

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS



March 2026
No. 552

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Editorial

The exciting sports of padel and pickleball will soon be coming to the village! A new padel court has been opened at Wedmore Tennis Club, more details in the Sport Club Reports section; and pickleball is hoping to be played on the badminton court in Wedmore Village Hall, see the News section for more details.

You will find articles this month about a Community SpeedWatch scheme; a proposed 20mph speed limit; and an article from a local group opposing the proposed housing development on land behind the St Medard estate on Lascot Hill. Please note, though, that the Isle of Wedmore News is not a campaigning publication and prints these articles for the information of you, our readership. Whilst we give room for these articles, this does not infer any support from our publication for their cause, and we try to ensure that the content in any articles is factual and informative. It is also not an appropriate forum for arguments between different parties on the Isle of Wedmore, or for disrespectful comments. Also, since our incorporation as a Community Interest Company, the Isle of Wedmore News no longer has any formal connection with the Parish Council and is also, by its charter, independent of any political or organisational pressure.

Our job here is simply to keep you, our wonderful readership, informed of what is going on around the Isle of Wedmore.

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

Thanks to Dave Powell for this month's photo of 'Wookey Choirworks', one of the 10 local choirs who will be 'competing' at this year's Clash of the Choirs at St Mary's Church

Mike

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE: 1 March 2026

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Photos, Front Cover and Features	Mike Rippon E: photoswedmorenews@gmail.com T: 07704 034448
Distribution Enquiries	Hatty & Dave Stone E: hattyhorse00701@gmail.com T: 07816 256243

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.

Friends of St Mary's AGM and Skittles - 3 March

The Friends of St Mary's will be holding their AGM, followed by a skittles evening, at the Post and Wicket.

Public Exhibition – Lascot Hill Housing Development – 5 March

A public exhibition by Cavanna Homes of their emerging development proposals for the land on Lascot Hill to the rear of the St Medard estate

'Twelve Olympians Live' at St Mary's Church – 6 March

An immersive show with the cinematic instrumental music of Devon based Richard Anthony Bean.

Pastels Demonstration at Theale Village Hall – 14 March

There will be a demonstration of the use of pastels by award-winning local artist, Richard Turner.

Village Halls Week 2026 – 16 to 22 March

Recognising the vital role Village Halls play in supporting wellbeing, reducing isolation, and strengthening community life.

The Clash of the Choirs – 21 March

Ten local choirs sing it out at St Mary's to impress the notoriously unreliable Clapometer.

Coming Soon

Below is a selection of events coming up in the Isle of Wedmore over the next 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 Repair Cafe – 11 April

Come and see if our expert team can repair your broken items. Tool sharpening service also available! See Green Wedmore article in 'Club Reports and Society Updates' section for further details.

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Fashion Show – 18 April

A fashion show in aid of Weston Hospicecare will be held at Wedmore Village Hall run by Colours Fund Raising Fashion.

Wedmore Freecycle – 26 April

Come and recycle your unused items. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! See Green Wedmore article in 'Club Reports and Society Updates' section for further details



Pip Nichols

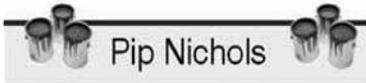
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Wedmore Theatre Presents ‘Private Lives’ – 30 April to 2 May

Wedmore Theatre’s spring production this year is ‘Private Lives’ by Noël Coward – one of his most enduring and best-loved comedies.

Wedmore in Focus Photographic Competition – 1 May to 31 August

The Isle of Wedmore Society is pleased to announce the return of its popular ‘Wedmore in Focus’ photographic competition.

St Mary’s Tower Open Day – 4 May

See the bells and climb to the top of the tower for the best views in Somerset.

Wedmore Festival – 9 to 17 May

Showcases an incredible range of performances from national, international and local talent.

AwarenessFest – 13 June

A fantastic day of live music, a charity auction and fun, in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity.

Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride – 30 August

Registration will be opening shortly for this year’s 40/30 charity bike race in support of Weston Hospicecare.

Wedmore Real Ale Festival – 18 to 20 September

One of the major fundraising and social events of the Wedmore calendar returns for its 25th year!

News

Tessa Munt MP’s Update



Parliament was pretty lively last month! Thank you if you’ve written or spoken to me to share your views, concerns and to ask questions. I take the issues you raise here up to Westminster and press the Government to make changes wherever they’re needed.

I’m honoured to have been elected as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on ME. Since becoming your MP, I’ve pressed the Government to reverse decades of neglect of this condition. I’ll work with colleagues across the political spectrum so ME receives the long overdue investment into research it needs.

The Government has U-turned on business rates for pubs and other hospitality venues. Whilst I’m pleased with a partial reversal of this disastrous Budget announcement, it’s clear that more is needed to support the wider tourist industry, so my colleagues and I will continue to raise this.

Having received messages from local childminders, I pressed Ministers to reinstate the 10% wear-and-tear tax allowance for these workers, as their homes are put through

their paces with children's potty training, learning to eat with a knife and fork, and drinking from an open cup. It's important that this allowance is reinstated or an alternative is put in place for those who offer home-based childcare.

Over the past year, several local residents have contacted me about the uncertain future of the 'Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme', which allows our listed churches and chapels to apply for a grant to cover VAT on building works. I've questioned Ministers in Parliament several times and was informed that there will in the future be a 'Places of Worship Renewal Fund' once the current scheme comes to an end this month. I have concerns about the new eligibility criteria for this fund and will watch closely as information is made available. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I've continued my work on the Public Office (Accountability) Bill (known as the 'Hillsborough Law'). Yet again, the Government has rejected Amendment 23, which would require a High Court Judge to decide - in closed session - what safeguards should be in place and how much security and intelligence information can be passed on to an Inquiry, Inquest, Investigation or Independent Panel. This happens now, so it's not difficult. The Hillsborough families, amongst others, have been fighting for this for 35 years. Experience tells them the law must insist everyone in public office tells the truth. No ifs, no buts.

As ever, if you would like to speak to me about anything concerning you, please don't hesitate to email or phone my office. I'll be running my regular 'surgeries' throughout 2026, for March, the most local surgeries will be on Saturday 7 March from 08.30am to 10.00am at Coffee #1, Wells; Friday 13 March from 08.00am to 09.00am at Edelweiss Café, Cheddar; and Saturday 14 March from 09.00am to 10.00am at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore. 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 other ways, by phone on 01934 440639 (answerphone for out of office hours), by email at tessa.munt.mp@parliament.uk 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! Before I give a brief update on recent Parish Council business, I want to be clear about what this column is, why I write it, and what it is not.

The article I write each month exists to explain, in plain English, what the Parish Council has been doing, what decisions have been taken, and where work is still ongoing. It is written after meetings, and it is based entirely on published agendas, approved minutes and formally recorded resolutions.

It is not where decisions are made; it is not a substitute for minutes; and it is not a way of quietly changing outcomes or announcing policy.

The Parish Council's formal and authoritative position on any matter is set out in its agendas and approved minutes. That is the public record. If it isn't there, it isn't a Council decision.



(643)



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When this column refers to past decisions, it does so because those decisions are already public, already minuted, and already available to anyone who wishes to read them. The purpose of the column is explanation and context for residents who do not routinely read council papers (which is most people!), not advocacy, not opinion, and not a version of events. Explaining how a decision was reached is not the same as pushing for an outcome. Being clear about it does not make it informal or unofficial.

Most residents raise questions openly, engage constructively and accept that local government comes with constraints as well as choices. A small number, however, prefer side conversations, selective quotation, or quiet suggestion that something unofficial or improper is going on. That approach does not improve transparency; it tends to create confusion instead.

I take my role as Clerk seriously. My job is to make sure decisions are lawful, properly recorded and clearly reported. Writing this column is part of that job. It exists to make local government easier to understand, not to provide material for speculation about process or motive.

If anyone wants to challenge a decision, the right place to do that is through the published record. If anyone wants to understand how something was decided, the agendas and minutes are there to be read. Side commentary about the process doesn't help anyone.

Since the last article, the Parish Council has met as a Highways Committee, a Planning Committee and as Full Council. The Highways Committee considered a range of ongoing issues, including traffic management, drainage, road condition and safety concerns. Residents attended to raise issues and share views, which were noted in line with the Committee's procedures. Engagement with Somerset Council continues on matters where responsibility sits elsewhere.

The Planning Committee considered several applications across the parish, providing policy-based comments and supporting appropriate development. This included support for the proposed conversion of the former Methodist church into a dental practice, recognising both the benefit of improved local healthcare provision and the sensible reuse of an important building. Members also received an update on the forthcoming Cavanna Homes public consultation and noted ongoing enforcement matters being handled by Somerset Council.

The Full Council meeting focused on finance, governance and oversight. Councillors adopted updated governance documents to strengthen internal controls and took decisions on several practical matters relating to community assets and facilities. Updates were also received from committees covering events, environmental work, community resilience and routine asset management.

Wedmore works best when issues are raised openly, discussed respectfully and grounded in fact. Maintaining private responsibilities such as ditches and boundary hedges, reporting issues through proper channels and engaging constructively with consultations all make a real difference.

Thank you to the many residents who engage in good faith with councillors and officers. That approach, open, informed and direct, is the one that genuinely helps the parish move forward.

*Lindsey Baker,
Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council*

Public Exhibition – Lascot Hill Housing Development

A public exhibition by Cavanna Homes of their emerging development proposals for the land on Lascot Hill to the rear of the St Medard estate will be held at Wedmore Village Hall on Thursday 5 March, from 3.30pm to 7.00pm. Please also see the Articles section in this issue concerning this development

Community SpeedWatch – Helping Keep Our Parish Roads Safe

Speeding remains one of the most frequent concerns raised with the Parish Council, particularly on routes where pedestrians, schoolchildren, and cyclists are most vulnerable. In response, we are pleased to support the launch of a Community SpeedWatch (CSW) group within the parish, a volunteer-led initiative designed to encourage safer driving and raise awareness.

CSW is a partnership between local residents and the police. Trained volunteers use approved equipment to record the speeds of passing vehicles at locations where speeding has been reported. Drivers who exceed the limit receive advisory letters from the police, reminding them to slow down. The focus is education, not enforcement. The simple presence of volunteers in high-visibility clothing often encourages drivers to reduce their speed.

After receiving repeated concerns from residents, the Parish Council are currently investigating whether there would be enough volunteers to create a meaningful speed watch in the Parish. Subject to sufficient volunteers the Parish Council will arrange with the Avon and Somerset Police's Community SpeedWatch coordinator to identify suitable monitoring points and arranged training for volunteers. Each session involves at least three trained residents who work together to monitor speeds, record details, and ensure everyone's safety. All information collected is passed directly to the police for follow-up. The Parish Council will share anonymised results from CSW sessions in future newsletters and at parish meetings. This helps us track trends, highlight problem areas, and support discussions with highways authorities about longer-term improvements.

We are grateful to the residents who have already stepped forward to take part. Their time and commitment make a real difference to the safety and wellbeing of our community. Anyone interested in joining the scheme or learning more is welcome to contact the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@wedmore-pc.gov.uk or by phone on 01934 713087

Jacky Farley

King Alfred Project Group Update

We are pleased to report steady progress with the King Alfred project. We have asked three bronze foundries to recommend sculptors with the kind of skill and experience that we need. We did also our own research online to choose ten sculptors to receive the brief and we hope to have a shortlist by early April. In the meantime we have drawn up a fundraising plan and feel positive that this historical project will attract funding of the £125K required, from various sources.

