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*Roderick Thomas*



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# Editorial

I'm hoping that by the time you get to read this in April we will be through the almost constant sequence of storms and heavy rain that have caused such problems in and around the village this winter.

One reader recently asked me what had happened to the weather records that we used to publish? Unfortunately, with the sad passing of Dave Bodley a couple of years ago, we have not found anyone to provide this interesting information. If we have anyone out there who has their own weather station and would be willing to put together a weather record at the end of each season, perhaps with some indication of how much wetter, drier, colder, or warmer the season was locally, then please get in touch with me via [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com)

As we move out of winter, there are some great events lined up, including a Fashion Show arranged by Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare; and the fantastic Wedmore Young Farmers, celebrating their 90th Show at the George!

We also have the next Freecycle, which is a great opportunity to declutter and pass on items that you no longer use to someone who needs them, rather than sending them off to landfill. This helps you, other people, and the environment, so a triple win!

Cheers,

*lan*

## Deadline for May Edition: 1 April 2024

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## Front Cover

As we head into spring the better weather should also put a spring in our steps. There are already several events in April and when we get to May the village events programme will be in full swing. The front cover depicts the 'Five ways to wellbeing'. Local organisations are getting ready to welcome you to the Wedmore Wellbeing Day on 4 May where you can find out how to boost your wellbeing and make the most of living in Wedmore.

*Liz Sweeney*

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## Key Events for April

Here is your round-up of the key events this month. **Please see the articles later in this magazine for full details.** More exciting things to do across the Isle of Wedmore are also covered in the regular centrespread 'What's On' listings.

### **Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Fashion Show – 13 April**

The Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare will be holding a fashion show on 13 April, 2.30pm, at the Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club.

### **Freecycle – Sunday 14 April**

10.00 am to 12.00 noon at the Village Car Park, Worthington Close.

### **Wedmore Young Farmers 90th Show – 20 April**

This year Wedmore Young Farmers will be celebrating 90 years. They will be holding their annual show at the George Hotel in the centre of Wedmore on Saturday 20 April, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

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## Coming Soon

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

### **Wedmore Wellbeing Day – 4 May**

This is the third Wellbeing Day, with events at three venues in the village – Wedmore Village Hall, Masonic Hall and St Mary's Church from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm – See Health and Wellbeing section for more details.

### **St Mary's Tower Tours – 6 May**

The ever-popular St Mary's Tower Tours will take place this year on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May, from 10am. See News section for more details.

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## Wedmore Festival – 11 to 19 May

This year's Wedmore Festival is going to be unlike anything you have ever witnessed before. With so much going on in Wedmore during May, you'll wonder how on earth we managed to pack all this impressive talent into such a small space! See article later in this issue or visit [www.wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.wedmoreartsfestival.co.uk)

## The Parish Assembly – 24 May

A popular and vibrant community evening, where ideas are discussed, plans made, and people brought together through their shared passion for their homes and village.

## Wedmore Opera – Encore! – 6 July

Following Wedmore Opera's sell-out production of The Marriage of Figaro in October, you don't have long to wait for another chance to hear some of those amazing voices raise the roof.

On Saturday 6 July soloists and the chorus of Wedmore Opera will be performing a selection of favourite opera arias in Wedmore Village Hall. The bar will be open from 6pm with Pimms and other summertime treats.

## Wedmore Harvest Home – 17 August

The next Wedmore Harvest Home will be held on Saturday 17 August 2024. See later editions of this magazine for further details nearer the time.

## Wedmore 40-30 – 1 September

Growing every year, the Wedmore 40-30 cycling event will take place on 1 September this year. Registration **now open** for the for the 70-, 40-, 30-mile routes and for the family friendly 12-miler.



## Wedmore Real Ale Festival – 13 to 15 September

The ever-popular Wedmore Real Ale Festival will take place this year from 13 to 15 September.

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# News

## Parish Council Business

Hello Everyone!

Well, what can I say! Wedmore Parish Council has been buzzing with activity over the past month, with a delightful blend of community support, infrastructure planning, and collaborative initiatives taking centre stage!

One of the highlights of the month was the Parish Council's decision to grant funds to various local organisations. Wedmore Tennis Club and Wedmore Health and Wellbeing were among the fortunate recipients, receiving support to further their community-focused initiatives and activities. The grants aim to enhance the well-being and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages in the Parish.

In addition to supporting local groups, the Parish Council has been diligently reviewing plans for the renovation of Theale Village Hall. With a keen eye for

detail and a commitment to preserving the village's heritage, council members have been working tirelessly to ensure that the renovation plans align with the needs and aspirations of the community.

Environmental stewardship also remains on the Parish Council's agenda, We have been working hard to establish the maintenance schedule for the Blackford Brook along Poolbridge Road which should be being carried out by Somerset Council. We will continue to take proactive steps to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area, the council continues to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and conservation efforts. The Parish Council are very pleased to report the development committee's refusal of the proposed development at Combe Batch due to its adverse impact on rural character and conservation policies.

But the Parish Council's dedication to community engagement doesn't stop there. The parish council, the Women of Wedmore, various walking groups, and the Men's Shed have joined forces to initiate a rolling maintenance schedule for the footpaths within the parish. We hope this collaborative effort will not only promote active lifestyles but also further encourage a strong sense of camaraderie among residents. We need to do more together!

I've tried to keep it very light-hearted this month as the weather definitely hasn't been kind through February, but there is still a pressing need for more councillors to join the ranks. 'We still need more councillors, please,' implores the Clerk! With vacant seats waiting to be filled, now is the perfect time for community-minded individuals to step up and make a difference in their village.

Nominations for the prestigious Henry Butt Award have begun trickling in. As the deadline approaches, residents are encouraged to submit their nominations for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the community. There's still time to nominate, so don't miss the opportunity to recognise the unsung heroes among us!

The Parish Council remains committed to serving the needs of the residents wanting to encourage a vibrant and inclusive community spirit. With ongoing projects and collaborative efforts in full swing, the future looks bright for our charming corner of Somerset.

For more information on how to get involved or to submit a nomination for the Henry Butt Award, please contact the Wedmore Parish Council office.

*Lindsey Baker,  
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

## **St. Mary's Church Wedmore – Revised Plans**

Thank you to everyone who came to the open meeting in February at which revised plans for heating St Mary's were presented together with consequential changes to the plans for re-ordering the Nave.

The plans for 'No glow' Radiant heaters were welcomed as they will be much easier to install, make the heating far more environmentally friendly and will cost little to run compared to the Gas/water convector heaters originally recommended.

The changes to the plans for re-ordering were discussed and there was a suggestion that many people did not understand what 're-ordering' entailed. Hopefully the



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following explanation will give clarity to what re-ordering is and why St Mary's PCC (the church leadership council) believe it is needed if St Mary's is to continue to be a building 'owned' and used by as many people as possible.

The present lay out means that the space is very much limited to worship and many people complain they are very uncomfortable when seated on the pews for a protracted period - for example a concert or public meeting. 'Re-Ordering' is a project to make the nave a multi-functional area suitable for both spiritual and community use. This would be achieved by removing the central pews and replacing them with chairs, installing a kitchenette & servery at the back of the church together with an up-dated children's space.

The Nave will then be able to be used similarly to how it was when the Church was the centre of village life when first built in the 15th Century.

The PCC consider that regular Church events will be more enjoyable within this flexible space, for example 'Messy Church' and 'Little Lambs' for mums and toddlers; 'The Tea set' a Friday get-together for those who live alone or welcome company; school visits and services; Christmas Fairs; etc. It will of course allow different forms of worship and flexible use for community events.

There is no intention to compete with other village amenities, but it is by far the largest venue in the village which the PCC consider should be a multi-functional place for use by all the community not just worshippers. Importantly it will also make the church much more inclusive by enabling free movement for those in wheelchairs or physical limitations.

Throughout April the plans and illustrations and explanation of the heating system and other changes will be available in the Guild Chapel (the area as you come in to church through the small porch door in the South Porch) and any observations and comments will be welcome. Please email any comments to [stmarywedmore@gmail.com](mailto:stmarywedmore@gmail.com)

*Mike Gelder*

## **Isle of Wedmore Society Photography Competition**

The Society proposes to hold a photography competition open to all in the Parish of Wedmore. Pictures should show the historical significance of the parish and the surrounding landscape. There will be an exhibition and cash prizes awarded to the winners, so please start to think about this! More details will follow in next month's Wedmore News.

## **Christchurch Theale 'Treasure Project'**

Following on from the article in January's IoW News, here is an update to what is happening in the churchyard at Christchurch Theale. Hopefully this will also help Gwen Fisher with the concerns she wrote about in her letter, published in the March issue.

Things are very much a work in progress at the moment, with the next stage being a wildlife survey. Once that is complete, look out for the opportunity to gather together and cut back some of last year's growth. The plan will be for much of the upper level of the graveyard to be managed for wildlife to flourish, promote biodiversity and at the same time for it to be a peaceful and treasured space (thus the name 'Treasure Project') for people to spend time in, enjoy the views and be surrounded by the living as well as the dead. Much of the area will be mowed infrequently with pathways cut through to encourage people to wander and discover some of the treasures.

At the same time, we will endeavour to keep the lower half as well maintained as possible, with the grass being cut much more frequently and graves kept free of growth. This is the area where graves are most likely to be tended. It is important that those, like Gwen, who visit the graves of relatives can know that the place where their loved ones have been laid to rest is well cared for. In this we are all grateful to Dave Sayer who gives his time to cut the grass and smooth over where possible some of the uneven ground.

If you would like to help Dave and others maintain this area or offer to care for some graves that are no longer visited or help create a Wilder Churchyard in the upper level, please contact the Vicar on 01934 713566 or email [wedmorevic@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorevic@gmail.com)

## **St Mary's Tower Tours**

The ever-popular St Mary's Tower Tours will take place this year on Bank Holiday Monday, 6 May, from 10am. Experience one of the best views in Somerset from the top of the tower of St. Mary's. Please note that the steps are steep, narrow, and dusty, so please come suitably fit and attired.

The cost is £7.00 per person - including tea and cake. Reservations needed to be assured of a climb (Children must be 8 and over). Contact 07984 924432 or email [dahopkins@aol.com](mailto:dahopkins@aol.com) for reservations.



## **Coombe Batch Development Planning Decision**

The Wedmore Parish Council wishes to express its deepest gratitude for the incredible support it has received throughout the last 3 years while continuing to object to the Combe Batch Planning Application.

We are pleased to be able to share with you all the refusal of this planning application. The reasons outlined in the decision are reflective of many of the concerns raised about the impact on the rural character of the area and the potential conflict with local and national planning policies, which are important considerations that could not be overlooked. It is clear that the preservation of our village's unique rural identity and historic landscape is of paramount importance to all of us.

The refusal of the planning application is a testament to the strength of our community and our shared commitment to protecting the integrity and character of our village. Your unwavering support, whether it was through attending meetings, or raising awareness about the potential impact of the proposed development, has been truly inspiring.

While this is a significant victory for our community, it is also a reminder of the importance of remaining vigilant and proactive in safeguarding the future of our village. Together, we have demonstrated the power of community engagement and advocacy, and we have shown that our voices can make a difference.

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*Lindsey Baker  
Parish Clerk*

## **Rotary District Young Musician Competition**

The District stage of Rotary Young Musician was held at Kings Academy in Cheddar on Sunday 3 March. Young people from 14 to 17 performed in front of an enthusiastic audience and two professional musician adjudicators.

The winner in the vocal section was 14 year-old Ella from Churchill Academy who was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wrington Vale. The runner up was 14 year-old Cyanne from Kings Academy sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mendip. The winner in the instrumental section was 16 year-old cellist Betsy from Sherborne School sponsored by the Rotary Club of Taunton. The runner up was 17 year-old pianist Theo from Kings Academy sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mendip. Ella and Betsy go on to compete on the Rotary Regional competition on Cardiff later this month. The national final will be held in Manchester in April.

