

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



December 2025
No. 549

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Editorial

Merry Christ-mas everyone! This is a magical time of year across the Isle of Wedmore as we build up to the big event: from the Wedmore Living Advent Calendar, lighting up windows across the village; a Christmas concert at St Mary's; a Christmas market at the Village Farm and the wonderful Wedmore by Lamplight. A full list of Christmas services across the Parish is also included in the Key Events section at the front of this issue.

After several years compiling the 'What's On' pages in the centre of this magazine, the wonderful Lindsey Baker has decided to step down from this role. Don't worry, Lindsey will still be reporting on the activities of the Parish Council. Lindsey has done an amazing job supporting this magazine over the years and we at the Isle of Wedmore News would like to thank her for all her efforts! Moving forward, if anyone has key events, or updates to the regular weekly events, that they would normally have listed in the centre pages, then please forward them to me at editorwedmorenews@gmail.com and I will ensure they are included.

From everyone here at the Isle of Wedmore News we would like to wish to a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. See you in 2026!

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

It is time of the year for the Living Advent Calendar again, so our cover features a selection of last year's windows to get you in the mood.

Mike

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 26 ISSUE: 1 December 2025

Contact the Wedmore News

To Advertise in the Wedmore News	Martin Gregory E: wedmoreads@btinternet.com T: 01934 900051
News Articles, What's On listings, Club or Society Updates and Letters	Ian Anstey E: editorwedmorenews@gmail.com T: 07891 847285
Photos, Front Cover and Features	Mike Rippon E: photoswedmorenews@gmail.com T: 07704 034448
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Address Isle of Wedmore News CIC, The Council Rooms,
Grants Lane, Wedmore BS28 4EA

The Isle of Wedmore News welcomes all contributions and letters. It should be noted however that the views expressed are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, or represent any particular standpoint on the part of the publication. The editors also reserve the right to edit or amend any contribution for reasons of space, conformity, legibility or legality.

Wedmore News is digital! Each edition will be published on The Isle of Wedmore Website, www.theisleofwedmore.net. If you are a contributor who for copyright reasons does not want your entry included, please make this clear when sending it to the editor.

Key Events This Month

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 covered in the regular centrespread of 'What's On' listings.

Wedmore Living Advent Calendar – 1 December to 1 January

One window will light up each evening until Christmas Eve and will continue to delight us all throughout the Christmas period until New Year's Day.

Turnip Prize Award Ceremony – 2 December

The prestigious Turnip Prize for outstanding modern art will be presented at The New Inn.

Christmas Concert at St Mary's – 5 December

Start your Christmas with an exceptional evening of musical favourites with the HMS Heron Band from RNAS Yeovilton and Cheddar Male Choir.

Wedmore Village Farm Christmas Market – 6 December

Come to the farm for a festive Christmas market with local stalls, delicious food, live music and lots of seasonal cheer.

Christmas Concert by the Mendip Male Voice Choir – 6 December

Come and enjoy some Christmas magic at Henton Village Hall as the Mendip Male Voice Choir bring you a seasonal offering of beautiful songs.

Blackford Christmas Café – 10 December

Come and join us for teatime treats, mince pies, and mulled wine, while we listen to festive song and music.

Wedmore Village Hall AGM – 10 December

The Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee will take place 4.00pm in the Village Hall.

Wedmore by Lamplight – 10 December

Enjoy an evening of festive fun in the heart of Wedmore, featuring music, food, late night shopping and entertainment for all ages.

Carols in the Orchard – 11 December

Carols in the orchard at Theale Village Hall.

Wedmore Small Businesses Association AGM – 19 December

This year's AGM will be held at The New Inn. Join us for beer, wine, spirits, darts, skittles and various other pub games.

A black and white photograph of a woman in a wedding dress, looking down, positioned on the right side of the page.

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Christmas Services

All the local churches are looking forward to welcoming you all to various services and events over the Advent and Christmas period. Below is a summary of all the Christingle, carol, and other special Christmas services across the Isle of Wedmore.

St Mary's Choir Carol Singing

St Mary's Choir will be carol singing around Wedmore a couple of times in December. Please look out for where and when this is taking place and feel welcome to join in as appropriate as they move around the village.

Sunday 7 December

Allerton Church – Christingle, 4.00pm.

Wednesday 10 December

St Mary's Church – Crib Service and Carols around the Tree, 5.15pm.

Thursday 11 December

Christ Church, Theale – Carols in the Orchard and Christingle, 6.00pm.

Sunday 14 December

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford - Sunday Breakfast and Christingle – 9.00am.

Crickham Baptist Chapel – Carol Service and 'Chocolate Nativity', 3.00pm.

Monday 15 December

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford – Community Carols, 6.00pm.

Wednesday 17 December

Bagley Baptist Church – Christmas Carols, 10.30am.

Sunday 21 December

Allerton Church – Nativity Play and Service, 9.00am.

Christ Church, Theale – Carol Service, 11.00am.

Allerton Church – Candlelit Carols, 6.00pm.

St Mary's Church – Candlelit Carols, 6.00pm.

Christmas Eve

St Mary's Church, Wedmore – Christingle 5.00pm.

Bagley Baptist Church – Candlelight Service, 7.00pm.

St Mary's Church, Wedmore – Midnight Mass, 11.30pm.

Christmas Day

Allerton Church – Christmas Day Family Communion, 9.00am.

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford – Christmas Day Family Service, 9.00am.

Bagley Baptist Church – Christmas Day Service, 10.15am.

St Mary's Church – Christmas Day All-Age Communion, 10.30am.

Christ Church, Theale – Christmas Day Family Communion, 11.00am.

Coming Soon

Below is a selection of events coming up in the Isle of Wedmore over the next few months, 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 Opera Burns Night – 24 January

Wedmore Opera will be again hosting its very popular Burns Night in Wedmore Village Hall

Blackford Harvest Home Winter Warmer – 13 February

News

Tessa Munt MP's Update

Last month, I spoke in Parliamentary debates on several subjects – from Sudan to Business Rates; the 'Duty of Candour' in the new 'Hillsborough Law' to the Infected Blood scandal; and prison sentences to Powers of Attorney. I've also criss-crossed the constituency harvesting organic walnuts; visiting schools and businesses; attending meetings and events; and speaking with many of you in cafes and pubs at my surgeries.

October marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I gladly attended a Macmillan Coffee Morning in Parliament and the Breast Cancer Now's Wear It Pink! event. It's good to know progress has been made, awareness raised, and I know that the Prostate Cancer UK campaigns are becoming equally important annual events in Parliament too.

I was delighted to attend the launch of the National Parks and National Landscapes All Party Parliamentary Group. The Group aims to press Government to act to protect these precious places and, along with several colleagues, I'm calling for the Mendip Hills to be designated a National Park. I'll keep you updated on this in the months ahead.

I attended an amazing charity fundraising evening marking 50 successful years for Avon and Somerset Search and Rescue. Their dedicated and specialist volunteers are on call day and night, 365 days a year, saving lives in almost every kind of challenging emergency imaginable. Local doctor and comedian Dr Phil Hammond compered an auction raising funds towards the costs of a replacement Incident Control vehicle.



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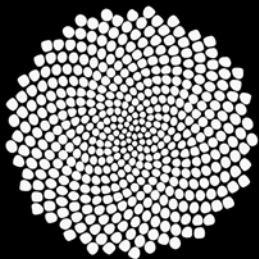
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Last month, I was honoured to join the families of those who died on board a Chinook helicopter which crashed in the Mull of Kintyre in June 1994, delivering a petition with over 51,500 signatures to 10 Downing Street. 31 years after this tragedy, the families, one of whom is local, still have no idea what happened. They're calling for the Defence Secretary to meet the families and release the documents (which have been locked away by the MoD and won't be released until the end of the century) and tell the truth about what happened that distressing day. Ministers are willing to talk to my colleagues and me, and I'll work flat out to make progress and bring justice to the families involved.

November is a more sombre month, with remembrance at its core. This year, Parliament marked 75 years since the House of Commons chamber was rebuilt, having been bombed during the Second World War. Our communities honour those who lost their lives, particularly in the Great War and the Second World War. Every year I wear both a red and a white poppy. The red poppy reminds us 'never forget' the loss of British military personnel and those allied forces who died alongside them. The white 'peace' poppy was first worn in 1933, to remember everyone who died, those who were physically and mentally injured, made homeless or stateless by war, and its plea is 'never again'. Civilians are victims of war too, as our daily news broadcasts constantly remind us.

It matters to me to hear what matters to you. If you have a concern, question or something you would like to bring to my attention, please do get in touch, or visit me at one of my 'surgeries'. I have listed some local dates below, but please contact my office for the full list. To keep updated on my work as your MP, I can also be found on Facebook and Instagram.

My next local surgery will be at the Bluebird Café in Wedmore on Saturday 13 December from 9.00am to 10.00am. All 'surgeries' operate on a first come, first served basis and no appointment is necessary. If you can't come to see me, I'll come to see you.

You can also get hold of me in a number of ways, by phone on 01934 440639 (answerphone for out of office hours), by email at tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk by text on 07714 599669; or by post to Tessa Munt, Freepost (you won't need a stamp).

You can contact your Somerset Councillors for Wedmore: Harry Munt on 07896 255176 (text is best) or email harry.munt@somerset.gov.uk and Matt Martin on 07766 382563 or email matthew.martin@somerset.gov.uk

Tessa

Wedmore Parish Clerk Update

Hello friends. As 2025 comes to an end, I've been reflecting on just how much goes into keeping Wedmore running. From the outside, it's easy to overlook what happens, but behind every clean public toilet, safe playground, new allotment or interment at the cemetery are hours of organisation, emails, quotes, and follow-up.

The Parish Council is responsible for a great deal: the public toilets, three playgrounds, Worthington Woods, the allotments, the village car park, and the cemetery. Each site brings its own set of issues, from maintenance and safety checks, to contracts, repairs, and complaints. Add to that insurance renewals, risk assessments, financial reports, planning consultations, and policies, and it becomes clear that

parish business never really stops. I'm contracted for 25 hours a week, but it could easily take ten times that to stay fully on top of everything. And, while I'm the only paid employee, your councillors are all volunteers and are not paid a penny for the hours they put in, yet they read reports, attend meetings, inspect sites, and deal with concerns because they care deeply about Wedmore and its people.

The Planning Committee has handled a high number of applications this year. It's important to be clear: the Parish Council is a consultee, not the decision-maker. We do not grant or refuse permission; that lies with Somerset Council. Our role is to review applications carefully, assess local impact, and ensure residents' views are represented. Councillors and members of the public must be able to take part in open discussion without fear, shouting, or personal attacks. There will always be public consultation, but it must take place in the right way, with respect on all sides.

The Finance Committee has been preparing the 2026/27 budget, an update on that will follow next month. The Environmental and Biodiversity Committee has delivered practical results: a new rowan tree for the cemetery pond, owl boxes for Terry's Wood, and the groundwork for a new Biodiversity Action Plan. The Community Resilience Committee has been focusing on winter preparedness, checking drains, reviewing emergency procedures, and linking with Somerset Village Agents to support residents who might need help. All of this happens quietly, without fanfare, so the rest of us can enjoy a village that works. As we approach Christmas, I'd ask everyone to take a moment to reflect, to be grateful for what we have, to look out for a neighbour or friend, and to remember that community spirit is built on small acts of kindness.

If you or someone you know needs help over the festive period, then here are some key contacts: Somerset Village Agents: somersetagents.org – local support and wellbeing help; Mindline Somerset: 01823 276 892 – mental health support; Somerset Council Adult Social Care: 0300 123 2224 – urgent care or safeguarding; Flooding or road issues: somerset.gov.uk/report-it; Severe weather updates: somersetprepared.org.uk. Wedmore is full of good people doing good work. Let's carry that spirit into 2026 with respect, gratitude, and a willingness to help where we can.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

*Lindsey Baker, Clerk,
Wedmore Parish Council*

Green Wedmore Receives The King's Award for Voluntary Service

We are all very excited to announce that Green Wedmore have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2025. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

Green Wedmore advocates for sustainable living and helps people reduce environmental impact and save money in this climate and cost of living emergency. Activities include regular freecycle and repair cafe, installation of solar on community buildings, 'Is It Local' cookbooks, household solar PV



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scheme for 115 buildings, Wilder Wedmore Nature Festival, helped set up Wedmore Village Farm, woodland creation and more.