A discussion about getting our local schools engaged with the project is very important and Meetings are planned in the coming weeks. We recommend 'Alfred

(494A)



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David Ewens

King Alfred Project Group

Save Wedmore Lives 20mph Limit

Many people are asking how the campaign for a 20mph limit is progressing, so we have updated our website with new information. This includes a map of Wedmore, issued by Somerset Highways, showing the boundary of a proposed new 20mph limit. Now all residents can find out at a glance if they will live within the new limit area.

The website also includes a statement from Somerset Highways confirming that 'Wedmore is suitable for a 20mph speed limit'; a list of 25 other Somerset villages for whom Somerset Highways have recently authorised a 20mph speed limit, and how they achieved it; and the Department for Transport guidance on reducing speed limits in villages and on rural roads to improve safety and reduce fear in local communities, as well as improving the environment.

We have also updated much of our other relevant information on this issue, including the past and forthcoming Parish Surveys, and UK Government research data on the link between speeding vehicles and road traffic accidents, particularly on rural roads.

And a big thank you to the overwhelming numbers of Wedmore residents who have already signed up as supporters and helpers on the website. We do appreciate it, and hope that many more will follow suit. To access this, and more, information please visit www.savewedmorelives.org.uk or scan the QR code.



The Save Wedmore Lives Team

Summer Excursions on the Wedmore Community Bus

The Wedmore Community Bus team are excited to announce a season of summer excursions, commencing this month all the way through to September. We will be visiting Sanders Garden Centre on March 30; Cadbury Garden Centre and Clevedon Town and Seafront on April 27; there will be an exciting 'Summer Picnic Mystery Tour' on June 8; a visit to the popular Frome Festival on July 6; Minehead via The Quantock Hills on August 24; and finally Hilliers Garden Centre September 14.

Further details and timings are available in the Community Bus listings at the end of this magazine, but please call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631, as early as possible, if you are interested in any of these wonderful excursions!



Henry Parkinson

10th Anniversary of Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare

What an amazing year it has been. We have raised £24,850 for Weston Hospicecare due to the wonderful support and sponsorship we have received from the businesses, grants and residents of Wedmore and the surrounding area.

We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses: Wedmore Village Store, Colours Fashion, Rodda's Creamery, Sanders Patisserie, Asda Highbridge,



Sainsbury Cheddar, Neil and Ros Woodjetts, Haverslice Pizza, Ad Astra Cider, Bluebird Café Wedmore, Liz Burton and Simon Earles, Dr Adam Baker, Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club, Wedmore Power Co-operative, Angela Wederell, Wedmore Summer Fayre, Alex of the New Inn Wedmore, Sue Holtby, Wedmore Real Ale, Wedmore Christmas Fayre, Wedmore by Lamplight, Women of Wedmore, Jackie Hall and Heather Hector. I also want to personally want to thank my 'Best in the West' team for all their hard work throughout the year and for their support.

The monies raised have been used for the purchase of a cuddle mattress; an observation machine; pull-down bed for In Patient Unit (IPU); winter jackets for community nurses; a contribution towards their travel expenses and two modern laptops to enable better communication between them; and visitor and recliner chairs for the IPU bedrooms. Both sets of chairs were badly needed as replacements for those purchased a long time ago which were no longer able to be safely sterilised.

Weston Hospicecare continues to support residents from the Wedmore and Axbridge area, offering outstanding palliative care to those with life-limiting illness, both in their In-Patient Unit and in the community. We, the Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare, will continue to do all we can to raise funds in support of the Hospice and look forward to meeting you all again at one of our events this year. Without your support we couldn't do what we do.

*Shirley Wederell
Chair of Wedmore Friends*

Friends of St Mary's AGM and Skittles Evening

The Friends of St Mary's will be holding their AGM at the Post and Wicket on Tuesday 3 March, from 6.00pm, with the AGM starting at 6.30pm, followed by a skittles evening. The very brief AGM will be followed by the real focus of the evening, a 'knock-out' skittles competition and fish and chips. Please contact David Hopkins by phone on 07984 924432, if you would like to come along.

David Hopkins



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'Twelve Olympians Live' at St Mary's Church

Richard (Rich) Anthony Bean will be returning to St Mary's Church on 6 March, 7.00pm, for an evening of cinematic electronic music.

'Twelve Olympians Live' is an immersive show with the cinematic instrumental music of Devon based Rich. Accompanied by lights and video projections the show includes music from his recent trilogy of albums inspired by the legends of Ancient Greece, alongside some electronic classics and music from Richard's back catalogue and music by Jean Michel Jarre and Vangelis. Tickets are available from the Universe website at www.universe.com/events/twelve-olympians-live-tickets-59PR67 or via the QR code.



Richard Anthony Bean

Pastels Demonstration at Theale Village Hall

There will be a demonstration of the use of pastels by award-winning local artist, Richard Turner, on 14 March, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm in Theale Village Hall. The cost for attendance is £15 on the door, with refreshments included.

This live demonstration will reveal how Richard records the complex world of things as coloured, textured shapes through simplification, design, and process. It is a great opportunity for all budding and practising amateur artists, and anyone curious about the process of creating art with pastels. A selection of Richard's painting will be available for purchase.

Please contact Gill on 07935 000337 to register your interest so we have an idea of numbers.

Gill Crane

Village Halls Week 2026 – Connecting Communities to Health and Wellbeing, and Pickleball!

Village halls across the country are marking Village Halls Week, running from 16 to 22 March, by recognising the vital role these spaces play in supporting wellbeing, reducing isolation, and strengthening community life. This year the campaign will focus on the NHS Five Steps to Wellbeing: Be active; Connect with others; Keep learning; Give to your community; Take notice and enjoy the moment!

At Wedmore Village Hall we have been inspired by the campaign. We are fortunate already to have a wide range of regular groups, who are always friendly and welcoming to new members – details of regular groups can be found in the centre pages of this edition. Our users describe the Hall as warm, welcoming, and brilliantly equipped, offering opportunities to socialise, get active, be creative, or simply enjoy good company.

However, we have an idea for a brand-new activity – Pickleball. It fits perfectly with the NHS Five Steps to Wellbeing. Pickleball is one of the fastestgrowing sports in the UK and is fun, friendly, easy to learn, and great for all ages. It was developed in the USA in 1965 and is an interesting mix between badminton, tennis and table tennis. It is a racket sport, played on a badminton court in which two or four players use a smooth-faced paddle, like those used in table tennis, to hit a perforated hollow plastic ball over a tennis net. Scoring is similar to table tennis, with the winner(s) being the first to reach 11.



If you would like to play, try a taster session, or just find out more, please get in touch with us through the form on our dedicated website www.openday.wedmorehall.org.uk or simply scan the QR code.

Wedmore Village Hall Management Committee



The Clash of the Choirs

The sell-out village event, where local choirs sing it out to impress the reliably unreliable Clapometer, is back at St Mary's on the evening of Saturday 21 March, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

Tickets will be £12, and £5 for under 13s. They are on sale at Wedmore Village Store or, with a handling charge, through the Eventbrite website at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/clash-of-the-choirs-tickets-1979512359755 which you can also access via the QR code. For further information contact David Hopkins 07984 924432



David Hopkins

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Fashion Show

A fashion show in aid of Weston Hospicecare will be held at Wedmore Village Hall on Saturday 18 April with doors opening at 1.45pm and the show starting at 2.15pm. The show will be run by Colours Fund Raising Fashion, who will be offering high street brand name clothes at up to 70% off. Why not come and join us and support the excellent work of Weston Hospicecare

Tickets are £15.00 and include a glass of prosecco or elderflower on arrival and cream tea. Tickets are non-refundable and are available from Wedmore Village Store (cash only), or from Liz Burton on 01934 221288, Trish Newell on 01934 713117, or Shirley Wederell on 01934 712089. We look forward to seeing you!

Shirley Wederell

Wedmore Theatre 'Private Lives' Tickets Now on Sale

We are only putting on three performances of this iconic Noël Coward play, and tickets are expected to sell quickly, so it's recommended that patrons book their seats fast!

'Private Lives' is one of the most sophisticated, entertaining plays ever written. Elyot and Amanda, once married and now honeymooning with new spouses at the same hotel, meet by chance, reignite the old spark and impulsively elope. After days of being reunited, they again find their fiery romance alternating between love and anger. Their aggrieved spouses appear and a roundelay of affiliations endues.

A uniquely humorous play boasting numerous successful Broadway runs with stars like Coward himself, Laurence Olivier, Tallulah Bankhead, Gertrude Lawrence, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Described by the New York Times as 'Gorgeous, dazzling, fantastically funny'.



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Performances are on the Thursday 30 April, Friday 1 and Saturday 2 May at 7.30pm in Wedmore Village Hall. The priority booking period has finished and tickets are now on general sale. The much-sought-after raked seating can only be bought online at www.wedmoretheatre.com/book or scan the QR code. Stalls seats, which are unnumbered, can be bought either online, or at Wedmore Village Store. The play is suitable for ages 14+.



Wedmore Theatre

Wedmore in Focus Photographic Competition

The Isle of Wedmore Society is pleased to announce the return of its popular ‘Wedmore in Focus’ photographic competition, which will launch formally on 1 May. Details will be provided in the May issue of this magazine, but don’t let that stop you dusting off your cameras and get snapping! The competition will culminate in an exhibition on 31 August.

Jean Gregory

St Mary’s Tower Open Day

The Tower Open Day returns this year on 4 May. This is a great opportunity to see the church bells and climb to the top of St Mary’s tower to enjoy the best view in Somerset!

David Hopkins

Wedmore Festival Unveils Standout 2026 Programme

The Wedmore Festival returns from 9 to 17 May with one of its most diverse programmes yet, offering a vibrant week of literature, music, comedy, film and history at the heart of the village. The 2026 programme continues the festival’s commitment to bring bigname talent. Spend an evening with a master of the spoken word, BAFTA awardwinning author, activist, performer and Sunday Times number one bestseller Lemn Sissay OBE, as he takes to the stage with this brandnew show. With live readings from his books, Lemn will unravel the original stories behind the poems, and how they have been used in people’s lives and his own.

Music lovers will enjoy performances from Adannay, Bootleg Blondie, and Wedmore Ensemble, globally recognised musicians who now call the village home. Following last year’s successful livescored screening of Nosferatu, St Mary’s Church will host another silentfilm spectacular with Lon Chaney’s 1925 classic Phantom of the Opera, accompanied by a brandnew score performed live by local composer Liam Davies.

Comedy remains a popular feature, with Marcus Brigstocke and Rachel Parris returning for an evening of sharp, spontaneous improv. Festival Patron Henry Blofeld OBE will also be back with more of his muchloved cricketing anecdotes.

An undoubted highlight will be anatomist, biological anthropologist, author and broadcaster, Professor Alice Roberts. Join Alice as she maps the fall of one Empire and the rise of another, celebrating the publication of her latest book ‘Domination: the fall and rise of an Empire’.



Professor Alice Roberts

The festival continues to invest in our community, expanding its outreach work with local schools. This year, ABC – The Academy of Barmy Composers will lead creative workshops, helping children explore the lives of great historic composers and inspiring the next generation of artists and performers. Festivalgoers can also explore Wedmore’s heritage through Kith and Kin, an immersive Saxon-themed experience, alongside talks from Alison Uren on local wildlife and Phil Butterworth on Wedmore’s historic pubs.