Competition organiser Roger Burdock congratulated all the entrants, and expressed Rotary's thanks to adjudicators Edward Goater and David Hedges, and to the governors and head teacher of Kings Academy for their support for the event.



*Rotary District 1200 Young Musicians with District Governor Stuart Gilbert*

## **Jurassic Coast 10k Challenge**

A team from Wedmore will be taking part in the Jurassic Coast 10k Challenge on May 19, 2024, in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Charity (MND).

As many of you may remember my dear husband, Peter Small, died of MND on 12 December 2021. Peter was well known in the area as he practised as a Podiatrist at Cheddar Medical Centre for many years. He was such a kind, caring, fun person, full of life and very much loved by his family, many friends and colleagues.

His illness was rapid and seeing at first-hand the speed which the disease took hold and how he was trapped in an ever-failing body was horrible. He was completely of sound mind right to the end with a wonderful sense of humour always keen to put those around him at ease. MND affects the brain and the spinal cord with a third of people

who contract the disease dying within a year. The lifetime risk of a person developing MND is 1 in 300. It is a wicked disease for which, at the moment, there is no cure.

This is where you can help by please sponsoring this event to help fund research into MND and also towards funding the much needed resources people with MND can access through their local MND branches. We already have a number of willing walkers signed up for the event!

If you are able and happy to support our challenge and would like to make a donation please go to the justgiving page [www.justgiving.com/page/matty-small-1709307846133](http://www.justgiving.com/page/matty-small-1709307846133) Of course, if you feel fit enough, please join the ever-increasing team of walkers.

Many, many thanks in advance for any donations to MND. They will be so very much appreciated.

*Matty Small*

## **Wedmore Community Bus Needs New Volunteer Drivers!**

The community bus has vacancies for volunteer drivers for Scheduled Services on Mondays to Fridays and/or Private Hire for community and social groups on weekday evenings and at weekends.

We would particularly welcome volunteers connected with community groups as we'd like to expand use of the bus by this sector.

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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](mailto:wedmorebus@gmail.com) or telephone Phil Butterworth on 01934 712775.

For further details of the Community Bus and its services go to the Wedmore website at [www.theisleofwedmore.net](http://www.theisleofwedmore.net) under Local Directory/Wedmore Community Bus or email us on [wedmorebus@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorebus@gmail.com)

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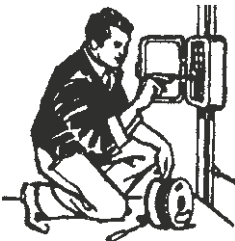
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## **The Henry Butt Trophy – Nominations Open**

The deadline for nominations for the Henry Butt Trophy and other awards is Sunday 6 April 2023. These awards are for people who have contributed significantly to the community, whether for work done over the past year or commitment over many years. Whether individuals or groups, if you know someone deserving of an award, please download the nomination form or contact: [clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk) or phone 01934 713087.

Recipients, and their nominators, will be invited to the Annual Parish Assembly to be held on Wednesday 22 May to receive their award.

## **Wedmore Young Farmers 90th Show**



Wedmore Young Farmers Club are celebrating their 90th Show this year on Saturday 20 April from 10.00 am. This will be taking place in The George Hotel Yard. The club started as a calf rearing club and the first show was held in The George Hotel yard with 15 shorthorn heifers. There is a large entry of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and pigs this year together with a display of handicrafts and memorabilia from the last 90 years in the Masonic room.

Come along and see the beautiful cattle, sheep and pigs expertly shown by the members. Please support this event as it is an important part of the Wedmore calendar and its free!

## Wedmore Festival 2024

### What a Choice!

It starts on Saturday 11 May with a fascinating insight from Hannah Martin, Make-up Artist to the Stars. And it ends on Sunday 19 May with a debut concert by four good friends who also happen to be four good musicians now appearing as The Wedmore Festival Ensemble!

In between these two brilliant events you've got a whole fabulous Festival to enjoy.

- An exhibition showcasing local artistic talent
- A Violin and Piano Recital by Poppy McGhee and Derek Paravicini
- A Night at the Musicals with Georgina Sweet
- A peep behind the artist's canvas with Art Historian Simon Gillespie
- A nail-biting introduction to 'cosy crime' by Emylia Hall
- A terrifying encounter with Sherlock Holmes and his GIGANTIC Hound
- Some inspirational insights from PR Guru Lynne Franks OBE
- A spellbinding tribute to the music of Kate Bush
- A chance to listen to our very own correspondent, Festival Patron Kate Adie CBE
- Musical memories of the Fab Four – Live at the Bluebird Café!
- A tea-time treat with Belle Street and their vintage-style cabaret
- A right laugh with hilarious, yet bafflingly optimistic, comedian Andy Parsons
- A traditional celebration of Spring with Darren Royston and the Nonsuch Dance Group
- And a farewell from the Beach Boyz playing Goodbye-brations (and other numbers!) in their final tribute tour

And, in an extension to last year's debut event for buskers, we are opening the 'floor' to a broader spread of street performers. Please contact [Suzannemetters@hotmail.com](mailto:Suzannemetters@hotmail.com) for further information.

Full details of the Festival can be found in our glossy programmes which will be distributed in and around Wedmore, or on our website [www.wedmorefestival.co.uk](http://www.wedmorefestival.co.uk)

Tickets are available online and in the Wedmore Village Store from 8 April (Priority booking from 2 April).

*Dorothy Wright*

## Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Fashion Show

The Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare will be holding a fashion show by the Hidden Boutique, Axbridge. This will be held on Saturday 13 April, 2.30pm, at the Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club. Why not come and join us and support the excellent work of Weston Hospicecare

Tickets are £12.50 each (non-refundable) and include cream tea. Tickets are available from: Trish Newell 01934 713117, Liz Burton 01934 221288, Shirley Wederell 01934 712089, Dave Nicholls 01934 713483, Wedmore Village Store 01934 712545, and the Hidden Boutique, Axbridge Square 07795 360018.

We look forward to seeing you!

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## Avalon Camps Summer 2024

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This summer's Avalon Camps will take place from Sunday 28 July to Friday 2 August. As always, we need lots of volunteers to help with: setting up camp from Wednesday 24 July; running camp including cooking, washing up, sandwich making, laundry, night security, and toilet cleaning; and closing down the camp from Saturday 3 August.

If you can help, or want to learn more about our work please contact George Osborne on 01278 641551 Email: [contact@avaloncamps.org.uk](mailto:contact@avaloncamps.org.uk) or our website <https://www.avaloncamps.org.uk/>

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# Regular Features

## Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You

### Devilled Eggs

#### Ingredients –

6 hard boiled eggs, chilled

4 tbsp mayonnaise

1 tsp Dijon mustard

1-2 dashes hot sauce (optional)

Salt and pepper

Paprika for sprinkling

#### Method –

Peel the eggs. Using a clean wet knife, slice the eggs in half lengthwise, wiping the blade clean between eggs. Remove the yolks and place into a medium mixing bowl. Mash the yolks with a fork then add the mayonnaise, mustard, and optional hot sauce. Mix with a fork until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Transfer the mixture into a resealable plastic bag and snip off one of the corners. If you do not have any plastic bags on hand, you can use a spoon, but it will not look as pretty.

Place the egg whites onto a serving platter and pipe or spoon the yolk mixture evenly into the eggs. Sprinkle with paprika. Chill in the refrigerator for a half hour to set.

Cook's note – you can customize these any way you would like by adding small bits or bacon, finely chopped gherkins, chives, etc. to the yolk mixture or topping on the finished eggs.

Enjoy 😊



*Jennifer Wright*

## This Month in The Garden

Hopefully we are no longer under water now but who can predict what the climate will bring us this summer!

Did you get round to lifting and dividing your snowdrops? There is a bit of re-thinking about the best time to do this and some advice you see may now say wait until the bulbs die down. My advice is still to do this A.S.A.P. after flowering as you may not be able to find the dormant bulbs once the foliage has died off. I find it interesting that as the flowers die off, the flower stem continues to grow long so that the seed pod is naturally placed further from the parent bulb. Wonderful strategy and very clever. Squish a snowdrop pod and you will find the white seeds already starting to grow inside the pod and the seeds take 2 or 3 years to reach flowering size bulbs.

Now is the last time to cut down (stool) the ornamental willows and dogwoods to encourage the best leaf colour and brightest stems for next winter. I love Cornus Midwinter Fire although it can sucker and spread. For ornamental willows, look for salix magnifica and salix melanostachys (with small black catkin that turn to red and then yellow as they open for pollination. Also, salix hookeriana with broad white leaves and very large catkins.

Some border plants grow quickly early on so now is an excellent time to place supports around them. Use strong shrub prunings or more permanent metal supports as they will quickly be hidden by the vigorous plant growth.

Traditional lawns need regular cutting of course but we are all being encouraged to leave off mowing in April to allow any wild plants to flower and encourage early bees and insects. Perhaps you could develop some lawn margins as a wildflower meadow with the essential hay rattle plants to reduce the grass vigour. If you prefer corn flowers (eg. Poppies) they need sowing on bare ground so the management of these is quite different. In all situations avoid any fertilizer.

April is an excellent time to add new planting to the garden but be prepared to water these if the season turns dry and use a mulch to retain the water. There are some fabulous new plant varieties in garden centres so give yourself a treat with a plant, they last a lot longer than an Easter egg and are far healthier.

In the vegetable garden, potatoes can now be planted and earth up over any new shoots from earlier planting. This will give some valuable frost protection if needed. The gourmet vegetable to enjoy this month must be asparagus, ready from now until June and mouth-watering with some melted butter of course. Sprouting broccoli comes a good second choice so don't forget to sow some soon to grow strong and overwinter ready for a harvest from March to May

Lots of seeds can be sown now and try to space these out whether in containers or the open ground. On the plot, many crops can benefit from 'station sowing' rather than in continuous rows. Most crops are single seeded, but beetroot is usually a capsule containing several seeds so spacing these out to 3 or 4 inches apart saves thinning out later. In most national 'show gardens' plants are raised in pots and trays under glass so that well rooted new plants can be put outside later (warmer) and be established more reliably than outdoor sown.

Flower seeds can still be sown, and two outstanding ones are Cosmos and the Californian poppy Eschscholtzia, which loves a poor dry soil. This beauty has



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brilliant-coloured flowers mostly orange and so bright you really need sunglasses to study them! Dahlias are back in fashion in an astonishing range of flower shapes and colours and Cannas are wonderful plants for rich soils and where a tall plant can add useful structure to the border.

So, early to bed and early to rise. By 15 April, sunrise in London is at 6.01 so there's no time to oversleep!

*Tony Connell*

## **Thought for the Month**

Dear Friends,

Among the most beautiful of Greek myths is that of Pandora's Box: -

It is a time of harmony among all people and Pandora's husband Epimetheus has been given a beautiful box to care for. He has been given strict instructions that it is not to be opened and Epimetheus passes on these orders to Pandora herself. Pandora, however, left at home on her own for much of each day, becomes increasingly captivated by the box and by the wonderful noises that seep out from it. Lovely and pitiful voices beseech her to open the box so that they can be free. So one day, with her husband away, Pandora gives into temptation and opens the lid of the box.

Immediately a cloud of vicious, biting and stinging insects swarm out and begin to fly over the earth. These are all the vices that afflict humanity – greed, jealousy, hatred, lust, arrogance and so on. The time of harmony is over. But before Pandora closes the box, one more insect manages to escape. It is a beautiful butterfly – Hope.

Hope can often seem like a lovely yet fragile butterfly – seen sometimes only in glimpses, never settling for long, often close to destruction, but always beautiful and capable of raising the spirits. And in uncertain and fearful times, hope is rarely extinguished.