Green Wedmore is one of 232 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Late Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee and was continued following the accession of His Majesty The King. 2025 marks the third year of The King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Representatives of Green Wedmore will receive the award crystal and certificate from Mohammed Saddiq, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, in the coming months. In addition, two volunteers from the group will attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May or June 2026, along with other recipients of this year's award.

Steve Mewes, Green Wedmore Chair said: 'For all the dozens of people that have helped Green Wedmore over the years; put up signs, helped on a stall, updated a website, enjoyed a woodland work party, organised a Repair Café or planted a tree, this award is for you. In the Climate and Nature Emergency we are in, helping to build a community will be essential. In the new year we will celebrate this and our 20th anniversary with a big party and everyone will be welcome. Also, a huge thank you to the Wedmore Real Ale Festival for their donation to our water saving campaign. Thank you.'

More information on our website at www.greenwedmore.co.uk

Steve Mewes

Remembrance Sunday Service

St Mary's church was packed, as usual, for the Remembrance Sunday service on 9 November, including representatives of the various local scout and guide units. The most poignant moment of this service each year is the roll call of names, read by



Brigadier (Retd.) David Eccles, of those young men from across the Isle of Wedmore who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. Crosses with a name on are given to members of the congregation as they take their seats and they are asked to stand when that name is read out. Looking around the church, as the roll call progresses, gives you a real feel for the impact that these conflicts had on the Parish, remembering that its population was much smaller then.

Following the main service, the congregation, and a parade of serving and ex-service personnel, regrouped in the churchyard to lay wreaths and the crosses with the names of the dead. David then made a further roll call, which is sadly growing each year, of the names of those service personnel with links to the area who have made the ultimate sacrifice since the end of the Second World War.

Ian Anstey

Wedmore Festival Arts and Crafts Exhibition Call for Exhibitors

An Arts and Crafts exhibition will be held on from 9 to 17 May 2026, as part of the Wedmore Festival 2026. If you would be interesting in exhibiting your work, then we would love to include it!

Please contact Nikki Pryn by email at nikipryn@gmail.com or by phone on 07519 630365.

Nikki Pryn

Acclaimed Children's Author Visits Wedmore and Mark First Schools

Wedmore Festival has continued its outreach to local schools with a visit by award-winning poet and writer, James Carter, to Wedmore and Mark First Schools on 17 and 18 November. He spent a day in each school with his guitar and his unique blend of fun and play, firing imaginations and inspiring creative writing.

Each day ended with a 'Shout Out', to which parents and carers were invited to hear the pupils' creations

*Wedmore Festival
Committee*



King Alfred Project Group

Wedmore, with its excellent heritage, has been very much in need of celebrating King Alfred the Great (the only King to have been called Great!) and an action group has been formed to do something about this.



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The Parish Council have already approved five new road entry signs depicting King Alfred and his peace treaty here in 878AD. This treaty was agreed, but never actually signed. However, a twelve-day Party resulted!

The major project for the Group is to have a six-foot bronze statue of King Alfred erected in the Churchyard. This will make an important statement for posterity and valuable educational value. The cost of this project is circa £125k, which is formidable but achievable with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Concerted fund raising is due to begin shortly and we are pleased to say that we have the full support of Somerset Council in this endeavour.

*David Ewens,
King Alfred Project Group*

Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund

The Health Fund would like to inform all patients of the Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice that they have agreed to donate £100,000 to the Practice for the reconfiguration of both surgeries to form additional clinical rooms.

The Project has resulted from a government investment of £102m, to be spread over more than 1,000 selected practices nationwide, for improvements to their existing buildings. The NHS government stipulation is that the project must be completed by March 2026. Both Axbridge and Wedmore surgeries received grants but, unfortunately, Wedmore was £42,000 short of the total required for the work. The Fund will, therefore, be donating the £42,000 plus £33,000 for the equipping of each reconfigured clinical room. A sum of £5,000 has been set aside for hitherto unforeseen costs at Wedmore. As Axbridge is to lose storage space to enable the provision of additional medical facilities, £24,000 is being donated for the creation of a clinical room and a new storage space. The Fund Trustees are delighted to be able to invest in this Project which will benefit all patients of the Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice.

The Health Fund was founded in 1988 by Mrs Muriel Welch, a Wedmore parish councillor, to provide equipment and services for the Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice and for individual patients. The fund provides financial assistance to numerous groups within the community, all of which provide much needed support for various health needs. The Fund also supports Weston Hospicecare as many patients from Axbridge and Wedmore Medical Practice come under their care and with restricted bed numbers, only 10, many are cared for in their own homes.

The Fund Trustees are so pleased that, thanks to the Wedmore Ambulance Trust bequest of £382,000 we can support this project. Historically, these funds were to be used for the building of a new surgery in Wedmore. Regrettably, despite an enthusiastic local response; many hours spent by the Fund's project team; and considerable planning costs, this proposal was stopped following an Estates Review by the NHS Primary Care Network. If you have any questions about the Health Fund and its activities, then please contact Shirley Wederell on 01934 712089.

*Shirley Wederell, Secretary
Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund CIO*

Travelling Crib

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

If you want to host Mary and Joseph for a night, please contact Laura at stmarywedmore@gmail.com for the one travelling around Wedmore or Yvonne Hutchison for the one making its way around Theale, or have a look at the list in St Mary's or Christchurch.

Revd. Richard Neill

St Mary's Coffee Shop

Please note that there will be no coffee shop in December.

Liz Henderson

Wedmore Living Advent Calendar

Christmas is here and once again this year we will be lighting up the village as a Living Advent Calendar. The calendar will open on 1 December. One window will be revealed each evening at 6.30pm between 1 and 24 December and will continue to delight us all each night throughout the Christmas period until New Year's Day.

Why not make following the trail a family tradition between Christmas and New Year. The trail of windows will be on display from 4.30pm, so that the children of the village can enjoy them too, and this year you can take part in our competition! Between Christmas Day and New Year's Day find the Christmas Film titles which will be displayed in each window. Collect the most correct answers against the correct window number and you could win a prize! In the event of multiple winners the prize-winning entry will be drawn randomly. Entry forms can be found on the back of this year's Living Advent Calendar Map or downloaded from our Facebook page. Put your completed competition form in the box in the porch of St Mary's Church by the end of New Year's Day.

Maps showing window locations and reveal dates are available from The Cottage Gallery, Wedmore Village Store, The Bluebird Café, and on our Facebook page (search for 'Wedmore Living Advent Calendar'). Come and join us each evening at 6.30pm as a new window is revealed. Meet new friends and old friends and enjoy the magic of Christmas!

Marianne Smith

The Turnip Prize 2025

It's nearly time for the premiere art event of the Wedmore calendar. On 2 December at 6.00pm in The New Inn the winner of the prestigious, internationally recognised, Turnip Prize for outstanding modern art will be announced.

Following the announcement, all entries must be removed from the New Inn as the competition organisers can no longer afford a skip in which to dump them. For more info visit The New Inn, our Facebook page, or contact Trevor on 07812 848011



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Events coming up in December:

Fri 5th Dec. - Quiz Night

Thur 18th Dec. - Millicent, Leo & guests

Sat 6th Dec. - Beach'd Buoys Shanty

Fri 19th Dec. - Music Bingo

Fri 12th Dec. - Comedy Night

Sat 20th Dec. - Scarlett Stone

Sat 13th Sun 14th - Chris Jagger

Sat 27th Dec. - Rileys Cove party night

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Christmas Concert at St Mary's

Tickets are selling fast for the concert in St Mary's with HMS Heron Band from Yeovilton and Cheddar Male Choir on Friday 5 December at 7.30pm. This will be an excellent evening of Christmas favourites with opportunities to sing along as well. There will be a licensed bar and raffle. Doors open 7.00pm. Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for under 16s and are available from Wedmore Village Store and online through Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.co.uk

Mike Gelder

Wedmore Village Farm

Many of the curious have found their way to Wedmore Village Farm on Plud Street (at the end of Kelson's Lane opposite the Post and Wicket), or have attended one of the events we have held over the year, such as the amazing Midsummer Night's



Dream we hosted for Wedmore Theatre Group, our Kid's Festival in May, or our most recent Pumpkins, Petals, and Pizza day.

Whilst summer may be fading away, we are still busying away at the farm, organising events, hosting volunteers, and delivering educational sessions for children and young adults. Our seasonal vegetables continue to go out to members of our 'veg box' scheme and will run until the end of December before a break, resuming in Spring 2026. Income from our veg boxes, flowers, and events supports our charitable work helping those experiencing food insecurity by growing fresh, seasonal produce for food banks and educating children about environmental stewardship. Contact vegbox@wedmorevillagefarm.co.uk if you would like to. If you would like to find out about volunteering, or to sign up for this season or next.

In October, we were pleased that we had exceeded last year's target of delivering 11,000 portions of vegetables to the local Food Banks, including Cheddar Valley, Shepton Mallet, Wells and Highbridge Food Pantry. In addition, we have supported St Ben's and St John's schools in Glastonbury.

A little-known activity of the farm is that we deliver a weekly bespoke educational session for primary school students, focusing on growing food, connecting with nature, and learning about the food system. We have helped develop disused areas of the school into productive vegetable beds, which as well as planting soft fruits. These sessions resumed during the autumn term at St Ben's School in Glastonbury.

The flowers have been providing much colour to the farm, as those of you who have ventured up the track for 'pick your own' flowers will agree. Although people are welcome to PYO at any time (we have an honesty box or QR code to facilitate payments), we held a specific PYO afternoon in October when the morning rain

didn't deter people, and they came up for flowers, tea, cake, and a chat. We have been making new friends when we sell flowers at Glastonbury market on Tuesdays. The fresh flower season is now coming to an end, but we will be back with dry and fresh wreaths for Xmas

As we look forward, we are busy planning for our Christmas Market on Saturday, 6 December, 11.00am to 4.00pm. Come along for festive stalls, live music, food, workshops, and seasonal cheer. To help with planning, please get your free ticket from Eventbrite 'Wedmore Village Farm Market'

Finally, welcome Jason Mills as our new Chair of Wedmore Village Farm and The Food Forest Project. Jason has experience working with similar organisations and the enthusiasm to continue working on the success of the farm.

Annie Rowley



Blackford Christmas Café

Join us on Wednesday 10 December from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Blackford Village Hall to celebrate Christmas. Our Blackford gathering welcomes you all for teatime treats, mince pies, and mulled wine, while we listen to festive song and music.

Margaret Tinney

Wedmore Village Hall AGM

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee – Wednesday 10 December at 4.00pm in the Village Hall.



The Village Hall is a highly valued community asset and continues to be used by many groups including Pilates; yoga; Tuesday Club; Brownies and Guides; and also by individuals for birthday parties and wedding receptions. However, we are facing increased competition from the Post and Wicket and even St Mary's Church, so it is essential that the Committee continues to ensure the facilities in the Hall are all that our users want. This can be challenging as a building the age of the Hall requires constant maintenance, so we are endlessly seeking out funds from grants, and other sources.

You will have read in last month's Isle of Wedmore News just such an issue when we had a major underfloor leak due to a burst pipe somewhere below the main hall floor, but where? The result of this water leakage was that the solid oak floor developed undulations, and several sections started to rise and become a potential hazard. Rather



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than spending money on finding and repairing the leak, in what was an ageing system, we chose to replace the whole system with carbon-friendly air-source heat pumps.

During the last year we have also made extensive repairs to parts of the main roof, which involved replacing rotten wooden battens and lead flashing. We also re-tiled the leaking roof over the entrance porch. Additionally, many of the crumbling stones on the plinth around the outside of the hall have had to be replaced. An upgrade to the fire alarm system was also completed to bring it into line with new minimum standards. All these on top of the regular statutory health and safety inspections and servicing costs, including fire extinguishers, fire alarms, gas safety, and pest control. Not to mention the general running costs for insurance, cleaning, and utilities.

The raked seating, mechanical ventilation, and upgraded snug all continue to be assets to the hall and are welcome and well used.

