will contact them shortly. Please note that we're not part of social services, or an emergency service...we're just good neighbours!

If you'd like more detailed information about the group and how it operates visit the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website – www.whawb.co.uk/gns/

'Music Matters'

Continuing on from what was 'Singing for the Brain'. We meet fortnightly via Zoom Tuesdays at 2.30pm. Open to supporting people with dementia, their carers and other senior members of the community who find themselves isolated during the unprecedented Covid-19 situation. Meet, Chat, Share and Sing! Previous singing experience is not necessary, we sing for the enjoyment!

Contact Maureen Campbell, trained Singing for the Brain leader and Movement Psychotherapist, by email: mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk



Wedmore Community Bus – The Friendly Bus

Volunteers Needed: Please Join Us for the AGM – 16 November

At this year's Community Bus AGM we have some very important issues to deal with. We therefore encourage everyone who is interested in the future of this important community service to attend.

The bus provides a vital lifeline for many people in our community and surrounding villages. The service is entirely dependent on volunteers who drive the bus and carry out the administrative tasks needed to keep the service running. The admin roles range from driver recruitment and training to managing bus maintenance and finances. This year two long-serving volunteers are stepping down from their administrative roles and we need some new people to step in.

The most important business at the AGM will therefore be to identify some new volunteers. The aim is to recruit several new people to join the administrative team so we have a larger pool of people involved thus ensuring that nobody's duties are unduly onerous.

It is vital that we recruit some additional volunteers otherwise the bus service will be in jeopardy. Anyone wishing to obtain additional information on the work of the administrative team prior to the AGM should email us on wedmorebus@gmail.com.



Community Bus AGM - 7.00 pm 16 November 2021 At St Mary's Church, Wedmore. Tea, Coffee and Cakes will be provided Find further details about the Community Bus on the Wedmore website at thisisleafwedmore.net under Local Directory/ Wedmore Community Bus, email us on wedmorebus@gmail.com or visit the Wedmore Community Bus page on facebook

Our Health and Wellbeing

In consultation with Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice and with the support of Wedmore Parish Council here is this month's item relating to our health & wellbeing.



Wedmore Wellbeing Day – Update

In the light of the Covid-19 situation and impending 'flu season', we reviewed the feasibility of holding our Wellbeing Day on 16 October. Although there were no plans to reimpose restrictions, we are still being advised to be cautious with meeting lots of people. Our local GP practice advised that we may be wise to postpone our Day. And so reluctantly we have decided to postpone the Wellbeing Day until spring 2022. The format of the Day lends itself to lots of people meeting lots of other people! We really want the Day to be lively and interactive. So, although we are disappointed, we hope that spring 2022 will bring a climate in which we can feel comfortable in being lively and interactive!

'Have your say' about your care and treatment, when you are unable to have your say!

Unfortunately there may be times in our lives when we may not be able to express our views about our care and treatment, perhaps due to an accident or ongoing illness or at the end of life. In these situations if we have thought about what we might want and not want beforehand, then there is more chance that our views will be heard and complied with. This process is known as 'advance care planning' and there is a number of ways in which we can do this. The most recent system, which is widely recognised, is known as the ReSPECT process. ReSPECT stands for Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment. The ReSPECT process creates a personalised recommendation for your clinical care in emergency situations where you are not able to make decisions or express your wishes. To find out more go to the Resuscitation Council UK website.

Another way of ensuring your views are acted upon is to create a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). With this system you give authority to another person or persons to decide on your behalf, if you are not able to. There are two types of LPA: health and welfare and property and financial affairs. You can choose to make one type or both. These are formal legally binding processes, which take some time, but are doable online. For more information and all the forms go to www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney

If you want a less formal approach, then it is still very beneficial to talk to your family and friends about what is important to you, who is important to you and how you would like to be supported in times of need. Writing down your wishes and sharing them with those who need to know is important too. For example, give a copy to you GP, your solicitor and your family. Various organisations have advice, information and templates to support this process,



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for example, Dementia UK. Go to Dementia UK website and search for ‘advance care planning’.

Lions Clubs’ Message in a Bottle is a simple but effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency on a standard form and in a common location – the fridge. Paramedics, police, fire-fighters and social services support this Lions life-saving initiative and know to look in the fridge when they see the Message in a Bottle stickers. Two stickers are supplied, one for the fridge door and one for the inside of the front door of the premises. You can find these bottles at the local surgeries, but if not you can phone 0345 833 7402 or email information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk

Reducing the spread of Covid-19 – doing what we can!

Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have any symptoms. This means they could be spreading the virus without knowing it. Testing regularly increases the chances of detecting Covid-19 when you are infectious but are not displaying symptoms, helping to make sure you do not spread Covid-19. Rapid lateral flow testing continues to be available free of charge. You can pick up your testing kits at Wedmore Pharmacy or order them online from the government website. And from personal experience, these later tests do not now include a swab of your throat!

A message from Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice

We would like to reassure our patients that, throughout the pandemic, we have been open for face-to-face appointments but we have had to change our ways of working since the beginning of March 2020. We have seen a rise in use of our eConsult service. This is a tool available via our website which enables patients to contact the Practice for non-urgent requests and receive a response within 48 working hours. When you phone the Practice, you will be asked for additional details and, if appropriate, the receptionist will signpost you to someone who can help (eg Pharmacist) or put you on a list which is reviewed daily by one of our Practice GPs (not a locum). The GP will then advise our Reception team as to what action they feel is needed. This will include a face-to-face appointment if necessary. We have had positive feedback from patients whose queries have been effectively dealt with whilst avoiding the need for them to physically attend the Practice. We have also utilised technology by using text messages for quick and efficient communication to our patients. One example is when a patient has a worrying skin lesion as they can be invited to send in a photograph and, if a GP needs a second opinion, the photo will be sent off to a dermatology consultant for their expert view. Whilst this technology is beneficial to many of our patients, we do understand that it is not accessible to all and our Reception team are here to help those who need it. By the time you are reading this we will be well into our Covid booster and flu vaccination campaigns and we hope that you will take up the offer of vaccination to protect you and your family and friends.

For easy links to all websites please go to our own Health and Wellbeing website www.whawb.co.uk and go to the October Wedmore News item.

*Cathy Butterworth
Wedmore Health and Wellbeing Project*

Wedmore Village Hall AGM – Thursday 18 November

At the Village Hall at 4pm.

Despite the extraordinary times we have been experiencing the Management Committee of the Village Hall has, during lockdown, taken the opportunity to make further enhancements to the facilities available to users. These include:



- the installation of a powerful ventilation system which has the dual advantage of both drawing outside air through the Main Hall to keep it cool when there is a large audience or party, and also providing plenty of fresh air to keep everyone healthy.
- The Main Hall has been completely renovated and decorated, including painting the outsides of the emergency exit doors. All the messy surface wiring has been cased into the walls before decoration took place.
- A modification has been made to the raked seating to allow the fascia panels to be removed to increase legroom.
- In addition, important repairs and refurbishment took place during lockdown:
- Repairs were made to the bell tower lead flashings to eliminate the leakage which was causing ceiling staining and flood water on the Main Hall floor. At the same time the weathervane was securely refixed.
- Remedial works took place on the roof above the Snug where leaks were causing stains and mould. It turned out that it was coping stones that needed repointing.
- Skirting and panelling in the Small Hall was renewed and repainted where it was showing signs of rot.
- The door between the Main Hall and the Small Hall was replaced with a heavier weight door to improve sound insulation between the two halls.
- Two emergency doors were replaced because the existing ones were rotting at the bottom. At the same time new crash bars were fitted to make the operation of the doors safe and reliable.
- A high-quality speed controller was fitted to the extract fan in the kitchen to stop it making a loud and irritating low frequency hum when run at the lower speeds.

We applied for the grant which was made available for Community Buildings by Sedgemoor DC under the 'Covid-19 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant' scheme and are delighted to have received almost £28,000 in support which has happily compensated for lost revenue during the lockdowns.

We re-opened the Hall in line with Government guidelines and it is gratifying that we are beginning to see users returning, including such groups as the Tuesday Club, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides along with various sporting classes such as yoga. I expect it will be next spring before we are back to the usual level of Hall usage. Social distancing and ever-changing government guidelines may make it difficult for some

(096)

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

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users to meet all requirements. Any Covid-19 requirements that apply to our users can be found on the Hall website – wedmorehall.org.uk

We still have several improvement projects in mind, though some have had to be put on hold. Our next major one is a complete refurbishment of the Snug to make it into a friendly and welcoming bar and meeting area rather than the cold environment it currently is.

We are very grateful to all our sponsors and users and welcome representatives of user groups and other members of the community to join us at the AGM on 18 November. We would also welcome anyone interested in joining the Committee and contributing towards a much-valued local asset. In particular we need someone who has experience of running a public building, to take on general facilities management responsibilities. This includes scheduling such things as electrical testing, PAT testing, gas safety inspection, fire alarm maintenance, fire extinguisher maintenance, and booking contractors to do general ad hoc repairs.

If you have any issues or questions you wish to raise, or if you are keen to join the Committee, then please contact me before the meeting – chair@wedmorehall.org.uk

*Simon Tomes
Chairman, WVHMC*

Mark and Wedmore Conservatives

The Mark and Wedmore Branch of Wells Conservative Association is holding a ‘Somerset Supper’ in the Masonic Hall on Friday 26 November. Tickets are £20 each for a 3-course hot meal and a free welcome drink. The guest speaker will be James Heapey MP. Tickets available from Ross Young, (randjyoung@btopenworld.com).

Grant for Local Organisations – Could Yours Be One?

Dozens of organisations serving the Isle of Wedmore have benefited from the community grants given out by Wedmore Community Power Co-operative over the last six years – and the deadline for our autumn grant-giving is approaching.

Societies, clubs, schools, nurseries and other not-for-profit groups based on the Isle of Wedmore or serving people in the area can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 by the deadline of 31 November.

The money is a share of the income our co-op earns from selling electricity generated by our solar arrays near Quab Lane to energy suppliers. So far we have supported local organisations with more than £65,000 in grants.

Find out more on our community grants page at www.wedmorecpc.co.uk or call me for an informal chat on 07774 891992 (evenings only please) or email me at info@robriehley.ndonet.com

*Rob Richley
Wedmore Community Power Co-operative*



Christmas Street Lights

To help to make Wedmore sparkle again this year we are looking for contributions towards the costs. We have eight stars and have already had one paid for.

Unfortunately your name does not 'go up in lights' but is put on a sponsors' board displayed in the village. We would be very grateful for any amount you wish to give.

Please contact Suzanne Metters 712515, Beggars Roost, or Dennis Briaris 713895

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Big Drop – Saturday 6 November

At the Wedmore First School car park.

A Big Drop is an opportunity for anyone to bring donations of any kind, e.g. electrical, clothes, household, toys, baby items, gardening implements, sports goods, books and drop them at the school car park.