At the heart of the Christian gospel, the good news, is also a story about hope. The resurrection of Jesus from the grave acts, among other things, as God's guarantee that death and pain and sadness and evil do not and will not have the final word. Easter Sunday brings a new dawn, a new day, a new creation and a hope that is certain and not fragile.

These continue to be uncertain and fearful times, but the wonderful message of Easter is that there is hope – hope for the world and hope for each of us too. So, this year, do come to church and experience Easter; experience that life of Jesus that cannot be contained even by the grave. Experience hope.

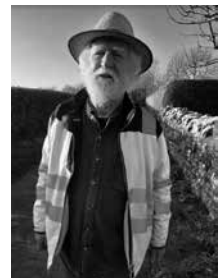
*The Revd Richard Neill*

*Vicar of The Benefice of The Isle of Wedmore*

## **Country Lane Walker**

A friend at Warm Wedmore the other day said how much she enjoyed reading these articles. And words along the lines of clearly you are trying to make a difference. That is great! Well, gosh!! And, yes, that is my aim! I tell you how I so much appreciate all the kind comments I receive from you as I am about. People stopping me in the village to make a point of telling me how much you appreciate these articles.

So Spring is finally here, the equinox was on 21 March, so better weather to follow, we hope. Lots of good walking!



I am writing this article at the beginning of March, having recently attended a homeopathic presentation at the 'Comfort Cafe' (Bereavement group) in Glastonbury. Two wonderful homeopaths talking of homeopathic and Flower remedies for grief and shock.

Whilst I have been using both homeopathy and flower remedies for more years than I can remember, I learnt quite few things. One being the value of the wonderful snow drop, one of my favourite flowers. Its beautiful drooping flowers signify sadness. And, so it is, according to the Doctrine of Signatures, a remedy for grieving. Some scientifically minded people are likely to scoff at such thoughts, yet, many modern drugs are based on such and some actually still used today, not being synthesised. We owe so much to learned traditions.

Going out walking the very next day there were snow drops by the side of the lane. Synchronicity I declare! There I go again!! A remedy to be explored for those of us grieving. Keeping on the same vein, Digitalis – Foxglove still used for certain heart conditions, Hepatica – Lungwort, as the name suggests and so on.

So, we go walking to be conscious of nature and what it offers us, just by being there. At this time of year everything is springing into renewed life, and we are part of it. Modern living would have us being separate from nature, and that is our downfall. It is vital to be part of nature in what we eat, good wholefood, best organic where possible, avoiding chemicals that plague us, breathing in fresh air and so on.

That's why I walk!

So, now the weather is improving and the ground drying out walk to your nearest foot path to breathe in fresher air avoiding traffic fumes when you can and being even closer to nature. Take to the hills when the opportunity arises. So, I walk the lanes and foot paths when I am not having to drive anywhere. But, when I do have to drive, I then walk in the hills, such as Black Rock, and King's Wood, stretching my body, heart and lungs even further, often walking high up into the Mendip Hills.

Remember my words from this time last year, to pace yourselves if new to walking, and take medical advice if you are unsure. Even just 100 metre walks one, two, or three times a day is a good start building up speed and distance at a level that suits your state of being. You have heard me talk of doing my frequent 3 miles a day. Well, I had to work up to that by being regular with small steps. Soon I was doing 4 to 5 miles occasionally once I got into the swing of it.

Recently, I had to reduce the walking after having cataract surgery, so had to build up the exercise again. The eye drops hit me badly, those drugs again, but I worked my way through it to being back where I was before, and now I can 'see'. Well, so much better now.

And just a reminder that a year ago I started with advising on the clothes to wear so drivers can see you out there. Dark clothes do not do it. Hi Vis, is the way to go. And the right footwear – walking shoes or boots, I have both. Proper gear from a leisure shop or online, not ordinary shoes from shoe shops.

I have noticed the Editor, quite rightly, putting in a rider about, if making changes, to consult a professional. I think it may not be realised by most people that a Registered Medical Herbalist has very similar training and certification as a doctor. The big difference is that a Herbalist obviously has to know about the herbs, but also all the



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(535)

drugs too. Herbalists have to prescribe herbal mixtures that don't clash with drugs, and to be able to replace drugs with high strength herbs prepared to high therapeutic standards. So, a better term would be to consult with a 'Health Care Professional' in whatever discipline and, of course, a doctor for areas such as blood tests etc. All has its place. (noted – Ed. 😊)

Wonderful too, The Big Tidy Up with around 30 people picking up litter around our lanes, so looking beautiful again and safer for wildlife. And we all got walking!

For those grieving a wonderful group – Comfort Cafe 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm every Thursday in Glastonbury, next to St. John's Church, up the alley between the car park and the High St. So much care, understanding and warmth.

*(The views represented in this article are those of the author. Please always take advice from your health care professional on medical treatments or dietary habits – Ed.)*

*Melvyn Firmager  
Always be green, never be mean!*

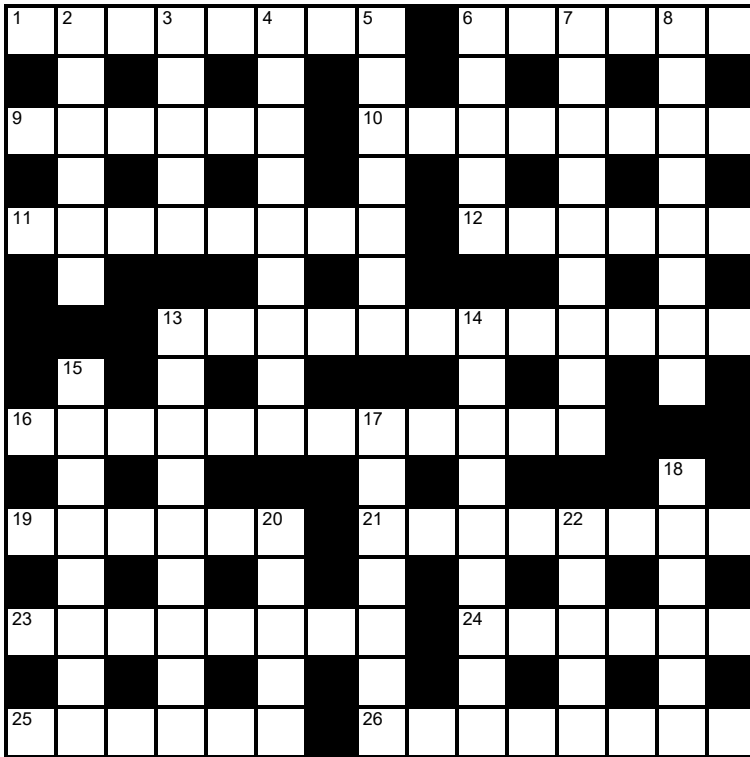
## Poetry Corner

### The Wild Day

by Vera Banwell

It's a wild day today  
When the clouds in God's Heaven  
Go galloping by  
And the poor birds  
Are tossed about the sky.  
It's a day when passengers in planes  
Will have a bumpy ride  
And sailors out at sea  
Will find a harbour in which to hide.  
How can the fragile flowers  
Withstand being savagely blown around  
When enormous trees  
Will come crashing to the ground?  
It's a day to watch towering waves  
Come boiling to the shore  
And the bitter driving wind  
Will chill you to the core.  
  
Should we harness all this free power  
To give us light and warm other homes?  
On a wild day like today  
It makes you wonder.

*Vera Banwell*



ACROSS

- 1 Hectic or frantic, it can bounce off (8)
- 6 Most common metal on earth found in a gnat (6)
- 9 Sounds like cows on a meadow, but it's still a healthy breakfast (6)
- 10 Some workers hover all Saturday in this gear (8)
- 11 Scrutinises any sales changes (8)
- 12 Recruit most men with a catalogue (6)
- 13 Angry man in a tutu (5-7)
- 16 Rise in the cost of living protects a couple of Frenchmen but can harm the rest of us (12)
- 19 Part of travel crossing that makes things fast (6)
- 21 Bird changes direction over street that's most windy (8)
- 23 He should be arrested lest more trouble is caused (8)
- 24 Touching couple get back together (6)
- 25 Woman's with German anchorite (6)
- 26 Some very onerous duties for all of us (8)

DOWN

- 2 Again you sound disturbed like a lizard (6)
- 3 Louse can change a blackbird (5)
- 4 You can get stoned in this weather (9)
- 5 They believe toast is wrong (7)
- 6 Took action against English shoemaker (8)
- 7 Any one of this seven will earn you damnation (6,3)
- 8 Not named but very upright (8)
- 13 Cleaner copies including past papers (4,5)
- 14 Strengthen control in favour of church (9)
- 15 Open late to make a quick buck (8)
- 17 Snake with Gaelic will defame (7)
- 18 Give a gin cocktail to a fool (6)
- 20 Eight things a tomcat eats regularly (5)
- 22 Simply pass on the facts without starting (5)

Answers at rear of magazine



## Letters to the Editor

Please note that all letters submitted are the views of the contributor and not of the Wedmore News. The Editor reserves the right decline publication of any letter.

Dear Editor,

We enjoy walking the many public footpaths around Wedmore. Unfortunately, due to the recent heavy rainfall, some gateways have become completely swamped. It's a case of wading through or abandoning the walk completely. Perhaps the council could organise a grounding of rubble which would solve the problem.

*Michael Thorne*

Reply from Lindsey Baker, Parish Clerk  
Thank you for your picture and suggestion. I will include your thoughts in next month's Parish Council Correspondence.

We have just started working with various walking groups and the Men's Shed to try and establish a comprehensive list of defects that we can hopefully rectify in an ongoing partnership with landowners. If you wish to report a defect, then please send a description, location, and a photo if you can to [clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk), or you can file a report on <https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map>

*Lindsey Baker*



## Sustainable Eel Group Concerns Over Hinkley Point Developments

It is well-documented that the Bristol Channel has the largest, most significant population of migrating eels in the British Isles, recent surveys indicating the annual arrival migration at 75 million glass eels, about five per cent of returns in Europe. The designation of the Severn Estuary as a RAMSAR reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest is testament to the international significance of this wetland landscape.

However, the developers of Hinkley Point C have thus far failed to demonstrate their commitment to take the measures necessary to ensure net zero impact on the environment, as required by environmental and planning law.

There is no evidence of high-quality scientific research having been undertaken to monitor the potential impact on migratory fish populations by the company or its partners. There has also been no expressed commitment to consultation with relevant environmental conservation organisations, such as the Somerset Eel

Recovery Project, who are committed to reversing the decline of the European eel in and around the Somerset Levels.

The Sustainable Eel Group and its partners calls upon the developer to incorporate the ‘best available technology’, such as an acoustic fish deterrent, to mitigate potential impacts on wildlife through close communication with experienced environmental conservation professionals. Such safeguards should be expected from an advanced developer operating in a highly protected environment.

The organisation will stand with its partners in conservation, landscape management, and inland fisheries to oppose any development on the Hinkley Point site until these specifications are accounted for.

*Alexander Barty  
Sustainable Eel Group*

*Please submit any letters by email to [editorwedmorenews@gmail.com](mailto:editorwedmorenews@gmail.com)*

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## Focus on Businesses

### Not Monkeys Recruitment

Melanie Downing and Jason Woodcock, two successful local businesspeople, opened Not Monkeys Recruitment just over a year ago in Wedmore. I visited their office in King Alfred Mews and spoke to Mel and Amanda Stewart, Head of Recruitment.