Looking forward, we are shortly to replace the main kitchen range that is well past its use-by date and new parts are no longer available. A generous donation from Wedmore Real Ale Festival has helped us fund this project. Once we remove the old gas boilers and radiators throughout the hall we will start a redecoration programme. The main hall fluorescent ceiling lights are also to be replaced with higher efficiency LED bulbs.

With so many new houses and new families being welcomed to Wedmore we would love to hear from any of them who would be able to contribute to the all-important work of the Management Committee of the Hall. Please do contact me if you are interested at chair@wedmorehall.org.uk If anyone has new ideas, or knows of new user groups, or functions, that might like to hire the hall, do please contact me and come along to the AGM, at which we also welcome representatives of the user groups that currently use the hall.

We remain very grateful to our sponsors and local users for the continued success of the hall. Finally, our thanks again to Wedmore in Bloom for the ongoing upkeep of the planters around the hall giving such a colourful welcome to our visitors.

Simon Tomes, Chair, WVHMC

Wedmore by Lamplight

Our favourite festive village celebration returns on Wednesday 10 December, bringing some Christmas sparkle to the heart of Wedmore. The evening begins at 5.15pm in St Mary's Church with the popular Crib Service involving local children and school choirs, followed by carols around the Christmas tree. Immediately following the carols, visitors can join the lantern-lit procession from the church down to The Borough with lanterns lovingly made by children from Wedmore First School and an army of parent volunteers.

From 5.30pm to 8.30pm, the village will be alive with late-night shopping; stalls from local clubs; businesses; pubs; and charities. There will be plenty of opportunities to meet friends, browse, and soak up the festive atmosphere with a mulled cider or refreshment of your choice. Expect a wonderful mix of street entertainment, games, live music, delicious food, and seasonal refreshments.



There will be two music stages hosting a joyful line-up including Wedmore Hand Bell Ringers, singers and festive children's entertainment from Elsa and Ana, all expertly MCed by Olly the DJ from Enhanced Entertainment. The Bluebird Café will be hosting an outdoor stage with an unmissable set from Tim Faulks, guaranteed to bring the festive cheer. Throughout The Borough, circus performers and Morris Dancers will entertain as you browse the shops, crafts and local stall, and for the children there is a chance to pay a visit to Father Christmas himself.

Come and celebrate the season with neighbours, friends, and family; it's a night to share in everything that makes our village so special. We want to extend a huge festive thank you to the small but mighty army of volunteers for their enthusiasm, time and effort, in addition to the local businesses for their financial support.

Please contact us by email at wedmorebylamplight@gmail.com or via Facebook or Instagram.

*Helen, Caroline, and the Committee,
Wedmore by Lamplight*

Wedmore Small Business Association 20th Anniversary

Founded in 2005, thanks to a chance meeting in the High Street of the four founders looking for some festive inspiration, 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the annual get together of the Wedmore Small Business Association (WSBA).



This year's AGM will start at around 3.00pm on Friday 19 December at The New Inn, Wedmore and continue with attendees coming and going, late into the evening. If the last 19 years are anything to go by, the agenda will largely consist of beer, wine, spirits, darts, skittles and various other pub games, with very little business as such, discussed.

For those of you new to the WSBA, we have no official status, are not purely open to small businesses, have no requirement for you to work in Wedmore, or actually work at all. Aside from these minor details, an ever-growing group of like-minded



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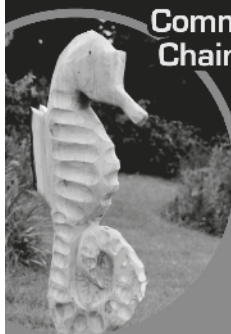
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individuals meet once a year for a few Christmas drinks and we'd be delighted to welcome you, and anyone else you think may be interested, as new 'members'.

We hope to see you on 19 December but, if you can't make it, have a very Merry Christmas.

Simon Moss

Wedmore Opera Burns Night

Wedmore Opera will be again hosting its very popular Burns Night on Saturday 24 January, 7.30pm, in Wedmore Village Hall

Come along to enjoy two-course haggis supper (vegetarian haggis available) prepared by our favourite local chef, Nick Armitage. There will also be a bar; a fundraising raffle for our next production; and musical entertainment from the Wedmore Opera chorus. Tickets are £26 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/wedmoreopera

Phyllida Shaw

Wedmore Community Bus – New Bus and 'Market-Day Special'

We have a new Wedmore Community Bus! Thanks to Somerset County Council we have replaced of 10-year-old bus for a newer, more comfortable, and ecofriendly version. Smaller, the new bus can be driven by anyone with a normal car licence which will help with recruiting and retaining our friendly volunteer drivers.



Lee Jones, SCC Transport Manager, handing the keys to Tim Flooks, our bus caretaker and driver.

The Wedmore Community Bus team is offering a new regular monthly bus service to Wells. Initially as a trial, this will run on the second Saturday of every month, to coincide with the regular Saturday market. The route will be via Theale and Godney, with pick-ups and drop-offs available around Wedmore and en route, for those who need them.

The dates for the first three months are 10 January, 14 February,

and 14 March. The service will leave Wedmore Car Park at 9.30am and drop off at the Market Place and the Bus Station. The return trip will leave the Bus Station at 12.15, picking up at the Market Place around 12.20, and returning to Wedmore by about 12.45. This is a trial, so your feedback will be important and future journey timings may be adjusted accordingly.

As with all our services, fares are kept low as the bus is financed by Somerset Council, and all our drivers are volunteers. The service is free for everyone with a

concessionary Bus Pass, except for the Bath and Cribbs Causeway services which are £2 for concessions. All services are free for children under 5 years old. For other adults, this service will be £3 for the return journey.

Please see the Community Bus schedules at the end of this magazine for further details of this and our other services to Bath, Cribbs Causeway, Taunton, Bridgwater, Weston-super-Mare, and Street.

Henry Parkinson

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare would like to thank very sincerely the Wedmore Real Ale Festival for their very generous donation of £2,000 to the Friends for the Hospice.

The donation will be used towards the purchase of two laptops for the Community nurses as the present ones have become unreliable, and the purchase of 20 chairs for the IPU for families to use.

New Inn Auction and Raffle Evening

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare would also like to sincerely thank Alex Hoare for staging this event, it was a great evening. I also wish to thank all those who contributed to the auction and raffle, and to my 'Best in the West team' for providing an excellent finger buffet.

A very big thank you to all those who attended and made bids and brought raffle tickets that raised an amazing amount of £5,455. This will be used towards the purchase of a patient recliner chair for the IPU.

This year has been the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Friends, and I would personally like to thank my 'Best in the West team' for all their hard work throughout the year. The Friends was formed by me to provide equipment for the In-Patient Unit (IPU), Day Care Centre, and Community Nurses.

It costs 6 million a year to run the Hospice and only 20% is contributed by the government. At present there are 61 patients on the Hospice Community Nurses list and 34 patients from the Wedmore area have been in the IPU.

Shirley Wederell

Chair of Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare

Warm in Wedmore is Back for 2026!

Following the success of the last 3 winters, Warm in Wedmore will return to the Masonic Hall in January and February on most Wednesdays and Thursdays starting on 7 January.

Village organisations and clubs will take it in turns to host a few hours of chat and company over coffee and cake, or a bowl of soup. There is no charge for this, but donations would be welcomed by the hosting clubs or organisations, either for their own funds or for those of other local charities. Please come along and enjoy a friendly chat, whilst supporting local Wedmore groups. See you there!

Sue Parsons

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The Green Wedmore Autumn Big Tidy Up

A sunny day and a good team of helpers added up to another successful October litter pick around and about the village.



Heaps of rubbish, but as the teams came back in it seemed, maybe for the first time, that there was perhaps a little less than usual? A big 'Bravo' to all of you who litter pick as you walk; the families and Post and Wicket team who keep the playing fields car park so clean; and to those of you who look after the areas around where you live.

David Hopkins

Sand Cider Festival Raises £1,500 for Wedmore Scouts

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to this year's Sand Cider Festival. Despite the weather not being at its best, the event ran smoothly thanks to the fantastic efforts of all involved – and the atmosphere was as lively as ever! Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our very kind sponsors, whose support makes the



festival possible year after year, as well as the amazing bands who kept the music flowing and the volunteers who gave their time and energy to keep everything running behind the scenes.

We're also delighted to share that, thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise £1,500 for Wedmore Scouts. A big thank you to the Scouts themselves, too, for all their help throughout the festival.

The Sand Cider Festival will be taking a fallow year in 2026, but we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back in style at the next festival in 2027.

Izzy Lee, Sand Cider Festival

Calling all Garden Grape Growers!

Having listened to an item on BBC Radio 4 this week about the Urban Wine Collective, it struck me that we might do something similar in Wedmore.

Richard Sharp began an urban wine collective after a holiday in France to a vineyard opened his eye to the power of community projects. Grapes from allotments, balconies, public gardens all across London are harvested and brought together to create a single unique wine.



We grow some pretty good grapes in our garden, which feed the local badger and an array of birds! But I have noticed that other villagers do the same (in my nosey wanderings in and around our lovely village). I wonder then, if any local, fellow grape growers might like to combine our fruits to make a Wedmore

Community Wine - not for financial gain but for the joy of sharing and learning a new skill?

If anyone is interested in a 2026 Community Wine - please do get in touch with Elaine Tilling by email at elaine.jtilling@gmail.com or by phone on 07904 146572

Elaine Tilling

Ethel Pople Deceased Charity

The late Ethel Pople, formerly of The Old Smithy, Cocklake, Wedmore, who died in 1978, left a trust under her Will for the assistance of the elderly and/or infirm of Cocklake, Clewer and Wedmore to be called 'The Ethel Pople Trust' in honour of 'Our Blessed Lady of Wedmore'. Each year the Trustees invite those who consider they may qualify for a benefit from the Trust to apply with a view to distribution of trust income between those applicants. The Trustees of the charity meet each year with a view to deciding how the distributions can be applied for the greater benefit of those entitled.

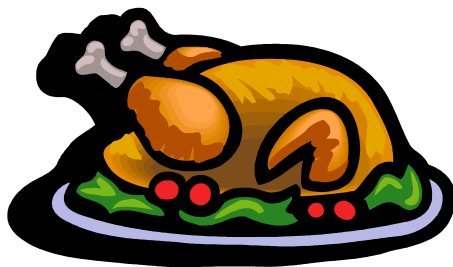
The Trustees of the Ethel Pople Trust Deceased Charity therefore invite written application from those who qualify under the terms of the Trust with a view to distribution of the trust income in or around December or January. Application letters should state briefly the basis on which the applicant qualifies i.e. whether by reason of age or infirmity and should include any other information relevant to the applicant's circumstances that they feel able to give. All applications will be treated in confidence. Please note that if you have applied successfully before and wish to apply this year then you will need to apply again to provide written confirmation that your circumstances have not changed.

The Trustees of the Charity will consider applications in or around December with a view to distribution of trust income in or around December or January. Applications should be addressed to the Ethel Pople Charity Trustees, John Hodge Solicitors, Unit 16, The Borough Mall, Wedmore BS28 4EB for the attention of Sara Anthony.

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Articles

Book Review:

'First in Line' by Judith Rose

Judith Rose is known to and well loved by many in our local area. A local girl, she went on to play an important part in a crucial moment in the life of The Church of England and became the first woman to hold a senior post in the Church. Now she has written an illuminating and very readable memoir that takes the reader from the Wedmore Young Farmers Show to crucial discussions in General Synod and to Rochester cathedral.

Judith moved to live in Wedmore when she was two years old and grew up in Cocklake. She went to Wedmore primary school and Sexey's at Blackford, when it was a grammar school, cycling the three miles each way via Crickham and Stoughton. She belonged to Wedmore Brownies, Guides and Young Farmers Club and attended St Mary's church. After leaving school she farmed in the area. When she was 21, she left the village to work in Cornwall.

In her mid-20's Judith felt the call of God to serve as a Lay Minister in the Church of England. This was long before it was possible for women to be ordained. In 1966, after two years theological training, she served in parishes in Swindon, Leeds, Bradford, and in Kent. During this time there was discussion and many debates about whether women should be ordained. Judith was involved in those issues as a member of General Synod, the Church of England's governing body, and was present when the decisive vote was taken to allow women to be ordained. She was among the first women to be ordained in 1994.

