

ISLE OF WEDMORE NEWS

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April 2026
No. 553

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Editorial

We are now well into spring and events across the Isle of Wedmore are beginning to warm up along with the weather. The highlight of the month, for me, has got to be the 92nd Wedmore Young Farmer's Show. This is a key event in the local calendar and not to be missed! It helps us celebrate, and connect to, the rich farming community here on the Isle of Wedmore.

Green Wedmore has organised their popular Repair Café and Freecycle events to support your spring clean activities. I hope to be at the Repair Café sharpening your garden tools ready for another bumper year of growth. Other events include a fashion show; a tribute to American folk legend Woodie Guthrie; and a chance to try your hand a bowls. At the end of the month Wedmore Theatre commences its three-night run of Noël Coward's 'Private Lives'.

We also have a couple of interesting articles on a hoard of silver dating back to the time of King Ethelred and King Harold found in St Mary's churchyard and the story of Stompy the Pig. With Easter approaching fast, please find a list of services across the churches on the Isle of Wedmore in the Church News section. I hope you enjoy this issue and have a great Easter!

Cheers, Ian

Front Cover

This month we feature the forthcoming production by Wedmore Theatre of Noël Coward's 'Private Lives'.

Mike

DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE: 1 April 2026

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

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

Key Events This Month

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

Wedmore 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 Young Farmer's Club Show – 18 April

Wedmore Young Farmers Club will be holding their 92nd Show at the George Inn.

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.

A Tribute to Woody Guthrie – 25 April

Theale Village Hall, Dave Plimmer will present 'Fire in the Belly', a tribute to the life and stories of Woody Guthrie.

Wedmore Bowls Club Open Day – 26 April

Try your hand at bowls.

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.

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.

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 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.

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Wedmore Festival – 9 to 17 May

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

Free Defibrillator Training in Wedmore Village Hall – 28 May

This will be an open, friendly, session designed to give our community the confidence to act when it matters most.

AwarenessFest – 13 June

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

Wedmore Guides Annual Jumble Sale – 20 June

Wedmore Guides will be running its annual Jumble Sale in Wedmore Village Hall

The Big Ramble – 27 June

A fun, family-friendly event encouraging everyone to explore our wonderful local environment and celebrate Wedmore's rich biodiversity.

WEDFEST 2026 – 10 July

A relaxed evening of fun, organised by Wedmore Men's Shed, with good music from local artists, food, and drink.

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.

Theale Show – 5 September

The Theale show returns with over 100 competition classes. Admire the quality of locally home-grown produce, arts and crafts, including Lego for the kids.

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

Hello everyone, it's been another busy month! Over 700 of you wrote to me about banning social media for the under-16's. This is beyond party politics: it's clear the Government can and must do far more to hold the social media giants to account for protecting our children and young people, whose health and welfare must come before these giants' mega-profits.

Here in Somerset, I joined the crew of a South West Ambulance Service on shift. It was humbling to spend time with this dedicated team, and I learned a lot about their roles. It was good to hear the Health Secretary praise our Ambulance Service in

Parliament for its improved response times in December.

Whilst at the hospital, local Paramedic Science graduates in the accident and emergency department explained to me how difficult it was to find a job. Only 8 out of 120 graduates from their year at university can find work in their chosen field. Back in Westminster, I questioned the Health Secretary about this problem, which he acknowledged. I also asked the Cancer Minister about collecting data, so we understand cancer treatment waiting times better. Often radiotherapy is followed by surgery or by a course of drugs, but only the first target for treatment is measured which



is misleading and distorting the statistics for response times. I also asked Ministers to mandate helipads with 24/7 access for all specialist hospitals, and to consult hospitals, aircraft operators, and air ambulance charities, as housing and other developments near existing helipads can affect their safe use.

In Parliament last month, I voiced my dismay at yet another Government apology for WASPI women whilst Ministers made the decision not to pay a single penny in compensation for the mistreatment of this group of women. At £1,000 to £2,950 for each woman affected, it's hardly a high cost for justice.

I've also expressed my frustration about building on flood plains, and the risk to future insurance cover for homes; asked questions about Parole Board hearings; the alleged leak of Court reporting data; the veracity of data on prison capacity; the planned reductions in access to jury trials; freehold and leasehold changes for residents in care-led retirement living apartments; Parliamentary votes on the Gibraltar Treaty; and treatment for those with severe and very severe ME.

I spoke about truth-telling and protection for whistleblowers, in the debate about releasing the records relating to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's appointment as a UK Trade Envoy.

Speaking about Bereavement Support Payments, I asked for a re-think on the unfair financial cliff-edge reached, after 18 months, for widowed parents, especially those with very young children.

I contributed to a debate about whether there should be a 'Minister for Men and Boys', querying the lack of data on child arrangement orders; shared parenting; paternity leave and pay; male childcaring; male victims of domestic abuse and violence at the hands of women; and highlighting the challenges and disadvantages faced by men in relation to healthcare. I emphasised the benefits of the Derek Mead Health Room at the livestock market at the M5 Junction 24, with its free health check-ups for farmers; the amazing work of Suzie Wilkinson and her colleagues from the Farming Community Network in our own area; and the well-attended Prostate Cancer testing event at Wells Town Hall at the end of February.

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Lastly, as well as a lovely visit to Weare First School, I enjoyed answering questions for an edition of 'The Only Way is Wessex!' podcast and would like to thank the Wessex Learning Trust for their invitation to be their guest.

If you'd like to raise any concern, please don't hesitate to email or phone my office. I'll be running my regular 'surgeries' and some 'extras', the most local of which are listed below: Saturday 4 April from 08.30 to 10.00 at Coffee #1, Wells Friday 10 April from 08.00 to 09.00 at Edelweiss Café, Cheddar Saturday 11 April from 09.00 to 10.00 at The Bluebird Café, Wedmore There's no need to make an appointment, it's first come, first served, and 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! As we reach the end of the financial year, it is a good time to reflect on what your Parish Council does. Much of the work is steady rather than dramatic, keeping things running, looking after shared spaces and ensuring public money is properly managed. It may not always be visible, but it supports many of the things we rely on day to day.



The budget for 2026/27 was agreed at the end of last year and the total net budget is £193,400, funded mainly through a parish precept of £151,050. That contribution maintains the cemetery, public toilets, allotments, playgrounds, bins and other parish assets. It supports community events and small grants, covers insurance, audit and staffing, and allows us to plan ahead for elections and maintenance rather than reacting when something fails. We are required to set a balanced budget, approve spending in open meetings, keep proper accounts and undergo annual audit. Those safeguards protect parish funds and ensure transparency.

Highway repairs, planning decisions, social care, schools and policing sit with Somerset Council or other statutory bodies. We are consulted and represent Parish views, but we do not make those final decisions.

At the Full Council meeting on 18 February, councillors approved payments totalling £9,883.33; adopted a new Events Support and Community Events Protocol; awarded a £375 grant to the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing Group; and agreed to seek further professional advice regarding the Panborough Drain. We are looking forward to the presentation of the Henry Butt Trophy Award on Thursday 16 April, recognising outstanding service to the community. We also have a small number of allotment plots available: Full plots – £50 per year and Half and quarter plots – £25 per year. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office.

We are fortunate to live in a parish where people care about shared spaces, about local events and about one another. Parish government only works because the parish itself works. Whether that is nominating someone for an award, taking on an allotment,

attending a meeting or simply raising an issue in good faith, it all plays a part. The Parish Council's role is to steward what we share, manage public funds carefully and make decisions in the open. It is a corporate body with legal responsibilities, but it is made up of local people who give their time to serve the parish. Councillors and Officers are your neighbours. They live here, raise families here and care about the same issues you do. Decisions are not made in isolation; they are made by people who are part of Wedmore.

As we move into a new financial year, the focus remains simple: steady stewardship, practical action and doing our part for the community we are all proud to belong to.

Lindsey Baker, Clerk, Wedmore Parish Council

Wedmore Repair Café

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.



Green Wedmore

Wedmore Young Farmer's Club Show

Wedmore YFC will be holding their 92nd Club Show at the George Inn on Saturday 18 April. The event will start at 10.00am, although those early risers and neighbours to the George will notice preparations and arrivals from first thing in the morning.

The show is a fantastic spectacle in the heart of the village. The club members bring their calves, pigs, and sheep to show in a specially erected ring in the carpark of the George. Everyone is encouraged



to come along. As well as livestock, the members also enter a variety of handicrafts which are displayed in the Masonic Hall. The event takes place between 10.00am and 1.00pm, when the prizes are awarded. There will be drinks and refreshments available on the day.

Wendy Rousell

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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

A Tribute to Woody Guthrie

On Saturday 25 April at Theale Village Hall, Dave Plimmer will present 'Fire in the Belly', a tribute to the life and stories of Woody Guthrie. Doors open at 7.30pm and the event will commence at 8.00pm.

Woody Guthrie, an American singer, songwriter and composer, is widely considered one of the most significant figures in American folk music. The eventing will start with a mixture of biographical monologue in the voice of Guthrie, along with his music. Followed, after the interval, by contemporary interpretations of Guthrie songs arranged and sung by Dave and Sid Plimmer

There will be a bar and tickets are £10, with proceeds towards Huntingdon's Disease Association. Advance booking is advised by phone on 07855 297861 or 01749 670212.

Bernard Coulter

Bowls Club Open Day

On Sunday 26 April the club will be holding an Open Day from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Everyone is invited up to the club at the Wedmore Recreation Ground to have a tour around the indoor and outdoor facilities and have a go at bowls. If you've never played bowls before, don't worry, come along and see us. Our fully qualified coaching team will be on hand to take you through the basics and beyond. If you're an experienced bowler, but new to the area, please introduce yourself and see what we have to offer. Please contact Stuart by email at millhaven44@icloud.com or take a peek at our club website at www.isleofwedmorebowlsclub.org

Peter Gower

Wedmore Freecycle

Freecycle 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.

Green Wedmore

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

Wedmore Theatre 'Private Lives' Tickets Still Available

Wedmore Theatre will be presenting three performances of 'Private Lives', a comedy by Noel Coward, on 30 April, 1 and 2 May, 7.30pm. Although we are now approaching opening night, and sales have been excellent so far, there are still tickets available for all three performances. The ever-popular raked seating may be sold out by the time you read this, but there is still likely to be availability in the cheaper, unnumbered, stalls seats closer to the stage. However, book soon to avoid disappointment!