All donations will be passed to Weston Hospicecare.

Any enquiries please contact: Shirley Wederell 01934 712089 / 07812 391962

Somerset Duo Reach New Heights with International Award

A Somerset duo are celebrating after receiving an international award for their debut single. Local band, Rileys Cove, wrote and recorded their first EP in 2020, during the height of the Coronavirus pandemic. Less than a year after its release, the pair have received an award for 'International Band Single of the Year' for their original song 'Without', recorded at Beehive Studios in Westonzoyleland.



The prestigious accolade was awarded by the International Singer Songwriter Association, based in Atlanta, which represents independent musicians around the world. The EP 'High', which features the award-winning track, consists of four originals, and a cover of Paulo Nutini's 'Loving You'.

Guitar player Scottie, who makes up one half of the band, said 'We are absolutely thrilled to have received this award and title. We honestly cannot believe that of the

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thousands of members, a humble acoustic duo like us took home a trophy. It's a real honour and I'm so excited to see what the future holds for Rileys Cove'.

Chelle, vocals for the band, added 'Scottie didn't even tell me we were in the running, I don't think he thought for one second we stood any chance of winning when we were up against so many talented musicians. We recorded this EP in such uncertain, scary times and we had to work on it through socially-distanced garden jams due to restrictions, so these songs are filled with emotions and memories I'm sure many can relate to. We are both genuinely blown away'.

Rileys Cove are back in the studio again in November to record their second EP of original material. For up-to-date gigs and EP news, find them on Facebook.

You can also catch them playing live at The New Inn in Wedmore on Sunday 7 November from 1pm.

Music in Mind – Mondays 15 and 29 November

Are you feeling isolated after all this time at home?

Can we tempt you out?

Perhaps you have memory problems but would like to come along to a friendly group and share some music and chat - along with a cup of tea! Music helps as there is no pressure.



The sessions in November will be on Monday 15 and Monday 29 November, 2.15 – 3.30pm in the Masonic Hall in Wedmore. Why not join us – it is free!

Music in Mind is run by Stella Moore (Music Therapist) - and some very important volunteers. If you know of anyone who might like to come or you would like more information/help with transport, please contact 01934 732282 or davestellamoore@btinternet.com

Rolling Stones Now – Saturday 20 November, Mark Village Hall

Come and enjoy live music with the Rolling Stones Now in Mark Village Hall on Saturday 20 November! Tickets are £15.00 and are only available through Ticketsource, www.ticketsource.co.uk. Doors open at 7.45 pm, and there will be a bar. There are only a limited number of tickets so get yours now!

Storm through five decades of Rolling Stones hits. With all the swagger of Jagger, this explosive show has been witnessed by audiences all over the UK including festivals, corporate events, weddings and birthdays.

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Blackford Cafe – Restarting in November

Just a reminder that our Cafe will welcome you back on Wednesday 10 November 2021.

As usual it will take place at Blackford Village Hall at 2.00 - 4.00pm where you will be able to enjoy tea/coffee and cake. We will be delighted to meet friends and neighbours once again and hope more members of the local community will join us. Make a note in your diary - Blackford Café, Wednesday 10 November.



Margaret Tinney

Christmas Coffee Morning in Aid of Children with Cancer – Saturday 27 November

10 am – 12.30 pm at the Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club. Various stalls including: honey and beeswax, wooden bowls, paintings, Christmas crafts and cake stall...

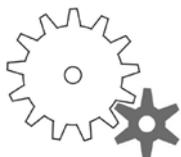
Admission £1.50 to include coffee and biscuits.



Repair Café – Saturday 4 December

From 10am to 1pm in The Village Hall

As usual ... to encourage us all to try to have things mended rather than throw them away.



Repair Café

- Excellent coffee, tea and cakes.
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Can anyone with a skill and three hours to spare, please contact

Anthony Lamb at saddlecrazy@gmail.com or 07958 443371

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Wedmore's Christmas Card

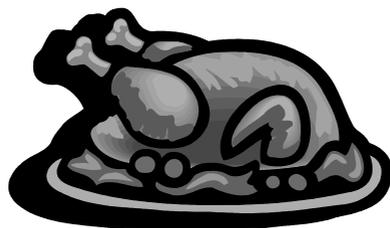


The village 2021 Christmas card is on sale at The Cottage Gallery and watch out for pop up stalls at village events.

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Wedmore's 'Close to Home Cookbook'

Bringing together recipes from Wedmore's clubs and associations, the community cookbook is a perfect Christmas stocking filler or 'Thank you for having me' present. Just £7 - available from Jan at The Cottage Gallery and watch out for pop-up stalls at village events



Something Seriously Disturbing About a Sniffle

I think it was Cole Porter who began one of his famous songs, 'Like the beat, beat, beat of the tom-tom when the jungle shadows fall; like the tick, tick, tock of the stately clock as it stands against the wall...'

As I gently squeezed the pipette, having swabbed my nasal passages a few moments before, a couple of drops of liquid gently fall onto the little square aperture of my Lateral Flow test. Now, as well as the beat in the background, and the tick, tick, tock of the clock in the corner, another voice began to make itself heard in my head, and all it seemed to say was, 'It's you, it's you, it's you!'

Having lived the life of an amateur monk for almost 18 months, I, fortunately, have not had Covid, I have diligently continued to wear my mask in public places, and I have somehow managed to avoid the pingdemic. I have also been double jabbed and still splash on the hand sanitiser with such enthusiasm in the hope that it might be the one that smells like Johnnie Walker Red Label whisky!

Yet, after taking all those precautions, I had awoken that morning and detected what I thought was the start of a cold or a sore throat. This was something new, I certainly had not experienced anything like this for a while. Within me there was a deep-seated dread, I swear I felt my stomach turn over as I contemplated: 'Could it be me?' 'Has my number come up at last?'

To be sure I went through the symptoms with myself:

- 'Do you have a temperature?' 'No!'
- 'A cough?' 'Not really'
- 'Well, how about a runny nose then?' 'No'
- 'How is your sense of taste and smell?'

I quickly headed to the fridge in the kitchen and cut off a large slice of Blue Stilton (it is my one weakness) and placed it in my mouth. Oh yes, still delicious, even if it is a little early in the morning.

'No,' I said to myself, 'my taste and smell is perfect, absolutely perfect!'

So, where is my concern coming from? Well partially, it comes from thinking that a 'not covid cold' could actually be Covid. Interestingly, the symptom tracking app, ZOE, reports that the top four symptoms of the 'Delta variant' are exactly what you

would expect from a cold. Yet only those who show a continuous cough or a change in their taste and smell function should actually take a PCR test.

My concern also comes from another place too, and that is perhaps, not just about symptoms; it is learning to live in society and in community again. We have been so shielded from viruses recently, just having the symptoms of a cold, or thinking someone else may have a cold, or worse, are enough to make us nervous, at best, or just plain neurotic.

I was recently in the queue for my winter flu jab and a person sneezing behind me made me seriously worried. Someone once described fear as ‘the creative misuse of our imagination’, creative enough to make something seriously disturbing and sinister about a snuffle.

The tick, tick, tock of the clock in the corner, has passed the 30-minute mark and I am relieved to see that I do not have to take a PCR test.

Now another question enters my mind: is 7.30 in the morning too early for another slice of Blue Stilton?

*Rev. Sam Healey
Curate for the Isle of Wedmore Benefice*

The Isle of Wedmore News – 500 Not Out

By way of celebration in this the 500th Edition, I have looked back to the initial edition and each of the following centenary editions, to try and capture the characters and special times or events from the months in which each of these were published. My intention is that this precis will act as a tribute to the many people who have served as Editors or in many other key roles.



Edition 1 – November 1979

With a cover ink drawing of St Mary's Church looking upwards from the front of the George Inn, the inaugural edition was published in November 1979, edited by Donald McKellar and endorsed by Donald Tucker, Chair of the Parish Council. Donald would go on to publish, print, collate and deliver the IoW News until his retirement in 1983. At this time it was considered that the publication had become too big for one person to handle and subsequently, a Management Committee was formed.

In his first Editorial, Donald noted that;

'This, the first issue of the 'Isle of Wedmore News' is presented with the compliments of the Wedmore Parish Council and will be published monthly.



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Apart from the main hall, there is a large floodlit grassed area at the side of the building that is suitable for outside events.



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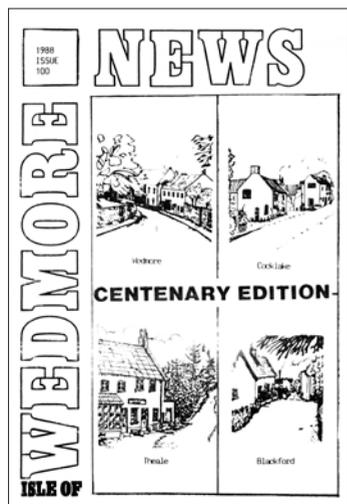
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The magazine is free and will be delivered to all Householders / Business Premises. This copy is small but will be enlarged to cover all aspects of life within the Parish. Comments and suggestions for future issues will be welcomed.'

Sponsors of this initial edition were; The Borough Venture, Norset Personal Computers, K M Chick, Family Butchers, Stone's Bakery, Urch Television and Electrical Repair, and R E Gould and Sons of the Borough Yard.

Key features were a request for volunteers at the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, to maintain an efficient service with a new ambulance that had just been purchased. At the Village Hall a Steering Committee had been formed to raise £10,000, urging readers to watch out for and support a future diary of events.

Lastly, residents were reminded to complete their questionnaires on the need for a local minibus.



Edition 100 – March 1988

Edition 100 appeared in March 1988, now edited by David Ralph and over 30 pages in length. The cover of this edition featured ink drawings of Wedmore, Cocklake, Theale and Blackford and the Chair of the Wedmore Parish Council; Mr H J Diamond sent a letter of congratulations.

Main sponsors this time were; Barlow, Bacon and Co. Surveyors, Estate Agents, Valuers and Auctioneers of Hillview Villa in Church Street; Black Horse Agencies of Axbridge; N J Hansford, High Class Butchers of the Borough; Cocklake Post Office Stores, Off Licence and Petrol Suppliers and finally; Burnt House Farm Hotel and Restaurant.

Mike Kendall presented his Nature Notes, reporting particularly on the damage caused by the

two recent hurricanes. An unsigned letter headed 'Save Our Square' urged readers to write to the Sedgemoor District Planning Officer to oppose postulated plans to develop the Square in Wedmore (the area bounded by the Borough, Church Street, Glanville Road and Grants Land). A Village Appraisal Project was announced, proposing a survey to provide vital information about local needs and use of amenities. In July, Wedmore would be judged by the Britain in Bloom team, whilst a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale would raise funds for an ECG machine for the Axbridge and Wedmore Surgery.