Two years later Judith was appointed as Archdeacon in the Diocese of Rochester, the first woman to hold such a post in the Church of England and for three years was the only woman Archdeacon. Before retiring Judith initiated a debate about the appointment of women as Bishops, so had a small part to play in a journey which has now led to the appointment of the first woman Archbishop of Canterbury.

Judith has returned to the area and now lives in Cheddar. The book entitled 'First in Line' is published by Kev-in Mayhew. It is available from the publishers or from Wells Cathedral Shop. If you would like a personally signed copy, please contact Judith at rose.gwyer@btinternet.com.

Her story begins here in Wedmore.



Revd. Richard Neill

What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Mon	1 to 24	Wedmore Living Advent Calendar	6.30pm	Across Wedmore
Tue	2	The Turnip Prize Award Ceremony	6.00pm	The New Inn
Fri	5	Christmas Concert at St Mary's	7.00pm	St Mary's Church
Sat	6	Wedmore Village Farm Christmas Market	11.00am to 4.00pm	Wedmore Village Farm
Tue	9	Women of Wedmore Christmas Social	7.00pm	Post and Wicket
Wed	10	Blackford Christmas Café	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Blackford Village Hall
		Wedmore Village Hall AGM	4.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall
		Wedmore by Lamplight - Crib Service and Procession	5.15pm	St Mary's Church
		Wedmore by Lamplight - Late Night Shopping	5.30pm to 8.30pm	The Borough
Fri	12	Mr Punch's Folk Club	8.00pm	Theale Village Hall
Sun	14	Theale Community Flim Club	7.00pm	Theale Village Hall
Wed	17	Club50 Christmas Lunch	12.30pm	Wedmore Golf Club
Fri	19	Wedmore Small Businesses Association AGM	3.00pm to late	The New Inn

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Alternate Mondays	Music in Mind	2.15pm to 3.00pm	Masonic Hall
2nd Tuesday	Wedmore Harvest Home Committee Meeting	8.00pm	The Post and Wicket
4th Tuesday	Wedmore Gardening Club	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Wednesday	Somewhere House Coffee and Chat	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Bluebird Café
2nd Wednesday	Blackford Café	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Blackford Village Hall
2nd and 4th Wednesday	Wedmore Probus	10.15am	Isle of Wedmore Golf Club
3rd Wednesday	Wedmore Parish Council Meeting	7.00pm	Parish Council Rooms
3rd Wednesday	Club50	2.30pm	Masonic Hall
2nd Thursday	Green Wedmore Meeting	7.30pm	Wedmore Village Farm
2nd and 4th Thursday	Mendip Rotary Club	7.00pm	The George Inn
4th Thursday (5th Thursday in January)	Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Friday	Wedmore Carers Group	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
1st, 3rd and 5th Friday	Mr Punch's Folk Club	8.00pm	Theale Village Hall
1st Saturday	St Mary's Coffee Shop	9.30am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's Church
2nd Saturday	Wedmore In Bloom Work Party	9.30am	Outside The George Inn
3rd Saturday	Theale Community Café	10.00am to 12.00 noon	Theale Village Hall

December 2025

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

Ladies Badminton	10.00am to 12.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Jean Windridge	01934 712046
Mah Jong	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Sue Kirley	07814 549040
Beavers	5.45pm to 6.45pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Bill Belshaw	01934 712438
Pilates with Anna MacGregor	6.00pm	Blackford Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	7.00pm	Blackford Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Bridge Club	7.00pm	Masonic Hall	Steve Pedrick	01934 712852
Scouts	7.15pm to 8.45pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com

TUESDAY

Little Lambs	9.15am to 11.15am	St Mary's Church	Heather Hector	01934 712478
Wedmore Men's Shed	9.30am to 12.00	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
Chair Yoga	9.45am	Masonic Hall	Jo Willis	07552 711101
Yoga for the body, breath and mind	10.00am to 11.15am	Wedmore Scout Hut	Kay Wensley	07584 374515
Tuesday Club	10.30am	Wedmore Village Hall	Lesley Nichols	01934 712045
Music Matters	2.30pm	via Zoom	mhc.dance4change@hotmail.co.uk	
Squirrels	5.15pm to 6.00pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Becca Newman	group-leader@wedmorescoutgroup.org.uk
Cubs	6.30pm to 7.45pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com
Pilates with Anna MacGregor - beginner / general class	6.10pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883
Yoga with Anna MacGregor	7.20pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Anna MacGregor	07587 703883

WEDNESDAY

Pilates	9.15am to 10.15am	Blackford Village Hall	Lucy	07813 913309
Piloga Fit	9.30am to 10.30am	Wedmore Village Hall	John Beasley	01749 672482
Pilates	10.30am to 11.30am	Blackford Village Hall	Lucy	07813 913309
Coffee with a View	10.30am to 12.00pm	Bagley Baptist Church		
Health Tai Chi	11.00am to 12.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall	John Beasley	01749 672482
Rainbows	4.30pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650
Brownies	6.15pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Karen Corfield	07899 730539
Guides	7.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Elaine Tilling	01934 713650

THURSDAY

Wedmore Dance Group	10.30am to 11.45pm	Wedmore Village Hall	Nikki Pryn	07519 630365
Wedmore Golf Club Bridge Club Section	2.00pm	Wedmore Golf Club	Colin Pinks	01934 712499
Wedmore Men's Shed	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Wedmore Village Farm	David Kirley	07535 441656
Cubs	6.30pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jacqui Redman	Jax.redman@outlook.com
Table Tennis at Theale	6.30pm to 8.00pm	Theale Village Hall	Dave Whitmarsh	01934 712620

FRIDAY

Tots and Tinies	9.00am	Wedmore First School	Sara Vincent	07986 244050
Wedmore Art Group	2.00pm	Wedmore Scout Hut	Jim Collett	01934 712663

Regular Features

Thought for the Month

I wonder if you will come across an angel today? Not the versions that we see on our Christmas cards and in stained glass windows, those winged and otherworldly communicators of beauty and truth, that would be news indeed and probably very scary; but a real live angel, flesh and blood.

What the word angel means is simply ‘messenger’. In the bible, angels are often depicted as those who carry God’s message to mortals. In particular they are those who carry his ‘good news’ or ‘gospel’ (the word we translate as gospel just means good news and is linked to the word evangelist or evangelism). So I wonder if there is someone who will be a bearer of good news, an angel, to you today. When we are bombarded through the media with so much bad news, those announcements of good news are very precious.

In the events surrounding Jesus’ birth, angels make many appearances. An angel appears to Mary, and to Joseph separately, to tell them about Jesus. There are the angels who sing to the shepherds. We read about how the wise men and Joseph are all warned by angels about Herod’s intentions. And the reason for such a sudden explosion of angelic appearances is that Jesus’ birth is above all ‘good news’, God’s guarantee of his love and care for humanity. As one man, who is likely himself to have known Jesus, the evangelist John, wrote, ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that all who believed in him would not perish but would have everlasting life’.

Through this time of Advent, as the sun continues to decline and the days become ever darker, I hope that you will be touched by an angel; I hope that you will hear good news; I hope that you will be a bearer of good news to someone else; I hope that amid all the craziness of the season you will hear afresh the message of the angels ‘I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people’; I hope...

Joy, Eddie, Tony, and I, thank you for all your good wishes and prayer over the past year. May you meet an angel today

Revd. Richard Neill

Tasty Morsels – Recipes for You

Peri Peri Chicken

Ingredients –

- 1 700g chicken breast crown
- 1 250ml jar of peri peri sauce
- 500g baby potatoes
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- Salad for serving



Method –

Place the chicken crown in a roasting dish and poke all over with a fork. Pour enough peri peri sauce over the crown to cover (there should be sauce left). Cover with foil and refrigerate for 1-2 hours or overnight.

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Preheat the oven to 190°C. Bake the chicken for 45min- 1 hour or until the internal temperature is 74°C.

After you place the chicken in the oven, wash the potatoes and put them into a small bowl. Mix them with 3 tbsp of the left-over peri peri sauce and the vegetable oil. When the chicken has 30 minutes left to bake, place the potatoes into the roasting dish surrounding the chicken breast.

Remove the chicken and potatoes from the oven. Carve the chicken and serve with the potatoes, salad, and any left-over peri peri sauce. Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

This Month in the Garden

Better sweep the chimney early this month to make Santa's downward slide a little easier (and cleaner) complete with Christmas parcels! Also buy supplies of carrots for his reindeers. Christmas lights will need checking as there's usually one or two bulbs needing replacing, and it's time to decide on a Christmas tree. The best ones are rooted trees in pots, and increasingly available nowadays, but everyone has their own preferences. There is a wider choice these days with pines and Abies along with the traditional Norway Spruce, and scent is an added bonus from the more modern trees. If you take care, rooted trees can be planted in the garden after Christmas and, if given a feed, will often regrow and be suitable for lifting and repotting next year. Alternatively, just leave it in the pot and keep watering and feeding well, ready for next year's display.

Thinking about a small Christmas project, why not create a display of succulents and small alpinas. This would make a lovely feature for the festive table and a unique talking point for your guests. The local garden centre has many including sempervivums and sedums. A spoonful of gravel topping will keep everything clean and tidy. Thinking of plants for Christmas, a scarlet poinsettia is a necessity these days, and very cost effective, just take care to avoid contact with the white sap should any leaves break off. Other house plant choices include azaleas and kalanchoe, both available in a range of colours. Oh, and I nearly forgot the Christmas cactus (Schlumbergera) in pink, white or red. This succulent plant is really a succulent, rather than a cactus, so it has no nasty thorns! It will need to be kept at a normal room temperature of 18 to 20C and given an occasional water spray, just to keep the humidity up. Don't forget to find those pots and bowls of hyacinth bulbs, it's time to bring them out into the light, as the roots will have developed now and it's time for the flower stems to develop. A cool spot is best, but light is the important requirement.

This is still the ideal time for planting new trees, shrubs, and even tulip bulbs, which may be reduced in price now but will be fine for planting early in December. Also remember that bare root hedging plants and roses are actually better planted now as the soil is still warm and moist. Don't forget the bird feed and check that your winter pots and tubs are all raised an inch or two to allow rain drainage, so your plants do not get waterlogged. Collect the last of the tree leaves to make that fantastic leaf mould to create your own high quality potting compost and, on a fine day, do a little pruning to keep shrubs looking neat and tidy.

The vegetable garden is still yielding plenty of produce, so de-leaf the brussels sprouts and review the winter cabbage, kale, carrots, parsnips and beetroot availability for the Christmas season. It's not too early to think about covering a rhubarb plant with an upturned tub which will force it into early growth for a tender treat in March. Whilst you do this why not lift and divide your spreading rhubarb plant? You can leave the root on the soil surface for a few weeks without harm before breaking the clump and replanting the roots into newly enriched soil.

This month the winter solstice on the 21 December marks the shortest day of the year, when many cultures celebrated the rebirth of the sun. Traditionally known as 'Yule', this term was recorded in Britain by the English monk Bede. Thus the church adopted this, and 25 December became the day of Christ's birth, and the ensuing days became twelve days of Christmas, ending with the visit to the crib of the Magi. So, models of the Magi should not appear at the crib until then (oops! – Ed). The traditional 'Yule' was a piece of oak or ash, lit on Christmas Day to protect the home from fire damage but, being 'chocolate people', we have now reimagined this as the delicious Christmas log cake.

Wishing you all a truly delicious, joyful and happy Christmas!

Tony Connell

Country Lane Walker

Hi everyone, just a few days ago I was driving at the top of Lascot Hill, with a car coming up the hill, so dipped my lights, and found myself right on top of a group of young folks walking up the hill with no hi-vis wear, they all had dark clothes on merged into the trees. I then noticed that only the last person was shining a torch – yes, the last person! That torch was not visible to me until that very moment, had there not been a car coming towards me I would 'maybe' have spotted them with full beam. I think there were around six of them, who could all have been maimed or killed; ad I had been driving faster, same thing. What chance does a driver have in seeing? What chance did these folk have? It was just a meter or two from a disaster.