We have had so much fun putting this hilarious production together. Not only the actors and director, but all the set, props and costume designers have exceeded their usual creativity to give this classic Noël Coward farce the sparkle it deserves.

We've been asked if it's billed as 'suitable for age 14+' because it is in some way smutty! Perish the thought – not only did Coward never go in for saucy references, but we at Wedmore Theatre would not dream of jeopardising our respectable reputation in the community. The reason for the suggested age limit is simply that Coward uses the play to poke ruthless fun at the institution of marriage (he never married himself, of course). So anyone who has ever been married (or nearly, or twice married) will recognise the relentless references to conflict, reconciliation, love, and sheer exasperation, however over-the-top they may seem. One would hope that children would simply be mystified!

All tickets are available online at www.wedmoretheatre.com and at Wedmore Village Store.



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

On Bank Holiday Monday 4 May, St Mary's Tower will be open to visitors from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Come and climb the tower for one of the best views in Somerset; see the bells and the ringing chamber and meet the ringers; enjoy a guided tour of the church; and eat cake!

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David Hopkins

Wedmore Festival Unveils Standout 2026 Programme

If you're already counting down to festival week (9 to 17 May), here's a friendly nudge. General booking opens on 14 April, both online and at Wedmore Village Store. If you want to beat the rush, then why not join the Friends of Wedmore Festival and enjoy early access to tickets before they go on public sale. It's the easiest way to secure seats for the headline events. Please visit www.wedmorefestival.co.uk/become-a-friend-of-wedmore-arts-festival

Here's a snapshot of this year's fantastic lineup: Lemn Sissay OBE – BAFTA award winning author, activist, performer, and Sunday Times number one bestseller; Professor Alice Roberts – anatomist, biological anthropologist, author and broadcaster exploring her new book *Domination*; Marcus Brigstocke and Rachel Parris – sharp, quick-fire comedy improv; Alison Uren – in-depth talk on local wildlife of the Avalon Marshes; Phil Butterworth – the cider-fuelled history of Wedmore's pubs; Adannay – stunning vocal talent; Bootleg Blondie – the UK's leading Blondie tribute act; Wedmore Ensemble – exceptional musicians with local roots; Liam Davies – live-scoring *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925); and Henry Blofeld OBE – raconteur and cricketing treasure.

Also, discover the incredible creativity of local artists in St Mary's Church, showcasing vibrant talent across painting, textile art, glass sculpture, mosaic, ceramics, photography, paper art and more - including special pieces from Hugh Sexey Middle School and SW Lions Clubs winners! Come explore, be inspired, and enjoy this highlight of the festival.

Explore the full programme and all booking information at www.wedmorefestival.co.uk or via the QR code.



Ellie Oliver

Free Defibrillator Training

Free Community Defibrillator Training is coming to Wedmore. This will be an open, friendly, session designed to give our community the confidence to act when it matters most. It will take place at Wedmore Village Hall on Thursday 28 May at 6.30pm and will be delivered by Reflex First Aid Training

Every year, only 9% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the UK receive defibrillator help before emergency services arrive. Reflex First Aid, a long-standing family business based in Cheddar, is determined to help change that by building public confidence in how and when to use a 'defib'. Their goal for 2026 is simple but vital: empower as many people as possible across Somerset to step forward in an emergency.

This relaxed, practical session is suitable for ages 14+, with younger children welcome, if attending with a parent. No prior knowledge is needed, and no registration is required, just come along. If you can, drop a quick email to secretary@wedmorehall.org.uk so we can anticipate numbers and organise the equipment beforehand.

Wedmore village defibrillators are located at Wedmore Village Store, The New Inn, Wedmore First School (Staff Car Park), and Tennis 72M (next to First School

Nursery). You can find the location of any UK defibrillator at www.defibfinder.uk In an emergency, always call 999 first!

A confident community is a safer community. Learning to use a defibrillator could help save a life. Will you join us on 28 May?

Jane Allen

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.

Annette Stimson

Wedmore Guides Annual Jumble Sale - Donations Please!

Wedmore Guides will be running its annual Jumble Sale in Wedmore Village Hall on Saturday 20 June from 9.00am to 12.00 noon. The Jumble Sale is an important fundraiser for Guides, so please do think of us in your spring tidy ups as donations of household items, shoes, bags, clothing, bric-a-brac, and toys, in good condition, will all be gratefully received! Please no large furniture.

For drop off or collection please contact Sue Buck on 01934 713278, Elaine Tilling on 01934 713650, or Liz Green 07734 957997.

Sue Buck

The Big Ramble

On Saturday 27 June, from 9.00am, Wedmore Parish Council, supported by Green Wedmore, will host The Big Ramble, a fun, family-friendly event encouraging everyone to explore our wonderful local environment and celebrate Wedmore's rich biodiversity.

Several walking routes will be mapped out, all intersecting in the village centre. This flexible format allows participants to cover as little or as much distance as they feel comfortable with. The trails will take in a variety of wildlife-rich locations, including Worthington Woods, Terry's Wood and Wedmore Village Farm. Along the routes there will be informal education stations with maps, information and simple activities suitable for all ages. Further details will follow in later issues of this magazine.

Participants will be encouraged to use the iNaturalist app to help record local wildlife. There is no need to wait until The Big Ramble, you can start today and get involved. iNaturalist is a free app and website where anyone can upload photos of plants, animals, insects, fungi and other living things. It connects you with a global community of nature enthusiasts and experts who help identify and verify sightings. To use iNaturalist, you simply create an account (this is easiest to do initially via the website on a PC); download the app and sign in on your phone; join the Wedmore Parish recording group so your observations are included in the local project; take clear photographs of wildlife when out walking, upload your photos via the app, your phone's GPS will record the location. The app will suggest identifications, and the iNaturalist community will help verify your sighting. The shared data helps scientists monitor changes in nature, protect species and better understand local ecosystems. It's simple, engaging and turns an everyday walk into citizen science.



THE BIG RAMBLE
Saturday 27th June, from 9am



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WEDFEST 2026

This summer, brought to you by Wedmore Men's Shed, supported by The Women of Wedmore and Wedmore Scouts, WEDFEST 2026 will be held at St Mary's Church on Friday 10 July. Commencing at 6pm it promises to be an evening of good music from local artists with food and drink available but most of all a relaxed evening of fun.

Weather permitting, we hope to have acts performing both outside and inside the church itself. Proceeds to Wedmore Men's Shed and The Somerset Prostate Screening Association. So dust off your best Hawaiian party shirt and dancing shoes! Further details, including artist list, timetable, and ticket details will follow.

Wedmore Men's Shed

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

The Theale Show is Back for 2026

The Theale Show is back this year, on 5 September, bursting with energy after an absence last year where it was sadly missed from the Isle of Wedmore seasonal cycle of annual events. This year's show will take place, so there is plenty of time to get an entry in, or loads, it's such fun! Entries are free to children and a great entry for adults. Don't think it's all too serious - are your pears the best in the show? do you have a prize-winning chutney in you? is your child a Lego creator? There are lots of things here for you and your family to enter. In over 100 competition classes, it could be

fruit from your trees, veg, or flowers; you can bake, craft, brew your entry; or choose 6 eggs laid by your chickens. We'll be having our fantastic child friendly dog show again, so watch out as we announce the categories in coming editions of Wedmore News.

Entrant or not, come and join us in our village orchard from 2.30pm onwards. Admire the quality of locally home-grown produce, arts and crafts; see who the star baker, gardener, or artist is; or enjoy delicious tea and cake or quality ales from the Green Man bar. There will be plenty of activities for kids too. It really is a fun-filled family afternoon out!

Thanks as always to our supporters and volunteers. The 'Friends of the Show' generously help and support the event and to our valued sponsors. I'm looking forward to seeing you all for a very special celebration of all things local, at an annual summer event that brings friends and neighbours together in our community.

It's time to start thinking about your potatoes, if you want to enter the grand 'Ted's Taters in a Tub' competition at the Theale Show this September. This is what you need to do: potatoes to be grown in a maximum of 25 litres of soil / compost; any variety or number of seed potatoes may be used; changing or replacing the growing medium is not permitted; and haulms (stalks or stems) to be cut.



Then on show day there will be the Big Dig at 5.00pm! Each competitor will be required to turn out the container when asked to do so by the judge, who will weigh the crop of potatoes. The prize of £5.00 and a novelty trophy is for the competitor with the heaviest crop of potatoes in the container. So don't delay, plan to plant today!



It's never too early to think about your entries for this year's Theale Show. Why not grow a geranium plant and enter the geranium class! It's easy, you can collect your geranium plug for 50p from Theale Café, at Theale Village Hall, on Saturday 18 April between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. Pot it up, nurture it, and enter it into the show. When you collect your plug why not buy a cup of coffee and maybe a bacon bap from the café.

Remember you need to register all your entries by 9.00pm on Thursday 3 September 2026. Go to www.thealeshow.com for details on how to make your entries and about the Show. If you have any questions, please contact the Show Secretary, Cathy Butterworth, by phone on 01934 806157

Cathy Butterworth

Wedmore Village Farm Update

We ended 2025 with the completion of a new refractory building, which will be a place to host groups and continue our school programme, working with young people to learn about the where our food is coming from and understand the cycle of growing food from planting to the table. The refectory was put to good use at our Christmas Fair where we were able to provide delicious hot sausage rolls and mince pies.

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After much rain it's uplifting to see glimpses of blue sky as we prepare the farm for its summer season. The land has survived with only minor damage during the windiest period; however, it's been a late start to the growing cycle with the soil being a bit of a quagmire. We are now busy sowing seeds, tidying up beds and relaying wood chippings on pathways.

Looking forward we are continuing to welcome volunteers to the farm. Volunteers do not need experience of growing and no matter how much time you are able to spend at the farm, you will be supported and celebrated.