Mel is a Director of a company called Design Hive in Highbridge. She studied graphic design in Bridgwater and Bristol and her experience ranges from working on publications at the Ministry of Defence to lecturing at Bridgwater College and working in numerous fast-paced



design agencies. Design Hive was formed in 2009 and works with small to medium-sized businesses to elevate their brand in order to help them grow. Design Hive has won the Small Business of the Year and Customer Service Excellence categories at the Sedgemoor Business Excellence Awards. Since then, the company has sponsored the Awards. Mel’s success has led to volunteer work to help others, with coaching and mentoring for Somerset Council.

Jason Woodcock is also a volunteer mentor and coach. He is Managing Director of a company called Sansum Solutions Group, based in Cheddar, which specialises in commercial cleaning. Sansum won Large Business of the Year Awards three years

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running at the Sedgemoor Business Excellence Awards. Last year Jason also received the prestigious Business Champion Award.

Jason is also Managing Director of Somerset Business Consultants Ltd which he set up in August 2023 to help new businesses and small businesses grow faster and smarter. Mel joined the company as a coach and mentor.

Their consultancy work and the experience with their own companies made them realise that finding the right staff is not always easy. They saw an opportunity to set up a recruitment agency, with the aim of getting the right fit for companies and employees.

Amanda, Head of Recruitment, started out in recruitment over 30 years ago in London. She then went to work for a large American Hotel and Serviced Apartment provider, where she was an executive board member, responsible for Operations and Sales as well as Recruitment and Training. Her role involved a lot of travelling. Amanda has four children, all boys, aged 19, 16 (identical twins) and 14. She moved to Somerset not long after the twins were born for a slower pace of life while the children were young.

Amanda loves working with people. Not Monkey's wide client base means that she talks to different types of people from different backgrounds every day.

One of my questions to Mel and Amanda was: why Wedmore? The reasons they gave me was: 'it's such a lovely village to be based in, with a good community and shops. Most of our client base tends to be within the Taunton to Bristol area. Wedmore is fairly central, which means we can visit them easily to get a fuller understanding of their business needs. In addition, there are plenty of small and medium-sized businesses in the surrounding area which might need to recruit local people and we have a small, but very welcoming office set in a cobblestone mews.' I also asked what makes them stand out from other recruitment agencies. Amanda's experience working for a recruitment agency and the business understanding she gained at the international hospitality company give her a broader perspective. She emphasised the importance of spending time with the client, getting to know their businesses and understanding their needs. This enables her to fine-tune the requirements for the role and advise the client on the type of person they need. It is important that the new person not only has the right qualifications and experience for the job, but that they also fit into the business and team. Of course, this also applies to people who are seeking work. It is important to spend time with them to understand their strengths, skills and personality.

In addition to the office in King Alfred Mews, Not Monkeys has a Facebook page and website, designed by Design Hive ([www.notmonkeysrecruitment.com](http://www.notmonkeysrecruitment.com)). However, as face-to-face contact is important, Amanda said that, if anyone is looking for a new job or for someone to join their company, she would be happy for them to drop in at the office for a chat or call 01934 756117.

*Liz Sweeney*

# What's On in the Parish

## KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Wed 10	<b>Probus</b> - A talk by David Eccles 'The Hydrogen System of the Southwest'	10.15 am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
	<b>Women of Wedmore</b> - A Talk by Nick King on 'Goats Milk Skincare'	7.00 pm	The Post and Wicket
Fri 12	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club</b>	8.00 pm	Theale Village Hall
Sat 13	<b>Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Fashion Show</b>	2.30 pm	Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club
Sun 14	<b>Freecycle</b>	10.00 am-12:00	Wedmore Village Carpark
Wed 17	<b>Club 50</b> - Coach Trip 'Visit to the Cotswolds'	9.00 am-6.00 pm	Cheddar Road Carpark
Sat 20	<b>Wedmore Young Farmers 90th Show</b>	10.00 am-1.00 pm	The George Hotel
Sun 21	<b>Theale Film Club</b>	7.00 pm	Theale Village Hall
Tue 23	<b>Wedmore Gardening Club</b> - A Talk by Katherine Crouch 'New Tricks for Old Gardeners'	7.30 pm	Masonic Hall
Wed 24	<b>Probus</b> - A talk by Helen McCann 'Running Blind'	10.15 am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
Thu 25	<b>Isle of Wedmore Society</b> - A Talk by Sally Heslop 'A Newcomer's Perspective of Wedmore'	7.30 pm	Masonic Hall
Fri 26	<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club</b>	8.00 pm	Theale Village Hall

## REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

### MONDAY

<b>Enhanced Community Bus Service</b> -Cribbs Causeway			Every 3rd Monday
<b>Music in Mind</b>		The Masonic Hall, Wedmore	Alternate Monday's

### WEDNESDAY

<b>Wedmore Parish Council Meeting</b>	7.30 pm	The Council Rooms	Every 3rd Wednesday
<b>Probus</b>	10.15 am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday every month
<b>Blackford Café</b>	2.00 pm-4.00 pm	Blackford Village Hall	Every 2nd Wednesday

### THURSDAY

<b>Green Wedmore Meeting</b>	7.30 pm	The Bluebird Café, The Borough, Wedmore	Last Thursday of each month
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### FRIDAY

<b>Wedmore Carers Group</b>	10.00 am-12.00 pm	The Swan, Wedmore	1st Friday of every month
<b>Mr Punch's Folk Club</b> -Singers, Musicians, Poets and Storytellers all welcome	20.00 pm	Theale Village Hall	1st, 3rd & 5th Friday each month

### SATURDAY

<b>Theale Community Café</b>	10.00 am-12.00 pm	Theale Village Hall	3rd Saturday of each month
<b>Wedmore In Bloom Work Party</b>	9.30 am	Outside The George Inn	2nd Saturday of each month

## REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

### MONDAY

<b>Beavers</b>	5.45-6.45 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Pilates with Anna MacGregor</b>	6.00 pm	Blackford VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
<b>Yoga with Anna MacGregor</b>	7.00 pm	Blackford VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
<b>Bridge Club</b>	7.00 pm	Masonic Hall	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
<b>Scouts</b>	7.15-8.45 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438

### TUESDAY

<b>Little Lambs</b>	9.15 am-11.15 am	+ Little Lambs	Heather Hector	01934 712216
<b>Wedmore Men's Shed</b>	9.30 am-12:00			
<b>Chair Yoga</b>	9.45 am	Masonic Hall	Jo Willis	07552 711101
<b>Yoga for the body, breath and mind</b>	10.00 am-11.15 am	Scout Hut	Kay Wensley	07584 374515
<b>Tuesday Club</b>	10.30 am	Wedmore VH	Lesley Nichols	01934 712045
<b>Wedmore Men's Shed</b>	9.30 am-11:30	Wedmore Village Farm or Bluebird Café	Andy Daintree	01934 712617
<b>Music Matters</b>	2.30 pm	via Zoom	mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk	
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30-7.45 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Pilates with Anna MacGregor - beginner / general class</b>	6.10 pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
<b>Yoga with Anna MacGregor</b>	7.20 pm	Wedmore VH	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883

### WEDNESDAY

<b>Pilates</b>	9.15-10.15 am	Blackford VH	Lucy	07813 913309
<b>Piloga Fit</b>	9.30-10.30 am	Wedmore VH	John Beasley	01749 672482
<b>Warm in Wedmore</b>	10.00 am -2.00 pm	Masonic Hall	Various	01934 806299
<b>Pilates</b>	10.30-11.30 am	Blackford VH	Lucy	07813 913309
<b>Coffee with a View</b>	10:30-12:00	Bagley Baptist Church		
<b>Rainbows</b>	4.30 pm	+ Wedmore VH	Gail Millard	01934 713922
<b>Brownies</b>	6.15 pm	+ Wedmore VH	Sue Moreman	01934 710278
<b>Guides</b>	7.00 pm	+ Wedmore VH	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
<b>Health Tai Chi</b>	11.00-12.00	Wedmore VH	John Beasley	01749 672482

### THURSDAY

<b>Warm in Wedmore</b>	10.00 am -2.00 pm	Masonic Hall	Various	01934 806299
<b>Wedmore Dance Group</b>	10.30 am	Wedmore VH	Nikki Pryn	07519 630365
<b>Cubs</b>	6.30 pm	+ Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
<b>Table Tennis at Theale</b>	6.30 pm-8.00 pm	Theale VH	Dave Whitmarsh	01934 712620

### FRIDAY

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

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# Health and Wellbeing

## Our Health & 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.

### Give your wellbeing a boost!

#### Wedmore Wellbeing Day on Saturday 4 May

Wedmore has so much to offer to support our health & wellbeing. Many of you will have heard of the so-called Blue Zones in the world, where people live to a ripe old age and healthily! These Blue Zones have been described by Dan Buettner, who is an explorer, a National Geographic fellow, and a leading blue zone researcher. He found, for example, that 'Okinawa, Japan was producing the longest-lived humans in the history of the world, largely free of disability'. His research and investigations led him to the conclusion that there were a few key features in the way people lead their lives in these Blue Zones, for example, they tend to have gardens, about 90% of their food is plant-based, they keep moving during their day, they find purpose in their lives, and they stay connected with those around them. For more information, listen to or read the Zoe podcast he has recorded. Search online for Zoe podcasts. Another expert who is encouraging us to find ways to live a long 'healthspan' as well as a long 'lifespan' is Dr Peter Attia. This means we can have a good quality of life, enjoy ourselves and feel good for as long as possible. One of his main themes is the benefit of exercise, which we all know is good for us! For more information on what sort of exercise is good for us to live as healthy a life as possible, find out more from the Zoe podcast he has recorded. Search online for Zoe podcasts.

We have organisations locally which will help us with the key messages from both experts as well as boosting each one of the Five Ways to Wellbeing over and over again!

Come along and meet the people at the heart of our many organisations which support our health & wellbeing on our Wedmore Wellbeing Day. On Saturday 4 May we will be holding our third Wellbeing Day. Our planned exhibitors include representatives from our local organisations as well as some from further afield. You can meet one of our new GPs from Axbridge & Wedmore Medical Practice; find out how a defibrillator works and where you can find one; discover what projects the Wedmore & Axbridge Community Health Fund supports for groups as well as individuals; find out how people with dementia and their carers can make the most of life; try out an exercise 'taster session'; ask for free fire safety advice from a Fire Officer for your home, and much more! Then you can relax & refresh at St Mary's Coffee Shop! So, visit the three venues in the village – Wedmore Village Hall, Masonic Hall and St Mary's Church from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm. Come and find out how you can make the most of living in Wedmore, to put 'the life in our days', as well as 'the days in our life'! For more information and a list of expected participants go to [www.whawb.co.uk](http://www.whawb.co.uk)

If you need transport or company to visit the Wellbeing Day, Good Neighbours may be able to help. Just call 01934 806299. For easy links to all the websites referenced please go to [www.whawb.co.uk](http://www.whawb.co.uk) and go to the Wedmore News item for April 2024.

*Cathy Butterworth*  
*Wedmore Health & Wellbeing Project*  
*01934 806266 [cb@theconsultant.org](mailto:cb@theconsultant.org)*



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## Wedmore Carers Group

Do you care for or support a person with dementia? Then this friendly informative group is for you! Come along on the first Friday of the month to The Swan Hotel, Wedmore between 10.00 am and 12.00noon, next meeting on Friday 5 April. If you want to find out more, phone HeadsUp on 01749 670667 or email [info@headsupsomersetorg.uk](mailto:info@headsupsomersetorg.uk)



## Wedmore Good Neighbours

### Tea for Two – know anyone who'd like a chat and a cuppa?

All of us can feel on our own from time to time but, if the feeling persists, this can have a serious effect on our wellbeing. However, admitting that we're feeling this way, and asking for help, is not easy. If you're struggling with this yourself, or are aware of a friend, relative or neighbour who would welcome some occasional company, then the Wedmore Good Neighbours Group can assist – volunteers are willing pop around for a cuppa and a chat if that would be welcome.