Many years ago, near Allerton on the same road, someone was killed through wearing dark clothing with no light. We are coming up to the festive season. Please, please, please, let it be a merry time with much fun and high jinks especially for the young and not tragedy. So, do the right thing by wearing hi-vis clothing and show lights at the front and back of your group. I wear a very bright yellow insulated jacket at this time of year. This was purchased from Mole Valley Farmers at a very reasonable price. Also I carry a pen shaped ultra bright torch that clips on the pockets of trousers and jackets ordered online (or use your smartphone – ed). Flashing arm bands from Amazon or eBay with rechargeable batteries are also very cheap and effective. 'See and be seen', please don't take chances with 'hoping' you can be seen. It is not fair to yourselves, or your families, and not fair on the driver. All will be mortified with a loss of life or being maimed.

While I am at it. Please a request to all drivers to give a wide berth to all walkers, bike and horse riders. Unlike a vehicle, we all wobble and don't have the speed to



avoid traffic. Also, slow down some. Having a car coming at you 40 to 60 mph missing you by a foot or two is no joke. So, have a really good time over the festive season, doing all those crazy things us human beings do. Thinking about it, we are the only creatures on the planet who do such things. Let's all be safely bonkers; shake, rattle and roll; and may your kneecaps spin with delight!

And walking, Tai chi-ing, Chi kung-ing, humming, and now Nordic Pole Walking too! Someone said the other day, I look a 'professional walker' walking with my poles. Huh, get that!

As always, you can contact me on 01934 712404, 07976 288535, WhatsApp or at melvyn@gmx.co.uk Talk with me, you do it when we meet, do it here too!

Melvyn Firmager

Always be green, never be mean

(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.)

Poetry Corner

We are always looking for more, original, short, poems by local poets. If you have one you would like to share, then please email me at editorwedmorenews@gmail.com

Old Windmill

The higher the better away from the trees,
Sunset behind the evening breeze,
A rounded tower with tiles on the top,
Working away at the farmer's crop.
A beautiful view to open your eyes,
Four big arms reach up to the skies,
Churning inside each time it spins,
Using the natural power from natural winds,
It's not often you see one still,
Apart from a photo of an old windmill.

Michael Fox

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Olga Pippett and family would like to thank those that attended Jim's funeral and those that sent kind messages after his passing on the 27 August.

David Pippett

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

Please submit any letters by email to editorwedmorenews@gmail.com

Health and Wellbeing

Our Health and Wellbeing

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

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

This is how Andy Williams sung about Christmas in 1963. It's a joyous song, full of visions of a perfect festive season. Here are a few more of the lyrics. 'There'll be much mistletoeing, And hearts will be glowing, When loved ones are near.' 'When friends come to call, It's the hap-happiest season of all.' Those of us who are old enough will remember seeing Andy Williams on the television, dressed in a Christmas jumper sitting by an open fire, probably chestnuts a-roasting as well! If you want to refresh your memory of the words, use the link on the health and wellbeing website. For those of you who are too young to remember, this is a piece of nostalgic history.

At this time of year we see adverts on the television of happy families having fun! I expect this is what we all aspire to, and it can be such an enjoyable time to be with friends and family. Christmas is a time to be with those you love. However I am reminded of another song with lyrics by Stephen Stills. 'If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with', again, there is a link to the song on the health and wellbeing website. For many reasons it may not be possible to be with the people who you are close to, friends, family. Perhaps they are no longer with us or live miles away, there are many reasons for 'loved ones not to be near'. And so this is the time to be with other people!

Luckily, we have so many opportunities to connect with other people at the many events in Wedmore and surrounding areas. For example, Wedmore by Lamplight; the Living Advent Calendar; Warm in Wedmore; and special church services. At Bagley Church they will be holding festive events as well as their famous 'Coffee with a View' on 17 December, with carols and mince pies. See the Church Services section of this magazine for details of this and many other services and events over the festive season.

If you need transport or someone to go with, ask Wedmore Good Neighbours, they may be able to help. See their article in this section of the magazine for details on how to contact them. Perhaps if you are going to an event why not ask someone you know is by themselves to go with you? I'm sure we all try to be aware of people

who may be alone at this time of year. The ‘happy families’ ads and syrupy songs can make ‘being alone’ feel worse and for some people can lead to ‘feeling lonely’. So whether we are with family and friends or not, we all deserve to feel a bit festive at this time of the year! The health and wellbeing team and I wish you a joyous festive season with whoever you are with!

Support for people with dementia and their carers in Wedmore

Do you care for or support a person living 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 10.00am and 12.00 noon, next meeting on 5 December. If you want to find out more about the Memories Workshops and Carers’ Group, phone HeadsUp on 01749 670667 or email wedmorecarers@yahoo.com If you need help with funding, just ask as help may be available.



Coffee and a chat

For general support with mental wellbeing Somewhere House, a charity based in Burnham, visits The Bluebird Café in Wedmore on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. They offer an opportunity to meet and chat. For more information contact them on 01278 780769

For easy links to all the websites and documents referenced, or to find out how to sign up to take part in the research programmes, please go to www.whawb.co.uk and go to the Wedmore News item for December 2025. You can also contact Cathy Butterworth on 01934 806266 or by email at cb@theconsultant.org

Cathy Butterworth

Wedmore Good Neighbours and the Festive Season

Christmas is a time of celebration, socialising and joy. Amidst all the jollity, however, it's easy to forget there will be a few who may be feeling a bit alone and left out. Our volunteers regularly visit people, in their own homes, to provide some company over a cuppa.

Volunteers are also available to give lifts for those that would like to attend local clubs and events, including the Warm in Wedmore get-togethers at the Masonic Hall. These will take place most Wednesdays and Thursdays, during January and February, from 10.30am to 2.00pm.

What other things can we help with at this busy time of year? Maybe you are unwell and need your dog walking? Want somebody to take your Christmas cards to the Post Office? Got a prescription you'd like collecting from the chemist? Have some items that need taking to the recycling centre? Every month the team also provides local people with lifts to and from medical appointments, such as visits to the doctor's surgery, a hospital or for vaccinations. As taxis can be very expensive this is proving to be a very worthwhile and welcome service.

Do I have to pay? No, Wedmore Good Neighbours is operated by volunteers and is free to use. However, the group does have running costs – insurance, petrol expenses, as well as the vetting and training of volunteers (all are DBS checked). So, if you do

use the service and want to make a donation, this is always very welcome - just talk to your volunteer about this.

Can I become a volunteer? Yes! Demand for the group's services has been steadily increasing so if you'd like to become a volunteer, you'd be most welcome! Call 01934 806299 and leave a message – we'll be in touch. Whatever your request, or you would like to volunteer, 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! Also, visit the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website at www.whawb.co.uk/gns for more information.

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Theale Village Hall Events

Please join us for Carols in the orchard, followed by Green Man bar on 11 December from 6.00pm.

Gill Crane

Wedmore Footpaths Group Successes in 2025

Wedmore Footpaths Group was formed when Women of Wedmore walkers found many of the paths around the village were difficult to find because of overgrown paths, fallen tree branches, and missing signage, plus many stiles were in urgent need of repair. Naively the group thought it could fix things but soon realised it would be a bit more complicated; lots of bureaucracy ensued with form filling, building relationships, research into land ownership, and logging faults. Despite all the challenges, the group has many successes to share with the Wedmore community.

The group's achievements include: Two of the Six 'Walks Around Wedmore' (Walks 1 and 4) have been updated, re-written, published, and most problems along the routes fixed. Work is well underway on updating and fixing problems on the remaining four walks. You can find the updates to the walking guide on the Isle of Wedmore website and on the village notice boards. All volunteers are now insured. Many landowners are known and are being very helpful and supportive with the upgrades to the footpath network. The group has worked through legislation and regulations to identify where responsibility lies, and the standards required for replacements and repairs to signage, stiles and gates. The Men's Shed is working with the group to carry out work along the paths supported by established repair teams from local Ramblers groups.

The Wedmore Footpaths Group is extremely grateful for funding contributions from Wedmore Community Power, Wedmore Beer Festival, and Women of Wedmore.

We hope to see you out on the paths around the village; there's some wonderful scenery to enjoy! Thinking ahead to next year the group is exploring ideas for a Walking Festival. If you would like to volunteer or have ideas for promoting walking, please do get in touch at wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com

Wedmore Footpaths Group

(611)



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Wedmore Tuesday Club



This month we helped Sheila Duckett celebrate her birthday. Her birthday cake was baked by Christine Raphael and Sheila was also given a card and present. We all sang 'Happy Birthday' and toasted her special day with a glass of sherry.



Lots of planning is now in the pipeline for the next two months. First will be a visit to Hillier Garden Centre for lunch and a bit of Christmas shopping! Then on to our Christmas party, which this year will be at The Duck at Burtle. We will have a big function room with lovely log burner; an excellent stage for our entertainment, which always includes a Christmas singalong, jokes, comedy sketches; a comic nativity play; and our special guest, Father Christmas. Our members love this event, and all receive a card, Christmas present, and a free raffle ticket for one of three big Christmas hampers.

Our helpers really find it rewarding to organise this weekly get together for our members. We love seeing our members having a good time, especially the weekly quiz which keeps their brains active. Would you like to be a helper in the kitchen or in the hall? we could do with extra help in both areas from time-to-time. We are a friendly group, so why not just pop in for an hour or so and see what you think. If you are interested in becoming a helper, then please contact Sue Worrall on 07748 131413; Yvonne Hutchison on 01934 712729 or 07933 135982; or Graham Whitcombe on 01934 712916 or 07589 500545.

Graham Whitcombe

Wedmore Men's Shed

In October we had the first of our autumn and winter series of Monday Night Men's Shed presentations at the Bluebird, where Keith Boulnois gave us a most informative talk about his life in the sheep shearing business. It was interesting to hear about the different types and current breeds of sheep, as well as the struggles farmers have to make sheep finances work.

One of our longest running projects is building a boat. There has been an immense amount of work gone into this sizeable project and the boat is now starting to take shape. We are hopeful that a launch is now on the horizon!



Boat is making progress

A massive thanks to Wedmore Real Ale Festival who kindly awarded us a grant of £1,500 from this year's festival. This will enable us to develop more of our facilities.

The Men's Shed is a collection point for Tools With A Mission (TWAM). We send tools to them every couple of months. TWAM are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, and sorts them into trade tool kits for livelihood creation. They then supply over 500 organisations in the UK and sub-Saharan Africa. These tools equip individuals with the skills needed to completely transform their lives and communities.



WRAF presentations

TWAM is quite specific about what tools they require, so if you have anything to donate, please do not bring items up to the Shed without first checking that they are needed, otherwise we just end up being a dumping ground for unwanted stuff, which takes time and money to dispose of. Please contact us first by email.

Interested in getting involved? We are 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 or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am or Thursdays

2.30pm to 4.30pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm off Plud Street. Please come along and find out what we are all about, you are more than welcome.

Wedmore Men's Shed

Women of Wedmore WI

Our sterling social team stepped up at the last minute when the speaker was unable to attend our October Women of Wedmore meeting. Lynda did a wonderful job with her general knowledge quiz. It was obvious from the laughter and chat in the room that everyone enjoyed the evening. How many taste buds does the average human tongue have? What is a group of pandas called? These were just two of the questions that got our little grey cells working.

We were also given a preview of what to expect at Women of Wedmore meetings in 2026. Plans include: a board games night; instructions on basic First Aid; and an Easter themed craft evening. Members were recently asked for their thoughts on what they would like to do at WI, as well as the type of speakers they would like to hear from, and future activities are being planned from the feedback received.

For those Isle of Wedmore News readers still wondering about the answers to the questions above: The average human tongue has 2,000 to 10,000 taste buds; and a group of pandas is called 'an embarrassment'.

The next Women of Wedmore WI meeting is on Tuesday 9 December. Members will enjoy a Christmas social and craft activities. The meeting starts at 7.00pm, upstairs in the Post and Wicket. Please note: the date has been arranged to avoid a clash with Wedmore by Lamplight the following evening. For more information about WoW please email us at wedmorewi@outlook.com

Sarah Ford

Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be on 14 December, starting at 7.00pm and will feature a Christmas movie. New members are always welcome, and temporary membership is available, please phone for further details on 07855 297861.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore in Bloom

We begin by giving our sincere thanks to the Wedmore Real Ale Festival for their very kind and generous donation to WIB. The presentation event hosted by The Bluebird was a truly heartwarming evening.

WIB have planted 300 daffodil bulbs in the Wedmore First School roadside bank. The tree roots made the task interesting, but we did it! Hoping for a cheery display in the Spring for all to enjoy.