General booking opens on 14 April on the Festival website at www.wedmorefestival.co.uk Festival Friends enjoy priority booking one week earlier and no booking fees, with memberships available via the website. You can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wedmorefestival Why not join our email list and be kept up to date? Go to our website or scan the QR code.

Ellie Oliver

AwarenessFest to Return this Summer

AwarenessFest will return to The George Inn on 13 June for a fantastic day of live music, a charity auction, and lots of fun in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity. Further details will be released closer to the date.

Wedmore 40/30 Charity Bike Ride

Over 300 riders took part last year, our most successful event so far, raising a great deal of money for Weston Hospicecare and The Friends of St. Mary’s Wedmore.



Registration is now open for the event on Sunday 30 August 2026 at www.westonhospicecare.org.uk/event/wedmore-40-30 or via the QR code, where you can also sign up for a regular Wedmore 40/30 newsletter, This exciting cycling challenge sees bike enthusiasts take on a breathtaking 30, 40 or 70 mile course across the spectacular Mendip Hills and Somerset levels. There is also a fun, family-friendly 12-mile course. For further information please contact David Hopkins on 07984 924432.

David Hopkins



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The Space – Supporting young minds in our community

We're proud to share that Wedmore Harvest Home has donated £1,000 to The Space, a local charity doing incredible work to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Thank you to everyone who helped us support this vital cause

Beth Jackson

Wedmore Community Bus Needs New Drivers

Due to the design of our new Community Bus, it can now be driven by anyone with a standard driving licence. New drivers will now merely need to complete a simple assessment and DBS check, and they will be ready to start giving a valuable service to our community. The new bus is also much easier to drive than our old one.

This is great news for the Community Bus as we need more volunteer drivers to resource our expanding services. Drivers are needed for scheduled services on Mondays to Fridays and/or some Saturdays and/or Private Hire for local community and social groups on weekday afternoons/evenings and at weekends. We would particularly welcome volunteers connected with community groups as we'd like to expand use of the bus for private hire by this sector.

Driving the bus isn't a big commitment. Many volunteers are only available occasionally, but they still make a valuable contribution. Even the volunteers who drive most frequently rarely drive more than once a month and they only drive at times when they make themselves available. Also, even when a driver has been timetabled for a trip there is flexibility to swap if she/he becomes unavailable.

Driving is very rewarding as it provides an important service to many local residents and community groups. It is fun as the bus is a friendly place where there is normally a happy buzz of conversation and plenty of laughs. It isn't difficult. All drivers are given free training by an approved Somerset Council trainer.

Interested? If so, please contact us either by email on wedmorebus@gmail.com or telephone Phil Butterworth on 01934 712775.

For further details of the Community Bus and its services please refer to our article at the end of this magazine, go to www.theisleofwedmore.net where there is a tab at the top of the home page, or email us on wedmorebus@gmail.com

Wedmore Community Bus Team

St Mary's Church, Cleaning Rota

Do you have 3 to 4 hours for one month per year to join our committed group of church cleaners? St Mary's Church is cleaned regularly by a group of dedicated volunteers, if you would like to help and join this committed team please contact me, Heather Hector, via email at heather@the-hectors.co.uk or by phone on 01934 712478

Heather Hector

New self-referral system speeds up breast cancer diagnosis in Somerset

A new self-referral pathway for people with symptoms of breast cancer is giving patients in Somerset faster access to specialist care, while reducing pressure on GP services. Since its launch a year ago, 866 people have self-referred directly to Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's breast diagnostic clinic, without the need for a GP

appointment. Of those, 48 have been diagnosed with cancer, with 34 progressing onto treatment, and 727 being identified as non-cancerous, demonstrating the strength of the clinically led digital triage in directing higher-risk patients into urgent specialist care, and reassuring those at lower risk.

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust was the first in England to introduce this pathway, which is accessed via NHS 111 online, a national digital triage product designed to help people reach the right level of care for their symptoms, and the NHS App. It allows eligible patients with worrying symptoms, such as a breast lump, to be referred straight to a breast diagnostic clinic, speeding up cancer diagnosis and freeing up valuable GP appointments.

Rosie Edgerley, cancer programme manager at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, said: ‘The introduction of the self-referral system is a significant step forward in supporting people with breast symptoms. By enabling patients to bypass their GP and be referred directly for specialist assessment, we are helping them to be seen more quickly during what can be an anxious and worrying time. This new pathway means patients get the reassurance or treatment they need sooner, while also easing pressure on our GP colleagues.’

One in seven women in the UK develop breast cancer during their lifetime, and it’s more common in older women.

Paul Hopkins

Regular Features

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

Seasonal Uncertainty

on the frosty drove
the mud is melting
and ice rain’s
no longer pelting
but when you’re sliding
to the rhyne
Spring seems
a slippery thing

some will even say
it’s not springing
and winter’s clinging
but I’ve heard
birdsong and bleating
so bleakness is retreating

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I've seen budding and flowering
dazzle past the glowering
the hocus pocus
of the crocus
the golden overkill
of the daffodil
they're sure it's
spring
nothing can stop it now
only
Summer

Stuart Tunstall

Tasty Morsels – Lemon Cheesy Pasta Bake

Ingredients –

1 small head of broccoli (about 200g) cut into pieces
275g uncooked cavatappi (spiral) pasta
500ml vegetable stock
50g parmesan cheese - grated
1 large unwaxed lemon
2 large garlic cloves -minced
280g cream cheese (a family size tub)
Pinch of salt and pepper
50g mild cheddar – grated (optional)

Method –

Preheat the oven to 190C. Add broccoli, pasta, stock, parmesan cheese and garlic to a large baking dish (13in by 9in minimum, you will need room to be able to stir). Zest the lemon and add to the dish (reserve the lemon for its juice later). Stir until evenly combined and pasta is mostly submerged in the liquid. Nestle the cream cheese in the centre of the baking dish. Cover tightly with foil.

Bake for 40 minutes, remove from the oven. Juice half of the reserved lemon and add to the dish. Stir the ingredients together to incorporate the lemon juice. Cover with foil and bake for another 10 minutes.

Remove from the oven and serve, or sprinkle the cheddar cheese on the top, turn the oven to 220C and bake an addition 5 to 10 minutes until the cheese is golden brown.

You can substitute 500g skinless chicken thighs cut into strips, for the broccoli, to make this a heartier meal. The chicken will cook along with the pasta.

Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

This Month in the Garden

I don't know how, but spring is definitely here! Warming sunshine, birdsong a-plenty, gardens a-growing, and everyone's a-smiling. Well, here's a-hoping!

Take the opportunity to lift that spreading clump of perennial border plant, use a spade to chop in half several times, discard the old centre and replant the fresh outer



pieces into compost enriched soil or fresh locations in the border. Pot up a few fresh clumps for the garden sales later in the year. If the border is lacking colour, add a few wallflowers or forget-me-nots from the local nursery. They may even have some *Primula denticulata* (drumstick primula) in white or lilac shades, glorious amongst primrose and polyanthus, as some of the early bulbs go out of flower.

That rotted compost can now be spread around the borders, so freeing up the compost bins for the new season, but if there are any perennial weeds in the borders, especially bindweed or bramble, dig these out before applying the mulch.

If you sowed some sweet peas last autumn, they can be planted out now but harden them off for a week or so outside before planting. Be weatherwise, especially at this time of year, and delay if there's a frosty spell of weather.

This is the last chance to prune the rose bushes. If you've been a bit 'gentle' previously, now would be a good time to prune several of the oldest branches hard down to near the base. This renewal-pruning may be hard on the wrist, with loppers or secateurs, but will really encourage the bush to grow more healthy fresh shoots. Prune the remaining shoots lightly, and this will help to spread the season of bloom.

On a rainy day, time to get seed sowing. Tomatoes of course (which is your favourite variety?) head the list, but wait a bit longer to sow cucumber, melons, marrows, courgettes, and squash. Beans can also wait, but lettuce, radish, peas, beetroot, salsify, and cabbage can all be sown outside now. Also a useful catch-up crop is spinach, a very healthy fast growing leafy plant, delicious with a sprinkle of salt and a helping of butter. Spinach can be sown outdoors now or, if the weather is cold and wet, can be sown in trays or modules for planting out later. A very worthwhile catch-up crop.

Salad onions can be sown outside, or in trays inside, for an early addition to the salad bowl. A perennial alternative would be to grow chives in a pot inside or outside. These are really useful and very decorative, even the attractive flowers are edible. Many years ago, I sold lots of these at the Bath and West Show when the flowers proved to be a real eyecatcher. This was from the nursery that, in a previous year, had sold many wooden benches, claiming that the lovely late Queen Elizabeth had rested on them during a visit to the showground. Actually, she only briefly sat on one bench, but we 'forgot' which one it was, so we sold quite a few!

This is a good time to take a note of any special daffodils, so that you can purchase the right bulbs next September. For small gardens and containers, I still prefer the smaller varieties and 'Jetfire' is an absolute must, along with handfuls of that little gem 'Tete-a-Tete'. Once flowering is finished, remember that this is the ideal time to carefully lift, divide, and replant established clumps of bulbs so you can locate them in exactly the right spot. Whilst out for a country walk, keep a look out for brown hares, maybe a pair boxing (courting behaviour) and, if that worked, the young jacks and jills will be born 40 odd days later. These beautiful creatures may be a grazing nuisance but, with speeds up to 45mph, they are part of our wonderful countryside and long may they survive, as long as it is not feasting on our allotments!

Happy gardening!

Tony Connell

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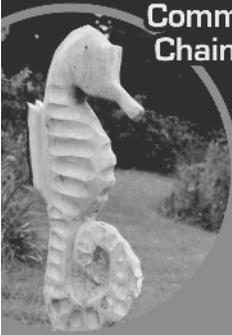
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Country Lane Walker

Here we are, folks, ‘bouncing’ into spring, or is it spring ‘bouncing’ into us? For me it is always a relief to know spring is coming very soon. It so often feels that I may not make it. That in a large part is my ‘Seasonal Affective Disorder’, so called. Those of you who experience this know exactly what it feels like: the short days, the cold and rain, and those heavily leaden clouds in the sky.



Four years ago Anne and I were hit with Covid so badly that it was nearly the end in for both of us. Gosh, it really was so bad. With so much sadness it truly was the physical end for Anne, already suffering with three cancers. With me being so ill I couldn’t do the healing work to either save her, or ease her journey, which I have done for folk through the years.

For me, I sank into the deep dark depths of ‘The Dark Night of the Soul’, where no one can reach you fully, and you can’t fully help yourself. Most people don’t go there, yet many do, many more than you might think. There I remained for three years. I was going to a grief group, and still do, that meets every Thursday 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the Comfort Cafe next to St John’s Church in Glastonbury. It helped. Then I participated in The Grief Recovery Method Course, this time last year. That was a seriously heavy number yet started me on that long road to recovery.

I met someone on the course whose daughter had reached the end of her days yet knew I could save her. I had the training and the knowledge and the upstairs support. I can’t talk of it beyond saying this. As a result it helped ‘me’ through. Helping others, helps oneself.

That is along with the vital need to move, keep moving. That came with walking and walking the country lanes, along with chi kung and tai chi, and meditation. For a long time during those three years I could do little more, such is the Dark Night of the Soul. Much more time in contemplation, or just ‘dead’ to the world.