Volunteers enjoying social time after a hard day's work

The main volunteer days will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We will be holding open days on Wednesday 8 and Saturday 18 April from 2.00 pm. Come along and explore the farm and enjoy homemade cakes and tea. For further information contact volunteers@wemorevillagefarm.co.uk

Many of you have enjoyed your monthly veg boxes, and savoured fresh veg that was in the ground only the previous day. This scheme is running again this year and anyone interested in taking out a subscription please contact vegbox@wedmorevillagefarm.co.uk

Annie Rowley

Lions Young Ambassador Awards 2026

Eight amazing young people from all over the UK gathered in Dudley for the finals of the Lions Young Ambassador contest. All of them had already won their District's Young Ambassador Contest which brought them to the UK finals. The weekend included a good deal of fun and friendship as well as an individual interview where each candidate talked to three judges about their specific projects and community involvement.

During the final session on Sunday morning, each of the candidates talked to a large audience about their community involvement and their projects. This was no mean feat given only three minutes each! It was humbling to hear about these inspirational projects and the dedication of each young person who gives their time and energy to make things better for others. The Young Ambassador scheme operates throughout Europe to recognise, encourage and support young people, like these, who are actively involved in the welfare of their community.



Grace with the Shipshape Trophy.



Grace with MD Council Chair, Stuart

Grace Cadwallader was our Southwest District winner, sponsored by Cheddar Vale Lions Club. Her project, Avalon Camps, is a charity based in the village of Mark, entirely run by volunteers, offering free camping holidays to children from Bristol who have limited opportunities and might never have left the city environment. Grace said that taking part in Avalon Camps is ‘life-changing

not only for the children but also for the young leaders.’ It has transformed her outlook on life and made her appreciate her opportunities. She described the progress that the children make in their week at camp as ‘beyond incredible.’

Grace’s commitment and personal dedication was palpable in her presentation and although she did not win the overall ‘Young Ambassador Award’ she did come away with the fabulous ‘Shipshape Award’. The Shipshape Award is presented to a Young Ambassador who demonstrates a particularly strong personal commitment and enthusiasm for their community work. Grace certainly lives up to this and now has an amazing opportunity this summer to join as a crew member aboard a Tall Ships Youth Trust 72ft Challenge yacht or 55ft Ketch for a 7day voyage. Another challenge which Grace will certainly embrace. For more information about the Young Ambassador Award visit www.lionsclubs.co or email information@cheddarvalelions.org.uk For more information about Avalon Camps visit www.avaloncamps.org.uk

Sylvia Cook

Weston Hospicecare Spare Currency Collection

Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare have joined forces with Wedmore travel agents, 2Js, to raise funds for the local hospice to provide palliative care. It is estimated that UK households together have over £2bn in leftover holiday currency, with most people keeping spare coins and notes in purses, jars and drawers for years. This cash can all be put to good use, supporting Weston Hospicecare.



2Js have set up a collection point in their travel office. So please have a rummage in old bags, suitcases and drawers and donate any old travel money you have. You can also donate any old and out of circulation money of any origin, including UK, and commemorative and collectable coins.

Joseph Rajkovic of 2Js said ‘We are very happy to support Weston Hospicecare, and this is an easy way for people to donate to the cause. We all have spare coins left after a holiday, and rather than leave them laying around, pop into the office and donate them’. Shirley Wederell,

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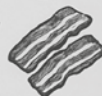
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Chair of Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare said: ‘The community of Wedmore always goes the extra mile for our local hospice, and I thank 2Js for their support’.

Next time you take a trip abroad, please remember you can donate any spare coins or notes back home with 2Js.

Liz Burton

Progress on the 20mph Limit

Please visit www.savewedmorelives.org.uk for the latest news on our work to achieve a 20mph speed limit. The latest additions include information on the effectiveness of Community Speedwatch schemes vs 20mph limits; a map with the boundaries of a proposed 20mph limit in Wedmore; and information on parishioner’s priorities regarding road safety and a 20mph speed limit obtained from the Village Hall Open Day held in March 2025.

We invite all parishioners to join our large and growing community group by registering support. We respect the privacy of our supporters and do not release their names unless they specifically ask us to. We simply keep in touch with supporters, so they are always up to date with our progress.

SaveWedmoreLives Group



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

Regular Features

This Month in the Garden

I hope the sun has been shining on you this April! My indoor hyacinth bulb has been planted out with the dead flower stem cut off. It will probably need a couple of years to recover before flowering again, but I don't like to waste anything. Isn't it amazing what springs up out of a seemingly dead looking bulb planted in the winter - don't ever lose that sense of amazement of what nature produces.

Well time to check on your outside bulbs too. Have you lifted, divided and replanted those snowdrops and daffodils? Pinch off daffodil seed pods as soon as possible and I think most lawns would look so much better with an early showing of snowdrops, crocus and short daffodil varieties. What a bonus of colour from an otherwise bland green carpet of grass. Another idea is to plant scarlet tulips into the lawn but maybe I'll remind you to do this in October for a truly spectacular show. On sunny days take a trip out to the nursery or garden centre and treat yourself to a few new plants.

In a sheltered spot, a strongly scented shrub such as a Daphne or Viburnum would be my choice, maybe near the front door to give a welcome to visitors or bless the post person delivering your letters. Remember to look after any new plantings, watering when needed is especially important for the first few months until plants are established.

Pruning is also important this month. Late flowering Clematis, honeysuckles and Campsis can all be pruned this month and of course any roses, except the true rambler roses, which escaped the secateurs last month. Note that true ramblers flower on wood produced the previous year so are pruned immediately after flowering. Those wonderfully coloured stems of Cornus and bush willows are also in need of a hard prune to encourage lots of new wood that will provide colour and interest next winter and variegated leaved plants cut back now will grow lots of bright new shoots to colour up the borders for summer. Stiff branches can be used to make supports for tubs plants or to support floppy plants in the garden. Remember that the best time to support any plant in need was a couple of months ago!

April is a major seed sowing month as the weather warms up, and spring showers usually ensure ready germination in the soil. In the vegetable garden how about brightening up the harvest with coloured rooted carrots and beetroot. Both these vegetables are available now and are delicious in taste, as well as looking wonderful and being a useful talking point for any meal visitors. Tomato varieties are available now in yellow, orange, and purple, as well as red and even aubergines can be had in white and in different shapes to add variety in the cooking pot. Other unusual items to try

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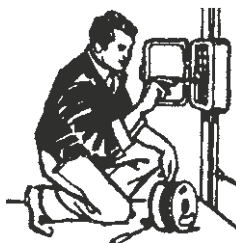
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are thin black rooted scorzonera (carrot like) and the delicious root vegetable 'salsify', said to taste like oysters. And when it comes to beans, there are black podded varieties of broad beans and black or yellow podded runner and French beans. These are much easier to spot at harvest time so avoiding the halt in produce when pods are hidden and go over-ripe when missed. So much more fun to grow, delicious and real talking points!

In the fruit garden, the top fruits will be bursting with growth buds and flowers and pollination will be needed. Apples, pears and plums are usually well catered for but, after last year's tremendous plum harvest, don't be surprised if crops are much lighter this year. Peaches and apricots are different however, and usually need a helping hand where pollination is concerned. I used to use either a rabbit's tail (first remove rabbit!) or a soft paint brush to imitate the action of a busy bee although making loud buzzing noises didn't seem to be essential. Transferring the pollen from flower to flower is a bit time consuming but very rewarding as bee numbers may not be as high as in the past.

Happy gardening and bee happy!

Tony Connell

Thought for the Month

Easter Sunday this year falls on 5 April. Coincidentally this would have been my father's 86th birthday. I say 'would have been' because my father died in 2001 at the early age of 61. Even a quarter of century after his death I still find myself thinking about him most days and there will be times when that loss hangs heavy upon all his family or grief catches me unawares. I think this is something that all those who have been touched by grief will know about. On the day that Dad died I travelled from my home in Berkshire, arriving in the evening. I remember glancing out of the car window as I pulled into the driveway of my parents' house and looking across the garden. to the room where my father had spent the last couple of weeks once he had become too unwell to manage stairs. As I looked into the room, my mother and her sister were entering. They turned on the light, went to the bed on which Dad had lain, and began to tidy up the sheets and bedlinen. I heard myself saying out loud 'He is not here he is risen.' Out of grief and despair came an unexpected cry of hope.

The accounts of the first Easter day tell of women going to the tomb where Jesus had lain, finding the grave linen that had been wrapped around him and encountering instead angels who tell them that 'he is not there, but he's risen'. Now, I don't want to equate my father with Jesus. However I have always been struck by the echo of the Easter story in that poignant bedroom scene I witnessed. The events of Holy Week, the last week of Jesus's life, confront us with pain and loss and grief as we look at the cross on Good Friday, but also end in hope as we listen again to the amazing statement of the angels to the women. 'He is not here, he is risen.'

This Easter Sunday as well as celebrating in all the usual ways, I'm sure that we will light a candle for my father on his birthday, knowing that, because of those Easter events, death is conquered and his story has not ended. All of us at some point in our lives will face bereavement and loss. All of us will face our own mortality. May the words of the angels and the good news that Jesus is risen and has brought into being a new creation for all of us bring light in any dark days that you may be facing. And may they bring hope as you remember those you love but see no longer.

Richard Neill – Vicar of Wedmore Isle and Moors Benefice

Poetry Corner

Thought for the Day

'This church is always open. Please come in!
And I often do, to enjoy the silence,
the centuries of prayer held by these walls.
One day, such a surprise:
perched on the font, a teddy bear greeted me.
Surely not lost property?
The look in his eyes was sincere, inviting.
He was different from all the teddies I'd seen:
he was green.

I looked forward to our quiet conversation.
Though silent, he reached into my thoughts,
until the day he was nowhere to be seen.
Twice I searched the unbearably empty font.
Perhaps indeed someone had come to claim him.
I recalled the childhood delight of lost and found.
Then I began walking round, and up the nave –
and I spotted him, raised to new heights:
there on the pulpit rim he's now secure,
gazing towards the congregation,
looking out for us all, the sure, the not-so-sure,
those just here for the hymns.
'Take courage,' he seems to say.
'If the church welcomes me, you will be welcome too.'
Now I wonder, which shade of green shall I wear...