The Wedmore over 60s Club staged a Beetle Drive. National No Smoking Day was held on Wednesday 9 March and at the AGM of the Leo Club, Mrs Vera Banwell was presented with a cheque for £200 in aid of St Margaret's Hospice in Taunton. Dogs on footpaths attracted attention as did the Wedmore Twinning, with the Isle of Wedmore Liberals holding a series of fund-raising events, whilst the Young Farmers reported a strong membership of over 90 people.

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



'Aida' Comes to Wedmore

JULY 1996
No. 200

Edition 200 – July 1996

July 1996 saw the publication of Edition 200, now jointly edited by Edward (Ted) Morgan and Suzanne Burton who did the job together for 10 years. When they inherited the magazine, it was a double sided A4 sheet folded in half with just £1.45 in the bank. Sponsors by now were too numerous to mention.

Ted and Sue had introduced advertising and added more pages. Sue typed everything up and used her children's playroom floor for cutting and pasting and trying to ensure articles were arranged in the right position on the pages so if they ran over to the next one the sequence was correct. The rough draft was then taken to a photocopying firm in Bristol, then a team of volunteers would fold and staple the printed sheets in the Council Room. Fortunately, they found a printer in Weston with a folding and stapling machine

which made life easier. They also commissioned cover sketches by Roy Millward - black and white with the occasional colour photograph which cost extra.

At one point, they became victims of their own success when HMRC threatened Corporation Tax on the advertising revenue even though all profits were given away to local organisations. That took several months to sort out.

Ted decided to retire at Edition 200, but Sue carried on as Editor alone for some time after that.

The cover of Edition 200 celebrated the fact that 'Aida' was being performed by Wedmore Opera on Friday 12 July. Again, Britain in Bloom featured heavily in village life as the Judging Panel would be visiting in July. At the Sedgemoor Rally, Wedmore Young Farmers just came up short in their bid to become the best club in the county, coming second behind Bridgwater, but won many of the events in the process including the Ladies' Tug-of-war.' The Over 60s Club were entertained by the Grazles (a sister act which delivered poetry and monologues all in broad Somerset), whilst the Wedmore Division of St John Ambulance reported rapid re-establishment in the village with six members having recently successfully completed the FAW Course.

One hundred and seventy players contested the St Margaret's Somerset Hospice Open Golf Day on 1 June, which was won by David Morgan and P Hancock. Local authors Robin and Romney Williams published 'The Mendip Hills' as a follow up to 'The Somerset Levels.' Robin Williams also published a further book; 'Wetlands – Tealham Moor'. The speaker to the May meeting of the WI was Sandra Tucker, chair of the Young Farmers, about to leave for Switzerland where she would represent England at a YFC European Rally. The IoW Probus Club met at the Swan Hotel where the Chair, Graham Lintern, made a presentation to Mr and Mrs Ponsford in recognition of their 25th anniversary guiding the fortunes of the Swan.

In sport, Wedmore Cricket Club endured frustrating draws against Chilton Polden and Wincanton and losses to Mark and Hardington Manderville. Key performances with the bat were from Pip Patch (107 no and 62), Simon Bowley 54 and Dave Stone 45 no, whilst Simon Boley also returned bowling figures of 4 – 26 and 5 - 23. In the loss to Mark, the indignity of being all out for 15, when chasing a total of 205 to win, blighted the season somewhat.

Feature articles included 'A Dog's Life' by Tony McCarthy, the Sedgemoor District Council Dog Warden and the New Wedmore Chronicles by Hazel Hudson. For Tony this was the last of many varied, interesting and amusing pieces prior to his retirement, whilst Hazel presented no 82 in her series; John Tucker of Blackford 1700 – 1779.



Edition 300 – December 2004

Now jointly edited by Lisbeth Bull and Gail Colthurst.

Key issues for the Parish Council that month were car parking in Wedmore, with provisional approval for the building of a public car park, the possible regular visits of a mobile skate park, and concern about the flow of water down the brook in Wedmore.

The Blackford and Round About Book was launched, the Turnip Prize, now in its 6th year would take place on 6 December, with the then previous winners listed as Dave Stone, Jacqui Redman, Chloe Wilson, Jenny Vining and James Timms.

Wedmore Playgroup achieved a very good assessment across all criteria during its Ofsted Inspection and the Theale Village Hall staged 'Murder at the Manor.' Wedmore Dental Practice

supported National School Milk Week whilst Wedmore Ramblers installed two new stiles along the Wedmore to Blackford Path.

The 2004 Wedmore Real Ale Festival raised £4000 with the beneficiaries being the Children's Hospice South West, Wedmore Village Hall, and the respective play areas at Blackford, Theale and Wedmore. Wedmore Village Hall staged a Halloween Party, and the `Wedmore YFC donated £500 to Guide Dogs for the Blind, to help train their sponsored puppy; Fergie. A main concern of the WI was to save the County 'Meals on Wheels' Service. The Isle of Wedmore Society was seeking new committee members whilst IT for the Terrified offered many courses, especially one to Farmers. Wedmore Theatre Club presented J B Priestley's farcical comedy 'When We Are Married.'

The main feature articles were Bill Hudson with 'Trees of the Parish – No 10 and Hazel Hudson, now up to No 122 of her excellent New Chronicles of Wedmore series, this time Pubs of the Parish No 4. Lastly, Lester and Kate Durham took a Slow Boat to Timbuktu.

In sport, the new two-rink Indoor Bowls Complex had opened on 1 November, at a cost of £480,000. Twenty-two members of the Bowls Club had just arrived back from a bowling tour of Spain, experiencing weather at Bristol Airport 20 degrees colder than it was on the Costa Brava.



Edition 400 – April 2013

Penultimately, Edition 400 in April 2013, with Emma Moss, Carole Jepps and Ceri Pierce now holding the Editorial reins along with Margaret Redman as Chair of the Committee.

In the News, the Community Bus was seeking a new chairman, with Derek Wotton hoping to stand down at the forthcoming AGM. That year's International Spoof Winner was Paul from Glastonbury, having fought off strong competition from Paul Kingston, Amanda Carver, Frank Sparks and, Dave Stone (gosh I think I should offer to ghost write his Autobiography). Ray Milward won the St Mary's 100 Club whilst Sarah Vincent ran the London Marathon in aid of the Orchard Vale Trust, and Hugh Sexey's Middle School won an Ofsted Gifted and

Talented Re-accreditation, one of only 56 schools in the country to do so.

Wedmore Harvest Home, now in its 101st year, staged their annual Social Thank you Evening and with great pleasure presented monies to Wedmore Playing Fields; 'Raise The Rec' Project; Wedmore Day Centre and also Wedmore Pre-school. Peter Woodward gave an interesting talk about Coventry Cathedral to the IoW Men's Breakfast and next month's speaker would be Peter Gudgeon talking about his sailing exploits along the Colonial Coast of America.

Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School was again in the news by winning the Under 13 Somerset Schools Rugby Cup Final beating Kingsmead (Wiveliscombe) 38 – 5 in the final, with tries by Ed, George, Jo and Kieran. However, team coach Mr Evans was quick to point out that this was very much a team effort brilliantly led by captain Ollie. Wedmore in Bloom's forget-me-nots had been infested with vine weevils, whilst the IoW Society enjoyed a lecture by Robin Mewes on Community Ownership of the New Co-ops. 2J's Travel celebrated 10 years here in Wedmore.

At the monthly WI meeting a visit to Sezincote House and Garden was in the offing, whilst members were entertained by talks from Robin Mewes (the Wedmore Community Power Company project) and, Jim Hardcastle (Avon and Somerset Search and Rescue). Wedmore Opera Goers planned two trips - to Cardiff to see The Northern Ballet in 'The Great Gatsby', and to Stratford for a Royal Shakespeare Company performance of 'As You Like It.'

The Rotary Club meeting at the Wedmore Golf Club had welcomed a number of new younger members and were keen to kill the myth that Rotary was for old men, by trying to attract more lady members. The 70th Theale Flower show was in the planning stages as was the Wedmore Community Power Company project, which was highly encouraged by the positive response for two small paddocks of solar panels off Quab Lane generating clean energy.

The Wedmore Street Fair Committee announced a date of Saturday 6 July for this year's event with a theme of Kings and Queens, to celebrate 60 years since the

coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. Denley Brown's Weather Report was now an established feature and the Scotts, noting that eight out of their 10 gnomes had been returned to their back garden, requested the return of the remaining two. The Wedmore Theatre Club Production was 'Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue...!', comprising performances of; 'hilarious, uplifting, riotous and occasionally risqué sketches.' In contrast, Wedmore Opera presented 'An Evening with Marie Vassiliou and Luis Chapa', in a diverse programme around the theme of love. They would be accompanied by the brilliant South African pianist Nico de Villiers. The songs varied in style and period, so this event is by no means limited to lovers of opera.

Key feature articles this time included The Garden in April, part of a long running series by Adrian Hutchison, now presently being repeated and, Polly's Kitchen, with Polly Costello, Nature Notes for April by Nigel Bean and, the New Wedmore Chronicals by Hazel Hudson, now at No 178, The Sticklands, Carpenters of Wedmore. Lastly Vera Banwell presented two poems; firstly for April, then to the Wedmore Bells.

Edition 500 – November 2021



So Dear Readers, together with my two excellent co-editors Liz Sweeney and Liz Henderson, to whom I am forever indebted for keeping me sane and out of trouble (well most of the time), it falls to us to present Edition 500 which we hope you will enjoy and value. It is probably impossible to name all those who have worked so hard to contribute, publish, produce and distribute this

magazine for that length of time, but in addition to those I have already named, I would like to mention a few others. Glenys Cousins who has been the Chair of the Management Committee for many years and her husband John who has overseen the difficult area of distribution for so long. Indeed, the team of 20 people, led by John, old and young who actually drop the magazines into your letter boxes are worthy of a special mention. John Morse and John Rook, long-term Advertising Copy Manager and Treasurer respectively. My immediate predecessor Sue James who edited over 45 Editions and who since has acted as the Secretary to the Management Committee. To everyone who served on that Management Committee, all our regular contributors, and finally to Murray and Dan at Direct Offset for their most professional printing services.

We go onwards now towards Edition 600 and perhaps even 1000, I wonder what Wedmore will be like to live in then, just as wonderful I hope. If I may end by paraphrasing Donald McKellar's initial editorial; Comments and suggestions for future issues will be welcomed.' This is critical to keep your magazine current and topical, so please as ever, keep your notices, letters, anecdotes and suggestions coming in.

Bill Sutton

Reports and Society Updates

Isle of Wedmore Society – Thursday 25 November

Our November meeting, the last of the year, will take place in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Phillip Hamlin and his talk will be on ‘Creating ‘jolly things’ for the community.’ Members free, Visitors £4 with free tea/coffee, or a glass of wine, afterwards. Contact Ian Tomes on 01934 710390.



One of Philip Hamlin's 'jolly things' on Wedmore Village Hall.