I have touched on this before, so why again now? Well, Facebook sent me a memory photo of Anne and I, taken 16 years ago in the woods at Nut Tree Farm amongst the cow parsley. So, given Anne’s 4th year of passing is coming up shortly I thought to send it out again. I am astounded that there have been 150 ‘likes’ and responses, so far. Anne thought she had little impact, mostly in the background. When I told her of the responses she was amazed. Always modest, always love she spread around, with quiet cutting and silly, naughty, humour. I am ‘lucky’ that we still connect, is how I have to look at life. 50 years with Anne on the physical plane.

So, what can you do when confronted with someone in deepest grief? For the first six months some folk used to ask me around for a coffee and a chat. For me, the very last thing I wanted, though, for many, that is what they want. Then the invites stop, just when you feel you could do with that company. Of course, they think you are over it. That is for those who have yet to experience such grief. So watch for what people need, or you think they need. Be gentle with approaches, don’t be offended if rebuffed, and try again later on. Don’t be embarrassed if they cry, don’t be fooled by their laughter. At the grief group I attend and help, there is often much laughter and silliness, and there often are tears and deep thoughts. All is good.

And keep on walking, now with the daffodils bringing sunshine to the ground, and bursting buds of life returning. Bouncing spring. As always, you can contact me on 01934 712404, 07976 288535, WhatsApp or at melvyn@gmx.co.uk Love to hear from you.

Melvyn Firmager

Letters to the Editor

No letters this month.

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

Articles

Why Saint-Médard-de-Guizières?

Do you know the reason behind why Wedmore is twinned Saint-Médard-de-Guizières? Logically you would think the Twinning Committee, formed in 1975, would choose a village more convenient in either Normandy or Brittany.

The real reason is because a gentleman called Teddy Birnberg, who must have been on the Twinning Committee at the time, was an aficionado of red wine. We know this as he was in the process of buying our house at the time. The place to twin with, he said, was one of the best wine areas of France, namely Saint-Émilion.

He evidently prevailed as Saint-Médard is well situated in this area, about 20km from the town of Saint-Émilion and it is good to know that our current Twinning Committee still maintains the connection so well.

David Ewens

Is Unsustainable Housing Development a Threat to Our Rural Community?

An Extraordinary Meeting of Wedmore Parish Council was held on 12 November 2025 to hear an early presentation from Cavanna Homes on potential housing development on land off Lascot Hill. Around 50 residents attended. The land under discussion comprises two fields behind the St Médard Estate, currently crossed by public rights of way. The proposal is understood to involve between 50 and 100 homes, with a single vehicular access point from the top of Lascot Hill. As mentioned in the News section of this issue, Cavanna Homes will be holding a public exhibition of the development proposals at Wedmore Village Hall on 5 March.

In response, a local action group, Save Our Diverse Open Fields Forever (SODOFF), has been formed. SODOFF has linked with communities across Somerset facing similar pressures, including Keinton Mandeville, where Stop Housing Obliterating the Character of Keinton (SHOCK) was established after Somerset Council approved plans for 100 homes in June 2025.

SHOCK has since launched a crowdfunding campaign to pursue a judicial review of that decision and is working with other communities under a new umbrella group, Somerset Communities Raging Against Poor Planning (SCRAPP). SCRAPP's

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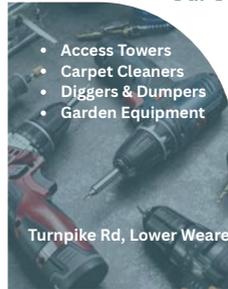
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inaugural meeting on 23 January was attended by around 50 representatives from 24 villages across the county, including several members of SODOFF.

Campaigners say rural communities are increasingly expected to absorb large-scale development without adequate infrastructure, services, or meaningful consultation. The meeting unanimously agreed to formally establish SCRAPP, carried a motion for action to safeguard the interests of rural communities across Somerset, and concluded with a vote of 'No Confidence' in Somerset Council.

What happens next? Following the strong endorsement for collective action, the focus has now shifted to getting SCRAPP fully established. This includes finalising its constitution, refining its aims, and creating a website and social media presence. Once these foundations are in place, community groups, Parish Councils, and other interested parties across Somerset will be invited to join a coordinated and collaborative effort to protect the character and sustainability of rural communities.

For more information, please contact wedmorecommunityawareness@gmail.com

Save Our Diverse Open Fields Forever

Health, Wellbeing, and Support

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.

I Spy With My Little Eye Something Beginning With 'S' - Sunshine!

I hope it's not wishful thinking, as I write this in January, but I think I see a glimmer as we head towards Spring! So there's no better time than now to think about keeping our eyes as healthy as possible, so we can see the emerging green shoots and vibrant flowers of Spring. According to www.patient.info our eyes 'deserve a long-term plan'. There are some factors which can increase our risk of eye conditions which are beyond our control, e.g. genetics, ethnicity, and age, however there is much we can do to minimise the risk of eye diseases and preserve good vision.

Fortunately, many of these strategies are good for our hearts, brains, and minds too. Firstly good nutrition plays a significant role. A diet rich in carotenoids, antioxidants, Omega-3 fatty acids, and drinking plenty of water are just some of the specific actions we can take for healthy eyes. Non nutritional advice includes the 20-20-20 rule when it comes to using screens. It suggests that every 20 minutes, you should look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds before returning to your task. This will help to minimise eye strain and keep eyes well lubricated. Consultant Ophthalmologist, Mr Alex Day, advises that we should contact an optician or optometrist if we notice any changes in vision, e.g. blurriness, difficulty reading small print, redness, pain, dark spots or lines in your vision, or glare from lights at night. For many more tips and information go to www.patient.info and search for the article 'Future-proof your sight'.

The NHS reminds us that 'our eyes rarely hurt when something is wrong with them, so having regular eye tests is important to help detect potentially harmful conditions'. The NHS recommends that we should have our eyes tested every 2 years, or more

What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Tuesday	3	Friends of St Mary's AGM and Skittles	6.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Thursday	5	Public Exhibition - Lascot Hill Housing Development	3.30pm - 7.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Friday	6	Twelve Olympians Live' concert by Richard Anthony Bean	7.00pm	St Mary's Church
Wednesday	11	Women of Wedmore (WI) - First aid and defibrillator session	7.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Saturday	14	Pastels demonstration by Richard Turner	2.30pm	Theale Village Hall
Saturday	21	The Clash of the Choirs	5.30pm	St Mary's Church

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Alternate Mondays (see listing)	Music in Mind	2.30pm to 3.30pm	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 Wednesday	Green Wedmore Meeting	7.30pm	The George Inn
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 and 4th Thursday	Mendip Rotary Club	7.00pm	The George Inn
4th Thursday	Isle of Wedmore Society Meeting	7.30pm	Masonic Hall
1st Friday	Wedmore Carers Group	10.00am to 12.00 noon	The Swan
1st Friday	HeadsUp Support 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
4th Sunday	Theale Community Film Club	6.30pm	Theale Village Hall

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

often if advised by your ophthalmic practitioner or optometrist. Eye tests are free for some people, e.g. children under 16 and up to 18 for those in full time education, people over 60, and people with certain conditions, such as diabetes or glaucoma. For more information visit the NHS website about Free NHS eye tests and vouchers. You can also use the Acute Community Eyecare Scheme (ACES), which is an easily accessible service for acute symptoms affecting the eyes. We can go straight to a participating optometrist or optician without a GP referral. This is free to anyone registered with a GP in Somerset and the optometrist can advise on many conditions, for example, sudden or recent reduction in vision in one or both eyes, red eye(s) or eye lids, pain or discomfort in the eyes, around the eye area or temples, recent onset or sudden increase of flashes or floaters in one or both eyes. To find out more go to the Somerset eye care website. Our nearest optometrists who will provide this service are in Cheddar, Wells and Burnham.

Having good eyesight is essential to be able to drive safely. In our rural area, driving is a real advantage in keeping up social contacts, going shopping, and maintaining independence. A change is being considered, and ‘consulted on’ by the Government, that people over 70 years of age should have an eye test every 3 years to confirm that their vision is good enough to drive, rather than a self-declaration of good eyesight. For full details and rationale for testing go to the www.gov.uk and search for consultations on tests for older drivers. Of course we know that eyesight often deteriorates in visual acuity or sharpness as we age. And whether we drive or not there is a good rationale for regular eye testing: ‘eyesight tests not only help ensure drivers meet the vision standards but also play a vital role in helping to detect various other medical conditions and eye diseases at an early stage’. This means that early treatment can preserve sight for as long as possible and, therefore, contribute to safer driving.

As well as seeing well enough to drive, we need to be able to keep physically fit enough get in and out of a car! Perhaps you would like to do a simple test to give you some idea? The Sit-to-Stand test detailed at www.patient.info is used by professionals to assess strength, coordination, balance, posture, and biomechanics (how your body’s built, how it functions, and how it moves). There are various versions of the test, but they are all essentially involve moving from a sitting to a standing position. You can do the test in the privacy of your own home and see for yourself how you do! As we move into springtime, now is the time to look after our eyes, ready to see the first glimmer of sunshine and get out in it!

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 March 2026. You can also contact Cathy Butterworth on 01934 806266 or by email at cb@theconsultant.org

Cathy Butterworth

HeadsUp Support Group

HeadsUp provides 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 6 March. If you want to find out more





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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.

HeadsUp

Somewhere House Coffee and a Chat

For general support with mental wellbeing, Somewhere House 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 or visit their website at www.somewherehousesomerset.org



Somewhere House

Music in Mind

Music in Mind is a friendly group for people feeling isolated, or with memory problems, and their carers. We meet for a social chat, refreshments and most importantly, music! We sing, listen, and play simple percussion instruments. We meet in the Masonic Hall, Wedmore, on alternate Monday afternoons. Our next sessions are on 2, 16 and 30 March. We have tea and biscuits at 2.15pm, and music from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

The group was delighted to hear that, as a result of excellent quizzing on 30 January at the New Inn in Wedmore, a local GP team won £150 chose to donate it to Music in Mind! It was such a kind thought and we want to express our heartfelt thanks for such generosity. The group can only function with the help and support of brilliant volunteers, and donations from the Wedmore and Axbridge Community Health Fund and other donations from the public.

We all know how music can help us connect with others, can change our mood, and bring us joy – and we welcome newcomers to join us to share in the friendship and enjoyment. If you know anyone you can tell about our group, we'd be grateful!

There is no charge for the sessions. For more information please contact Stella by phone on 07896 509754 or 01934 732282 or by email at davestellamoore@btinternet.com

Stella Moore

Wedmore Good Neighbours

Wedmore Good Neighbours has been up and running for five years now! It's sufficiently well established that most people in the Isle of Wedmore community have some idea of what sort of neighbourly help our volunteers provide. However, if you'd like a bit more detail, here are some numbers for our latest annual report.

In 2025 our amazing volunteers did a total of 367 jobs, 146 home visits, and 221 driving jobs, of which 86% were for medical appointments. These figures are broadly in line with the last two years, suggesting that we have probably arrived at a steady state of around 400 jobs per year.

If you don't have a car, or it's not convenient to drive yourself, getting to the doctor's surgery or a hospital can be a challenge. Taxis are very expensive and rather impersonal. Provided it's not an emergency and you give us about a week's notice we can almost certainly find a willing volunteer to provide transport and company



as far as Taunton and Bristol. If there are any other local club meetings you'd like to attend, but you're not sure how to get there, then give us a call.