Call 01934 806299 and leave a message – a coordinator will phone you back within 24 hours to get some more details. Please note, however, that if you are calling on behalf of someone else, they will need to call us themselves to agree the time and date.

Most requests we receive are from people needing transport for a medical appointment - taxis are expensive and impersonal! We also provide lifts to local club and society meetings. Having said that, it's hard for us to give someone a regular lift to something like a weekly class – we totally rely on volunteers and unfortunately can't guarantee that one will offer this kind of continuous and frequent support.

Other ways we can help include doing light chores around the house or garden, walking your dog if you're incapacitated and running errands to the chemist or post office. Volunteers can also help with writing letters and filling forms, including assisting with simple tasks that need completing online. The group can handle a wide variety of requests – but occasionally has to decline simply because the insurance policy does not cover every circumstance.

Wedmore Good Neighbours is operated by volunteers and has received some funding from various charities. It's free to use but the group does have running costs – insurance, petrol expenses, as well as vetting and training of volunteers (all volunteers are DBS checked and many have received first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training). So, if you do use the service and want to make a donation, this is always very welcome! On the other hand, if you'd like to become a volunteer that would be very welcome also.

Whatever your request please call 01934 806299 and leave a message - a volunteer will reply within 24 hours. Please note that we're not part of social services, or an emergency service...we're just good neighbours!

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

*Jim O'Connor*

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# Club Reports and Society Updates

## Wedmore Young Farmers

This year Wedmore Young Farmers will be celebrating 90 years. They will be holding their annual show at the George Hotel in the centre of Wedmore on Saturday 20 April, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. The public are encouraged to come along and help the club celebrate this historic milestone. There will be 58 cattle shown (beef and dairy), and a whole host of pigs and sheep, as well as all of the club's lovingly prepared handicrafts. People who come along early will be able to take part in a fun stock judging competition at the event to see if their scores match those of the actual judges. The club are proud to be able to welcome back many past members to be the official judges of the event this year.

The club has over 40 members ranging from 10-27 and has a tradition of livestock showing and judging which is what they will be showcasing at the show. For many of the junior members this will be their first show and they have been busy preparing their livestock for months now.

The club are very grateful for the continued support of the George Hotel, for allowing them to hold their show. The George will be serving food at the event and will be open all day for their usual food and drink service. The Parish Council and the Community Solar Farm have also supported the event this year with grants to make this anniversary event one to remember. Other sponsors to date are Cooper & Tanner, Old Mill, West Country Tech, Barbers Cheese, Bridgmans and Mole Valley. If anyone else would be interested in sponsoring this event or future ones, then please contact the club.

The Club look forward to welcoming everyone on the day.

## Wedmore Twinning Association

This year a group of us will be visiting our friends in St Medard from Thursday 1 August to Sunday 4 August. We would love to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining us. We have new families in France eager to host this year.

Our twinning visits are always great fun, with lots of activities planned for us, and a warm welcome from our hosts. It's a great way to learn about the French culture, and you absolutely don't have to be a French speaker to get involved!

If you would like to know more, please contact Nickey Hann, Wedmore Twinning Secretary, on 07801 847064.

*Nickey Hann*

## Women of Wedmore WI

Women of Wedmore WI enjoyed a trip back to the days of the famous Levi's launderette TV commercial during an amusing and thought-provoking presentation by Jim O'Connor on How to Read Adverts.

Jim has worked in advertising for over 40 years, so he has a wealth of experience about everything we see on TV, in magazines, on the back of buses and on billboards.





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He has worked for agencies including Saatchi & Saatchi in the 1980s and has worked on many major brands such as Colgate Palmolive and Heinz. He now works freelance and his talk encouraged us to read between the lines.

Illustrated with videos of some well-known adverts of the past (like the comical Hamlet Cigar photo booth commercial) Jim's talk showed us how writers might employ humour, emotion or celebrities to persuade us to buy something. Others use animation to make the story more engaging and increasingly brands want us to believe that they care or are using the feel-good factor to sell their products.

Jim included some entertaining anecdotes - such as the challenge of photographing Clover Spread in a hot studio and the time he was sent to Australia to carry out research for a white rum campaign!

The talk gave us plenty to think about, including the way advertising has changed over the years and the implications of using Artificial Intelligence. And a reminder that although we might know we are being manipulated by an advertisement, we're not necessarily immune to its effects!

During our February meeting the WI was informed about a productive meeting between the WoW walking group and parish councillors regarding carrying out improvements to village footpaths. We have agreed to get back to them on a regular basis with any problems we find with signs, stiles, bridges, etc.

On Wednesday 10 April we will welcome Nick King who makes goats' milk skin care products in his family business near Chew Valley Lake. His award-winning Goats of the Gorge was filmed by the BBC and during his talk he will explain how the soap is made and why goats' milk has benefits for sensitive skin. The meeting starts at 7.00 pm upstairs at the Post and Wicket. For further information please email [wedmorewi@outlook.com](mailto:wedmorewi@outlook.com)

*Sarah Ford*

## Wedmore Men's Shed

### What's been happening?

Another busy month for the Wedmore Men's Shed. February was very wet at the Wedmore Community Farm, but progress has continued to be made in building the new shed, as well as helping out on the farm, including improving drainage on the access



road; and starting to creating new growing spaces.

Members enjoyed a visit to Wells exploring the higher levels of the Cathedral.

### **What's coming up?**

Members have a visit planned to Bristol Aerospace in April to see the history of aircraft manufacturing including Concorde.

### **Interested in getting involved?**

Wedmore Men's Shed is a friendly, welcoming place where men can get involved in a number of activities, including projects that help the local community, as well as socialising, and enjoying many interesting visits.

If you are interested in joining either email: [wedmoremensshed@outlook.com](mailto:wedmoremensshed@outlook.com) or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am at the community farm off Plud Street, or at The Bluebird Bar and Café in the Borough. If you are interested, please come along and find out what we are all about.

*John Ford*

## **Wedmore in Bloom**

Patience is a virtue when it comes to tulips! Hopefully we will soon be enjoying their splash of colour around the village.

Wedmore in Bloom enjoyed hosting Warm in Wedmore in February. It was lovely to see many folks catching up with each other over coffee and cake, or a bowl of soup and homemade bread. Thank you to those who came.

The Wedmore in Bloom work party meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9.30am outside The George Inn.

*Kay Adams*

## **St Mary's Church, Wedmore, 100 Club**

With all tickets sold again this year the latest lucky winners are Stuart and Angela Inger as well as Josh Budd.

*Lis Bull*

## **Isle of Wedmore Society**

### **Report of 22 February Meeting**

A fairly small audience heard Tim Richens give a talk entitled 'My journey from accident to recovery (almost!).' or 'Regain the Brain.' Tim described how, on 28 February 2013, he went for a night out with some friends. They called for a taxi and Tim was half in and half out of the vehicle when, for some unknown reason, the driver panicked, put his foot on the accelerator and sped off. Tim went flying into the air and landed on his head suffering a severe brain injury.





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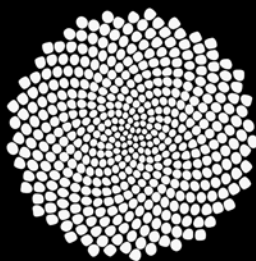
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He was rushed to Exeter Hospital A&E, spent several days in a coma, a few more weeks in hospital and then many years subsequently trying to regain his normal mind. Many years of traumas followed the accident and Tim gave us details of how after effects of the accident had affected him and how he has tried to recover. He explained that such an injury is not, for example, like a broken leg, an obvious to everyone injury, but one that is hidden from view and can affect people and families in vastly different ways. He described how the first 6 months had been the worst with ‘horrible mental ups and downs’ and was continually told ‘you are talking nonsense and rambling.’ The non recognition of his condition also led to incidents like having a disabled car badge, parking in a car park disabled bay and being told by spectators they could not visually see any disablement, so why was he parking there.

At times he had felt he ‘did not want to wake up in the morning’ and on one occasion nearly committed suicide by jumping off the cliffs in Cheddar Gorge. He did though feel there was hope in the future and played us several songs that he found had soothed his mind, Full recovery though he still feels is a ‘long slow road ahead.’ His talk was accompanied by two very descriptive handouts of himself and his condition.

### **Next Meeting – Thursday 25 April**

At our meeting on 25 April, there will be a talk by Sally Heslop entitled: ‘A Newcomer’s perspective of Wedmore.’ Sally will give her perspective on what living in Wedmore is like for a newcomer and will invite discussion about her experience.

As usual, the meeting will be in the Wedmore Masonic Hall at 7.30 pm. Society members free, visitors £5 with free tea/coffee afterwards.

*Ian Tomes*

*Secretary Isle of Wedmore Society. Tel: 01934 710390*

## **Green Wedmore**

### **Green Wedmore Meetings**

The last Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm. Come along to the next meeting on Thursday 25 April. Following our usual business meeting we will have a talk from Alan Page, a local Green Wall installer. Everyone is welcome and it has been great seeing some new faces.

We have been busy as always ...

### **Youth Bursary Awards**

Following the successful Wilder Wedmore last year, we recently invited bursary applications as part of the festival legacy. Thank you to all those who applied, it is fantastic to see such enthusiasm from the younger generation.

We are delighted to announce that we have awarded funds to Willow’s Little Library, a local service to lend eco-based children’s books. The funds will be used to purchase more books for the library. Find out more about the project on Facebook at Willow’s Little Library - Wedmore.



The Scout Hut was also successful with its application to fund new tools and equipment for the allotment they are taking on. This will support young people to understand where food comes from and the link between farming and the environment, to reduce food miles and waste and to provide any surplus produce to the community. It will also support them to earn various Scout badges.

Finally, we gave a grant to Wedmore First School for them to purchase some all-weather shelter canopies so their forest school provision and after-school club can be offered even in poor weather. We can't wait to follow the progress of all three of these projects.

### **Big Tidy Up**

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help with our 15th anniversary litter pick to help keep our village and lanes clear of litter. A great success yet again.

### **Freecycle**

Sunday 14 April, 10am-12 noon at the Village Car Park, Worthington Close. If you've never been before, this works essentially like a car boot sale, but no money changes hands. Give away your unwanted items to someone who will give them a new lease of life. Clear out those cupboards, sheds, and garages. All unclaimed items must be removed at the end. Let's help keep things out of landfill. While you are there, why not take a walk around Worthington Woods and see what's going on there.

We are working on our plans for the coming year and have some very exciting community projects in the pipeline...watch this space!

Please keep in touch. We need your help to achieve positive, local, achievable, green focused village projects. Visit [www.greenwedmore.co.uk](http://www.greenwedmore.co.uk) and sign up to receive regular information. Please see, like, and follow our Facebook page, or contact us via email on [hello@greenwedmore.co.uk](mailto:hello@greenwedmore.co.uk)

*Liz Burton*

### **Wedmore Probus Club**

#### **The Devon & Somerset Fire Service by Simon Nicholls**

Simon Nicholls, who has been a Fire Officer with the Devon & Somerset Fire service for 35 years, gave Members an excellent presentation dealing with the dangers of fire in the home and how best to deal with it. A wake-up call if ever there was one! Many people, and especially the older generation, are liable to become complacent about the dangers of fire in the home. 52% of fires start in the kitchen. The Fire Brigade will provide free of charge electric blankets, hot water bottles, smoke alarms, and safety plugs, subject to need.

This service and Home Visits are on hold for the time being due to a back-log as a result of Covid, but there are a number of checks you can make:

1. Three-point and four-point plug adaptors are not recommended.
2. We lose our sense of smell when we go to sleep, so testing smoke alarms regularly is imperative. A stick can be supplied to reach smoke alarms in high ceilings.
3. Should you be burning fossil fuel then a carbon monoxide monitor is essential.
4. Do not operate a toaster under a cupboard, and remove crumbs from underneath on a regular basis.
5. Do not leave any device on charge overnight, especially mobile phones and e-bikes.