Ann Mason

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

Tasty Morsels – Roasted Garlic and Rosemary No-Knead Bread

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- 1 large head garlic
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 315ml warm water
- 2 tsp instant yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- 360g strong bread flour, plus more for work surface
- 2 tsp chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp salt
- 50g parmesan cheese – grated



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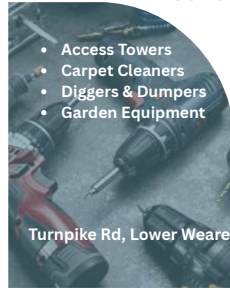


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Method –

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Slice the top one third of the garlic off to expose the cloves (discard top). Drizzle with the olive oil and wrap tightly in foil. Bake until garlic is soft and golden, about 45 minutes. Unwrap garlic and let cool, about 30 minutes.

In a small bowl mix warm water, yeast and sugar. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, rosemary, and salt. Squeeze garlic cloves from the skins (discard skins) and add to the flour mixture along with the parmesan cheese. Mix well. Pour in the yeast mixture and stir (I like to do this by hand) until the dough is combined. Shape into a ball then cover the bowl and let stand in a warm place until doubled in size (about 1 to 2 hours). Chill in the refrigerator for at least 8 hours up to 24 hours.

Turn the dough out onto a well-floured work surface, lightly flour the top of the dough, and pat into a 1-inch-thick round. Using floured hands and working clockwise, gently fold the edges of dough towards the centre, repeating all around so the dough is roughly a round shape. Flip the dough and place it seam side down on a piece of large parchment paper and return to the bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place for an hour or until puffed.

When the dough has 30 minutes remaining to proof, place a medium sized Dutch oven with a heatproof lid in a cold oven and preheat to 220°C. Once preheated, carefully remove the hot Dutch oven and lower the dough in using the parchment paper. Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 10 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Transfer bread to a wire rack and cool for at least 30 minutes before serving.

Enjoy 😊

Jennifer Wright

Country Lane Walker

Hello walkers for real or in spirit. A couple of times I have mentioned Nordic Walking Poles in my column and so thought it might be helpful if I found out a little more about them for you. So, I called in on Dave at The Gorge Outdoors shop in Cheddar, as to someone who could cast some light on the subject. I was already aware that they developed from skiers in the last century deciding they should exercise more in the summer months when the mountains and valleys are devoid of snow, and could they put their ski poles to greater use. And so the development of Nordic Poles aiding walking came to be.

So, on entering the shop and striking up a conversation with Dave, he asked do you mean Nordic Walking Poles or ordinary walking poles? Oh, er um, what do you mean? So ensued the conversation about how ordinary poles are heavier and sturdier to provide more support and stability by using the poles in a more upright position, very much more like having four legs. Also, that Nordic Poles are used at an angle to kind of ‘scoot’ along with greater speed and gentle thrust, gaining a greater workout for the upper part of the body, so strengthening the heart and lungs. The latter is the route I have gone down as recommended by our local artist, Robin Gray, which has increased my walking speed, stability, and upper body strength. So, it is very much a case of which suits the individual best and what you want to achieve. There is also the question of aluminium or carbon fibre. Carbon fibre poles are lighter yet more



[Continued on page 42]

What's On in the Parish

KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH

Wed	8	Women of Wedmore (WI) Spring Crafting with Molly	7.00pm	The Post and Wicket
Sat	11	Wedmore Repair Café	10.00am to 1.00pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Sat	18	Wedmore Friends of Weston Hospicecare Fashion Show	1.45pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Sat	18	92nd Wedmore Young Farmer's Show	10.00am	The George Inn
Sat	25	A Tribute to Woody Guthrie	7.30pm	Theale Village Hall
Sun	26	Wedmore Bowls Club Open Day	10.00am to 3.00pm	Wedmore Bowls Club
Sun	26	Wedmore Freecycle	10.00am	Wedmore Village Car Park
Mon	27	Community Bus Excursion to Cadbury Garden Centre and Clevedon	9.30am to 2.00pm	Wedmore Village Car Park
Thu	30 Apr to 2 May	Wedmore Theatre Presents 'Private Lives'	7.30pm	Wedmore Village Hall
Bank Holiday Monday	4 May	St Mary's Tower Open Day	10.00am to 3.00pm	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 (Not April due to BH)	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 wedmore.brownies@gmail.com
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

easily damaged and, it seems, wear out quicker and cost more. Aluminium poles are still light, stronger, cheaper, and will outlive the former. I have gone for aluminium.

Or should one use a walking stick? I have become much more conscious of what folk do. As a healer, and as a chi kung and tai chi practitioner, of course one develops an awareness anyway. I have noticed that walking stick users lean heavily into a stick, thus creating potential posture problems for the future that might not be there if using walking poles of either sort, especially the Nordic ones. Also, they don't benefit from using two poles for balance; forward motion equilibrium; straightening one's back into a more erect position; and upper body workout expanding one's chest. Then there is the question of going shopping. Well, it is down to a ruck sack instead of shopping bags. That's kind of liberating in itself.

If you are wanting to get advice, then the best I have received so far is from The Gorge Outdoors shop's owner. Other stores are Regatta, both at the bottom of Cheddar Gorge and the Taunton Leisure store in Clark's Village.

So one way or another keep on walking! And humming! And visualising!

Oh, typing this at the end of February, and hearing the first twittering's of birds. Will we have dawn choruses this year? Wouldn't that be wonderbuggish!? I haven't heard a proper 'wall of sound' one in years! 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

The Wedmore Hoard

Thanks to Andy Daintree at Hockerill Engraving, and The Friends of St Mary's, a little-known nugget of Wedmore history has re-emerged. A new plaque duplicates the wording on a dilapidated and partially illegible stone, which commemorates the planting of a yew tree to mark the marriage, in 1893, of The Duke of York and Princess May of Teck. More interestingly, the stone also recorded that 'Near this spot in March 1853 was found a crock containing more than 200 silver coins buried from the times of the King Ethelred Canute and King Harold, where they had lain covered and hidden for 800 years.

The new board also tells us that the hoard was found by the church sexton Tucker Coles when widening the



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Events coming in April:

Sat 4th Thunderbridge
Fri 10th Quiz Night
Sat 11th High n Dry Sea Shanty
Sat 18th Harrison Lerner Main
Thur 23rd Emerging Talent Comp. Heat 1
Fri 24th - Music Bingo
Sat 25th Hannah Trim
Sun 26th Newtons Toad 2:30pm
Thur 30th Emerging Talent Comp. Heat 2

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churchyard path. He used the reward to emigrate to the United States, where he died soon after in the American civil war.

Would you like to join the Friends of St Mary's and help us help the congregation maintain and enhance our lovely church? Contact David Hopkins 07984 924432. dahopkins@aol.com

David Hopkins

From 'Teacup Pig' to 60kg – Stompy's Journey to Sanctuary Life

At Pear Tree Farm Animal Sanctuary in Wells, one of the most memorable residents is Stompy, a pig whose story highlights the reality behind so-called 'teacup' or 'micropigs'.

Stompy arrived at the sanctuary in Spring 2019 after being sold to a family home as a 'micropig', a term often used to suggest the animal will stay small forever and be easy to manage. Like many pigs marketed this way, he simply continued to grow. By just seven months old, he was already much bigger and stronger than his owners had expected, and home life was no longer suitable. 'When Stompy first arrived, he was an absolute whirlwind,' said Rebecca Barlow, co-founder of Pear Tree Farm Animal Sanctuary. 'He'd race around with the zoomies, tip over water buckets and get into all sorts of mischief. He kept us very busy from day one.'



Once given the space to live outdoors as pigs naturally should, everything changed. With room to root in the earth, wallow in mud and explore, Stompy quickly settled into sanctuary life. He later formed a close bond with another rescued pig, Inca, and the pair were rarely seen apart, often sleeping side by side in the straw. Although Inca has since passed away, Stompy continues to thrive as part of the sanctuary's pig family.

His story reflects a wider issue. Pigs are intelligent, social animals who need space, companionship and the freedom to express natural behaviours. When sold as small household pets, many outgrow their homes and are surrendered or abandoned. Pear Tree Farm Animal Sanctuary provides a safe, lifelong home for rescued farmed and domestic animals who have nowhere else to go. From pigs, sheep and horses to chickens, rabbits, cats and dogs, the small independent sanctuary cares for animals from neglect, abandonment and difficult circumstances. Every day involves feeding, cleaning, enrichment and veterinary care, funded almost entirely through donations and local support.

Today, Stompy weighs around 60kg and is a firm favourite with visitors, known for his big personality, muddy wallows and love of snacks. This month, the sanctuary is celebrating Stompy's birthday, a joyful milestone that highlights how far he has come since his rescue and the second chance made possible through community support.

The sanctuary welcomes the public through tours and afternoon teas, giving families the chance to meet the 80 residents on-site and learn more about compassionate animal care. As a donation-funded charity, it relies on community support to continue its vital rescue work and offer animals like Stompy a second chance at life.

Pear Tree Farm Animal Sanctuary is based near Wells, Somerset. The sanctuary rescues and provides lifelong care for farmed and domestic animals including pigs, sheep, horses, chickens, rabbits, cats and dogs. Public visits are available through booked sanctuary tours and afternoon teas. To find out more or to donate, visit our website at www.peartreefarmanimalsanctuary.org

Emily Williams, Pear Tree Farm Animal Sanctuary

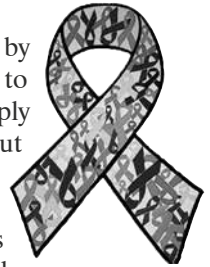
Health, Wellbeing, and Support

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.

Then, now and the future of cancer.

There can be very few adults who have not been directly affected by cancer, either personally or with family and friends. According to Patient.info, 'Cancer occurs when cells become abnormal and multiply out of control. According to Wikipedia and other sources we have about 37 trillion cells in our body, 20 to 30 billion cells die each day and need replacing, resulting in about 10 quadrillion cell divisions in an average lifespan! It is therefore not surprising that sometimes things don't quite go as planned, resulting in abnormal cells being produced.



Thankfully our bodies usually recognise abnormal cells and deal with them. Patient.info tells us that 'certain risk factors are known to increase the chance that one or more of our cells will become abnormal and lead to cancer'. Tobacco is the best-known risk factor, however there are others, including lack of regular exercise, red meat, processed meat, obesity, alcohol, the usual culprits! And unfortunately old age is a risk factor as 'Most cancers develop in older people'. It is thought that a combination of factors can trigger the development of a cancer rather than just one thing.