Our volunteers are now visiting a small number of people in their own homes for a regular cuppa and a chat. If you, or someone you know, would like this kind of neighbourly help just call us and leave a message.

There may be other situations where you could use a bit of neighbourly help. Maybe you are unwell and need your dog walking? Got a prescription you'd like collecting from the chemist? Have some items that need taking to the recycling centre? Give us a call and we'll see what we can do.

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 DBS vetting and training of volunteers. 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. Demand for the group's services has been steadily increasing so if you'd like to become a volunteer, you'd be most welcome.

Whatever your request, or you would like to volunteer, please call us on 01934 806299, leave a message, and 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.

Finally, a big shot of gratitude to our volunteers, both past and present – none of this would be possible without all those generous people in our local community who selflessly give their time and effort to supporting their neighbours.

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Green Wedmore

Representatives from the group are making plans to travel to Buckingham Palace to receive the Kings Award for Voluntary Services. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the successes of Green Wedmore over the years, at to showcase the village more widely.

We have two of our popular events coming up in April, so please do come along and find out more about our work. The Repair Café will be back at Wedmore Village Hall on Saturday 11 April, 10.00am to 1.00pm. A chance to bring along broken items to be fixed, or tools and blades to be sharpened. Help us keep items useful for longer, reduce what is sent to landfill, and remove the need to buy new. Pop along for coffee and homemade cake while you wait.

Freecycle also returns on Sunday 26 April from 10.00am at Wedmore village car park. Get there early as locals look to rehome useful items. If you have never been before, Freecycle works like a free car boot. A chance to declutter, clear out lofts, sheds, and garages and find a second use for items, rather than taking them to landfill. One man's trash is another man's treasure as they say.



A reminder that our monthly meetings now take place on the second Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm, at the upstairs room in The George. Everyone is welcome to come along and find out about our ongoing projects and plans for the future, Next meeting is Wednesday 11 March. Why not join Wedmore's award-winning Voluntary Group this new year? Please contact us at hello@greenwedmore.co.uk



Liz Burton

Wedmore in Bloom

We held our AGM and supper on 30 January and what an evening it was! Many attended, great company, and delicious food and wine. It had been a grey wet day, but the Weston Ukelele Band lifted our spirits with their fantastic repertoire of music and songs. Toes were tapping, hands were clapping, arms were swaying. The band played to raise funds for the Children's Hospice, and our thanks go to everyone who gave so generously.



As we all await the tulip show, we thought it would be a good time to share some interesting facts about tulips. Although associated with the Netherlands, tulips originated in the Tian Shan mountains of Central Asia. They were first cultivated in Turkey more than 3000 years ago and did not reach Western Europe until the 16th century. There are 150 species of tulips with 3000 varieties. Tulip petals are edible and can be used to replace onions in many recipes or even to make wine! Tulips are traditionally given on an 11th wedding anniversary.

The colours themselves have meaning: pink represents affection, caring, good wishes and love; white conveys forgiveness, gesture of respect; orange represents enthusiasm; red for true love of course; yellow for cheerfulness, energy, and strength; and purple for luxury, as purple dye was a luxury only Royals and the wealthy could afford, perfect for bridal bouquets.

Please remember, badgers love tulip bulbs (*along with sweetcorn... – Ed.*), so be careful where you plant them. Come on Spring! hurry up, please!

Kay Adams

Wedmore Gardening Club

What a great way to start our 2026 programme with a talk by GC member Liz Anderson on 'Flower Farming on a Whim', an amusing and interesting talk to a full house. Liz is obviously very knowledgeable and talented. Really enjoyable evening.

Our gardens are beginning to come alive again with the beautiful snowdrops and the purple of the cyclamen, wonderful! There are even daffodils, although not in my garden yet. Let's hope the weather improves soon so that we can get outside and enjoy our gardens.

On Tuesday 24 March Nick Wray, always a very good speaker, will give a talk entitled 'Gardens of Japan'. Meetings start at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall. As always members and guests are most welcome, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to come.

Jean Windridge

Isle of Wedmore Society

Our first meeting of 2026 and AGM attracted a wide audience of 35 members and 3 visitors, all keen to listen to our local resident and member, Paul Roberts, tell us everything we needed to know about the historic finger posts we see, but take little notice of, around the Parish.



As a newcomer to Wedmore, Paul had not taken a great interest in local signposts and, like so many of us, didn't know that they are known as 'finger posts' in Somerset, possibly because of their finger shaped ends. Paul got talking to a new friend, who casually said that the post they were looking at was one of the oldest in the county. Well, that did it and down the rabbit hole of curiosity he went and, just like Alice, he invited us to follow him. He began with the history of signposts. Way back in 1697 a law was passed requiring local communities to put up signs to major towns in their area, and successive laws have continued that need until 1933 when all signs were standardised. Then in 1940 the signs were taken down in case Hitler's troops invaded and wanted to know the way! However, the only foreigners to be inconvenienced were those of America and Canada here to help us win that war.

After the war Somerset was one of the first to renew their signs, only to be told in 1964 that the design had changed so they were encouraged to do theirs again. They refused, and so our iconic Finger Posts remain. There are very few modern signs to the national pattern in the county, as it was agreed that our historic signs could be retained due to their historical significance. In 2019 it was obvious that they needed attention, so a refurbishment scheme was undertaken.

Paul, as an engineer, went into great detail as to the making of the first posts, which are cast iron and were made in the local village of Mark, by two foundries producing identical items in direct competition. Their foundry marks can be found at the base of each post. The design is clever with a basic post, possibly nicely moulded, with a thinner high end onto which the individual fingers can be slotted and rotated as required but, not overtightened so that they would move rather than break if struck by a passing vehicle. The letters are capitals and the whole structure is usually painted in black and white. The finial carries the county initials.

Paul, on his walks and cycle rides, has catalogued our local posts and he put us to the test by challenging us to recognise his favourites. We need to try harder, and will certainly be better next time, as we will no longer take them for granted when we travel around the county.

After the talk we held our AGM, hearing that 2025 had been a successful year for the Society, with new members joining, and our finances in good shape. Our programme for 2026 was presented and well received and, although Ian Tomes and David Wood will no longer be on the committee, we were pleased to welcome Sally Heslop.

We now look forward to our next talk on the 26 March in the Masonic Hall at 7.30pm which, again, will be given by a local resident and Society member, Michael Blandford, who is going to tell us about The Waters of Wells.

As always, visitors welcome and a chance for new members to sign up. There will be a charge of £5 for visitors with tea, coffee and biscuits on offer. For further information please contact the secretary, Jean Gregory, by email at secretaryiows@btinternet.com

Jean Gregory

Mr Punch's Folk Club

The next folk club sessions will be held on Friday 6 and Friday 20 March from 8.00pm. All are welcome, entry is £3, bring your own refreshments.

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Women of Wedmore – In the Footsteps of the Roman Legions



The challenges of torrential rain, a leaking tent, heavy rucksacks, and sore feet, failed to spoil a scenic walking holiday alongside an iconic Roman landmark. Women of Wedmore vice-president Marianne recalled her recent 80-mile Hadrian's Wall hike that she completed with her husband, Ian. The couple are no strangers to walking trips, having experienced The Inca Trail and a trek to Everest Base Camp in the past.

The Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail is a long-distance footpath running coast to coast from Wallsend in Tyne and Wear, to Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria. It closely follows the route of the ancient Roman Wall which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It passes through beautiful countryside and the cities of Newcastle and Carlisle. The path can be followed east-to-west, in the direction the wall was originally built, or west-to-east, which keeps the wind at your back.

Marianne planned their six-day walk in the east-to-west direction and carefully organised their holiday using a detailed spreadsheet. However, there were challenges, as much of the accommodation on the trail was either fully booked or had, unfortunately, completely closed down. Having flown into Newcastle to start their walk, they were reliant on either their own two feet or buses, but they discovered that on some days there were no options for rural public transport.



The original idea to camp for three nights didn't quite turn out as expected due to the bad weather. They spent one night under canvas near a pig sty, with two large pigs for company. It rained all night and was still raining when they got up the following morning, so the tent was swiftly bundled into a rucksack and didn't come out again until they reached home! For the rest of the trip they stayed in bed and breakfast accommodation, a hostel, and an Airbnb on the route. Thanks to a tip from another walker, they discovered a reasonably priced baggage transfer service, and they handed their rucksacks over to the aptly named 'Hadrian's Haul' company for the rest of their holiday. But carrying up to 12kg had taken its toll on Marianne's feet and by the time day five arrived her feet were very painful. Thankfully, swapping her walking boots for her light training shoes helped, as did easier walking country.

The wall was built by Roman legions as a defence and border control under the orders of Emperor Hadrian in AD122. (On the middle section of the wall the bus service is named AD122!) Interestingly, until the mid-19th century it was known as the Wall of Severus, named after another Roman emperor, who repaired the wall at a later date. Over time, stones from the wall were used to build local castles, churches, farms and houses. Conservationists put a stop to this, and in 1839 historian and clergyman John Hodgson published evidence that the wall was built by Hadrian. About 10 miles of the wall is still visible today. Features on the route include the remains of milecastles (small forts) and turrets. At the iconic Sycamore Gap, visitors can see the remaining stump of the illegally felled tree. Marianne recorded her walk on GPS, walking 80 miles of the trail took them 31 hours and 44 minutes. Marianne walked a total of 222,406 steps.

The next Women of Wedmore meeting is on Wednesday 11 March at the Post and Wicket at 7.00pm, when we will be having a First Aid and Defibrillator session. For more details, please email WoW on wedmorewi@outlook.com

Sarah Ford

Wedmore Footpaths Group

Hopefully as the weather begins to improve, we can enjoy walking on our countryside footpaths. Wedmore Footpaths Group, with help and support from the Parish Council and members of the Men's Shed, will be continuing to monitor access on the routes, cutting back where necessary and making sure paths are clearly marked. If you spot any issues when you are walking, please let us know by emailing us.



Always remember the rules of the Countryside Code, which include keeping to the footpaths across farmland, closing gates, keeping dogs under control and giving any animals in the fields plenty of space.

For some walking routes around Wedmore visit www.theisleofwedmore.net To get in touch with Wedmore Footpaths Group, or report any issues, by email at wedmorefootpaths@outlook.com Happy walking!

Wedmore Footpaths Group

Wedmore Men's Shed

Men's Shed has started the year with lots of projects. Firstly, we have linked up with Avalon Camps to help them out. Avalon Camps are a local charity who do great work, helping young people from Bristol to have a free holiday in the Somerset countryside. They have lots of local volunteers who help them. They needed help with refurbishing the toilet block, so we sent a team there to help.



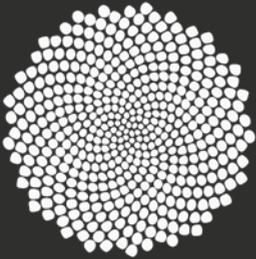
Meanwhile back at the shed, the parish bench refurbishment project continues and this month the one at the top of Mudgley Hill has been completed. In St Mary's Church we have been helping with the new storage cabinet, which will house the new chairs when they are not needed.



The Mudgley bench back in its location

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continued in January with Brigadier Nigel Beacom who enlightened us all on the excellent work the Somerset Lieutenancy does for the county.