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6. Switch off all appliances at night with the exception of the TV (on standby) and the fridge/freezer.
7. Of considerable interest was that, with the advent of low temperature clothes washes, the residue from skin emollients can remain and, as they contain paraffin, they can be a potential fire hazard to naked flames, so use a hot wash occasionally.
8. Always when burning a night light put it in a ceramic dish. When they burn right down they can start a fire.
9. When going to bed make sure all doors are closed as this will help prevent a fire from spreading.
10. Keep handy a torch, phone and know where your keys are for a quick escape.
11. Advice for hot water bottles is to renew every three years, test an electric blanket every two years, replace every ten years, and never roll it up - keep it flat,
12. In the event of a fire the Fire Brigade's advice is to escape if you can, gather all occupants into the one room, shut the doors, maybe open a window and then call them for help. All the above advice comes from the Fire Brigade experiences... and our Members left the Meeting suitably thoughtful, even chastened!

### **The Rise, Fall and Rise again of the British Seaside by John Crockford-Hawley**

As a long-term resident of Weston-super-Mare, and the North Somerset Councillor for Environment and Regeneration, John has an intimate knowledge of the town and of seaside popularity generally. Prior to the Georgian period the sea was considered very dangerous and linked with death. However, towns were very dirty smelly places and the merits of fresh air by the sea was championed by none other than George III who was very fond of Weymouth, he even had a brass band in the water to serenade him. Very few Britons could swim and the beach became not only fashionable, but healthy too.

In Victorian times with the help of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's wonderful railway Weston-super-Mare became very popular with folk from Bristol and beyond. The Mediterranean was considered too hot and having a suntan was considered bad form, indicating manual labour in the open air. Bathing in Victorian times was very intricate. No lady or gentleman could bathe any closer to each other than 200 yards! Rather different today with the advent of 'skinny-dipping'! Bathing machines were employed, and a lady was not permitted to show either an arm or an ankle. The big storm of 1903 smashed many bathing machines, and they went out of fashion. The coming of paid holidays opened up tourism, and the first hotel was opened in Weston in 1810 welcoming stagecoach travellers. The first tourist guide was issued in 1829.

The building of piers in both Clevedon and Weston not only allowed promenading above the water, but paddle steamers were introduced. Many of us will remember the Campbells paddle steamers 'Bristol' and 'Cardiff Queen' sailing across to Wales and Ilfracombe and landings on Lundy Island were possible in fine weather. The Sunday trips from Cardiff to Weston were very popular as at that time Wales was dry on Sundays. Campbells featured a well-stocked bar. In 1928 the Marine Lake and Beach Lawns were created.

The Town Council wanted more facilities built, at some considerable expense. The Lido, now known as the Tropicana, had a wonderful bathing pool for the times and

featured the highest diving board in Europe! John showed us many colour pictures of Weston advertising itself as an idyllic holiday resort, all showing lovely blue sky and blue sea (no comment). Weston Airport was at one time the second largest airport to Gatwick in Britain and big enough to allow a Bristol Britannia to land. Weston now attracts many events from air shows, including displays by the Red Arrows, to motorcycle racing on the sand, and social gatherings.

Foreign holidays have certainly had an adverse effect on the tourist trade, but John was very upbeat telling us of future plans. An injection of £265 million will be used for improving the Tropicana, Marine Lake, Grove Park, and Birnbeck Pier. The latter being of prime importance as a new RNLI Station is badly needed.

There is no doubt that Weston-super-Mare will retain its popularity and we all learnt more about the town, despite most of us knowing it well.

### **April Speakers:**

Wednesday April 10. The Hydrogen System of the Southwest by David Eccles.

Wednesday April 24. Running Blind by Helen McCann.

*David Ewens (Past Chairman)*

## **Wedmore Theatre**

Rehearsals are well under way for Wedmore Theatre's next production, to be staged on Wednesday 19, Thursday 20 and Friday 21 June. Over the last few years, we have given you family shows such as *The Railway Children*, *Snow White and Wind in the Willows*, serious plays such as Ibsen's *A Doll's House* and upmarket revues such as our homage to Shakespeare, *Bhajis with the Bard*. So, we thought it was high time we offered you some classic comedy and have come up with the ever-popular *Blithe Spirit* by Noël Coward.

*Blithe Spirit* was written in May 1941. It took just a fortnight to write and was on the stage by July. Although it was set in the 1930s to distance it from the current war atmosphere, unfortunately not everyone appreciated a wartime production that treated death so flippantly. One opening night heckler shouted 'rubbish!' from the dress circle, to which the not easily fazed Noël replied 'thank you!' It proved to be far from rubbish, Winston Churchill apparently raved about it, George Orwell thought it the best thing Noël had done for a long time, and audiences rocked with laughter.

This is a comedy whose unforgettable clairvoyant character, Madame Arcati, has seen memorable performances by actresses such as Margaret Rutherford, Angela Lansbury, Jennifer Saunders, and Judi Dench, but Wedmore Theatre's production offers you an equally memorable rendition by our own Elizabeth Coulter! Critics have referred to *Blithe Spirit* as the 'smash comedy hit of London and Broadway stages'. They have also criticised the recent film (2020) for concentrating on the potential for silliness and neglecting Noël's witty dialogue. Under Jendy Weekes' 2024 direction we aim to give you both the wit and the comedy!

Noël Coward famously said 'Be flippant. Laugh at everything.' In today's times of horrific wars and depressing news, we all need a reason to laugh. Come along to Wedmore Theatre's production of *Blithe Spirit* and join us for an evening of wit, flippancy and joyous laughter.



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Tickets will be available from 1 May, either from TicketSource, through [www.wedmoretheatre.com](http://www.wedmoretheatre.com) or from the Wedmore Village Store.

*Judy Phillpotts*

## **Wedmore Opera Goers**

The next outing will be to see *Il Trittico* in Cardiff for the matinee performance on 22 June. Seats are still available in the raised stalls, £57 to include the coach and theatre.

Our next confirmed trip will then be 8 February 2025 to see *Marriage of Figaro* in Cardiff. The seats for this will be £46, to include the coach and the theatre, in our usual good seats in the raised stalls.

We are also considering a trip to Cardiff to see *Wicked* in the Autumn and to Plymouth on 16 November to see the all-male Swan Lake ballet by Matthew Bourne. We are keen to understand if there is sufficient demand for these, so please get in touch if you would be interested.

Although maybe the name Wedmore Opera Goers sounds like a select group, nothing is further from the truth, and we would love you to join us. We usually go to Cardiff as the Welsh National Opera is such a beautiful theatre and there are so many different types of restaurants, all within easy walking distance of the theatre. Anybody travelling on their own are made most welcome and need not be on their own for lunch!

If you are interested in booking seats for the upcoming trips, or want to express interest in *Wicked* or *Swan Lake*, then please call Suzanne on 01934 712515 or 07749 810809, or email to [suzannemetters@hotmail.com](mailto:suzannemetters@hotmail.com)

*Suzanne Metters*

## **Wedmore Gardening Club**

Unbelievably here we are giving information about April and May meetings. Hopefully by then the weather will be drier and warmer so we can get out into our gardens.

The April meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd with a talk by Katherine Crouch 'New Tricks for Old Gardeners'. Katherine gave a really good talk on a previous visit, so this will be one not to miss. Looking further ahead 'Plant Names (Amusing and Educational)' is the title of the talk by Brian Jacques on Tuesday 28th May.

If you are dividing plants, have surplus seedlings or cuttings please remember our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning. It's always a worthwhile occasion to be able to buy plants very reasonably.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30 with refreshments served after the talk. We look forward to seeing members and friends for a sociable evening. In the meantime, happy gardening! [www.wedmoregc.co.uk](http://www.wedmoregc.co.uk)

*Jean Windridge*

## **Club 50**

We start the first of our coach trips this month. On Wednesday 17 April we visit the Cotswolds, leaving the Cheddar Road carpark at 9.00am and returning by 6.00pm. Cost £25 for members and £28 guests

If you're interested in coming but not a member you will still be welcome to join us. Please ring Andrea on 01934 712161.

*Andrea West*

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# News and Events from Outside the Parish

## **Crook Peak Special Choir is Recruiting!**

The Crook Peak Special Choir is recruiting Basses and Tenors. We are a small chamber choir which rehearses at St. Congar's, Badgworth on Mondays between 5.00 - 6.30 pm, for six to eight weeks before a performance. We sing 4-part harmony, and mostly from the liturgical repertoire.

Last year we sang for Good Friday and Easter Sunday services in the parish. We sang Elizabethan music at a special service commemorating the 450th anniversary of four Communion Chalices, all dated 1573. In May we took part in the Sing for the King project, at a celebratory service for the King's Coronation. We performed our first concert, since our formation in March 2021, as part of the Crook Peak Music Festival, in September. In November we sang at a Remembrance Day service and in December we sang two carol services in the parish.

We are friendly, committed, and enthusiastic about singing good music. If you are a bass or tenor, please come along to one of our practices to meet us and give us a try. For more info, please contact Debra Anderson on 01934 732537 or 07881 955804



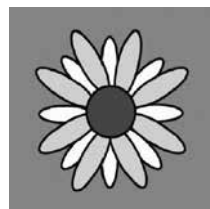
## **Cheddar Flower Show**

### **Ready, Steady, Grow for the Show**

Start planning your entries for Cheddar Flower Show, which will be held on Saturday 17 August 2024 at Cheddar Village Hall.

From vegetables and flowers to cakes and jam, alongside art, craft and photography, there are classes for everyone and all ages. This is an Open Show, so entrants from outside Cheddar Parish are also welcome.

Printed copies of the Cheddar Flower Show Schedule, which lists all the classes, will be available in April from Cheddar Library, Katie Boo, Woodbury Insurance, Time Out, Hansford's Deli and W.C. Maunders Ltd. To receive a pdf copy of the schedule email [cheddar.flowershow@yahoo.com](mailto:cheddar.flowershow@yahoo.com) or go to Cheddar Flower Show Facebook Page and send a message.



*Susan Bathe*

## **Cheddar Valley u3a**

Cheddar Valley u3a continues to grow with many new members already joining this year. The Open Day on 1 March showcased much of what is on offer as many of the Special Interest Groups produced static displays and live demonstrations throughout the day, helping to further increase interest in joining this active and welcoming organisation.





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More is to follow as the year goes on with an interesting talk by author Damian Boyd scheduled for 4 April at 2.00 pm, then the regular Coffee Morning on 18 April 10.00 – 11.30 am, both in the Village Hall. If you're more into outdoors the Day Trippers are off to Sherborne on 17 April; and the month will round off with The Rock Band's Spring Dance on the 20 April. As usual full details of all events can be found on the website <https://u3asites.org.uk/cheddar-valley>

## **Cheddar Arts @ Kings Theatre**

Cheddar Arts' summer cinema season begins on Friday 3 May with What's Love Got To Do With It? starring Lily James, Shazad Latif and Emma Thompson. Documentary film maker Zoe (Lily James) travels to Pakistan to record her old friend Kaz's (Shazad Latif) assisted marriage. A feelgood comedy, the movie explores the ways in which relationships can be built. "A brilliant showcase for British comic talent."

Tickets are available online at [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cheddararts) The doors of Kings Theatre at the Kings Academy open at 6.45 pm and performances begin at 7.30 pm. For queries and help, email [cheddararts@gmail.com](mailto:cheddararts@gmail.com)

## **The Warm Spot, Axbridge**

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

## **Save the Children Lunches, Shipham**

Lunches will be served at Shipham village hall at 12.30 pm on Friday 12 and Friday 26 April. Do come and join us for soup, bread and cheese, pickle, homemade biscuits for £5.50. All profits will go to the Save The Children charity.