Return of the Wedmore WI

You may have heard that the WI in Wedmore had disbanded but we're back!

With fresh enthusiasm and grateful thanks to those who have been the



lifeblood of the WI in Wedmore over the years, a new future lies ahead. Coming out of lockdowns, it seems that people are keen to get out and meet other real people - so when a few of us started a Facebook group page to assess if there would be any interest in restarting the WI, we were absolutely astonished by the numbers. An incredible 110 people have joined the page, with new people still joining every week.

Step 1 was a Social Evening on 22 September in the Swan to see what people wanted and whether the interest was real. We decided to limit numbers to 48 for this first event

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What's On in the Parish

2 - Tues	Tuesday Club Music Matters	10.30am - 2.30pm 2.30pm	Wedmore VH via Zoom
3 - Wed	3 Cs meeting	8.00pm	The Trotter, Crickham
4 - Thu	Draycott Art Club	10.00am - 1.00pm + 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Draycott VH
5 - Fri	The Tea Set	3.00pm - 4.30pm	St Mary's Church
6 - Sat	Charity Christmas Card Sale Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospice Big Drop	9.30am - 12 noon	St Mary's Church Wedmore First School
9 - Tues	Tuesday Club Music Matters	10.30am - 2.30pm 2.30pm	Wedmore VH via Zoom
10 - Wed	Blackford Cafe	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Blackford VH
11 - Thu	Draycott Art Club	10.00am - 1.00pm + 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Draycott VH
12 - Fri	Mr Punch's folk club Open Mic evening	8.00pm - 10.30pm	Theale VH
13 - Sat	Wedmore in Bloom work party	9.30am	outside The George
15 - Mon	Music in mind	2.15pm - 3.30pm	Masonic Hall Wedmore
16 - Tues	Tuesday Club Music Matters Wedmore Community Bus AGM	10.30am - 2.30pm 2.30pm 7.00pm	Wedmore VH via Zoom St Mary's Church
18 - Thu	Draycott Art Club	10.00am - 1.00pm + 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Draycott VH
18 - Thu	Wedmore Village Hall AGM	4.00pm	Wedmore VH
20 - Sat	Theale Community Cafe Rolling Stones Now WI	10.00am - 12 noon 7.45pm	Theale VH Mark VH Masonic Hall Wedmore
21 - Sun	Theale Community Film Club showing "The Dig"	7.00pm	Theale VH
23 - Tues	Tuesday Club Music Matters Wedmore Gardening Club talk by Ian Parsons on orchids	10.30am - 2.30pm 2.30pm 7.30pm	Wedmore VH via Zoom Masonic Hall Wedmore
25 - Thu	Draycott Art Club The Isle of Wedmore Society speaker Phillip Hamlin	10.00am - 1.00pm + 2.00pm - 4.00pm 7.30pm	Draycott VH Masonic Hall Wedmore
26 - Fri	Mr Punch's folk club Open Mic evening - Ukulele Ladies Mark and Wedmore Conservatives Somerset Supper	8.00pm - 10.30pm	Theale VH Masonic Hall Wedmore
27 - Sat	Christmas coffee morning in aid of Children with Cancer	10.00am - 12.30pm	Wedmore Bowls Club
29 - Mon	Music in Mind	2.15pm - 3.30pm	Masonic Hall Wedmore
30 - Tues	Tuesday Club Music Matters	10.30am - 2.30pm 2.30pm	Wedmore VH via Zoom

November 2021

Regular Weekly Events

Monday				
Pilates	6.30pm	Blackford VH	Tabitha	07977 362817
Pilates	7.45pm	Blackford VH	Tabitha	07977 362817
Beavers	5.45 - 6.45pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	6.30pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Bridge Club	7.00pm	via Zoom	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
Scouts	7.15 - 8.45pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

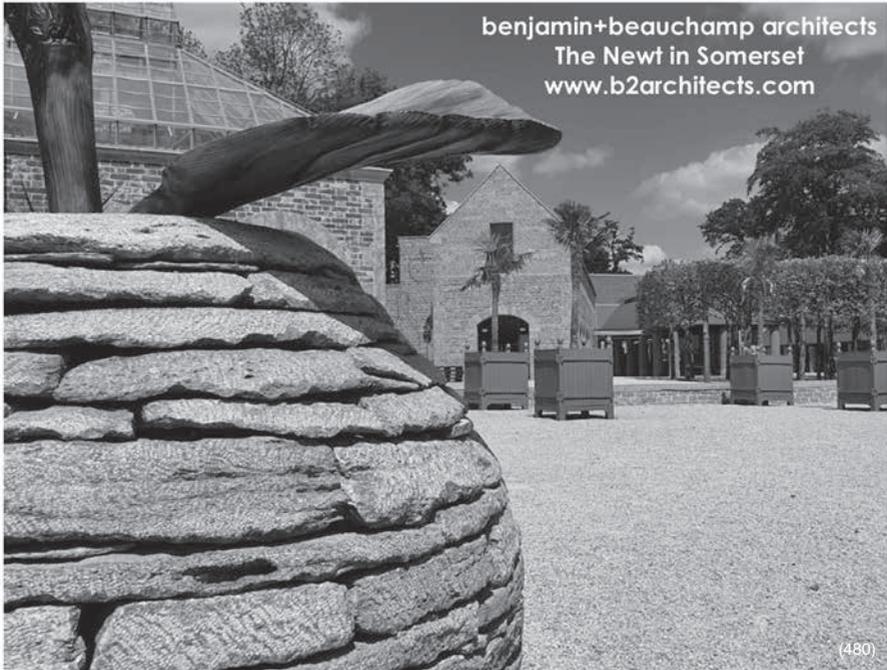
Tuesday				
Chair Yoga	10.00am	Wedmore VH	Jo Willis	07552 711101
Little Lambs	9.15am - 11.15am	Little Lambs +	Jane Bewick	01934 713745
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Lesley Nichols	01934 712045
50+ Dance Class	10.00am	Wedmore VH	Rhian Weston	07854 594268
Music Matters	2.30pm	via Zoom	mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk	
Cubs	6.30 - 7.45pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Pilates - beginner / general class	6.00 - 7.00pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	7.15 pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883

Wednesday				
Rainbows	4.30pm	Wedmore VH +	Gail Millard	01934 713922
Brownies	6.15pm	Wedmore VH +	Sue Moreman	01934 710278
Guides	7.00pm	Wedmore VH +	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
Pilates	9.15- 10.15am	Blackford VH	Tabitha	07977 362817
Pilates	10.30 - 11.30am	Blackford VH	Tabitha	07977 362817
Tai Chi	12.15 - 1.15pm	via Zoom	John Beasley	01749 672482

Thursday				
Pilates	9.15- 10.15am	Blackford VH	Tabitha	07977 362817
Pilates	10.30 - 11.30am	Blackford VH		
Wedmore Dance Group	10.30am	Wedmore VH	Nikki Pryn	07519 630365
Ballet Classes	4.00pm	Bristol Ballet Centre +		bristolballetcentre.co.uk
Cubs	6.30pm	Scout Hut +	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

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

+ Not taking place during school holidays



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thinking that we would be lucky if 20 people would be interested enough to come along.... but the list filled up in no time and we had to start a reserve list. The evening was a great success, brimming with energy, laughter and commitment (and quite a few glasses!). Over 120 suggestions were collected on topics and activities that people would like to be included in the programme going forward...enough to keep us going for several years.

What's next?

As the future of the group depends on having both members and committee members, it was brilliant to see so many people putting their names forward to help make it happen. After an early October meeting to bring together those who have said yes to helping and discover who would like to do what, the first event in the main schedule is due to take place on Wednesday 20 November with a Xmas Social planned for mid-December.

Whoever gave the WI its new tagline, Inspiring Women, must have modelled it on all of us!

To find out how to join the group, email wedmorewi@outlook.com and check out our updates on the Facebook group page 'Wedmore WI Restart.'

Isle of Wedmore Society – Report of September Meeting

After an enforced 18 months or so of Covid shutdown, the Society re-opened on 23 September with a most interesting talk, by our Committee member, Ann-Marie Wilkinson, on the mysteries of family history DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid!) testing. Ann-Marie, who is also past Chair of the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society and currently Chair of the Mid Somerset Family History Group, carefully explained with some excellent slides, what DNA was all about and how it helps those researching their family's history. We learnt it is the chemical name for the molecule that carries the genetic instructions in all living things.



We also learnt some interesting facts including that DNA is found in every person's cell, is part of their 'code of life' and gives personal characteristics to every human being. The DNA molecule consists of two strands that wind around one another to form a shape known as a double helix.

Surprisingly, we also learnt that we share 90% of our DNA genomes (a complete set of genetic information in an organism) with a cat and 50% with a banana! On a more human note, though, individually we inherit 50% of our DNA from each parent but going down the generations just 1.5625% from our 4 x great grandparents.

Ann-Marie explained there were three types of DNA test, Autosomal, YDNA and mtDNA. Depending on the type of test, then it will give information about all relations, male line or female line.

She then gave us some examples of how DNA testing had helped her expand her family tree. She also gave us some advice as to questions to ask before deciding if to embark on a commercial DNA test. One should think about what one wants to know, to be prepared for 'family skeletons' to emerge, to be prepared for shocks and decide who should be invited to take the test apart from oneself. There were many firms that provide a DNA testing service, with Ancestry having a high rating.

Ian Tomes, Secretary Isle of Wedmore Society

Green Wedmore

AGM

The AGM took place in September with heartfelt thanks to Vanessa Becker-Hughes for her two years' stewardship as Chair. Steve Mewes temporarily steps back into the role, but if anyone is interested please get in touch. Sonya Bedford remains as Vice Chair and David Bunt as Treasurer with Liz Burton and David Hopkins jointly taking the Secretary role.



Wild for Wildlife in Wedmore

New brochures have been produced – look out for them at local events and find out how you can make your garden more wildlife friendly. Awards are already appearing around Wedmore. Thanks to Neil Ellis for making two new hedgehog houses for Worthington Woods.

Solar 1000 Challenge



This continues to do well and following six more installations of solar panels booked for October that will take the total to 72.35kw. Look out for the leaflet through your door or on noticeboards to find out more. With the current fuel crisis, now is the time to think about renewable energy and electric cars.



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Close to Home Cookbook

Thank you to everybody who purchased at events such as the Real Ale Festival and Theale Show. Look out for us at the Repair Café and Wedmore by Lamplight in December – the perfect Christmas gift! Books are also on sale at the Cottage Gallery with thanks to Jan.

Car Charging Points

Discussions continue between the Parish Council and suppliers. Meanwhile, if you have a domestic charging point, have you considered adding it to the ‘Zap-Map’ using their peer-to-peer scheme to give accessibility to other users (and earn some money!)