Men's Shed team gather at Avalon Camps

We are a friendly, welcoming place where men can get involved in several 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@](mailto:wedmoremensshed@outlook.com)



Construction of the new cabinet for the chairs in St Mary's Church

outlook.com or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am or Thursdays from 2.00pm 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

Wedmore Probus Club

The year began with a fascinating talk by Pete Richardson about his life as a Space Photographer focussing on how he had built his telescopes in Bleadon. With the aid of his photographs, he illustrated the unimaginable distance and time over which his images have taken to reach earth. The talk certainly brought home to his audience our relative insignificance, in the context of the huge galaxies far distant from our own. Hopefully he will visit the club again to show his amazing photographs.

On 28 January John Page gave an illustrated talk about the 'Rajahs of Sarawak', it was a good job it was illustrated as most members did not have a clue where Sarawak

is, to be clear it is a Malaysian State in Borneo. We learnt of the capital, Kuching, a bustling city set on the Sarawak River and 19th century. Astana, a former palace of the White Rajahs; and Fort Margherita, built to thwart pirates. However surpassing all this was the story of the White Rajahs, a hereditary monarchy founded by adventurer James Brooke in 1841 who was succeeded by Brooke family members until 1946. Stories of their fight against piracy and insurgencies by indigenous tribes, and the fight to prevent western exploitation was fascinating and, more so, because the family hailed from Somerset. For those interested it is well worth reading the extra-ordinary facts in Wikipedia as well several books on the subject.

The next meetings of Wedmore Probus will be held on 11 March, when a member will be speaking, and 25 March when the speaker will be Peter Lander whose subject is 'Birnbek Pier'. Talks are held at Wedmore Golf Club and start at 10.30am.

If you are a retired man living in Wedmore and the surrounding area then you will probably enjoy a morning, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, listening to very interesting, informative, and stimulating talks together with a chat over a cup of coffee and, should you wish, an informal drink and lunch after the talk. There is absolutely no commitment or attendance expectation, and the cost of membership is very low at £25 per annum. So if you are interested in attending then please call 07538 643682 for further details.

Mike Gelder

Theale Community Film Club

Theale Community Film Club's next meeting will be at Theale Village Hall on 22 March, doors open at 6.30pm and the film will start at 7.00pm. New members are always welcome, and temporary membership is available, please phone for further details on 07855 297861.

Bernard Coulter

Wedmore Tuesday Club



Margaret Tinney, cake baked by Christine Raphael



Gill Agnew, cake baked by Christine Raphael



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Mike Thorne, cake baked by Sue Gudgeon



Mary Elliott, cake baked by Christine Raphael

Everything went back to normal at Tuesday Club on 6 January, when we welcomed our members back. There was a real buzz in the room as our members were relaying to one another who they had spent Christmas with and what they had got up to. One of our members Mary Hatch even flew out to Australia to spend Christmas with family, can't wait to hear how she got on!

Tuesday Club celebrated four birthdays in January. Margaret Tinney, Gill Agnew, Mike Thorne and Mary Elliott. As is Tuesday Club tradition on their birthday that member brings in a bottle of Sherry and a bottle of Schloer which we share out so we can toast that members birthday. Have to say more Sherry than Schloer gets consumed on these occasions. Once we have cleared all the dishes, we take a specially baked Birthday cake to their table and sing Happy Birthday and gave them a birthday card and gift. We know they really appreciate this little touch to their special day.

Our membership numbers have grown so well now that the whole room is now full. After Covid numbers dropped off quite a lot which was understandable at the time but did put pressure on keeping Tuesday Club going so lovely to see we are back to normal. A contribution to this we think is due to Tuesday Club updates in Isle of Wedmore News, big thank you Ian Anstey for asking me if I would like to do a monthly article, you all do such a fantastic job getting this amazing monthly booklet out to so many people in our community (aww, that's lovely, thank you! – Ed). When I became a helper at Tuesday Club I started taking photos of special occasions like our Christmas Party, trips out in the summer and birthdays. I now have quite a lot of these in photo albums and occasionally take them in so they can flip through them and reminisce about days gone by.

Have you ever thought 'yes, I would like to be a helper at Wedmore Tuesday Club'? We are always looking for new people to join us to help this very vital club to keep it going, it is such a social event for our members and helpers alike. Not sure? well why not pop along for an hour or two and see if it really is something you would like to get involved with, it is not a commitment to do every Tuesday just when you are able,

if you are interested please contact: Lesley Nichols on 01934 712045 or Sue Worrall on 07748 131413 or Yvonne Hutchison on 01934 712729 or Graham Whitcombe on 01934 712916 or 07580 500545.

Graham Whitcombe

Cheddar and Wedmore Bridge Club

Notable scores of 65% or more were achieved in January club sessions by Chris Bryant and Peter Colton (67.5%) and Jane Lawrence and Michael O'Brien (65.6%).

Our Christmas Party was held on the at the Wedmore Golf Club on 12 January. The evening started with the presentation of the following cups: Cheddar Championship Pairs cup - Jane Hall and Peter Dawes; Wedmore Championship Pairs cup - Paul St. Quintin and Geoff Davies; Cheddar Championship Teams cup - Mike Smith, Chris Bryant, Michael O'Brien and Ray Harper; Wedmore Handicap Teams cup - Jean Lowe, Rachael Brown, Sue Gudgeon and Malcolm Scard and the Cheddar Handicap Teams cup - Bob Williams, Marilyn Dykes, Sue Gudgeon and Bob Jepps. After a substantial buffet we finished by playing a duplicate Chicago session which was won NS by Paul St. Quintin and Geoff Davies and EW by Barbara Biggins and Gillian Toogood. It was an extremely enjoyable evening, and we thank all involved in organising it.

Bridge is all about you and your partner describing your hand to each other to get to the best contract. Unfortunately, the opponents also get to hear your conversation, and this may help them foil your plans. This month's hand is an example of listening to the opponents' bidding to work out how best to defend. The East/West pairs usually bid: 1NT (weak) – 2C (Stayman) – 2D (no 4-card major) – 2NT – pass. South is then faced with an unenviable choice of lead.

'4th highest, longest and strongest' is an oft quoted maxim but playing pairs, where every trick matters, leading from an unsupported honour as you would have to do here frequently gives a trick away. I therefore chose the 7 of spades 'top of nothing' lead. The Jack was played and North faced a key decision. Should they go up with the King? It seems obvious to take the King and return a spade to clear the Ace but North has no sure entry for their long spades. From the bidding, East has two or three spades. If he has two then South has four and the 7 can't be top of nothing since North can see that there are only two cards below it that they could have. It could be fourth highest from QT97, but South would have led the ten from this holding so South and East have three spades each.

The bidding shows that East has 12 to 13 points and West has about 11 so North can work out that South has 11 or 12 points and could easily have two or more entries. North should therefore not play their king of spades but keep it as an entry. Play

North (V)

♠ K8654

♥ 62

♦ QT43

♣ T7

West (V)

♠ AJ

♥ KQJT

♦ 986

♣ 9854

East (D)

♠ QT9

♥ 987

♦ K752

♣ AQJ

South (V)

♠ 732

♥ A543

♦ AJ

♣ K632

the 8 of spades instead, to encourage partner to continue. Knowing that East has, at most, 3 spades, South knows that North has 5 or more. They therefore clear the ace of spades after their first entry and after their second entry they put partner in with the king of spades to take two more tricks. Ultimately, on this hand, 2NT goes two off - as long as North does not play their king of spades on the first round!

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

Club50

On 18 March we will have a talk about The Children's Hospice South West starting at 2.30pm at the Masonic Hall. This is an amazing organisation and deserves everyone's support. The talk is followed by tea.

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

The winners for February were Deb Hunt and Ann Mason. Many congratulations to you both.

Liz Henderson

Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Golf Club

A new year and every golfer hopes that this is the year all those putts are going to fall and with them those handicaps stuck too high for too long. Soon, of course, those hopes are dashed by persistently high scores not helped by the persistently bad weather. To wrap up 2035 first, the Seniors who refuse to let Christmas get in the way of golf, which amounted to 92 players, were out for a pairs competition won by Jim Crick and John Harding with 46 points.

The next week was due to be a full week of competitions, but a mixture of heavy rain and frozen ground caused the Ladies competition to be cancelled. The Seniors had frosty ground but glorious sunshine for their Stableford on Monday. This obviously suited Chris Monks who scored 42 points to win Division 3 by 9 points, 4 better than anyone else in the field. Frank Sparks took second place in the Division with 33, one better than third placed Paul England. Scores were lower in Division 1, but this produced a close finish with Philip Horn winning on 32. Charles Woodard was top scorer in Division 2, scoring 35 points. Second best score of the day came from Tony Ireland who scored 38 to win Division 4, scoring a 2 on the last hole.

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There was some excellent scoring at the weekend Stableford including the Ladies which was won by Sally Stephens with 35 points. A very close finish in Division 1 saw Steve Plant continuing his run of good form, beating Jeff Griffiths on countback after both scored 35 points. Kevin Vaux had the best score of the day, 37, to win Division 2 by 3 points. Gary Cutter also scored 37 winning Division 3 by 2 points.

The following week the weather was again a factor with bright sunshine interspersed with heavy downpours. All was fine though for the Seniors on Monday playing the third round of their Winter League. Best scores were in Division 1 with Jay James winning with 38 points. Stan Dinatore also scored 36 which was enough to win Division 2 by a point. Andy Shepherd with 36 was the winner in Division 3 but only on countback from Gary Cutter. Closest finish was in Division 4 with Chris Loughlin winning on 33. In the overall league, on a very unofficial basis, Trevor Guy has edged into a narrow lead with Jay James and Clive Warren-Smith close behind. With one round to play and players able to discard their worst round the situation could still change dramatically.

The Ladies set off to play an 18-hole bowmaker, but in the end had to settle for just nine holes as conditions worsened. Inevitably this produced a close finish with 5 points on the last hole pushing the team of Nicola Stevenson, Claire Biggs and Marion Warren-Smith up to 40 points.

Despite heroic efforts from the ground staff, rain wiped out play the following week. However, nothing stops the Seniors for long, and they were back the following week for the monthly Stableford. Many wished they had not bothered but not Nigel Day who top scored, winning Division 2 with 41 points. Jay James won again in Division 1 on 35 points. The usual close finish in Division 3 saw John Vowles win on countback from Frank Sparks. Barry Royal won Division 4 with 31.



Winners of the Ladies Four-Ball Better Ball, Maggie Tolchard and Marion Warren-Smith on the left, along with playing partners Debbie Monks and Sandy Bedford

The Ladies eventually got out on Thursday with just 12 holes open. Maggie Tolchard and Marion Warren-Smith took first place with 25 points. The nine-hole competition which was restricted to 7 holes went to Sue Spink and Marie Mackle with 12 points. Spring cannot be far away, surely?

Tony Biggs

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

With the club Christmas tree and sparkly baubles safely tucked away in their respective boxes, the business of the second half of the winter indoor bowls season resumed with renewed vigour. All the fifteen in-house weekly leagues at the halfway point are finely poised, with no team yet looking to be a guaranteed winner. As well as the in-house leagues the Club played a mixed friendly against St Andrews BC of Weston-super-Mare, which was lost by 21 to 47 shots, and on both rinks. The next mixed friendly at home, against Long Ashton, was more successful with the Club winning both rinks by a comfortable 25 to 19 shots. A mixed team travelled to Puriton, which was a good mixture of experienced and less experienced bowlers who acquitted themselves very well, only being narrowly defeated 26 to 32 over two rinks.