## **Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch**

On Monday 4 March the Branch held its 2024 Annual General Meeting in Wells Golf Club. Twenty stoic members attended this year's formal AGM that included a PowerPoint pictorial presentation of 2023 activities; a review and discussion of 2023 accounts by the Treasurer; the election of the Branch Committee, when Paul Ashmore was appointed as the new Chairman. The new Chairman then explained and presented the Branch Objectives for 2024 and outlined the proposed 2024 Programme based on a draft Budget for 2024.



The next event will be a Branch Meeting on Monday 8 April at 11.00 am in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. This will be a Branch Meeting including a Presentation by the new Chairman entitled 'They Bend Them, We Mend Them' cataloguing some of his experiences as an Engineering Officer at a range of RAF stations over a twenty-year period; the meeting will conclude with the usual option for a pub lunch and drinks from the Golf Club menu and bar.

The Branch programme will continue with a Branch Visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton on either Saturday 20 April or Saturday 27 April. Please contact the Secretary (details below) for final details.

The May event will be on Monday 13 May at 11.00 am in Wells Golf Club, Blackheath Lane, Wells, BA5 3DS. This will be a Branch Meeting including a Presentation by Peter Mount entitled 'A Communication Technician's Royal Air Force Adventure'.

The Branch covers BS25, BS26, BS27, BS28, BA4, BA5, BA16, TA10 & TA11 postal areas. These events are open to Members from any RAFA Branch, Current and Ex-RAF Personnel and Reserves, Current and Ex-Commonwealth Air Forces Personnel, Members of the RAF Family and Members of the public that support the aims and purpose of RAFA. Please contact the Branch via e-mail [rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com](mailto:rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com) or phone the Secretary on 01458 224057 for further information.

*Paul Ashmore*

## **RNLI Winscombe and District Branch**

### **Results Update**

The final figure at the RNLI Super Quiz on Saturday 27 January was £1,904 so thank you all so much for your generous support for this event. The Branch launched to Tesco Shepton Mallet at 9.00 am on Sunday 18 February and eight of our crew were on station from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm with 'Rescue Buckets' and gathered £541 from the Sunday shoppers. Tina's E-bay and auction sales have continued including the sale of a Rowing Machine for £200; items on sale are displayed on the RNLI Noticeboard at Brown's Corner, Winscombe. The Treasurer has reported that around £3,000 has been raised so far this year.

### **RNLI Winscombe & District Annual General Meeting – Thursday 29 February 2024**

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting at 3.00 pm on Thursday 29 February at the President's house. The AGM included a Presentation on 2023 activities. In summary, the Branch organised and ran 12 events of their own; participated in a further 6 local events; and held 5 Committee Meetings to plan this programme. The Meeting continued with a review of 2023 accounts (£20,188 profit); election of the Branch Committee; and discussion of the proposed 2024 Bicentennial Programme. Following the AGM, the Branch held its first Committee Meeting of 2024. Photographs and further details of the reports are on the Branch Facebook Site.





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## **Saturday 13 April – Collection At Tesco Clevedon**

On Saturday 13 April, the Branch will launch to Tesco Clevedon at 8.30 am and eight of our crew will be on station from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm ready to rescue funds from the Saturday shoppers. This will be our First ‘Shout’ at this location, and we’ll let you know the results.

## **Future Programme Of Events By Organisations Supporting RNLI Winscombe and District Branch RNLI Bicentennial Year**

Mendip Inner Wheel are presenting a Concert of Popular Music by the Cameo Orchestra Bristol at 7.30 pm on Saturday 27 April in St Andrew’s Church, Cheddar, BS27 3RE, in aid of the RNLI. The concert will include local soloists Jenny, Alan and Hannah. Tickets are priced £10 and may be obtained in advance from Margaret Gelder on 01934 710573 or you can pay on the door. This will be a good concert of popular light orchestral and show music so do book your tickets.

Calling all car boot traders! Winscombe Community Market has decided to do some fundraising for the RNLI Winscombe Branch and will hold a Car Boot Sale outside Winscombe Community Centre in conjunction with their Monthly Saturday Market on 20 April from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm. Only household and garage items will be allowed (no crafts or food stalls). All attendees will need their own outside set up and will be charged £10 per 3m x 3m space and all stall fees will go to the RNLI.

Winscombe Folk Club are presenting a ‘Vintage Cheddar’ Rock Band Concert at 8.00 pm (doors open 7.30 pm) on Saturday 18 May in the Church Centre, 52 Woodborough Road, Winscombe, BS25 1BA in aid of RNLI 200. The concert will include the music of Chuck Berry, Soul, The Beatles, ABBA, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison & many, many, more! There will be a bar available. Tickets are available online at £8 plus a 38p booking fee per ticket from [www.universe.com/winscombe](http://www.universe.com/winscombe) or text 07551 197685. This promises to be a roaring evening of pedigree ‘Rock’ from the 1960’s onwards.

## **Portishead Lifeboat Station Open Day – Sunday 28 April**

Portishead Lifeboat Station will be open to visitors from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm on Sunday 28 April. Join them for a day of family-friendly fun as they celebrate the RNLI’s 200th birthday. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet their volunteer crew, see the lifeboat in action and even have a look on-board. They will be joined by other local emergency services as well as by the famous ‘Beach Buddies’ lifesaving puppet theatre. There will be face painting, children’s crafts, and a family treasure trail as well as hot food, hot and cold drinks, and lots of cake!

## **Annual Plant & Garden Sale – Saturday 25 May**

This year’s Annual Plant & Garden Jumble sale will be at 10.00 am on Saturday 25 May at the Winscombe Community Centre, Sandford Road. The sale will include a full range of greenhouse plants, bedding plants and general garden items.

## **February Shouts**

In February there were 11 ‘Shouts’ between our four Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea 1, Minehead – 1, Portishead – 6, Weston-super-Mare - 3).

Burnham-on-Sea RNLI lifeboat crews were paged on 17 February at 1.42 pm, to assist a 27-foot yacht with engine failure. The yacht’s owner was returning to his

berth in the River Brue when the engine cut out at the entrance of the river. He tried to sail but the light winds were not sufficient to stem the swift outgoing tide. HM Coastguard had been notified of the earlier engine problem, but escalated the situation when the yacht was unable to make any headway. The Atlantic 85 lifeboat was launched at 1.55 pm and Burnham's D class lifeboat was also launched at 2.20 pm to offer strategic support.

The stricken yacht was discovered by the Atlantic lifeboat crew in the vicinity of Burnham's lighthouse and towed to the visitor's pontoon at Burnham Sailing club, in the River Brue. Once the casualty craft was secured safely, both lifeboats returned to Burnham jetty for recovery and wash down by the volunteer crews.

Helmsman Stuart Lacey explained; 'We discovered the yacht in the main channel, near Burnham's iconic lighthouse, unsuccessfully trying to sail against the outgoing tide. We towed the yacht back to Burnham Sailing club, leaving it secured to the visitors' pontoon. The yacht was well prepared with the correct safety gear. An engine can play up at any time. The crew were pleased to see us, and we were glad to be able to help.

*Paul Ashmore*

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## Sports Reports

### Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

A tense end to the winter indoor season is looming large as the daily leagues and the knockout competitions reach their various crescendos. At time of writing Finals weekend on March 16 and 17 is eagerly anticipated with two days of great bowls finals followed by a celebratory cream tea. Winners will be revealed in the next issue. The AGM of the Indoor section of the club will be held on Thursday 11 April at 7pm when league winners will be presented with their awards.

Meanwhile, on rink, the club enjoyed a comfortable friendly victory over Congresbury 42-22 while narrowly losing to Somerset Under 25s by 35-32. In the SCIBA League North, versus a strong City of Bristol team, we won 2 of the 4 rinks but, overall, lost by 75-70. Similarly in the following match against Woodspring we won 2 of the 4 rinks but, this time, won overall by 80-60. Finally, many congratulations to Kay Topazio, Catherine Lord, and Louise Benjamin who competed, for the first time for the club, in a mixed friendly against St Andrews Bowls club of Weston-super-Mare helping our team win by 2 shots!

By the time you read this we will be getting ready to play our first outdoor bowls of the year. The green opening day is 14 April with Men's Practice Day on 15 April and Ladies Practice day on 16 April. 17 and 18 April are set aside for transition training with our first home game being a mixed friendly against Clevedon on 21 April and then a Men's friendly against Wells on 26 April. We've been working hard to make the green and surrounding area look good for the new season with a couple of gardening days organised plus some ditch clearance work planned to ensure a softer landing for those unintended long bowls! Thanks to everyone who helps do this work and helps keep our costs down.



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Hypnotherapy with Tamsin Denbigh  
07917786251 [hello@tamsindenbighypnotherapy.com](mailto:hello@tamsindenbighypnotherapy.com)

Functional Kinesiology with Kris  
07816582898 [kris\\_kinesiology@outlook.com](mailto:kris_kinesiology@outlook.com)

Holistic Health Practitioner with Angelina Claire  
07856894226 [info@angelinaclaire.co.uk](mailto:info@angelinaclaire.co.uk)  
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(681)



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## Wedmore Dental Practice



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Practice Principal, BDS MCGDent

**Alison Chapman**  
Associate, BDS MFDS PGCert (Endo)

**Nikolai Stankiewicz**  
Associate, BDSc DPDS MCGDent MSc Infection Control

**Sally Cantwell**  
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The Social section has been in full flow recently. Following on from Race night, the Mexican Evening on 19 February was hugely enjoyable with spicy Mexican food and drink on offer. I have accepted bribes not to publish more than one photograph but in so doing I will spare the Gringo's embarrassment by not naming him. Next up is a Cards and Board game evening.

The Club is absolutely delighted to announce two new sponsors! Firstly, many of you know Jennifer and her excellent team at the Wedmore Dental Practice; secondly, DGH Contractors, a building and construction company of Weston-super-Mare. We thank them greatly and really do appreciate their support.

If you would like to try your hand at this great game of Bowls, we have a number of excellent, qualified coaches to give training and advice. Please check out our website [www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org](http://www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org) by scanning the QR code on this article. Otherwise call Steve Young on 01749 870987 or email him at [steveyoung1987@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steveyoung1987@hotmail.co.uk) We would love to welcome you.



*Peter Gower*

## Wedmore Golf Club

I have not yet seen the weather report for February, but I am confident it will show this year to be the wettest ever and the Golf Club of course was not immune to this. However, it all started quite well with all three competitions in the first week taking place, starting with the Seniors playing a waltz bowmaker. This seemed to confuse the computer to start with, but all got sorted eventually and most people were happy with the result. This was particularly true of the winning team, who were the very much in form Trevor Guy partnered by Tony King and Graham Ward. Their score of 80 points put them just one ahead of runners-up Barry Royal, John Cutter, and Mike Peacock with Steve Plant, Nick Parker, and Gavin Wood third on 75.







The Ladies played a 4-ball Vegas Scramble, the second time this year that dice have been involved in their competition. Not much luck was required though for the strong team of Captain Lyn Bird alongside Mary-Lou Denny, Liz Hill, and Ali Mantell who returned a net 62 to win by the comfortable margin of 4 shots from Ann Dixon, Jane Hewitt, Sue McDonald, and Ange Webber with Karen Barnett Sue Edwards, Ruth Rogers, and Liz Sweeney another shot back in third place.



The Club competition by contrast, was a straightforward stableford. The scoring was very good despite the blustery conditions. Steve Plant scored 42 to win Division 1 by 3 points from Steve Poyner, with Graham Sugg third on 38. Craig Fillary was just one point less, his 41 winning Division 2 by 2 points from Steve Major who beat Dave Bedford for the runner-up spot on countback. Best score of the day, though, came in Division 3 with Andrew Bertenshaw scoring 43 points from, inevitably, Trevor Guy, with Brian Fry taking the third place on 37. The Ladies struggled more in the conditions with Jane Prosser winning on 29 followed by Sally Stephens and Sandy Bedford.