There is encouraging news in that more people are living longer after a diagnosis of cancer. According to the Office of National Statistics cancer survival rates have made significant improvements over the years. For example, testicular cancer has the highest 5-year survival rate at 95.3%. Childhood cancer survival has also increased significantly, up to 85.5% predicted for children diagnosed in 2018.

While we cannot eliminate risks entirely, there are ways that we can minimise our risk of having cancer. Patient.info suggest 8 tips, many of which will be familiar to us! These include a healthy balanced diet rich in real foods, moving often, avoiding infections (if you can!), protecting against sun exposure, quitting smoking and keeping up to date with recommended health checks and screening. I would add one more: don't get old!

For now, what signs and symptoms should we not ignore? Patient.info has a list, but perhaps the key to this is being aware of what is normal/usual for us as individuals and then anything not usual/normal should be taken notice of. If you notice persistent

changes such as unexplained lumps, ongoing bloating, a lasting cough, or blood in your stool, it's sensible to get medical advice. Most symptoms turn out to have non-serious causes, but getting them checked provides reassurance and, if needed, allows early treatment. To see the full list go also to the NHS Website and search for cancer.

And so to the future – there are advances in analysis and diagnosis, which will enable treatment to start earlier and save more lives. The UK Government published 'The National Cancer Plan for England: delivering world class cancer care' in February 2026. This recognises that the care and treatment of people with cancer has not always been the best it could be. There are some very specific pledges, for example, 'to deliver 9.5 million additional tests by 2029, roll out a lung cancer screening programme by 2030 and roll out catch-up HPV vaccinations to eliminate cervical cancer by 2040'. The aim is that '3 in every 4 people diagnosed in 2035 will be cancer-free or living well with cancer after 5 years'. So what about now? Cancer can be a tough disease to cope with, whether it affects us or our loved ones. For help and support one of the best-known organisations is Macmillan Cancer Support. You can phone 0808 808 00 00, or email, chat online or visit one of their centres, the nearest is in Weston. Visit the website for all the details. www.macmillan.org.uk

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

Cathy Butterworth

HeadsUp Support Group

Please note that there is no meeting in April as it would coincide with Good Friday, so the next meeting will be on Friday 1 May at the Swan Hotel. 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! If you want to find out more about the Memories Workshops and Carers' Group, phone HeadsUp on 01749 670667 or email wedmorecarers@yahoo.com If you need help with funding just ask, as help may be available.



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 takes place at Wedmore Masonic Hall on Monday afternoons, usually fortnightly, from 2.15pm to 3.30pm (including refreshments). Our next sessions will be on Monday 27 April and 11 May

We all know that maintaining social contact helps our sense of wellbeing, but joining groups sometimes feels hard, especially if you have lost your ability to converse easily. That's where music comes in, it uses different parts of the brain and is closely

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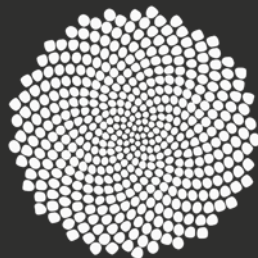
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connected to our emotions. We are motivated by music too: it makes our feet tap, our bodies relax and we want to move. Research shows that sharing rhythms and singing together helps us feel connected to each other. This in turn gives us a boost in how we feel – something that can last longer than the session itself. Listening to recorded or live music together is also a shared emotional experience.



If you are caring for someone who can no longer use words to communicate, sharing music together can be very rewarding for both of you. It's great to see someone involved, feeling part of a group and celebrating what is possible, not what has become too difficult and therefore frustrating. We sing plenty of songs – but we also work with sounds and there is no right or wrong! So we use small percussion instruments and listen to the sounds we can make. There is always a choice as to whether to join in or not. It's good to give people the time to hear others play and helps people feel valued.

Also, if you are a musician and can contribute by occasionally playing live music for the group, then please get in touch!

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

In 2025 our amazing volunteers did a total of 367 jobs, including 146 home visits and 221 driving jobs for 60 different people on and around the Isle of Wedmore. That's an average of one job a day. So, we're pretty busy and, thanks to the generosity of our volunteers in giving up their time, we're managing to meet virtually every request we receive. However, we want to avoid any situation in the future where they could feel overloaded. With that in mind we're looking for a few fresh volunteers so that we have ample resources ready to handle unforeseen circumstances.



If you live anywhere on/around the Isle of Wedmore, have a car and/or some spare time, plus a feeling that you'd like to get a bit more involved in the local community, then we'd love to add you to our list of volunteers. If you don't have a car that's not a problem, you can opt to take on home visiting tasks. One of the most popular features of the scheme for volunteers is the fact that there is no regular requirement to do anything! When someone leaves a request on our helpline the co-ordinator for that week shares the task with all the volunteers (but not the name of the neighbour asking for help – their anonymity is preserved). If you fancy taking on that 'ask' you simply inform the co-ordinator. You do as much or as little as you wish and pick the requests that are most appropriate to your schedule and inclinations.

The scheme has been up and running for several years now and there's a team of experienced people to give you any help and support you may need. When you join

you will also be given a comprehensive Volunteer Folder that provides all you need to know about how the scheme operates – everything from accepting donations or help with mileage to record keeping and liability insurance. General details about the scheme are available on the Wedmore Health and Wellbeing website at www.whawb.co.uk/gns If you are interested in finding out more, but not sure if it's for you? We can arrange for you to chat with a current volunteer to get a better feel for what's involved, and/or accompany a volunteer when they help out a neighbour. Whatever questions you may have prior to joining can be answered by the person who calls you back.

If you have a need for our services, then please get in touch with us. As you can see from this article, we're quite busy, so the earlier you can call us before the help is required the more likely it is that we'll be able to find a willing volunteer.

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.

Jim O'Connor

Club Reports and Society Updates

Green Wedmore

Green Wedmore have recently been working with Wedmore in Bloom on a water saving project. We are very grateful to both Wedmore Real Ale Festival and Wedmore Community Power Co-Operative for their grant funding and we are now able to purchase water butts for the Wedmore In Bloom volunteers, as well as two larger containers for the Village Store and Village Hall. These new water butts will not only help keep the floral displays around Wedmore looking fantastic but will reduce water bills for the volunteers. Additionally they will capture more water from local roofs, helping to lessen the flood risk, and reduce the need to use treated tap water - the plants will thrive on rainwater and continue to provide for pollinators as well as brightening up our community.

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

Hopefully, you have been enjoying a wonderful display of tulips around the village! Following on from the primulas, which gave us some much-needed colour around the village back in February, including varieties Bucks Fizz, Pink Champagne, and Apple Blossom.



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To celebrate 20 years of WIB we planted 300 daffodil bulbs in the Wedmore First School roadside bank, which we hope you have been enjoying. Without the help of our volunteers who plant, tidy, and water, 20 years would not have been achieved. Many thanks to you all for your continued support.

Kay Adams

Wedmore Gardening Club

At last, like me, I imagine lots of you have been in your gardens. It's been an absolute joy and invigorating too, although I have to take more breaks nowadays! Lots more jobs still to do of course but don't forget to spend time just admiring and enjoying what you've achieved.

'No Dig Vegetables on Allotments' was the subject of Alan Cavill's talk in February. Alan explained how he became a no dig convert, after speaking to Charles Dowding, and passed on lots of tips for growing vegetable both from seed and plants. He suggested we all try giving over a patch of our vegetable plot to no dig and see how we go. It may take a couple of years to see the real benefits, but he says it will definitely be worthwhile. I'll do my best to persuade my husband to give it a try!

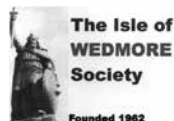
Looking ahead to Tuesday 28 April, Greg Morter's talk will be 'Seed to Fork - How Plants Evolved and Humans Adapted to Them'. Intriguing! I'm not sure where to begin with this one, but I know Greg will have lots of information and amusing insights. Our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 23 April. As we've mentioned before, when sowing seeds, dividing plants and taking cuttings please save spares for the Plant Sale, which is our only fund raiser apart, of course, from subscriptions. On Tuesday 26 May Brian Ladd, a member of the Gardening Club committee, will be telling us about 'Flowers on Stamps', which should be fascinating.

Meetings are held in the Masonic Hall, doors open at 7.15pm and the talks begin at 7.30pm. Refreshments are served after the meeting, giving us all a chance to catch up for a good natter. Take care everyone and enjoy your gardens whenever you can get outside.

Jean Windridge

Isle of Wedmore Society

Our February meeting was attended by 20 members and 5 visitors who came out on yet another wet and miserable evening. They came to hear Robin Gray, whose subject was 'Caving on the Mendips' which he has been doing for the last 50 years.



He began caving when he was teaching and found himself accompanying his 6th-form pupils who had been offered a trip down Goat Church Cavern, in Barrington Combe. Not a success. He didn't have proper kit, and the cave was horribly wet, but he did have another go and went down Swildon's Hole near Priddy, and it was so amazing that he was hooked!

The founder of caving in Somerset was a Mr. Hurbert Balch, the Postmaster of Wells, who had an interest in caving. He was the first to find, and go down, Goat Church Cavern with twelve others, using candles for light. He went on to write books and illustrate them with his own artwork, some of which Robin enthusiastically showed us. If you go to Wells Museum you will find the archive of his work rescued by Robin. In fact, Hurbert's pictures of the extent of the caves under the Mendips, persuaded the wartime authorities that an airfield would not be feasible.

Caves develop because the Mendips are limestone which dissolves with the action of acid rain. Rain enters through a small crack and over time, thousands of years, the crack grows, the rock dissolves even more and big, round caverns open up, with tunnels joining them together. He had a fascinating map of the underground network stretching out around Priddy. They go under the church and the pub, and all have appropriate names and beautiful sights.

Caves by their very nature are pitch black, such as you cannot imagine, so lighting of some sort is essential. The candles used by the first cavers must have been totally inadequate. Carbide lamps came next and having a naked flame on one's head was a challenge and a temptation for mischief, but the present day rechargeable electric lamps, which are expensive, do the job.

He ended by telling us of this own discovery of a cave, Longwood, near Black Rock Gate in the Cheddar George. He was walking with a friend when they noticed a depression stuffed with bits of wood, suggesting a hidden hole. When they investigated, they found a mine thirty foot deep and slowly, over time, and with help, a new cave was discovered. I felt that Robin had truly followed in the footsteps of his hero, Herbert Balch,

Although Robin didn't gain any converts amongst his audience, they were very appreciative of his artwork and stories.