We are holding our short AGM followed by a hearty supper and entertainment on the evening of Friday 30 January in the Masonic Hall. This year we are thrilled to have a ukelele band providing our after-meal entertainment. Further details to be given next month, or contact wedmoreinbloom@gmail.com

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy 2026





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Note that our regular monthly event takes place on the second Saturday of each month, 9.30am outside The George Inn. Please contact wedmoreinbloom@gmail.com for further information.

Kay Adams

Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club

Notable scores of 65% or more were achieved in October club sessions by Gary Langdale and Ray Harper 70%, Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood 69.8%, Brian Ladd and Chris Loughlin 67.5%, Geoff Davies and Paul St Quintin 67.5%, Jennifer Panayiotou and Marilyn Dykes 67.5%, Janice Young and Marilyn Dykes 66.7%, John Moore and Pam Prentice 66%, Brian Crosby and Mike Smith 65% and Derek Essen and Maria Constantinidou 65%.

The month has been a month of big hands. I actually bid and made 7NT twice on the same day but, in the hand below, no pair bid the laydown 7 spades. It demonstrates why you should play Key Card Blackwood (or Roman Key Card Blackwood) where you count your aces and the king of trumps in your response to 4NT and do not count it in your response to 5NT king ask. After East opens one spade West is immediately thinking about a slam but they don't have the king of spades. Playing Blackwood you can only determine that partner has one ace and two kings (using 5NT). You could be missing the king of trumps! Playing Key Card Blackwood, you know immediately after your 4NT bid that partner has one ace plus the king of trumps and you should consider a grand slam.

♠ J75
♥ 75
♦ QT643
♣ T75

♠ KT932
♥ Q6
♦ 92
♣ AKQ4

♠
♥ J9432
♦ KJ5
♣ J9832

♠ AQ864
♥ AKT8
♦ A87
♣ 6

With no opposition bidding, we bid 1S – 2NT – 4S – 4NT – 5H. Playing five card majors, 1S is 5 cards or more, 2NT is Jacoby agreeing spades and forcing to game. My 4S showed a minimum opener <15 points with no singleton or void and 5H showed two key cards which must be the ace of clubs and the king of spades. Seeing only nine immediate tricks, and with me having shown a minimum hand, partner settled for bidding the small slam.

Playing 5-card majors, however, partner can work out that I have two doubletons. With 5332 shape I would have opened 1NT, with 12 to 14 points, and passed with fewer. With no singleton or void I must be 5422, 6322 or the

unlikely 7222. If one of these doubletons is hearts, then we have two ruffs and if I have two kings (only 13 points) we have 13 tricks. Bidding 5NT to ask for kings costs nothing but more importantly, it involves West in the decision since it guarantees to partner that all key cards are held which may allow them to bid the grand slam. In this case, with only one extra king shown, Jack, my bridge playing program bids 7 spades, even if East only bid 6 spades. West now knows that East is considering a grand slam

and, with an absolute maximum for his bidding so far, could press on to bid the grand slam, confident that there are no missing key cards.

The club welcomes new players and visitors. See www.bridgewebs.com/cheddarandwedmore for details of our session times and places. If you are a rubber bridge player, and would like an introduction to duplicate bridge, we can come to your rubber bridge group and show you how it all works. If you have any bridge-related questions, I'd love to hear from you. Contact me through my Bridge Nerd blog at www.profdavies.co.uk

Geoff Davies

Wedmore Gardening Club

As we near the end of another successful Gardening Club year, we celebrate with our members-only Christmas Party on Tuesday 2 December. A hot meal will be served along with a choice of delicious puddings. Please put your name down if you'd like to come as numbers are limited.

Caradoc Doy's October talk 'Plants Behaving Badly' was really entertaining. He talked about a number of well-known troublesome plants. Eucalyptus, which grows far too big for the average suburban garden; Anemone Japonica and Erigeron Karvinskianus, which, although very pretty, do try to take over; and he warned against Bamboo! A really good evening.

Sue Burton has put together a super, varied, programme for 2026. The first meeting on Tuesday 27 January will begin with a short AGM. Subscriptions are due and will remain at £15 single and £25 a couple. Liz Anderson will then be giving a talk entitled 'Flower Farming on a Whim'. We all know that Liz is a superb cellist, but she also has real talent and imagination with flowers, and this talk will definitely be worth coming out for on a dark evening. As always members and guests are made most welcome. Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall and begin at 7.30.

All that remains is to wish members and friends a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jean Windridge

Isle of Wedmore Society

Our October meeting attracted a wide audience of members and visitors all with an interest in railways, especially our local Wells Railways which have, sadly, now gone. Our speaker was the most enthusiastic Colin Price from the Wells Railway Fraternity, a thriving club you may wish to join. Colin's detailed knowledge and extensive collection of original photographs of The Railways of Wells kept us enthralled for over an hour.

The railways in question were planned and built in the mid-19th century, when railway mania took over following the opening of the historic Manchester to Liverpool line. Money was invested and money made. An Act of Parliament was required before any proposal was given permission, but once that was in place literally full steam ahead. Colin had maps showing the planning of routes which took little account of existing farms, buildings or homes. Anything deemed in the way, went. The only time the line was re-drawn was if the new railway threatened to come too close to the investors' large houses!



He told us about the three local lines, now all gone, which connected Wells to Frome, Yatton and Highbridge and all built by different companies. The Somerset Central, later to be The Somerset and Dorset line, ran from Highbridge into Wells via Glastonbury. The East Somerset Railway ran from Frome via Shepton Mallet into Wells. And the Cheddar Valley Line went from Yatton into Wells and became well known as The Strawberry Line. All three lines terminated in Wells around a re-developed Priory Street, each with their own stations but within walking distance of each other, (think Lidl, Tincknell and the Tucker Street Vet's in today's world) before all the lines were taken over by The Great Western Railway and linked, then finally closed.

Colin was able to 'take us down all the lines' using his fantastic collection of photos to show us the original stations and engine houses which had been so carefully built and maintained but have now mostly disappeared. Some of these stations have been retained and restored, Cranmore is a beautiful case in point and the Sandford and Banwell Station is well worth a visit. Yatton and Highbridge are still there, of course, in use on the mainlines. The rest are gone or nearly gone. Axbridge Station could be used, but the pretty Congresbury Station is derelict, and is completely covered in undergrowth, like a Sleeping Beauty castle. Many well-crafted stone bridges remain over what are now cycle tracks and footpaths as reminders of what was once a thriving network taking coal, stone, strawberries, and passengers out of Somerset to other areas of Britain and beyond. How about a day trip to Cherbourg for a mere 7s/6d? (£120 in today's money). Possible by train, apparently, in 1865.

At our November meeting the members enjoyed wine and mince pies as a pre-Christmas treat and we now break until 29 January for our AGM and a talk by a club member, Paul Roberts, on the Finger Posts Around Wedmore. Small, but fascinating and useful objects. Please note that this meeting falls on the 5th Thursday in January not our usual 4th.

The club wishes you all a Happy Christmas. Thank you for your support this year and we look forward to seeing all our members and many new ones in 2026. For further information please contact the secretary, Jean Gregory, by email at secretaryiows@btinternet.com

Jean Gregory

Mr Punch's Folk Club

The last folk club session of the year will be held on Friday 12 December from 8.00pm, and will be our Christmas session, including mince pies and crackers! All are welcome, entry is £3, bring you own Christmas cheer.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Dance Group

Wedmore Dance Group meets on Thursday mornings during term time from 10.30am to 11.45am in Wedmore Village Hall. Our autumn term runs until 11 December. This friendly, lively, class is open to all, and we would like to offer you a free taster session, just pop along! After your free taster the fee is £7 for each session that you attend – no need to book in advance. We charge a termly membership fee of £10. For more information, please contact Nikki at nikipryn@gmail.com



Wedmore Dance Group

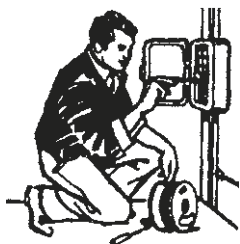
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Wedmore Opera Goers

We are now being asked to pay for the seats for The Flying Dutchman even though it is not until 19 April 2026, so we need to know very soon if you would like to come. The cost at the moment is £65 for the theatre and the coach, but this will rise considerably nearer the time because the theatres prices rise. We leave Wedmore at 11.30am in time to have lunch in Cardiff somewhere around the bay before the performance at 4.00pm, and on the return journey light refreshments are distributed so we hope this makes a special day out.

Matthew Bournes ballet for next Spring will be his exciting version of Red Shoes on 5 March 2026. The cost for this, at the moment, is £54 for the coach and the theatre.

All the prices above are per person including tickets and coach transport. Please email suzannemetters@hotmail.com if you are interested in any of our events.

Suzanne Metters

Club50

Unbelievably, it's nearly time for our Christmas lunch, which will be held at Wedmore Golf Club on Wednesday 17 December, meeting at 12.30pm and sitting down for lunch at 1.00pm. Please ring Heather on 01934 712216 if you would like to come and haven't already put your name on the list. The cost for the 2-course lunch is £26.50.

We have a full programme of meetings and coach trips planned for 2026. The trips start in May with a visit to Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire. We are going to hire a smaller coach next year as costs continue to climb, and it is sometimes difficult to fill the seats. Baker Dolphin now have a 34-seater coach which we will use. We will stick to our charge of £25 for members and £28 for guests.

The January meeting is in The Masonic Hall at 2.30pm. We will have a quiz plus a talk by Hazel Hudson on 'Baby Farming in Wedmore'. This is followed by tea and cake.

A reminder that Club50 is a social club open to everyone. Membership starts in January, but guests are always welcome to come and try it out. The annual subscription of £5 and refreshments are £3 per meeting. We are a friendly group and welcome new members. For further details ring Andrea on 01934 712161 or Heather on 01934 712216

Andrea West

St Mary's Church 100 Club

Many congratulations to Louis and Alison Crooks and Sue Smith, the winners of the 100 Club draw for November.

Liz Henderson

News and Events from Outside the Parish

Wells Cathedral Vicars' Close Project

Over the next three years, as part of the Vicars' Close Project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we're running an exciting new programme packed with opportunities for our local community to get involved, try new things, and get creative.

We're really excited to share the first activities kicking off early next year: Early Career Creatives - 2 paid training spots for young people aged 18-25; Free Singing Workshops - for community choirs, led by an amazing local professional composer; Free Creativity Workshops - perfect for local groups who'd like to have a go at something new and get creative; Community Consultation Groups - a chance to share your ideas and feedback on our plans (with a thank-you payment for your time). Further information can be found on the Wells Cathedral website at www.wellscathedral.org.uk

The Vicars' Close Team

Cheddar Arts @ King's Theatre

Cheddar Arts autumn season of films concludes on Friday 5 December with 'The Penguin Lessons', starring Steve Coogan and Jonathan Pryce.

British teacher Tom Michell takes a job in Argentina in 1976, and finds his life transformed when, during a holiday in Uruguay, he rescues a penguin from an oil slick on the beach. A quirky true story.

No online bookings, tickets are available on the door and are cash payment only. The doors of Kings Theatre at the Kings of Wessex School open at 6.45pm and performances begin at 7.30pm.

Jan Rance

Henton and District Garden Club

Come and join us on 10 December in Henton Village Hall for a chance to catch up with friends. Our guest speaker, Myra Cox, will be giving a wonderful demonstration of Christmas cracker fun with flower decorations and how to make the best use of garden material to enhance your home over the festive season. There will also be tips on conditioning arrangements and the elements and principles of flower arrangements. Myra is an experienced creator of seasonal decorations who has taught her floral art at many garden clubs.

Doors will open at 6.30pm and there will be a glass of prosecco or other wine and some festive food before the demonstration starts at 7.30pm. There will be a seasonal raffle. All are welcome, admission for members is free while visitors or guests will be £5. For more information either call Sue Thorne on 01749 674767 or visit our website at www.hentongardenclub.weebly.com

Susie Spragg

A Christmas Concert by the Mendip Male Voice Choir

Come and enjoy some Christmas magic as the Mendip Male Voice Choir bring you a seasonal offering of beautiful songs. The concert will be held in Henton Village Hall on 6 December at 7.00pm.