Upcoming events

Repair Café – Saturday 4 December 10am - 1pm Wedmore Village Hall

Wedmore in Bloom

Now that the evenings have drawn in and the weather is often wet, it’s good to look forward to sunnier weather next spring, when the troughs and tubs around the village will provide a vibrant display of flowers. In preparation for that, the Wedmore in Bloom group, with the help of our band of volunteers, have taken out the summer bedding and planted bulbs and bedding plants ready for a colourful spring.



This is a good place to say how much we appreciate the work of our volunteers who help maintain the tubs and troughs throughout the village all year round. Without those willing helpers the village would be a very plain place to walk through.

If any new resident would like to join us we meet on the second Saturday of the month outside The George at 9.30am. We always follow with coffee and a chat at one of the cafes in the village. Join us if you can, we are a friendly bunch and no gardening knowledge is needed. Just a willingness to be part of our team!

2021’s Panto is Dead – Long Live 2022’s Comedy!

Well, it was always on the cards – after 18 months of keeping alive our plan to stage a panto this autumn, we have finally been defeated by the fact that a number of key members of the team – three actors, two backstage creatives – now find that events have overtaken them and they have diary and time demands which make it impossible to continue with their panto commitments.



However, those who have been following our saga over the past year and a half will have noticed that we are nothing if not optimists! And hope springs eternal, literally, in our creative hearts.

So, we are already planning our 2022 Spring Production, which will take place on Thursday 31 March, Friday 1 April and Saturday 2 April, and will be a comedy.

We all need a good laugh after what we’ve been through. To that end the team is currently trawling through comedy classics from playwrights as diverse as Alan Ayckbourn and Noel Coward.

Rehearsals will start in January, and anyone interested in joining the team to participate in next spring’s fun should contact chair@wedmoretheatre.com

In the meantime, there's more comedy coming to Wedmore before the end of this year.

Our favourite touring stand-up company, One-Off Comedy, will be staging a one-night show in Wedmore Village Hall on 9 December. Those who were lucky enough to get tickets for their hilarious August show will not want to miss this return visit with new material. For information and booking, visit the WT website.

As ever, to keep up to date with all our forthcoming productions, and professional shows that we bring to Wedmore from time to time, sign up for our free Newsletter at www.wedmoretheatre.com/subscribe/

Wedmore Theatre

Mr Punch's Folk Club Live at the Theale Village Hall

Singers, musicians, poets and audience all most welcome...

- Friday 12 November - 8pm till 10.30pm. Open Mic
- Friday 26 November - 8pm till 10.30pm. Open Mic, featuring The Ukulele Ladies



£2 entrance includes a raffle ticket. Bring your own refreshments/glasses.

Please note

at the moment we are still being as Covid careful as possible.

Numbers will be limited. To book a place or for further information email bernard.coulter@gmail.com (preferred) or tel 07855297861 so we can let you know if we are booked up.

As with many other venues, we hope you will be able to wear a mask at all times except when sat in your seat. We will arrange seating around small tables at appropriate distances.

The 3Cs News

The 3Cs covers the three hamlets on the edge of the Isle of Wedmore - Cocklake, Crickham and Clewer.

The 3Cs AGM was held on 28 September 2021 at The Trotter, Crickham. Tim Hector and Lucy Woodford were re-elected as Chair and Treasurer respectively and Jo Keen was elected as Secretary. Thanks were given to Karen Sutcliffe for all her work as Secretary in the preceding years. After the annual reports, the main business focused on the date for the eagerly awaited return of the 3Cs Harvest Supper after its enforced two years absence. This can now be announced as Friday 2 September 2022 – a date for the diary!

The other perennial 3Cs favourites – the Quiz, the Winter Supper and the Car Treasure Hunt were also discussed and provisional dates selected:

- 3Cs Quiz – tbc after discussion with our quiz master
- 3Cs Winter Supper – Saturday 12 February 2022, Wedmore Village Hall
- 3Cs Jubilee Car Treasure Hunt and BBQ – provisionally Sunday 5 June 2022
- 3Cs Harvest Supper 2022 – Friday 2 September 2022, Yew Tree Farm, Cocklake

The next meeting of the 3Cs is on Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 8pm, The Trotter, Crickham.

Any enquiries should be directed to Jo Keen – jorichrose@gmail.com

Details of events and 3Cs news can be found on the 3Cs Facebook page: 'The 3C's – Crickham, Cocklake and Clewer'

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Theale Community Film Club - Sunday 21 November

7pm 'The Dig', Theale Village Hall.

In the late 1930s, wealthy landowner Edith Pretty hires amateur archaeologist Basil Brown to investigate the mounds on her property in England.

He and his team discover a ship from the Dark Ages while digging up a burial ground. Members free, temporary membership £4. Still careful of Covid.



St Mary's Church 100 Club

Congratulations to Mrs Jane Pottow and Mr Roy Millward who are the lucky winners in this month's draw.

Liz Bull

Club50

At last we are planning a get together for Club50. Christmas Lunch, Wednesday 15 December, 12.30 at the Masonic Hall. If you would like to come please ring

Carol Andrews on 01934 712667.

Wedmore Gardening Club

We hope that everyone enjoyed Mary Payne's talk at the end of September. There are only two more meetings before our Christmas Dinner and Entertainments Evening in December. On Tuesday 26 October Marion Dale will be giving a talk on 'Wicked Plants'. I'm not sure what 'wicked' means in this context - naughty/weeds or wicked as in wonderful - we wait to see, but I know it will be interesting. On Tuesday 23 November the talk by Ian Parsons is entitled 'Orchids'. I'm hopeless with orchids so I'm looking to pick up a few tips. Two very entertaining evenings to look forward to.

All meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30pm. There are lots of new gardeners in the village now so please come along to meet new people and have an enjoyable evening or two.



Weather Report for September 2021

Location: Chestnut Farm, Snake Lane, Theale

Rainfall:



Monthly total	74.3mm	(2.9in)
Long-term (28yr) September avg	65.2mm	(2.6in)
Wettest day (28th)	43.2mm	(1.7in)
No of dry days	16	
Total for last 3 months (Jul - Sep)	231.2mm	(9.1in)
Year ending 30 September 2021	956.8mm	(37.7in)
Long-term annual average	856.6mm	(33.7in)

Temperatures:



Maximum (7th)	28.7 °C	(83.7 °F)
Minimum (28th)	6.4 °C	(43.6 °F)
Number of air frosts	Nil	
Monthly average maximum	20.6 °C	(69.1 °F)
Long-term average maximum	24.7 °C	(76.5 °F)
Monthly average minimum	12.2 °C	(54.0 °F)
Long-term average minimum	5.8 °C	(42.4 °F)

Comments:

A pleasant end to the summer, with warm temperatures and very light winds. Autumn started on the 26th, bringing strong winds and heavy rain for the last few days.

Observers:

Anne and Dave Bodley

Poets' Corner

Vera's Verse

The Jackdaw

The Jackdaw returns every year to make his nest

In the farmhouse chimney breast.

It gives him pleasure

To fill his nest with gathered treasure.

Dropping his treasures down the chimney to the spare bedroom grate

He's made decades of housewives irate.

All that soot and the bedroom was nice and clean

Is not now fit to be seen,

Because the soot and muddles she has to reclean.



Vera Banwell

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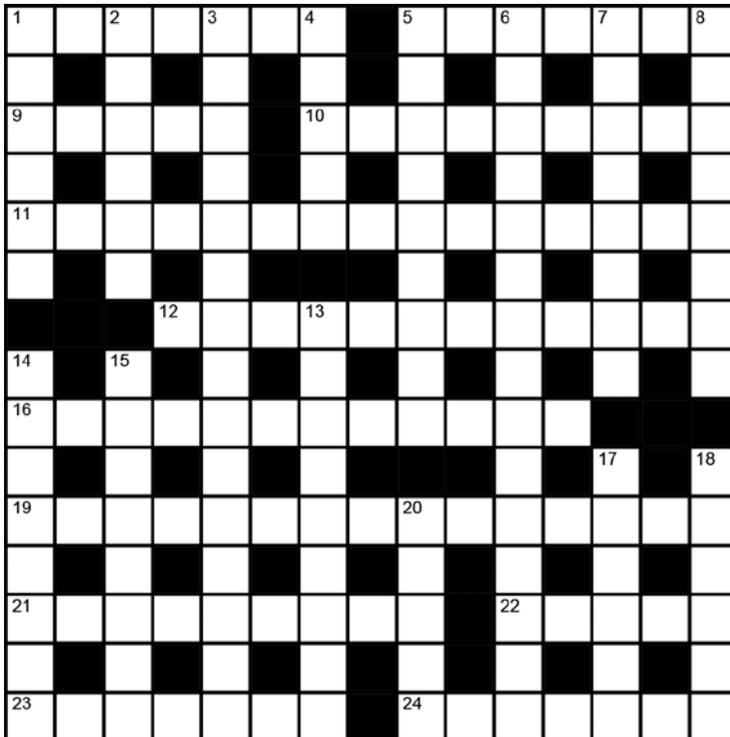
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The Crossword:

Number 52

By greendandelion



ACROSS:

- 1 Clairvoyant is a friend to the fog (7)
- 5 Pocket with second half slyness (7)
- 9 Count on nothing in case first letters reveal a point to the object (5)
- 10 The answer is in the clue (3,6)
- 11 Allowance to say whatever you will (7,2,6)
- 12 I left nil agreements after which they confusedly led to expansions (12)
- 16 Making animals for films with antics swapping the start for middle bit and playing up around matron (12)
- 19 Hero creating map and recharting it for notable film maker (15)
- 21 Arrangement of 10 for those who have gone before (9)
- 22 Careless in English exercises (5)
- 23 One inside secret returning fencing positions (7)
- 24 Large second sister reduced to gradually assimilating ideas (7)

DOWN:

- 1 Calm down first people at celebration invited for you (6)
- 2 Symbolic ox about turns before coming back as a finch (6)
- 3 Background tunes maybe (10,5)
- 4 Add space emblem (5)
- 5 Master Colt perhaps (3,2,1,3)
- 6 A daydream! This could be a way of dealing with stress (6,9)
- 7 If you are here you are unemployed (5,3)
- 8 Doubly secret (4-4)
- 13 What are needed to get balloons into shape (9)
- 14 Maybe the size of rectangles indicates prices in the pub (3,5)
- 15 Top quantity of beer before clean brew (8)
- 17 Happy landings from favourites' supporters (6)
- 18 Cute rug rat is concealing what he pays for his keep (6)
- 20 Blast! Zero enjoyment (5)

Answers at the rear of publication.

News and Events from Outside the Parish

Inner Wheel Club of Wrington Vale

For our first meeting of the new IW year we have had to resort to Zoom again! Not in our plans and a great shame but plans often change at the last minute these days. We had a terrific Speaker lined up and were looking forward to meeting again as a Club.

However, we have arranged plenty to keep us busy over the coming year and have started by visiting People First, a local charity, when two of our more talented members taught some ladies to knit (result shown in the picture)!