Alan Lewis, Val Poole and Clive Hillman check the shot options in one of the Mixed Triples semi-finals

In the Somerset County Indoor Bowls Association (SCIBA) league, which is a notoriously high standard with several international and county bowlers, the men's team played a two rinks home, two rinks away fixture against Victoria BC of Weston-

super-Mare. Despite winning the two home rinks we were nonetheless defeated 60 to 84. You can rightly deduce that playing away from home is a more difficult proposition.

An eagerly anticipated date in the indoor season calendar is Finals Weekend. This year it's on 14 and 15 March. Various knockout competitions such as men's singles, ladies' singles, new winners, Australian pairs, and family pairs have been contested since the start of the season and preparations are being made for an epic weekend of great bowls. Why not come up to the club and support the finalists, everyone is welcome. One knockout competition for which the finalists are already known is the mixed triples. In two close semi-finals the winners were the trio of Dave Nicholls, Val Poole, and Clive Hillman; and that of Dave Brown, Teresa Gray, and Dave Poole. The final promises to be a close one!

From April this year the club is modifying its playing kit. Rather than white trousers, shorts, cut-offs or skirts on match days there will be a switch to navy blue. Then in April 2027 a new shirt design, already chosen, will be introduced. The reason for the staggered changeover is to help spread the cost of purchasing additional attire.

If you would like to be a part of this fantastic community club, why not come along to our Open Day on Sunday 3 May from 10.00am until 2.00pm to see and try out our exceptional indoor and outdoor facilities. Otherwise please contact Stuart at millhaven44@icloud.com and arrange a viewing. We would love to welcome you.

Peter Gower

Wedmore Football Club

March is big month for the football club. The first team are involved in a cup semi-final on Saturday 14 March against Peasedown Albion with home advantage we would like to encourage as many locals and supporters as possible to come down and support the team and cheer them on to the final.

January as we know has been a wet month which as affected games played, however all three teams have continued to push up the league table with some great results.

January saw the First Team lose 1-2 to Paulton Rovers, followed by two wins, firstly 3-0 against Nailsea United Reserves and then 2-0 against Saltford. The Reserves had two straight wins, firstly 6-3 against St George Easton in Gordano A and then 7-3 against Banwell Reserves. The A Team started with a win, 3-0 against Banwell Colts, but then lost 2-3 against Shipham and finished January with a draw, 1-1, against Clevedon United Colts

Here are the League Tables as of 1 February:

Somerset County Division 2

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Paulton Rovers Sports	13	11	1	1	41	34
2	St George and Gordano	15	10	4	1	25	34
3	Isle of Wedmore	16	11	1	4	21	34
4	Street FC Reserves	17	9	5	3	24	32
5	Cutters Friday	17	8	4	5	9	28
6	Fry Club Reserves	19	7	6	6	-3	27

Weston and District League – Division 2

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Portishead Town A	12	11	1	0	33	34
2	Isle of Wedmore Res	13	10	1	2	27	31
3	Highburn Athletic	10	8	2	0	33	26
4	Weston Celtic	10	7	2	1	38	23
5	Clevedon United A	14	5	2	7	-15	17
6	Banwell Reserves	11	5	0	6	-10	15

Weston and District League – Division 4

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Sandbay FC	9	9	0	0	43	24
2	Worle Colts	12	6	2	4	32	20
3	Isle of Wedmore A	12	6	2	4	1	20
4	Clevedon United Colts	11	5	2	4	15	16
5	Swiss Valley Rangers Res	10	5	1	4	14	15
6	Nailsea United Colts	9	5	0	4	-1	15

Up the Isle of Wedmore! 

Ben Warren

Wedmore Tennis Club

Well, it's been a bit of a soggy one. Since the last newsletter there have been hardly any matches played, not for lack of enthusiasm, but because the rain has had other ideas! With courts constantly waterlogged, many matches have sadly been cancelled. Fingers crossed we'll get a decent dry spell soon and things can finally get back on track.

The good news is that the padel court is now in place. Yes, padel has officially arrived at Wedmore! It's been great to see it completed, and we're really excited about getting everyone out there playing. Padel is a racquet sport, first played in Acapulco in 1968, that combines elements of tennis and squash. It is usually played in doubles on a small, enclosed, court with glass and mesh walls that are part of the game. It has the same scoring system as tennis, but different rules and equipment, for example the rackets are solid and perforated.

As I write, we're just in the final stages of setting up the booking and payment system, so the court should be available very soon. Please note that padel will be bookable by club members only, but if anyone is interested in joining the club or finding out more about membership, enquiries can be sent to membership@wedmoretennis.co.uk

Now all we need is the weather to cooperate.

Shirley Turner

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News and Events from Outside the Parish

Prickles Hedgehog Rescue in Cheddar

Prickles Hedgehog Rescue is a charitable organisation based in Cheddar, which has recently avoided closure owing to the generous support of the public. Established in 2007, the charity is managed by four Trustees, a small, dedicated team of staff, and a group of committed volunteers. Prickles takes pride in its record of caring for and releasing over 500 hedgehogs each year. The rescue centre has helped more than 7,000 hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs are in urgent need of our help. Their population has plummeted from an estimated 30 million in the 1970s to just 1 million today. This dramatic decline is largely due to the loss of their natural habitats, increased use of pesticides that destroy many of their food sources, and a rise in vehicle traffic. Hedgehogs, being naturally inquisitive, often find themselves in difficult situations that can result in injury, becoming orphaned, or falling ill.

At Prickles, we focus on rescuing hedgehogs, providing rehabilitation through care and treatment, and then releasing them back into the wild. You can help hedgehogs by placing bowls of fresh water in your garden to provide drinking sources for hedgehogs; scattering poultry-flavoured cat biscuits around your garden, or set up a feeding station using a plastic container with a small entrance cut out; positioning a hedgehog box filled with hay in a quiet corner of your garden, ideally beneath a shrub, to offer shelter; if you have a pond, install a ramp to allow hedgehogs an easy escape route; and ensuring that hedgehogs can move freely between gardens by leaving small gaps in fences.

If you spot a hedgehog out during the day this may indicate illness, so please contact Prickles by phone on 07806 744772. The centre is open every day from 9.00am to 17.00pm.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team. Roles are available in animal care, office duties, and online selling, such as on eBay. We are also seeking a Treasurer to support the charity's work. For more information, please visit www.prickleshedgehogrescue.org.uk

Jules Bishop

Quiz Night at Henton Village Hall

We will be holding a quiz night, in support of the Christ Church Henton Revitalising Fund, at Henton Village Hall on Saturday 28 March, doors open at 7.00pm and the quiz will commence at 7.30pm. Come and have your little grey cells challenged by Quizmaster Terry Ricketts on this fun evening.

Individual tickets cost £12 and tables of up to six people can be booked. Please contact Caroline Lowndes-Northcott on 07875 418680, or by email at carolinelowndes@gmail.com The ticket price includes a light supper and there will be a cash bar and raffle.

Ian Tinsley

Concert at Mark Church

Tim Pitman, a classical and pop singer-songwriter, will be performing live at Mark Church on Friday 20 March. Doors open at 7.00pm and the show starts at 7.30pm, light refreshments included. Tickets are £10 and can be obtained from Eventbrite. For further information please contact us on 01278 641067 or 01278 641308

Lynne Duckett

Henton and District Garden Club

March in the garden is always a joy. Creating and upgrading groups of plants is part of the fun, so we are really looking forward to welcoming Dr Timothy Walker on 18 March to talk on 'Bordering on the Insanity'!

Under his directorship for 6 years, the Oxford Botanic Garden won no less than 4 gold medals at Chelsea Flower Show, Inn 2010, he presented a 3-part series of films on the history of botany on BBC4 and since 2014 he has been a senior lecturer and tutor in plant biology at Somerville College, Oxford.

In his talk, he will tell us about a specific border in his wife's garden, created and developed over 25 years, and will look at a collection of must-have plants for such a border and associations in which they may be grown.

Henton Garden Club is a very friendly crowd of people. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Henton Village Hall, from 7pm for refreshments with talks starting at 7.30pm, except for June, July, August and December when we have our summer trip, garden party and Christmas celebration. Annual membership is £15. Non-members are guaranteed a very warm welcome, with a charge of £5 per meeting. For more information either call Sue Thorne on 01749 674767 or go to our website at www.hentongardenclub.weebly.com

Susie Spragg

Cheddar Vale Lions

2025 was a good year for Cheddar Vale Lions Club. During Easter 2025, the Club distributed nine large chocolate eggs at locations around the area and sold numbered squares for prize draws held at each venue. The money raised for the Club's Community Aid Fund totalled just under £700.



This year, we are launching the project this month and invite any venues wishing to take part to contact us as soon as possible. We can then ensure the eggs are delivered with plenty of time to sell the numbers before the Easter weekend.

2025 was also a great year for the Memory Café, which launched in March. It grew steadily throughout the year, and we are certain it will continue throughout 2026, as there is clearly a need for local support for those diagnosed with Dementia, Alzheimer's, or Parkinson's. We extend a warm welcome to all who benefit from attending, along with their carers and families in this safe, friendly environment. The Memory Café takes place monthly in the Pallotti Room at the Catholic Church, Tweentown. This month's meeting will be on 30 March, providing an opportunity to chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a selection of homemade cakes.

We are always looking for new members, so if you want to help look after your community and beyond, have some fun, and enjoy being social then do get in touch.



If you need more information about our events, please contact us through our website www.cheddarvalelions.org.uk email us at information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk or phone 03458 337402.

Sylvia Cook

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

Save the Children Lunches

You can help children in distress around the world!
Join us for our next lunches on 6 and 20 March, 12.00 noon, in Shipham Village Hall.



Save the Children

Just £5.50 lunch (under 5's are free) for a selection of homemade soup, locally baked bread, cheddar cheese, pickle, and tea or coffee. All profits go to the Save the Children charity.

Ian Firth

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

Are you a poet or a lover of poetry? Cheddar Valley U3A continues to provide its members with a very varied programme of activities plus many opportunities to meet socially. In addition to the regular speaker meetings on the first Thursday afternoon of the month,



and the coffee morning every third Thursday of the month, the Social Committee has a Poetry Afternoon scheduled for 20 March at the Cheddar Catholic Church Hall. Tickets for this are £3, which includes refreshments. Why not come and join us?

If you are retired and would like to join us at U3A, 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

Malcolm Litten, U3A

Cheddar Arts @ King's Theatre

Cheddar Arts spring 2026 season of films concludes on Friday 6 March with Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale, starring Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery and Paul Giamatti. The Crawley family and their wider household navigate personal and societal upheavals, financial difficulties and the necessity of letting go and moving on in this, the final Downton Abbey film.

Entrance to the theatre from Kings Leisure Centre car park. No online bookings. Tickets are available on the door – 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

Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

The February Branch meeting featured a presentation by our Branch President Dick Whittingham entitled 'A Belgian Spitfire Pilot WW2 and after', that followed on from his January presentation on the early WW2 career of Bobby Laumans. This presentation took us from 1 June 1942, when Bobby's Spitfire was hit by fire from two German Focke-Wulf 190s and he bailed out over the English Channel. Unfortunately, he was rescued by the German Navy and by 11 June he was a PoW in Stalag Luft III, Poland, made famous by films the 'The Wooden Horse' and 'The Great Escape'.