For tickets, available at £12.50, please contact Viv Chalk on WhatsApp 07445808079, or vivianchalk@icloud.com. There will be a cash/card bar, and all proceeds will go to Christ Church Henton Revitalising fund.

Ian Tinsley

Cheddar Vale Lions

Cheddar Vale Lions are running their Christmas Raffle again this year. Tickets are available online, details on our website, or by purchasing from the Lions when they are out and about at the Festive nights around the villages. Tickets are only £1, and proceeds will go towards



our work in the community. We have some fantastic prizes again this year with a beautiful handmade quilt, two food hampers, a basket of fruit, some meal vouchers and several other prizes. The draw will take place on Saturday 20 December and you can follow it on Facebook as it will be live streamed.

The Tree of Light Dedication ceremony will take place on Monday 8 December outside the Bath Arms in Cheddar at 6.30pm. It is not too late to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one – just go to our website cheddarvalelions.org.uk or email us information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk and ask for a form.

Cheddar Vale Lions Club will be launching the annual Tree Of Light at the beginning of November. The Tree of Light gives members of the local community the chance to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one. The project is in its thirteenth year and has been well supported.

The dedication service and lighting ceremony will take place at the Bath Arms terrace on Monday 8 December, from 6.30pm. We are very grateful to the Bath Arms for their support over the past few years. The names of those remembered will be placed on a board beside the large outdoor Christmas Tree. Christmas can be a sad time as we remember those who are no longer with us, it has been an opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones, especially at Christmas time when families come together. A replica tree, hung with stars depicting the names of all those dedicated during the service, will be displayed in the window of Woodbury Insurance, opposite the Bath Arms.

Tree of Light is a public service that sponsors, friends and family can attend. The dedication will be live streamed and available online via Facebook. All sponsors receive a Memory card bearing the name/s of their loved ones. Please note that any changes to these arrangements will be posted on Facebook or refer to the club's website details below. Donations can be made by downloading a form from our website, via the QR code, or via email.

Lion Clubs identify needs within the community and work together to fulfil those needs. This Lions club project benefits the community with all proceeds used to serve the Cheddar Valley area. Lion members thank everyone who has contributed to this project over the last 13 years, as it is truly helping Lions make a difference.



The Cheddar Vale Lions Club meets on 2nd Thursday of each month at the Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church Meeting Room, Towntown. For more information or to get involved with the Cheddar Vale Lions Club, please contact Lion Alan Sanderson via email at alan.sanderson@cheddarvalelions.org.uk or visit our website at www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk

Theresa Warrell

Interested in Scottish Country Dance?

The U3A organises a Scottish Country Dance Group at Axbridge Town Hall on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am. For further details please contact Marion Warren-Smith on 01934 712904 or via email at cdws@me.com

Marion Warren-Smith



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December at 12.00pm in Shipham Village Hall where we will be joined by Shipham First School who will entertain us with some seasonal songs.

Your £6.00 lunch (under 5's are free) will be a selection of homemade soup, locally baked bread, cheddar cheese, pickle, mince pies and tea or coffee accompanied by crackers and a Christmas quiz! All profits go to the Save the Children charity.

Ian Firth

Whist Drive in Draycott

A whist drive is held every Monday at the Draycott Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. New members are welcome. Please contact Lance on 01934 782711 for more information.

Lance Binning

The Warm Spot, Axbridge

'The Warm Spot' takes place every Monday from 10.30am to 2.00pm 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.

Yvonne Brown

Cheddar Valley u3a

Cheddar Valley U3A put on a splendid buffet lunch to thank those of their members who lead the impressive array of different interest groups that contribute so much to the lives of the 500 members.

There are 45 groups offering a remarkable range of activities to choose from. You can keep active physically with various sports, walking and dancing and keep your mind active with languages, reading, or the study of history or philosophy. If your inclination is artistic or creative, there is a whole range of activities. You can join others for a lunch or a day out. There is even a rock band!

All these opportunities can only thrive with the time and energy given by the volunteers who lead these groups. So it feels right that once a year they are brought together and thanked on behalf of all the members. If you are retired and this sounds too good to miss, why not drop in to the Cheddar Parish Hall between 10.00am and 11.30am on the third Thursday of the month, you will be very welcome. You can also find out about Cheddar Valley U3A at www.cheddar-valley.u3asite.uk



u3a

Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

The November Branch General Meeting included a presentation by our new Australian Member Brian Smith entitled 'Ged Ay All' covering his life in the RAAF and beyond. This was followed by a General Meeting that discussed 'Continuity Planning' for the Branch, feedback on recent events, a report on the Association Annual Conference, events for



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The charity that supports the RAF family

the rest of 2025 and an outline programme for 2026.

On 6 November Paul and Suzanne Rolfe, of the Ad Astra Cider Farm, ran a Quiz Night in aid of the Royal Air Forces Association at the Cider Barn, Stone Allerton. The Branch entered a team of six, while several members also attended separately.



It was a fun evening, ably supported by the wonderful Ad Astra Ciders. The funds raised will contribute to the 2025 'RAFA Wings Appeal'.

The Branch Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday 13 December at 12.15pm at Wells Golf Club. This will be a formal Christmas lunch when members will be offered a drink on arrival, a choice of a two or three Course lunch (to be chosen in advance by 8 December please) and ending with coffee and port for the Loyal Toast. Between courses members will be offered some novelty Christmas amusements plus there will be a multi-prize Christmas Raffle.

The first Branch meeting of 2026 will be on Monday 5 January at 11.00am at Wells Golf Club. There will be a presentation by a speaker followed by discussion about the Branch's plans for 2026 activities.

For information about any of these events, please contact the Branch via email at rafa.midsomerset@gmail.com or phone the Secretary on 01458 224057.

Paul Ashmore

RNLI Mendip Branch

Fundraising



The Branch held a RNLI Winscombe Folk Night in the Winscombe Church Centre organised by James Barattini. An audience of around 50 enjoyed a wonderful evening of folk music by Jon Wilks that raised £406 for Branch funds.

The Branch celebrated its inaugural Trafalgar Night on 21 October at Mendip Spring Golf and Country Club. Our Guest Speaker Mark Dowie CBE the former CEO of the RNLI gave an interesting

overview of his involvement with the RNLI starting with his role at Salcombe Lifeboat Station followed by leading the organisation as CEO through the Covid pandemic, the controversy of the Channel migrant rescues, and the difficult economic times caused by the Ukraine war and fuel costs. Although the accounts for the event are not yet finalised, it is clear the profit will be in excess of £1,000, a good result for a first effort. Mendip Springs has been booked for a repeat event in 2026.

Our pop-up sale in October included larger items that were donated, RNLI Christmas cards; jigsaws; Christmas stocking fillers; Christmas cakes and puddings; spring bulbs; Chris's tools and domestic items; a multi-prize Christmas raffle and Refreshments.

On 22 November the Branch presented a concert by the folk trio 'Grannie's Attic' in St James' Church Centre. The concert was organised by James Barattini as part of his 'Winscombe Folk' series. The concert was a return visit by Grannie's Attic who secured a strong following after their previous visit. It was a pleasure to welcome back Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne (melodeon, Anglo-concertina, vocals), George Sansome (guitar, vocals) and Lewis Wood (violin, vocals).

Sadly, the Reindeer Run had to be cancelled due to lack of preparation time and over commitment of the Branch Committee.

RNLI Mendip Branch is pleased to announce that three separate Tesco Supermarkets have authorised RNLI Bucket Collections in their stores during December between 9.30am and 5.00pm. On Saturday 6 December we will be at the Tesco Wells Store; Friday 12 December we will be in the Tesco Nailsea Store and, on Christmas Eve we will have our traditional visit to the Tesco Shepton Mallet Store complete with a supply of carrots from 'Stormy Sonny' to give to the reindeer that evening!

Once again, Vobster Quay will be hosting their charity Santa scuba diving event to raise money for the RNLI and Help for Heroes. Their members will be strapping on fluffy white beards and squeezing into poorly-fitting Santa suits to hit the water en masse in an effort to raise money for these two very deserving charities. RNLI Mendip members will be in attendance supported by Stormy Reindeer and Stormy

The first Branch event of 2026 will be our annual Super Quiz on Saturday 31 January in Shipham Village Hall. The quiz will be for teams of six and cost £12.50 per head, or £75 per team. This includes the usual mega ploughman's supper, a bar and a multi-prize raffle. doors will open at 7.00pm and the quiz will begin at 7.30pm. Contact Tina Joyce by e-mail to meejlfh@gmail.com or phone 01934 842304 for more details

October Shouts

In October there were 7 'Shouts' between three of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Burnham-on-Sea – 1, Portishead – 2, Weston-super-Mare – 6).

On Wednesday 16 October, the Weston D-class lifeboat was launched at 7.34pm after a police report to conduct a search for a missing person in the Brean Down area, while the Burnham crews were tasked at 7.50pm to assist on the Brean side of the Down. Burnham-on-Sea's Atlantic 85 lifeboat was launched, closely followed by the Burnham's D-class lifeboat. The launch was around 3 hours before low water and use of the D-class potentially enhanced the ability to search closer to the shore. All lifeboat crews were stood down after police on shore had located the casualty, safe and well.

Paul Ashmore



www.wedmoregolfclub.com

Isle of Wedmore Golf Club

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Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Golf Club

October saw the ending of the dry summer and the move to more autumnal weather. Congratulations were due to all those who braved the gales on the first Saturday in the Monthly Medal. There were 39 who set out in the gale but with only 33 finishing. Best scores came in Division 2 with Bill Lander scoring a nett 75. Best gross scores were in Division 1 with Rich Vowles finishing first with a nett 76, gross 83, although runner-up Rich Macarthur was round in 82 which after handicap, however, gave him a score of 77. Two Ladies managed to complete the course with Trish Major on 83 just beating Mandy Vearncombe.



Rob and Steve Major on the left, winners of the Daily Mail qualifier with 35 points, alongside playing partners Bill Lander and Mike Garbutt.

It was a busy week for the Ladies. On the final day of September the annual match between Ladies and Seniors for the Friendly Bowl took place with the Ladies being friendliest and allowing the Seniors a comfortable win. Then on Thursday they were back competing for the Olive Bowl. This went to Bev Broad; 5 points clear on 39 stableford points. Claire Biggs won Division 2 on 34. A tight finish in Division 3 saw Sue Griffiths win by one point on 37.

The following Monday, 90 Seniors were on the course before 9.00am for the Martin Bull Trophy. Dave Bradshaw won with an impressive 41 points 3 ahead of Rich Noke with Mike Smith taking the over-75 prize on 35. First place in Division 1 went to Mike Garbutt on 37 ahead of David Crew. Ian Robson was a single point better than Charles Woodard in Division 2 and Clive Lewington took Division 3. Division 4 went to John Cutter.

Just down to the two competitions the following week, kicking off with the Seniors Medal on Monday. Scoring was good but not spectacular. Tim Harris was low score of the day, his round of 71 equating to a gross 76 and giving him first place in Division 1. Steve Caine set the pace in Division 2 with a nett 67. Closest finish came in Division 3 with John Sims scoring 70 to win by a single shot from a group of 3 players all on 71. Barry Royal was a very clear winner of Division 4, equalling the best score of the day with a nett 67.

The Ladies played their monthly Medal the following week and scores were generally quite good. Best of all was Jenny Brown with a 2 under par 70 to win Division

2 by six shots. Ladies Captain Fran McMillan had another good week, winning Division one with a level par 72. Players in Division 3 struggled a little more but a win is a win, and this went to Val Webber on countback from Debbie Monks after both scored 80.

That Saturday saw the end of the dry weather, but the early starters avoided some of the rain and perhaps got the best of the weather. This particularly seemed true in Division 2 with early risers the only players under handicap on the day with Jason Harvey winning by scoring 38 points. A close finish in Division 1 saw Joseph Barlow with 34 points win by a single shot from Steve Plant. Closest finish was in Division 3, won by Jonathan Martin with 36 points, just one better than Andrew Bertenshaw who beat Paul Shipway on countback. Only 2 Ladies took on the weather with Mandy Vearncombe scoring a more than respectable 32 points.

The Seniors played their monthly Stableford the following week. Charlie Woodard won Division 2 by a clear 2 points with 40 points, best score of the day. Steve Plant scored 37 to win Division 1. Gary Cutter was another to win with 37 points, this time in Division 3. James Robertson was the third player to win on 37, this time in Division 4.