Other plans for this year include a coffee morning with produce stall – a bit like our own harvest supper but earlier in the day! We're also hoping to meet for a social lunch in October, a walk in aid of the Stroke Association and a Beetle Drive with fish 'n' chip supper. Hopefully some of you will be able to join us!

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the White Hart in Wrington, BS49 5AR, starting at 6.30 pm, with a Speaker at 7pm and our meal at 8pm. New members are always very welcome. FFI: Telephone Yvonne - 842976

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Double First for Cheddar u3a!

Thursday 2 September saw Cheddar Valley u3a's first Speaker Meeting since resuming activities. It was also the first one Roy Fisher had arranged as the new organiser and what a way to begin!

u3a Cheddar Valley



Roy secured the services of Emma Britton to talk to members. Emma is, of course, very well known as a BBC Local Radio presenter and she delivered a very entertaining, interesting and insightful talk covering her life's work to date, including her 13 years at the BBC. She described those years as 'a job like no other' and indeed her experiences in that time were certainly unique. There was the challenge of rising each morning at 3.00 am to drive 35 miles to the studio in all weathers. Then to meet interviewees ranging from a chicken (yes that's right – a chicken!) to the incredible Sir David Attenborough.

Emma, now a qualified Celebrant, was able to inform us and answer members' questions on just what that entails - from officiating at baby naming ceremonies to funerals. A job like no other, perhaps.

Visit u3asites.org.uk/cheddar-valley/welcome for event information or to contact us.



Cheddar Male Voice Choir – Males Wanted

Cheddar Male Voice Choir have restarted their programme of rehearsals and concerts are in the pipeline. The repertoire is very varied including traditional, spiritual, theatre and pop songs. Over the past 26 years the choir has raised over £135,000 for good causes and charities. We now need more male singers to get involved. Everyone can sing, it just needs a little practice. Why not come and see for yourself at the rehearsal evenings held at Draycott Memorial Hall every Tuesday evening at 7.30 pm. More information at www.cheddarmychoir.co.uk or contact Wedmore members: Ron Barrow 712244, Bill Haley, 712093; Bill Litherland 712592 or Andrew Radcliffe 713407.

RNLI Winscombe and District Branch Forthcoming Activities

Folk Night on Saturday 6 November Featuring Granny's Attic

In St James' Church Hall (now the Church Centre), 52, Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA.

'Granny's Attic' are a bunch of three young guys who give dynamic acoustic performances of their own folk music. The hall will be arranged 'Café-Style,' with tables of four or six, and audience members will be allocated seats at their tables so there will be two sessions that evening to ensure that audience numbers in the hall are limited to fifty in each session:

- First Session - Doors will open at 6.30pm for an hour-long concert starting at 7.00pm prompt and ending at 8:00pm. The hall will be cleared and sanitised ready for the second performance.
- Second Session - Doors will open at 8.30pm for the second concert that will commence at 9.00pm and end at 10.00pm, allowing the hall to be cleared and sanitised after the performance.

Tickets cost £14 per person and will be issued electronically; they must be shown at the door. Please contact James Barattini as soon as possible (e-mail: winscombe.folk@gmail.com) to book your place at either of the events and please indicate your session preference; tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. There will be no tickets available on the door. Attendance will be spread equally between the two sessions; if one session becomes fully booked, you will be offered tickets for the other session.

There will be no bar to avoid queuing, attendees are welcome to bring their own beverages. Glasses will be supplied if required.

RNLI Christmas Cards, Diaries, Calendars and Souvenir Gifts

RNLI Winscombe Branch is planning a programme of sales of RNLI Christmas cards, diaries, calendars and souvenir gifts. The dates in November are:

- Saturday 6 November - St Mary's Church, Wedmore from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon
- Thursday 25 November - Winscombe Thursday Market from 09.00 am to 12.00 noon.



RNLI Winscombe Bulb and Garden Furniture Sale

On the morning of Saturday 25 September, the Branch held a very successful bulbs, plants and garden furniture sale on Studley's Forecourt in Winscombe. Although money is still coming in, the total at time of writing is £1,476 from the Sale itself and £423 from the sale of RNLI Christmas cards, diaries, calendars and souvenir gifts. Members were pleased to receive a surprise visitor named Gary Stanbury who is the Deputy Coxswain and Mechanic of RNLI Appledore Tamar All Weather Lifeboat, a Helm of their Atlantic 85 and an RNLI Assessor Trainer for the whole of SE/SW England.

RNLI Minehead Rescues Two Paddle Boarders on Their First Trip

With the return to work places and schools, September was a quieter month for our four Somerset lifeboat stations with a total of 12 shouts (Minehead – 4, Portishead – 5 & W-s-M – 3). Two beginner paddle boarders discovered there is a lot more to the sport than meets the eye. On the afternoon of Tuesday 7 September, the pair started their maiden voyage from Bossington Beach, near Porlock. After watching them fall off several times onlookers saw the tide rapidly carry the pair eastwards around Hurlstone Point and when they failed to return they called 999. Both Minehead lifeboats were launched just before 6pm and quickly located the pair just east of the point. Atlantic 85 helm Phil Sanderson said: 'As soon as they saw us they began waving their paddles – and it was clear they were hugely relieved to see us. There was a really fierce current running round the point, it was a big tide that night and even an experienced paddle boarder would have a job to make any way against it, let alone someone new to the sport. The crew of Minehead's D class nosed into the rocks and recovered the couple who were put aboard the Atlantic 85 and quickly returned to their departure point. Job done!'

Do You Want to Try Morris Dancing?

Mendip Morris are running beginner sessions alternate Wednesdays (2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month) 8 - 9.30 pm at Congresbury Memorial Hall.

Men and women, young and old, fit or not, just come along and give it a go, no previous experience required. Sorry but you must be aged 18 or over.

For more information contact: richard.brock@tiscali.co.uk

Somerset Choral Society Autumn Concert - Saturday 27 November

Somerset Choral Society will present their Autumn Concert in Axbridge Church on Saturday 27 November at 7.30pm. The programme will be 'The Vivaldi Gloria' and 'The Pergolesi Magnificat' together with other canticles and will be conducted by their Musical Director,



Daniel Cushing. Tickets costing £10 can be obtained from Society members or from tel: 01934-843727 or tel: 01934-740160. There will be a 'cash only wine and soft drinks bar' during the interval. More information may be obtained from Sarah at SomersetChoralSociety@hotmail.com.

Axbridge Archaeological and Local History Society

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 November at 7.30pm, when Dr Andrew Pickering will be talking about 'John Steinbeck's year in Somerset and his endeavour to retell Malory's Morte D'arthur'

If you would like a link to access these talks or to go on the mailing list for future talks, then please contact zoommaster@aalhs.co.uk.

Full details of this and the full programme are on the website: www.aalhs.co.uk. We look forward to you joining us.



*Liz Friend,
Secretary*

Christmas Themed Family Fundraising Walk for Weston Hospicecare

Weston Hospicecare are inviting their fabulous supporters to raise money by signing up to the five-mile Burnham Family Walk.

It will take place on Sunday 5 December and will start at Burnham's Apex Park and follow the stunning Somerset coastline past the town centre before turning around at the Low Lighthouse.

Walkers will then follow the reverse walk back to de-register.

It costs £16 for adults and £10 for children to enter and there's also a £2 early bird discount on both standard prices during the first week of ticket sales.

Entry includes:

1. Entry to the walk
2. Medal upon completion
3. Refreshments along the route
4. Full safety cover of the event
5. Fun and games

Event HQ will feature a Santa's Grotto and fun and games. Meanwhile, participants are strongly encouraged to get into the Christmas spirit by dressing up in fancy dress; there will be a fancy dress competition where the winner will receive a fantastic prize.

The hospice covers the northern Somerset area from Burnham, to Cheddar, Clevedon encompassing Weston-super-Mare, so it is fantastic to be able to branch out from our usual fundraising base in Weston.

To register, log on to westonhospicecare.org.uk to find more details of the Burnham Family Walk.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter on street lighting in Wedmore (August edition) I would like to contribute the following.

John Hodge
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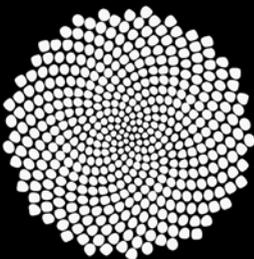
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I completely agree that there are issues with dog mess and at times litter such as broken glass on the village pavements. However, may I suggest we address these problems rather than better illuminate them.

Regarding nature; whilst we are indeed lucky to see many deer, foxes, badgers and still hear bird song in our wonderful village this does not hide the fact that this country is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. The most recent State of Nature report shows a terrifying decline in bio abundance and biodiversity particularly amongst insects that is beyond sobering. Green Wedmore's new Wild for Wildlife in Wedmore scheme is hoping to help with this.

With energy, whilst huge efforts are being made by Green Wedmore with its new Solar Challenge 1000 we have huge progress still to make. No one should underestimate how difficult it will be to achieve a net-zero village especially when all the new houses have been fitted with fossil fuel emitting gas central heating and we still need to install solar panels on hundreds more properties if we are to reach our targets.

Reducing our street lights therefore should be an easy win in our journey to a greener future.

I'll leave a Hinkley C discussion to another letter!

Yours

Steve Mewes

Wedmore Real Ale Festival Presentation Evening Saturday 3 October

On behalf of the Trustees of the Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund I would like to publicly thank the committee of the Wedmore Real Ale Festival for their generous donation at their presentation evening last night in Wedmore Village Hall of a cheque to the Fund for £3,000. Also many thanks for their hospitality of a hog roast supper.

I would also like to congratulate the committee of the WRAF for reaching their 20th anniversary and raising in excess of £20,000 this year. Also huge congratulations to them for all the support they give annually by financially supporting local charities.

Shirley Wederell

Secretary Wedmore & Axbridge Community Health Fund

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Thought for the Month – November 2021

Is Seeing Really Believing?

Mark 15.32: *'Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.'*

Several weeks ago, I saw something amazing.

I was on a boat with my wife, and we were sailing to the Isles of Scilly on holiday. It was early in the morning, and I was somewhat sleep deprived because of the early start.

Sitting at the back of the boat, in the open air, I just was soaking up the mid-September sun, when out of the corner of my eye I noticed something veer its head about the waves.

At first, I just thought that it was a trick of the light, but then I saw it again, and again, and again. And each time I saw it seemed to be getting closer.

As it got closer, I noticed that it was a dolphin. Until that point, I'd never seen a dolphin before in my life. And it was following the boat! Then before my eyes it jumped out of the water, then it did it again and again, before it drew level with where we were on the boat and jumped clean out of the water.

I was so close I could see its eyes, its body, I even think I detected a smile on its face! But if I hadn't seen it for myself, I would never have believed it!

But our verse from Mark suggests the opposite.