Our guest for April's meeting on Thursday 23, 7.30pm, in the Masonic Hall is Richard Brunning MCIFA. He will talk to us about the Neolithic path know as Sweet Track, and the Iron Age Lake Village of Glastonbury, gems of the Avalon marshes. 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 open sessions will be held on Friday 3 and Friday 17 April from 8.00pm. All are welcome, entry is £3, bring your own refreshments.

Bernard Coulter

Women of Wedmore – Don't be Bored, Play a Board Game!

Even those of us who usually run a mile from board games had fun at our February meeting. As you can see in the photos on the next page, there was much laughter in the room as we tackled some great tabletop challenges: Articulate, Boggle, Dobble, Newmarket, Scrawl and Uno. Members moved around having a go on each game and there was time for a chat as well as a giggle! Also during February WoW took a turn hosting Warm in Wedmore.

In April we will enjoy a Spring theme making evening with Molly from the Cozy Craft Shop in Wedmore. The meeting starts at 7pm upstairs in the Post and Wicket. Looking further ahead, it is our AGM in May when we will also be welcoming a ghost writer as our guest speaker. In June we will be foraging with a member of the Wedmore Village Farm team.

Women of Wedmore members continue to be busy with other activities, including drawing and craft groups. Look out for WoW art and craft work displayed during the Wedmore Festival (9 to 17 May). Our Walking Group meets once a month, providing



a great opportunity for a catch-up with members, while exploring the countryside around Wedmore and further afield.

If you are interested in finding out about joining us, please email wedmorewi@outlook.com

Sarah Ford

Wedmore Footpaths Group

Dog walking on local footpaths

Exploring the countryside with your four-legged friend beside you is a joy and you will both enjoy the health benefits and companionship a long walk brings. Most of us know the rules when it comes to taking a dog out onto footpaths that cross local land, but here's a quick reminder from the Countryside Code. Keep your dog under effective control to make sure it stays away from wildlife, livestock, horses and other people unless invited. You should: always keep your dog on a lead or in sight; be confident your dog will return on command; make sure your dog does not stray from the path or area where you have right of access; always check local signs as there are situations when you must keep your dog on a lead for all or part of the year.

It is good practice wherever you are to keep your dog on a lead around livestock but let your dog off the lead if you feel threatened by livestock or horses. Do not risk getting hurt protecting your dog, releasing your dog will make it easier for you both to reach safety. Attacks by dogs on livestock have devastating impacts on farmers. As a last resort a farmer can shoot a dog that is attacking or chasing livestock. This is obviously traumatic for all concerned.

It is important to remember the real impact of dog poo which doesn't just create a mess on paths - it can cause illness in people, livestock and wildlife. Unlike manure from cows, horses or sheep, dog waste is not a natural fertilizer. It contains pathogens that can cause serious illnesses in livestock and harm soil health and contaminate feed crops growing in the fields. Please remember to respect and protect our local farming community. Unfortunately, we've all seen something like the photo of this 'dog poo



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tree'. The bad habit of hanging bags from branches, fences, or hedges is a growing issue. Please take your bags home, there's no such thing as a dog poo fairy!

For some walking routes around Wedmore visit www.thisleofwedmore.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 Opera Goers

On 19 April we are off to Cardiff to see Wagner's 'Flying Dutchman', for the matinee performance.

On 5 August we are planning a visit to the much-loved Gifford's Circus in Minchinhampton. The cost for the seats is £36 each plus the coach, which be about £20 each if we get sufficient numbers.

Please email suzannemetters@hotmail.com if you are interested in any of our events.

Suzanne Metters

Wedmore Men's Shed

Men's shed continued to support Avalon Camps in Mark during February helping to construct a new fence. Other projects have included ongoing work on parish benches and preparing display boards for the art at the upcoming Wedmore Festival. These are being made so they can be used for future events.



Men's Shed member tidying the allotment



Making display screens for Wedmore Festival

Despite the wet weather in February good progress was made on preparing the allotment for the spring growing season. At the beginning of the month the Monday night Men's Shed talk at the Bluebird was presented by Brigadier David Eccles, whose interesting talk was called 'Bovington to Brussels, via Baghdad'.

Interested in getting involved? 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@outlook.com or come and meet us Tuesdays from 9.30am to 11.30am or Thursdays 2.30pm to 4.30pm at the Wedmore Village Community Farm off Plud Street. Please come along and find out what we are all about, you are more than welcome.

Wedmore Men's Shed

Wedmore Probus Club

There was a very late change to our programme on 11 February as Emma Gifford of the Environment Agency had a much higher priority, dealing with the flood issues on the levels, but we were very fortunate that Chairman Michael Blandford volunteered to speak about 'Adventures of a young naive exporter'. This proved to be an extremely interesting personal account of life working for Unilever in the tea industry some 50 to 60 years ago. It was a reminder to many of how differently travel, business transactions were undertaken at that time compared to current practice. An excellent talk but members were not completely convinced that Michael at any time was naive! At our meeting on 25 February, Stephen Moss spoke about 'Ten birds that changed the world'. Because Stephen's fine reputation as a speaker, 'ladies' were invited to attend.

In March the club held its AGM and Robert Hector was installed as Chairman and Denis Jones as Secretary, with Derek Logan continuing as Treasurer. The role of Speaker Secretary will be undertaken by a small group of volunteers.

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 Saturday 25 April, 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

It has been another busy month at Tuesday Club! We are so pleased that every week we have so many members attending. This allows us to put some money back for a couple trips out during the summer. I think this goes to show that it is a place people want to be. As I have said before although our members get tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival and a two-course roast lunch and even a piece of home baked cake to take

home all this for just £8 it is very much a social gathering. Everyone gets on so well, a very friendly group of people.

As an added gesture when it is their birthday, we give them a card and present and one of our helpers bakes a birthday cake for them, know this is very much appreciated. Whenever a special occasion comes along, we like to decorate the hall. On Valentine's Day all our members got two heart shaped chocolates and a couple of small packs of Love Heart sweets, well done Lesley Nichols for thinking of this it made such a difference. But Lesley not content with that little surprise, for dessert it was meringue with fruit and cream the added touch was the meringues were heart shaped (see photo). How ingenious was that?



We also had a couple of birthdays to celebrate Kate Morgan, really not my place to say this ladies age but Kate is absolutely amazing for her age, gets around and even goes to Chair Yoga, a real inspiration, keep it up Kate. We also celebrated Ann Bodley's birthday yet another amazing lady, even has an orchard in Theale named after her where a lot of Theale activities take place. Onto another busy month with some guest appearances booked in.



Kate Morgan with her birthday cake.



Ann Bodley with her birthday cake.



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Just one more thing... there is the odd occasion when we do not have quite enough helpers and we hate to cancel, if you feel this is something you would like to do on the odd occasion your help would be very much appreciated. Why not just pop in for an hour one Tuesday and let us show you what we do. If you are interested, please contact Lesley Nichols on 01934 712045, Sue Worrall on 07748 131413, 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 February club sessions by Jane Lawrence and Michael O'Brien 71.2%, Barbara Biggin and Mike Smith 69.1%, David Lambert and John Down 67.7%, Gillian Toogood and Michael O'Brien 67.5%, John Moore and Pamela Prentice 67%, Jane Hall and Janet O'Brien 66.2% and Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood 65.1%.

February saw our two county league teams, captained by Gillian Toogood and Mike Smith respectively and newly promoted last year, complete this year joint second in the 1st Division! Congratulations to all involved. The Cheddar Championship Pairs event was won by Barbara Biggin and Gillian Toogood with Mike Smith and Chris Bryant coming 2nd. We also played two heats of the Somerset Michael Coda Cup charity event. The final will be played later this year.

This month's hand shows how having the right bidding tools can be important. When South opens 1NT on the hand below, (no good rebid if you open 1S), North knows that their hand is poorly suited to a no-trump contract, but they cannot bid 2D since this is played as a transfer to hearts by virtually everyone. 3D would be game forcing, however, showing a strong hand with a good diamond suit.

If you don't already play a system that lets you play in 3 diamonds on a hand such as this then you should. You know that the opponents have at most 5 cards in diamonds which will split 3:2 68% of the time. Your diamonds are then worth at least 3 tricks when they could be useless in 1NT after a heart lead removes your only entry.

Playing 'Stayman and red suit transfers' as most people do leaves the 2S bid spare. This is often wasted by using it and 2NT to show 11 or 12 points respectively when it could be used to ask partner to bid 3C. You can then pass with a long, weak club suit or bid 3D with a similar diamond suit. 2NT then remains as your standard invitational raise. Partner passes with a poor NT hand or raises to 3NT if better.

Personally, however, I prefer to use 2S as a strength enquiry, asking partner whether

North (V)

♠ 64
♥ A
♦ J86542
♣ JT74

West

♠ JT
♥ K6532
♦ AQ9
♣ 953

East

♠ Q832
♥ QJ74
♦ KT
♣ K62

South (D)

♠ AK975
♥ T98
♦ 73
♣ AQ8

they have a good or bad 1NT bid. This has the advantage that it can be used when you have a strong hand and are looking for a slam, as well as when you are just looking for a game. Partner responds 2NT if minimum, 3C if maximum with no 5-card suit or 3 of any other suit if maximum with 5 cards in that suit. 2NT is then your relay to 3C which you pass if weak with a club suit or correct to 3D if you have a weak diamond suit. To summarise, after 1NT then 2C is Stayman, 2D and 2H are transfers, 2S is your strength enquiry and 2NT is a relay to 3C which you pass or correct to 3D.

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

Instead of the usual coach trip we will be meeting on Wednesday 15 April, 2.30pm, in the Masonic Hall. The coach trip has had to be cancelled as the hire costs have risen enormously due to the cost of fuel. However, we will still be having a wonderful time, with tea and cake, plus a speaker, Roger Laing, who will talk to us about his life as an airline pilot.

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 March are Richard Neill and Claire Clements. Many congratulations to you both.