Bobby remained a PoW for 3 years and was a major force in the production of the Camp Shows designing and producing the sets costumes, while acting as one of the 'female' leads. In early 1945, the PoWs were moved back to Germany as part of the '100km Winter March', before being released by the British Forces in April 1945. Bobby returned to UK and during the summer and autumn of 1945 took part in several PoW review shows in London's West End along with 'Maigret' Rupert Davies. Bobby was discharged from the RAF and went home to Belgium, where he returned to flying with the Belgian airline Sabena, until he retired as a senior Boeing 747 Captain. He became a member of the RAFA Brussels Branch.



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Bobby Laumans and his Spitfire

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The Branch will hold its AGM on Monday 2 March at 11.00am in Wells Golf Club. This will be an important meeting, so all members are requested to attend to share their comments and feedback and views on the way forward. The following Branch Meeting will be held on Monday 13 April in Wells Golf Club with a presentation by Paul Ashmore entitled 'They Bend 'Em, We Mend 'Em – The Nimrod Years'.

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

Paul Ashmore

RNLI Mendip Branch

The Branch is pleased to announce that the total funds raised in 2025 after costs are removed is £16,881. The full accounts will be reported at the Annual Review Meeting on Thursday 12 March.



The Branch Annual Super Quiz on 31 January in Shipham Village Hall was a 'Sell-Out' with 20 teams comprising 120 enthusiastic Quizzers who enjoyed 14 rounds of six questions plus a picture round. The overall winners were 'We Thought This Was Speed Dating' who received a bottle of wine each. The Branch also presented a Folk Concert by the Singer and Musician 'Mark Waistell' on Saturday 21 February in St James' Church Centre, Winscombe.



The Branch will hold its Annual Review Meeting on Thursday 12 March at 7.00pm in the new Winscombe Community Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

On 11 January, Volunteers at RNLI Newcastle Lifeboat Station in Northern Ireland waved farewell to the last operational Mersey class lifeboat in the RNLI's fleet. Mersey Class Lifeboat 'Leonard Kent' fleet number '12-20' launched at 12.20pm precisely down the slipway and off to sea for the last time escorted by the Newcastle inshore lifeboats. The Mersey was introduced into the RNLI fleet in 1988. Following

a tradition of naming classes of lifeboats after rivers, this class was named after the River Mersey, which stretches for 70 miles from Stockport to Liverpool Bay. With a top speed of 17 knots, it was the last all-weather lifeboat not to have a 25-knot capability. During their lifespan, Mersey class lifeboats have been located at 52 stations across Ireland and the UK, including Newcastle, Clogherhead, Wicklow, Kilmore Quay and Clifden on the island of Ireland. In all, the Mersey launched over 11,800 times, with its volunteer crews coming to the aid of 13,784 people, saving 1,254 lives.

January Shouts

In January, there were 8 ‘shouts’ between three of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Minehead – 2, Portishead – 2, Weston-super-Mare – 4).

Portishead crew received their first call of 2026 at 6.37am on 20 January as many were woken up or on their way to work when the pager sounded. A vessel was reported to be taking on water at the mouth of the River Avon. The crew made best speed as there were two people on board needing urgent help.

On arrival at the scene it was only possible to see the wheelhouse of the stricken vessel as it was the only part of the boat that was above the water. The two crew on board had made the quick decision to run the vessel up on to the bank to prevent it completely submerging and awaited rescue. With a lot of experience on that stretch of water, the crew knew exactly what to do and were well equipped. The crew were then able to go alongside and take the casualties on to the RNLi Atlantic 85 lifeboat and drop them onto another vessel which was making way to come and help their colleagues that were in trouble. It was a great ending to a quickly moving shout.

Paul Ashmore

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Weddings

Congratulations to Mark and Florence Elliott (née Hughes-Finney) who were married in St Mary’s on Saturday 3 January 2026.

Funerals

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Margaret Sim who died on 13 December 2025, aged 82, from Billings Hill, Wedmore, whose funeral took place at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Wednesday 7 January 2026.

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be held on Saturday 28 March, 3.00pm to 5.00pm at St Mary’s. Messy Church is: a way of being ‘Church for families’ involving fun; for adults and children to enjoy together; uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity, and to give people a chance to play together; and about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together.



The two hours of Messy Church will feature several craft tables, a time of worship, and a shared tea. It is for all the family, whether you normally come to church or not. Look out for flyers, posters and invitations later in the month. Speak to the vicar Richard Neill if you want to know more or visit the Messy Church website at www.messychurch.org.uk

Revd. Richard Neill

Mothering Sunday

All are welcome to church on Sunday 15 March for special services to mark Mothering Sunday. Flowers will be given to all mothers and others who care for us at each of the morning services in our churches.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Easter falls on Sunday 5 April, so here is a list of the special church services we will be holding in Holy Week, leading up to Easter.

Sunday 29 March – (Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to the acclaim of the crowds). Procession starts from The White Horse Mark at 10.00am with a special Communion Service in Holy Cross Mark at 10.30am.

Monday 30 March – We join with others from across the Cheddar Valley for a special service in Cheddar Roman Catholic Church at 7.00pm. Ministers from different churches and different church traditions each lead a short reflection on one of the Stations of the Cross (an imaginative and reflective way of entering into Jesus' suffering and death).

Tuesday 31 March – Lenten Peace at Holy Cross Mark 6.30pm. A short reflective service with music and silence.

Wednesday 1 April – Night Prayer at St Mary's at 8.00pm. A short reflective service with a sermon to end the day.

Thursday 2 April – Bring and Share Supper and informal Communion at Blackford Village Hall Trinity at 6.00 pm. Suitable for all ages, this is an opportunity to remember the Last Supper of Jesus and his Disciples.

Friday 3 April – Good Friday when we remember Jesus' death on the cross. Stations of the Cross for children at St Mary's at 10.00 am. An interactive journey around St Mary's tracing events of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. This will be followed by making easter biscuits and creating an Easter garden. At 10.00am some members of Christ Church, Theale will walk up the hill to Bagley Baptist Church for a service there at 10.30am, remembering Jesus' death. There will be 'An Hour of the Cross' service at Allerton Church at 2.00pm, with readings, hymns and reflections to mark the last hour of Jesus' life.

Saturday 4 April – Holy Saturday when we remember Jesus lying in the tomb and prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter Sunday. There will be an Easter Vigil in St Mary's at 8.30pm, when we listen to important bible readings, sit in silence, and wait, before lighting lots of candles and proclaiming with joy Jesus' resurrection.

Sunday 5 April – Easter Sunday, the most important day in the church's year when we give thanks for Jesus' resurrection). The day begins with a sunrise service at Bagley Community Orchard, when we light a fire at 6.15am, wait for the sunrise,

and sing joyful hymns. Bacon rolls and coffee are then served in Theale Village hall. Special Easter Sunday communion services will be held at all our churches, which will be full of joy and colour. Easter egg hunts for the children follow these: 9.15am at Allerton Church, Holy Cross Mark and Holy Trinity Blackford; and 10.45am at St Mary's Wedmore and Christ Church, Theale.

Rev. Richard Neill

Church Services

St Mary's Church, Wedmore

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	1	Lent 2	10.45am 6.00pm	Café Church, Seekers and Creche Start the Week
Sunday	8	Lent 3	8.00am 10.45am 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Worship Together with Christchurch Theale -Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	15	Lent 4/Mothering Sunday	10.45am 6.00pm	All Age Communion Start the Week
Sunday	22	Lent 5	10.45am	Morning Praise
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday	No service at St Mary's	See Holy Cross Mark

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	1	Lent 2	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Lent 3	9.15am	Worship Together with Allerton and Mark Church – Parish Communion
Sunday	15	Lent 4/Mothering Sunday	9.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday	22	Lent 5	9.15am	Sunday Breakfast
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday	No service at Holy Trinity	See Holy Cross Mark

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	1	Lent 2	10.45am	Parish Communion
Sunday	8	Lent 3	No service at Christchurch	Worship Together with St Mary's – Parish Communion
Sunday	15	Lent 4/Mothering Sunday	10.45am	Morning Praise



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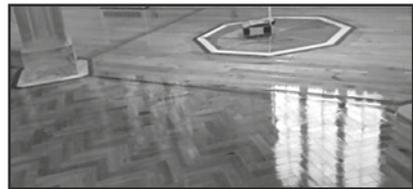
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Sunday	22	Lent 5	10.45am	Parish Communion
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday	No Service at Christchurch	See Holy Cross Mark
Sunday	1	Lent 2	10.45am	Parish Communion

Allerton Church

Sunday	1	Lent 2	9.15am	Family Service
Sunday	8	Lent 3	No Morning Service at Allerton	Worship together with Blackford and Mark churches- Parish Communion
Sunday	15	Lent 4/Mothering Sunday	9.15am	All Age Communion
Sunday	22	Lent 5	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday	No Service at Allerton	See Holy Cross Mark

Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	1	Lent 2	9.15am	Morning Worship
Sunday	8	Lent 3	No Service at Holy Cross	Worship Together with Holy Trinity and Allerton – Parish Communion
Sunday	15	Lent 4/Mothering Sunday	9.15am	Friends and Family Service
Sunday	22	Lent 5	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday	10.00am 10.30am	Palm Sunday Procession Benefice Communion

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.

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

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.

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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.

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

Wedmore Community Bus



The 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, Cribbs Causeway and Wells. 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, whenever possible we try to pick-up and drop-off at a location that is convenient to you, including your home if you 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.

Summer Excursions

From this month until September we are running a series of Summer Excursions. All trips leave Wedmore Village Car Park at 09.30am, with additional pick-ups on route by arrangement

March 30 - Sanders Garden Centre – Arrive around 10.00am, depart at 1.30pm, and arrive back in Wedmore around 1.00pm

April 27 - Cadbury Garden Centre and Clevedon Town and Seafront – Arrive at Cadbury Garden Centre around 10.10am and Clevedon at about 10.30; departs Clevedon at 12.30 and Cadbury Garden Centre at 1.20pm; and arrive back in Wedmore around 2.00pm

June 8 - Summer Picnic Mystery Tour – Arrives back in Wedmore around 2.30pm

July 6 - Frome (Festival) – Arrive around 10.30am, depart at 2.30pm, and arrive back in Wedmore around 3.30pm. Check the Frome Festival website at www.fromefestival.co.uk for further details of this event.

August 24 - Minehead via The Quantock Hills– Arrive around 10.40am, depart at 1.40pm, and arrive back in Wedmore around 3.00pm

September 14 - Hilliers Garden Centre– Arrive around 9.50am, depart at 12.00 noon, and arrive back in Wedmore around 12.20pm

Fares are £5.00 and £2.00 for concessions. Call Angeline Duckett for full details and bookings on 01934 712631, as early as possible please.

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 2 March – Departs Bath at 2.00pm, back about 3.30pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

Monday - Cribbs Causeway (monthly) – This month's service will be on 16 March – 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 Flocks 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 - Wells (monthly) – This month's service will be on 14 March – 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!

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. 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. 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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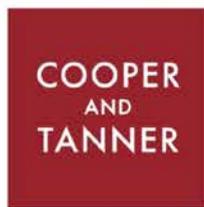
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who live locally and know the area,
the clubs, the schools, the walks...
who can sell our fabulous villages and
countryside from experience,
and sell your home with professionalism



Carol Tratt MNAEA, Branch Manager, and our four local staff members, Carrie, Jen, Cicely, and Angie warmly invite you to visit the Wedmore office, call us on 01934 713296 or email wedmore@cooperandtanner.co.uk