The Ladies played a flag competition with teams of 3 putting a flag on the course when they had used up all their handicap shots. The rain for them came later in the round which was probably why none of the teams wanted to go beyond the seventeenth green. This was where the winning team of June Smith, Claire Biggs and Val Webber.

Tony Biggs

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

The annual Outdoor Bowls Finals Weekend at the Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club represents the culmination of a summer of knockout matches of eleven different disciplines. In fact it is the high point of the outdoor season and this year the weather had a major part to play. Day one was played in warm, beautiful, sunshine while day two was unfortunately quite the opposite, being persistent, torrential, rain requiring a delayed start and a waterlogged green at the outset with difficult conditions throughout the day. However, despite this, all matches were completed, and huge plaudits go to all who took part.



President Pam presents the Steve Young trophy to (left to right) Peter Gower, Rob Salway and Honor Buck, winners of the Monday night triples.

In the men's 4-woods singles, newcomer Matt Bullock triumphed over hugely experienced Ron Barron and in the ladies 4-woods singles county bowler Suzi Coles defeated Jo-anne Bradley. In the open 4-woods singles Ray Newell edged out Terry Simpson while, in the veteran's singles, Dave Nicholls won over Rob Jewell. The New Winners title was won by Andy Bright. The men's 2-woods singles was won by Neil Bloy in an epic final against Chris Coles. The ladies 2-woods singles was won by Jo-



Matt Bullock winner of the Men's 4 woods singles.

anne Bradley over Caroline Ladd. The men's pairs was won by Andy Bright and Paul Tallents, in a close match against Ray Newell and Garry Carr. The ladies' pairs was won by Teresa Alden and Gill Latham in a convincing win over Pat Jenkins and Honor Buck, unfortunately played in atrocious conditions. The mixed pairs was won by Honor Buck and Graham Dormer while the family pairs saw Suzi and Chris Coles defeat Val and Dave Poole in a fine match. Following this last final, 70 members sat down to a magnificent hog roast prepared and served with all the trimmings by Mike and Mel Carthy and the Somerset Sausage Company. Thanks to everyone who played a part in this amazing weekend: players, spectators, organisers, caterers, and kitchen helpers.

Our annual official presentation ceremony followed a month later at the Batch Country House where, after a magnificent lunch for 60 members, Club

President Pam Beard presented finalists with their trophies and individual awards.

Of course, as the sun sets on the outdoor season, the sun rises for a new season of indoor bowls. All the morning, afternoon, and evening internal leagues are now underway. Externally, two mixed friendlies have resulted in wins against Clevedon, 35-23, and Queen Camel by 37-13. In the mixed Egham Cup we had a fantastic result, 83-77, against Purnells and in the men's Denny Cup an excellent win over Nailsea 90-68. These latter two matches played on a concurrent two rinks home-and-away basis. The only blot on our copy book so far was a loss in the Somerset County Indoor Bowls Assoc (SCIBA) league against St Andrews by 70-86.

Bowls is a great way to maintain a good level of activity and exercise as well as providing positive social wellbeing. If you would like to come along to see our brilliant facilities in Wedmore start your journey by checking out our website: www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org . We'd be delighted to provide free coaching and all the equipment you need to get started. Alternatively contact Stuart at millhaven44@icloud.com and he will provide all the information you need.

Peter Gower

Wedmore Football Club

The Isle of Wedmore Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, with back-to-back promotions for the first team, silverware in the cabinet for the reserves, and a thriving atmosphere both on and off the pitch.



Suzi and Chris Coles, winners of the Family Pairs. Suzi also won the Ladies 4 woods singles.

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This season has kicked off in the same positive fashion, reflecting the club's strong foundations and growing community spirit. We're proud to now field teams across all age groups, from our thriving youth section to our ladies and veterans' sides and, for the first time, three men's teams competing weekly.

Our first team plays in the Somerset County League Division 2 following successive promotions, while the reserves and the A team compete in Weston District League Division 2 and Division 4 respectively. We're always on the lookout for new players, volunteers, and supporters so, if you'd like to get involved, please get in touch, we'd love to see even more local residents down at the Rec. Your support means a lot to the players and management alike, so come along and support us on the sidelines.

Men's Fixtures for December are below, however please check socials on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wedmorefootballclub as these are subject to change, especially as the winter weather has set in.

6 December Firsts: Clevedon United Reserves – 2pm - Away.

Reserves: Yet to be published, please check socials on Facebook.

A team: Yet to be published, please check socials on Facebook.

13 December Firsts: St George Easton in Gordano – 2pm – Home.

Reserves: Yet to be published, please check socials on Facebook.

A team: Yet to be published, please check socials on Facebook.

20 December Firsts: Nailsea United Reserves – 2pm – Home.

Reserves: Yet to be published, please check socials on Facebook.

A team: Yet to be published, please check socials on Facebook.

27 December Firsts: Middlezoy Rovers Reserves – 2pm - Home

Up the Isle of Wedmore!

Ben Warren

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Christenings

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

Frank Gooby son of Alex and Lucy who was baptised on 26 October at St Mary's Church.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of:

Anne Newman of Elmsett Hall aged 79 who died on 17 September whose funeral took place at Mandip Crematorium on Wednesday 22 October.

'On a Wheel and a Prayer'

On Tuesday 16 December the vicar will be conducting the next 'cycle prayer pilgrimage', cycling around the different villages and hamlets that make up the Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore that our churches serve, stopping at various points and praying for the local communities. Details of timings can be found in the churches, and you are welcome to join Richard at any of the stops.

Charity at Christmas

It will be important to remember those who are struggling this Christmas. There will be opportunities to give to the Children’s Society at Christingle services and to families using emergency accommodation by bringing unwrapped toys and toiletries to one of our gift services and additionally to give to a charity at the Christmas Morning Services.

Revd. Richard Neill

Church Services

St Mary’s Church, Wedmore

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 www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10871/

Most weeks on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday there is Morning Prayer online at 9.00am on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Wedmore-384215139101196/

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

Sunday	7	Advent 2	10.30am 6.00pm	Café Church, Gift Service and Seekers Start the Week
Wednesday	10		5.15pm	Crib Service and Carols around the Tree
Sunday	14	Advent 3	10.30am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	21	Advent 4	8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Morning Praise Candlelit Carols
Wednesday	24	Christmas Eve	5.00pm 11.30pm	Christingle Midnight Mass
Thursday	25	Christmas Day	10.30am	All Age Communion
Sunday	28	Christmas 1	10.30am	Benefice Communion

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	7	Advent 2	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	14	Advent 3	9.00am	Sunday Breakfast and Christingle
Monday	15		6.00pm	Community Carols
Sunday	21	Advent 4	9.00am	Parish Communion
Thursday	25	Christmas Day Morning	9.00am	Family Service
Sunday	28	Christmas 1		See St Mary’s

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	7	Advent 2	11.00am	Parish Communion and Gift Service
Thursday	11		6.00pm	Carols in the Orchard and Christingle

Sunday	14	Advent 3	11.00am	Morning Praise
Sunday	21	Advent 4	11.00am	Carol Service
Thursday	25	Christmas Day Morning	11.00am	Family Communion
Sunday	28	Christmas 1		No Service

Allerton Church

Sunday	7	Advent 2	4.00pm	Christingle
Sunday	14	Advent 3	9.00am	Parish Communion
Sunday	21	Advent 4	9.00am 6.00pm	Nativity Play and Service Candlelit Carols
Thursday	25	Christmas Day Morning	9.00am	Family Communion
Sunday	28	Christmas 1		See St Mary's

Bagley Baptist Church

Our Sunday services start at 10.30pm with children and youth groups starting around 11.00pm. We have an All-In Family Service on the second Sunday of each month. On Wednesday we host our 'Coffee with a View' morning from 10.30am to 12.00 noon with free refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere. Youth Groups for ages 10 to 17 are held every Wednesday, during term time, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. We also hold fellowship groups including home groups, prayer gatherings, and social events.

Our Christmas services are as follows:

- Wednesday 17 December – Join us for Christmas carols and mince pies at our festive Coffee With a View, 10.30am to 12 noon.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Begins at 7.00pm. Come early to get your seat and enjoy a beautiful evening of carols, readings, mulled wine, mince pies, and warm fellowship.
- Christmas Day Service – Begins at 10.15am. Children are invited to bring a wrapped present to open together as we give thanks and celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Everyone's welcome and it's all free. We have good parking and wheelchair access. For further details, call us on 01934 710779, email us at contactus@bagleybaptist.co.uk or visit our website www.bagleybaptist.co.uk

Sam Harvey, Secretary

Crickham Baptist Chapel

You are invited to our family Christmas Carol service at Crickham Baptist Chapel, on Sunday 14 December at 3.00pm, Come and enjoy a 'Chocolate Nativity' service, lots of lovely carols, and lots of chocolate! followed with tea, coffee, cakes and mince pies.

Sunday services at Crickham Baptist chapel are to be held at 2.30pm during the winter months, everyone is welcome, we have a short service followed by fellowship with tea, coffee and cake. 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 on 01278 783935.

Ruth Smith

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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.

Improved Access Appointments

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 www.axbridgeandwedmoremedicalpractice.nhs.uk visit or telephone the practice on 01934 732464 or 01934 712774 for changes to opening hours. You can also obtain 24-hour general medical advice by telephoning NHS on 111 or visit the NHS 111 website www.111.nhs.uk

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

Wedmore Community Bus

Good News! From January we will be trialling a new regular monthly bus service to Wells. It will be a 'Market Day Special' running on the second Saturday of each month.



The Community Bus is a not-for-profit bus service run by volunteers for the benefit of the local community. It currently provides regular weekly scheduled services to four locations and monthly services to Bath and Cribbs Causeway. The bus is also available for private hire, principally for the use of local community groups.

The bus is a friendly place and open to everyone. Our drivers want to help you enjoy your time on the bus as much as possible. Except for the Bath service, we try to pick-up and drop-off at a location that is convenient to you, including your home if need this. We are also flexible about drop-offs en-route. We are happy to provide help in getting on and off the bus for those who need it.

Fares are kept low, as the bus is financed by Somerset Council and all our drivers are volunteers. The service is free for everyone with a concessionary Bus Pass, except for the Bath and Cribbs Causeway services which are £2 for concessions. All services are free for children under 5 years old.

Timetable and Booking Details

All services depart Wedmore Car Park at 9.30am. 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.

Monday - Bath (monthly) – This month's visit to Bath will be on Monday 8 December – Departs Bath at 2.00pm, back about 3.30pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

Monday - Cribbs Causeway (monthly) – There will be two trips this month to Cribbs Causeway, on 1 and 15 December – Departs Cribbs Causeway at 2.00pm, back about 3.30pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

Tuesday - Taunton – Departs Taunton 2.00pm, back around 2.45pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Wednesday - Bridgwater – Departs Bridgwater 1.00pm, back around 2.00pm. Call Helen Flooks on 01934 611006 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Thursday - Weston-super-Mare – Departs Weston 1.45pm, back around 2.45pm. Call Carol Ayliffe on 01934 713471 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Friday - Street and Glastonbury – Departs Street 1.00pm, back around 1.30pm. Call Ann Hughes on 01934 712832 between 6.00pm and 6.30pm on the previous evening.

Saturday (monthly) - Wells – Departs Wells Bus Station 12.15pm and Wells Market Place 12.20pm, back around 1.00pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

Relief Booking Controller – Lesley 01934 900571

Except for the Bath service, passenger pick-ups and drop-offs are normally available in Wedmore, Sand, Heath House, Mudgley, Latcham, and Cocklake, with additional pick-ups and drop-offs in other villages en route to each destination if requested. Please request a pick-up location when you book, and we will try to accommodate. Note that the Bath Service only picks up at Wedmore Car Park and Theale.

Private Hire

When it is not committed to the above scheduled services, the Community Bus is available for private hire for day trips and evenings.

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 £2 per mile (plus a discretionary tip for the volunteer driver!). There is a discounted rate of £1 per mile for youth and children's community groups and for adult community groups who have their own driver approved by Somerset Council. To book our comfortable Community Bus for your event or outing, please email us at iowrtabookings@gmail.com

For further information about anything relating to the Community Bus please email us on wedmorebus@gmail.com



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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