Angela Inger

Sports Club Reports

Wedmore Football Club

April is normally the business end of a football season and at Wedmore football club this season is no different. Note that kick off times go back to 3.00pm as the evenings become lighter. All three senior men's teams are still in the mix, which is a huge compliment to the club, The first team currently sits in the top three, which would secure promotion. They had an excellent result beating top of the table Paulton Rovers away 2-1, with goals from James Bayliss and Toby Jones.

The reserves are also sitting in a promotion spot, although having played more game than their rivals Highburn Athletic who sit in fourth. The reserves boast the top two goal scorers in the league with Dennis Philips on 18 goals and George Bennett on 15, which is a great achievement.

The A team have been hugely affected by the weather since the last update with no games played but are still in the hunt for promotion in their first season. The results in February were First Team: won 1-2 against Paulton Rovers; and drew 1-1 against Frys Reserves. The Reserves won 2-1 against Sporting Weston Reserves but lost 5-1 against Weston Celtic.

Here are the League Tables as of 1 March:

Somerset County Division 2

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Paulton Rovers Sports	16	12	2	2	49	38
2	Isle of Wedmore	18	12	2	4	22	38
3	St George and Gordano	15	10	4	1	25	34
4	Street FC Reserves	20	9	6	5	24	33
5	Frys Club Reserves	22	8	7	7	3	31
6	Cutters Friday	18	8	5	5	9	29

Weston and District League – Division 2

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Portishead Town A	13	12	1	0	34	37
2	Weston Celtic	14	11	2	1	55	35
3	Isle of Wedmore Res	15	11	1	3	24	34
4	Highburn Athletic	10	8	2	0	33	23
5	Clevedon United A	14	5	2	7	-15	17
6	Banwell Reserves	11	5	0	6	-11	15

Weston and District League – Division 4

Position	Team Name	Games played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goal Difference	Points
1	Sandbay FC	11	11	0	0	61	33
2	Nailsea United Colts	11	7	0	4	20	20
3	Worle Colts	12	6	2	4	32	20
4	Isle of Wedmore A	12	6	2	4	1	20
5	Swiss Valley Rangers Res	11	6	1	4	15	19
6	Clevedon United Colts	11	5	2	4	15	17

Get yourself down the football club this Saturday! Up the Isle of Wedmore! ⚽

Ben Warren

Wedmore Tennis Club

It has been a busy and encouraging month at Wedmore Tennis Club. Tennis activity remains strong, supported by our new upgraded floodlights which are now brighter and greener! The committee, led by Michael Gill whose dedication has been instrumental, has worked tirelessly to bring



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this upgrade to fruition. Thanks to these efforts, we now have fantastic new lights across all courts, greatly improving visibility, play quality, and the overall experience for members.

The winter league continues with the remaining matches to be played in the final month of March. The A team look set to remain in Division 1. The B team are fighting to remain in Division 2, while the C team are on track to gain promotion to Division 5. After a tough season, the D team are looking at moving down to Division 7 next year. It's been a tricky season due to the weather and so many cancellations and reschedules, so we're grateful to members who have been available for more match dates. We are also very grateful to those members who haven't been able to play social tennis due to rescheduled matches.

Before we've even finished winter league there is talk of the summer league! We'll have 4 ladies' teams and 3 men's teams again this year. There's plenty of tennis to look forward to, hopefully played in warm, sunny, conditions.

Our new padel court is now open and proving extremely popular, with members enjoying their first matches and beginner sessions filling quickly. Interest in padel coaching has grown rapidly, showing how well the sport is being received locally. 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

Shirley Turner

Wedmore Golf Club

February is the shortest month, and we were all grateful for that as this year it also was also one of the wettest. The Seniors had more than one attempt to finish their Winter League and eventually fitted in 18 holes to complete the four rounds. Given the heavy-going scores were surprisingly good. None better than Simon Hoyle who won Division 3 with 40 points, 8 better than his closest rivals Chris Loughlin and Richard Long who were second and third. Steve Plant led the way in Division 1 with 37, 2 ahead of runner-up Kevin Vaux who beat Nathan Walker on countback. Richard Efford scored 39 to win Division 2 by 3 points from Steve Potts who took second place on countback from Charlie Woodard. No official results are yet out for the Winter League but an unofficial look at the results show Trevor Guy has performed particularly well as have Mike Garbutt, Jay James and Clive Warren Smith.

The Ladies also played 18 holes in a bowmaker. The team of Diane Miller, Mandy Vearncombe and Gina Falcon were clear winners with 65 points which put them 5 ahead of runners-up Liz Hill, Trish Phelps and Claire Walker. Eileen Parnell, Nicola Stevenson and June Smith were just one point further back in third place.

Earlier in the month weather had been most disruptive, but the Seniors managed a competition, albeit reduced to 14 holes, avoiding the slippery slopes on the back nine. They played a 3-player bowmaker and there was an outstanding round from the team of Jay James, Steve Major and Peter Searle who racked up 66 points which gave them a 7 shot lead over runners-up Brian Pearce, Dave Nelson and Quinton Thorne who scored 59. Third placed team Stuart Butlin, John Wormald and Charles Woodard were just a point further back with 58 points.

By the following Thursday, weather had worsened but play was still possible. The Ladies' competition was another bowmaker but this time with 4 players per side. Marion Warren-Smith, Joules Lowe, Angela Goodman and Maggie Tolchard were top scorers with 49 points which put them 4 clear of runners-up Eunice Bond, Gina Falcon, Diane Miller and June Smith who finished on 45. Winners in the 'nine-hole' competition, which was in fact just over 7 holes, were Esme Gulliver, Maggie Dommett, Linda Wright and Susie Spragg who scored 25 points. By the weekend heavy rain had caused the closure of the course with a forecast of still more rain to come.

Competitive play eventually got going again, with the Club monthly stableford taking place, albeit over a reduced number of holes. This inevitably caused some very close finishes, none more so than in Division 1 where a single point covered the first 3 places. Josh Baewell took first place with 29 with a birdie 2 on the final hole putting him a single shot ahead of runner-up Steve Plant who beat Pete Brown on countback. Peter Sismanovic had only a slightly more decisive win in Division 2. His score of 28 points putting him one ahead of second placed Liam Cann who in turn was a point better than Ian Robson who finished strongly but must have been rueing his failure to score on the fifteenth. Paul Russell had a much more decisive win in Division 3 with a winning margin of 4 points over John Sims who beat Luke Harvey on countback. The Ladies were just as competitive with Mandy Vearncombe winning on countback from Lyn Bird thanks to a strong back nine with Sally Stephens another point back in third place.



Daffodils in full bloom, not in a puddle, but in the pond on the seventh hole

Tony Biggs

Isle of Wedmore Bowls Club

Well, the Indoor Bowls winter season is done and dusted but don't fret, we play indoors in the summer too! As we bask in the Spring sunshine, our thoughts turn to the coming summer season outdoors on the green. Our outdoor season begins with Green Opening Day on 11 April followed by several practice days designed to overcome the initial challenge of switching from the indoor to the outdoor game. Our first fixture is away at Clevedon Prom on 19 April and then followed by a Women's section friendly against Wells at home on 21 April.

On the indoor rinks our Men's team playing in the SCIBA (Somerset County Indoor Bowls Association) league took on the might of Bristol Bowls Club packed with county and national level players and with two rinks at home and two away lost by a nevertheless creditable 68-83, winning one rink and losing three. Later in February in the same league the team played Nailsea and won 86-61, winning three rinks and losing one. In the County 2 rinks tournament we played Bristol again losing 29-35 but winning one rink, losing the other.



Teresa Alden, Paul Alden and Rob Jewell, winners of the Stan Hedger Memorial Tournament.

This is a fantastic community club with superb facilities. Come along, make new friends and keep active! 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.

In February we played some mixed friendly fixtures: firstly against Queen Camel, winning 33-18; then we beat Clevedon 50-13; but unfortunately blotted our February copybook by losing to Wells 26-40, winning one rink, losing the other. Our Ladies team also played a friendly against Victoria of Weston-super-Mare, winning both rinks and with a 44-13 shot score. However clearly the performance of the month was in the Stan Hedger Memorial Tournament held at Taunton Deane BC. The IOWBC triple of Teresa Alden, Paul Alden, and Rob Jewell were triumphant in the final, winning some epic games along the way, against high quality opponents. Well done to Teresa, Paul and Rob.



Peter Gower

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Friday	9.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am - 2.00pm

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News and Events from Outside the Parish

The Wildlife of the Avalon Marshes

Alison Uren will be giving a talk on Thursday 23 April at Henton Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm and the talk will start at 7.30pm. Alison is the author of a beautifully illustrated book celebrating the wonderful wildlife which thrives on the nature reserves in the heart of Somerset.

She will talk about the many varied species making their home on the marshes. The birds, mammals, flora, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects that feature in a stunning collection of photographs in Alison's book will be brought to life in some amazing videos, taken on the Avalon Marshes. There will be a cash/card bar. Proceeds from the event will go to Christ Church Henton Revitalisation Fund. Alison will have copies of her book with her, at a special price of £20 (cash/cards accepted). All profits from book sales will be donated to the RSPB. Tickets are £10 and available by email from jennycrossley@mbzonline.net or by phone on 07753 958836.

Ian Tinsley

Henton and District Garden Club

On Thursday 12 April, 7.00pm, Henton and District Gardening Club are delighted to welcome Bett Partridge, a registered Medical Herbalist, who will be giving a fascinating talk entitled 'The Magic of Herbs.'

Plants have been used as food and medicine for as long as humanity has existed and their healing power is nothing short of remarkable. In fact, herbs form the very foundation of modern medicine, with many familiar drugs originating from ancient plant knowledge, for example, salicylic acid from willow bark, long used for pain relief.

Bett's talk will take us on a journey through the folklore and traditional uses of herbs, while also offering a modern perspective on their many benefits for health and wellbeing today. Drawing on both past wisdom and present-day practice, Bett will reveal the uses of common hedgerow plants and show just how useful these humble herbs can be. This promises to be an inspiring and eye-opening evening for gardeners and nature lovers alike.

Henton Garden Club is a very friendly crowd of people. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in Henton Village Hall, from 7.00pm 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 Annual Tea Party

Each Spring Cheddar Vale Lions Club hosts a tea party for Senior Citizens in the community. They can be collected and returned safely home by minibus from all over the Cheddar Vale area. However, if



those wishing to attend have their own transport, this may be easier for them and there is plenty of parking available.