We often say that 'seeing is believing', but with faith the reverse is true. You must believe before you see; we must believe that Jesus didn't die for someone or anyone, but that he died for us, personally.

When he was on the cross, I like to think that he saw my face; he just didn't know my name, and that he endured the taunts of the crowd for those who might put their faith in him – even though they do not see him in the flesh.

Rev. Sam Healey

Assistant Curate, Isle of Wodmore Benefice

Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You



Chicken with Lemon and Rosemary

Preparation time 10 minutes, cooking time 40 minutes, serves six.

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 18 chicken thigh fillets (2kg)
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 cup (250ml) chicken stock
- ½ cup (125ml) dry white wine
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon of cornflower
- 1 tablespoon water
- ¼ cup (60ml) cream

Method

1. Heat oil in large saucepan, cook chicken in batches until browned, remove from pan.
2. Add garlic and stock, wine, rind, juice and rosemary to pan, bring to boil.
3. Return chicken to pan. Reduce heat, simmer uncovered for about 20 minutes or until chicken is tender. Remove chicken from pan.
4. Add blended cornflour and water to pan, stir over heat until sauce boils and thickens slightly. Reduce heat, add cream and chicken. Stir until hot.
5. Serve with green beans and new potatoes if desired.

Sue Gudgeon

The Garden in November

(Editor's Note: This article was first published in November 2007 and is reproduced here by kind permission of Mrs Yvonne Hutchinson).

After our pretty abysmal summer it has turned into a reasonably normal autumn, strangely, if anything a little premature. As I write (26 September) we have had no frost, yet many trees are colouring up well and losing their foliage early.

The flower shows around the area seem to have been successful and in Theale the main effect of the weather seems to have been the reduction in the entries of outdoor tomatoes due to potato blight, and of roses, probably because of blooms being spoiled by the rain and the bushes debilitated by black-spot.

As I have said before, now is the time to get your bulb planting finished; shallow planting is one of the commonest reasons for failure in bulbs and to avoid this look at the packaging for a guide to planting depth. A useful rule of thumb is to plant them at twice the depth of the bulb's diameter.

New hedges, fruit trees and for that matter any other bare-rooted trees or shrubs should be planted now while the soil is still reasonably warm, but of course they may not be available from the grower until they have shed their leaves, except of course the evergreens. Avoid planting in wet sticky soils if possible. Roses both newly planted and established should be pruned back by about a third to stop them from being rocked by high winds and having their roots loosened, but really hard pruning should wait until the end of the winter when the risk of serious frost is past.

In the greenhouse you may get the opportunity to remove all plants and fumigate the house to kill off spider-mites and white-fly, but if you do so, don't then re-introduce them by immediately returning infected plants into the house, these may need to be sprayed before putting them in again. If you are an organic gardener and have these particular pests you should consider introducing predators when temperatures rise again, these are widely advertised in the gardening press.

Herbaceous border plants will, by now be largely over; the advice always used to be to cut them all down as soon as possible, fork the ground between them and mulch



with well-rotted manure or compost, but in recent years we have become more inclined to leave seed heads on the plants for as long as possible to attract birds to the garden in winter and they also look nice when covered in hoar frost. They can eventually be cut down and mulched in late winter before the growth begins again.

On the lawns, which will have stopped growing rapidly by now, keep fallen leaves raked up to prevent them from causing bare patches. We used to be able to put the mower away for a few weeks now, but in recent years grass has tended to grow right through the mild winters we have had and an occasional light mowing (not too short) keeps them looking tidy.

If you have a rock garden, leaves can also be a problem here, alpine plants grow naturally in wide open spaces and although they may be covered and indeed protected by a layer of snow in the winter it is at a much lower temperature than we normally experience in our winters; mild wet conditions and layers of wet leaves are not what they like. Ponds should also be protected from falling leaves, a piece of netting is the simplest way.

This is largely a time of harvesting in the vegetable garden but you can and should plant some broad beans now; Aquadulce Claudia is the usual autumn sown variety, but there are others; check in seed catalogues and browse the packets in the garden centre. Sowing in the autumn extends the picking season and enables you, if space is not at a premium, to get at least some of your broad beans harvested and cleared away in time to plant succession crops in June. That's it then for another month; we'll be approaching Christmas by the time you read my next contribution, I shall have to think of some good suggestions for Christmas presents for gardeners.

Adrian Hutchinson

Sports Report

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

The outdoor bowls season finished at the end of September rounding off a great few months of highly enjoyable bowls mostly played in lovely weather. Although the cursed Covid played its part in preventing competitive play in the County leagues our teams were able to compete in the Weston and District and the Clevedon and District leagues and their respective Cups with great success. In the C and D we won the league decisively and reached the cup semi-final losing to a powerful RBL Portishead team. In the W and D we finished second in the league, winning promotion and agonisingly lost again in the semi-final to a quality team from the Victoria Bowling club.

Club Finals weekend is always a season highlight and this year it was played in splendid weather in front of appreciative crowds. Winners were: Men's 2 woods, Ron Barron. Men's 4 woods, Dave Nicholls. Ladies 2 woods, Pat Jenkins. Ladies 4 woods, Ann-Marie Wilkinson. Open 4 woods, Alan Birch. Men's pairs, Ron Barron and Mike Andrews. Mixed pairs, Mike Batchelor and Audrey Birch. Family pairs, Stuart and



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Marion Fisher. Veterans, Terry Holtby. New winner, Stuart Fisher. New bowler, Neil Bloy. Well done to everyone who took part.

Other notable events in the calendar were a brilliant Captain's day and the Australian Pairs Day which was a tense, closely contested affair finally won by Anne Newman and Ron Barron.

On the social side we followed up our excellent Italian evening with an equally enjoyable Pig Roast at the close of Finals weekend, both events sold out and were great fun. We are now looking forward to our annual presentation lunch at Batch Country House, Lymsham.

From 1 October we have switched our emphasis to the indoor bowls. We have two indoor rinks and full clubhouse facilities for all year round bowling. If you would like to join us in this splendid sociable activity please call Steve Young on 01749 870987 or email him at steveyoung1987@hotmail.co.uk.



Captain Mike Batchelor (front left) and some of the successful Isle of Wedmore Men's bowls team, winners of the Clevedon and District league 2021.

Peter Gower

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

The Captains were much in evidence in September with Captains' Weekend over three days and two Captain Pro Challenges. Unfortunately, Club Captain Dave Skelton missed it all as he was recovering from surgery and at time of writing is recovering well. Captains' weekend means three days of competitions from Friday to Saturday ranging from the light hearted to the serious to the slightly ridiculous. Events kicked off on Friday evening with a yellow ball Bowmaker which was mainly



an excuse to gather together for the meal afterwards. There is always an element of luck in this format but nonetheless you have to play pretty well to score 66 points which was achieved by the winning team of Val Webber, Jane Prosser, Alan Hill and Mark Earwaker. For that matter the 62 from runners-up Ann and Russell Dixon with Janet and Ian Robson was pretty good too.

Saturday is the more serious day with men and ladies playing for various Captains' Cups. There was a disappointing number of Ladies competing this year but some good scoring. The Crandon Cup in silver division went to Eunice Bond on 36, 3 better than Shirley Turner who beat Cathy Olive on countback. The Dodkin Cup in Bronze division went to Fran McMillan on 39 with Claire Biggs second on 36 and Marion Warren-Smith third on 34. The Chambers Cup was new this year and went to Janet Gilbert. Hopefully the new trophy will encourage more higher handicappers to compete.

There was plenty of competition in the Men's divisions, particularly division 1 for the Dodkin Trophy with three players all on 39. Richard Ham won out on countback ahead of Tom Gillibrand and Tim Harris. Moly McMillan won the Donald Cup in division 2 on 38, one better than Greg Cox with John Vowles another point back in third. Best score of the day, 41 points, came from Rob Major in division 3 which put him 4 ahead of runner-up Neville Gillibrand with Ian Bunn in third place.

Sunday was nominally a Better Ball competition with players able to buy their way to better scores with mulligans and string all for the sake of charity. Fran and Moly McMillan followed up their successes the previous day by winning again with 89 but only on countback from Sally and Phil Cowie with Sue and Alan Chambers in third spot.

In Dave's absence, Club Professional Lindsey Elkins teamed up with Vice-Captain Malcom Tanner to take on allcomers in the Captain-Pro Challenge. They scored a very respectable 39 points but this proved nowhere near enough with nine pairs beating that and each receiving a prize. Remarkably, the top five pairs all scored 43 points which meant with just three main prizes a good back nine was essential. Cathy and Martin Olive came out on top with Diane and Steve Miller second and Ann and Russell Dixon in third. At the end of the month it was the turn of Ladies' Captain Ann Dixon to team up with Lindsey against the Ladies. Their score of 33 was not enough to hold off some good scores from the rest of the field. There was tough opposition with Ange Webber and Esme Gulliver scoring 41, best of the day and three other pairs on 40. Debbie Monks and Linda Huzal took second place with Wendy Lucas and Jenny Thomas in third on countback.

Summer was officially ended in mid-month as the Ladies played their autumn meeting, 27 holes of golf followed by an evening meal. The morning round is the main event – an 18-hole Stableford with plenty of trophies on offer. The main one is the Allington Cup which this year went to Pam Berry who scored 38 points, 2 ahead of the rest of the field. Sue McDonald won the Runners-Up Cup but only on countback from Eunice Bond after both scored 36 points. All was not lost though as this still won her the division 1 Cup, this time on countback from Lynn Bird. Deidre Wheadon took third on 34. The Division 2 Trophy went to Heather Abraham whose 35 points put her 3 ahead of Wendy Lucas with Diane Miller in third place on 31. Strangely these score were repeated in Division 3 with Pru Witter winning on 35, Janet Gilbert

taking second spot on 32 and Esme Gulliver third on 31. The afternoon event was a nine-hole Bowmaker which was won by the experienced team of Jan Jenkins, Liz Sims and Lynda Huzal.



Vice-Captain Malcolm Tanner, Ladies Captain Ann Dixon and Seniors Captain Clive Warren-Smith dressed to impress at the Captains' Weekend.



Pam Berry receiving her trophy from Ann Dixon as overall winner at the Ladies Autumn Meeting along with other prize winners.

The Club Stableford and Medal took place as usual. There was good scoring in the Club Stableford and one exceptional round as Daniel McQueen won division 3 with an incredible 47 points, 9 better than runner-up Chris McKinley who scored a very respectable 38. Richard Simmons was third on 37. Mark Earwaker was winner of division 1 with 41 which was 2 better than Alan Richardson who beat Dale Worthington on countback. Mark Sweeting scored 40 in division 2 with Alex Harris two points back in second and Tony Bird another 2 back in third. A good turnout in the Ladies section saw Ange Tanner win on 37, just one better than Megan Wilde with Dawn Chadwick third on 35.