[www.wedmoregolfclub.com](http://www.wedmoregolfclub.com)

# Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

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The Seniors have managed to finish all 4 of their rounds in their League and this week's final produced a tight finish to the competition. Two competitors have played outstandingly over the first three rounds with Trevor Guy leading the way with 119 points which was 7 ahead of Frank Sparks, both players finishing well up the field in each round. Trevor, this time, scored another 37 but, as this matched his worst score, it did not improve his overall position. It left Frank needing 43 to catch him. He almost got there, scoring 41 points, best score of the day, but leaving him with a total score of 117, just 2 behind.

For the Mixed Club League, the weather had restricted play to just one round so far with two more planned. In the first of these Ian Williams seemed to take a strong grip on the title, winning Division 2 for the second time. His 44 points added to 37 in the previous round gives him a total of 81 points, 4 ahead of his nearest rival, Darren Hayward, who came third in Division 3 this week adding 37 to his 40 from round 1 and a total of 77. Winner in Division 1 this week was Nigel Jones with 38, just a point better than Steve Plant who beat Moly McMillan on countback. Terry Williams was runner up to his namesake in Division 2 with 42 points, 3 better than third placed Paul Russell. Paul Dickie was winner in Division 3 with 38, beating Brian Fry by just a single point. Quintin Thorne who top-scored in round 1 scored a respectable 33 this time to sit in third place overall with 76 points.

In that week's competition, a close finish in Division 1 saw Graham Sugg scoring 38 to beat both Nick Parker and Dom Smith by a single point. Richard Efford scored 40 to win division 2 by 3 from Gordon Kendall and Trevor Guy. Two points back from Frank Sparks in division 3 was Paul Dickie who beat Peter Roberts on countback. Geoff Musson Thorp was winner in Division 4 with 40, 2 better than Barry Royal with Phillip Wren another point back in third. However, all this was in vain as weather prevented the playing of the third round, and it was agreed to admit defeat and abandon the League for the year.

Hopes for better weather remained, and it was almost spring-like for the Seniors playing a 3-ball bowmaker the following week. It was still squelchy underfoot in places, though this did little to keep the scoring down. Best of the day came from the strong threesome of Steve Plant. Moly McMillan, and Ellis Nairn who recorded an impressive 86 points. They were pushed hard by Steve Heal, David Crew, and Mike Cowie who finished as runners-up just 2 points behind. Robert Watts, Trevor Marshall, and Barry Royal were the only other team to hit 80 points, taking third place on that score. By Thursday the rain had come again, and the Ladies limited their 4 Ball Better Ball to just thirteen holes. Sue McDonald and Mary-Lou Denny led the way in a close finish, winning with 24 points, just one better than Liz Hill and Hazel Gough in second place. Beverley Broad and Janet Cornish took third place on countback from Karen Clark and June Smith after both scored 22.

That proved to be the end of it as far as competitions were concerned, with the course closed for an unprecedented time despite the efforts of the greenkeepers who had the course open again by the end of the month, but not in time to save any more competitions.

*Tony Biggs*

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# Church News

## On a Wheel and a Prayer

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

*Revd Richard Neill*

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# Church Services

## Isle of Wedmore Benefice

Our worship continues to be available online on an occasional basis. When one of our Sunday services is recorded 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 <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/>. Every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday there is Morning Prayer online at 9 am on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/>

## St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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

Sunday	7	Easter 2	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Café Church Start the Week
Sunday	14	Easter 3	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	21	Easter 4	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Family Service & Christening Start the Week
Sunday	28	Easter 5	10.30 am 6.30 pm	Parish Communion Start the Week

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## Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	7	Easter 2	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Easter 3	9.00 am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	21	Easter 4	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	28	Easter 5		See St Mary's

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(414)



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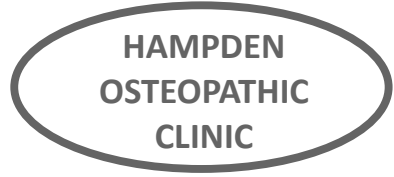
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## Christchurch, Theale

Sunday	7	Easter 2	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Easter 3	11.00 am	Morning Praise
Sunday	21	Easter 4	11.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	28	Easter 5	11.00 am	Morning Praise

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## Allerton Church

Sunday	7	Easter 2	9.00 am	Family Service
Sunday	14	Easter 3	9.00 am	Parish Communion
Sunday	21	Easter 4	9.00 am	Morning Praise
Sunday	28	Easter 5	9.00 am	Parish Communion

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## Bagley Baptist Church

Sunday service at 10.30 am. Come in person, or view live via our Bagley Baptist You Tube channel. Teaching groups for children & young people starting around 11am.

Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12noon is our popular 'Coffee with a View.' Come for coffee/tea, home-made cakes, our wonderful view, and a warm welcome. All free of charge. Bring a friend or come and make some new ones here. We have good parking and wheelchair access.

Other fellowship groups are available - youth group, young adults' group, home groups, gatherings, prayer meetings, and more. For further details phone 01934 710779 or email [contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk](mailto:contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk), website [www.bagleybaptist.co.uk](http://www.bagleybaptist.co.uk)

## Crickham Baptist Chapel

There is an evening service held at the Chapel Sunday Evenings at 6.30pm, We welcome everyone, we have a short service, followed with tea, coffee, cake and fellowship together. You are sure of a warm Christian welcome.

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

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# Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

## Surgery Opening Times

*Please note that the Wedmore Surgery opening times were incorrect in previous issues of the Wedmore News. The surgery is only open until 1.00pm on Fridays. Our apologies for any inconvenience caused – Ed.*

## Wedmore Surgery

Monday . . . . . 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Tuesday to Friday . . . . . 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](http://www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk)

## Improved Access Appointments

Axbridge Surgery, Tuesdays . . . . . 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

During these a Nurse/HCA/Phlebotomist will be available for routine appointments outside normal surgery times. These appointments are provided, but not exclusively, for those patients who find it difficult to attend during normal surgery hours. Please note, these hours may be subject to change depending on the availability of clinical staff.

Please visit our website or visit/ telephone the practice 732464 or 712774 for changes to opening hours. You can also obtain 24-hour general medical advice by telephoning NHS 111 or visit the NHS 111 website.

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

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# Wedmore Community Bus

The Wedmore Community Bus is a not-for-profit bus service run by volunteers for the benefit of the local community. It provides regular scheduled services to 5 locations. The bus is also available for private hire, principally for the use of local community groups. There will soon also be regular excursions to other places - watch this space in future issues of the Wedmore News.



## Scheduled Services

There are five Scheduled Services a week. These are:

- Cribbs Causeway – some Mondays
- Taunton – Tuesday

- Bridgwater – Wednesday
- Weston-s-Mare – Thursday
- Street & Glastonbury – Friday

The bus departs from Wedmore Car Park at The Lerburne at around 9.30 am to start picking up passengers. It returns to Wedmore between 1.30 pm and 3.30 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 phone.

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 on all services except Cribbs Causeway. Cribbs Causeway is £2 for Concessions and free for children under 5. For other passengers, fares are low as the bus is financed by Somerset Council and drivers are volunteers.

## Timetable and Booking Details

### All services

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

### Some Mondays - Cribbs Causeway

Departs Cribbs Causeway 2.00 pm. Back around 3.30 pm. Upcoming Cribbs Causeway services will be on 4 and 11 March and 8 and 15 April, for further information call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631.

### Tuesday - Taunton

Departs Taunton 2.00 pm. Back around 2.45 pm.

### Wednesday - Bridgwater

Departs Bridgwater 1.00 pm. Back around 2.00 pm.

### Thursday - Weston-super-Mare

Departs Weston 1.45 pm. Back around 2.45 pm.

### Friday - Street and Glastonbury

Departs Street 1.00 pm. Back around 1.30 pm.

Passenger pickups/drop-offs for all five 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.

**Cribbs Causeway** – this is at Mark.

**Taunton & Bridgwater** - these are at Mark, Bason Bridge and East Huntspill



**Weston-super-Mare** - these are at Stoughton, Allerton and Mark  
**Street** - these are at Theale and Godney

To be sure of a seat, just call the number indicated below against the relevant destination at the time shown and we'll agree a convenient pick-up location and time.

Alternatively, just come to the Lerburne car park before 9.30 am. Except on the Cribbs Causeway service we will normally be able to fit you in, although this isn't guaranteed.

**Some Mondays to Cribbs Causeway –**

Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631  
as early as possible

**Tuesday to Taunton -**

Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631  
between 6.00 pm & 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Wednesday to Bridgwater -**

Helen Flooks on 01934 611006  
between 6.00 pm & 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Thursday to Weston-super-Mare -**

Carol Ayliffe on 01934 713471  
between 6.00 pm & 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Friday to Street & Glastonbury -**

Ann Hughes on 01934 712832  
between 6.00 pm & 6.30 pm on the previous evening.

**Relief Booking Controller -**

Lesley 01934 900571

## **Private Hire**

The community bus is available for private hire at these times:

- Weekends (all day and evening)
- Some Mondays (all day and evening)
- Tuesday to Friday (15.30 onwards)

Our drivers are fully trained and they volunteer to provide this local service.

Each enquiry will be provided with a list of drivers to contact. If you are a community group and wish to make regular use of the service, then we can train one of your members, so you always have a driver available.

The bus safely seats 16 people, and will cost a blanket charge of £2 per mile (plus a discretionary tip for the volunteer driver!). There is a discounted rate of £1 per mile for youth's and children's community groups and adult's community groups who have their own driver approved by Somerset Council.

To book our comfortable community bus for your event or outing, please email Wayne at [iowrtabookings@gmail.com](mailto:iowrtabookings@gmail.com)

For further information about anything relating to the Community Bus please email us on [wedmorebus@gmail.com](mailto:wedmorebus@gmail.com)

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## Crossword Answers

**Across:** 1. Ricochet 6. Sodium 9. Muesli 10. Overall 11. Analyses 12. Enlist 13. Cross dresser 16. Inflammation 19. Velcro 21. Puffiest 23. Molester 24. Repair 25. Hermit 26. Everyone

**Down:** 2. Iguana 3. Ousel 4. Hailstorm 5. Taoists 6. Suede 7. Deadly sin 8. Unlisted 13. Cold cream 14. Reinforce 15. Antelope 17. Asperse 18. Assign 20. Octet 22. Imply



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ESTATE AGENTS

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## *Spring Is In The Air And The Signs Are Looking Good!*

At last, the evenings are getting lighter, and the signs of fresh, new blooms are beginning to peek out of the ground!

Debbie Fortune estate agents is delighted to also be witnessing a very positive shift in our local housing market during the first two months' of 2024.

Mortgage rates are finally showing stability, and our diaries are filling up with serious and willing house hunters, armed with the enthusiasm that only comes where you are looking for that perfect new home.

We have also launched 28 new properties to the market in the month of February with motivated sellers, and we have successfully agreed sales on 17 properties.

We are excited to see what the season ahead will bring, not only for our local housing market, but for our wonderful sellers and purchasers, making their own 'fresh starts'.

Whether you're looking to buy, sell or are just thinking of dipping your toe in the water this Spring, call our friendly team or email us for more details on our effective marketing options.

## *Spring Flowers at Wedmore First School Academy!*

Lisa Baines and Marie Greenwood of Debbie Fortune estate agents are delighted to have recently spent time at Wedmore First School Academy to help brighten up the school entrance by donating a planter and some pretty flowers.

We really hope the children enjoy continuing to maintain the flowers and look forward to seeing the 'surprise' bulbs pop up in the summertime.



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