This is a perfect opportunity for those not able to get out as much as they would like to meet up with friends, enjoy the entertainment provided and be served with afternoon tea. This year the Tea Party will be held on 11 April at Shipham Village Hall. The party starts at 2.30pm and the transport collects people from 1.15pm.

If you are interested in attending, or know of a group or an individual who would like to attend, please contact Bryan Powell on 01934 744292.

Cheddar Vale Lions 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.



Senior Citizens Enjoying the 2025 Tea Party


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  **Save the Children** us for our next lunches on 3 April at 12.00 noon and on 17 April at the different time of 12.30pm, in Shipham Village Hall.

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

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

Royal Air Forces Association Mid-Somerset Branch

The Branch AGM was held on Monday 2 March at Wells Golf Club. The President introduced the Meeting and the Chairman then presented his Annual Report. The Committee organised and ran 17 events over the past year, together with Remembrance Day services and wreath laying at 9 locations across the area. The Branch ran three fund raising events over the year, including for the RAFA Wings' Appeal where it raised £1,269. The Members elected the Committee for 2026 that included a new Branch Secretary, and the President outlined the Committee plans for the 2026 Area and Association Conferences. The Chairman then presented the Branch objectives and programme for 2026.



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The April Branch Meeting will take place on Monday 13 April, 11.00am, in Wells Golf Club. The presentation will be 'They Bend 'Em, We Mend 'Em – The Nimrod Years' by Paul Ashmore, outlining his time at RAF St Mawgan and at HQ Strike Command.

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



Mark Waistell

At the Committee Meeting on 26 February, the Treasurer reported that he has banked £2,472 that included £1,893 from the RNLI Super Quiz in January plus cash from Bulb Sales, the Thursday Market Stall, Collection Boxes and 'Betty's Pots'. In addition, the folk concert by the singer and musician Mark Waistell back in February was well attended by over 70 'folkies', and the profit from ticket sales, bar takings and the raffle produced the grand sum of £826. The Annual Review Meeting, scheduled for 12 March, was postponed and will form part of a future Committee Meeting.



RNLI Mendip Branch is pleased to announce that there will be a bucket collection at Tesco, Wells on Saturday 25 April. Look out for our team in yellow tabards with 'rescue buckets' deployed and the card reader engaged at full throttle between 9.30am and 5.00pm. Stormy Stan and Stormy Sonny will be in attendance. The team will be happy to talk about the RNLI in general and our Branch role in supporting saving lives at sea.

Betty's Pots are small individual catering table pots, as used for jams and marmalades at hotels. These are cleaned and issued to people, including children, to collect 5p or 20p coins for the RNLI. Betty's Pots may be found in shops and retail outlets across our area. Tina Joyce is our Branch Coordinator for the Winscombe area and John Calder for the Wrington, Congresbury and Churchill area. So far this year, Betty's Pots have raised £534. If you are able to help with the distribution and collection of Betty's Pots then please contact Tina by email at meejlfh@gmail.com or by phone on 01934 842304; and John by email at john@cummingcalder.co.uk or by phone on 01934 910001.

The first of the RNLI nationwide 'Big Four' events is the Mayday Appeal throughout the month of May. Once again, RNLI Mendip Branch will hold a Mayday! Plant and Garden Sale on Saturday 9 May from 10.00am at Winscombe Community Centre. Stalls will include greenhouse plants; runner and French beans, courgettes; bedding plants; garden fillers; shrubs; garden items; garden and domestic tools; and guest stalls, plus new ideas all at 'give-away' prices. Our chief grower Christa Loughrey has already filled her greenhouses with seedlings, and items will appear soon on 'Mike's Table' outside April Cottage in Jubilee Road, Axbridge, for early buyers. For more information, or offers of items, please contact Tina Joyce by email at meejlfh@gmail.com

RNLI Lifeguards were introduced on UK and Irish beaches back in 2001, so this year is the RNLI Lifeguards Silver Anniversary. A special anniversary campaign will be launched on Saturday 4 April ahead of the lifeguard summer season, and will encompass World Drowning Prevention Day on 25 July, culminating in Lifeguard Appreciation Day on 31 July. The lifeguard statistics over those 25 years tell the important story: over 48 million preventative actions carried out; over 440,000 people aided; over 330,000 incidents attended; and over 2,000 lives saved! RNLI Mendip



Branch will be supporting this initiative throughout the year lifeguards will return to Brean and Burnham beaches from 4 July to 7 September.

RNLI Mendip Branch has begun preparations for its second Trafalgar Night Celebration that will be on Saturday 24 October at the Batch Hotel; initial details will be issued shortly.

February Shouts

In February, there were seven shouts between two of our four Somerset Lifeboat Stations (Portishead – 3, Weston-super-Mare – 4).

On 22 February at 11.54am, the pager sounded just as Portishead crew were finishing their morning training session. The crew were tasked by HM Coastguard to investigate an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) activation reported between Middle Grounds and Chepstow in the Bristol Channel. While SAR (search and rescue) assets were actively searching, RNLI Portishead crew were re-tasked, following reports from walkers of a person seen in the water near Walton Bay. As other emergency vessels continued the EPIRB search, the lifeboat crew made best speed to the new location back towards Portishead.

On arrival at Walton Bay, the casualty was located by the crew on rocks close to the shoreline. One of the crew swam ashore to help and was soon joined by the Police, Portishead Coastguard Rescue Team, and Coastguard Rescue Helicopter 387 from St Athan. The person, sadly deceased, was recovered from the rocks by land.

Paul Ashmore

Church News

Parish Registers and Notices

Christenings

Welcome to Jamie Hardwill son of Harry and Ella-Grace from Blackford who was baptised into God's church on 1 February at St Mary's Wedmore.

On a Wheel and a Prayer

Richard, our vicar, will be cycling around the benefice on Tuesday 28 April and stopping at the villages and hamlets to pray on his monthly cycle prayer pilgrimage.

The extended benefice means an extended route with timings now adjusted to include the stops in Mark. You are welcome to come out and pray with him at any of the stops. Here are the intended timings, but they may slip a little: 10.30am Cocklake, Land End Farm; 10.40am Crickham, Baptist Chapel; 10.50am Clewer, next to Mendip View House; 11.20am Stone Allerton, Old School Room; 11.30am Chapel Allerton, Allerton Church; 11.40am Ashton, On the corner next to Hill View Farm; 11.50am

West Stoughton, T Junction with the road to Allerton; 12.00 noon Blackford, Holy Trinity church; 12.25pm Mark Causeway, Mark First School; 12.40pm Mark, Holy Cross Church; 1.00pm Westham, On the corner next to Bockingford House; 1.10pm Heath House Ash Tree Farm; 1.20pm Sand, Upper Sand Farm; 1.35pm Mudgley, Court Farm Cottages; 1.45pm Bagley, Baptist Church; 1.55pm Theale, Christchurch; 2.15pm Wedmore St Mary's church.

Revd. Richard Neill

Holy Week and Easter Services

Here is a list of the special church services, across the churches on the Isle of Wedmore, leading up to Easter.

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 Theale churchyard (not Bagley Community Orchard as stated last month), 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. Bagley Baptist Church will hold an 'AllIn' Easter Sunday Service at 10.30, followed by an Easter egg hunt.

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	5	Easter Day	10.45am 6.00pm	Festival Communion Start the Week
Sunday	12	Easter 2	8.00am No Service at St Mary's 6.00pm	BCP Holy Communion Worship Together at Christchurch Theale -Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	19	Easter 3	10.45am 6.00pm	Parish Communion Start the Week
Sunday	26	Easter 4	10.45am	Morning Praise

Holy Trinity Church, Blackford

Sunday	5	Easter Day	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	12	Easter 2	No Service at Holy Trinity	Worship Together with Allerton and Mark Church – Parish Communion at Allerton
Sunday	19	Easter 3	9.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday	26	Easter 4	9.15am	Sunday Breakfast

Christ Church, Theale

Sunday	5	Easter Day	10.45am	Parish Communion
Sunday	12	Easter 2	10.45am	Worship Together with St Mary's – Parish Communion
Sunday	19	Easter 3	10.45am	Morning Praise
Sunday	26	Easter 4	10.45am	Parish Communion

Allerton Church

Sunday	5	Easter Day	9.15am	Festival Communion
Sunday	12	Easter 2	9.15am	Worship together with Blackford and Mark churches- Parish Communion
Sunday	19	Easter 3	9.15am	Parish Communion
Sunday	26	Easter 4	9.15am	Morning Worship

Holy Cross Church, Mark

Sunday	5	Easter Day	9.15am	Festival Communion
Sunday	12	Easter 2	No Service at Holy Cross	Worship Together with Holy Trinity Parish Communion at Allerton
Sunday	19	Easter 3	9.15am	Friends and Family Service
Sunday	26	Easter 4	9.15am	Parish Communion

Bagley Baptist Church

Enjoy free activities, great parking, and full wheelchair access. Join us every Sunday at 10.30am, with children and youth heading to their own groups around 11.00am. Our 'AllIn' Family Service takes place on the second Sunday each month. Drop in every Wednesday from 10.30am to 12.00 noon for 'Coffee With a View' or join our Youth Groups (ages 10 to 17) on Wednesdays in term time from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. We also offer fellowship through home groups, prayer gatherings, and social events throughout the week.

We will be holding our Good Friday Service on 3 April at 10.30am, and an 'AllIn' Easter Sunday Service on 5 April, followed by an Easter egg hunt.

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.

Ruth Smith

Axbridge and Wedmore GP Practice

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Telephone 01934 712774

Axbridge Surgery

Monday to Fridays 8.30 am to 6.00 pm

Telephone 01934 732464

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

Improved Access Appointments

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

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

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

Wedmore Community Bus

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

All excursions leave Wedmore Village Car Park at 9.30am, with additional pick-ups on route by arrangement.

April 27 - Cadbury Garden Centre and Clevedon Town and Seafrost – 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 13 April – 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 20 April – Departs Cribbs Causeway at 2.00pm, back about 3.30pm. Call Angeline Duckett on 01934 712631 as early as possible please!

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

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

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

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

Saturday - Wells (monthly) – This month's service will be on 11 April – 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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