The monthly Medal was a tour de force from the Vowles family, spoilt only by Matthew Pinsent who beat Rich Vowles for first place in division 1 with both scoring 70. Brother James Vowles was a shot back in third. Meanwhile father John was winning division 2 with 65 which again only won on countback from the unlucky Dave Bedford. Marc Large took third. Low score of the day was in division 3 won by Steve Cainey on 63, only 2 better than Roy Tomlins with Daniel McQueen third on 70. Few Ladies in the field this week with Sandy Bedford coming first on 77, two ahead of Mandy Vearncombe.

Tony Biggs

Church News

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Tuesday 23 November, the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the particular communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches and you are welcome to join him at any of the stops.



Parish Registers

Christenings

It has been so good to be able to celebrate christenings once more and we say welcome to the following baptised into God's church recently:

Arthur Patch, son of Lloyd and Joanne Patch of Blackford, Wedmore, who was baptised on 5 September at St Mary's Church.

Hamish Wilson, son of Gavin and Katie Wilson of Wedmore, who was baptised on 12 September at St Mary's Church.

Isabelle Willcox, daughter of George and Lorna Willcox of Wedmore, who was baptised on 19 September at St Mary's Church.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of:

Susan Ford, of Sycamore Farm, Stone Allerton who died on 29 August 2021 aged 74 and whose funeral took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on 20 September.

Weddings

Congratulations to the following after their recent weddings:

Benjamin and Madeleine (nee Stewart) Schellenberg both of Tiverton, Devon who were married on 4 September at St Mary's Church, Wedmore

Ryan and Corrie (nee Painter) Thompson both of Bleadon who were married on 18 September at St Mary's church, Wedmore

Marek and Arabella (nee Currie) Sullivan both of Theale who were married on 18 September at Christchurch, Theale.



Harvest Celebrations and New Driveway at Holy Trinity, Blackford

The new driveway at Holy Trinity was completed in time for the Harvest celebrations, which took place on 26 September. Janet Willcox provided these photos of the driveway and lovely decorations.



Christmas at the Isle of Wedmore Churches

As we continue to emerge out of the pandemic, it will be very good to gather again for some of the lovely church and village celebrations and services. Some things will be familiar, and some may be fresh to you this year. Look out for our special Christmas website; www.Christmasatwedmore.com. This will have details of: carol singing around the village; Christingle celebrations; online services; Advent reflections; daily activities for children; and festive fun taking place in the villages.

Living Advent Calendar

Despite everything this year has thrown at us, Wedmore's Living Advent Calendar will be back. In fact, it feels more important than ever this year to light up Wedmore through the dark nights of Advent. So on evenings between 1 and 24 December

householders from across the village are looking forward to unveiling a lit and decorated window each evening. This year's theme is 'Follow the Star.' If you are interested in taking part and creating your own decorated window please either pop into the Cottage Gallery or phone 01934 712617 or email : jandaintree@gmail.com

Look out for the map of all the homes and dates which will be on our website and in local venues at the end of November. If you want to find out more about our Living Advent Calendar go to that website – www.lacw.co.uk or join our Facebook page – Wedmore Living Advent Calendar or follow us on Twitter at [@wedmoreliveadv1](https://twitter.com/wedmoreliveadv1).

Church Services in November

Every day, excluding Sunday, there is Morning Prayer online at 9 am on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/

Our worship will also continue to be available online. At least one of our Sunday services each week is recorded and you can join in via the St Mary's YouTube channel. Links for all the above and details of services both online and in churches can be found at www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/.

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday	7	3 Before Advent	10.30 am	Café Church
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	14	Remembrance	10.15 am	Remembrance Service (See below)
			6.00 pm	Evening service on Zoom
Sunday	21	Christ The King		Service at Christchurch Theale
			6.00 pm	Start the Week
Sunday	28	Advent 1	8.00 am	Communion (BCP)
			10.30 am	Parish Communion
			6.00 pm	Advent Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	7	3 Before Advent	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Remembrance		See note below
Sunday	21	Christ The King	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	28	Advent 1	9.00 am	Morning Praise

Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	7	3 Before Advent	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Remembrance	11.00 am	Remembrance Service (See below)
Sunday	21	Christ The King	11.00 am	Dedication Festival
Sunday	28	Advent 1	11.00 am	Morning Praise

Allerton Church

Sunday	7	3 Before Advent	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	14	Remembrance		See note below
Sunday	21	Christ The King		Service at Christchurch Theale
Sunday	28	Advent 1	9.00 am	Parish Communion

Special services for Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 14 November there will be Remembrance Services at St Mary's and Christchurch. At St Mary's we will be in church with no restriction on numbers, however, we do ask people please to wear a face covering throughout the service. Hand sanitiser will also be available at the entrance. The service begins at 10.15 am (please note the time, ¼ hour earlier than the usual Sunday service at St Mary's) before moving to the war memorial for 11.00 am. The service at Theale will begin at 11.00 am.

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

There will be an opportunity to gather on Armistice Day itself, 11 November, around the War Memorials in the churchyards of both St Mary's, Wedmore and Allerton for two minutes silence. Please gather by 10:45 am.

Advent Carol Service

The last weekend in November sees the beginning of Advent, the time in the church's year for preparing ourselves to receive our Lord Jesus when he comes, both at Christmas in human form and at the end of time in glory. Advent Sunday, 28 November, will be marked in the evening when St Mary's will move from darkness to light during the Advent Carol Service at 6.00 pm. This is a particularly moving service in which the theme of the coming of the light of Christ is invoked with hymns, music and readings appropriate to the Advent season.

Bagley Baptist Church

Bagley is open for Sunday morning service starting at 10.30am. Also available on our Bagley Baptist -You Tube channel. Communion is usually shared on the 1st Sunday of each month.

Wednesday Coffee with a View 10.30am-12 noon. All welcome and free of charge. Many fellowship groups are available to access online and meeting at the church: home groups, gatherings, prayer meetings, youth groups and more. Please get in touch; we would love to hear from you. Contact: (01934) 710779 / 712812, or email contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk

Crickham Baptist Chapel

Sunday School on Sunday morning at 10.30 am, Evening Service at 6.30 pm.

Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

Surgery Opening Times

Wedmore Surgery

Mondays and Fridays	8.30 am to 6.00 pm
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & 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
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During these a Nurse/HCA/Phlebotomist will be available for routine appointments outside normal surgery times. These appointments are provided, but not exclusively, for those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours.

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

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 Friendly Bus



Scheduled Services

- There are four Scheduled Services a week. These are to:
- Taunton - Tuesday
- Bridgwater - Wednesday
- Weston-s-Mare - Thursday
- Street and Glastonbury - Friday

The bus departs from Wedmore Car Park at The Lerburne at around 9.30am to start picking up passengers. It returns to Wedmore between 1.30 pm and 2.45 pm depending on the destination. See below for more details.

- The bus is a friendly place where there is normally a happy buzz of conversation. Our passengers often meet for a coffee whilst at the destination.
- Anyone is welcome to come on the bus and a place can easily be booked by telephone.
- We try to pick up and drop off at the homes of all users who need this. For other passengers this will be at a location that is convenient for them. We are also flexible about drop offs on route.
- We are happy to provide help in getting on and off the bus for those who need it.
- Drivers are all volunteers who want to help passengers to enjoy their time on the bus as much as possible.
- The service is free for everyone with a Concessionary Bus Pass and for children under 5 years old. For other passengers, fares are low as the bus is financed by Somerset CC and drivers are volunteers.

Timetable and Booking Details

All services

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

Tuesday – Taunton:

Departs Taunton 2.00 pm. Back around 2.45pm.

Wednesday – Bridgwater:

Departs Bridgwater 1.00 pm. Back around 2.00 pm.

Thursday - Weston-super-Mare:

Departs Weston 1.45 pm. Back around 2.45pm.

Friday - Street and Glastonbury:

Departs Street 1.00 pm. Back around 1.30pm.

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

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

- Taunton & Bridgwater - these are at Blackford, Mark, Bason Bridge and East Huntspill
- Weston-super-Mare - these are at Stoughton, Allerton, Blackford and Mark
- Street - these are at Theale and Godney

Booking is easy, just call the number indicated below against the relevant destination at the time shown and we'll agree a convenient pick up location and time. Alternatively just come to the Lerburne car park before 9.30 am and we will normally be able to fit you in.

Tuesday to Taunton and Wednesday to Bridgwater

Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 between 6pm & 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

Thursday to Weston-super-Mare and Friday to Street

Call Carol Ayliffe on 01934 713471 between 6pm & 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

Private Hire

- On weekends the bus is available for private hire throughout the day and in the evening. It is also available by arrangement on most Mondays.
- On Tuesdays to Fridays it is available for private hire after 3.30pm and in the evening.
- Each private hire comes with a list of volunteer drivers for the hirer to approach.
- The bus has seats for a maximum of 16 passengers. It is often booked for weddings, club outings etc.

To make a booking please contact us by email at iowrtabookings@gmail.com

Further details at the Wedmore website thisleofwedmore.net /Local Directory/
Wedmore Community Bus or email us at wedmorebus@gmail.com

New Volunteer Drivers Needed

The community bus has vacancies for volunteer drivers for Scheduled Services on Tuesdays to Fridays and/or Private Hire as described above.

Driving the bus is:

- Not a big commitment. Many volunteers are only available occasionally but they still make a valuable contribution. Volunteers are only timetabled to drive at times when they make themselves available and rarely drive more than once a month.
- Very rewarding, as it provides an important service to many local residents.
- Great fun, as the bus is a friendly place where there is normally a happy buzz of conversation and plenty of laughs.

- Not difficult. All drivers are given free training by an approved Somerset CC trainer. This is provided before the volunteer starts driving and is repeated every four years.

Volunteers do need to have category D1 on their driving licence but this should be available on all licences gained before September 2008. They will also need to undergo a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service) which we will arrange at no cost to the volunteer.

Interested? If so please contact us either by email on wedmorebus@gmail.com or telephone David Knight on 01934 712388.

Crossword 52 Answers

Across: 1. Palmist 5. Stealth 9. Conic 10. Ten across 11. Freedom of speech
12. Enlargements 16. Animatronics 19. Cinematographer 21. Ancestors 22. Inept
23. Tierces 24. Osmosis

Down: 1. Pacify 2. Linnet 3. Incidental music 4. Totem 5. Son of a gun
6. Escape mechanism 7. Loose end 8. Hush-hush 13. Aerations 14. Bar chart
15. Pinnacle 17. Cheers 18. Gratis 20. Gusto

(351)

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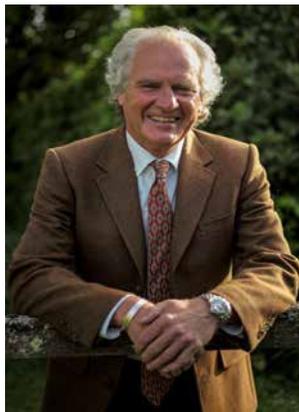
Mark



Stoughton



Wedmore



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